

Southside Blocks Locks

By Abigail Lazerline

On Thursday 3 June, the Pro-rector, Professor Tim Clark, came to speak to Southside residents about the situation of the blocks being put on south-facing windows. This was in response to a 180-strong petition from the residents, being handed in to the Rector. Many residents were keen to put a face to the people behind the inconvenient obstruction and the turnout at the meeting was good.

The Pro-rector began his address by stating that the blocks had been put in as a response to the shocking incident (reported earlier this year in Felix) where a resident's guests had thrown bottles and peanut butter out of a window, nearly missing a passer-by and damaging an antique Ferrari. The situation not only cause Imperial College money in the covering the costs of all the repairs but had also damaged the reputation and affected the process and acceptance of many building applications. There had been no other

alternative, he concluded, but to implement the blocks to reduce the ability of opening the windows on southside.

The Head of Estates, who was also present informed residents of the recent failed attempt to build another hall of residence on the tennis courts, with a gym underneath. This was rejected by the council with the help of approximately 100 letters of complaint from the local residents, who as well as rejecting to the traffic it would cause, believed students were 'uncontrollable vandals' and boisterous in their behaviour. The total lost to the college had been estimated to be around a quarter of a million pounds as a result of the investigation of the failed planning permission.

Residents put forward the ideas that reflective film, fly-nets and netting could be used as alternatives to the

blocks already present, but care must be taken with these methods since Southside is a listed building. A suggestion even came of a garden fete being held as a PR exercise to show the convinced local residents that not everyone in Southside was a vandal and instinctive towards throwing bottles out of windows. One resident was concerned that expulsion should lead for a student, after such an incident but the Pro-rector and Dr Hassard, Tizard and Selkirk warden, said there had been 'extenuating circumstances' this time but the guests from other colleges were currently being prosecuted. Suggestions were also made that Southside security should be strengthened and a signing-in system installed, as present at King's and Cambridge University but the Pro-rector reported that in his past post as a warden, this

system was not effective.

It was also revealed that only a quarter of the incidents, where items had been thrown from Southside, had come from resident's windows, yet the windows were still blocked.

It has been stated by Estates and the Pro-rector that any measure will be temporary since the whole building is to be refurbished in a year's time. The conclusion from the meeting, however, was that the temporary measure of blocks on the windows is not satisfactory and has proven to be very inconvenient for students revising in the hot weather in poorly ventilated rooms. The residents asked for a swift conclusion to the situation and called for the removal of the blocks. The meeting concluded with the understanding that the Pro-rector would take an appropriate course of action after deliberating the situation with his colleagues.

Sports Centre Swallows Southside

By David Roberts

Plans for the future of Southside Gym have sparked off strongly worded argument between College Sports Management and the Union.

The proposal to hand the Gym over to Sports Centre management whilst the Sports Centre building works take place (due to start in approximately twelve months time) has faced a hostile reception from Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Marie Nicholaou, who fears that students and societies will loose out as a result. At present, the Gym is booked out through the Union, primarily for Martial Arts and Aerobics classes. If the Sports Centre take-over management responsibility then, according to Sports & Leisure Manager Frank Murray, "the facility will be available to Clubs on the same basis as those in the existing Sports Centre". However, this is likely to mean that the College Fitness Club will take most priority bookings, particularly during lunchtimes, as Mr Murray believes that



Photo: Ed

the College group is "open to all", rather than just to a specific membership list. Ms Nicholaou has cited the Memorandum of Understanding between College and the Union, which guarantees the Gym and accompanying

Weights Room as "Designated wholly for ICU activities", and discussion continues.

The other point of contention is the role of the Gym after the new Sports Centre - complete with massive sports hall - is constructed. According to Mr Murray, under the agreement which led to the College decision to develop the Sports Centre both the Southside gym and the weights room will revert to College use as part of the Southside development when the new Sports Centre opens. Most importantly, "Neither will be available for sports use, either by ICU or the Sports & Leisure Section".

Although plans for the Southside complex have been long known, confirmation that the Gym will no longer be available for sports activity puts a lot of pressure on both College and the Union to ensure that proposals for running the new Centre don't lead to any loss of club facilities.

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Common Room Plans Unveiled

Plans for renovation of the Senior Common Room have been unveiled by College Catering, designed to copy the successful style employed in the JCR renovation.

Although the programme has yet to receive final confirmation - which must come from College's Management & Planning Group - it seems almost certain that the on-off project will now go-ahead. The plans set a tentative completion date of June 2000 for the project, with construction work due to start at the end of November.

According to the design report, the current proposals are based on those utilised in last year's remodelling of the JCR, "using a curved glass screen wall to open up the walkway and forming two new entrances to the SCR". The refurbished outlet will include a variety of "high quality dining and social spaces", with a food court, lounge

By David Roberts



How much will renovating the SCR really cost?

Photo: Jonas

area, café and possible 'members club'. Maximum flexibility will be ensured via a system of moveable screens that allow for space to be subdivided for private functions, exhibitions, conferences and receptions (which form a key aspect of the business plan for the project). A lounge bar will be incorporated to provide interval

drinks for major events in the Great Hall, as well as a service for staff and postgrads throughout the day, whilst dining facilities will consist of a "contemporary café bar in addition to traditional style dining". With "panelled walls, leather seating and coffee tables", the lounge areas will apparently impart a distinct "club lounge" atmosphere to the room.

Until a few weeks ago, the plans were believed to have been shelved, owing to the shorting of funds resulting from the planned mammoth RSM refurbishment. However, the £1.3 million project has now been re-activated thanks to new plans involving three new retail outlets to be sited on the walkway, between the JCR and the main Sheffield entrance (where a curved-glass wall will form the new entrance to the SCR). The proposed £20-30000 income from each of these units, plus £15000 rental from three

FELIX
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Editor: Ed Sexton
Assistant Editor & Films: David Roberts
Sports Editor: Gus Paul
Clubscene: Giles Morrison,
Gurminder Marwaha & Joel Lewis
Games Editor: Gary Smith

This issue is brought to you by
Golden Virginia and the letter P.

new cash dispensers means that it is now possible for the scheme to break-even.

Despite the fact that the project seems likely to threaten the rent-free status of the ICU Newsagent (which will be re-housed in one of the three retail outlets described above), both of the sabbaticals available for comment described the plans as "Fantastic".

Biochemistry Breach

Further details have come to light regarding the incident in

Biochemistry on Wednesday 2 June, as reported in last week's Felix. CCTV images have allowed security to pinpoint exactly when the man entered the building. Meanwhile the police have revealed that they recovered further stolen possessions from the man's person.

It is now known that the man entered the building at 6.10pm, and not before 6pm as was speculated in last week's issue. He gained access by following someone through the doors, as swipe cards are needed to enter the building after 6pm. This reiterates the need for Imperial staff and students to make sure strangers do not follow them into departments when they are using their swipe cards.

The man was challenged by security guards six to seven minutes after

By Ed Sexton

entering the building, and restrained as reported last week. It is now known that as well as the purse mentioned last week, a watch and perfume was also recovered from the man's person by police officers. Ken Weir has asked any member of the college who lost one or both of these items on Wednesday 2 June to contact him on x48904 or cs0.security@ic.ac.uk, including a brief description of the item or items. Ken Weir also reminded staff and students to lock labs and offices when leaving them unattended, as he believes this is a major factor in attracting thieves to the college.

Meanwhile it is still unclear what the fate of the Biochemistry thief will be, although Ken Weir understands from the police that he has already appeared in court.

Last Day for Summer Ball Tickets!

Today is the last day tickets for the 1999 ICU Summer Ball are available. It is still unclear how many tickets are likely to be sold - by last Wednesday night around 900 had been sold, still significantly less than the predicted number. Meanwhile ICSM Summer Ball tickets are currently on sale (see

letters page). The ICSM ball takes place the day before ICU's ball, and is expected to attract around 900 students, although as Felix went to press it was unclear how many had been sold to date. A full report and 'preview' of the balls will appear in the last Felix of term next week.



Craig Perrott, a security guard who has been with the college for fourteen years, has recently become the manager of his football club, Infotel United. The club was formed in the 97/98 season, starting in the fifth division of the Southern Area Sunday Football League. It has come top of its division and was promoted two divisions to the third division. This season it was a finalist in the Intermediate Cup, and only lost two games in the league. Mr Perrott, who ironically enough now works in the Management School, commented that "working here has helped" in his new position as manager. He describes his team as "a good squad of players" - Felix wishes them every success for next season.

Photo: Ed

Next Week's Issue

Issue 1150 is the final issue of term and will be published on
Wednesday 23 June, NOT Monday 21 June.

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What follows is a list of all those who have received awards from Imperial College Union, as passed by ICU Council last Tuesday.

Half Colours

Alan Spehnjack
 Alasdair Ramage
 Amy Davis
 Andy Holmes
 Ben Zabell
 Bonnie Fiahlo
 Burak Alpar
 Dave Stinson
 Gavin Broad
 Harris Bokra
 Helena Cochemé
 Ian Clifford
 Jason Ramanathan
 Joanna Hardwick
 John Dixon
 Kam Mahmood
 Katie Cheesman
 Marie Hobbs
 Mat Collins
 Michelle Ward
 Najia Ahmed
 Nick Dunnett
 Nick Towers
 Nok To
 Phil Buckman
 Rob Haslehurst



Robert Pinchein
 Simon Hicks
 Theodore Mouroutis
 Tony O'Brien
 Warwick Goodall
 Will Bentley

Full Colours

Anjit Chaudhui
 Bruce Duxbury
 Chris Jackson
 David French
 Dinesh Ganesarajah
 Gareth Morgan
 George Constantinides
 James Watts
 Jo Paice
 Kash Akhtar
 Katie Sheehan
 Matt Hyde
 Nathan Cunningham
 Panos Protopapas
 Sanela Hodzic



Outstanding Service Award

Charlie Joynt
 Colin Kerr
 John Harrison
 Kevin Butcher
 Mary Marsh
 Richard Marshall

Fellowship

Rueben Connolly
 Sarah Coburn
 Vernon McClure

Distinguished Fellowship

David Roberts

President's Award

Ed Sexton
 Alex Carey
 Mark Smith
 Tom Curling

Attention all clubs, societies and CCUs!

