

# FELIX



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## Cults threaten Union Council disruption

GARETH MORGAN

Imperial College Union has been warned of the chance of disruption to tomorrow's Council by a fundamentalist Islamic group called Almaha Sharin. The University of London Union has alerted the London colleges, as the group are apparently threatening to disrupt Student Union meetings. The group has homophobic and anti-Semitic views, and

Union officers have been warned about the possibility of harassment.

The Metropolitan Police are apparently taking the matter seriously; both Scotland Yard and College Security may make their presence felt at Council.

Religious groups who are not ICU clubs were not given stalls at the Freshers' Fair, and were prevented from using Union noticeboards during October, although they

may now use them. A recurring issue has been the College branch of Christian Union. They are prevented from becoming an ICU club because their constitution requires their officers to sign a declaration of faith, which contravenes the Union's equal opportunities policy, but is required by their own funding rules. Christian Union are currently trying to rewrite their constitution in a way that is acceptable to both parties.

In the meantime, ICU President Tasha Newton has issued a warning about the 'London Church of Love', a group who are sending out email questionnaires, offering the chance to become a priest. It asks for a credit card number, which is then stolen, and the owner threatened. Anyone who receives this email should inform the Centre for Computing Services ([ccshelp@ic.ac.uk](mailto:ccshelp@ic.ac.uk)), enclosing a copy of the email.

## Menigitis victim turns onto the road to recovery

SUNIL RAO

Meningitis, the killer disease already notorious for hitting students across the country, has struck again - this time much closer to home. On Saturday 30 October, a resident of Falmouth Keogh Hall (part of the Southside complex in Princes Gardens) was admitted to hospital, with symptoms of what was soon confirmed to be meningococcal septicaemia.

The student, a male Biochemistry fresher, is now apparently stable recovering, with his parents permanently by his bedside. He is on the road to a long, slow but steady recovery.

When contacted, Tasha Newton, Imperial College Union President, said "I think that it is a real-

ly sad thing to happen, and I hope that he is in the thoughts and prayers of everybody at Imperial, and that we'll all be looking after each other even more closely now."

The disease is caused by the meningococcal bacteria which reside in the nose and throat and are passed on through prolonged intimate contact. There is no greater risk of catching the disease from an affected person than from the general public, unless you have been in extremely close contact with the individual. As a precautionary measure people should be vigilant over the next few days; be especially watchful of yourself and your friends as the symptoms can suddenly develop very rapidly.

Early symptoms - a feeling of feverishness, nausea, severe headache, and a stiff neck and back accompanied by joint pains - can appear characteristic of influenza or a hangover. However, within a matter of hours, this can grow into something more serious, so it is recommended that you get a friend or friends to check up on you regularly. It is absolutely imperative that you seek urgent medical attention if these symptoms are not relieved by standard over-the-counter medication. Although vaccination is now standard practice for First Years, this does not offer protection from all forms of the disease. Vaccinated students should not ignore possible symptoms.

Prompt treatment is absolutely

necessary if any of the following symptoms are exhibited:

- a rash of small red bruises that do not fade under pressure (say from a glass)
- a severe dislike of or feeling of unease at light
- a feeling of disorientation and/or drowsiness

Further advice can be obtained from the following sources, which offer professional and confidential advice:

- Imperial College Health Centre, Prince's Gardens - ring 020 7584 6301 (external), 49375 and 49376 (internal extensions)
- Meningitis Research Foundation - 0808 8003344
- The National Meningitis Trust - 01453 768000

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# Trinity reap the rewards of RAG

GARETH MORGAN

Imperial College Union Rag raised over £11,000 last year, and on 28 October cheques were presented to the four main charities: Shelter, Avert (AIDS awareness and research), the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Trinity Hospice in Clapham. Sarah Coburn, last year's Rag Chair, thanked everyone involved in the fundraising for their help and presented cheques for £2431 to each charity.

This year's ICU Rag Week will be 4-11 March 2000. The charities are Alone in London, Hope for Children, the Dyslexia Institute and the Red Cross Agent Orange Appeal. Although Rag week is the focal point of the fundraising, there will be events and activities throughout the year, including the Friday night cloakrooms.

For more information on Rag, or if you would like to get



Rag Chair, Sarah Coburn (left), presents Trinity Hospice the donation Photo: Jonas

involved, contact Joint Chairs Martin Lord and Farhad Cooper on (0207 59)48099 or rag@ic.ac.uk.

There is a Rag meeting on Thursday at 1200, in the Rag Office (behind the Union Dining

Hall, above dB's). If you can find it, everyone is welcome.

There will also be a sale of old Rag pint glasses in the JCR on Tuesday 16 November, 12-2. The price is simply a donation to this year's Rag.

## In Brief

### PORTALOO

Michael Portillo, the former Secretary of State for Defence, has been selected as the Conservative candidate for the Kensington and Chelsea by-election. The safe Tory seat was left vacant when Alan Clarke, the previous MP, died earlier this year. The constituency does not include Imperial College's South Kensington campus itself, but residents of Evelyn Gardens will be eligible to vote, on 25 November.

### KINGS FLOOD

One of Kings College medical school sites has been hit with a major catastrophe after a main water pipe burst. The resultant flooding left to the brand new building being submerged under six feet of water, causing millions of pounds worth of damage. The building in question is situated on the Guy's Hospital site near London Bridge, and is the main site for Medics, Dentists and Biomed-

ical Science students studying at UMDS. Having undergone a major £800 000 refurbishment over the summer, Boland House, which bore the brunt of the flooding, had only been open for three weeks. The cost of repair will be met by insurers and Thames water.

### MCKINSEY MADNESS

Two Imperial College students were escorted from a McKinsey Consulting presentation last Tuesday night after one became the worse for drink. "They shouldn't have kept topping up our glasses," the more sober of the two later commented.

### ARE YOU A UNIVERSITY?

Ministers have announced strict rules governing the use of the title "university" which will instantly rule out bids for university status from at least 11 higher education institutions.

Any college aspiring to university college status or any university

college seeking full university status will have to demonstrate an impeccable record of quality over at least five years. Applicants will automatically fail if an institution has received a single unsatisfactory grade in any quality assessment. As well as several current applicants, dozens of existing universities (including East Anglia and Leeds Universities) will also fall foul of the rules if forced to re-apply under the new criteria.

It is also understood that ministers are planning to adopt controversial plans to force institutions to apply separately for degree awarding powers at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

### NO SEX PLEASE...

Felix would like to offer its regards to the couple who were caught in flagrante delicto in the Maths locker room on Wednesday morning. Their identities remain unknown, due to the fortuitous layout of the lockers. We didn't think that anyone here had it in them.

# Cocktail of Chaos

JAMES HOLIAN

The annual fresher's chemical engineering cocktail party was a night most of the revellers would like to forget. The Chemical Engineering Society had planned a lightly alcohol fuelled evening of November 2, fun for students and lecturers alike. However, they did not expect the night of tumult that ensued.

The engineers, usually known for their Herculean capacity for alcohol, began dropping like flies suspiciously early in the evening. The event soon became a wild affair with rows breaking out all over and it was not long before college security arrived on the scene. Tuesday evenings are not generally known for their excitement and the required security presence at the event pulled college security to full stretch. One security officer commented that dedicated security staff should be employed for these events in future.

The evenings mess reached its

peak when one undergraduate member of the Chemical Engineering department was found face down on the concrete just off the main walkway. Having consumed a plentiful amount of alcoholic cocktails it was thought that the delinquent may be suffering from toxic shock. An ambulance was duly called and took the casualty to the nearby Chelsea & Westminster hospital. It is understood that an overnight stay in the ward was required with a drip to clean out the victims system, but a stomach pumping procedure was not required. Some victims of the night held those serving the drinks responsible for plying the traditional mixtures with copious vodka.

Members of the Chemical Engineering Society, the organisation who organised the event, declined to comment as Felix went to press. However, it is understood that no further action will be taken against any of the guilty parties.

# Major Mines Makeover

RICHARD HOEY

Funding shortages have disrupted plans to refurbish the Royal School of Mines. The building is amongst the shabbiest in the University, but a full makeover would have cost a massive 90 million pounds. It would have also taken many years, causing serious disruption to the hundreds of students and staff it houses.

A strategy is now being devised that involves development of the building in several phases. This way the majority of the Royal School of Mines can remain open during refurbishment work. Estates manager Ian Caldwell told Felix that the initial aim of the project is to bring together key infrastructure such as lecture theatres, IT facilities and library space, which are currently scattered all over the building. These will instead be centralised around the staircases and new lifts. The Materials department and the



Photo: Archive

Huxley school, which are currently spread over a number of buildings, will also be brought together in the new-look School.

These proposals will cost an estimated 8 million pounds. An HEFCE grant has been applied for under the "Poor Estates Initiative", but money may also be raised through the sale or lease of the Management School building. The department would then be moved into the Royal School of Mines, although it is not known how keen it will be to comply with such a plan.

**Make yourself heard**

# Imperial College Union Council

**Tuesday 9th November  
Union Dining Hall**

**Including the election of a new**

# Summer Ball Chair

**Interested in standing? Then sign up on the notice-boards on the Union first floor, or contact any of the Union sabbaticals**

# ULU

DAVID ROBERTS

In the heart of Bloomsbury there's a road called Mallet Street, and on the corner of that road you'll find a Union building. Not an Imperial College Union building (the College hasn't taken over anywhere in Bloomsbury yet) but nonetheless every year the College hands the occupiers of that building something in the region of £150 000 on your behalf. Why? Because that building houses the University of London Union (ULU), the federal Union for the students of all University of London Colleges - that's nearly 150 000 students in all. Very nice...so what do they do?

## What they do

Like the NUS, the primary function of ULU is to act as a means of representing students on a wider scale than would be possible for any individual Union. By bringing together nearly 150 000 students from across London, ULU can claim to represent the interests of a massive block of the local population, and consequently negotiate some fairly important deals. Until recently their reputation on this front was not much better than that of the NUS - however, with the introduction last year of the London Transport discount card scheme coming almost entirely at the behest of lobbying from ULU reps, they can truly be said to have achieved a significant gain for their students. The challenge, now, however, is to follow this up with further major initiatives - at present student discounts at supermarkets is the pet-project of choice for ULU sabbaticals.

Like all student union's, there's also a great deal of focus on welfare issues, and the Malet Street building houses an Advice Centre (with it's own dedicated staff) as well as an Education and Welfare sabbatical. However, like much of what ULU does, this facility is almost entirely monopolised by students at the smaller Bloomsbury College's - after all, how

many students are going to trek across London to find help when they have specialist advisors, counsellors and guidance centres on campus?

The third string of the standard union remit is clubs and societies, and consequently you'll find a wide range of student groups based at ULU HQ - they even have their own student newspaper. London Student (in terms of circulation, the largest student newspaper in Europe). Again, however, these generally serve to replicate and duplicate what's on offer at any of the larger College's (UCL, QMW, IC, LSE, King's, Holloway and the like) - and the range certainly can't compare with what you'll find at ICU. The one key difference is the special BUSA entry arrangements. Under the terms of a special deal, wherever there is no serious interest in putting individual college teams into national sporting competition, a ULU side can be entered to represent the entire University. Consequently, marshal artists, athletes and lacrosse and korfbal players can (and do) take part in national contests as members of ULU squads.

## Sport

In sporting terms, however, ULU's key role is the co-ordination of all University of London League and Cup competition. Indeed, one of ULU's most high profile (and valuable) contributions to it's students is the provision of this second tier for College sport, providing a year-long alternative to tough BUSA contests. Crucially, this means that College's can boast a genuine "Sport for all" approach as, unlike BUSA competition where a maximum of four squads are allowed per competition, ULU allow as many teams to enter their contests as a college can field. Thus, whilst IC can only enter four ICU and four ICSMSU teams into BUSA football, we can enter around a dozen teams (including squads from RCS and RSM) into the myriad of ULU Leagues, producing suitable com-

petition for players of all ability.

The other big benefit of the ULU League and Cup system is to provide a winning environment for sport in London. Because even the largest London college is small on a national scale, and because Central London locations tend to make regular training difficult, it's hard for our sides to compete on a national scale (note that last year - an incredibly good season for IC sport - we still only managed to reach two BUSA finals) - and consequently ULU sport provides a more realistic framework within which we can compete...and win. Looked at from a different point of view, however, the fact that ICU sides play teams from the weaker small colleges week after week could be seen as part of the problem. After all, how can we expect to get better unless we play against good teams on a regular basis? It's a question that's bound to be asked a lot over the next few months, as the issues surrounding

dual, single and hybrid entry (see Issue 1154) move to the fore...

## Funding

Part of the charter for the University of London as a whole says that there must be a federal Union for the University, and consequently every College in UL is locked into paying for ULU - in the case of IC, that means handing over funding of around £150 000 on an annual basis (that's around a sixth of what the ICU as a whole receives). Consequently, although various colleges across London (including IC) occasionally talk of disaffiliating from ULU, the question has to be asked: is there any point? After all, it's not the Union that's paying, it's the College, and all signs seem to suggest that if ICU were to leave the federal body they wouldn't receive an extra penny - and until that situation changes, there's no way anyone is really going to leave ULU...

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# Whatever happened to the end of the world?

## An ecological mystery - David Roberts investigates

**T**en years ago the news was plastered with environmental concerns. Every week when I was in junior school the biggest news story would be something to do with Global Warming or Ozone Depletion – so much so that every school kid in our generation can still quite happily run off a decent essay on the environmental impact of mankind at a moment's notice. If it wasn't sea level rises (cue worrying pictures of large chunks of ice cap falling into the sea) it was "the hottest summer on record" (cue comedy pictures of British people turning beetroot red on Blackpool beach) or the dangers of skin cancer (cue Australian cricket team covered in war paint). One way and another, the impending environmental catastrophe that we would all have to face within our lifetimes seemed assured.

And now...? When was the last time you saw Trevor McDonald gravely announcing the results of the latest research into the Greenhouse Effect or a Horizon documentary explaining how Cambridge was going to become a seaside resort within the next twenty years? Quite obviously, the environment is no longer news (you only have to compare the popularity of the Green Party ten years ago with recent election results to see that) – but, if the problem was as cata-

strophic as it seemed, why not? Should we still be planning for the day when large tracts of the country disappear into the sea, palm trees become commonplace at Clacton and British farmers become the world's major producer of olives? Or has everything changed?

In truth, there are three genuinely plausible explanations for what has happened here:

- 1.) News blindness has set in - for the same reason that you no longer find starving Africans or mass murdering Americans on the front page of even the most serious press, environmental doom simply isn't news any more.
- 2.) We solved the problem – the endless summits and councils of ministers that we have to endure finally achieved something constructive (besides good PR) and brought about a quick-fix solution to the world's crises.
- 3.) The scientists were wrong – the bane of modern news coverage is the over-simplified scientific argument (think GM foods, the BSE saga etc) and this is simply another example.

Let's look at the evidence:

## The Science

So, are we really all doomed? Well, the world is undoubtedly getting hotter, with figures released by the US Government's Environmental Protection Agency showing that global mean surface temperature has increased by 0.5-0.6°C in the last hundred years, with the ten hottest years in this period falling in the eighties and nineties and 1998 officially declared the warmest year on record. However, in global terms the picture is much more complex: night-time lows are rising about twice as fast as day-time highs; similarly winter temperatures are warming fast whilst summer temperatures seem to show little trend. Moreover, a large section of leading experts are unconvinced that the atmosphere is warming in conjunction with the surface, as satellite data does not show any warming trends, and consequently insist that we still have much to learn about the physics behind global climate change.

At the same time, the snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere and floating ice in the Arctic Ocean have decreased (as any seasoned skier will tell you), leading to a global sea level rise of between 10cm and 25cm (depending on which set of research findings you believe) over the course of the last century. A similar time-scale is also believed to have seen a one percent increase in global precipitation (although rainfall patterns would seem to have become a lot less predictable along the way).

So far so good – it all sounds suspiciously like the figures I heard at school – but what does it all mean? Well, the latest predictions suggest that average global temperatures could rise 1.4°C by 2100 (with major regional variations). As a result, soil moisture (ie areas of fertile soil) will diminish whilst rainfall increases, and sea level will rise anything up to two feet on a global scale (local values are much harder to quantify).

Thus, whilst the latest figures are somewhat less dramatic than those originally projected (don't expect London to become submerged or the home counties to become a desert in our lifetimes) the news certainly isn't good. Whilst the scientists and geographers would certainly seem to have been guilty of a degree of scaremongering and over-statement and simplification, the general thrust of the argument still holds true – left unchecked the Greenhouse Effect will have a very serious impact on the shape of human civilisation. So the question remains, why does no-one care any more?

