

4  
May  
1999

# FELIX

KEEP THE CAT FREE EST. 1949

Issue  
1143

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

## Sports Fields On Rocky Ground

A leaked copy of College's Capital Investment Plan for the next five years confirms that a major "rationalisation" of Imperial's sports grounds will have to take place next summer. Ostensibly, this has been in preparation for some time (see Felix 1136), but the report shows that it is now a necessity, which will provide crucial funding for the proposed Sports Centre redevelopment.

According to the report, which was passed by the last meeting of the College Council, the total cost of the Sports Centre project is estimated at £9 million, of which £3 million will come from "the money achieved through the rationalisation of the College's sports grounds", following the recommendations of a recent Athletics Committee study, which showed that we currently have around twice as much space as we actually need. As Estates Manager Nick Black put it, "we have one of the largest University estates in the UK... if we were starting with a clean sheet today, we would probably build 30% less space. The sports centre at South Kensington is much too

small, yet in contrast we have four outdoor sports grounds with about 73 hectares in total, which is roughly double what we will ever need". In order for the project finances to balance, the sale must coincide with the beginning of building work, and the report goes on to pinpoint the "release" at July next year.

Whilst the Investment Plan does not explicitly state which ground will be sold - and Sports Centre Manager Frank Murray is at pains to point out that, at present "all grounds are included in the review... any comment would be unsubstantiated speculation" - a quick look at the figures would seem to point the axe squarely at Teddington. If the target figure of £3 million is to be accomplished, then only the sale of Teddington or Harlington will suffice, as the combined value of College's other two grounds - Warren Farm (in Ealing) and Cobham (near Kingston) - is far less than the target figure. Moreover, with a longstanding offer already

By David Roberts

believed to be on the table (the old peoples home which bought a small area of the Teddington site some years ago is rumored to have a continual interest in expanding), a lucrative sale would be easy to arrange.

Reaction to the proposed sale has been mixed. Understandably, it will face stiff opposition from ICSM, who view Teddington as one of their traditional homes (the ground itself was given to the St Mary's Medical School to provide a base for its rugby team); ending Teddington's status as a premier rugby ground would also face stiff opposition from traditionalists, as the ground was once the home of England, and the original pavillion was the site of the signing of the RFU charter. Senior figures in ICU, however, would appear to view the move as a unavoidable loss which will be massively outweighed by the benefits that the new sports centre will offer. Not so Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

elect Tim Trailor, however, who is sticking by his election promise to back keeping Teddington, even if it means delaying the sports centre redevelopment.

Despite the fact that in senior College circles the sale is apparently seen as "inevitable", Mr Murray is keen to point out that the exact shape of future sports provisions is still unclear, with his department currently "investigating all options open to the College to rationalise sports ground provision... these included the possibility that an entirely new ground be found closer to the College to replace one or more of our existing facilities". Indeed the one-big-ground concept is a particular favourite of Mr Murray's, and is yet another reason why Teddington is far more likely to be sold than Cobham, as the former offers no scope for expansion, whereas the latter could potentially become a very large site via the purchase of the playing fields currently used by GKT Medical School (they too are in the process of rationalising sport provision, and a sale is expected to take place soon).

## Southside Barred

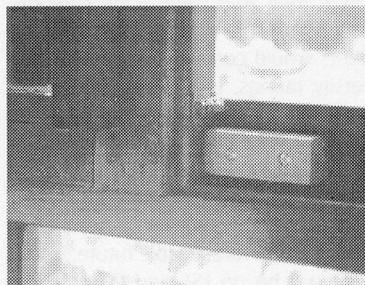
Residents of Southside halls came back from the Easter holidays to find many of their windows had been barred. The alteration, designed to prevent residents from throwing items out of the window, was carried out by Estates over the vacation, with work being completed the day before students returned.

The move was a response to various incidents over the last few years, and in particular last term, in which nearby residents have suffered near-misses from items being thrown out of hall windows. The issue came to a head last term, with both ICU President David Hellard and the Director of Estates, Ian Caldwell, warning about the damage done to the college's reputation by such action.

Interestingly, the students at the centre of the most recent incident were found not guilty at a college tribunal and, according to Dr Hassard, Warden of Tizzard Hall, none of those impli-

By Ed Sexton

cated in previous incidents have been hall residents. In fact in the last two cases it has been students that have



Bolted, but not blocked  
Photo: Rachel

helped tracked down the guilty parties.

There are problems with the action, however. The rooms in question tend to overheat, particularly at this time of

year. To combat this fans have been installed in all of the affected rooms. Furthermore, although the opening of the windows has been severely restricted, there is still a large enough gap to throw objects out of: Dr Hassard agreed, commenting "I hope people don't test it out". These problems, coupled with an apparent lack of student consultation concerning the scheme, have raised doubts as to the justification and effectiveness of the idea. One student commented "we have done nothing, but are being blamed anyway. It makes you wish you lived in your own flat."

While denouncing those who threw items out of hall windows, an action he found "totally incomprehensible", Dr Hassard expressed concern over college's motives; "I hope no one's implying our students can't be trusted". Whether or not they are to blame, it appears that it is Southside residents that are being punished.

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# Accommodation's Adverse Advice

By David Roberts

An alleged incident in the College's Accommodation Centre has thrown the new, much publicised, 'student friendly' drive into assistance with private sector accommodation into stark relief.

A group of students looking for somewhere to live next year noticed their current house (which cannot be identified for legal reasons) listed in the Centre's lists - at £90 per week, compared to the £65 per week they are paying at present. Understandably intrigued to discover the reasons behind this 40% increase, they asked the member of staff on duty if they knew anything about it - and were shocked when they were informed that the College "recommended that the landlord increased her rent to £90, as the present charge was far too low and doesn't represent the market value".

Ignoring questions over whether £90 a week for a room in West Brompton does actually represent market value, every senior figure questioned has viewed this incident as a shocking indictment of the Accommodation Office's attitude toward student housing - particularly as the running of the office is paid for out of Hall fees (ie by the students) and not by any form of commission from landlords. Alternatively, from a simple financial outlook, assuming each student accepts a stan-



Photo: Rachel

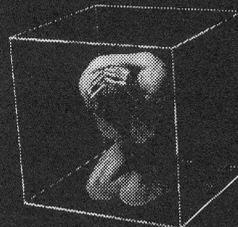
dard nine-month let, this advice stands to cost each resident in the house concerned a massive £950 in the next academic year.

Moreover, as the College does not provide any vetting service (instead simply providing regularly updated lists, advice and information) the students concerned were surprised that the accommodation staff feel they can offer any advice on prices, commenting that "suggesting prices without viewing the property would seem to be a complete lottery".

Whether this 'advice' represents standard policy, or is the result of the actions of one rogue member of accommodation staff, is at present unknown.

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## Imperial Second Best

By Ed Sexton

Imperial College is now the second best university in the country, according to the ever reliable Times league tables. The league table, published on Thursday 23 April, revealed that Oxford has fallen into third place, with Cambridge keeping the top spot.

Imperial won through thanks to good scores in the teaching assessment category, the most important rating in the table, and reduced Cambridge's lead from last year. Meanwhile Oxford is now only one point ahead of fourth place London School of Economics. Sir Ronald Oxburgh, Rector of Imperial College, was quoted as saying he was "pleasantly surprised" at the result, putting Oxford's decline down to

an inability to reform (something, apparently, Imperial has excelled in).

Imperial also topped the table in the staffing levels and facility funding categories, reflecting the huge amount of money spent by the college in recent years. University College London was fifth, with the School of Oriental and African studies coming sixth, meaning that London colleges took two thirds of the top six places.

The rest of the Times table was fairly predictable, with Edinburgh still top of the Scottish universities and Oxford Brookes still ahead in the former

polytechnics, coming ahead of several of the 'traditional' institutions.

With such a diverse range of universities and academic disciplines represented in the tables, it is difficult to judge their true value. One category that is missing, and which many students would consider relevant to university ratings, is student satisfaction with their institution. Indeed, many would argue that this is the most important criteria to judge a university by.

It is unlikely that Imperial will be able to take the top spot from Cambridge in the foreseeable future, but all eyes will be on LSE and Oxford next year to see which of them will take third place.

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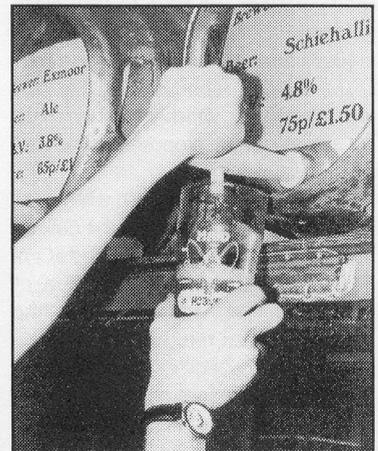
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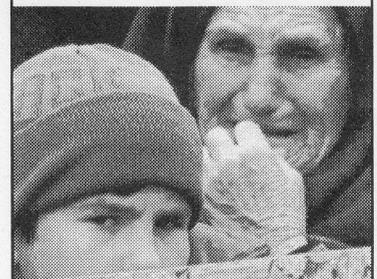


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## In brief...

### IC Radio RSL

Imperial College Radio have had their application for a Restricted Service License, which would have enabled the station to broadcast on FM for the first few weeks of term, turned down. This was apparently due to an application for the same slot, made several months ago by another organisation. Although disappointed, IC Radio will continue to look for the opportunity to obtain an RSL in the future.

### Comedy Interlude

This Friday, 7 May, sees the 1999 Daily Telegraph Open Mic Awards Semi Finals come to ICU. The semi-finals are the climax in the comedy nights organised at students' unions throughout the academic year. From the sixty contestants competing, ten will be chosen to go through to the Grand Final, held at the Edinburgh Festival in August. The winner receives £2000, and more importantly the chance to appear at a selection of comedy clubs and festivals.

The other semi-finals are being held at student unions around the country throughout May. Edinburgh, Warwick

and Liverpool Guild are hosting the competition this week, along with Imperial, with Cardiff on 9 May and Brunel on 13 May completing the listings.

### Summerball Update

Last week's article concerning the Summer Ball ("Success for IC's Second Ball", Felix 1142), which stated that tickets went on sale on Friday 30 May, was incorrect. The date should have been Friday 30 April, meaning that tickets are on sale now, from the Union Office (£55 for students, £65 for staff). It would be helpful for the organisers if students decided who they want to sit with before they book tickets.

### Sunday Studies

There are plans to open the Central Library on Sundays for IC students only. The arrangement is set to start early next month in order to cover the examination period. The proposal is currently being processed and it is likely the new opening times will last until the end of this term and then be re-implemented for the new academic year.

### Circle Line Closure

For those of you who don't already know, the circle line is going to be closed between High Street Kensington and Gloucester Road for much of the summer. The nine weeks of engineering works begins on 12 June, lasting until 15 August, and is necessary to strengthen the tunnel that runs between the two stations. The work will also affect other services between High Street Kensington and Edgware Road, although bus services should be increased to minimise the disruption.

### ICSM Football Finish 3rd

Following on from last week's revelations about the ICSM Football Firsts being stripped of their First Division title, the results of the appeal have now come to light. ICSM appealed on the grounds that they had been informed that Dr Houghton was eligible for registration, as he is a research student. However, UL have decided that he is, nonetheless, ineligible for selection, and their original decision - which leaves ICSM in third, with GKT taking the title and promotion - has been upheld.

### Pugwash Comes to IC

A new society at Imperial, Student Pugwash, are holding their first meeting this week. Pugwash is a well-known international organisation concerned with global problems and social and ethical issues. It encourages scientists and engineers to take responsibility for their own actions. Pugwash, and its president Joseph Rotblat, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995 for their efforts towards nuclear disarmament. Joseph Rotblat will give the first lecture at the IC group.

The IC group aims to raise awareness of our responsibility to help reduce and, when possible, eliminate the actual and potential harmful effects of scientific and technological research. Areas that will be discussed in this and future meetings include arms control and disarmament, sustainable environments and other ethical issues. For more information on the international organisation, see [www.pugwash.org](http://www.pugwash.org). The IC meeting will be this Thursday (6 May) at 1pm in the Brown Committee Room (third floor of the Union). For more information contact Carsten on x46676 or email [student-pugwash@ic.ac.uk](mailto:student-pugwash@ic.ac.uk).