Entries for the 1999/2000 ICU Handbook should now be in the hands of the DP(C&S), the Clubs and Societies Administrator, or the Handbook Editors (Ed Sexton and David Roberts)

Entries include; CCU articles (page 2-6 in 98/99 Handbook)

Club entries (section 3 in 98/99 Handbook), **including** all ICU clubs, CCU clubs (including Medics') and Departmental societies

Contact details for new Union Officers (including those elected at the AGM)

If you have not yet submitted your club/CCU entry, you MUST do so this week

Also, if anyone feels that they have information that should be included in the handbook, particularly if relevant to 'Area Guides' in the 'London Life' Section, please contact Ali Campbell, Handbook Features Editor, via Felix (felix@ic.ac.uk) as soon as possible.



Win a Microsoft Game Controller!

The Microsoft SideWinder FreeStyle Pro game controller is perfect for arcade-style driving, flying and combat games. Its internal motion sensor lets you control pitch and roll just by tilting the controller in the direction you want to go. Or, you can switch to digital (aka binary) control, for a traditional game pad feel.

"The biggest hardware surprise was Tilt, Microsoft's new (and very cool) gamepad. With a solid-state motion sensor providing proportional control along the X- and Y-axis. By "tilting" the entire pad left or right or forward and backwards (hence the name), you can control vehicle and body movements independently of the traditional D-pad (which can still be used for aiming weapons or controlling other gaming functions)."

- boot February 19, 1998

To use Microsoft SideWinder FreeStyle Pro you need:

- Pentium 90 processor or higher
- Windows 95 or Windows 98
- 16 MB of RAM
- 8 MB of available hard-disk space
- Double-speed CD-ROM drive
- Super VGA, 256 colour monitor
- DX 5.0 or later

To use Microsoft SideWinder FreeStyle Pro with USB adaptor, in addition to the above, you need:

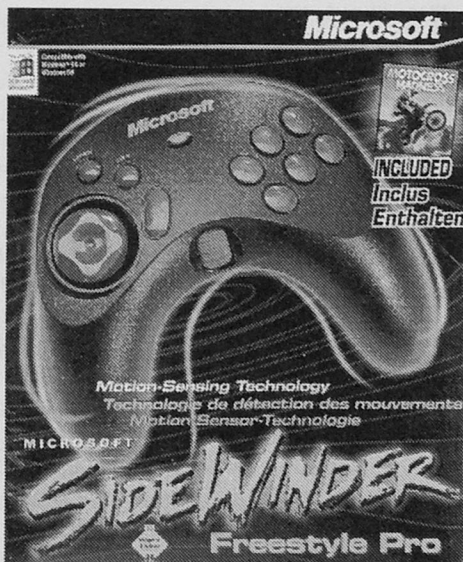
- Multimedia PC with a Pentium 90 or higher processor and a USB port
- Microsoft Windows 98

To win this wonderful prize all you have to do is answer the following three questions and send your answers to Felix as usual.

1) The Microsoft Student Licensing Programme allows students to purchase Microsoft software at substantially reduced prices, with up to 80% off. Microsoft Office 97 Professional is one product available under this scheme. Name any one of the other products.

2) The Microsoft Office Technology Guarantee allows you to buy Microsoft

3) 'I would like to own a Microsoft SideWinder Freestyle Pro because...' (complete in less than 15 words)



Office 97 Professional after 1st May 1999, and upgrade to the new version of Office Professional, free of charge. What will the new version of Microsoft Office be called?

3) 'I would like to own a Microsoft SideWinder Freestyle Pro because...' (complete in less than 15 words)

Terms and conditions

1 This competition is open to UK residents, except employees of Microsoft and its

agents and their families (who are banned from all Felix competitions anyway), and anyone else professionally connected with this promotion, especially sabbatical officers.

2 Only one entry per person. Entries will not be returned. So don't wait up.

3 Entries should be sent to the Felix Office (felix@ic.ac.uk).

Entries must be received before Wednesday 5pm.

4 The winner will be the entrant who answers the questions correctly and, in the opinion of the adjudicators, gives the most witty answer to the tie-break question.

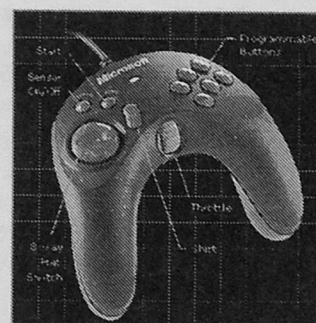
5 The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. So there.

6 The prize will consist of a Microsoft SideWinder FreeStyle Pro gaming device. There is no cash alternative to the competition prize, but you can pay the Editor if you want.

7 The prize winner will be announced in the final issue of term (23 June) - how exciting.

8 Microsoft will not use the winner in publicity, but may use them as slave labour. Only kidding. Honest.

9 The promoter is Microsoft Limited, Thames Valley Park, Reading RG6 1WG. You're the man, Bill.



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ICSM Ball Update

Dear Felix,

On the 24th of June, The Medics Summer Ball will be taking place. Just to let everyone know that tickets are on sale now at only £55 for all students. The event starts at 2pm with an afternoon of Sports competition, a fairground and a great day in the sun!

In the evening, beginning with a champagne reception at 7pm there is something for everyone in the 3 marquees. A four course meal on tables of ten, is followed by 8 hours of partying. There are 2 bars (Medic bar prices), a Casino, hypnotist, 2 music marquees with bands, top DJs and some 'Cheesy' stuff too, a full fairground with Ferris Wheel and Dodgems, a whole load of other entertainments (Bungee run, gladiators, laser shooting, human table football, bouncy castle). All of this until 6 in the morning with a survivors photo to prove who made it!

Buy your tickets NOW at the BMS, St Mary's or Charing Cross and come and party with 900 med students.

Yours in anticipation

Ben Marsh
ICSM Summer Ball Organiser

Behind the Times

Dear Felix,

I recently had the joy of spending almost two hours waiting in the Health Centre to be seen at the open clinic. During this time I thought I would relieve the frustration and boredom by reading some of the provided mag-

azines. I perused the selection and found the normal mixture of mostly crappy magazines (Hello, London Magazine, Antiques Today, What Car etc.). I could not help but notice that at least 99% of them were more than 6 months out of date. The oldest I found was Which Car 1987! Felix and IC Reporter seemed to be the only up to date publications.

When you're feeling under the weather, it would be nice to have some decent recent newspapers and magazines. Surely it's worth spending a small amount of cash to allow IC Health Centre to break the trend set by medical practices throughout the country?

Tim Wright

ICC Protest on 18 June

Ed,

According to a couple of flyers I've seen the protest on June the 18th will start at 12pm at Liverpool Street station, with a number of 'targets' being hit in the City during the course of the day, including the Treasury in Whitehall, Gap, MaccyD's, Smithfields meat market and the Reed Employment agency. Reclaim The Streets are going to be throwing a party in the Square Mile and there should be something happening at Trafalgar Square around 5.

The reason why people are protesting is the belief that the global capitalist system is at the root of our social and ecological troubles. By protesting (or rioting, partying etc) people hope to change the perception that these problems can be solved only by more growth and free trade. For more details on

this check out the links from: www.mailnet.co.uk/~marc/mcc.html

Personally, I'm supporting this because I think that in today's society there is a lot of exploitation, meaning that a large percentage of people are working more than necessary to support their needs, the surplus work paying for luxury cars, country houses and designer suits. With a different set of priorities, putting the emphasis on people, not profit, business practices can be changed and we can all spend more time in the pub.

cheers,

marc

Mish-Mash and Medics

Dear Felix,

I feel I must defend Kevin from the veritable onslaught he received in the letters page last week.

I have to agree that the column does sometimes focus too much on Medics but to be honest I think that some 'wannabe doctors' are so self-important and take things so seriously that it's just funny to take the piss out of them.

Take the anonymous first year medic who wrote last week. I find it hard to believe that someone with such a lack of humour was 'selected to deal with people.'

Maybe he plays Rugby.

Yours,

A Physics Student.

I think that some *people* are "so self-important and take things so seriously that it's just funny to take the piss out of them" - It just seems unfortunate that ICSM has become the paradigm for stereotypes that can be found in most, if not all, departments. On the other hand, if I was doing a tough course that lasted twice as long as most of my peers, I think I'd feel a tad important. Can everyone stop being over-sensitive now?
- Ed

Deadline for letters for the final issue of term is 12noon Wednesday. This is your last chance this year to gripe, moan and complain, SO USE IT!

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. Please indicate your correspondence is for publication on all letters.

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What is a just war in the 21st Century?

Young writers are being asked to examine the lessons of Kosovo by The Foreign Policy Centre, a leading London-based think-tank. The winning entrant in the 1999 Webb Essay prize, open to everybody under 26, receives £1000 and will be published in the *New Statesman*. Second and third prizes are £500 and £250 respectively.

The closing date is **27th August 1999**. Entries should be **less than 2000 words** and sent to 1999 Webb Essay Prize, The Foreign Policy Centre, Panton House, 25 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4EN.

For more information telephone 0171 925 1800

New Stewards Wanted

ICU requires new stewards for the 1999/2000 year.

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Portman Travel

Something is definitely not quite right. Felix knew about the Portman Travel deal some time ago but, as is often the case, there was plenty of speculation and very few facts. Simon Baker (see Voice of Reason this week) seems to have hit the nail on the head, though, and unearthed some details which don't exactly add up.

I have watched far too many episodes of the X-Files to possibly believe that cockup is more likely than conspiracy. If I am wrong, however, than may I suggest that someone in Sherfield who does know what's going on writes a nice letter setting Felix straight on the matter. Either way, we hope to bring you more on this next week so watch, or rather read, this space (well, actually the news pages, but you get the idea...)

Socialist Workers?

On Saturday 5 June there was an anti-NATO protest in London well attended by, among others, the Socialist Worker posse that always seems to crop up at these kind of demonstrations. Now those of you who, disregarding all danger to your health, have read this space all year will probably have guessed that capitalism

isn't exactly my favourite ideology. While not embracing communism on a practical level, I am not adverse to having it round for a slap up meal and a glass of proletariat Merlot occasionally.