## The Solution

Once the Western World finally cottoned onto the fact that global warming was real (a feat that took an impressively long time and a massive amount of scientific evidence to accomplish) the mission began to pass the buck onto someone else. The first task was to explain that it wasn't actually the West's problem, and the nineties began with blame being firmly shifted onto ailing Russian power plants and fossil fuel burning Third World countries (who had usually built their power stations with our money...). Indeed, one of the most comical examples of a complete lack of forethought remains the Aswan Dam project – over the

course of its thirty year (or so) life-span the rotting vegetation left beneath the lake will release about as much carbon dioxide as burning down most of the woodland in Western Europe.

However, whilst it's easier to shunt responsibility onto someone who can't afford to rectify the problem, eventually a share in the blame has to be taken (after all the Industrial Revolution was hardly the most environmentally conscious period in British history). Thus the Rio Summit in 1992 was called to bring the world's leaders together to attempt to sort out this mess. Although many of those present used it as a blatant opportunity to present their environmentally friendly image, it did produce a very important basis for further change in the shape of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC). The signatories of the treaty all promised to push for anthropogenic (human induced) greenhouse gas emissions to reach "levels that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system". The FCCC also required that all signatories develop and update national inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, so that further output could be closely monitored. This framework has since been modified and further endorsed by continued meetings such as the Kyoto Summit in 1997. However, at the same time research into carbon dioxide sinks (ie major areas of forest and vegetation which soak up human based emissions) have created divisions in the scientific community, with leading figures suggesting that the sheer volume of forestry in the US means that their greenhouse gas emissions can practically go unchecked – leaving the rest of the world to sort out the mess.

In total, therefore, whilst international leaders have made many pretty speeches on the subject, there's an understandable lack of desire to go back to their country and actually force factories to close and production methods to alter. Whilst moves have begun to be made in slowing the emission of greenhouse gasses, the total production rate has thus not altered substantially since the late eighties.

## The News

So what are we left saying? That yes, this crisis is real, and that yes, no government on the planet has so far done anything substantial to make a difference. And, OK, that yes, we certainly don't know enough about the mechanisms of climate change to fully explain or analyse what's going on – but nonetheless we're certainly aware that without some significant movement on the behalf of the world's major powers, we're going to be up a certain creek without a certain instrument...

So, to finally get back to the original point, why isn't any of this news any more? Having accepted that points two and three are only partly the cause, we have to accept that, in a bizarre form of compassion fatigue, we simply don't care any more. We simply forget about a problem once it's stared us in the face once too often, and, in a strange way, we eventually give up and accept our fates simply because we've become bored with the issue in hand. Until everything starts to go wrong – or a random scientist starts to spout off random theories about an approaching armageddon – this is one story that will, quite happily, go away.

# MERKING THE NEWS

# Creating the vision

**2500 students. £120 million. Five campuses. One School of Medicine. One Principle. So Chris Edwards, Principle of ICSM, what do you do?**

## How would you describe your job?

In one way or another, the Medical School represents around half of the College; it brings in 51% of the research income, represents around 50% of the College payroll and has 25% of the students.

In essence, my role is to fulfil the Medical School's mission: to become a centre of international research and to provide world-class teaching. I'm also responsible to the General Medical Council for the quality of our courses...when the GMC produced their paper called "Tomorrows Doctors" it precipitated a major restructuring in medical teaching. It recommended a decrease in teaching a stream of facts and an increase in self-learning. Consequently we've introduced a new course that is unique in the UK in the way that the modular BSc elements are taught, which I think will become critical as the relevance of science to medicine becomes increasingly important in the 21st Century.

## How would you describe the merger?

We've done what you'd never want to do - merge two undergraduate teaching schools, two post-graduate schools, several different courses, a variety of campuses and a brand new building. Naturally, it's a very stressful process, but my job is to hold the whole thing together and show everyone the advantages of the merger; the bigger picture that we're all working towards. Critically, we need to incorporate the ethos and traditions of all the older schools and then build in our own new ideas, and thus create something that's greater than the sum of it's parts.

## How does that effect teaching?

The structure of a typical old-style London medical school simply wasn't compatible with 21st Century medical teaching. The situation was analogous with Noah's Ark,

with the consultants going in two-by-two, so that if one was absent there would always be proper cover - which was a very good system when there was less emphasis on research. Now, however, there is a need to translate research into clinical practice, which in turn requires mergers to generate far greater critical masses, because world-class research needs an enormous base...This also means that students are being taught by people who are at the cutting edge of their field and can thus excite and inform as they teach, providing a much more beneficial environment for our students. Moreover, the shift from basing teaching entirely around learning by rote to a much more practical approach means that students are far more likely to remember what they've been taught and learn in a more meaningful way.

Nonetheless, there's still a big factual base, and consequently the GMC have forced us to identify our core courses and focus on them - which is a really tough process, because every professor or lecturer would like to think that what they are teaching is essential. However, we've been really ruthless and consequently we've managed to free up far more time for practical learning.

We're always going to be faced by the problem of geography. Consequently, we've set up the interactive video link system, which is just coming on line, which is a very important part of our plans for the future.

## How important is research?

Unlike the other rest of Imperial, research in the Medical School doesn't map directly onto conventional departments. Consequently we've developed a structure consisting of a series of cognate research groups which act horizontally across the vertical lines of our departments and divisions to inte-

grate research in a meaningful way.

The other critical element of ensuring quality research is recruiting and retaining the best people. So, I spend a lot of my time meeting people and trying to sell them the vision. I'm also working to build bridges with other departments - it would be idiotic to have an isolated Medical School, completely separate from the rest of the College, so we have numerous interdepartmental projects currently in operation. Indeed the first thing I did when I visited Imperial back in 1995 was to set up six audit groups to look at the work of the separate Medical Schools, and one of these was designated to specifically look at what medical research was already going on in the Old College...

## What's your relationship with the National Health Service?

We are critically dependent on the NHS for the delivery of our curriculum and for access to patients for clinical research. In return, the NHS gains a great deal of expertise and access to cutting-edge techniques. The formation of ICSM has had an extraordinary effect on the pattern and delivery of health care in London, and we remain at the forefront of this process as a leading partner in the West London Partnership Forum (which consists of ICSM, representatives from NHS West London and the Chief Executives of all the local trusts).

The Forum helps to highlight special areas and bring services together, leading to the development of the Strategic Outline Case (currently under consideration by the Secretary of State) which suggests a series of major relocations for our research divisions.

## Will what you're doing here set an example that other medical schools will be following?

Aspects of what we're doing are certainly under very close scrutiny

from other Medical Schools - there is a great deal of interest in our new course structure, and GKT are looking at the possibility of introducing a Audio Visual link-up system very similar to our own. Moreover, the Council of Heads of Medical Schools (which I happen to be the chair of at present) meets regularly and provides a means to bring all the schools together.

## In terms of student numbers, is bigger always better?

The results of the Research Assessment Exercise seem to show that there is a minimal size (something in the region of forty people per group) beneath which research seems to suffer, so size clearly is an advantage. On the other hand, there is always the danger that students will feel lost in an anonymous, amorphous Medical School, and so we're looking at ways of creating smaller groups within the student body which will ensure that every individual feels noticed and cared for.

## Finally, when will the merger process finally be complete?

With so many courses currently running, it's critical that we move the ends of all our current courses towards the style of our new course, so that no-one feels that they're being sold yesterday's goods.

Ultimately, mergers are never complete...there will always be the tension of local geography. What we've done is to avoid basing divisions or courses at individual sites, so that groups meet up on a cross-campus basis and provide the glue that holds the system together. Nonetheless, they'll always be alumni with their own visions of their old medical schools - which is fine, but we must persuade them that their old traditions and ethos have not been lost, and will all be incorporated into the new Medical School which we're building.



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1927

1876

1962

1969

UNIX

1947

1925

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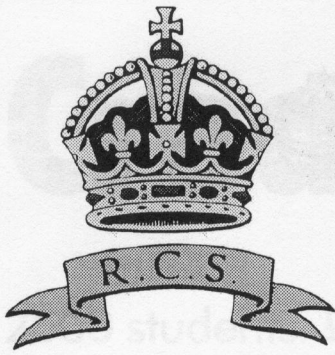
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# RCS Union

Whether you're hunting for a job or just for treasure, the Royal College of Science Union can offer a home for your search....

**A** Job. Some of you may not recognise this word at first sight (hint: you can find it in the dictionary under the letter 'J') but, like it or not, a job is probably what you're here for. Thankfully, the Royal College of Science can make things that little bit easier for you. On Monday 15 November at 7:30pm is the RCSA Careers Forum - an informal get-together where you can discuss your ideas and prospects with employers from out in the real world and, as an added incentive, there will be nibbles and drinks provided. Also that evening is the Post-Graduate Information Evening.

For the rest of you, who don't want a job, there are fun events so you can waste your time in a more fulfilling and pleasant way. In particular there is the Treasure Hunt. If you can't read a map to save your life then you'd better not sign up. If you think West is something you wear during winter to keep warm, don't apply. If the last time you tried to get to a 9 o'clock lecture on Monday morning you got lost and ended up in bed, er, no... in the Serpentine, then this isn't the event for you. If you think a compass is the name of the local pub then, quite frankly, you'll be crap at the Treasure Hunt. If, however, you're a nor-

mal, (semi) sane student (which, seeing as you're studying here, you should be) then the Treasure Hunt will be a hugely enjoyable evening, and one where you could stand to win a pair of Odeon Tickets for each member of the winning team and an RCS scarf each - there are even prizes for runners up. Entrants should be in teams of four, but if you don't have that many friends then you can join the lost souls list and hope to be united with a kindred spirit. Or something like that. Sign up sheets are on all RCSU notice boards or you can email us and entrance is just 50p - cheap considering the value of the prizes.

Also coming up is the annual RCSU vs RCSA Darts Match (that is the people who are currently at College vs the people who used to be at College). Of course you don't have to play darts to come along (although it would be nice). It's just an excuse to get together and enjoy a bit of bitter/friendly rivalry. Come along and see the sort of people you could turn into when you finally finish here.

The Royal College of Science Union's Departmental Societies (or DepSocs for short) also have events planned. MathSoc has a Staff vs Students football match coming up and BioChemSoc has

a Departmental Welcome, with cocktails, and a boat party on Wednesday 10 November. All departments have a DepSoc which is only too keen to take on new members who want to help out and make a difference. PhysSoc in particular needs new recruits, so if there are any budding physicists out there, do get in contact.

That's probably it for the next four weeks or so, but you can rest

assured there will be plenty more coming soon. If you want to get notification of RCSU events then there is the rcsu-list mailing list, which will also allow you to keep up to date with your Union. There is also another list, rcsu-matters, which is a discussion forum about the Union - sign up and have your say. Subscription details in the contacts box below. Just time for a quick mention of:

## BROAD SHEET

**H**ave you picked up your copy yet? In BroadSheet you'll find the latest news affecting you, all the recent ground-breaking and not so ground-breaking developments in science, reviews, opinion, latest events and information from the RCSU and, allegedly, humour - all for the incredibly low price of nothing. There's even an impossibly difficult crossword on the

back where you can win a £10 book token (its so amazingly difficult that there has yet to be a complete solution to any crossword - thankfully incomplete solutions are accepted). This offer is not available in the shops, so where can you find this fascinating read? At the entrance to your department, every other Thursday morning. - the next one goes out this Thursday. Don't miss it!

### Forthcoming Events

**Wednesday 10 November**  
BioChemSoc Welcome & Boat Party

7:30pm - RCSA Careers Forum  
(Senior Common Room)

**Saturday 13 November**  
Paintball

**Monday 22 November**  
Treasure Hunt

**Monday 15 November**  
5:30pm - Post-Graduate Information Evening  
(BioChem Common Room)

**Saturday 27 November**  
RCSA v RCSU Darts match

#### Contacts

RCSU - rcsu@ic.ac.uk  
BioChemSoc - sara.chalabi@ic.ac.uk  
MathSoc - chloe.gorton@ic.ac.uk

#### Mailing Lists

Send an email with "subscribe <listname>" (without the quotes), where <listname> is either rcsu-matters or rcsu-list to Majordomo@ic.ac.uk.

# The State of the Union

## Council

Tomorrow night, the sovereign body of ICU will meet to discuss the important and interesting stuff from the last month. We'll also have a star appearance from the ULU President Matt Butt who will be talking on ULU services for ICU and answering your questions. Council is open to all members of ICU and if you get bored half way through you can wander down to the bar and come back! Union Dining Hall, 6.30pm, Tuesday.

## Meningitis

As most of you will know and presumably read in this issue, IC has had a meningitis case in one of the Halls. It's a very sad thing to happen and there will be lots of people who feel personally affected by someone they know being seriously ill. It's hard to miss the posters telling you the symptoms but I would like to reiterate that those of you who have had the jab are only protected against type C bacterial meningitis, not type B (twice as common) or viral (less serious, but still nasty). For a while now, we will

By Tasha Newton, Imperial College Union President



all be feeling paranoid about hangovers, headaches and drunk friends, but that is no bad thing. Quick action is essential in meningitis cases, having worked the 'other side' of A&E, I can promise that nobody will criticise you for bringing someone in who turns out not to have meningitis.

## Access Funds

For those of you who are feeling broke, a little ray of sunlight. If you have already taken out a loan for this academic session then you are eligible to apply for an Access loan.

but you must do it before 19th November. There are some finer rules and priorities, the details of which are going up on posters or you can email me, Kevin Butcher or Martin, the Union Adviser (president@ic, dpew@ic or m.m.thomson@ic.) First and second years will also need to apply for hardship loans, but that's not a problem as both funds just need a form filling in initially. This is probably a good time to remind the Freshers that you need to apply for support from the Student Loan Company, even if it's for £0 now, if in the rest of your

academic career, you ever want to apply again. It's not an easy decision to go into debt, but it's one that the best part of 7,000 current IC students have made!

## - This Week's Union Meetings -

Mon 8th Nov

- ULU Council

Tue 9th Nov

- 6.30pm ICU Council in the Union Dining Hall
- 9pm CAG Soup Run

Thu 11th Nov:

- 12pm RAG Committee in the RAG office behind the UDH
- 1pm Social Clubs Committee meeting in the Table Tennis Rm
- 12.30pm Recreational Clubs Committee Treasurers meeting in the Resource Centre
- 18.00 ICU Exec in the Resource Centre
- Silwood Committee Elections

Fri 12th Nov:

- 1pm SCC Treasurers meeting in the Resource Centre

## MITCHELL MADISON GROUP

*Strategic Management Consulting*

**Practice your case study interview technique and get a head start on applying to one of the top management consulting firms!**

**Mitchell Madison Group are looking for final year students to participate in an interviewer training day on:**

**Friday December 3rd, 1999**

**If you are considering a career in management consulting, and are interested in participating, please send your CV and a cover letter to:**

**Lisa Holmes, Recruitment Co-ordinator  
Mitchell Madison Group, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5ZT**

**Closing Date: Monday November 22nd, 1999**

Candidates will be notified whether they have been selected no later than Monday 29th November.

## McRON'S OPEN FOR BUSINESS

There is a need for decent names for the redeveloped areas that will result from the SCR project. - "Common Room" is just so Oxbridge, and entirely inappropriate for the wonderful spaces that are about to be created. Kevin suggests ideas are e-mailed to [mishmash@ic.ac.uk](mailto:mishmash@ic.ac.uk) and they will be passed on. Please be inventive, Kevin would rather the areas be innocuous, than find himself eating in the "Oxburgh Lounge" or patronising "Ronald's".

## DISTANCE LEARNING SUCCESS?

Kevin has been hearing a plethora of complaints from medical students about the abject failure of the School of Medicine's new distance teaching video network. The team responsible has been rewarded with the prestigious: "Rector's award for excellence". The baloney excuse for this bizarre act currently circulating ICSM has been that the award was, not for the new network, but for a promotional video production: "Training Tomorrow's Doctors", which features the system. Kevin suggests that if the fiasco is not over, and the system is not working perfectly, students should ensure their views are heard at the presentation on 25 November.

## JOURNALISTS DESCEND

Why is College spending millions on the Beit redevelopment? Better rooms for students and more

space for the Union hardly seem like the sort of causes likely to receive major funding from IC. The summer of 2000 sees Imperial hosting a one-off event billed as a showcase of British science for the Millennium. It is planned that Beit will house the world's journalists, who will have use of the Union's new 'media suite'. Kevin hopes that ICU ensures this situation is fully exploited to our advantage.