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# Does Southside Shop cost more than Harrods?

by Ed Sexton

There is an old Imperial myth that Southside Shop, which has recently started describing itself as a "mini supermarket", is more expensive than the most famous and luxurious shop in the world. But is there any truth in the claims?

Certainly Southside Shop is expensive. To find out how expensive, we compared the prices of various common groceries and snacks to those found in two major supermarkets, and Lords

on Knightsbridge, a common night store for residents of Princes Gardens.

The difference between the newly opened Waitrose on Gloucester Road and Sainsburys is minimal - Waitrose costs about 3% more, on average. Southside Shop is about 30% more expensive than Sainsburys, with Lords coming in at

46%. The problem is that Southside Shop is only open 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 3.30pm on Saturday, and isn't open at all on Sundays. Lords, of course, is open all hours, and Sainsburys isn't far behind, only closing on Saturday and Sunday nights. Just for the record, Harrods charge 45p for a pint of milk, and their cheapest bread costs £1.30.

So it seems the Imperial myth is nothing more than that.

For a shop that is only open Monday to Saturday daytimes, however, Southside is still very expensive - and hardly what one expects in a "mini supermarket". Interestingly, there was one item that was more expensive at Southside than in Harrods; butter. So there is a sliver of truth in that myth after all...



Southside Shop - not cheap, but not très cher

Photo: Rachel

## The Felix Price Comparison

	Sainsburys	Waitrose	Southside Shop	Lords
1.5 Litre Coke	97p	97p	99p	139p
McVitties Biscuits	97p	89p	160p	139p
McCoys Crisps	32p	32p	38p	49p
Can of Soft Drink	42p	42p	50p	49p
Chocolate Bar	30p	30p	35p	39p
Heinz Soup	47p	47p	62p	79p
Heinz Beans (150g)	25p	25p	31p	45p
Baked Beans (420g)	23p	35p	30p	59p
Nescafe (100g)	189p	189p	199p	319p
Nescafe (200g)	369p	369p	525p	572p
Tetley Teabags (40)	75p	99p	79p	79p
Washing Powder	229p	229p	269p	279p
Sliced White Bread	39p	39p	85p	85p
Cheese Sandwich	115p	129p	120p	125p
BLT Sandwich	149p	159p	160p	169p
Pint of Milk	27p	27p	40p	43p
Butter	75p	75p	130p	99p
Cornflakes (500g)	99p	109p	165p	189p
Pringles	129p	129p	159p	169p
Sugar (1kg)	55p	55p	99p	109p
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£19.43</b>	<b>£20.05</b>	<b>£25.35</b>	<b>£28.35</b>

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## Caldwell Investments

Sir,

I notice from the financial pages of the papers that the company "Caldwell Investments" made a loss this year. Are you surprised?

Yours faithfully

N Royall  
Maths Dept Staff

PS My share portfolio showed a profit of 50% for the last financial year.

Perhaps you should be seeking a job in the higher floors of Sheffield... -Ed

## Summer Ball Update

Dear fellow students,

In an improvement of last year's Summer Ball, the 1999 event will be held on the last day of term, Friday 25th June. Tickets are available now from the Union Office, for more details keep an eye out for our posters. To any of you who are still indifferent, Glastonbury's production specialists are putting on the light show, need we say more!

The people behind the scenes are students like yourselves, who really want to finish the year and millennium with a memorable party. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone who feels like the challenge next year to get in touch. We would be only too happy to show you exactly what we're doing and of course there's still the chance to get involved this year, should you have the time.

This year we have the potential to hold the largest student event in London, so let's make it a success.

Here's to seeing out the millennium in style!

Nick Griffith  
Summer Ball Team  
summer.ball@ic.ac.uk

Oh yes, and watch out for the Jelly Belly's coming to an exam hall near you soon.

## ICSM Summer Ball

Dear Felix,

The lead article on 26/4/99 in Felix claimed that there is a sour relationship between the IC and ICSM Summer Ball Organisers and that they are in fierce competition. From my point of view, that is not the case at all and there is no need for any animosity at all. The ICSM Summer Ball is on the 24th of June to co-ordinate with Exam results and not to spark any competition for ticket sales. Our ball is for ICSM, it is aimed at Medical Students, we are advertising only in the hospital and the BMS, holding it at a Medics venue and following the traditions of a long long history of St Mary's and Charing Cross Summer Balls. I believe I speak for the majority of Medical Students in saying that if they are going to a summer ball it will be the ICSM event. Those first years, the only students based at IC, who regard themselves as part of the Med School will join the rest of us on 24th of June, those who don't, won't and I do believe they are the only group with a decision to make. Of course, if anyone has enough

of their Student Loan left they could come to both and have a fantastic 36 hours partying!

Ben Marsh  
ICSM Summer Ball Chair

I don't think we claimed there is a sour relationship - merely that it is a "contentious issue". This is true, as your letter makes it quite clear that first years medics have "a decision to make", and obviously both balls would like their patronage. As the balls are so close together, it's unlikely many will go to both (which is not the same as saying the unfortunate timing is deliberate). Both Presidents agree and accept that most medics will go to ICSM's, except maybe first years. "First years... who regard themselves as part of the Med School" will go to the ICSM ball - does this mean that those medics who choose to go to the IC ball instead are not, in your view, 'faithful' members of ICSM? -Ed

## A Threat or a Plea?

This is a reply to the letter written in the last edition titled "I want this man!" "Hmmm, do you really want me?"

Dear whoever,

The first thing that came into my mind when I read that letter was.....WHY? I mean why, after joining the huge list of people to see my webpage (the majority of whom haven't been given the address by myself, but jealous friends who want everyone to take the piss!), would someone take the trouble to write a letter like that and deliver it to the Felix office? And then leave a phone number that doesn't work! I'm told there were

three of you (2 guys and a girl) who went to give it in.

I can only draw two logical conclusions about you:

1. You are a bunch of sad, lonely, twisted and pathetic individuals who have nothing better to do other than harass upstanding members of College like myself, build up their hopes only to break their hearts, your nasty rodents make me sick!

2. You are a girl who has fallen for me.....BOLLOCKS! I'm not even going to carry on with this one because that kinda stuff happens in my dreams, after studying at Imperial for nearly two years I know it ain't gonna happen for real! I mean, there's a little bit of me hoping that it's true but look at it from my point of view and you'll understand why I don't believe a single thing you wrote!

I have called in my network of spies to hunt you down and since the start of term, these trained predators have been working non-stop to track you animals down, so watch your filthy backs, even as you read this.....BOO! Just testing, but trust me, you will be found and dealt with, severely.

All that I offer you now is a challenge, why don't you cowardly beasts stop hiding behind your letters, come out into the open and show us what you're made of, COME 'ON, I DARE YOU.....not scared now, are you? Hahahahaha!

Yours forever,

Darshan (By the way, it must have been really difficult to read my name on my webpage and then spell it wrong in the letter(!) TWATS!)

P.S. If everyone else wants to know what the fuss is about, go to <http://www.ee.ic.ac.uk/eee2proj/dsa97>

### InsomniaZine

InsomniaZine is an irreverent mishmash of pop culture, hip hop, books, comics, lo-fi, film, and lots of other bits to keep you entertained through the night. Based in London, we've also got a directory of clubs, venues, bars and an extensive London listings section.

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Please include the words 'Letter for Publication' in the header of letters.

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.

### Wednesday 12 May

### From Machine to Music

Jonathan Harvey talks about his music involving electronics, with illustrations.

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### To Regulate or Not?

The complete lack of news this week (come on, you don't really expect me to talk about sports grounds at this time in the morning, do you?) has forced me to look elsewhere for inspiration for this column. And, fortunately, I didn't have to look far - as far as Darshan's website, in fact (see last letter opposite). Ignoring for the moment the somewhat egotistical content of said site (in fact, let's ignore it all together), and without any comment on the designer's HTML skills, browsing through the pages reminded me of a subject that has received little attention in Felix; the regulation of the internet.

Recent events across the Pond have led to many clamouring for tighter regulation of information on the internet. After all, we all know that you can find cake, love and bomb making manuals on the web - and so can your kids. Admittedly regulation is getting better, and Internet Explorer 5 has a whole range of options to prevent unauthorised access to certain sites, but it is up to the computer administrator to enforce these rules. Given that most kids know more about the family PC than their parents, it is not really a viable solution.

What I dislike most is the argument that it must be the kids who are screwed up, and it is not the fault of the internet or anyone else. Why can't we just accept that humans are naturally inquisitive, especially when young, and have a tendency towards violence and 'moral' wrong? Show teenagers how to make a bomb, they'll do it. Give students a gun, they'll use it. Comments please.

### Is it Right to have Rights?

Another angle on the high-school killings is the fallacy of a bill of rights. For a long time I was very keen on the idea, and couldn't believe Britain didn't have an equivalent, but I've changed my mind. Consider this. When the Constitution was drawn up it seemed perfectly sensible that every American should have the right to defend his home - in those days homes needed defending, and even the most peaceful family would be advised to keep a gun handy.

Two centuries on, however, that need has diminished, and the ease with which guns can be purchased is certainly not good for social cohesion. Yet America is tied to an outdated con-

stitution, which can be quoted by every gun fanatic as a basic human right, making it very difficult to pass amendments and change the status quo. It may seem a good idea to draw up some basic moral rights that will hold for all time, but it is actually shooting yourself in the foot (no pun intended). For what is morally right for one society at one time is not right for all societies at all times - and clearly the use (and misuse) of guns in America is not good for anyone, except gun shop owners.

windows will be fined £500' would be more effective. If you were going to do it, it would have been nice to consult the students before hand.

A small plug next, for the Open Mic Semis this Friday. It should be a good evening, with a decent slice of comedy, so I would recommend it to all and sundry. Telegraph and other journalists will be there, which obviously is a plus point for us here in the Felix Office, and the evening looks like being highly enjoyable.

### In the News this Week..

Well, it seems there was some news after all. Commiserations to IC Radio for not obtaining their one month FM license - I hope that it will not dissuade future committees from re-applying. As for the windows in Southside halls, this does seem a little draconian, and somewhat pointless. Given that it is not generally the student residents that have been at fault, and that you can still throw stuff out of them, I see little virtue in barring them. The total cost of the operation, including the fans, must be enormous. Perhaps a poster campaign around hall, with the words 'Those found throwing items out of

### In the News next Week..

I completely forgot to mention it last week, but Saturday May 1 was the Cannabis Coalition's protest march from Brixton Hill to Clapham Common (no, the irony of that sentence isn't lost on me either). Anyway, I hope anyone that went enjoyed themselves, as well as getting involved in the serious debates that were going on - there'll be a full report in next week's news (assuming, that is, that I remember to write it). If you did go, and have any cool photos of the afternoon, I would like to hear from you, preferably before this Wednesday evening. Anonymity preserved, of course...  
- Ed

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## Will Sheffield have a Ball?

Oh, you're back, are you? Apologies to all of those champing at the bit last week, expecting this column, but the truth is that I had got so used to you being away, it completely slipped my mind. Ah, how easily they forget! Anyway, here we are, the final term for many of you, the final term for this column (don't pop the champagne corks just yet in Suite Five - I'm going out with a bang not a whimper) and the beginning of the end of student life. Of course, there is the small matter of exams before all that, but since you've all spent every waking minute of the holidays with your nose in a textbook, that should be a formality. And while we're on the subject, what better way to cap your time at IC than a night at Alexandra Palace for the Summer Ball!

The inaugural event last year was a tremendous success, and I am sure that this time the standard will be even higher. However, last year's ball proved a bit simpler from a funding perspective, thanks to the wondrous generosity of EDS, conveniently run by a College alumnus. Though efforts this year seem to be proceeding well, I am very surprised by the College attitude to sponsorship. As the committee suggest, such an event is a marvellous showcase for Imperial, which could in future prove to be a valuable forum for forging and strengthening industrial links. Therefore a contribution from College to ensure that such an event achieves the necessary prestige and quality does not seem to much to ask. As we have come to expect, the answer was no and reason was woolly and far from true. Certainly, the Deputy Rector can't dish out money from his fund, but the Pro-Rector (Educational Quality) can and does, through the Union subvention, the Student Counsellor funding and the Warden's entertainment budget, none of which are counted as academic expenditure. I find it amazing that a couple of thousand could not be directed from or through his accounts. Nobody would seek to get College to bankroll the event; the Rector himself said last year that that would probably be a disaster. Making such a donation would keep our friends in Sheffield at a safe distance, but would send out the signal that we are really serious about this.