Socialist Worker, however, is not my preferred reading matter. What irritates me most about it is that it is simply propaganda disguised as a newspaper. Let me explain. One of the most important codes of conducts for journalists and editors is the importance of separating fact, conjecture and comment. Hence most newspapers have news pages for facts, which may include quoted comments, and columns pages for more comment and conjecture. Socialist Worker, however, differentiates between these even less than Felix does (wait, is that a spike of self-criticism I hear?). Fact and conjecture are often interwoven into the same article, even the same sentence. Their facts are generally accurate, their comments are often interesting, but trying to separate the two can sometimes be harder than pulling a Sun photographer off the window of a celebrity sauna house.

One of their anti-war arguments pointed to the hypocrisy of NATO in bombing Serbia while turning a blind eye to one of its own member states (Turkey) carrying out serious human rights viola-

tions unchecked for years. Now I agree that NATO's motives may be less than saintly, but criticising someone for not taking action in one situation is hardly an argument for them not to take action in another. Hang on, didn't I say I wasn't going to talk about this?

Senior Common Room

Away from the ethics of capitalism and conflict, the finances of the Senior Common Room revival, and the tension it could cause with the Union, are setting off alarm bells all around Beit Quad. Hang on, this is capitalism and conflict... oh, never mind.

OK, so I don't have any actual facts. Maybe our friends in Estates are going to do it all with Do It All, coming in one weekend armed with DIY equipment, and get a new SCR built for the price of a Black&Decker drill. Maybe the rumours of new trading outlets along the walkway, including on the newsagent's site, are untrue. Maybe the Union's tenancy of the newsagent's doesn't come to the end of its term next year. Maybe...

The loss of the bookshop was bad enough for the Union and you, the students, as it saw the end of a valuable source of Union income. OK, so Water-

stone's are a bit bigger, and are even fulfilling their contract now, but at least when you spend money at the ICU Shop you know it is ploughed back into Ents, Bars and the like. We failed to stop the bookshop from going - let's not let it happen again.

Felix - the not quite final move

It seems I've got a bit of space left to fill, so I might as well tell you lot what's happening with Felix at the end of this term and next year. The last issue comes out on Wednesday 23 June. Hoorah. On the Thursday and Friday of that week the Felix Office will be packed up and moved, so drop by before then if you need to pick anything up, ask any questions, etc.

Our new, but temporary, abode will be the portakabins behind the liquid nitrogen near Physics (head off Prince Consort Road towards Sherfield, and they're on your right). For the record books, I was somewhat forced to agree to this against my better judgement, but I am sure David Roberts will cope admirably in the sheds. The following year we will move back to Beit and into the new media centre. And yes, the irony of Felix moving into portakabins while builders take over the current office is not lost on me. - Ed

The Imperial College Summer Ball



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When columnists are, with no exceptions, a pilloried breed, placed by many in the social pecking order between paedophiles and Michael Winner. Consequently, we must stick together in times of trouble. To this end, I note that the new lad on the team, Kevin, seems to be getting some stick from the medical fraternity. It would appear that the sensitive denizens of the BMS objected to reports of yet another cockup in the Ivory tower. Leaving aside the observation that building malfunctions in the BMS are so frequent that they render 'Dog Bites Man' worthy of a lead on the Today Programme by comparison, the suggestions that medics are arrogant needs addressing. For a start, they are not all arrogant, but they all should be. Has anyone ever visited a GP that is not arrogant, condescending and in possession of a belief that doctors are God's chosen few, vastly superior to the proles that pollute their surgeries? You cannot, therefore, criticise medical students for displaying similar traits because it is all a part of the training. As for the attitude of the lecturers, I am puzzled. From my limited experience of the pharmacology boys at St Mary's, I would say that they are a much more pleasant bunch than the youngsters. A case of he who can sneer does, he who can't teaches?

Travel, as every citizen of the global village knows, broadens the mind. Arriving in a far flung kingdom often raises a series of questions as one inevitably seeks to know what is going on. However, the arrival of Portman Travel on campus has made me ask even more questions than a lengthy cultural voyage of discovery in Magaluf. For those of you that don't know - and this hasn't exactly been shouted from the rooftops - they have replaced STA as the provider of non-student travel services. So why does this affect you? Well, many of you reading this are not students, and the rest of you are affected indirectly due to the money that the Union earns from such matters. The way this whole thing has transpired is odd, even by College standards, so if you're sitting comfortably, then I shall begin. The first obvious question is why College sought to change company. STA has a good reputation, and most academics seemed pretty happy with the level of service. Our friends in Sheffield obviously thought differently and put the thing out to tender. No problem there; if STA offered the best deal, both in terms of revenue generated for Imperial and level of service, then they would get it, or would be replaced by a better outfit. So it came to pass, as is the way here, that a committee was convened to evaluate the

bids. Those bidding would then give their presentations, detailing the size of their offers, level and scope of service etc. This is where it gets confusing. The committee were not given any financial details of the bids, instructed only to concentrate on the 'quality of service.' Additionally, the composition of the committee was surprising. With the greatest respect to those concerned, this was not the usual mix of big hitters. No Pro-Rectors, no Sheffield Directors, which, in a College where paperclip requisitions go before the full Governing Body, seems very odd.

The cogs whirred and the decision was made, giving Portman the contract. Whispers on the breeze along the walk-

has gone into this very thoroughly. So where does the Union fit in? In bygone days when life was simpler, ICU received the rent from both STA shops, a useful source of revenue. That all changed last year when Sheffield decided that the Union should pay for the refurbishment of a facility it did not own or control, the JCR. While our friends in Estates made a superb job, it cost the Union, and hence us, 70% of this rental income. This is clearly not good news for an organisation that has seen its trading income slashed over

quite as good as STA. Allegedly.

My first, toe-dipped-in-the-water opinion is that this looks extremely dubious. College has behaved in a totally inexplicable manner in respect of this. To have a

"my first, toe-dipped-in-the-water opinion is that this looks extremely dubious..."

committee charged with evaluating tender bids without access to any financial information looks extremely suspect. How on earth can one judge how realistic levels of ser-

vice are without seeing some figures? Taken together with the unusual composition of the committee, you cannot help but conclude that this was a fait accompli, and if so, why? Since I have always believed that Sheffield's weirder machinations are always cockup rather than conspiracy, I shall not speculate as to whether the best bid won. However, the contract must have had Portman in stitches. I cannot think of any other landlord that would draw up a similar arrangement, under which the College takes all the downside risk; if Portman don't make a profit, Imperial will not get a penny. Of course, a company with such generous terms is unlikely to lose money. Or could they? A number of academics are not happy with Portman. But it does not stop there. STA have been told that they must not accept orders from academics under any circumstances, as this would be deemed breach of contract, for which they would be penalised. In effect, staff at IC may use any travel agent in the world, stick it on their credit card and claim the money back later, except a shop on campus. Whether this is legal is anybody's guess, but there is strong possibility that people will use other companies out of sheer bloody-mindedness. Should that happen, I smell egg on face. At a time when Imperial is, not unreasonably, seeking to maximise revenue from its commercial activities, this whole saga looks very, very strange, if not outrageous. I haven't finished with this...

Finally, I must return to the subject of the College's tie clubs. Though they do not seek publicity, despite the perpetual carping directed at them, I feel I must mention the RSM's Chaps Club. A venerable organisation, established in the Twenties, its members, not to be confused with the C&G's Links Club, are fine ambassadors for Imperial. This could not be illustrated more clearly than at last week's Derby. The good name of the RSM and IC in general was worn on their sleeves and sung from their hearts, moving one young lady to remove her upper garments on at least four occasions. Clearly moved by the spectacle, she cryptically added, 'just because I've shown you my tits, it doesn't mean I'm that sort of girl.' Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the Chaps Club. Scholars and gentlemen.

Simon Baker



Voice of Reason

...the arrival of Portman Travel on campus has made me ask even more questions than usual..."

way slowly revealed a bit more about the arrangement. How much rent would they pay? Er, none. Well, they must at least be paying for phones, electricity, start-up refurbishment costs. Now this seems very odd. Has Imperial started to take its charitable status a bit far? Of course not. They have come up with a fantastic wheeze whereby the College receives all Portman's travel commissions. How this has been defined is not absolutely clear, but I'm sure someone

recent years, beginning with the Waterstone's victory. So, I hear you cry, let's talk turkey. How much will they now get? Well, my friends, you are not the only ones asking. Nobody knows, which must be causing the Union a few headaches in the budgeting department. Still, if we leave aside all this financial malarkey, we are left with the issue of customer service, which must obviously be higher than STA, given that this was the key criterion. Ah, not so sure about that. I have heard many people complain that Portman are not performing at quite the level their success in the tender would suggest; bookings have been incorrectly made, the suggestion being that the staff may not allegedly be

The Magic of Television

Those of you who would like to know who Kevin is will be interested to know Kevin's feet are going to be on Television. Kevin was present when filming for the Channel Four science documentary Equinox was carried out in Physics Lecture Theatre one last week. Bizarrely the film crew spent at least as much time filming students' feet walking up and down the lecture theatre's steps as they did filming the esteemed Imperial College academic. Whilst being filmed the academic stood at the front 'lecturing' random garbled sentences. I assume this piece of film will have a voice-over by the time it is screened. Those of you with good lip reading skills may pick up some interesting gardening tips.

that works in the door to come by and let them in. Kevin finds it incredible Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine never seems to have the technology especially when it comes to the seemingly simple things like doors and lights.

Library PA

Kevin has learnt that during the summer a new Public Address system is going to be installed in the Central Library. Unfortunately it is not going to be used to broadcast the Library Attendant's news announcements. Many library users have supported the announcements, although a few complained at the disruption to study they caused. The library unsurprisingly responded with, "Those who wish to have quiet in the Library must prevail". The new PA system will come into its own at closing time, when it will replace the hand bell. Let's hope that lessons will be

learnt from the results of connecting the BMS PA to a tyrannical computer and the library system will not be attached to a computer. Kevin has



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

nightmarish visions of an ever-increasing frequency of computerised 'signals', cumulating with "beep...beep...beep... on my next beep you will leave the library...". While we're on this point, how much time does it take to you pick up your books and walk

out of the library? Hopefully the PA system will allow warnings to start perhaps three minutes before closing rather than the present thirty.