# Mish Mash

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

## LEAPING UP THE LEAGUE TABLE

The Rector, will be retiring from IC shortly after the start of the next academic year. Beit, and the exhibition are just examples of the many efforts that are being made to ensure that he leaves in a blaze of glory. Kevin would not be at all surprised if efforts are being made to ensure the current trend of increasing the proportion of First and Upper Sec-

ond Class degrees is accelerated. This could propel IC to the top spot in the league tables, the ultimate high note on which the Rector could leave. This would obviously also be good for students, perhaps giving encouragement to some of those who have become disenchanted on realising that if they had attended almost any other university in the country, they would earn a better classification of degree. There never has been a convincing explanation answer to the question: why when IC takes in such well-qualified students does it have such a relatively low proportion of Firsts being awarded?

## CONNECTIVITY CONUNDRUM

The portacabins, which are presently the home of Felix are still not connected to the College network. This is a ridiculous situation for the student newspaper at the MIT of Europe. Kevin recalls that when The Estates Division occupied the premises they were connected to the Net. A cursory inspection by Kevin's untrained eye reveals that the network cabling was not disturbed when estates moved out. The solution that Felix have been waiting eight weeks for can't be as simple as someone from the CCS flicking a switch, could it?

Comments on the state of the Union? Talk to ICU Council: Tuesday 6pm, UDH.

**To comment or contribute:**  
<http://come.to/mishmash>  
or email [mishmash@ic.ac.uk](mailto:mishmash@ic.ac.uk)

# Break Point

For the vast majority of you, the next big milestone will be the advent of the new Millennium at the end of next year (a pint for anyone who can prove it happens sooner). However, a much bigger celestial event will be upon us even sooner than that - on August 1, a new Rector will take the helm of the great ship IC.

The incumbent, Professor Lord Oxburgh of Liverpool (yes, that's right, Liverpool - calm down, calm down!), is due to pass on. Before the medics get excited at the prospect of taking out their anger on the remains of the great ICSM architect, I mean of course, passing on to the ultimate old folks home, our noble House of Lords. Keen political watchers will know that while hereditary incumbents of the House have only 75 words in which to justify their seats, Sir Ron had the luxury of many more (in the form of the Dearing Report) to make himself Tony's favourite scien-

tific scouser, and guarantee his retirement.

The College Senate has appointed a selection committee to find his successor. Obvious candidates for the job include Lord Winston (the noted TV presenter and fertility specialist, based at IC's Hammersmith Hospital), Professor Susan Greenfield, currently head of the Royal Institution, and Dr Arpad Pusztai, recently thrust into the public eye with his oh-so-accurate research into GM foods. Given your £1000 per annum share in Imperial College plc, Breakpoint feels it right that you know who is in the running, and has, at considerable personal risk, broken into the Rector's Suite and discovered the following shortlist.

**Sir Alexander Fleming**

Already canonised as the new "St. Mary" by at least one-twenty-fifth of the College, has an impressive CV,

claiming to have discovered penicillin, and already has a College building named after him. Worrying application form states will only take up the job if his lab technician can come with him to do all the work, so Fleming can take the credit.

**Michael Portillo**

Originally thought to be more interested in Alan Clark's seat, Portillo stepped out as a surprise candidate when he heard that IC had a 200ft tall Queen's Tower.

**Andy Heeps**

Former President Jabba the Gutt was last seen marching round the Sheffield Building quoting the Union Constitution at all who cross his path. His CV states that he has "done the bloody job already". Not favoured by College Administration as catering budget limited. ICU's own Margaret Thatcher (he just won't piss off and

annoy somebody else), suffers from delusions of grandeur, and will probably resign at the first sign of trouble.

**Anakin Skywalker**

Born a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, this candidate has a forceful application form, but worrying early signs of a respiratory problem may be off-putting. Not thought to be the Senate's first choice - yet. Stated intention to rebuild Imperial forces and bring us A New Hope. Can provide own black robes for Graduation Ceremonies.

Breakpoint, however, has decided to back the dark horse candidate, a Mr M Al-Fayed from Knightsbridge, because he is without doubt the best man for the job. Must dash now, have to go and spend the contents of my brown envelope at Harrods, a truly remarkable British shopping experience.

# CITY & GUILDS COLLEGE UNION

# THE C&G FRESHERS DINNER

AeroSoc - BAMS - ChemEngSoc - CivSoc - DoCSoc - EESoc - Management - MechSoc



## Atlantis

THOSE WHO MISS IT ALWAYS REGRET IT

*An amazing aquatic experience with a superb three course meal followed by a fantastic Carnival of dance, casino, games, late bar and cinema featuring The Matrix*

**Friday 19th November**

**Reception: 7pm for 7:30pm - Dress: Smart Suit**

**Location: Sherfield - Bar: 7pm to 1am**

*Freshers £15 - Continuing Students £17 - tickets available now in Waterstones & CCS Shop - ticket deadline: Tue 16th Nov*

# FELIX

## ISSUE 1156

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 Sports.....Gus Paul  
 Science.....Vacant  
 Music.....James Holian  
 Film.....Helen Clark  
 Games.....Andy Vivian, Mark  
                   Jelinek & Ben Roe  
 Arts.....Ben Fisher  
 Books.....Russell Cummer  
 Diary.....Tom Leggett

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# Feedback

## EXCELLENCE EXPLANATION

Dear Felix,

In response to the letter written by 13 fourth year ICSM students to the Rector (dated 4 October but published on 25 October 1999), I am keen to set the record straight. As the article in ICSM Bulletin made clear, the Rector's Award for Excellence was awarded to "a video production entitled Training Tomorrow's Doctors" not the AVIT system. This video was used at an event held in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building in March at which many ICSM students were present.

The widely publicised time scales which are referred to in the letter were set out in the Position Statement about the AVIT System which I issued on 29 June 1999; this clearly states that interactivity will be achieved "on/by 6 October 1999".

The position now is that the system is fully operational and interactive. There remains a number of commissioning details to be completed (balancing of lines etc) but in essence the system is finished.

At a lecture a week or so ago, a quick briefing was given by the installation technicians to indicate how to use the system; that was clearly not sufficient - neither the students nor the lecturers were able to use such a complex system without much more thorough training and briefing. Therefore rather than use the system straight away with the danger of teachers being unaware of its functionality and capability and also the danger of students rejecting the system out of hand we are now embarking on a full programme of training to ensure that the system can be used properly and to its full capabilities. When staff are trained then the system will be used. Meanwhile it will continue to be used in broadcast mode only.

This system is one of the most complex and sophisticated any-

where. It does of course rely on supporting technology (for example for the quality of data transmission over the lines supplied by the telecoms companies).

I accept, as was made clear in June, that the situation has been very poor indeed and I repeat the apologies that have already been made.

John Green,  
 ICSM Secretary

## COLUMNISTS BITE BACK

Dear Editor,

Although the column is non-controversial (I suspect) this week, I really feel that I need to answer my critics directly - in particular Simon Baker's letter.

He says that "it is impossible to do a good job without one's identity being widely known". What rubbish. For the past three years, the medics have roundly insulted Simon Baker for his column, often without reading it first. Does Mr. Baker also realise how much misinformation was deliberately fed to him during his years at FELIX, simply because people knew who he was, particularly from the Union? Did this make his column better?

Secondly, Mr. Baker failed: it is extremely patronising to suggest that we should not attack ICU. Last time I checked, FELIX had not been renamed PRAVDA, and free opinions were still welcome. BreakPoint will not suck up to the President or any other union officer (in the way Mr. Baker was known to) to help cover up their misguided intentions. Tim Traylor, admirably, proved that this is not necessary as we finally got some explanation of his union policy in a very important "field".

Mr. Baker goes on to suggest that I turn my many guns on the Sherfield Building, and it's Borg-like occupants. Sadly for me, I do not have a pathological desire to

know the cost of every new sign and tree that appears on the campus, and it is my opinion that his many student colleagues do not either.

Keep talking,  
 Breakpoint

## CONVERT CAUTIOUSLY

Dear Felix,

Following the editorial in issue 1155 extolling the virtues of Cash Converters, can I just point out that a surprising number of the bargain CDs and videos on sale there are actually nicked (perhaps I should put allegedly in there just in case anyone decides to sue for libel).

The source of this information is an old friend of mine who worked at the Kings Heath branch in Birmingham for a year after graduating. He tells me it was very common for dodgy looking blokes to come in with hundreds of CDs which they claimed were theirs and they needed to sell, usually for something ridiculous like STL2 each.

Now everyone in the shop was convinced that they were actually stolen, but unless the person wanting to sell them actually says 'these are nicked', then at least legally the shop is in the clear because they are not knowingly handling stolen goods. The morality of the operation is rather more questionable, and in fact my friend finally resigned after a friend of his came into the shop to find a TV on sale which had been stolen from his girlfriend's flat the week before.

I just thought I would point this out, because personally I would feel bad about buying someone else's stolen CD collection, because I know how long it would take to replace my own if it were stolen.

Regards,  
 Rob Leah

The deadline for letters intended for publication is Wednesday 12 noon - drop into the portacabins or email felix@ic.ac.uk. Letters may be edited for length but not grammar or spelling.

# Editorial

## DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Those of you living South of Cromwell Road and North of the river will soon be given the opportunity to return Michael Portillo to parliament. There will, of course, be other candidates, but sadly no-one has a clue (or indeed a care) who they are. Anyhow, given that someone as unpopular as Alan Clark managed to secure a majority of 10000 on a day when Labour was storming to massive majorities nationwide, the chances of "that nice Mr Portallo" (as Neil Kinnock once termed him) screwing this one up are ridiculously small. Consequently, you're all being offered a chance to see democracy in action as a man who once apologised for being half-Spanish and is widely regarded as one of the most hypocritical and homophobic public figures around (strange really) is returned as your representative to the government. As Tony the Tiger would say, Grrrrreat.

## SO MUCH TO SAY, SO FEW WORDS TO SAY IT

Right, now I've got the obligatory rant out of the way I'll be getting back to more important issues. Firstly, thanks to *Anonymous Chris* for filling in for me on the editorial front last week - I'm afraid I was otherwise indisposed. This week, however, I really can't decide what to write about. I could rant at length about politics or the forthcoming elections (go Ken go), but I don't think you'd be interested. I could tell you about this amazing girl I know, but I don't think that would be wise. I could even espouse on a variety of topics surrounding the world of publishing and news dissemination, but I suspect you'd fall asleep at the vital moment in your lecture.

Consequently, I'm going to abandon all these subjects and instead I'm going to talk about job hunting.

It never ceases to disappoint me when I see what typical Imperial graduates choose to do with the rest of their lives. Backed with degrees from one of the best institutions in the world, does your average IC student decide to put their talents to good use, developing techniques, technology or theories for the betterment of mankind? Or do they head straight for the highest starting salary and commit the rest of their lives to the, ahem, exciting world of consultancy/accountancy/management? Now, as I've said before I do have a tendency to be a little idealistic, but nonetheless there are days when I almost think that the College should start to timetable mandatory lectures in morality into every course.

Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe Management Consultancy really is about helping to make the better place after all. Maybe it's unfair to expect the brightest people in the world to take a larger share in shaping the future of the planet. Maybe I'm just scared by the concept of committing to a job and then allowing that to map out the next forty years of my life. What do you think?

## A BIG THANK YOU

Earlier today I suddenly realised that I haven't thanked the team behind *felix* nearly enough for their assistance so far this year. Consequently, I'd like to finish off by saying a big thank you to everyone on the editorial team, and in particular to James and Gareth. Without them, *Felix* wouldn't happen and I'd be seeking counselling. Thanks.

Dave

Feel strongly about:  
Student Rights as Consumers?  
Student Debt?

## NATIONAL DEMO

25<sup>th</sup> November 1999

From ULU to Kennington Park

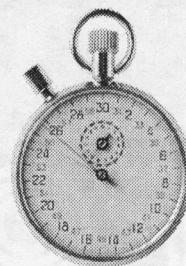
If you have a disability making it difficult to get to ULU and back from Kennington Park, contact

Kevin (DP(E&W)) on x.58064 or  
dpew@ic.ac.uk to arrange a place on the  
minibus.

Event organised by NUS and ULU

**SIS - THE BUSINESS SOCIETY**  
Imperial College, London [www.su.ic.ac.uk/sis](http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/sis)

## TIME MANAGEMENT BUSINESS TRAINING



WITH

## ANDERSEN CONSULTING

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Register for Event Updates at [www.su.ic.ac.uk/sis](http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/sis)

Tuesday 9th November,

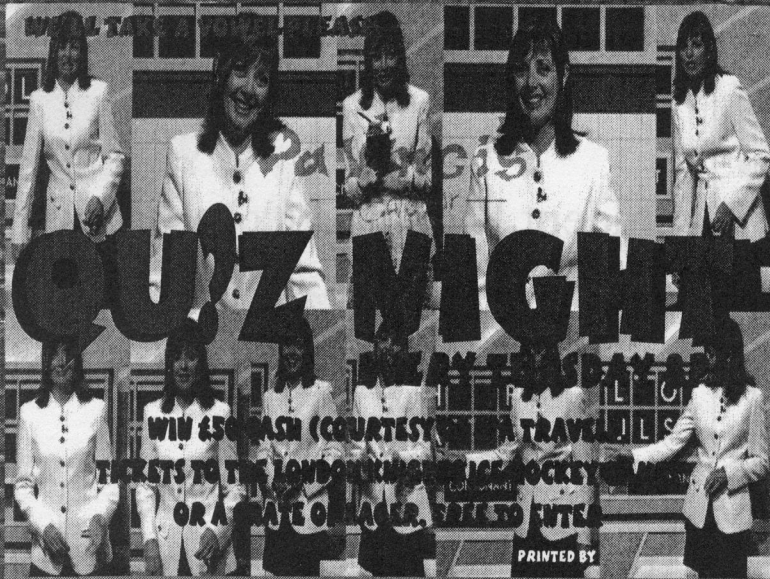
Elec. Eng Building Lecture Theatre 408

Max. 40 People - please register your place by email with [andre.parrie@ic.ac.uk](mailto:andre.parrie@ic.ac.uk)

All events are open to members of the Business Society only. Membership is £1 per academic year. You can sign up at the beginning of any SIS event.

All complaints should be addressed to the Editor. If no satisfactory reply is received, contact ICU Exec via the Union President

**Tues 9th**



**QUIZ NIGHT**  
WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER  
WIN £50 CASH (COURTESY OF THE TRAVEL TRUST)  
TICKETS TO THE LONDON KINGS ICE HOCKEY MATCH  
OR A CRATE OF MAGS. SEE TO ENTER  
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**Weds 10th**

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# excess

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every wednesday @ icu 9-1. free b4 11.  
two rooms of tunes & cocktail bar

**iCU** it's your union - be part of it

**Thurs 11th**

**Fri 12th**



**FRIDAY 12TH NOV**

**8pm dBs**

**SIMON EVANS**

**HAL CRUTTENDEN & OPEN MIC**

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**Da Vinci's**  
Cafe-bar



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ICU ENTS PRESENTS TimeOut WITH

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**FRIDAY 12TH NOV**

CHEESY CLASSICS, COCKTAIL BAR, 4 BARS  
£1 (ICU) / £1.50 GUESTS / FREE (ENTSCARDS)

**iCU**

**IT'S YOUR UNION - BE PART OF IT**

**iCU**

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

**Your Union - Run for You**

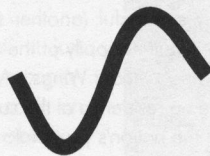


# Welcome to the reviews



This week in.....

**frequency**



Westlife  
Beth Orton  
Fetish

**method**



Corpus Christi  
Boetti  
Babel

**books**



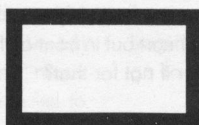
reMix  
Cool Classics  
The Alchemist

**react**



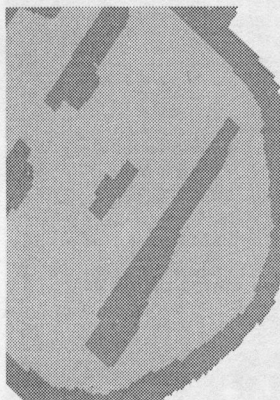
Shadow Company  
Rogue Spear  
Mission: Impossible

**screen**



Ride with the Devil  
East is East  
Competition

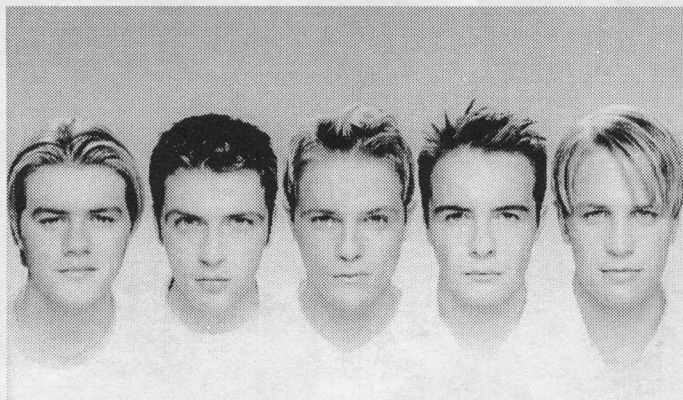
# frequency



Hello again. Today I'd like to start off by thanking everyone for the tremendous response we got to last week's Death in Vegas competition. One lucky reader got lucky and David Lewis got a brilliant night out with nine friends courtesy of Felix, Carling and Death in Vegas. This week we've got a Beth Orton competition with some lovely prizes including some signed CDs. If you want to get lucky you've got to enter. So do so now (see page 21 for details).