Said Pro-Rector, Tim Clark, is a thoroughly decent chap, so I'm sure a word in his ear will reap dividends.

## Warning: Silly Fire Signs Ahead

Stop me if you've heard this before. No, don't, because to the best of my knowledge, this is the millionth time I've had a rant about the fire alarms in this place. Just when you think it can't get any more ridiculous, somebody in College does something of such breathtaking idiocy that you can't help but laugh. As regular readers will know, the alarm in my own department has been anything but a laughing matter for as long as anyone can remember. Though it is religiously tested every Thursday (a priest performs the Last Rites), every man and his dog knows it has all the reliability of a chocolate teapot. So why not fix it? Not possible, dear reader, because we don't have any money. Fair enough. After all, we've built a lot of granite horticultural features this year. So why has my beloved department been defaced with stupid 'safety' signs designed to serve the needs of the educationally subnormal, the concentration of whom is

fairly low on my side of Queen's Lawn. Apparently, those little red glass-fronted boxes on the wall, bearing the words 'FIRE SMASH GLASS' are 'Fire Alarm Call points.' Well, buggery! You cannot imagine how much more soundly I sleep at night armed with that knowledge. It gets better. You know those wall-mounted, rolled-up hose pipe thingies dotted around campus? I, like most of you, thought that

they were for watering the plants. Oh no, they are actually 'Fire Hose Reels.' So no more dousing the spider plants with that pressure hose. This may seem a trivial point, but the upshot of all this is a department that looks like a showroom for Bleedin' Obvious Signage Ltd, and the waste of a large amount of time and money. There are

nearly 30 on my floor alone, meaning that this is going to mean serious money College-wide at over a fiver a time. The reason I know this is because in November 1998, a company selling this rubbish sent me their catalogue out of the blue. The Sunday Times' Tara Palmer-Tompkinson gets jewel-encrusted

underwear, I get the Autumn 1998 Seton Select Catalogue. I know my place.

## In a League of its own...

Another day, another league table. Imperial, after consolidating our runner-up position in the FT survey, has now been accorded second position in The Times. The stalwarts of the IC Distorter 'Media Mentions' column must be wetting themselves on account of Sir Ron appearing in every publication from the Evening Standard to Exchange & Mart. Always a banker for a good quote, the Rector said great things about IC and our superiority over Oxford. He did us proud and we all deserve a pat on the back. Now I always thought Oxburgh was a fairly unusual surname but, by amazing coincidence, I recently read comments by a similarly surnamed gentleman. This Oxburgh, in response to suggestions that the UK university sector was slipping behind our American cousins, said that if the Government were unable or

unwilling to increase funding, they should free up institutions to pursue their own funding and make them 'less regulated.' Sound bloke. Even more oddly, his name was also Sir Ron. Given the stifling bureaucracy under which the academic activities of Imperial operate, a system that delays, distracts, irritates and frustrates, consuming disproportionate resources that should be better spent making this place the best university in the country, it surely can't be the Rector, unless of course the message of this column is finally getting through.

## And Finally, the News

There seems to be a very disparate range of people in the news at the moment. First up we have the case of Mr Johnnie Walker (the DJ rather than the indifferent Scotch). The News of the World, birthplace of the Late Voice of Reason Senior, has made a terrible fuss about the whole sordid affair, as is their wont. Now I would be the last person to condone his behaviour, but should we really be surprised that someone who works for Radio 2 finds the need to take powerful stimulants? What next? Jimmy Young on speed? We have also learnt that Prince William is now a 'social smoker', as opposed to a smoker who stubs his fags out on people's foreheads, I presume. Needless to say, wishy-washy liberals and health fascists the length and breadth of the country have decried his actions, saying he has damaged his position as a positive role model. Nonsense. He has decided that he will not be forced unswervingly into an image created for him by the media, thus doing himself an enormous credit,

regardless of the rights or wrongs of the odd crafty Marlboro. And finally, a bit closer to home, the Director of Finance, Mike Hansen, is in the news. We are losing him to King's,

and a very grave loss it is for Imperial. Since the news broke, my phone hasn't stopped, jammed by people pleading for help in making him change his mind. Most moving was the emotion-choked voice of the Rector, begging for solutions to this problem. We must have got cut off before he had a chance to reply to my suggestion of more money, but there you go. Congratulations on the new job, you will be missed. But if all other efforts to persuade you fail, I suppose I could always dig out those photos...

## Simon Baker



## Voice of Reason

"Though [the fire alarm] is religiously tested every Thursday (a priest performs the Last Rites), every man and his dog knows it has all the reliability of a chocolate teapot."

"Prince William is now a 'social smoker', as opposed to a smoker who stubs his fags out on people's foreheads."



## Clocks Defy Physics

A strange phenomenon has been observed in the Huxley (physics) building over the Easter period. Clocks in public areas all over the building which have previously always been reliable, and could always be depended upon to show the correct time have been noticed behaving strangely.

Some clocks have stopped, showing various times, and others are just plain wrong. Many explanations have been put forward, including the sequence of power outages that have recently affected the building. Which is much more plausible than one of the alternatives - Imperial physicists working on the challenge of making time travel a reality have made a breakthrough in their research.

Send ideas and contributions to [kevin\\_mishmash@hotmail.com](mailto:kevin_mishmash@hotmail.com)

## DoC's Secret Printer

If you've got time on your hands and you are in front of a computer, take a look at <http://amber.doc.ic.ac.uk>. It is... well.. I would describe it as a printer, but it describes its self on its website as a complete document centre. As well as being a complete publishing machine, it also insists on setting itself up as a webserver when attached to a network. The device's status, and settings (now password protected) are all available online, as is the option to print a test page.... or 99. This Xerox-made monster is a printer / copier / stapler / fax / scanner



**A Mostly Harmless Column by Kevin, a random entity who knows nothing about nothing**

and is apparently situated in DoC, although last time I looked it was apparently unsure of it's precise location.

## Revision

### Destroys Minds

A new sport appears to be evolving within Imperial. Created by groups of students needing a break from long days spent revising in the Library over the "holidays". The game involves three to five people, passing a ball or beanbag between them, trying to keep it in the air for as long as possible.

Though almost inane simple it appears to be providing effective stress relief for its participants.

The increasing popularity of the pastime is reflected by the growing area which is now used incorporating the area between Sherfield and the Queen's Lawn, as well as the area where it originally appeared, directly in front of the Library.

## Biochemistry Breakfast

### Cereal

If you have ever walked past the biochemistry department and been perplexed by the delivery of crates of breakfast cereal. Kevin will now enlighten you, the best medium for growing fungi in today's world of modern biochemical research, is not an advanced polymeric nutrient complex, but damp shredded wheat.

# Presidential Talk-Back

## Health Centre

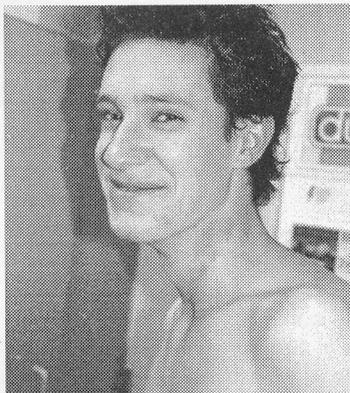
How can I continue without exploiting my column to reply to the letter by Irene Weinreb, the Director of the Health Centre. Firstly I would agree with her that the health centre staff are 'dedicated and caring': Whenever I have used the centre the treatment I have received has always been excellent. Though to say that I am 'confusing the issue of lack of appointments with lunchtime opening' simply isn't true. The main complaint that I receive about the Health Centre is that it takes 'two weeks to book an appointment'. Irene has pointed out to me that this is not because of a lack of appointments, but because IC students have such little free time during the day due to lectures, that they can not fit the available slots into their schedule, and this is where my point lies. Surely changing the opening hours to a time when students are available will fully utilise the spaces available and not force them to miss lectures to get an appointment. Although I can understand that

outside of lunchtime hours, the period of time at which the Student's Union is at its busiest. In the health centre's defence, however, they have extended their opening hours to six o'clock, something that can only be supported, and the problems lie more directly with the NHS in general than the staff of the Health Centre, who have always struck me as even worthy of our own medical school (I mean that in a good way.)

## Summer Ball

The summer ball is now going ahead, it's great but quite a worry. Although it will no doubt be a success in the eyes of anyone who attends, the finances are under a bit more pressure. The exuberance of this year's ball makes £55 seem like a cop closing down sale price and even Michael Eavis has been on the phone asking us to change the date. Maybe I'm just getting paranoid, in my old age, after all we only need to sell 2000 and, judging from last year, that target will be hit within a few weeks.

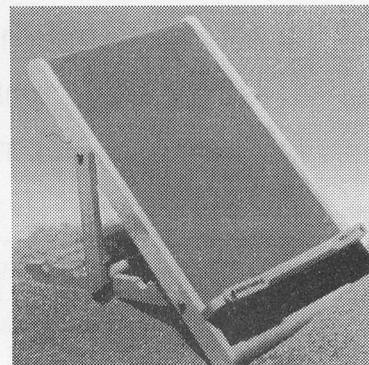
David Hellard, ICU President



If you don't get one on time, maybe a dodgy JMC student will tout you one for £90.

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# Just what is a Widget?

Marvel of the modern age or a triumph of PR over practicality? Anita Chakraverty investigates.

You've probably heard Jack Dee waxing lyrical about them, but do you know what one actually is? I am talking, of course, about the widget. If you have ever been sufficiently bored to shake a can of beer around once you have finished with it, you may have heard something rattling around inside the can. This is the widget. In an attempt to find a meaning, I consulted Collins English dictionary. Apparently the official definition of a widget is 'a small mechanism or device, the name of which is unknown or temporarily forgotten.' This is not very helpful. A widget is in fact a small plastic device in a can of beer that promises to serve that 'just served by the landlord' taste of draught beer in the comfort of your own home. They come in many different shapes and sizes, depending on what kind of beer you drink, but all are designed to release nitrogen in the can, which creates an effect mimicking hand-pumped beer.

Air is predominantly made up of nitrogen so, in theory, the action of the widget creates a similar effect to air mixing with beer as it is pulled through a spout from a cask. All beer naturally contains carbon dioxide as a by-product of fermentation (although extra may be added), and it is this which gives the beer its gasiness. The bubbles are big and coarse, and produce the 'hiss' when opening a can of beer or lager. The addition of nitrogen from the widget creates much finer bubbles which produce creamy, long-lasting foam - the much sought-after creamy head, found in beers such as Boddington's Gold or Guinness. The problem with putting nitrogen in the can is that it is much more soluble and temperature sensitive than carbon dioxide, so some of it has to be isolated from the rest of the beer until the can is opened, when it can then rush out. Initially, nitrogen is introduced into the beer as a liquid, and only becomes a gas once the lid is attached to the can. As it becomes a gas some is forced under the widget creating a pocket of gas, isolated from the rest of the beer until the can is opened. The change in pressure as the can opens forces this nitrogen back out into the beer.

Widgets are a relatively new invention - they were first introduced to us

by Guinness, in 1989. The company had been using nitrogen in keg-stout since the 60's which, in combination with a special spout, ensured that the stout always poured with the requisite white, creamy head. The same principle was then used to market their cans of stout.

Other companies started introducing their own widgets during the recession of the early 90's. As the public started feeling the pinch, they began to go out less, spending more money on home entertainment such as video games and CD's. There is a general trend for people to drink more during a recession even though they have less money to spend, and breweries were puzzled that beer sales weren't increasing. They conducted market research which showed that people didn't like drinking beer at home simply because it wasn't like the beer you got at the pub. Enter the widget - or, in PR speak - the Draughtflow System. There are now dozens of types of widget. Boddington's Flowers and Whitbread Draught-

flow use a round plastic cartridge, Stones Bitter has a paper fan-like object in it, and Tetley's has a plastic worm held in place by a collar.