Fire Engine Sororities

Kevin watched a documentary on sororities, Masonic style, social groups based in American universities. One group featured even possessed their own fire engine, which although a rather cool

idea, reminds me of a group here at IC. I imagine these sororities to also serve no real purpose and to be run by the same small band of self-important individuals, year after year.

The Joy of Caffeine

Whilst walking around the South Kensington area ridiculously early on Sunday morning, Kevin was amazed by the amount of street wildlife. A huge number of pigeons and squirrels were making good use of unfinished burgers and alike. Something else that surprised Kevin was the huge number of coffee shops in the area. Kevin suspects that he is not the first person to notice this, especially given the degree to which caffeine culture has pervaded the college; he has also noticed the 'Caffeine Appreciation Society' listed as an official ICU society. This is the first reference to the society that Kevin has seen. Perhaps someone could tell me how I can get in touch.

Send ideas and contributions to kevin_mishmash@hotmail.com

Technology Out of Control?

The swipe card controlled door at the main entrance to Computing has been misbehaving recently, occasionally resulting in small groups of computing students being observed outside the door, waiting for someone who has a swipe

Presidential Talk-Back

This week written by an alternative senior Union source...

Oh dear. It appears that the Union President has failed to meet the copy deadline for today. As I type he lies in bed bemoaning his social skills (on which I will shortly expand) whilst nursing a large hangover.

Last Wednesday night the esteemed Mr Hellard ventured into the wilds of East London to mix with the Wideboys of Queen Mary & Westfield. Now, this may seem like this was a rash idea but he did have an ultimate goal. Steps...

You see, the QMW Summer Ball had the masters of Brit-SyncDance as their main attraction. As the event cost £45 and there was no meal then an attraction such as this was essential to pull the crowds in.

"Did young David "pull" a step?" I hear you ask. At this moment it cannot be confirmed; however, let's just think about it.

The following information was obtained from the "Planet Steps" website. It is full of so much information that it overwhelmed me. If you want instructions (including videos) of how to dance like Steps then this is the place for you!

1. H: WORDS YOU KEEP USING: Fab & cool

- 2. Lisa: WORDS YOU KEEP USING: Minger (horrible)
- 3. Lee: WORDS YOU KEEP USING: Oh hello & cool
- 4. Claire: WORDS YOU KEEP USING: Fantastic, really
- 5. Faye: WORDS YOU KEEP USING: Lush

It is quite obvious therefore that an immediate attraction would occur with Claire due to their mutual overuse of the word fantastic. She's also a big fan of Celine Dion and Leonardo Di Caprio so they have even more in common than a first glance would indicate. Here is their first conversation: Dave Hellard: Wow you were fan-



Claire and Dave - the perfect couple?

tastic.

Claire Richards: Thanks, that's fantastic.

DH: Did you know I'm the President of Imperial College Union? We have the largest student venue in London.

CR: Really?

DH: Yes, and our baguette bar is fantastic plus I'm setting up a jobshop.

CR: Wow! Fantastic

DH: I know! Fantastic, isn't it?

CR: Fantastic!!

DH: Do you want to come to our summer ball with me - it's going to be fantastic!

CR: No. Bye.

So in conclusion, of course he didn't - don't be bloody ridiculous. There is more chance of the man seeing Chelsea win the league.

ICU Summer Ball

Tickets only available until 5pm TODAY!

Cost £55 students, £65 staff



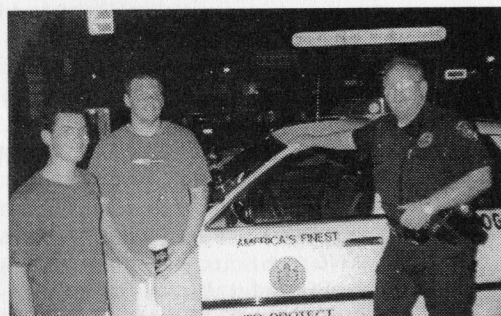
AMERICAN AIRLINE

NEIL MOTHEW CONTINUES HIS AIRBOURNE TOUR OF THE US, AND ENCOUNTERS CURFEWS, COPS, CAT-FOOD & BUFFALO-BURGERS.

San Diego & Tijuana, Mexico

Make no mistake about it: San Diego is a magnet for burnouts, party animals, and surfer dudes. Anybody looking for a party will find it here. In fact, we arrived there just in time for 'Street Scene', the annual rockfest. The whole town was totally alive and bands were performing everywhere. Bars and cafés were full and the town had a most herbal aroma. Such was the concentration of herb, I felt very light headed on stepping out of the bus.

We were surprised, no shocked, about some of the laws in California. Firstly, there is a curfew for 'minors'. Under 18 year olds had to be off the streets by 10pm. I won't list the many other totalitarian laws. In general, we stayed out of trouble with the law - aside from a small 'jay-walking' encounter (see below).



Even the cheesiest of grins won't help you now...

I was fortunate enough to have a friend who had gone to UCSD (San Diego University) on exchange for a year, so we had a floor to crash on. An added plus was that his place was on the beachfront. We only intended to stay overnight but, once introduced to the wonders of midnight surfing in the swells of the Pacific, we had such a great time that we stayed four nights. The beach was great during the day as well.

Restaurants and bars in the area were great, though we did have trouble ordering food at the Taco Bell. It helps to speak Spanish here since many workers come from across the border as cheap labour. Being on the border with Mexico, we couldn't avoid exploring the neighbouring town of Tijuana. We decided to enter on foot, as opposed to flying in. With rumours of corrupt customs officers planting drugs on innocent teenage pilots ringing in my head, it took, oh, all of two seconds to come to a decision on how to cross the border.

As border towns go, Tijuana is not attractive at all. It's full of gaudy souvenir shops, noisy bars and sleazy backstreets. Visiting was a massive eye-opener. This was mainly because of the shocking contrast between the two sides of the border. Tijuana mainly attracts young Americans, who can legally get drunk

at the age of 18 instead of waiting to reach 21 at home. This is another silly law that the US has, but having drunk American beer, under 21's really aren't



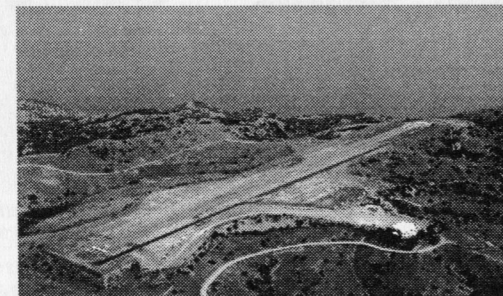
Democracy: Under construction.

missing anything. We mainly stayed on Avenida Revolución, the main street, which we were assured was safe. Despite these assurances, we found this street to be a raucous strip of seedy bars and dance clubs, tacky souvenir shops, cheap restaurants and street photographers with big burros. After dining in one of said restaurants, we noted that Tijuana didn't have a stray cat problem. Indeed, we didn't see any stray dogs either. That burrito did taste a bit odd.

Walking along 'Revolución', you will get accosted by every street seller with a nickel-and-dime business. 'Wanna buy a real Rolex, Gringo? You want women? We have best women. You wan' ma sister? She really good.' And so on. Resisting all these temptations, we headed back over the border. I walked straight across. Russ got searched.

Santa Catalina Island

Not having the benefit of a car, we decided to bypass the smoggy urban sprawl of the city that is Los Angeles. Instead we chose to visit a place that you can't



Santa Catalina's 'Airport in the Sky'.

reach in a car. This is Santa Catalina Island, 35 miles off the Californian coast. Formally owned by William Wrigley Jr, the chewing gum heir, it remains largely untouched and is a conservation area.

The island can best be described as hilly. So

how do you build an airport on a hilly island? Simple - blow the tops off two mountains and use the rubble to fill in the gaps. This is essentially what the super-rich Wrigley did in the 1930s, creating the 'Airport in the Sky', 2600 feet above sea level. The runway is not particularly long, so it is mainly used by light aircraft and the occasional DC3 doing short-field operations.

Wild buffalo roam the island. They don't have beef burgers at the airport restaurant - they have half-pound buffalo burgers. Mmmmm, delicious. Avalon is the only town on Santa Catalina. It's dominated by the White Casino and the Wrigley Mansion, now a hotel. We found Catalina to be very expensive and the preserve of yuppie tourists, so we didn't stay long. Unfortunately, we didn't experience any of the incredible water sports such as diving. Maybe another time.



Sunset over Avalon Harbour

Los Angeles

We had heard nothing but bad things about LA so we gave it a miss. We overflowed it just to add to the pollution in the area.

Palo Alto

Famous for being the University town in which Stanford is located and the centre of Silicon Valley, we headed for Palo Alto. This time, we stayed with one of Russ' friends, who was generous enough to lend us her VW convertible for the four days we were there.

The affluence of Palo Alto is plain to see. Palo Alto, home to Netscape, has the highest GDP per square mile of anywhere in America. Main Street resembles Knightsbridge and most of the people I observed in bars and restaurants had the characteristic pretentiousness of 'Sloanies'. However, it is an extremely pleasant and beautiful part of the world. If it wasn't located directly at the junction of three geological fault lines, maybe it would be a place I'd consider living.

San Francisco

We didn't fly into San Francisco. At the time of making this journey, I wasn't instrument rated. San Fran's weather is none too hospitable for pilots: the bay is often foggy. Local weather patterns are also highly unpredictable. Whilst we could have flown in, there was no saying when we could have flown out. It would be safer to make the one-hour drive from Palo Alto.