## ... frequency ... ... james rants ...

As for the rest of my rant, I'd like to pick up on letter on the lack of drugs articles in Felix that appeared on these hallowed pages last week. We all know that Ed's dope obsession proved to be quite a feature last year and I suppose we will all miss his views. Anyway, drugs have always been an important ingredient in music and clubs and I think that it's about time we ran some articles within the pages of frequency. Any articles, views, rants would be appreciated and if you send me any stuff, anonymity is assured. I know that there are more than just a few of us around campus who are quite different at weekends to the way we are during the week. Make it large!



## Westlife Westlife (RCA)

Now, there are many reasons to dislike Westlife: they describe themselves as a 'Boy Band' (a collective noun more abhorred than the Tory Party), they don't write their own music, they can't play instruments and they wear those matching puffer waistcoat things.

Of course, they've been hugely successful (another thing we hate in this country), having recently perched quite happily at the top of the charts with their third number one single *Flying Without Wings*. And this their self-titled debut album will, no doubt, take up residence at the same spot in the album chart, as they relentlessly recruit the nation's youth into their fan base.

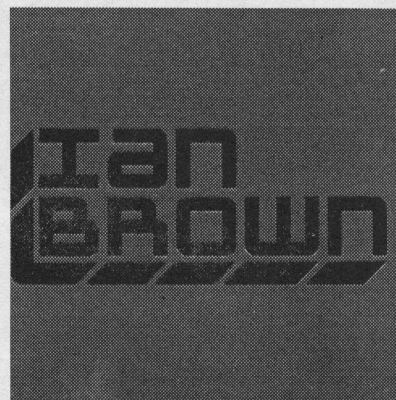
These five Irish blokes do have an advantage over their 'Smash Hits' peers, however, inasmuch as they have been favourably touched by the hand of Saint Ronan. And if you're going to be managed by anyone then how about, um, oh yes, the lead singer of the band who practically wrote the Boy Band Handbook. Pretty good start really, and it does avoid all those usual tabloid headaches of headlines screaming about infighting and the despotic management versus a bunch of naïve young scamps. They're Irish. They're all nice guys.

Ok, so it's easy to be cynical but I'm afraid I actually quite enjoyed *Westlife*. Obviously, they're not breaking any musical frontiers but then are we expecting them to? It begins with the debut and number one single *Swear It Again*. This is a cute ballad that will have you tapping your foot by the end no matter how hard you resist.

With seventeen tracks and over an hour of music they are being ambitious - even the most devoted will be waning by the end. There's a bad choice of cover version half way through in the form of the ultra naff *Seasons in the Sun* (why?) and Extreme's *More than Words*. I'd be hard pushed to predict another number one but I would guess it would be from amongst the first half, possibly *Moments* which stands out from some of the other more mediocre tracks.

This is not a brilliant album and what they do is not original, but at least they are doing it better than most. I need only to direct you to track two - also a number one - *If I Let You Go*. This song is fantastic. Okay, lyrically it's not Chaucer but it has one of the most infectiously singalong choruses since *I Will Survive*. This is true sing your heart out in front of the mirror, classic pop. It's fun. And what is pop music for if not for that?

Rachael



## Ian Brown Golden Greats (Parlophone)

The years since the acrimonious and undignified collapse of the Stone Roses have seen the former band members try and fail to recreate past glories. John Squire gave us the cynical, market-led disaster that was the Seahorses. Gary 'Mani' Mountfield fell on his feet and joined Primal Scream. Ian Brown's first album, *Unfinished Monkey Business* was a pastiche of only half realised ideas and unused Roses outtakes, dominated by his bitterness towards Squire, and particularly the guitarist's cocaine use.

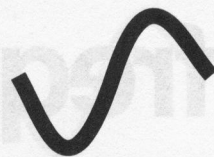
In this context *Golden Greats* comes across as a small, but not insignificant, triumph. The inauspicious opener *Getting High* is compounded by the diabolical electro-funk of current single *Love Like A Fountain*. However from here on in the Monkey King finds his rhythm. 'Jingle jangle, here's the jailer' snarls Brown on *Free My Way*, as Her Majesty's prison service feels the full force of his bile. Somewhat unsurprisingly, given our hero's recent detention following an air rage incident, freedom is a recurrent lyrical theme. Album highlight *So Many Soldiers* masterfully weaves a desolate, absorbing path.

Late in the day things start to get strange with *Dolphins Were Monkeys* emerging from portentous origins to reveal one of the album's rare tunes. Finally we come to the stunning *Babasonicos*, the languid and fragile result of a collaboration between Ian and some South American chums. A fitting finale to a record which is intermittently wonderful, but seldom less than interesting and intense.

The Masked Bandit



# frequency



## Gilles Peterson INCredible Sound of (INCredible)

In a series that has previously featured the likes of Trevor Nelson and Jo Whiley, the *Incredible Sound of Gilles Peterson* is the first of these compilations that really deserves the Incredible badge. While Mr Peterson may come from the same Radio 1 stable as Mr Nelson and Ms Whiley, he is the only one of the three whose sound has not been diluted by the experience of working on the biggest radio station around

The operating level of Gilles Peterson is therefore quite different to his colleagues. With more influences in his sound than there are books in the library, his sound is matched by no other. Indeed this compilation provides the buyer with an item that is quite a rarity, as the album captures the best of both Gilles Peterson's radio and club DJ sets. There's all the funk, vibe and eclecticism that you could imagine as the tunes range from all-time classics to just-off-the-press fresh flavas.

Giles Peterson is thus managing to maintain his sound and culture in a minefield of blandness that brings so many down. While the sound of his radio-and-label mates becomes more and more mainstream every week, the sound of Gilles Peterson goes from strength to strength. Put simply, the sound of Gilles Peterson can be summed up in one word - incredible.

James



## Barry White Staying Power (BMG)

This album is the greatest piece of shite ever to be played on my stereo. I don't even know why we bother reviewing it. Barry White had his moment. At some point or other he was in some way at least a little bit cool. Yes, he does have the most incredibly deep and sensuous voice, the voice of sex. On this album though, he just sounds old and perverted. Hearing him say "baby" makes me think of a paedophile trying to get his way with a child. Disgusting.

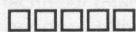
The music is so incredibly minimalistic you hardly notice it. The lyrics are so diluted they make noodle soup sound poetic.

The album never takes off, it just flows, forever churning out monotonous synthesised keyboard cack, on top of which Barry White rambles on about getting up, laying down, and all the other perverted activities going on in his old-man head.



Don't bother with this, even if it comes free through your letterbox.

Disa

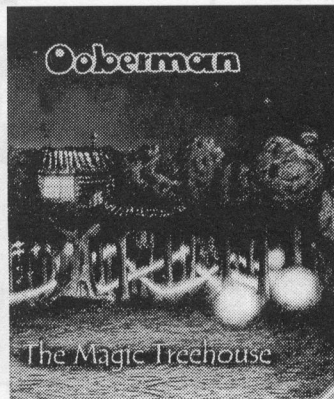


### James & Ben say:

Sorry Disa, we can't agree. After listening to Mr White's latest offering extensively in the office we'd give it at least a three. Okay it's cheese, but it's perfect for background music while we work. But who are we to comment?

## Oobermann The Magic Treehouse (Independiente)

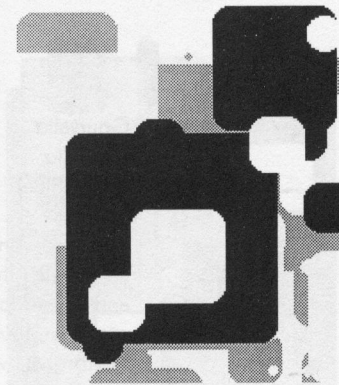
Since I'd only heard the name on the radio before reviewing this, I was half-expecting some kind of Teutonic collective (as in "über alles...") preparing to unleash electro-Euro-pap on the world. I was therefore pleasantly surprised to discover that Ooberman are in fact a) adopted Scouse, and b) talented, debatable name aside.



So - Liverpool as the continuing spiritual home of catchy, innovative pop records? Well, probably. The album is a little slow to start, with supposedly chart-friendly previous singles *Million Suns* and *Blossoms Falling* being nothing much to shout about, but beyond these the standard is high. There's a lot happening on this album - a hell of a lot. From up-for-it mentalness (*Bees, Sugar Bum*), to brief but engaging musical musings (*My Baby's Too Tall & Thin*), to haunting multilayered symphonic beauty and splendour (*Roll Me In Cotton, Shorley Wall*). All laced with wit, emotion and psychedelia, suggesting that the band had a rather good time recording this record.

It may be said that the odd track becomes more like background music, but from these first album beginnings, Ooberman should go far. Maybe even über alles?

Matt



## Joe Strummer Rock Art and the X-Ray style (Mercury)

For those whose rock histories only go back as far as when Take That split, Joe Strummer was frontman for The Clash. *London Calling*, *Rock The Casbah* and *I Fought The Law* were chief among a succession of classic tracks starting from the Queen's Silver Jubilee year. This is only his second solo effort in the thirteen years since The Clash disbanded.

The album is generally mellow, with reggae style guitar and a world music feel to several of the tracks such as *Sandpaper Blues* with its African chanting. Strummer's voice would at times still have difficulty giving Bob Dylan a run for his money on tracks like *The Road to Rock 'n' Roll* and *Yalla Yalla*. So don't be put off singing along. *Nitcomb* is a laid-back jam about the minutiae of city life, optimism tempered with resignation: 'Love buys a six pack and gives it to the bums'. He started from the Westway, so *Willesden to Cricklewood*, the melodious final track, may be a coming home song. No social climbing done there then.

An honest, and often uplifting album. It deserves to get some air-time even on AOR stations. Less confrontational than The Clash were, fans will still want to buy it. If you weren't into The Clash (or were too young then), it's worth a punt now.

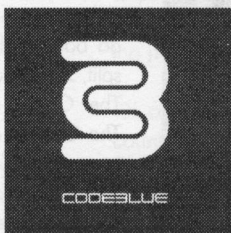
Ian



# frequency

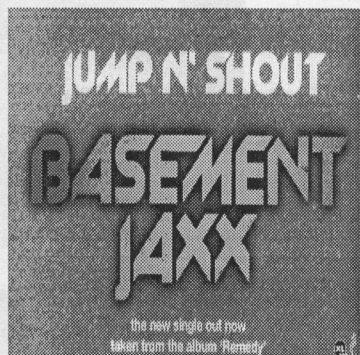
**Gouryella**  
**Walhalla**  
(Code Blue)

Tunes from this lot may err towards the cheesy end of the dance music spectrum, but it's easy to forgive when you consider the way they make you want to dance. There's some masterful mixes from Armin Van Burren and Hybrid on board and it's a package that pleases well.



**Basement Jaxx**  
**Jump and Shout**  
(XL Recordings)

Basement Jaxx seem to have a way with beats. *Jump and Shout* kicks in with a style that almost sounds like a bad DJ crashing rhythms, but like their other tunes a few more listens are enough to win you over. The lyrical delivery comes from an African tribesman, and all in all this is Basement Jaxx classic. Don't be surprised if these lads feature highly in Felix's end of year charts.



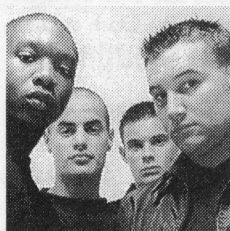
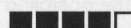
**Blur**  
**No Distance Left to Run**  
(Food)

Blur's newer songs have moved away from singing about a fictional character in the third person and taken on a much more autobiographical mood. *No Distance Left To Run* is about Damon's split with ex-partner Justine Frischmann. The song is pensive in mood, beautiful in tone; one of the saddest songs I have ever heard.



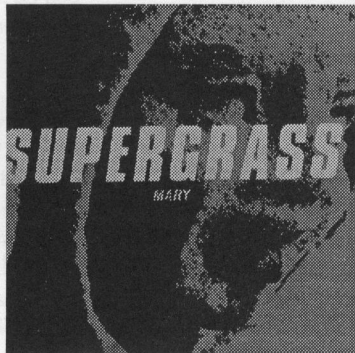
**Primal Scream**  
**Swastika Eyes**  
(Creation)

How the Primals do it is quite beyond me. *Swastika Eyes* is another absolutely barnstorming track. They've had a little help from the Chemical Brothers, but the way they turn out gorgeous tracks one after another is just immense. This is a killer and with this the boys are laying down some lucious foundations for their next album.



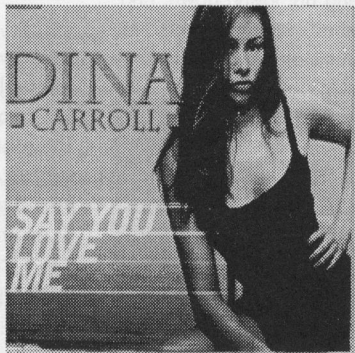
**Another Level**  
**Bomb Diggy**  
(Arista)

Apparently the "theme tune from the T4 programme North Hollywood High" which the cover-mounted sticker helpfully informs us can be seen Sundays on Channel 4. The boy band with R 'n' B persuasions provide us with another silky soul tune. The title is rhymed with a lot of silly phrases such as "goody goody" and "chocolate pudgy". This song is neither.



**Supergrass**  
**Mary**  
(Parlophone)

Supergrass albums keep getting better and better yet conversely their sales get lower and lower. This is one of their current album's weaker tracks but offers a contrast to previous releases, the breathtaking *Moving* and the fun but hardly innovative *Pumping On Your Stereo*. Mary (where Gaz sings about shocking his eponymous girlfriend) still retains enough quirky brilliance and charm to soon become infectious.



**Dina Carroll**  
**Say You Love Me**  
(Mercury)

Slightly more regular than the Olympics, Dina Carroll turns up every three years - but each time with only one decent song. In 1990 it was a cover of *It's Too Late* with Quartz. In 1993 it was the wonderful *Don't Be A Stranger*. 1996 brought her a No. 3 single with *Escaping*. And this year it was that song out a couple of months ago - and not this one.



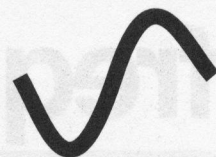
**Dillinger**  
**Cocaine In My Brain**  
(Mercury)

Some relaxed rapping skips over this ragga tune, filled to the brim with the sort of funky beats usually heard on Sly Stone records. In fact, the original version of this song was around in 1976. The chorus goes: "A knife, a fork, a bottle and a cork - that's the way we spell New York." Well, it is if you've got cocaine in your brain.



...Singles reviews  
by Ed, Ben and  
James...

# frequency



## Beth Orton @ Shepherds Bush Empire .. sweet lips, sweeter songs ...

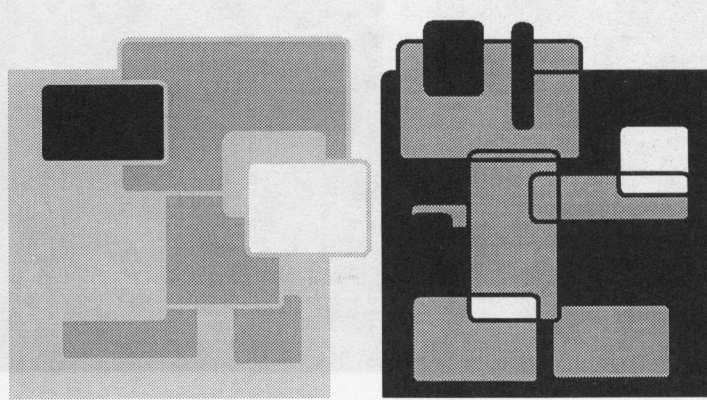
After selling out her Friday night show, Beth Orton managed to fill the Empire for this extra night too; people have read so much about this 28 year-old that they are curious to know what sort of an artist can get both of her albums on the Mercury prize shortlist and yet be twice overlooked for the award. Non-lyrical insights into her character, however, were not abundant since she was not in a very conversive mood. Instead, she let her singing do the talking (if you see what I mean) and impressed the entire audience with her incredible voice. It is in a live context that singers can really prove themselves; the mediocre can splice together the best studio takes on record, but there is no room for error on stage. Orton justified her enviable reputation during her 1 1/2 hour set last Saturday, which included a new, apparently untitled song (although I'd hazard a guess at *So Long*) and a cover version of The Ronette's *I Wish I Never Saw The Sunshine*.