"...nitrogen from the widget creates much finer bubbles which produce creamy, long-lasting foam..."

Guinness have now gone one step further and released Widget 2, the floating widget. This one, known as the "Snake" (because it rattles when the can is empty), consists of a tiny ping-pong ball filled with gas that swirls around the beer as its being poured, producing a much thicker head. Guinness have developed two versions of the Snake: for bitter, a small pin-prick size hole allows the ball to spin slowly through the drink creating a creamy head; for lager, the ball has two pin-prick holes which means it spins faster to make it busier and bubblier.

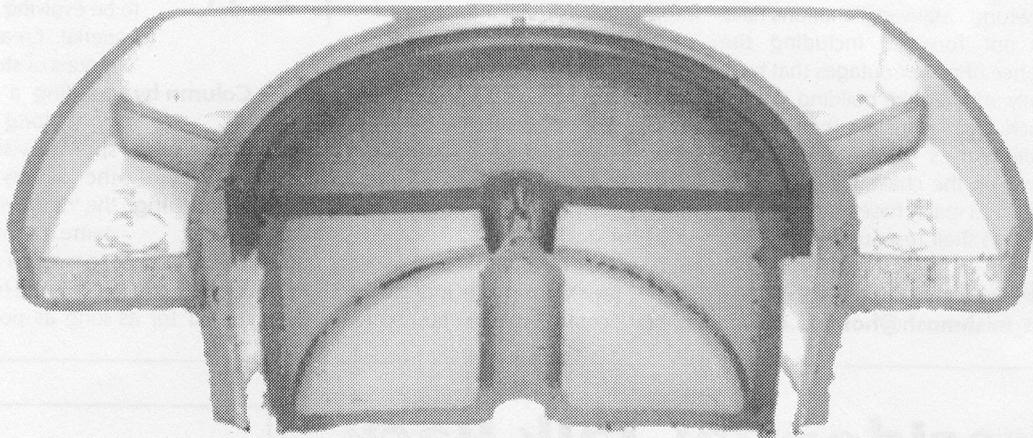
The reason for the sudden interest in widgets is simple: The market for widget beers is growing at 20% per year and in five years time is likely to represent 50% of the take-home beer market.

The big question is whether widget beer is any good. Many critics note

that the widget only works once the can is first opened, and that it does not provide a complete solution to the difficulties posed by using nitrogen. Certain cans of widget beer, John Smith's for example, still act very differently when opened at different temperatures. These beers have to be chilled before opening, otherwise the beer spurts out, dousing the carpet and drenching any unsuspecting crisps in the vicinity.

Other critics claim that widgets make beer taste bland and foamy. Beer writer of the year, Andrew Jefford, says "all that creamy foam can get a bit cloying after a while, and there's nothing natural about nitrogen in beer...for complexity and sublimity of flavour, you need true, living draught: ale drawn from an ungasped, gently respiring cask." Even the purists do, however, acknowledge that canned, widget beer is preferable to canned, non-widget beer. Jonathan Tuttle, a representative of CAMRA, the campaign for real ale, says "It ruins the complexity of beer...but if all you want is a creamy beer with a big head, it's brilliant".

Nonetheless, the popularity of these beers suggests that, regardless of the critics, widget beer is here to stay. Anyone for a pint?



As Jack Dee said: "Widget...it's got a widget...widget...a widget it has got"

"...a small mechanism or device, the name of which is unknown or temporarily forgotten..."

"...in five years time, widget beer is likely to represent 50% of the take-home beer market..."

The Daily Telegraph

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**Wednesday**  
**5th May**

**WARWICK  
UNIVERSITY  
STUDENTS UNION**  
ZIPPY'S  
Doors: 8.00pm  
Box Office: 01203 572 777  
/ 01203 690916

**Thursday**  
**6th May**

**UNIVERSITY  
OF LIVERPOOL  
GUILD OF STUDENTS**  
SARO WIWA BAR  
Doors: 8.00pm  
Box Office: 0151 709 9108

**Friday**  
**7th May**

**IMPERIAL COLLEGE  
UNION**  
dB's  
Doors: 8.00pm  
Box Office: 0171 594 8068

**Sunday**  
**9th May**

**CARDIFF  
UNIVERSITY  
STUDENTS UNION**  
THE TERMINAL  
Doors: 8.00pm  
Box Office: 01222 387 421

**Thursday**  
**13th May**

**THE ACADEMY,  
UNION OF  
BRUNEL STUDENTS**  
THE ACADEMY  
Doors: 7.45pm  
Box Office: 01895 462 200

Tickets: £2.50



## Reviews

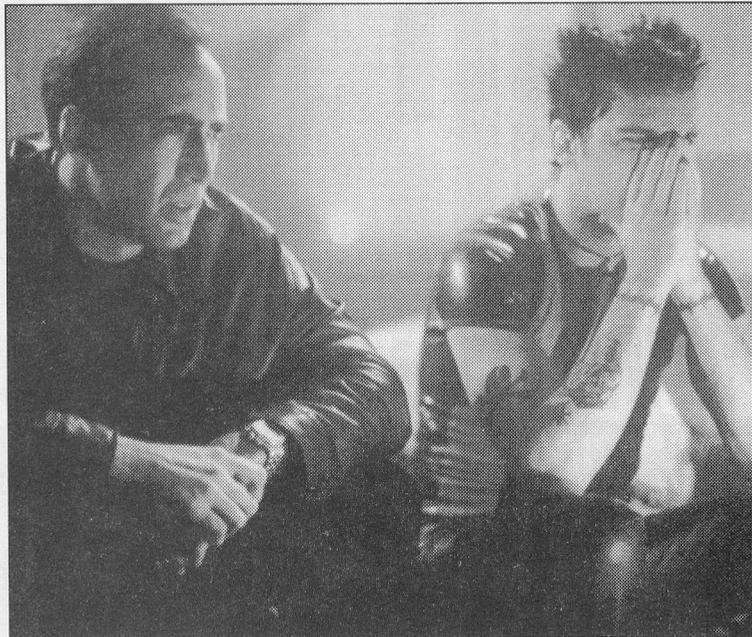
## 8mm ★★

**Starring :** Nicholas Cage, Joaquin Phoenix, James Gandolfini

**Director :** Joel Schumacher

Once again we find ourselves in "looked like a great idea on paper" territory, with Columbia Pictures this time footing the bill to bring together a highly profitable director (Schumacher), an immensely popular and talented actor (Cage) and an acclaimed scriptwriter (*Se7en's* Andrew Kevin Walker). And yet again the Hollywood money-men are proven wrong, thanks to a passable but ultimately disappointing movie which has struggled to recoup its \$40 million budget.

So what's the problem? Put simply, it's that the movie isn't sickening enough. *Se7en* had even the hardest horror nuts on the edge of their seats, waiting to see what Brad Pitt would do when he found out what was in the box; meanwhile, *8mm* will leave you sitting comfortably. You see, *8mm* is a movie about snuff films - movies which seem to show a real murder taking place - and Schumacher seems to believe that Nick Cage going "Oh no...oh...please... oh...no" all the time is going to convince us that he really is in a murky, unpleasant world. It does-



*If it shocks Joaquin Phoenix, then it's gotta be nasty.*

n't. Indeed, in this graphically-violent age, even the snuff movie itself simply isn't shocking enough.

You see, traditionally, snuff movies

have largely been considered something of an urban myth - with the majority of polite society unable to accept that anyone would be sick

enough to pay for (and get thrills out of) some grainy footage of a real murder. Cage's role is thus to do the private-eye thing, and find out whether or not they're really out there - and in so doing he begins to lose his own sense of morality, slipping further and further into the abyss. Which (as Schumacher can't resist drumming into whenever possible) is the real thrust of the movie. He starts out as a moral, family loving good guy, and is progressively drawn deeper into a world of porn, S&M, seedy directors, coming out the other end as a murdering, traumatised, emotional wreck. Yawn. Sadly, that's hardly enough to keep you going for the requisite 90 minutes, so whilst there are moments when *8mm* seems on the verge of crackling into life, it simply fizzles along.

Despite Cage's dark portrayal, without the necessary feeling of horror or revulsion you're left with a distinctly average thriller, which, whilst painfully yearning for indie credibility, ultimately finds itself plastered in Hollywood cliché and morality. **F**

Dave

## Message In A Bottle ★★

**Starring :** Kevin Costner, Robin Wright Penn, Paul Newman, Robbie Coltrane

**Director :** Luis Mandoki

Chick-flick is a term I try to avoid under normal circumstances, largely because I really love your average sappy romantic comedy, and I'm worried what that says about my personality. However, once in a while you come across the type of movie which is so completely fuelled by long, meaningful looks into the middle-distance, deep, deliberate sighs and moonlight dinners that there's simply no other term to describe them. We're talking movies that are trying to make you cry - the kind of movies your mum probably likes...and the kind of movies that should not star Kevin Costner.

As you've probably guessed, *Message In A Bottle* is such a movie. Wright Penn is a divorced journalist who finds a bottle with a (yep, you guessed it) message inside, which is so heartfelt and romantic that she instantly falls in love with its writer and begins to track him down. Sadly, the letter's writer isn't



*In the words of Sting: "Sending out an SOS to the world".*

the fabulous Paul Newman (engagingly grumpy in every scene); rather it's his son, Costner, a small-town boat-builder who's still mourning the loss of his wife, two years earlier. In essence, it's pretty

standard, predictable stuff, which hinges on a few twists - mostly non-existent, and certainly insufficient to pad out a two hour movie - and some decent performances from the leads. Oh dear.

You see, the real problem with Kevin Costner, the real reason why most of his recent movies have flopped so spectacularly, is that he's so incredibly dull. This man is not someone you're going to fall in love with - you're going to be falling asleep before the end of the first date. We're talking an honest to goodness, solid timber, special-offer-at-Homebase, 2" by 4" plank. Consequently, despite the best attempts of Newman and Coltrane (who puts in a surprisingly convincing US accent alongside his usual enjoyably-hammy performance), this is a movie that simply fails to engage on an emotional level - even when the "surprise" ending lurks into view.

All of which adds up to a profoundly unsatisfying experience, emblazoned with absolutely no sense of realism and some painfully cheesy dialogue - and it's not even feel-good. A chick-flick indeed. **F**

Dave

## Reviews &amp; Competition

## Heart ★★★★★

**Starring :** Christopher Ecclestone, Kate Hardie, Rhys Ifans, Saskia Reeves  
**Director :** Charles McDougall

A powerful psychological thriller about obsession, lust, and dangerous relationships, *Heart* is brought to life by Jimmy McGovern's distinctive style, with dark humour and a fast, energetic script complimented by strong performances. If you liked *Cracker* then this dramatisation will intrigue you.

There are only four main characters to focus on and all their faces are very familiar. Ecclestone is Gary Ellis whose sexual jealousy of his wife - Hardie - drives him to a heart attack. Whilst Ecclestone is trapped in a wheelchair, his wife embarks on an affair with writer Ifans, and he begins to believe that only a heart transplant can save their marriage. The other main character is Reeves, the mother of the dead heart donor, and she is undeniably abnormal. The death of her son has devastated her, and meeting Gary gives her life a new meaning. The highly charged sexual and emotional encounters between these four leads to violent deaths and disturbing outcomes.

*Heart* is very fast moving with over



Christopher Ecclestone : One of Britain's finest actors.

200 scenes compared with the normal 90-odd in your average 90-minute film. This gives the effect of a perceptible roller-coaster ride. It is also visually distressing so don't go and watch this film on your own especially if

you're squeamish.