San Francisco: A lot prettier in real life

This is, in my opinion, one of the USA's most attractive cities. The often-dramatic cityscape came about because the streets were laid out as if their planners had never so much as glanced at the city's

topography. They simply dropped a grid pattern onto the steeply undulating terrain, and the result is that streets often climb or drop at ridiculously steep gradients. Perhaps the greatest benefit this gives rise to are the gorgeous glimpses of the San Francisco Bay and its famous bridges and of course, car chase scenes in movies. As hard as we tried to get the VW Golf to take off, we couldn't reproduce the jumps from Starsky and Hutch. We needed a white go-faster stripe for that.

The most densely packed pocket of the city (and one of its most colourful areas) is Chinatown. It's a great place for casual wandering through narrow alleys where you'll find 'hole-in-the-wall' Chinese restaurants. We went to one where the menu was only in Chinese, and took our chance by pointing at some random dish. It was a wonderful meal, with the added bonus of costing less than a Sheffield Sandwich.

One can't help but notice the gay community in San Francisco. Rainbow banners and lavender triangles in shop windows indicate they are 'gay-friendly'. By a rough estimation of the San Fran population observed on the streets, any shop that doesn't carry a rainbow in the window would probably go out of business through lack of custom.

I can't mention San Francisco without at least a passing reference to the Golden Gate Bridge. This

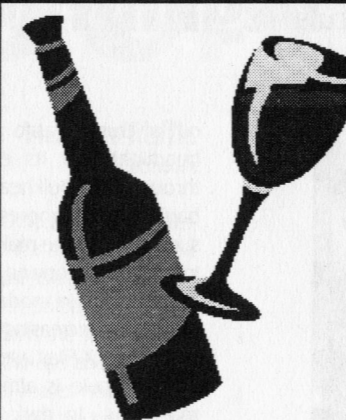


The Golden Gate Bridge. Big.

spans the two mile mouth of the bay. If, like us, you get stuck in a rush-hour traffic jam, then you'll get a great view of Alcatraz Island from there. Unfortunately we didn't make it to this 'escape-proof' prison owing to massive tourist queues for the boat. Next time, we will have to get there earlier.

Next Week:

Oshkosh, the World's greatest air show, Chicago, Toronto, Niagara Falls & Ottawa.



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for £16.50

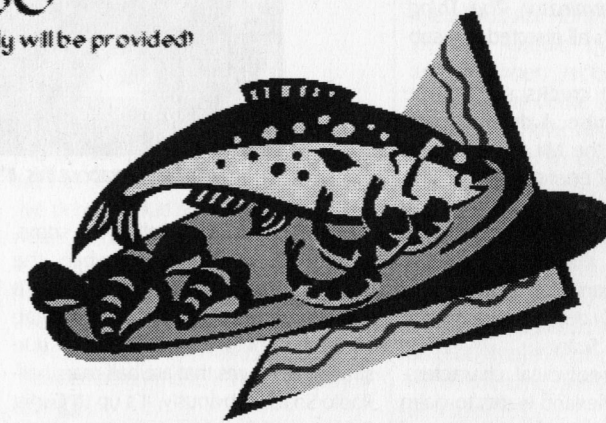
(an additional subsidy will be provided)

Thursday 17 June 1999

at the Carvery,
Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch.

Meet 5.30pm at Southside Bar, or
6.45pm at the Cumberland Hotel.

If possible, e-mail b.j.gale@ic.ac.uk
to let us know you're coming.





Reviews

The Matrix ★★★★★

Starring : Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Hugo Weaving, Joe Pantoliano
Director : Andy & Larry Wachowski

Very rarely do you see something that will change the way movies are made: *The Matrix* is such a film. Groundbreaking, both visually and conceptually, it's light-years ahead of all competition - and sets the lead which every new action and sci-fi movie made in the next few years will undoubtedly attempt to follow. Within five minutes its visual style will have you teetering on the edge of your seat, half-an-hour later you'll have gnawed your fingers clean away, and by the jaw-disintegrating climax you'll be clinging onto the back of the row in front for dear life. *Phantom Menace* or no *Phantom Menace*, this is the most imaginative, stylish, entertaining and inventive blockbuster you'll see this year. Period.

What makes *The Matrix* great is that the mesmerising visuals are combined with mind-blowing character twists and plot revelations. I've no desire to give too much away, but suffice to say this story of displaced reality is like nothing you've ever seen before. At times it undeniably collapses into the realms of incomprehensibility, but by leaving the explanatory dialogue in the safe hands of classical

actor Fishburne, Moss (as the feisty, sexy, sidekick-cum-love-interest) and Reeves (who's finally found the role he was born to play - acting tough and looking confused) are left free to play with every last nuance of the phenomenal effects. Which isn't to say that this is simply an effects-laden, testosterone driven actioner; far from it. The Wachowski broth-

ers (whose previous CV includes writing credits for the dire *Assassins* and the art-house hit *Bound*) use the effects as a tool to create a style, and then use that style as the setting for the movie. Thus, the stunning visuals aren't just an essential part of *The Matrix* - they're an absolute necessity if the movie is to keep a hold on your brain.



"I can only show you the door. You must walk through it."

Nonetheless, it's the effects which have made *The Matrix* one of this year's most-talked about movies. State-of-the-art production facilities (in Australia of all places) coupled with several months of intensive kung-fu training for the leads and the absolute latest word in CGI produce images which will burn their way into your brain for weeks after you see the movie. Watch bullets pour past Reeves, as he sways out of the way in slo-mo whilst the camera pans round him at regular speed, and you'll know that every penny of the budget was carefully spent. And there are twenty other stunning set-pieces, each worth the price of admission on their own. Indeed the only downside is that you spend so much time trying to wrap your head around the blistering images (accompanied by pounding soundtrack) that making sense of the plot is demoted to a distant second place.

A stunning movie that, once seen, will have to be seen again and again, *The Matrix* provides the shot in the arm that both the sci-fi and action genres have been crying out for. Sheer, unadulterated brilliance. **F**

Dave

Virus ★★

Starring : Jamie Lee Curtis, William Baldwin, Donald Sutherland, Joanna Pacula
Director : Chuck Pfarrer

Small boat in the Pacific comes upon a giant floating ship that is seemingly deserted...but turns out to be inhabited by a vicious monster. Original plot? Er, I don't think so. Most directly, *Virus* is a rip-off of last year's *Deep Rising*, but more obliquely it borrows from *Aliens*, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, *Poltergeist*, *Sphere*, *Robocop*, *The Terminator*, *The Thing*, *Alien*... Oh, and it's all directed in a sub-Spielbergian style.

The opening credits set up the schlock sci-fi premise: A drifting space cloud enveloped the Mir space station and sent a bolt of energy down to the satellite dish of a Russian communications ship, and apparently the energy included a virus that takes over the onboard computers and represents a vast, if never clearly defined, threat to life on earth. Oooh. Scary.

Cue the stereotypical characters: Gruff captain Sutherland wants to claim the ship for salvage, whilst Curtis and



Let's be clear about this, it's a virus, NOT The Terminator, OK?

Baldwin would much rather be somewhere else entirely. Meanwhile, the methods of the virus itself are strange. It creates robots, and uses them to grab crew members and turn them into strange creatures that are half-man, half-Radio Shack. Obviously, it's up to Curtis, Baldwin and their crewmates to outsmart

the virus, which seems none too bright and spends most of its time clomping around and issuing threatening statements through a £1.99 voice synthesiser.

The movie's special effects are not exactly slick, and the creature itself is a distinct let-down. It looks like a very tall humanoid figure hammered together

out of crushed auto parts, with several headlights for its eyes. It crunches through steel bulkheads and crushes all barriers to its progress, in a way which suggests that the makers were far more interested in copying *Robocop* and *Terminator* than in modelling a virus.

Like an increasing number of movies in the post *X-Files* age, the last half hour of the movie is almost impossible to make out. In dark dimness, various human and other figures race around in a lot of water and flashlight beams, and there is much screaming. Occasionally an eye, a limb, or a bloody face emerges from the gloom - but exactly what's going on is anybody's guess.

What's left is another mundane entry into the current horror revival. With more and more sub-standard projects being rushed into the multiplexes all the time (turnaround times can now be measured in terms of a few months), surely it can't be long before the backlash kicks in? **F**

Dave

Get Carter ★★★★★

Starring : Michael Caine, Ian Hendry, Britt Ekland, John Osborne, George Sewell
Director : Mike Hodges

The grand-daddy of Tarantinoesque movies, *Get Carter* is the definition of seventies cool. Before Travolta and Keitel started strutting their stuff Michael Caine was doing his thang in *Get Carter*. Caine is Carter, a smoothtalking hardman mobster from London. Suspecting foul play after his brother dies, he decides to go up north and investigate. However, he's unwelcome in the new neighbourhood because he starts sticking his nose where it is not wanted. Soon he gets caught up in the local underworld and manages to piss most of the local mafiosos off. Fortunately, Carter is as hard as nails and can handle himself. He gets deeper and deeper into the mystery of who killed his brother and uncovers some unpleasantly dodgy dealings at the same time.

It's cool, trendy and streetwise...if you're in the seventies. This film may be where Tarantino got his inspiration for *Reservoir Dogs* et al but the film is quite dated. Sometimes the silly trousers are off-putting, but if you can get past the timewarp feel, the film is actually very good and it is easy to see why it's main-

tained its status as a cult classic. The film has a hard, gritty edge which is missing from most of the new Hollywood films. Caine is also perfect as the soulless, avenging gangster. The contrast between dry humour and brutal violence is brilliant and makes the recent mob flicks pretty tame in comparison. It is definitely worth

a look just to see how films should be made if you want them to be violent, menacing and real.

A cold and calculated thriller which is superbly handled by Caine, *Get Carter* is like a bottle of neat gin swallowed before breakfast. **F**

Mark



"You're a big man, but you're in bad shape."

VIDEO RENTAL RELEASES UPDATE

Rush Hour

At last Jackie Chan breaks into the big-time. Hallelujah! With unsurpassable balance, speed and timing, he can take a large part of the credit for popularising Hong Kong cinema in Britain and the US - but until now his Hollywood movies (*First Strike*, *Rumble in the Bronx*, *Mr Nice Guy*) have failed to ignite the box office. Pair up his obvious physical talents and charisma with Chris Tucker's brand of Eddie Murphy-esque loud mouth comedy, however, and it's pay day. Derivative, childish and formulaic *Rush Hour* may be, but it's never less than entertaining - despite an over concentration on Tucker's eye-rolling and gurning, and a consequent lack of classic Jackie Chan action.