For most of that time she remained unspectacularly rooted to the centre of a sizeable stage in a dappled, pure white spotlight. She was joined by an 8-piece band (including a mandolin player and string section) who filled out the sound effectively and permitted her to ditch the guitar for a few songs, during which time she seemed to loosen her up a little. Lack of energy afflicted the crowd too, although this probably had less to do with the better-than-average support band, Doves, than the age demographic of the audience (i.e. there were a lot of old fogies about).

Things changed when Beth revealed that she was to be joined for a duet by one of the collaborators on her *Central Reservation* album, Terry Callier, who had himself played a couple of gigs at the Empire during October. Half the crowd was ecstatic; the other half were left asking their mates who the hell he is. Visibly, Beth was one of those excited by his presence.

They performed some of his songs, and the pair's voices worked well together. It's just a shame that the last song of a long encore was spoilt by misunderstandings between them and technical difficulties - it was a rare slip. Clearly, the danceable beats from the records were absent in this live set, but this was no great loss, it just meant that nobody could hide behind expensive producers. I shall refrain, however, from saying that we were treated to folk music, since 'folk' is one of those words (like 'country & western' and 'Belgium') which just makes me turn off. That would be unreasonable: Beth Orton deserves a good listen.

Beth Orton's *Central Reservation* album is out now. To win a copy and some other goodies enter the competition to the right  
Valmik



## Fear Factory @ Brixton Academy .. heavy metal rocks ! ...

Say what you will about metal - "It's just a load of old noise... That bloke's just shouting... They have silly shorts, etc" - but for sheer emotional impact, this stuff works better than any Oasis ballad or Italian opera. Tonight's incredible show was both draining and cathartic. First up: Will Haven.

It starts with feedback. The band come on in suits and promptly explode, followed quickly by the moshpit. The music simply shreds the air to pieces. The band sway, jerk and thrash about, caught in the maelstrom of noise they're unleashing. With something this intense, this primal, you become enveloped and suffocated by it, until there's no option other than to scream along and pump your fist in the air. The sense of fear and anger expressed onstage is all-too human. It ends with feedback. Totally inspirational.

Next: Fear Factory. For nine years, they've been honing their brand of industrial metal to a brutal art. The music seems so inhumanly precise, what with the players stabbing out riffs like machines, and the machine-gun drummer. However, it's prevented from being a clinical exercise by frontman Burton. He doesn't play guitar, so he's free to connect with the audience, providing that human link the music needs. His crooned choruses and rallying cries to jump higher and sing louder make the vital difference.

And then Gary Numan comes on, and I'm suddenly reminded why Fear Factory are able to fill such a large venue to breaking point. Their cover of 'Cars' is very big stateside. Thematically, it's the correct song for them to do, concerned as it is with their favourite subjects of technology and machines, but tonight it just sounds like the original played at twenty times the volume. One glitch in an otherwise routinely excellent show. Face facts: Metal is great.

Kunal

## ...Competition News...

### BETH ORTON:

WIN, WIN, WIN!! This week for my lovely readers I've got some Beth Orton goodies including a signed copy of her latest album, a few more unsigned copies and some lovely posters. To win just send answers to the following question to [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk). Nice!

What is the name of Beth Orton's recent album?

### BEDROCK ALBUM:

The Bedrock competition run a few ago was won by Patrick Gilfeather from the Humanities School so there'll be some funky tunes on his stereo then.

### DEATH IN VEGAS:

The lucky winner of last weeks massive goodie bag was David Lewis. He gets 10 free gig tickets, 10 free t-shirts and a crate of beer, which should guarantee him and his mates a good time. Have a good one!

# frequency



## Fabric Live @ Fabric

After Fabric's launch weekend being a raging success all round, the second weekend at the venue had quite an act to follow. With drum'n'bass in the loud room (that's probably the best way to describe it) and James Lavelle, the Scratch Perverts and co in the main room it was a line up to rival any other in London that night. Thankfully the night was far from a disappointment.

The room styles perfectly complimented each other as the beats thundered throughout the venue. Indeed the volumes achieved in the loud room are quite phenomenal and not for the sensitive-eared. Perfect though for me and my pals, who seem to appreciate hurting our ears.

Anyway Fabric Live was a brilliant night, and I'm sure it will remain a brilliant night for however long it keeps its residency. As for the venue, Fabric has arrived as one of the top nightclubs in London. It may not have the name yet, but if nights like these a fast growing reputation is assured, and as the word gets around things can only get better.

J Patch

## Torture Garden Halloween Event @ Mass .. fancy fetish fun and frolicks ...

Not quite the Skin Two Rubber Ball, but part of the weekend's events and no doubt many of the same people were there last Saturday in this great venue, which is a converted church. Torture Garden holds large events in random venues at random intervals. What they all have in common is a fantastic, friendly atmosphere, thumping house and techno on the main floor, outrageous clothing on the people, chill out rooms, and basically one of the best nights out around. Feast your eyes on the people, the video visuals, the performance artists, dance and drink. The dungeon boasts a number of pieces of scary looking equipment which people were tied to/on/in etc. Don't be scared, bizarre as it may seem, they were all laughing and smiling, and perfectly happy to be there! Most (if not all) venues have a dungeon room where people can "play", but you don't have to and no one will make you. All have changing rooms, so you can come in normal clothes and change, if you are too embarrassed to go out in your rubber dress. Dress codes are enforced - you will feel awkward if you're not dressed right. However, cyber/punk/futuristic/role play (i.e. French maid/nurse/military/lingerie) is OK too, and less expensive. The cheapest fetish stuff is PVC, you can get a full outfit e.g. a dress for about £30, most places will bargain if you have the nerve to!

Get clothes/equipment for fetish events from "Paradiso" in Old Compton Street, "Honour" on Lower Marsh near Waterloo Station, "Murray and Vern" and "Black Rose", both in Stables Market, Camden, and a variety of other places. Tickets for clubs from Paradiso, Zeitgeist or Murray and Vern, usually costing £10-15 and most clubs run 10-4am or 10-6am. OK, so maybe you're interested - or just morbidly curious - and want to go. Well, you've missed the rubber ball, but most weekends there are events - look out for Club Rub, Club Flesh, Submission, and various others.

It is a fabulous night out, and infinitely amusing to take friends and watch their reactions. As long as you dress right, once you get there you can be as outrageous or as conservative as you want to be - it can be just another club, it is fine to just drink and dance - and many people do just that. If you are open minded enough to give it a go, you are guaranteed to have a good time, so why not try it? If you like the idea but haven't got the nerve, try Full Tilt at Electric Ballroom in Camden on a Friday night. It's Goth/Alternative/Rock, and you don't have to go quite as extreme - black will do!

fetish female

## Recommended Clubbing

More clubs that may take your fancy...

### Thursday 11th November

#### Bedrock @ Heaven; £6

Bedrock is a clubnight going places. Last month's nights at Heaven and at The Beach down in Brighton were out of this world, and this bash won't disappoint.

### Friday 12th November

#### Undertom @ Trenz; £6

High energy uplifting acid techno tance on the top floor with a more deep and spiritual experience to be had down below. This is a club promoted by two ex-Imperial people so get there and support. It will be a great night.

### The Weekly Sessions @ The Annexe; £8

Milk'n'2 Sugars parties are always worth a look. This week they've got Mark Farina over from San Francisco to deliver the beats and cuts.

### Saturday 13rd November

#### Fabric @ Fabric; £12

With a sound system unmatched anywhere in the capital, Fabric boasts a night that others can only dream of putting on **Headstart @ Turmills; £5**

Dave Clarke and Andy Weatherall are headlining Headstart's two rooms and this should be a good one. To tell the truth Headstart has been lagging a bit lately, but this night should be the first of a resurgence.

### Sunday 14th November

#### Metalheadz @ Dingwalls; £6

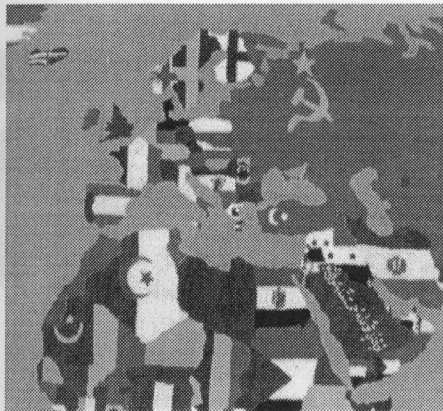
Have you been yet? If not then why not? Get, get down!

*To have your club added to this list just invite us along, we'll check it out and if we like it we'll put it down*

e-mail: [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk)

phone: 020 7594 8072 ask for James

# method



## Boetti: the maverick spirit of Arte Povera

Whitechapel Art Gallery - Aldgate East tube  
Finished

A gallery of vast tapestries, abstract wooden sculptures and paving slabs. Before experiencing them in the flesh, you might be forgiven for thinking that these are just the hackneyed hallmarks of a conceptual artist. If you still think this after having seen this major retrospective of the artist Alighiero e Boetti, I have doubts about your sanity.

While being mostly unknown in the UK, the distinctive style of Boetti has a cult following across the Atlantic and over the Channel. He started in the mid-sixties with Pop Art (Ping Pong, Stiff Upper Lip) before becoming a leading force in the Arte Povera movement, producing a few forgivable duds (Scala, Tavelle) along the way. In the late 60s he renounced all this and started afresh with a pared-down and more sophisticated conceptual style.

His interest in world affairs and extensive travels prompted him to commission a series of giant tapestries depicting the world map (Mappa), updated every so often for political changes until his premature death in 1994. In another vast tapestry, Tutte (Everything), he presents a startling chaotic weave of people and objects, reflecting his other long-term interest in order and chaos.

By employing anonymous volunteers to do the painting, sculpting or tapestry weaving, he managed to subvert the traditional role of the artist as sole author of her or his work. But is he also subverting our interpretation? After all, many of the works are gently mocking, even silly (Senza numero I-VI), as if to say 'I mean all this to be a joke.' If it is a joke, it certainly is a good one.



William Burns

## Spend Spend Spend

Piccadilly Theatre - Piccadilly tube  
£12.50 standby

*Spend Spend Spend*, which has been hailed as "The Best New British Musical in Years" by some critics, opened at the Piccadilly Theatre a couple of weeks ago. As the house-lights fade and the overture starts you feel as though you are in for a treat. The orchestration is a happy medium between pop and jazz, the set is slick and you get the feeling that the producers certainly have Spent, Spent and Spent bucketloads in putting the show on stage.

The show is based on the story of Viv Nicholson: the woman who went from rags to riches and then back to rags, by virtue of football pools, going through five husbands along the way. In a similar vein to shows such as *Blood Brothers*, it makes for a moving and worthy tale that should really work, especially in a West End musical.

We are immediately introduced to the 50-old Viv working in a beauty salon, who then becomes our narrator for the evening, taking us through her life from the age of 15. So far, so good, but after about fifteen minutes of act one, when every single sexual innuendo imaginable has been thrashed to death, and you haven't been properly introduced to any character, you start to realise that maybe the plot is being lost behind smutty jokes and slack direction. The characterisation is so weak that when Viv loses her second husband in a car accident and comes downstage to belt out the show's best tune, "Who's Gonna Love Me Now", you simply don't care.

Casting Barbara Dickson in the role of Viv was a good choice, and although a blatant attempt at getting bums on seats, and she puts in a good performance. Along with the rest of the cast she manages to give the show the pace and life it needs.

The chances are that you would enjoy *Spend Spend Spend* should you part with your precious cash, but with over fifteen other musicals currently running round the corner, I reckon you could do a lot better for your money.



Ben P.

## Higher Than Bable

Bridewell Theatre - Blackfriars tube  
£8 Conc.

*Higher Than Bable* was directed and produced by ex-IC engineers; Clive Pagent and Tim Sawers, both of who were in *Dramsoc*.

Clive Swift - the husband from "Keeping Up Appearances" - who played Cardinal and Matthaus, showed how good actors we see in general crap on TV often are; a superb performance.

The plot was a little jerky in its jump between one time and another and throughout the play there is no edge-of-the-seat stuff. It is not an action play but a thoughtful one dealing well with a complex subject.

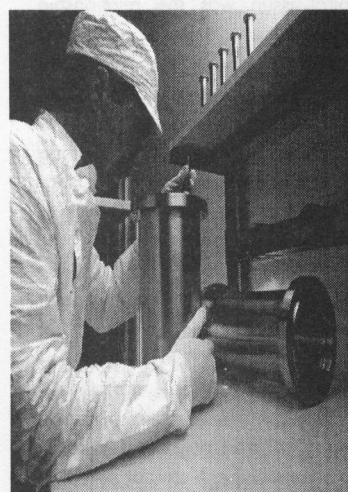
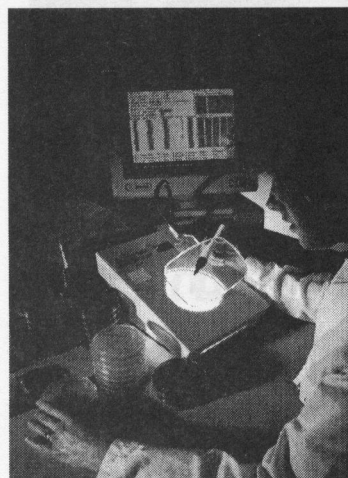
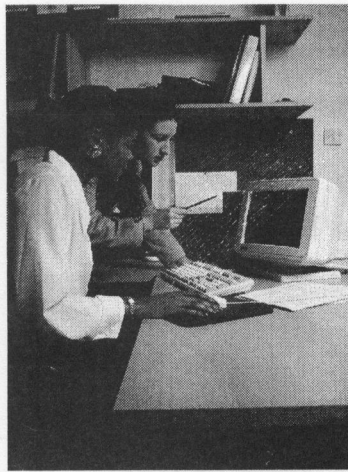
The central issue was the relationship between society and science. The play explores this by comparing a scientist ahead of the field (in fifteenth century Italy) persecuted for his "unGod like" ideas of making a flying machine, with a German (in Nazi Germany) who, dropping his original moral objections, used his genius to help work on the nuclear bomb.

Difficult issues were raised if a little obviously. To what extent does society define what individuals find acceptable in the scientific world? For example I am against GM foods but if people were originally against flying (a view I now find ridiculous) does this not show that I am just unwilling to change? This play is a real springboard for philosophical discussion, one for the theatre lovers.



Ben

**ICU presents**



***The 1999***  
**CAREERS**  
***Fair***

***11-4***  
**WEDNESDAY**  
***17th November***

**UNION BUILDING**  
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**RIGHT ON YOUR DOORSTEP**  
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**WILL BE AVAILABLE IN FELIX AND IN THE CAREERS FAIR**  
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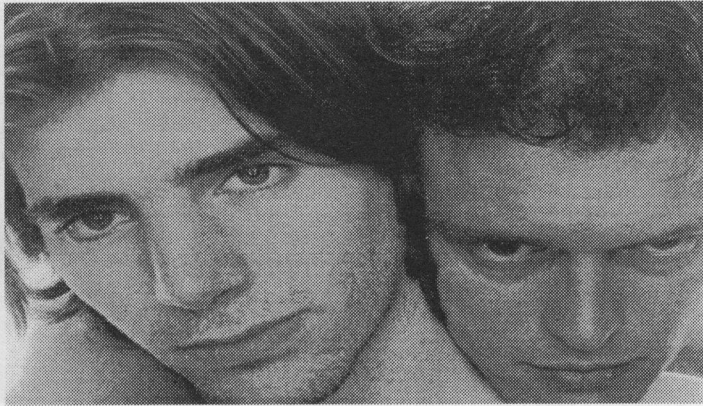
**iCU**  
IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

**ANOTHER SERVICE FROM YOUR UNION**



# method

# books



## Corpus Chris-ti

Pleasance Theatre - Caledonian Road tube  
£10 Conc.

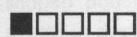
Jesus Christ, what a dreadful play! Half an hour into it and I was praying for the crucifixion, just to end the whole terrible charade. The play was billed as a controversial take on the Jesus Christ Bible story and was hot from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. With that sort of hype, it was off to a bad start... and it got worse and worse. The story cast Jesus as a homosexual southern Baptist preacher, the Disciples as his gay lovers and God as Woody Allén.