*Heart* deals with strong emotions and is totally fanatical - this amazing British film should only be missed in exceptional circumstances. **F**

Helen

## Win tickets to The Waterboy with the

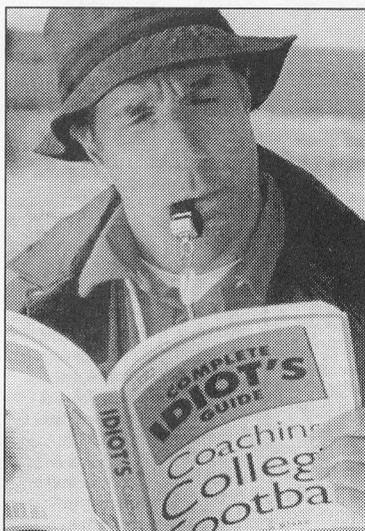
# ODEON

## KENSINGTON

Enjoy *There's Something About Mary* and *The Wedding Singer*? Well, expect more of the same from *The Waterboy*, which fuses Adam Sandler's bizarrely engaging features onto the kind of dumb-ass comedy that's currently all the rage in the States. It's hardly the stuff of classics - Sandler plays the titular minion, who rises from his lowly position to become a national celebrity - but it's apparently incredibly funny, and has gone down a storm in the US. For your chance to find out why, simply answer the following question:

Which cult icon links *The Waterboy* with *Scream* and *Happy Days*?

Email your answers to [film.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@ic.ac.uk) before Wednesday evening to be in with



a chance of winning. The first ten names out of the virtual hat will win a pair of tickets, courtesy of the Odeon Kensington.

The winners of last term's *Plunkett & Macleane* competition were:

Robin Jeffries  
 Hugh Ash  
 Amelia Swaine  
 Tim Smith  
 Marie Nicholaou  
 Andrew Roberts  
 Dan Bradfield  
 Andy Royal  
 Alison Colvert  
 Clive Hudson

They all spotted that Robert Carlyle will star in the new James Bond movie, *The World Is Not Enough*. Please drop into the Felix office ASAP.

## VIDEO RENTAL RELEASES UPDATE

### Antz

After twelve months in operation, Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks studio seemed to be in big trouble, thanks to a couple of flops and floundering finances. A year later, its cemented its place as one of Hollywood's big boys, thanks in large part to a new approach to animation, under the leadership of ex Disney honcho Jerry Katzenberg. Leading the way was *Antz*, their superior all star bugs-in-peril flick which beats Disney's technical superior *A Bug's Life* by miles, thanks to good gags aimed at kids and adults alike - I'm guessing that Disney probably wouldn't contemplate casting Sharon Stone and Woody Allen in lead voice-over roles. Cartoon fun the way it ought to be.

### Les Miserables

Great cast: Liam Neeson, Geoffrey Rush, Claire Danes, Uma Thurman. Great novel: adapted from Hugo's original, without any of the annoying singing we now all associate with the name *Les Miserables*. Great movie? No. The power of the novel seems to have gone missing somewhere in the search for sumptuous costume drama stylings, so whilst it certainly looks nice - and opens up to a far wider audience - it falls far short of what it could have been. Nonetheless, it's a competent, well-acted adaptation, with a timeless story at its heart.

### Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas

Terry Gilliam, Jonny Depp and Hunter Thompson brought together in one movie. You expect extreme weirdness - and *Fear & Loathing* delivers in spades. Psychedelic effects, incomprehensible trains of action and thought; more drugs than the mind can comfortably imagine; and wall-to-wall strangeness. Basically, if you can follow this movie, then you're either stoned or schizophrenic. So is it any good? Well, I guess that's going to be a very personal decision - however, whatever your feelings, it's definitely something that should be seen on the big screen - Gilliam directs with every inch of the screen in mind, so a 21" screen simply won't do it justice.

Dave



# WILLIAM KENTRIDGE

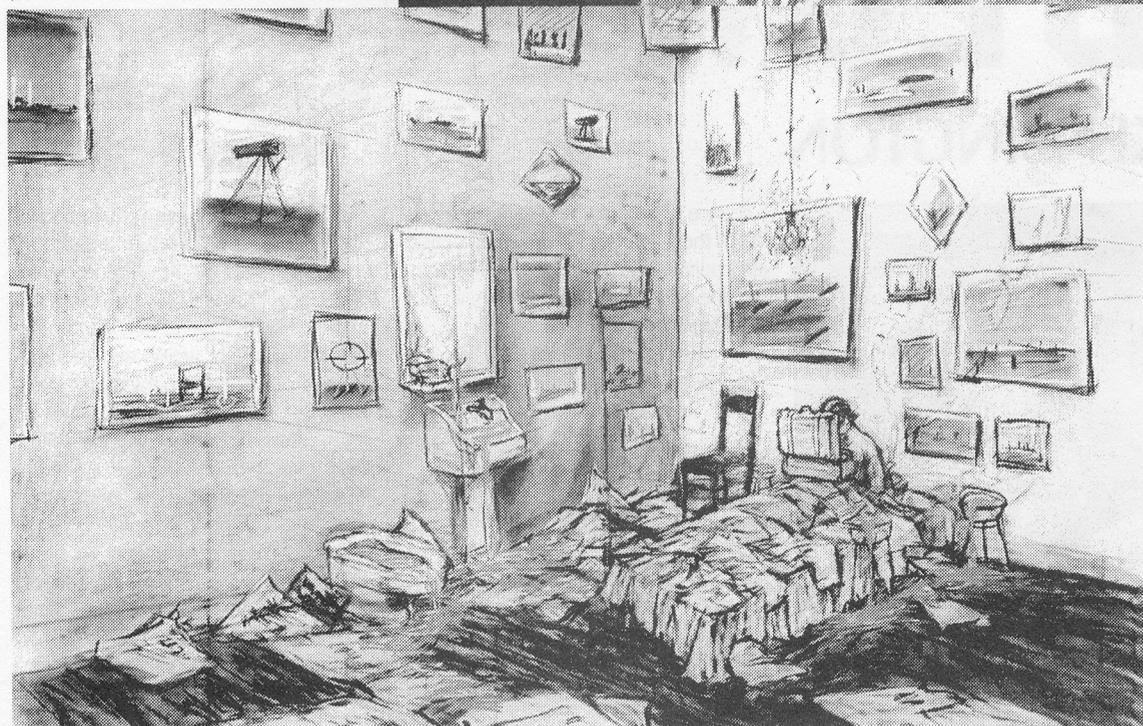
## Serpentine Gallery

William Kentridge is a powerful film artist. He was born in Johannesburg in 1955 and so grew up under apartheid. He was a student of Politics and African culture. The films he creates are potent attacks on aspects of society, particularly with regard to the injustices of the capitalist system and the effect these can have on the individual.

The method employed to produce his graphic portrayals is unique. After drawing the first frame - with charcoal and sparse use of pastel colours - he photographs it. Next he modifies and reforms, blends, erases and redraws, and thus transforms the first frame into the second. This step by step approach leaves trace markings of the previous frames, showing the passage of time within every moment. Very original, very striking.

Kentridge, rather than being specifically concerned with apartheid, reaches to and explores wider issues of suffering. Issues such as the longing of the individual versus responsibility towards society as a whole. He does not use his art as a political instrument to didactically sway others to his own beliefs, but rather uses these issues as a spring board for his films. He views his creations as pure and thinks them void of social morals - "I don't think there is a social responsibility for an artist".

Incidentally, the man pictured at the top, and used by Kentridge to symbolise how ill capitalist greed can make you, is called Felix - how ironic.



For those turned off by politics, I can assure you that the films are entertaining. Judging them aside from any political criteria they are still well worth it; at times shocking and often funny. The films are not pessimistic or maudlin images of the ills of society but instead vigorous attacks on these ills. It is quite possible to appreciate the work for just this vigorous energy and nothing else.

Personally, I found this the most intriguing aspect of his art; it would be lying to suggest that the meaning or plot of some of the more obscure scenes were easy to understand from a first time viewing. But when I was perplexed (which is not hard) I sat back and just let the film play to me, being able to enjoy it on a much shallower level. Never did I find them pretentious even if I did at times find them hard.

If you go and see these films, you will see a man who grows so fat from his profits that he is unable to move from his pulsating, sweating bed. A violent crash between a cyclist and a car so graphically illustrated that you see his bones smash from within as well as from without. A French kiss in a man's daydreams which changes before your eyes into the passionate thrusting of the lovers (some time after they moved on from kissing!)

He does not pull any punches. This artist is not afraid to deal with contentious, powerful issues head on and close up.

It is also free and only two minutes away - go and see it.

Ben

Until 30th May

Admission: FREE

Nearest tube: South Kensington

Opening hours: daily 10am - 6pm

# THE OXFORD BOOK OF WORK

Edited by Keith Thomas

I'll resist the obvious attempt to inject a bit of "humour" through the device of pointing out how reading this book is a lot of work; it is a hefty 600-page anthology of writing on, as the title says, work. Sir Keith Thomas, once high-flying historian, former President of the British Academy and current President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, has ferreted out writings on work of all kinds, from "Students, Scholars and Scientists" to the "Shadier Trades", and has, I must say, succeeded in shattering any first impression one might have that the task of compiling such an anthology is necessarily a dreary, onerous one. This work is clearly a labour of love, and Thomas' well-chosen material shines light on many different aspects of work.

The editor introduces the book by pointing out how modern employment is actually a modern development - with out-and-out slavery, serfdom and other forms of compulsory labour accounting for a large proportion of work done in the past, and briefly examines the tricky question as to whether a housewife or a child doing homework is actually "working" in the same sense as a manual labourer. The answer, of course, depends on how the term "work" is defined. The editor has, rightly in my opinion, chosen to take a broader view of work than any narrow one, quoting the standard example of non-intellectuals failing to see the point of "head work", deeming it useless and unworthy in any real, practical sense.

The opinions and ideas presented in the quotes, essays, poems and extracts from novels presented here range across a wide spectrum, from traditional upper-class arrogance as in Arthur Young's "Every one but an idiot knows that the lower classes must be kept poor, or they will never be industrious" and the intellectually snobbish William Alley's "...it is illiberal and servile to get the living with the hand and sweat of the body", to the ideology of Marx and Engels. Sir James Denham's mid-nineteenth century observation that men had become "slaves to their own work" finds a place, as does D H Lawrence's lament "earning a wage is a prison occupation". The authors Thomas has chosen range from the likes of Gautama Buddha, Herodotus and Virgil to the modern-day Tom Wolfe and Vikram Seth.

Most extracts have been classified under specific sections and are

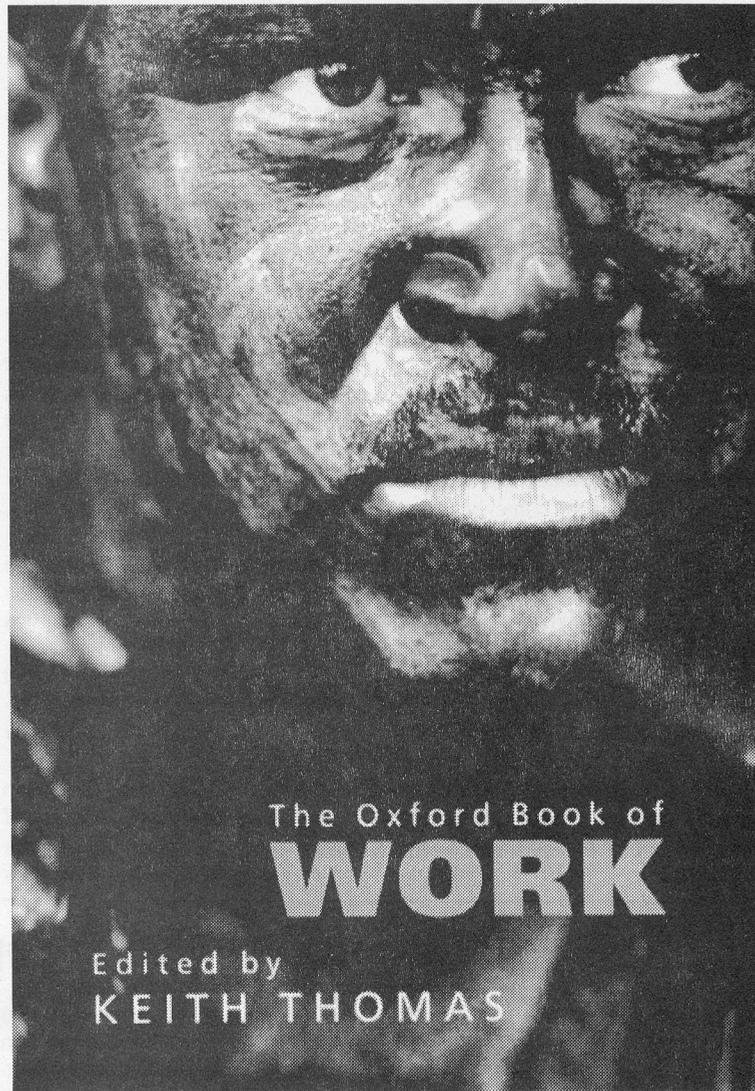
chosen to illustrate a specific point; Parkinson's own description of the famous law that bears his name "Work expands to fill the time available" crops up in the section on "reluctant" workers, while W. E. Oates' own definition of his addition to the English language - the word "workaholism" - finds a place under

based on profession that is yet another example of a system that started out with the best of intentions and with complete fluidity, but has since been twisted by dishonourable individuals with vested interests. Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy feature conspicuously, cropping up all over the book, and, for