Hilary & Jackie

One of the best British movies produced so far this year, *Hilary & Jackie* has already garnered its fair share of awards - and deservedly so, particularly in the case of Oscar-nominated stars Emily Watson and Rachel Griffiths. The real-life story of legendary cellist Jacqueline Du Pre and her long-suffering sister Hilary, it's touching, funny and incredibly moving, largely thanks to a soundtrack which highlights Jackie's amazing talent. Historically accurate it may not be, but the emotional, tear-jerking ending makes up for all that.

What Dreams May Come

Robin Williams career is the true definition of hit-and-miss. For every great role (*Good Will Hunting*, *Good Morning Vietnam*, *Aladdin*) there's a complete dog (*Flubber*, *Jack*, *Popeye*). *What Dreams May Come* falls on one of his up-slopes - however, the movie itself still succeeds in being pretty awful. Cloyingly sentimental, director Vincent Ward uses every computer effects technique available to create a limitless vision of the after-life. However, when the only thing going for a movie is its effects (*What Dreams* is incredibly light on plot), there's not going to be much left by the time it hits the small screen. Best avoided.

Dave

SOUNDTRACK

Human Traffic & 10 Things I Hate About You

Human Traffic
ffrr / London

This is the soundtrack to a film that is destined to be massive this summer and the soundtrack will be just as big.

The film accurately portrays clubbing in the nineties and follows the story of a lost weekend, charting the ups and inevitable downs of a posse of mates who go clubbing in Cardiff to get over the boredom of their McJobs. Directed by Justin Kerrigan (himself a 23 year old clubber) it also stars fresh twenty-something talents and features Carl Cox in his first acting role. The soundtrack is a double CD of all the tunes featured throughout the film including artists such as CJ Bolland, Fatboy slim, Lucid, William Orbit, Armand Van Helden and Energy 52 to name but a few. Naturally, for a clubbing film, the soundtrack is for the clubber in you. All the tunes have been hand-picked by Pete Tong, who was the music consultant for the film and who compiled the soundtrack. Once you've seen the



film, then the soundtrack is a must. Out on June 14th.

10 Things I Hate About You

Edel / Hollywood Records

'10 Things I Hate About You' is the outrageous new comedy from Touchstone Pictures and will be hitting our screens in July. The whole film and soundtrack is geared towards the teen market and the sound-

track features charty-pop tunes that your younger siblings would buy. The album features several new songs making their exclusive debuts including Sister Hazel's 'Your Winter', Leory's 'New World' and Save Ferris 'I Know'. The Cardigans bring us the bonus track 'War' and Joan Armatrading provides a soulful recording of 'The Weakness In Me'. A soundtrack with a unique blend of contemporary music, it's released on July 12th. **F**

Gurminder



Staying in London this summer? Want to see each and every blockbuster movie for free? Well, here's your chance. We've persuaded the film fanatics at the Odeon Kensington to come up with a great prize to mark what looks set to be a great summer of movies.

One lucky winner will be able to go to the movies at Odeon Kensington each week in July, August and September for FREE! That's over thirteen weeks of cash-free cinema going up for grabs.

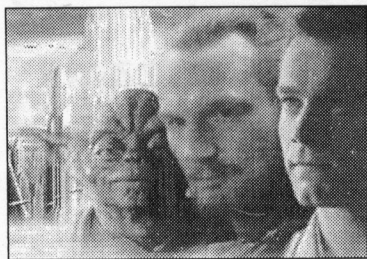
Next week we'll be offering a massive preview of this summer's big movies, but to whet your appetite - and to remind you of some of the great movies you could be seeing if you win this brilliant prize - here's a brief taster.

With early contenders *Notting Hill* and *The Matrix* out of the way, event



movie season kicks-off in earnest on July 2nd, with *Entrapment*, a light-hearted caper movie starring Catherine Zeta Jones and Sean Connery. Current Hollywood fave Jones is an investigator who goes undercover in an attempt to track-down master thief Connery (a modern day version of Raffles the master cracksman) and, naturally, falls in love with the bearded one. Although the age-gap might seem daunting, the chemistry between the stars is said to be electric, and it's gone down a storm in the States.

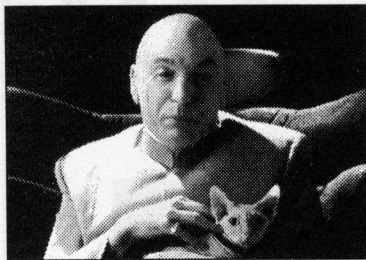
Two weeks later it's Star Wars time. Can it live up to the hype? Can it possibly be as good as the originals? More to the



point, by the time July 16th arrives will anybody still care? Seriously, *The Phantom Menace* will undoubtedly break at least a few (if not all) British box-office records, and its family orientated action style will go down a storm with a vast part of the cinema-going public. Quite what the fanatics will make of it remains to be seen - but then if you're that impatient, I'm sure you'll have seen it on import already...

With all the other big distributors making sure they give Mr Lucas a wide berth, it's left to Mike Myers, in his Austin Powers guise, to take up the challenge

with *The Spy Who Shagged Me*. This time his sidekick takes on the fabulous form of



Heather Graham (playing a character going by the name of Felicity Shagwell),

neth Branagh from killing President Ulysses S Grant... by stepping on him with a giant, Jules Verne-esque, robot spider. Obviously. Whilst director Sonnenfeld and mega-star Smith can seemingly do no wrong, test-screenings have apparently been unimpressive.

The final big release of the summer is *Eyes Wide Shut*, Stanley Kubrick's final movie which has been so long in production that it's already assumed near mythical status. Starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman as married psychiatrists, the movie follows the pair as they somehow slip into a weird sexual underworld.

ences could be limited. But with one of the greatest directors in history in the director's chair, who cares...



They'll be a much wider ranging preview next week, but in the meantime remember that you can keep up-to-date with all the current and upcoming releases at www.odeon.co.uk.

And so to the ultimate question: what do you have to do to win this amazing prize, and see all these great films for free? Correctly answer the following posers, based on the five movies profiled on this page:

- 1.) Who links *Entrapment* with Dennis Potter?
- 2.) Which *Phantom Menace* star has shared screen time with Al Pacino?
- 3.) *The Spy Who Shagged Me* star Heather Graham appeared in *Twin Peaks* - true or false?
- 4.) What's the name of Kenneth Branagh's next all-star Shakespeare adaptation?
- 5.) Name every movie in which Cruise and Kidman have worked together.

Once you've worked out the answers to all five questions, email your solutions to film.felix@ic.ac.uk. The winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by midday on Friday, and will be notified by email. A final request - please don't enter if you aren't around over the summer, as I'd hate to see such a great prize go to waste.

Congratulations to all of you who correctly identified the answer to last week's *Matrix* competition. The link between Sylvester Stallone and *The Matrix* was, of course, that the Wachowski brothers wrote both the appalling Stallone vehicle *Assassins* and the amazing *Matrix*. The winners were:

Colin Crammond
Ben Norwood
Tara Ware
Alex Hill
Jennifer Byrne

All five of you have earned yourself a pair of tickets to see *The Matrix* at the Odeon Kensington. Please drop into the Felix office (in Beit Archway) to collect your prize.

THE

SUMMER MOVIES FREE!

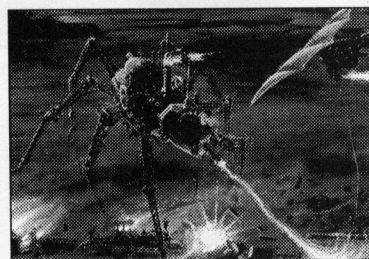
WITH THE

ODEON KENSINGTON

whilst Myers himself plays three roles: Powers, Dr Evil and new henchman Fat Bastard. Whilst comedy sequels have a tendency to be something of a let-down, according to those who have seen it already, *Austin Powers 2* is even funnier than the original.

Continuing the comedic theme, August 13th sees this year's Will Smith movie landing at cinemas. Described as a comedy sci-fi western, *The Wild Wild West* is in fact the latest sixties TV series to undergo a celluloid transfer. Smith and Kevin Kline are a pair of gadget-ridden secret service agents out to stop Ken-

Rumours suggest that it's shockingly erotic - the trailer features Hollywood's golden



couple getting hot & heavy in front of a mirror - so its appeal to mainstream audi-

Weds 16th

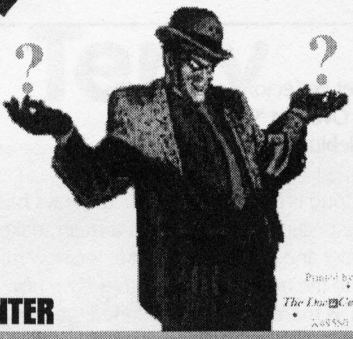
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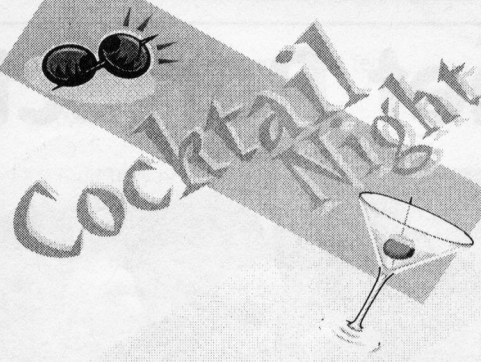
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Sasha



Sasha
'Expander EP'
(Deconstruction)

5

An absolutely brilliant single by one of the world's finest DJs ever. Sasha just goes from strength to strength and has pioneered the epic genre practically by himself (but with a little help from his mate Digweed). His latest EP, 'Expander' is not deep and moody as you would expect but more 'tingly' with a catchy piano tune, high key synths and massive breakdowns - all with a happy go lucky vibe. There are no vocals which is an added bonus as you can just enjoy the music to its fullest. Brilliant EP from the maestro.

Out July 5th.