I should confess that I am not religious and certainly not homophobic and therefore went in suffering from controversy fatigue. Sure, it might offend some right-wing vicars and those blue-rinse Surbiton wives who hold coffee-mornings. Actually, the more vocal of God's people were protesting outside in the street, guarded by a few fed-up police. They were singing Gospel songs and telling us the error of our wicked ways. This was the most exciting event of the evening, by far. I almost went over to thank them for it.

But what of the play? I must admit that there were a few amusing moments, like the self-conscious tableau of the Last Supper. There was still too much religious singing, though. And the 'controversy bits' when the men French kissed weren't all that controversial. The plot structure was oh-so-confused. The playwright (Terrence McNally) had updated some aspects of the story, with Jesus' early life set circa 1950 in *Corpus Christi*, Texas. (Why, you may well ask. I certainly did.) Then McNally must have got lazy and everything went back to the usual setting in Israel with Pontius Pilote and his chums. Slavishly following the story without any trace of irony made the whole thing seem like a New Age Christian conversion session.

My God, can I think of anything good to say about this play? I find it hard to criticise the actors; in fact, I feel deeply sorry for them. They all worked hard and were on stage for the full two hours, which is no mean feat even for professionals. They certainly did the best they could with the dire material given to them. Oh, and the crucifixion was quite grisly, and mercifully short. (I was dreading the fact that they might do the resurrection and drag the thing out further.)

I can't think of any reason why anyone in the world (gay, straight, religious, atheist) would ever go to see this dreadfully boring play. God only knows why the theatre was packed on my visit. But maybe this bad play is a good sign of the increasing equality between gay and straight: gay people can make appalling plays, just like all us straight people have been doing for millennia!



William Burns

## reMix, Jon Courtenay Grimwood

reMix is the third book from Jon Courtenay Grimwood, whose previous cyber-punk works neoAddix and Lucifer's Dragon, met with favourable reviews.

reMix is your standard cyber-punk blend of corporate espionage, sex, violence, technology, sex and more violence, with various intertwined narratives. Taking place in what is essentially the William Gibson universe (complete with the razor fingered Molly of Neuromancer and Mona Lisa Overdrive fame) reMix manages to go one better than the established formula. The book has a somewhat wider scope than some of Gibson's books and certainly manages to satisfy the requirements for violence and sexy Asian assassins.

The sub-plots themselves are too involved to summarise in any meaningful way, but the books has a little bit for everyone, from the Christian cult in space (very novel prayer techniques between the leader and his hand maidens) to the steel eating virus sweeping across Europe and the Akira-type powers that one character discovers that she possesses. Although not written with quite Gibson's attention to atmospheric details, and somewhat less literary in its approach, reMix succeeds because of its blend of black-humour, stunning technologies and sheer energy.

It rocks, enjoy.



Russell

## Cool Classics and Books You Should Have Read

### The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho

The most successful book by Brazilian author Paulo Coelho, the Alchemist has sold over 20 million copies in 42 languages.

The allegorical tale of Santiago, a young Andalusian shepherd boy who is haunted by dreams of the Pyramids and great treasure waiting for his discovery, the Alchemist is about realising ones dreams. During the course of Santiago's travels we are presented with the wisdom of Coelho, namely that it is always best to follow your heart and to heed the omens and sighs that fate presents us.

The more cynical among the Imperial College student population might have something of a hard time with notions like, "When you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you achieve it." or "...the principle of favorability, beginner's luck. Because life wants you to achieve your destiny.", but taken on a less analytical level, there may be some truth that you can take away from the book.

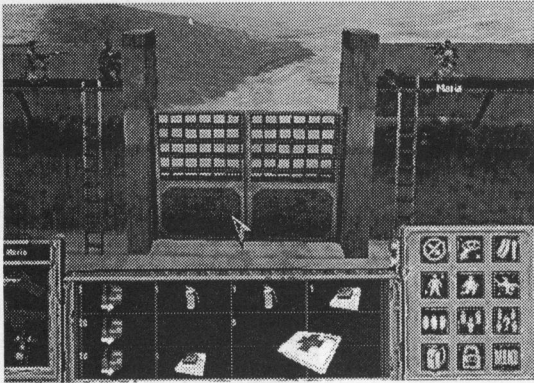
Certainly this is a book that I would recommend to all final year students thinking about what to do after graduation, who might be tempted to forget about destiny or their dreams when focusing too intently on starting salaries and bonus structures. Just a thought.

Buy it, read it, and then loan it to a friend.



Russell

# react



## Shadow Company (PC)

*Shadow Company* is a real time strategy game and involves lots of creeping about battlefields in the dark, lots of guns and ammunition and lots of killing. The player is placed in charge of a group of mercenaries and the goal is to complete your objectives and get out, hopefully without dying.

There are many aspects of this game which I liked. The missions are completely non-linear and the maps are very well designed. The player is completely free to choose his own path to accomplish the mission. The emphasis is always on using stealth and guile rather than firepower. In general the game is very playable. However the game is marred by a few problems which I'm sure more extensive testing and quality control would have solved.

For example, the graphics are one of the best and most frustrating aspects of this game. The scenarios take place on very well rendered three dimensional landscapes. The player views through a camera which is free to move anywhere on the map. The battlefields are littered with blown up vehicles and destroyed buildings. However more thought could have been put into the control of the player's camera. It can be difficult to position it where you want quickly. Another annoying feature is that the mercenaries cannot be told to automatically pick up the supplies left by the enemy. This allied with the difficult camera control makes restocking your soldiers inventory difficult and time consuming.

The game appears to have some bugs in it, for example I encountered soldier's graphics being out of sync with their positions and occasional problems with ladders and saving the game. The enemy AI is also poor. The characters have a very limited range of responses and even if you do manage to set the alarm bells ringing in the enemy camp, the characters merely ready their weapons and sit tight.

*Shadow Company* feels like a game which is nearly finished; the graphics are there and the game is certainly playable. However a little more time spent refining what is generally a good game could have turned it into a great one.

Graeme



Next week: Win this fighter jet!

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**gameswire.com**

A WHOLE NEW WORLD



## Rogue Spear (PC)

*Rogue Spear* puts you in charge of a crack anti-terrorist team in the near future. The break up of the Soviet block has led to great instability in much of the world, and to top it off, some nutcase has got hold of a nuke and isn't afraid to use it. As the missions progress the plot of the game is revealed until it becomes clear only you can save the western world (The rest of the world is already in pretty bad shape in this near future....).

When *Rainbow Six* was released, it was something of a novelty - a realistic first person shooter, with a unique planning element that made it a cerebral challenge. Since then, the likes of *Hidden and Dangerous* have improved considerably on *R6*'s graphics and even moved the planning in to real time, so it's about time to see what *Red Storm* can do to get back on top.

*Rogue Spear*'s graphics are certainly improved, and the level design is even more imaginative than its predecessor, with one mission in the war-torn streets of Kosovo being very reminiscent of a recent Spielberg movie. If there was one area that suggested itself for improvement however, it was the planning stage, and unfortunately this remains very similar. It's not possible to change a team's plan during the game, even when things are going diabolically, but maybe that's the point. The majority of missions are hostage rescue or bomb defusal style, and I suppose you only get one go at those. However, having to click on scroll and zoom buttons to navigate around any reasonably sized map during planning becomes tedious, though it is necessary should you choose not to accept the (often flawed) default plan. A more intuitive map that could be dragged around its window would have made a huge difference.

Additional features include the ability to play each mission in either "Lone Wolf" style or "Terrorist Hunt" once you've completed it normally. *Lone Wolf* puts you in a *Die Hard* situation, where you simply have to escape on your own, and *Terrorist Hunt* takes out any hostages and puts in more terrorists to give the game a slightly more arcade feel. *Terrorist Hunt* is also available in multi player, which saves cursing when your mate uses an unsilenced weapon and all the hostages get wasted.

Flaws aside, the planning element is still a vital and rewarding part of the game (I love it when a plan comes together!). The action is also swift and smooth as long as you have a 3D card, and if you have the patience to play it realistically rather than *Quake* style, it's great fun. You do have to play lots of missions over and over, but it takes less time than joining the SAS, and it's safer.

Gef



# react



## MISSION:IMPOSSIBLE (PSX)

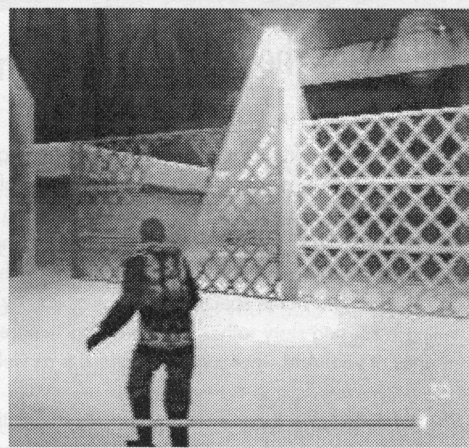
Having released a mediocre version of this title on the N64 a while back now, Infogrames are hoping that a reworked *MISSION:IMPOSSIBLE* for the Playstation will prove to be more of a success. Although officially affiliated to the movie, the game does not need to rely on the film's reputation to sell. The finely balanced combination of action, skill and strategy that made the film has been re-nurtured in its entirety here.

*MISSION:IMPOSSIBLE* sees you take on the role of various members of the Impossible Mission Force (the IMF - no relation to the screw up that is the International Monetary Fund. At least I hope not), in particular their most capable agent and point man, Ethan Hunt. You initially assume the identity of this hero on a variety of short missions loosely based on the film. These range from infiltrating the Russian ambassador's embassy (what no Ferrero Rocher?) to the unforgettable Eurostar train scene. The game is 'a la Tomb Raider' most of the time with the view being from behind the character, although you can switch to a first person perspective when you are carrying a weapon for aiming purposes. The control is pretty straight forward, and an initially tricky system of changing what you are holding soon becomes second nature. The graphics, while being nothing spectacular, are perfectly acceptable and the regular cut scenes help the game along nicely. Add the sound and music and an atmospheric gaming environment is generated. The gameplay is sometimes varied from the normal mode to alternative ones, notably controlling two rooftop snipers in one level and a puzzle like sequence when trying to avoid laser beams in another.

*MISSION:IMPOSSIBLE* for the Playstation is full

of neat features, such as the option that allows you to save halfway through a level so that should you fail you need not repeat the entire stage again. It may not breach the supremacy of *Metal Gear Solid*, but as an action-adventure game it is well recommended. Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to hop down to your nearest retailer and check *MI* out. This review will self-destruct in five-seconds...

hobo



## Get Fresh with Post-it Note Goody Bags!

Post-it Notes have teamed up with Eidos Interactive to provide you with a truly amazing offer: a student goody bag that will not only help you organise your work, but allow you to play! A combination of several packs of Post-it Notes, handy Scotch Tape Strips, CD Wipes, pens and a Playstation game can't fail to get you off on the right foot at College!

The Scotch Tape Strip Hand Dispenser, with an additional refill pack, eliminates the need to bite or pre-cut several pieces of tape - now all you have to do is pull one tape strip and another one pops straight up automatically (that's technological progress for you). The perfect stress-free way to put up posters in your room.

The Post-it Notes are indispensable when researching essays or studying for exams - you can use them to tag pages and quickly reference different sections of a book without damaging the pages. In addition, the Post-it Note arrow shaped pad is also a great way to mark key places in documents. And when you've done all

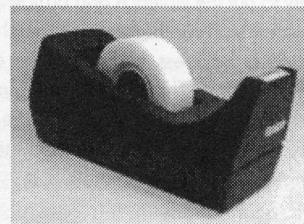
your preliminary research the two Pilot pens are perfect for jotting down your notes!

# EIDOS

# Scotch™

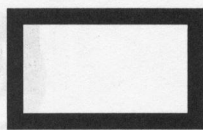
Scotch CD Wipes ensure that time spent on your computer is smooth and trouble-free by removing the oily fingerprints, dust and dirt on CD-ROMs that could result in lost work and missed deadlines.

After all that work it's time to relax! In the Playstation game *Gex: Deep Cover Gecko* the loveable lizard's mission is to find and rescue the beautiful agent Xtra after she is kidnapped. You must guide him through 24 different levels, taking on several different disguises and trying your hand at scuba diving, snowboarding and driving enemy tanks



To win one of these fabulous goody bags come up with a humorous acronym of our aptly?? named logo REACT. You get points for humour and suitability. Send in your effort to [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk) or visit Felix by **Wednesday 12pm**.

# screen



## Ride With The Devil



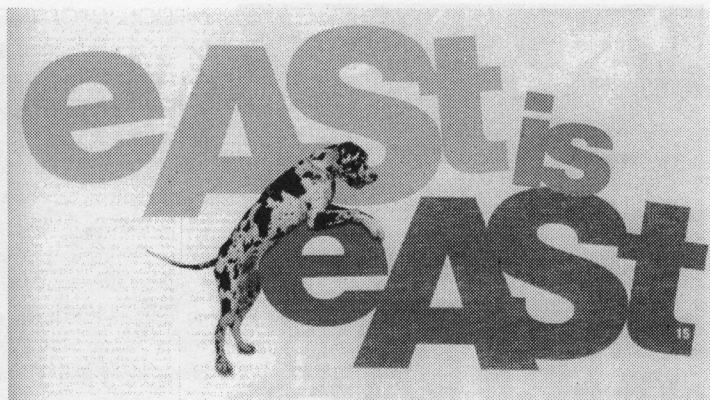
So, the 43rd London Film Festival is here. It kicks off with the premiere of this film, which fully deserves its top billing. It is a film of quality, with superb acting and fantastic cinematography. Set in the American Civil War, this film will not be your average IC student's cup of tea: there are no light sabres or flashy special effects, no Keanu Reeves wandering about with nice shades on. It is a film at the other end of the spectrum; it involves you by stirring your emotions and telling a rousing story rather than throwing hundreds of computer generated images at you. And what a nice change it is as well.

The film follows the fortunes of a group of pro-Southern Bushwhackers around the Missouri-Kansas border in the 1860's. For those of you who not up to speed on your American Civil War history, I will quickly explain. In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed which meant that States had to vote on whether they would allow slavery. They would then be either slave states or free states. However violent conflicts in and around Kansas ensued with pro-slavery settlers, allied with people from neighbouring Missouri, fighting anti-slavery Kansas "Jay-Hawkers". Soon afterwards, the Civil War broke out, with Missouri (now a slave state) siding with the Northern Union, rather than the Southern Confederacy, i.e. most of the states surrounding it. What followed was division of loyalties, even between members of families and led to local militia "Bushwhackers" (pro-Confederacy) undertaking guerrilla warfare against the North's Union soldiers and sympathisers. The worst atrocity was the Lawrence Massacre (re-created in the film) in which the town of Lawrence was ransacked by pro-Confederacy militia with the loss of 180 lives.

So we follow in the trials and tribulations of a small band of men, firstly as they hide in the hills during the winter from the army, and then into the spring where differing opinions lead the group to disband. Leaving their companions behind, Jake Roedel (Tobey Maguire) and a former slave Daniel Holt (Jeffrey Wright), try to put the violence and brutality behind them by heading south and making a new start for themselves. The characters having slowly realised that the situation is hopeless and futile; the only people the Bushwhackers are killing are innocents. They are not killing members of the army but their families. But the other members of his unit are not so sympathetic and would prefer to stay until the bitter end, showing that these men had no real humanity and were nothing short of animals.

Maguire plays a difficult part excellently, as does Wright, but the whole cast must be congratulated on a fine performance. The production of the film is first rate with director Ang Lee showing again (after *Sense and Sensibility*) that he is an accomplished period filmmaker. The emotions are stirred effectively by the struggles of the central characters, while the realism of war is often sickeningly displayed. You could do far worse than spending a few hours watching a film of this calibre.

Drew



## East Is East



Ok, the cinema was in Brixton, it was a bit messy, everybody was trying to sell us "puff" and the number of people watching this preview equalled your average ICU presidential election voting turnout (about eight). Bad omens for a film I knew nothing about having had the tickets thrust at me only hours before. "It's got the doctor from Eastenders in it," was all the information I was told. Things started to look up when the cinema started playing Big Band music in the time gap between the film starting and all eight people turning up. This was going to a British Film and a very cool one at that. I wasn't let down.

'East Is East' is set around a large Pakistani family living in Salford (the director's hometown) in 1971. The father came over from Pakistan in 1937, leaving behind his first wife, and married an English woman. They raised seven children and run a chip shop. The father is determined to impose his Pakistani beliefs onto his offspring. One such belief is arranged marriages. When he arranges for his two eldest sons to be married to two of the ugliest girls on the planet, things start to blow up in his face. Whilst this all sounds very serious, the whole plot revolves around a set of comic set pieces, involving circumcision, the thick girl next door, the racist bigot across the road and one sons attempts at modern art.