To me, the very best pieces in this tome are those referring to pride and satisfaction in the doing of one's work - A. E. Housman's description of how he wrote a poem of his is a case in point. A particularly moving and evocative paragraph from Edward Gibbon's memoirs depicts his pang of humility and melancholy after the initial euphoria and triumph at his completion of "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire". The feeling of contentment one gets upon shutting the volume, even after the briefest of dips, alone makes this a book worth obtaining - it's almost surprising how many times I'd find myself reading this book, having just picked it up to dip in at random or to look something up. The anthology is not without its blemishes - the sections on the role of women and child labour in the world of work seem a bit underdeveloped, as does the section on soldiers; there are doubtless many fine writings on the subject. The large amount of literature that can be found both in print and in electronic form on engineering work and particularly on computer programmers and their unique approach to the world of work does not appear to have been considered at all, either, sadly - while this does not detract from the overall merit of the book, it does render the inescapable feeling that, large and detailed though this collection is, something is lacking. Some of the extracts from novels are necessarily long, clearly to establish context, but a fair number of these are perhaps far too long and rambling to fit comfortably well into what amounts to a general collection of short pieces. The "Index of Authors and Sources Quoted" at the end isn't particularly well-constructed, either, and leaves out a number of references, which essentially meant I couldn't cheat by just looking at the index!

Yet, these failings are minor, forgivable even, especially considering the background of the author and the true literary merit of most of the included pieces. This is certainly a book that attracts puzzled and incredulous attention from nearly everybody who sees it, and is a worthy addition to anybody's bookshelf.

*Sunil*



The Oxford Book of  
**WORK**

Edited by  
**KEITH THOMAS**

"Addiction to Work", for instance. Idleness merits its own little section here, with the expected Rip Van Winkle extract and quotes from John Stuart Mill and Bertrand Russell ("I think that there is far too much work done in the world, ... the need no longer exists"). Expressions of discontent and disgruntlement appear throughout, notably in Joe Corrie's worker's rail against his "machine", "leering and mocking" at its "helpless slave". There's also a piece by K. Ishwaran on India's notorious (and now outlawed) caste system, a blatantly unfair and unjust division of society into arbitrary hierarchical classes

the masochist, there's some truly "heavy" verse from Gerard Manley Hopkins, a Jesuit poet from the last century. Of course, the conspicuous literary adornment doesn't mean that all is heavy and serious - the section on "Looking for a Job" is particularly light-hearted, featuring a brilliantly funny piece from Ogden Nash. The anthology closes, appropriately enough, with a look at life after work, a section particularly relevant to the many leading a life of enforced retirement, unable to find gainful employment after falling victim to the "downsizing" and "costcutting" ploys of organisations large and small.

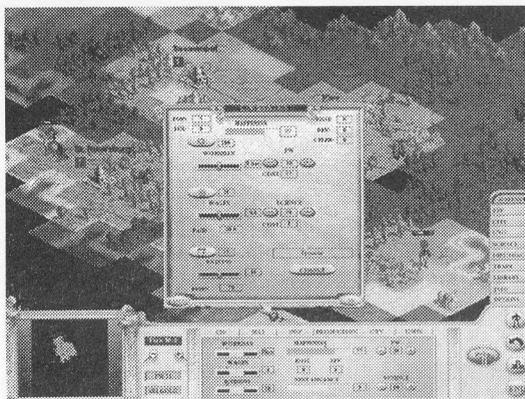
Oxford University Press  
Hardback - £20.00



## Civilization - Call to Power (PC)

Activision

★★★★



Call to Power (or CivCTP as I'm going to call it from now on to save my poor typing finger) covers the same timescale as the original Civilisation games; you start as the head of an insignificant tribe of nomads, and from such meagre beginnings have to create the greatest empire the world has seen. In the way that will be familiar to all of you who have

Those of you who were awake a couple of issues ago will remember that I reviewed a game called Alpha Centauri, and rather rashly called it the best game I'd ever played and that if another game came along this year which could compete with it, I'd strip naked and dance around da Vinci's whipping myself with a metre length of coaxial cable. Or something like that. Our beloved Games Editor says I did, and he wouldn't lie, would he?

Anyway, he seems to think I might have to make good on my promise, as he's given me a copy of the official Civ2 follow-up to review. Civilisation - Call to Power is Activision's first crack at this legendary game since they bought Microprose a year or so ago, and they are doubtless hoping for a repetition of the kind of success that saw the original Civilisation installed on millions of hard drives across the globe. It's still not officially Civ3 - we're going to have to wait a bit longer for that - but is more a sort of Civ2-and-a-half, an indication of the kind of concepts they will be wanting to develop in the official follow up.

Unlike Alpha Centauri, Civilisation -

played any of the preceding Civ games. You do this by founding cities, raising taxes and diverting those taxes into researching technologies. Once you have these new technologies, you develop new and better clubs with which to hit your enemies around the head with. You also have the chance to develop your cities, build Wonders of the World and generally make your empire one to rival, well, your rivals.

One of the biggest problems faced by any games developer when devising the follow up to a game like Civ is where to take it. Sid Meier widely expanded the diplomatic side of the game, but Activision have instead opted for increasing the military side of the game. Normally this would just mean adding a few new units, tweaking the old units and hoping for the best, but Activision, to their credit, have introduced a tactical element to the gameplay. In all the previous versions of Civ (including Alpha Centauri), combat was basically a matter of gathering a pile of units, and then throwing them against your enemy's pile until one of the piles was reduced to dust. In CivCTP, a little screen comes up which shows the two

armies facing each other, and then enables you the player to select which of your units is going to attack which of your enemy's units. The idea is an interesting one, but isn't implemented enough to make any real advance in terms of the game's playability. There's a good argument for adding a tactical combat element to Civ, but it needs to be far more flexible than it is here. Currently it just feels like a momentary (and ultimately rather annoying) distraction from the main business of the game.

The most obvious difference is the graphics. At a cursory glance, the interface has much more in common with Age of Empires than with Civ2 or Alpha Centauri. The units are far better defined and animated than both Civ2 and Alpha Centauri, and it is certainly much easier to see what is where than in either of those two. The city management screens have also been significantly altered, and are much clearer than those in Civ2 or Alpha Centauri. Unfortunately this clear up has resulted in a loss of information, particularly in terms of the city's production capabilities, and this limits the range of options available to you. This is unfortunate, as part of the attraction of Civ was the flexibility you had in controlling the manufacturing base of your empire, and in removing the city production information, Activision have removed a fair portion of that control.

The technology tree has been expanded, particularly at the top end of the tree. In Civ2, the last definite advance you could make was the laser, after



which you started on undefined "Future Technologies". The only benefit to be gained from researching these was the addition of points to your end score, with the result that most people developed the laser, and then shoved their research budget down to levels not visible without the aid of an electron microscope. Activision have created a set of plausible Future Technologies, all of which give you specific advantages that expand your options a little bit.

Activision's aims are fairly clear - they wanted to improve on the military side on Civ, something that could benefit from a little attention - and they should be applauded for their attempt to update the series in this respect. However, by concentrating so much on the military side, they have weakened the game as a whole. CivCTP is a fine piece of software, and is definitely the equal of Age of Empires (albeit two years younger), but they have limited the options available to the player so much that if you compare it to the possibilities that reside within Alpha Centauri, playing CivCTP feels rather like playing in a straitjacket at times. It's sad, but I can't help wishing that Sid Meier still had control over the Civilisation brand.

Danny

### Compo Corner - The Results

Literally thousands of people entered the Warzone 2100 and Commandos competition last week - well perhaps nearer 50. The answer to the question

**Which two films about blowing things up have Navarone in their title?**

is obviously

**The Guns of Navarone  
and Force 10 from Navarone.**

The Winners below can come into the Felix office during lunch show some ID and collect their prize (First come first choose).

J. Clifford (Physics)  
A. Sleeman (EE)

## Shogo Shootout - The European Finals

On Thursday 8th April a small band of Elite Shogo players were brought together by Media Connection UK and Microids to the sacred area known as the Playing Fields - actually a subterranean cyber games cafe just behind Warren Street tube station. There they fought it out for the title of European Champion - and for the money, a cool 100,000 Yen (500 of your english pounds).



For those not paying attention Shogo is a rabid mad robot based 3rd person shooter. Passing over the normal shotgun these beasts fire huge energy weapons the size of large chimney stacks.

The Brits were there in force with five of the six finalists only having to brave transport as far as Lancashire. The Continentals were only represented by a French competitor (the Italian dropped out at the last minute).

The frantic fighting through the six chosen battlefields left hundreds dead and wounded, though luckily there were no civilian atrocities and absolutely no collateral damage reported. The two top dogs were then faced with a final twelve minute firefight before the winner Anthony Wadsworth (WAD) was crowned.

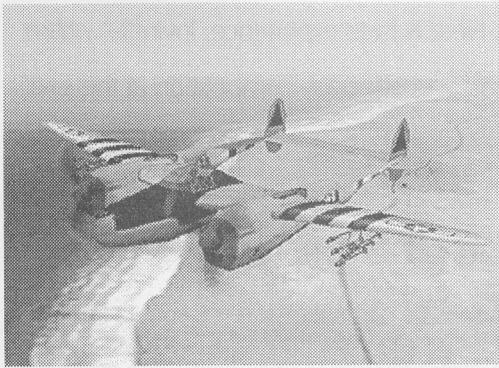
After all this excitement there was an amateur competition between the various press and industry people at the event. Unfortunately it was at this point that your reporter had an attack of consumption and had to make his excuses and leave the building rather than embarrass the name of this fine paper. Honest Guv, would the Games Ed lie to you?



# Fighter Squadron - Screamin' Demons over Europe (PC)

Activision

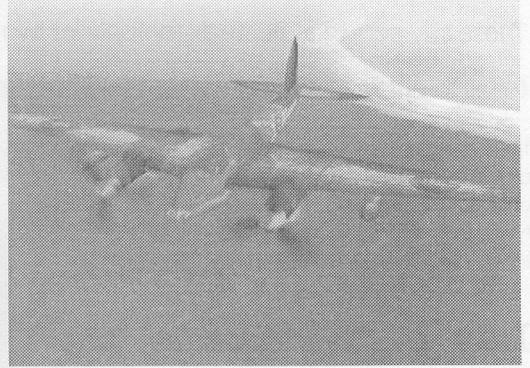
★★★★



ting some red dot on the radar, pointing your plane roughly in the direction and firing a few missiles. They look brilliant, but are more tedious than waiting for a girlfriend to try some clothes on in the changing room. Activision have listened and gone and set a flight sim back in the days when the bullets were designed to rip cloth, metal and flesh from less than

out. These are obviously less handy in the aerobatic stakes, but at least you can move around the plane taking turns as the pilot, bomb aimer and the gunners.