Planet Perfecto



Planet Perfecto/ Grace
'Not Over Yet '99'
(Codeblue)

5

This tune is a dance anthem. It always has been and always will be, especially now as it gets a fresh makeover for the summer. Breeder and Matt Darey provide the new mixes, and although they stick to the original very well, they have now both introduced extras such as more beats and a refined tune. You don't really need me to explain how big this tune is - the mixes will never match the original but it's still one hell of a track.

Out July 19th.

Guy Ormadell



Guy Ornadell
'Licensed To Thrill'
(Automatic)

4

Following the release earlier this year of the first in this massive series by John '00' Fleming, Guy Ornadell now delivers the goods in this amazing sequel. Bursting to the seams, it brings you twelve of the very latest trance and epic house tunes all expertly mixed. Featured artists include Tilt, Art Of Trance, Steve Morley, Ground Zero and Crazy Malamute. Most of the tracks are latest offerings so they haven't been commercially released and you'll get to hear them before they do! If you want to check out Guy's music style, you can see him at Cream in Ibiza, Ministry, Gatecrasher (Sheffield) and Golden this summer.

Out soon.

clubscene

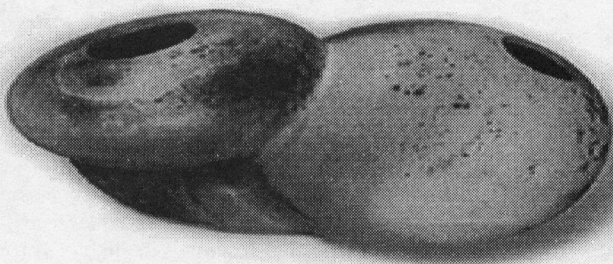
クラブシーン



Soundcolours 2

Soundcolours 2
'VARIOUS'
(Xtreme)

5



Wonderful collection of dreamy epic tunes (Robert Miles/ Chicane style) mixed by Cafe Del Mar resident Phil Mison. The music included on the CD comes from all over the world - Japan, US, Germany, London and err...Sheffield included! The music is dreamy and epic and is perfect for watching the sunrise as you're sitting on the beach outside the Cafe Del Mar. The tracklisting is very strong featuring many underground artists and the mixing is spot on. With another summer of 'Ibiza-style' releases coming up this one is as good as it gets. If you like your uplifting, chunky and funky dreamy house, then this hits the target.

Out soon.

Todd Terry

House Music Movement - Todd Terry
'VARIOUS'
(Master Dance)

4

Todd Terry needs no introduction. A hero in the world of house music, Terry sets the standards for both DJing and production. His latest offering is this excellent house music compilation featuring predominantly.....(drum-roll).... himself! Terry is one of the few DJs in the world that can get away with playing so many of his own tunes in his sets (the tunes are that fucking good). This mixed compilation sees Terry using three of his own tunes, including the massive 'Something Going On'. The tracklisting also features artists such as Kym Mazelle and the Lighthouse Family (mostly remixed by Terry himself). To say this is a rather 'personal' compilation would be putting it mildly, but Terry brings the very best of soulful, uplifting and generally darn good house music.

Out in late July.



Helden vs. Slim

Fatboy Slim vs. Armen Van Helden
London Brixton Academy
Preview



Lets get ready to ruuuumble! The big fight happened in brixton on friday night, after the last event being cancelled due to the brixton bombing. The sensible money was on Slim with the home crowd and his trainer, Miss Ball. However, Van Helden is renowned for his knockout bass - Slim will definately have a real fight on his hands.

Whoever come away with a result, I am sure everyone will have a fantastic time watching these two dance heavywieghts going toe to toe for the title of worlds best DJ. Keep your eyes out for a full review next week.

Creamfields 1999

Creamfields 1999
The Old Liverpool Airfield
Preview

After Homelands, I bet all you mad clubbers are itching for some more festival action before or after the inevitable Ibiza trip. Cream are running their Creamfields event again this year after the storming success of Creamfield in 1998 - but will the change of venue mark a change of fortune?

Call the Cream on 0891 518 200 for all the latest info.

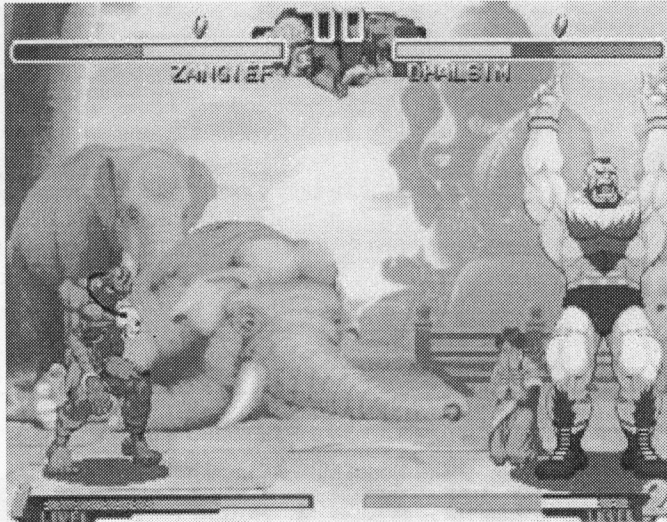




Street Fighter Alpha 3 (PSX)

Virgin Interactive ★★★★★

Having set myself up by saying this review would be in last week's Felix I managed to get the viral infection, second cousin to influenza and a distant relation to ebola, which put me on my back, on the toilet and over the bucket for a week and a half. Let that be a lesson to me, never promise an issue. Anyway excuse and virus over it's time to kick back with a vengeance, the capcom 2D fighter is back... again.



Street Fighter Alpha 3, begot of Street Fighter 2, begot of Street Fighter Alpha, begot of... well there is more heritage in this game than in the whole of Chelsea football club. Over time and over several generations of consoles and computers Street Fighter has been the beat-em-up which all others have tried to match, or perhaps to be more accurate the 2D beat-em-up to beat - the 3D and the copycat 2.5D boys left this battlefield behind and moved on to the world of floating cameras and populated polygon muscles. Street Fighter Alpha 3 (oh alright SFA3) at the

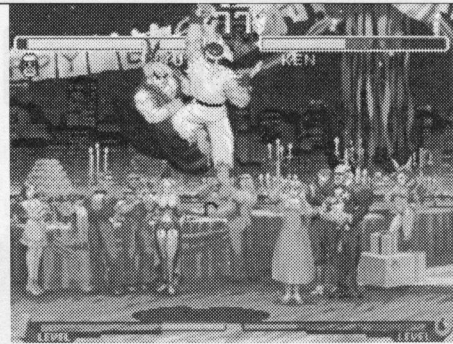
arcade is still capcom's little jewel in an otherwise corroded crown and fortunately, despite running on a less than arcade powered machine, the Playstation version is impressively good.

The graphics are as you would expect of the capcom world, cartoon and 2D. But very good cartoon and 2D graphics they are too. The claimed loads of frames per second are probably all there - once again they were a little too quick to count, but just because they are quick doesn't mean that they are not smooth. In fact they are galaxy chocolate

smooth, and noticeably so across the incredibly detailed (though flat) backgrounds. With graphics like these perhaps the capcom machines should be replaced by a playstation in a cabinet, and we might have ten pence arcade games again.

The sounds are arcade quality. Well, as most of the time the original arcade machines seem to be placed about twenty centimetres away from the in pub entertainment system, I have no idea. Though for effect I played this while borrowing my flatmate's hits of the nineties tape on a poor quality amstrad tape player. Turning the tape off to listen to the game, I rapidly realised that perhaps the position of the arcade machine was not an accident. The sound doesn't subtract anything from the game but really doesn't add anything either.

Gameplay wise, err well yes I did start to like it. You might realise that I'm not the biggest fan of beat-em-ups and even less so of 2D beat-em-ups, but this



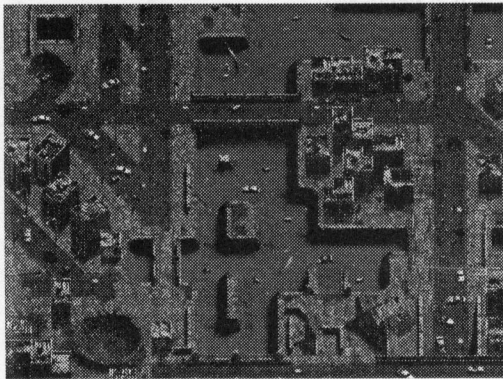
one has all the options of the current crowd. There are the simple one on one fights, the team battles, even the ability to customise the fighter's ability as you gain experience while fighting a series of fights. Once again as with most of the beat-em-up world, playing against the computer is OK, but the best battles are against other more human opponents - though make sure the competitive streak doesn't boil over to re-enacting the throwing moves in real life.

So it is a 2D beat-em-up that even I recommend - rare praise indeed. If you really need to beat-up sprites on the playstation and you don't own the earlier games it is definitely worth running down to the shops and buying it. If you are less aggressive and more pensive, perhaps your local game rental shop can help you discover your latent violent side - though we take no responsibility for your actions after a few drinks.

Gary S.

KKND - Krossfire (PSX)

Infogrames ★★★★★



One line Summary :
Post-nuclear battle field Command and Conquer Clone.

What's it all about:

The war to end all wars has come and gone, leaving three distinct races fighting another war - the war after the war to end all wars except perhaps this final war. So you have the survivors, a bunch of military minded bunker based humanoids, a bunch of mutated human animal hybrids, and some artificially intelligent metal monsters, all fighting for oil and the blistered and blasted surface.

and buildings are very small and not incredibly detailed, but at least they are smooth moving. The explosions are a little wimpy, no blood or metal fragments, just a puff of black smoke.

Seraphim Sounds :

Soundtrack alters according to which side you play, though it's nothing special for any of them - very sub C&C and Red Alert. Various units make different bang and splatting noises, even the aircraft

Good Graphics :

Nice scorched earth effects for the ground, very command and conquer pseudo-3D terrain, with the usual cliffs, rivers, lakes and forests. The actual machines



drop screaming bombs on their targets. Nothing really special anywhere though.