From the start it was obvious that 'East Is East' had a script with the calibre of a 12 bore shot gun. Well written, sharp, witty, hilarious, touching, sensitive and glorious are all words that could be used to describe the script writing. One moment you are rolling about on the floor and then before you know it you are almost crying at the sadness of the leading roles. This was not just due to the script. All of the actors managed to portray such a sense of realism that, even in some of the more obtusely funny scenes, your level of empathy was huge. You just believed in the characters and the story as a whole. This level of involvement is also heightened if you have ever had any Pakistani friends who have gone through the whole arranged marriage thing, and helped them get through all the cultural clashes that go on when East meets West. Another aspect that added to the atmosphere of the film was the attention to detail in the clothing and sets. It looked and felt like a genuine 1971 Salford street.

Film Four has done it again: produced a low budget, all British, different but brilliant film. Ok, so I only recognised one actor and I haven't a clue who the director is, but this film is fantastic, touching and hilarious and, for me, better than 'The Full Monty'.

Eddy

# ICU CINEMA

## What's on at ICU Cinema This Week

So have you been to ICU cinema yet? C'mon then get going. Did you know it has one of the largest screens in London and a brand new amazing sound system. Well, now you do. This week ICU cinema is showing the piss-your-pants funny **South Park** and hilarious **Analyse This**. Both are definately five star films so if didn't get to see these films over the summer now's your chance.

South Park (in case you haven't been on this planet for the last 12 months) is an adult cartoon about four kids living in a town called South Park. There has been a TV series and mass merchandising so I think everyone knows what I'm talking about. This film is one of the funniest films of the year and is a must see for all students. You will find yourself quoting for weeks after this film so be warned. South Park contains explicit language so if you don't like the word f\*\*\* and get offended by bad language don't bother watching this film. While the language in the TV series is bleeped out, the naughty words in this film are not. Apparently, this film uses the F-word more times than Pulp Fiction. Now that's an achievement.

Analyse This is a comedy starring Robert De Niro and Billy Crystal. You probably read the review in the first edition and never got to see it as you were too busy doing Freshers Week. Well now you can see Analyse This in the comfort of the Union. De Niro is a gangster (what a surprise!) who has 'issues' and needs a psychiatrist to help him sort himself out. Crystal is the unfortunate psychiatrist who has to deal with him. Also starring in Analyse This is Lisa Kudrow (Pheobe from Friends) who's character is not that dissimilar to Pheobe. She plays Crystal's wife to-be. The film follows the antics of this off-the-wall patient-doctor relationship.

Both films are being shown on Monday and Tuesday evenings in the Union but as always make sure you check the posters on the walkway or the advertisement somewhere in Felix for the times and details of prices. Ok, it doesn't show the latest blockbusters, but as least it's cheap and you can take your beer and curry in with you.

ICU Cinema is looking for staff to sell tickets, ice-creams and do other stuff so if you fancy getting to watch free films or would like to know how a cinema works then get in touch with the cinema. Either ask the people working at the cinema when you go this week or mail them at [cinema@ic.ac.uk](mailto:cinema@ic.ac.uk).

# screen



# ODEON

## East Is East Competition

This week's competition courtesy of the Odeon Kensington gives you the chance to win tickets to see 'East is East'. Have you read the review and decided that you would like to see it? If so enter this competition and you and a friend could be going to see East Is East for free.

Instead of the normal answer a question and you could win a prize just e-mail

[film.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@ic.ac.uk)

telling me why you want to go and see this film. Please try and be imaginative, as I hate reading boring e-mails. The more interesting the answer the better your chances of winning this week. The best five e-mails will win and be able to enjoy a night out for zero pence. Just make sure you e-mail films by 12 noon on Wednesday 10 October.

Congratulations to the winners of last week's Pushing Tin competition. They are :

A Georgilidakis  
D Mcshane  
S Jasay  
E Bray  
A Majid

Please call by the Felix office to collect your tickets or mail us at the above e-mail address to make other arrangements.

## Offers, Offers, Offers

If you have been entering the competitions and not winning do not despair. The Odeon Kensington has a money saving scheme. You are able to purchase a film credit booklet for £47. I know that sounds a lot of money but read on to find out what you get. Your little booklet contains, amongst other things, 8 cinema tickets - so in effect you get two tickets completely free. You also get 4 vouchers for money off drinks and popcorn, discounts on subscription to Heat and Empire magazines, a voucher for a discount film soundtrack and a chance to win their groovy competition. Sounds good, doesn't it. It is a really good offer especially if you enjoy going to the cinema quite a lot. Odeon Kensington is situated at the far end of High Street Kensington and you can buy the film credit booklet from the box-office there.

**FELIX** **S** **E** **V** **E** **N**  
**Monday** **Tuesday** **Wednesday** **Thursday** **Friday**

**EVENTS**

**STA Quiz Night**  
 Win £50 cash or a crate of lager. 8pm, da Vinci's

**XS**  
 Classic party tunes for the post-match party, plus cocktail bar and chill out room. 9-1am, dBs

**Cocktail Night**  
 Relax and cool down with the cheapest cocktails in town. 5-11pm, da Vinci's

**Pop Tarts**  
 Cheesy music and four bars combine to make a perfect end to the week. **Bust-A-Gut Comedy 8pm dBs**  
 The up-and-coming Simon Evans joins the more familiar Hal Cruttenden.

**CLUBS**

**HamSoc**  
 5 - 6:30pm  
 Union Bar  
 Contact Simon Kahn (simon.kahn@ic.ac.uk) for more information

**Archery**  
 6-10pm, Projectile Jall (Sports Centre)

**Fencing Club**  
 Union Gym, 12pm

**Wine Tasting**  
 6pm, dB's

**Canoe Club**  
 Practice session, 7pm

**CAG**  
 Soup run, 8.15pm

**Shooting**  
 1 - 10pm, Projectile Hall (Sports Centre)

**CAG**  
 Soup run, 8.15pm  
 Week's Basement

**ICU Choir**  
 Rehearsal, 6.15pm  
 Room 342, Mech Eng.

**PhotoSoc**  
 Meeting, 1pm  
 Southside Lounge.

**Music**

**Eminem @ Astoria; £12.50**  
 The scrawny white rapper cruises over the Atlantic to tour his infamous new album.

**Sugarhill Gang @ Embassy Rooms; £12.50**  
 The crew behind 'Rapper's Delight' play an 'intimate gig'.

**Dodgy @ Scala; £8**  
 Yes, they're back with a new lead singer and the same old songs. Support from a Welsh indie outfit.

**The Divine Comedy @ The Barbican; £12.50**  
 The Divine Comedy will play an acoustic set as part of Flux.

**Film**

**The Sixth Sense**  
 Bruce Willis stars in this horror flick with a human touch.  
 Virgin Fulham Rd. 3.40, 6.30, 9.10

**Blair Witch Project**  
 Supposedly the scariest film ever - certainly the most hyped.  
 Odeon Kensington 4.55, 7.05, 9.15

**American Pie**  
 Watch American kids wank into apple pie. Hmmm.  
 Virgin Fulham Rd. 4.00, 6.10, 8.40

**Deep Blue Sea**  
 The scariest (and cheesiest) shark film since Jaws.  
 Virgin Fulham Rd. 3.30, 6.00, 8.20

**Pushing Tin**  
 John Cusak stras in this surreal, offbeat, comedy drama.  
 Odeon Kensington 3.30, 8.40

**TV**

**Staying Lost**  
 9.00pm, C4  
 Find out how to spend time in Soho if it all gets too much at home...

**Right about now**  
 6.00pm, C4  
 Show biz news, gossip and interviews introduced by the ever present Zoe Ball.

**Crash**  
 11pm, Sky Moviemax  
 Couples get horny as they watch massive motorway pile-ups. Whatever turns you on.

**The 11 o'clock show**  
 11pm, C4  
 News satire with Daisy Donovan and Ian Lee. Hopefully Ali G will make an appearance.

**It's a knockout**  
 8.00pm, C5  
 Keith Chegwin and Frank Bruno provide some pre-club entertainment!

**Arts**

**The Art of Bloomsbury**  
 Tate Gallery  
 A new exhibition of the artists paintings. Running until 20th January so there's no hurry.

**Murder & Madness**  
 Gielgud theatre, £5  
 Three short plays kick off the London New Play Festival which will include new plays and workshops.

**The Davids**  
 Finborough Theatre, £6  
 This play promises to turn a few heads with its examination of masculinity and a picture of a naked bloke on the flyer.

**Bazart**  
 This touring showcase of new artists starts in London today.  
 Foyles Bookshop, Charing Cross Road.

**D** **A** **Y**  
**Saturday** **Sunday** **Next Week**

**Kung Fu Club**  
 (Wu Shu Kwan)  
 Southside Gym  
 4:30pm - 6:30pm

**Kung Fu Club**  
 (Wu Shu Kwan)  
 Union Gym  
 4:30pm - 6:30pm

**Rag**  
 pint glass sale  
 Tuesday 16th  
 November  
 12-2pm, JCR

**Blondie & Squeeze @ The London Arena; £22.50**  
 The price makes this one for the keen Blondie fan only.

**Horace Andy @ Scala £10**  
 Better known for his distinctive vocals on Massive Attack songs than as a solo artist.

**LJF**  
 The London Jazz festival continues with the likes of Courtney Pine and Juan De Marcos.

**Tarzan**  
 Disney's latest critically acclaimed animated feature.  
 Odeon Kensington 12.20, 2.30, 4.40

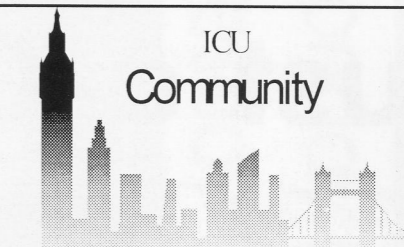
**Runaway Bride**  
 Gere and Roberts attempt to recapture the Pretty Woman magic.  
 Odeon Kensington 6.05, 8.45

**Later with Jools Holland**  
 11.25pm, BBC2  
 Top bands and less well-known acts play for Jools.

**Songs of Praise**  
 5.30pm BBC1  
 'Night Fever' for the Sunday evening crowd.

**Contemporary Photography Fair; Strand Palace Hotel, 10am - 6pm**  
 See and even win some top photography.

**Nirvana - a retrospective**  
 Proud Galleries  
 24th November  
 A retrospective of Nirvana with a British theme.



**ACTION**  
 Group

**ICU Community Action Group URGENTLY NEEDS MINIBUS DRIVERS for the Tuesday and Thursday night soup runs.**

So if you're over 21, have been driving in the UK for at least 2 years, and can spare a couple of hours on Tuesday or Thursday evenings, then . . .

Contact Nada at [iccag@ic.ac.uk](mailto:iccag@ic.ac.uk)

ICU Jazz and Rock presents...

# CALAMARI

<http://listen.to/calamari>

"sensational alternative rock"  
 ~Melody Maker

See them live at :

**KINGS HEAD, FULHAM**

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November @9pm

Flyers available from Union office

Debut EP "A LITTLE MORE" out now - contact us at [mpf2@ic.ac.uk](mailto:mpf2@ic.ac.uk)

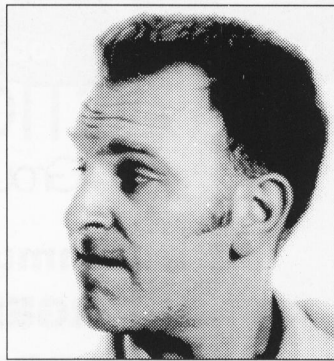
# Bust-a-Gut Comedy

The third show in this year's Bust-A-Gut Comedy line-up lands in dBs this Friday, with Simon Evans and Hal Cruttenden on the menu.

Simon Evans

One of the most exciting new talents to emerge in recent years, Simon (right) is rising fast - not like a soufflé, but powerfully and with purpose, more like a Polaris, or a long oppressed people...

Since reaching the finals of the 1997 Daily Telegraph Open Mic Award he has gone on to headline venues around the country, and his debut show at this year's Edinburgh Festival saw a



succession of sell-out performances. Simon has also become a regular feature on a variety of radio and TV shows, and is currently developing a new sitcom with the BBC.



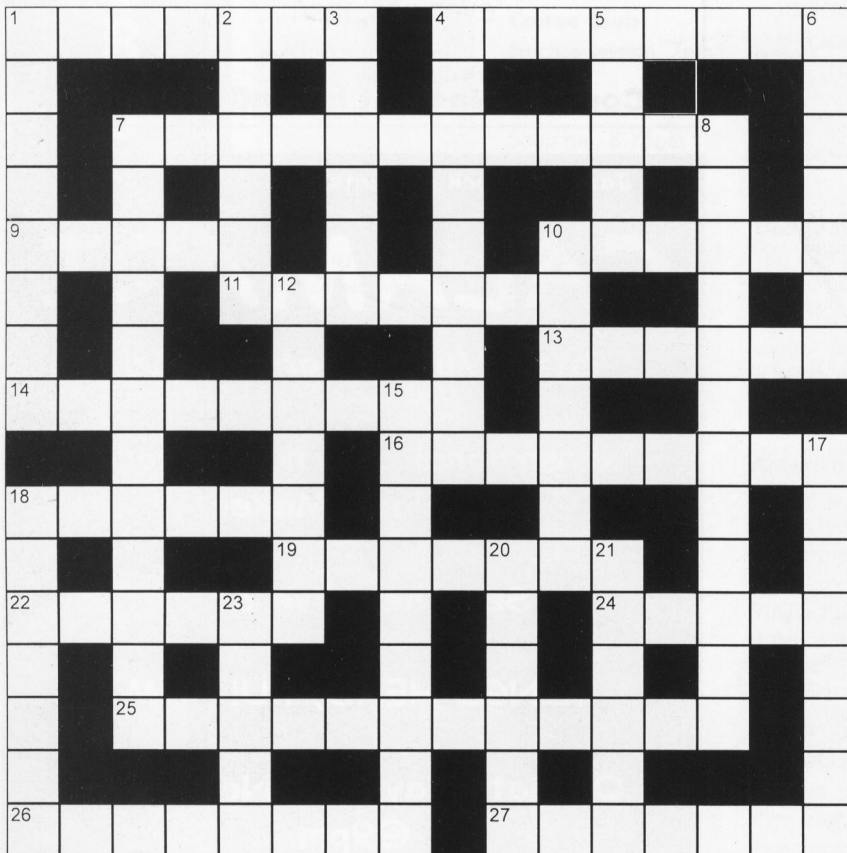
Hal Cruttenden

Having trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, Hal (above) began his professional career as an actor with a string of

bit-part appearances on shows like Eastenders, Kavanagh QC and Bramwell. As a comic his TV credits include The Warehouse, House of Fun, Net.Comedy and Hoot.

Hal has performed at the majority of comedy clubs on the London circuit including the Comedy Store, Jongleurs and Banana Cabaret. He is also becoming a regular face at comedy clubs across the rest of the country, from Dublin to Manchester to Exeter. Looking further afield still, Hal has recently returned from the Australian Comedy Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe, where he starred in a very successful three-handed show.

## The Felix Crossword, by Turnip Henry



### Across

1. Leaves piles of sand. (7)
4. Nobleman with title goes South for piercing places. (8)
7. Start a story in ancient times. (1,4,4,3)
9. Yes, German corn for this man. (5)
10. Money skill. (6)
11. Covered with printer ink, he sings. (7)
13. A rotor chops up the speaker. (6)
14. Obtain cod for Marsupial. (9)
16. All points to spy selling papers. (9)
18. Just what one needs for the train. (6)
19. Live here wearing monk's clothing. (7)
22. Lorraine's food. (6)
24. Geometrist who sounds a bit greasy, perhaps. (5)
25. Messy Spica hairdos make one horny. (12)
26. Confessed to having been let in. (8)
27. While falling over, baby turns alien to Religious Studies. (7)

### Down

1. Outdoor jamboree has support for portal. (8)
2. Greek letter may be implemented, initially, in shapes. (6)
3. Swan has ring. (6)
4. One mile up, Nathan goes East to kill someone. (9)
5. A mall returns creature. (5)
6. Not in the West, but everywhere else a hill is politically important. (7)
7. Pre-mongolian: very old crockery. (7,5)
8. Far far away, and perhaps more than a bit old. (4,3,5)
10. Revolutionist runs slowly on snow. (7)
12. Accessory to suicide. (7)
15. Self-imposed handicap, perhaps because one can do it all alone. (3-6)
17. Warm gusts from underwear. (8)
18. Mexican that makes you happy, perhaps. (7)
20. Look after cot that makes room...(6)
21. ...for dweller: worker with inside-out net. (6)
23. Tall headgear for drum-kit. (2-3)

### Answer to 1155

**Across:** Cwm, Aardvarks, Amber, Heifer, Pablo, Lipophilic, Elute, Moog, Obelisk, Bargain, Noah, Realm, Decahedron, Tutti, Hobbit, Diazo, Moderates, Nut.