So up against the Microsoft opposition, can Fighter Squadron fight it out plane against plane? Well graphically the game is the tight, precise, fast flowing spitfire of the



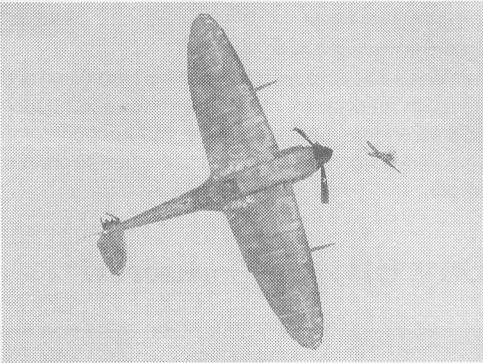
Eaaaaaaooooowwww dakka dakka dakka dakka and another pesky Jerry pilot was going to taste the salty English Channel. The cool sophisticated pilot checked his six, called his wingman and turned for home. Well that is how it should have gone. In the real world the engine roared into life, I taxied down onto the runway and then just before leaving the ground turned the plane into a nice blazing modern art display of twisted metal. Perhaps a fighter pilot's life is not for me - the planes just jitter and handle a bit too quickly.

Flight simulations especially modern flight simulations are getting more realistic. This usually means taking off, spot-

ting some red dot on the radar, pointing your plane roughly in the direction and firing a few missiles. They look brilliant, but are more tedious than waiting for a girlfriend to try some clothes on in the changing room. Activision have listened and gone and set a flight sim back in the days when the bullets were designed to rip cloth, metal and flesh from less than

300 metres. Finally time to put some excitement back into the flight sims.

Fighter Squadron is a bit of a misnamed game really. Sure there are fighters aplenty all ready and willing to scream into the air and be sent brick like back down on the ground again, but there are also bombers from Britain, Germany and the US to try



crow compared to the falcon of Air Combat Simulator. It's not bad, in fact it's very good actually, but in certain bits - the quick flight game for instance - it just doesn't feel as fun as it should be. Yes it is exciting, it has fighters, bombers and has even got that little minx of a mosquito for you to fly over Europe. It has absolutely superb graphics, but there is a simplicity and fun element which is just slightly missing from this flight sim. It is definitely one for the fly boys' and girls' library, especially with the net options out there, but perhaps not for those trying to kick the shoot-em-up bug. it takes a while to get going and doesn't quite perform as well as you would like. It also flies like

crow compared to the falcon of Air Combat Simulator. It's not bad, in fact it's very good actually, but in certain bits - the quick flight game for instance - it just doesn't feel as fun as it should be.

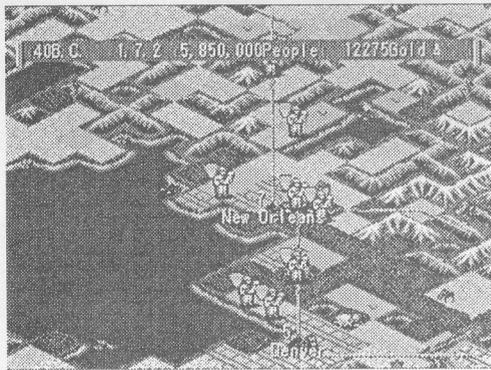
Yes it is exciting, it has fighters, bombers and has even got that little minx of a mosquito for you to fly over Europe. It has absolutely superb graphics, but there is a simplicity and fun element which is just slightly missing from this flight sim. It is definitely one for the fly boys' and girls' library, especially with the net options out there, but perhaps not for those trying to kick the shoot-em-up bug.

Gary S.

# Civilization 2 (PSX)

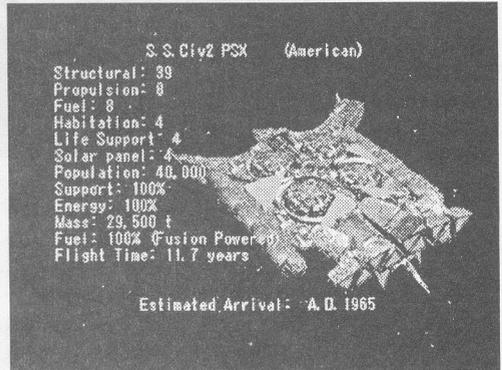
Activision

★★★★



diplomatic, scientific and military twists and turns that occur on the bumpy railroad of history. It was a case of knowing where your culture was going and getting there before anyone else could. Ever fancied a utopia based upon scientific democracy? Here it was possible. Perhaps a nice benevolent dictatorship for those with conquest in their eyes. The possibilities were almost endless. Well

much more a grey-red purée, but luckily Civilization 2 on the PSX has not been mangled beyond recognition. The obvious change is in the view on the screen. As the PSX resolution is lower than the PC the amount of information on the screen has been cut down. No mouse (well, not everyone has a PSX mouse) has also meant the control method has been redesigned. Its not

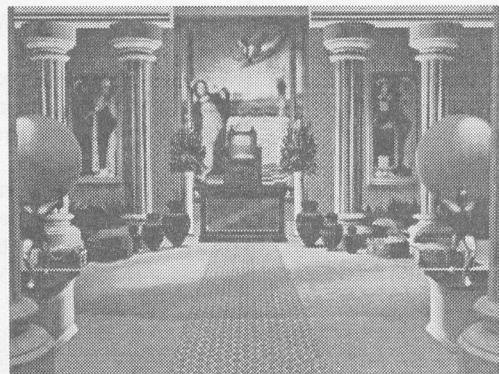


Remember the old elephant jokes like "what game are two elephants able to play in a mini's boot - squash"? Well this is the reverse: what old elephant can be squashed into a playstation - the game Civilization 2, that's what. Civ 2 is getting a little bit old, especially with Alpha Centuri and the new Civ - Call To Power twins currently battling it out for the PC strategy game of the year award already, but with nothing else anything like this on the playstation surely it has to be the best.

Civilization 2 was almost a complete copy of the original Civ - but with much better graphics and sound. Controlling a small tribe, you took them from the dawn of history into the space age, via the

finally PSX owners have finally got a chance to control a empire and practice genocide on a global scale from the comfort of their own living rooms.

Obviously you can't get a whole elephant in a mini's boot. In fact what ever you could fit in the boot wouldn't look much like an elephant but



as simple as the PC way but is easy to pick up - though the menu system does mean that to go to one option can require a bit of navigation round the game. The lack of a keyboard also makes any customisation of city names a complete pain - though I suppose that prevents the whole of the Celtic empire having cities named after

villages and hamlets from North Warwickshire. The fancy little cut sequences have also been cut out, though the throne room and the advisors are kept.

But despite all of this trimming it is still as incredibly addictive as it always was. It passed the flatmate challenge with flying colours - I came downstairs early in the morning to discover my flatmate trying to hold off the Zulus and the Romans, and this from a person who at midnight was saying that it looked too slow and boring. Game Insomnia strikes yet again. So PSX'ers beware: the strategy game is after you, and like a good sleep vampire will keep you awake for as long as it needs.

Gary S.



# In a Daze at Alton Towers

Those silly people at Beatwax foolishly let two of our 'crack' reporters loose at Alton Towers. Here is their experience, lovingly written for all to enjoy. Not good enough for you? Well, you too can experience it for yourself, by entering our crazy competition at the end.

The mission was simple, we had been sent out to check on five scary rides deep in country. We weren't the only ones out there though. The opposition, student media types all, would be there too all trying to survive the theme park jungle. It was going to be fun, tough but fun.

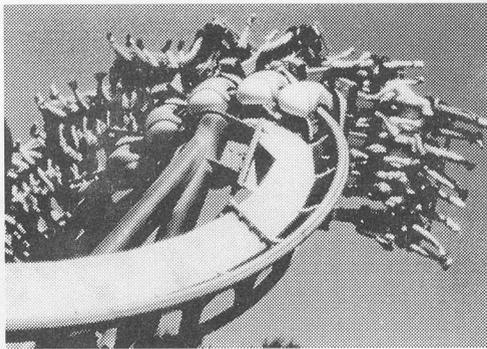
## Day 1 - The Black Hole

Remember when you were young and horror films shown in the cinema were really scary but when you see it on video during the day it wasn't quite as good. Well these fiends have reversed this process for roller-coasters. By covering it up, and not bothering with things like lights, it has been turned from a gentle fun ride into a rictus wide grin moment and a half.

One down, four to go both of us came out of that well despite having to suffer Anjit on my lap. The next target was the Oblivion. Intel reports on this were sketchy, it was tall and fast but that's all we had been told.

## Day 42 - Oblivion

The trek from the exit of the black hole to the entrance of the oblivion was completed as fast as we could, to stay as dry as possible. We were doomed to stay dry for too long, but we finally realised this when the stinging rain pricked us in the face when the Oblivion began its climb to the top.



The climb was wet, but we soon forgot about the rain. Intel reports had also said that this ride was quick, they failed to mention just how it was quick. It is quick, but that is like describing a hurricane as a little windy and wet. From

one hundred and fifty feet up you drop through a steam shrouded hole and hurtle underground until the screams and shrieks burn themselves out.

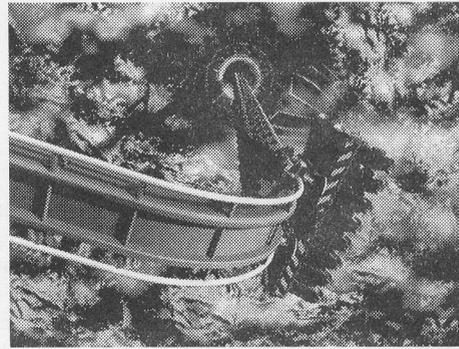
The first time round was a blur



and perhaps in hindsight making Anjit ride in the front was a little cruel. But reporting is a cruel game and there was no place for mercy. There was also no time for a second go, the enemy time and the opposition were all that stood between us and the free alcohol err mission.

## Day 62 - The Corkscrew

The rush of the oblivion firmly behind us we reached the edge of Ug land. Ug land - the land that sun forgot. Base had managed to get some pictures of the legendary Corkscrew to us on the ground. It was, as we expected, deep within ug-land. We crept under the



cover of heavy rain, pausing only to cover our tracks using the adolescent life that teems about the larger rides. Finally we found the corkscrew - the holy grail of British roller-coasters. Over a decade ago this twisty turney thing first started to scare as only a twisty turney roller-coaster can. Time hasn't been gentle to this old lady of twist, and even anjit came away with a sense of unforfillment. It was still fun, the triple corkscrew bit was still twisty & turney but we had all been much younger then

- a time when even Dr Who could cause slight anxiety attacks. We took the cable car to the final two rides. Our nemesis awaited.

## Day 68 - Ripsaw

This was going to be the wet one. Every theme park was at least one and this was the latest Alton Towers attempt to drench the unsuspecting punter. The ripsaw was thought up by someone whose idea of a good time was putting a fountain underneath a fast spinning bench. Out nerves, shot to pieces by the cable car, liked the calming effect the harness that locked us firmly in had. We might never be spawn children or speak quite as deeply ever again but we were firmly held as the bench was spun and rocked. We took the soaking well, possibly because we were already wet. The spinning though was severe. For the first time my veteran's stomach was churning - just a little. Four down, one to go. We had to face nemesis to complete our mission.

## Day 69 - Nemesis

We were finally here, the nemesis, the scary one. From the moment the harness comes down and the floor drops away we realised that it was still the nastiest piece of work in the park. The Oblivion is big and quick, the black hole scary but the Nemesis is just down right evil. The arcing left hand turns all lead up to a loop where only half of it is above ground level. All of this while sitting on a seat which has the friction content of a freshly shined burger bar plastic special, allowing you to dangle and swing your feet in fresh, unsupported air. Evil, pure and unadulterated minute madness. The grin from Anjit after he got off this one worried me for a few minutes though after a few slaps he regained enough composure to race to the evacuation point.

## Competition

Thanks to those lovely people at Beatwax, we have five pairs of tickets for Alton Towers to give away, valid until the Autumn. The only catch is that we can't provide travel for you. "So where is it?" I hear you cry! Well, that's for you to find out: To enter the competition, place a dot on the map opposite where you think Alton Towers is.

Entries should be in by Wednesday 5pm, and the closest five will win.

## Summer Ball 1999

Win a load of Jelly Bellies with our exclusive competition!

With tickets for Imperial's ball now on sale, you can expect a host of give aways and competitions in the coming weeks. Currently, we have a stash of jelly bellies to give away (about 100g per winner). To get them, simply answer the following question:

What do Glastonbury and the Summer Ball have in common?

- They are both attended by thousands
- They both use the same lighting contractor
- 25th June is the date for your diary
- All of the above

The first five people to tell the editor the correct answer after noon today (Tuesday), and utter the magic words "I want to have a ball" get the candy. Silly, isn't it?