Great Gameplay :

Well it is Command and Conquer. The basic game is to collect oil to power the powerstations which then allow you to build more tanks, infantry, aircraft and boats. While you do this you defend your base with turrets and research the various buildings to get bigger

and better tanks, infantry and other bits. While not every level follows this path - some get you to spring traps and ambush enemy troops - it is a case of if you really like the Command and Con-

quer scene you will like it.

Best bit :

It's almost as good as Red Alert... almost.

Worst Bit :

It's almost as good as Red Alert... almost... the machines are too small and without a mouse it can be a real pain to move from one side of the map to the other.

So who will get it :

Red Alert fans.... err that's about it really. If you want a Red Alert game buy Red Alert.

Gary S.





Wipeout 64 (N64)

Midway

★★★★★



One line Summary :

There's much more bover with a hover with a lobster.

What's it all about:

I might be late with this but Wipeout 64 is the race game that the N64 had been crying out for ages. Floating racers from the playstation, armed to the teeth and willing to eliminate contenders, race out on the N64 with its superior polygon handling skills, and there is no waiting for loading off the CD either. Be fast, be very fast but above all be deadly.

Good Graphics :

No pop-up, only a little bit of hazy distance but such smooth and slippery fast motion. Only wipeout XL (the arcade ride version) comes close; I could almost love it to death.

Seraphim Sounds :

Sony says no way are you using the original track... Midway goes out and gets Fluke and Propellerheads and a few other mates and records something better. A bang on soundtrack for a bang on game.

Great Gameplay :

Wipeout 2 with an analogue controller, a four player all against all race mode and with more weapons including a very effective machine gun - oh it is so very good to be alive and owning a N64. Almost makes you want to buy a huge projection TV to show the neighbours what they are missing.

Sex and Violence :

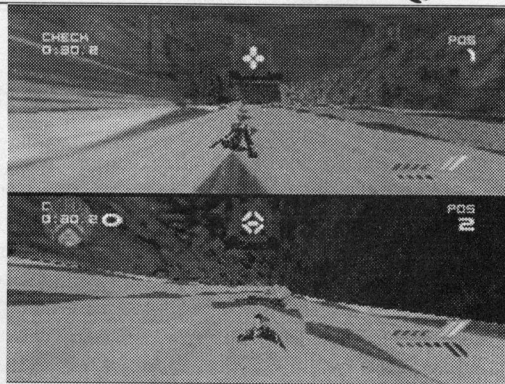
The various craft are pretty sexy, but no... absolutely no sex really. Violence... well there is plenty of metal bashing metal and hot metal fragments piercing metal skins. Wait a minute perhaps it is all sexual.

Best bit :

The metallic voice announcing that a contender has been eliminated seconds after the plasma bolt turned them into a cloud of debris. The Graphics, above all the graphics.

Worst Bit :

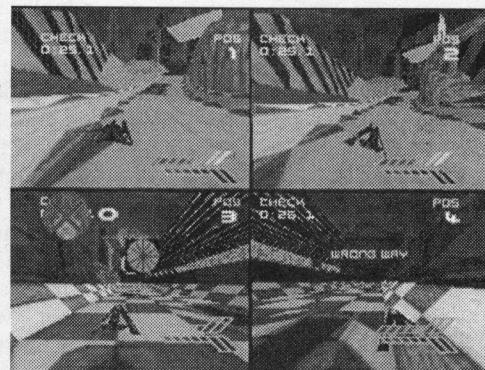
It's so much more difficult... must... play... more... to... get... better.



So who will get it :

Race fans. Nintendo 64 owners that have an inkling of intelligence. Everyone else with an inkling of intelligence - though remember to buy a N64 to play it on... and while you are at the store a very big TV to go with it.

Gary S.



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CRICKET

D'oh! Bart's knock IC out of cup

IC's rearranged semi-final away to St. Bart's last Sunday resulted in the club's first loss in almost three years and failure in their attempt to capture their third successive ULU cup. Team selection and organisational problems, which partly resulted from the match being rearranged, contributed to defeat, as did the weather conditions.

The draw seemed odd, given that IC had already defeated Bart's in a bad tempered group match at Harlington, and so should really not have played

them again until the final, and should certainly not have been forced to play away from home. But as the draw for the knockout stages had been set before the competition began, this was predictably going to happen. The problem would not have been so noticeable if Holloway had defeated Bart's in the quarter finals but they were unable to do so.

In the match itself, after arriving late thus reducing the match to 30 overs a side, IC lost the toss and were put into

bat on a fairly green and damp wicket. In cloudy and sometimes showery weather, IC struggled to 94 all out off 30 overs, Khurram top scoring with 24, with next highest scorer being extras on 20. Predictably after the interval, the clouds cleared and Bart's batted their entire innings in bright sunlight. They reached 60 off 20 overs but then lost their best player, Britton (the UH captain) and had somewhat of a collapse in the face of some hostile bowling from the entire IC attack, and eventually won by just 3

wickets with one over to spare and some very nervous players on the boundary.

Despite the selection problems IC were only 3 or 4 players short of fielding their best side, and definitely looked better on paper against Bart's, especially in bowling. The good news for the club is that almost all the players that make Imperial one of the strongest college cricket sides in the capital, will be back again next year, when IC try to win the cup for the third time in four years.

Right. I've got almost a page to fill, absolutely no sport at all and short of writing about the cricket world cup every week, I am up sh*t creek at the moment. So I have decided to do something radical. Introduce you all to baseball. Before you turn the page or look away in disgust, let me try and persuade you it is not a hyped up game of rounders, but an in depth challenge of skill and strategy.

For those of you still here, let me ease you in gently. Baseball is played mainly in the US but also a lot in Central America and the Hispanic parts of the Caribbean (like Cuba). In the US, the professional season runs from April till September, and teams play almost every day (162 games in a season). Baseball is a game made up of two teams of 9 players, a diamond shaped infield with 4 bases at each corner and a raised mound in the centre. There are 8 position players (fielders) and one pitcher, who throws the ball, while standing on the mound. The opposing team then sends up, in a set order, one player at a time who has to try and hit the ball and score runs. Runs are scored by running all the way around the diamond shaped infield (although not necessarily in one go). The pitcher has to throw the

ball over home plate, somewhere between the batters knees and his elbows. If the pitch is in this box or zone, the pitch is a strike. If not it is a (no)ball. Three strikes and the batter is out - four balls and the batter gets to first base for free. Batters can also be out if they hit the ball and it is caught, or they are run out by the ball getting to a base before they do. Three outs and the whole team is out and they switch round - the team that was batting fields and the fielding team bats. This goes on for 9 innings each, or until one team is ahead of the other - whichever is the later.

That's the basics. Now lets go into some depth. I'll try and make comparisons with cricket because that's what most people are familiar with. As you can imagine, the 8 fielders, who all have a large glove or mit on their non throwing hand, are spread around the playing field. The catcher (wicket-keeper)(C - all positions have letters for short) squats behind home plate and catches the pitches (as you will see the names of the positions aren't very original). He also tells the pitcher(P) what pitch to throw by the use of signals with his fingers - e.g. 1 for a fast-ball(85-95mph), 2 for an offspeed (slower) pitch, 3 for

a curveball (ball moves across and down the strike zone due to rotation of the seam). There are three basemen, at 1st base(1B), 2nd (2B)base and, you guessed it, 3rd(3B) base. There are three outfielders in left(LF), right(RF) and centre field(CF) (they are named as if you are looking from behind the plate). And there is a short-stop(SS) who fields between 2nd and 3rd base. Despite the name 2nd base spends most of his time between 1st and 2nd, and SS and 2B share the duties of actually manning 2nd base itself. There are 16 substitutes, 10 of which are usually pitchers. Uniquely in American sport, baseball is the only game in which you are not allowed unlimited substitutions - once a player is out of the game, they are out of the game. Teams usually have a "rotation" of 5 starting pitchers who pitch once every five days each and are expected to pitch 7 or 8 innings - about 100/110 pitches, which is quite tough on the arm and the shoulder. The rest of the pitchers are relief pitchers who make up all the innings the starters can't - not more than about 2 or 3 innings each at most.

The hitter looks to have an easier job. All he has to do is hit the ball, but it is harder than that. If you have ever

tried to play rounders (the one and only comparison I will allow), you will know it is tough to hit the ball. Now imagine the ball being thrown at 90mph+ and all manner of fielders waiting to catch the ball or run you out. You see why even the best hitters only get hits 30% of the time. A hit is when the hitter hits the ball and gets to first base without the ball being caught or the ball getting to the base before him. If he hits it well enough to get to 2nd in one go, it is a double. If he reaches third in one go it is a triple. If he hits it out of the park, he get all the way around in one go and scores a run - this is a home-run. Hitters are not allowed to hit the ball behind them - it counts as a strike if they do. They score runs if they cross homeplate - it does not matter if they stop at every base on the way around.

Typical scores in a game are 6-4 or 7-5.

If this sounds interesting, live baseball games can be found on Channel 5 on Sundays and Wednesday's from about midnight (after the dodgy porn films). Take a look - you might be surprised! I might consider adding more to this guide at a later date - stay tuned.

We had many many correct answers to last week's crossword - well done to all of you who entered.

There can, however, be only one winner, and that is

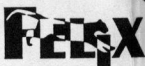
David Norman (NHLL)

Please contact us (x58072) to arrange your prize.

No Crossword this week...

Many apologies for the lack of a crossword this week. Look out for the Jumbo Crossword in the final issue of term next week - it's guaranteed to

keep you busy during that long train journey home. In the meantime, here is some interesting blank space to doodle on...



Answers to Crossword 1148

Across: 1 Fertile, 5 Elapses, 8 Acids, 9 Ridiculed, 11 Faith, 12 Electra, 13 Gardenias, 15 Prism, 17 Dwell, 19 Physicist, 22 Chamois, 24 Conga, 25 Galleries, 26 Noise, 27 Nurture, 28 Essence

Down: 1 Foaming, 2 Reinforce, 3 Inspire, 4 Earth, 5 Endlessly, 6 Split, 7 Sidearm, 10 Cheap, 14 Impassive, 16 Imitation, 17 Decagon, 18 Loose, 20 Innings, 21 Toluene, 23 Abler, 24 Caste