# Can Man Utd do the treble?

As the football season winds up for this year, the question on everyone's minds is can Manchester United to the unprecedented treble - that is win the FA Cup, the Premiership, and, perhaps biggest of all, the European cup. Here is a quick look at what they will have to do if they want to succeed.

## LEAGUE

While Arsenal were busy thrashing Middlesbrough 6-1 at the Riverside, Man Utd could only draw with Leeds. This left Arsenal top of the league with Man Utd a point behind in second.

Chelsea could only draw with Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester, and after losing in the Cup-Winner's cup semi final, it looks like being a fruitless season for the West Londoners.

Looking at the remaining matches, it is clear that Arsenal have the tougher task, with home matches against Derby and Aston Villa, as well as a trip to Leeds and a tough North London derby with Tottenham, and ex-manager George Graham. United hardly have a much easier task, facing Villa at home before taking on Liverpool, Blackburn and Middlesbrough away, and finishing up with Spurs at Old Trafford.

Manchester United look to be favourites, however, although Alex Ferguson may be tempted to rest players for fear of risking injury with the end of season European Cup Final. That will be Arsenal's chance to get in and pick up ground on Utd. It is interesting that both Tottenham and Aston Villa are both involved and could help dictate the destination of the title. Arsenal fans will be particularly incensed if their team loses to a Tottenham side managed by the Arsenal revered George Graham.

Felix prediction: Arsenal not quite strong enough. Man Utd - just

## FA CUP

### Man Utd v Newcastle Utd

The first time ever that two Uniteds have met in the final of the oldest cup competition in the world, and it should be a good encounter. With one eye on the European cup final the following Wednesday, Alex Ferguson is likely to rest Nicky Butt and possibly Dwight Yorke/Andy Cole and Peter Schmeichel. It has long been known that the European cup is the trophy he truly desires.

Newcastle manager Ruud Guillit will be hoping that Duncan Ferguson will have returned to partner Alan Shearer in attack, but his side will have to improve significantly on their performance in the semi-final defeat of Tottenham. Their defence, in particular, is looking a bit suspect.

However, the match will likely be fairly open with Ferguson resting some players and therefore making the teams more even.

Felix prediction: Draw 1 - 1  
Newcastle to win in extra time

## EUROPEAN CUP

### Bayern Munich v Man Utd.

to be played at Noucamp Stadium, Barcelona

The key to this match for Utd is Ryan Giggs. Following his brilliant goal against Arsenal a couple of weeks ago, Ferguson will look to him to provide the play making - especially with attacking midfielders Roy Keane and Paul Scholes suspended. United should really be up for this match as the atmosphere in the Noucamp stadium is unlike any other.

Bayern have a bit of a reputation for being a bit like George Graham's Arsenal - they play for the result and are thus usually fairly dull. None of their players particularly stand out, apart from the experienced Lothar Matthaus at sweeper.

This has the potential to be a great match, with both teams in their first European final for over 20 years. Looking into my crystal ball I can see Alex Ferguson's dream at last being realized.

Felix prediction: Man Utd win 2-0

### MANCHESTER UNITED

Sat May 1 (h) Aston Villa  
Wed May 5 (a) Liverpool  
Sun May 9 (a) Middlesbrough  
Wed May 12 (a) Blackburn  
Sun May 16 (h) Tottenham

### ARSENAL

Sun May 2 (h) Derby County  
Wed May 5 (a) Tottenham  
Tue May 11 (a) Leeds Utd  
Sun May 16 (h) Aston Villa

## AEROBICS Summer '99

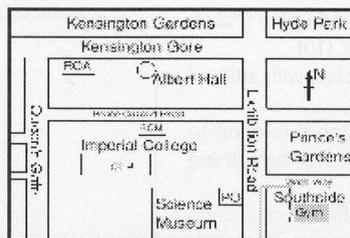
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	5:30	General	Body Sculpt
	6:30	Intermediate	Aerobics
Tuesday	5:30	Int/Adv	Aerobics
Wednesday	1:00	General	Body Sculpt
	5:30	Intermediate	STEP
Thursday	12:30	Beg/Int	Body Conditioning
	5:30	Intermediate	Aerobics
Friday	5:30	Int/Adv	Aerobics
Sunday	2:00	Advanced	STEP



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## Summer Sports Diary

### MAY

12: UEFA Cup final (Moscow)  
 14: Cricket World Cup begins  
 15: Tetley's Bitter Cup final (Twickenham); Swalec Cup final (Cardiff)  
 16: Premiership season finishes  
 16: Monaco GP (Monte Carlo)  
 19: European Cup-Winners' Cup final (Villa Park)  
 22: FA Cup final (Wembley)  
     Man Utd v Newcastle  
 23-29: Prutour cycling tour of Britain  
 24-June 6: French Tennis Open (Paris)  
 26: European Cup final (Barcelona)  
     Man Utd v Bayern Munich  
 29 - 1 June: Nationwide Lge play-off finals (Wembley)  
 30: Spanish GP (Catalunya)

### JUNE

5: Euro 2000 qualifiers: England v Sweden; Faroe Islands v Scotland  
 7-13: Stella Artois Ch'ship (Queen's Club)  
 : Euro 2000 qualifiers: Bulgaria v England; Czech Republic v Scotland  
 12-13: Le Mans 24-hour race  
 13: Canadian GP (Montreal)  
 17-20: US Golf Open (Pinehurst)  
 19-20: European Athletics Cup (Paris)  
 20: Cricket World Cup Final (Lord's)

21-July 4: Wimbledon  
 27: French GP (Magny-Cours)  
 30-July 4: Henley Royal Regatta  
**JULY**  
 1-5: England v New Zealand, 1st Test (Edgbaston)  
 3-25: Tour de France  
 8-13: World Student Games (Palma, Majorca)  
 11: British GP (Silverstone)  
 15-18: The Open (Carnoustie)  
 16-18: Nat'l Rowing Ch'ships (Holme Pierrepont)  
 22-26: England v New Zealand, 2nd Test (Lord's)  
 25: Austrian GP (A1-Ring)

### AUGUST

1: German GP (Hockenheim)  
 5-9: England v New Zealand, 3rd Test (Old Trafford)  
 12-15: US PGA (Medinah)  
 15: Hungarian GP (Hungaroring)  
 19-23: England v New Zealand, 4th Test (Oval)  
 22-29: World Rowing Ch'ships (St Catherine's, Canada)  
 29: NatWest Trophy final (Lord's)  
 29: Belgian GP (Spa-Francorchamps)  
 30-Sept 12: US Lawn Tennis Open (New York)

## CROSS COUNTRY

### X-Country Cross Channel

#### CRIC Relays, Paris

Since we're not one of the big clubs we're not allowed to go on a tour as such, however the hard work we put into the organisation of the Hyde Park Relays paid dividends in the form of coach travel to Paris for the CRIC relays. This is the French version of Imperial located in Anthony, outside Paris.

We met the Kings / UCL scum at ULU and began by successfully lynching the big bird costume, only to be thwarted by a larger than life ULU steward who failed to see the funny side.

Having finally found our destination we were disappointed to find they required a 300 quid deposit for our rooms, so Paul and Nick managed to coax the required francs from a nearby cash machine. With the race itself on the Saturday we were free to climb the Eiffel Tower (apparently only 14ft taller than the Physics building) and tour Paris, before finally getting some sleep.

The race is similar to our event with the same teams winning, Oxford got an awesome start while Cambridge lagged behind. Paul McKay managed to stay in front of Cambridge's Dan Leggate for a

whole 200m given a ten second start. We had to borrow girls from Holloway and UEA since we weren't fortunate enough to have any with us.

I was guilty (again) of creating three average teams, preventing us from beating UCL but ensuring all three teams got home before Kings. According to the results I ran the fastest leg for us and the 10th fastest of the day - later it was proved that our outstanding runner was Ben who had actually run both his legs a minute faster than our next best runner. Meanwhile Giles took the full flack for being the last man out on the track as he was subjected to the Private Pile treatment by the entire squad.

The champagne was opened and we all began to prepare for the evening's entertainment including the naked 4\*400 relays won this year by Nottingham who retained their title. Whilst this occurred the team skulked on the dance floor so as not to embarrass the other competitors.

This trip will be remembered fondly by all if only for mine and Boaz's incessant whinging and Kinky's helmet. I hope to see you all next year.

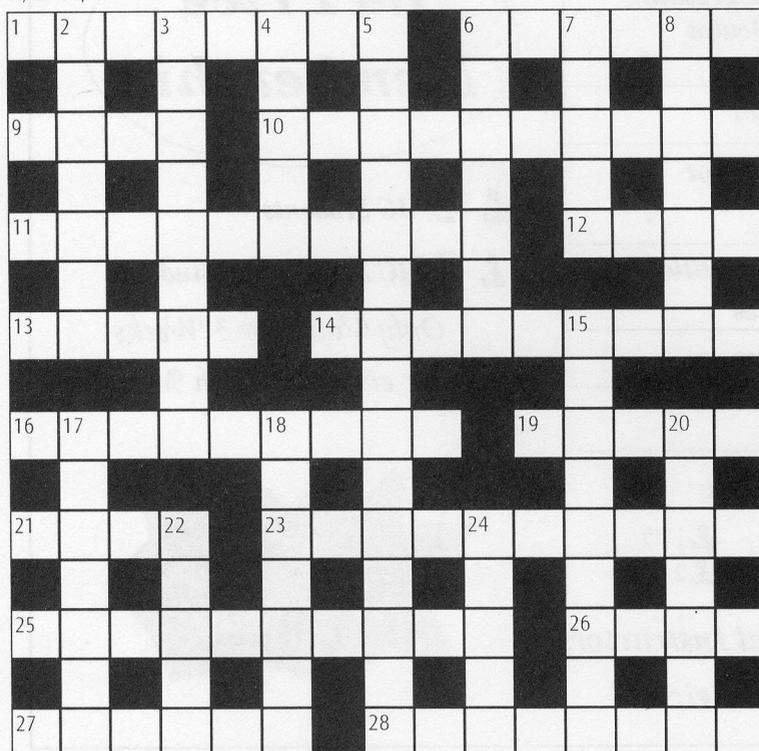
Dave

The winner of last issue's crossword (1142) is Catherine Luther

Please come into the office to collect your prize. Entries for this week's crossword should be received by 1pm Wednesday.

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

by Sheep



### Across

- 1 American read-only memory has a unit of resistance all confused, but we hear he's still a fun guy. (8)
- 6 A Royal Air Force ace loses his bottle, but keeps his flask on the table. (6)
- 9 Islamic God loses Henry in the mixup but finds Dipsy's friend. (4)
- 10 In my genius togs, I put forward an idea. (10)
- 11 Youth has an unemployed aroma. (10)
- 12 Know why I'm horny? SA cash! (4)
- 13 An old saying mostly sums up how old you are. (5)
- 14 Impetuous person may have a fever. (3-6)
- 16 A strategy completely without college, manages people diplomatically. (9)
- 19 Begin with baffled tarts. (5)
- 21 Astronaut without mace turned around. (4)
- 23 A customer and his ode were shaken and failed to finish. (10)
- 25 A nobleman in tractors with artificial intelligence. (10)
- 26 Found in bogs without referring to the matter of doing something again. (4)
- 27 Refuge for nitrate-free poppers and us. (6)
- 28 More brie is sheer ice. (8)

### Down

- 2 You have to solve this one without any help. (7)
- 3 Sugar-free cranium shows the way. (9)
- 4 Confused, you cry for help and artificial insemination in the desert. (5)
- 5 Dynamos and motors are made from geocentric metal. (15)
- 6 Is this feline honest? (7)
- 7 It goes around. Turned around it goes around. A Rolls Royce goes around too. (5)
- 8 An impatient fling shortens a twentieth of a pint, perhaps. (7)
- 15 Insect runs away with lover ruminants. (9)
- 17 Mother's going back to French fathers to give currents. (7)
- 18 Mourn if it's all the same. (7)
- 20 Go back over the terrace. (7)
- 22 Blind a snail affected by the nose. (5)
- 24 Friend has tea but is lustreless. (5)