**Down:** Companion, Marble, Absolution, And Spam, Alibi, Sir, Hippo, Elite, Leek, Gargantuan, Gnarllest, Burn, Credo, Overt, Hirsute, Mutton, Amble, Hum.

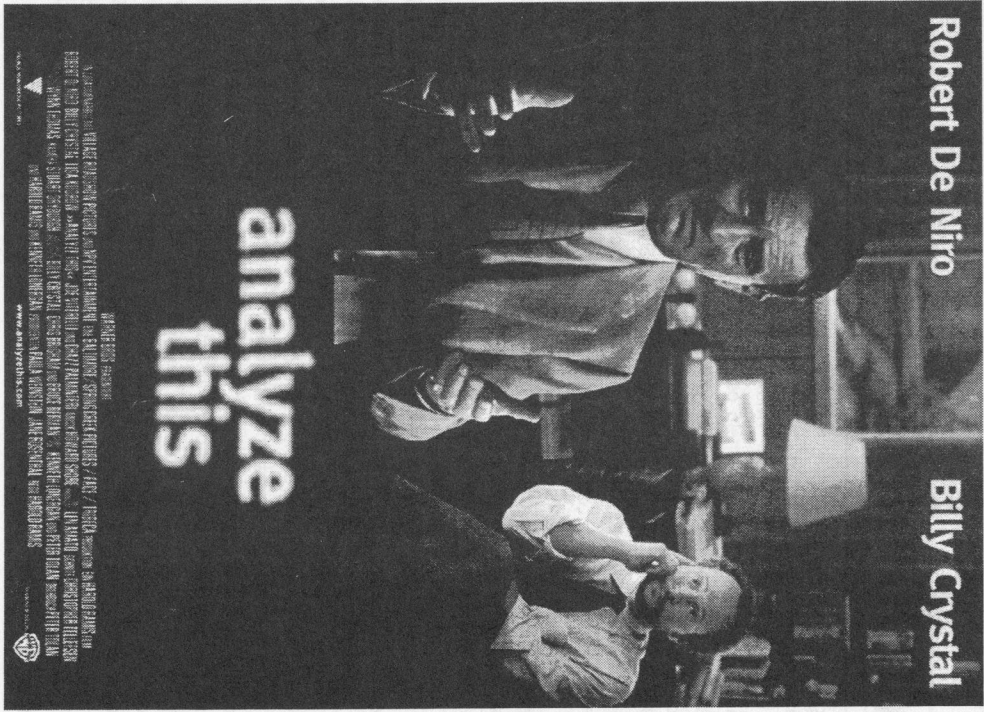
I like alternative spellings...they make my life easier. I promise they're all valid, but do be careful (would I lie to you?).

# ICU CINEMA

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Union Building, 2nd Floor. The cinema is open to I.C. students & staff.  
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Monday 8th November 6:00pm  
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# Fencers keep QMW on the hop

## Fencing

### Men's Fencing (Bints)

After the last match, we were prepared to change our tactics – we were gonna win. An almost full turn-out... Marino "Never here" Janahan being the only first team selection who was missing. First weapon was sabre: Meaty John, Joe-Joe "Lightweight" Wong (making his IC first team debut) and Mo "Captain Animal" Mansoori. Our first time with three sabreurs on the sabre team meant that we totally outclassed QMW in what turned out to be our best weapon performance with Meaty and Animal winning all their fights and Lightweight only losing one of his 5-4. Excellent display by the IC sabreurs (good skills boys!).

### SABRE:

IC ..... 8  
QMW ..... 1

Foil next and the team consist-

ing of Dave "...so, are you single?" APK Davidge, Dave "Jaws" Hughes and Pete "the Leprechaun" Montgomery (also making his debut). A convincingly good fence by APK who won all his fights (nice one Dave). Jaws won two and the Leprechaun was unlucky and having only won one fight. With the match now firmly in the Bints' grasp we could now afford to ease up, sparing QMW the embarrassment of a crushing defeat.

### FOIL:

IC ..... 6  
QMW ..... 3

Epèe was next with Riccardo "The Italian Stallion" Sapienza, Jaws and Lightweight. The Stallion showed his prowess with his weapons (and also fenced well). He won all three of his fights with ease. Jaws and Lightweight failed to impress the ladies badminton team by losing all their fights.

### EPÈE:

IC ..... 3  
QMW ..... 6

Bints 17 – 10 QMW

### Ladies Fencing (Wannabe Bints)

Unfortunately QMW produced a very competitive team this year and many of our regular fencers were hit by the dreaded flu bug. The team consisted of "Legal" Captain Katherine, "Cockney" Clare Grove and Ursula "Titi's" Marciniomi who fenced admirably against a team of regular international players (they're bloody good at fencing too!). Many of the fights were close providing excitement for the men's team, but alas victory was not ours for the taking. Hopefully the (complete) team will fare better against Kings next week.

Wannabe Bints 1 – 17 QMW

# IC come from behind

## Hockey 2nds

IC II ..... 3  
Kings II ..... 2

Riding the boogie-board, on the crest of a wave IC 2nds sweep all before them.

The start did not go as planned. Captain Chunder missed an open goal, and Multi-Storey scored an own goal. IC 0-1 down.

The boys were shocked into action. Bruce Lee and Jean Claude van Damme destroyed the midfield, steady Eddie took it out wide and Geography Teacher finished off sublime move 1-1!

Finally the 2nd team have developed into a fluid attacking force. Captain Chunder made up for the earlier cock-up by finishing the attack move of the millennium. Geography Teacher swept in the third goal, and only the referee prevented a landslide. Fired up and ready to go, the disco squad should be afraid of revenge. Very afraid!

# ICSM Mountaineering Society

A mountaineering venture outside Britain was long overdue but it needed the incentive to take on the organising and sorting out that such an undertaking requires - Caroline did a first class job.

On the 19th of July we wear ready. Got across the Channel without throwing up but made up for it on several roundabouts on the way to Switzerland. Eighteen hours after leaving Wilson house, we arrived at our destination on the campsite "Shoenblich" in Saas Grund.

If action was the key word, there was enough in the next three days to satisfy the biggest of appetites, starting off with a lesson on how to and how not to behave on a glacier. Kevin (Batman) our other guide took the more experienced group, while Robin (friend of Batman) took the rest. We practiced step cutting, front pointing, moving up and down steep ice, jumping across crevasses, burying ice axes and the more awkward job of locating them again. Crevasse rescuing (as we had practiced in the Lake

District) was put to the test, only this time in a more authentic setting. I still remember vividly hearing agonising cries for help as Kate rapidly disappeared down an icy crack, out of view. Oh, did we laugh!

When the Sun appeared we were already well on our way. "Climb slowly, conserve energy, keep going but don't stop" was the instruction from the front. Up and up digging our crampons into steep ice, put one foot in front of the other, watch out for the crevasses next to you, spike in, step up - the ridge looks miles up on the sky. After an hour we can still measure the distance behind us but looking ahead it still feels as endless as before. Black dots on the white background show that there are other people around but all that is audible are thumps in the snow, occasional click from an ice axe and heavy breathing - plenty of that.

Crossing frail looking snow bridges, passing sheets of ice with icicles like giant lances dangling from its side, scaling steep walls or just follow

a narrow path that is steeply carved into the mountainside laced with the ice. What am I doing? Reason goes out of the window - best just accept whatever comes your way - just put one foot in front of the other. Not even time for photographs.

Four and a half hours after starting off, both groups reached the top at 4,027 metres, the highest point for some of us. Some sweated blood to get there, while others wondered what all the fuss was about. Yet all agreed upon one thing, an incredibly good feeling standing on top of the world with breathtaking views all around us. The Sun is out in full force and we are at peace with our surroundings. "Heaven" (even the heavy breathing has ceased and the only sounds are a faint breeze and the clicking of our cameras).

After a bite to eat, we were ready to go down, this time on the south side to get to the "Almagellerhut", our abode for the following night. The route is mixed snow, ice and rock and we learnt to move down (in pairs) effi-

ciently with "natural" protection, weaving the rope between fixed boulders to keep safety to the forefront without sacrificing speed. Only on the harder sections one climbs while the other belays in the conventional way. All too soon we reached the hut and spent the rest of the afternoon participating in local customs (drinking schnapps while banging on a cow bell).

A big breakfast with extra helpings of coffee, bread, butter, cheese and the jam put us on the right frame of mind for a day of rock climbing. Our route possesses everything anyone could wish for. Steep walls, airy traverses, some tricky mantelshelves, a slight overhang and as a bonus a "Tyrolean traverse" (a rope set up between two rocky spikes, some distance apart, where you clip yourself in and pull hand over hand across the void). That completed our three-day course. Robin and Kevin were on the whole pretty satisfied with our performances, wished us luck and stay safe.

# Seconds slay St. George's

## Ladies Hockey

IC II .....	3
St George's .....	0

Having been told that we didn't have any opponents, the girls boarded the coach eagerly to head for their walkover. But when we got to the pitch, we found not only a full team but one with plenty of subs. As there were only 8 of us (since Underdown had a rather too good night at Scandies the night before and was deemed to ill to play, plus a few others who missed the coach), Chunderbird kidnapped 3 football players, Marie, Vasso and Sarah whilst the team battled on. Despite the fact that the opponents had a full team and we only had 8, we were storming and whilst the football girls were having a quick lesson at hockey on the sidelines, Katie

sneaked a crafty one past the goalie and we were 1-0 up. The football girls were at times a little confused by the rules of hockey, but they were great.

Half time came and went quickly and we continued in style. Patsy's classy goal swiftly followed and we were on a roll. George's had a shot at goal but that was easily dismissed by our fabulous goalie Louise. That was the only attempt they had on goal. After this slight shock, the girls were back to work and just before full time, Tinky-Winky cunningly deflected the ball into the net making our victory complete. Just as well we turned up, otherwise it would have been a 6-0 defeat for us. Once again we are grateful to the football girls Marie, Vasso and Sarah and we'll return the favour soon.

# Ladies split a pair

## Ladies Football

Sun. 31st Oct.	Wed. 3rd Nov.
IC Ladies .....	IC Ladies .....
LSE .....	QMW .....
2	1
1	2

The witches of LSE tried their best to cast their spell on IC this Halloween but failed. Ex-IC striker Juliet was up to her usual tricks, hacking our defence down and LSE hadn't changed a bit since we beat them last year 1-0.

IC went ahead after about 15 mins thanks to Marie's diving header off a flicked on corner. From then on it was an evenly matched game of offside ping-pong mostly due to great defensive tactical manoeuvres from both sides. Jasmine slid one away after a cross/shot skidded across the goal face and Juliet put one past our stand in keeper Mel to leave it 2-1 to IC at full time.

QMW beat us 9-0 the previous week, mainly because only 9 people turned up for the match. This week, with a full team and three subs, we felt we were in with a chance. The game was almost evenly matched in the first half hour. IC had a few chances but lacked finishing touches. QMW finally pierced through the IC defence, but we were back in the game with an excellent individual effort from Becky. With the score 1-1 30 seconds from half time, we still felt we were in with a chance to get three points from the game, but a lack of chances in the second half didn't yield any more goals. QMW were luckier, winning the game with a shot going in off the post from outside the area.

## Ladies Rugby

IC Virgins .....	35
UCL .....	0

Our winning ways continue its now 3 out of 3. A period of intense pressure straight from kick off led to a penalty that Romy duly converted. We were then straight back at them again and after a long period of pressure Romy crashed through to score, and then converted her try. Despite excellent play by their fly half, our forwards were stunning and no. 8 Claire powered through 5 players to score. An excellent break by Clare allowed Joe to score her 1st try. Then Betsy scored a runaway try to complete the half. The good play continued into the second half and we were starting to look impressive. After spending much of the half in scrums. We ended up on their line and Kate went over in the corner for her debut try. The game finished with another try from Betsy. Well done to Jessamy Miriam and Emma for their 1st matches.

P.s. You're not supposed to laugh at Kryzi's conversion attempt when you were all too chicken to try.

## Football

IC I .....	4
ICSM.....	1

From the start, I.C. 1sts controlled the play. Slick passing throughout the team left the defence a little bored, so bored in fact that the medics managed to take the lead with their first, and last chance of the half. Finishing proved to be a slight problem for most of this game with numerous chances going begging. The score was finally levelled just before half-time when Marcos found out he could kick again!

The second half followed the same pattern as the first: loads of chances, loads of misses. Nak finally gave the 1sts a well-earned lead finishing from close range after a slapstick goalmouth scramble. The third came from Private Waight, scoring with his head from Steve's corner. The best goal of all came next with Marcos scoring again after a controlled build up, to wrap up the game.

At the end of the day, a comfortable win for the 1sts, and the margin of victory could easily have been more.

# IC shooters in charge

## Rifle Shooting

During the summer, three members of the Imperial College Union Rifle and Pistol club entered the National Rifle Association's 130th Imperial Meeting. This event attracted over a thousand competitors from all over the world for two weeks of individual team matches.

In the individual competitions Philip Golds scored an excellent 49.7 (ex 50.10) in the 900 yard Conan Doyle competition to finish 59th and was placed in the Clementi Smith and Elkington aggregates. Gareth Hillier shot well in his first proper Bisley meeting, being placed on five prized lists including 14th in the Admiral Hutton Tyro Trophy. Andrew Eldridge made the top fifty in six competitions, including 6th place in the final of the St Georges Prize.

All three IC shooters shot for University of London in the BUSA team matches. Against opposition from Bath, Bristol, Cam-

bridge, Edinburgh, Nottingham, Oxford, Reading and Southampton universities, London came fourth in the musketeers (short and middle distances), 2nd in the university's long range and 1st in the universities aggregate matches. Andrew also shot for the winning England team in the Universities National Match.

The social side of the meeting proved equally enjoyable with events such as the annual University of London Hog Roast, which catered for over 120 people and involved the cooking of a whole lamb and a pig on the barbecue. Phil and Gareth narrowly avoided being put on the barbecue themselves, having arrived wearing polo shirts bearing the legend "Smallbore: for men who don't need big guns"

All in all, the meeting proved very successful for the shooters representing IC. Our thanks to ICU for their support of entry.

# SPORT

## Medics prove tough nut to crack

### ICSM Hockey

GKT I ..... 1  
 ICSM I ..... 2

A depleted ICSM squad made the trek to one of the less salubrious parts of South London to take on a talented and young GKT side. With four regular players missing, the voyage was made more in hope than true expectation. However, despite the loss of many crucial members of the side, it was the return of Hugo Boyce that was to have the biggest influence on the match. His presence added both defensive steel and attacking flair to the critical centre midfield

zone. The ICSM gameplan revolved around absorbing pressure, and relying on rapid counter-attacks. With the defence again working splendidly as a unit, and the midfield industrious in their tackling cover, it was left to Boyle and Hadfield to create chances at the GKT end. The first goal came from a short-corner won from a counter attacking breakaway. The short corner strike from Fishpool worming and squirming through a sea of boots and sticks, before embarrassingly nudging the backboard. The GKT reply was swift

and classy. A free hit to the edge of the area was blitzed across the D, and the hitherto anonymous GKT centre-forward stole in front of his marker, to glance the ball in off the far post.

The second half saw the midfield area open up as fatigue set in. But the only goal of the half was again scored on the counter, when a deft lob by Hadfield cleared the prostrate keeper for the matchwinner. ICSM thus gained three crucial away points, and GKT were sent back to the drawing board, perplexed at how to break down such solid defensive display.

## Rugby lads kick bucks

### Rugby

IC I ..... 41  
 Buckinghamshire Chilterns ..... 7

Once again the lads started well some good scrummaging and rucking. This week Jamie "disco superman" Duggin started the game, but due to the fact that he'd had 28 pies and 30 union curries before the game he wasn't quite as sharp as usual. The first try came from a strong run from Sven Jupp playing on the wing, quickly followed by a belly flop of a try by Matt the twat. The third try came from another superb run by monkey man Stevns (a little greedy perhaps?) Rainey yet again to score, except with his best mates bird! There was excellent support from Dan and Tref, as well as the subs who were in good voice. Craig Withers also had an awesome first

game for the 1sts. The opposition got in a fluke try while the ref. wasn't looking and half their side were blatantly off side. We increased the pace as half time approached but we couldn't force one through the gaps in their defence. The second half saw a decrease in performance but two class tries were scored and one not so classy try for Matt Poolips, who came good with some nice runs and a well deserved try. Dave G.A.Y. Gol also scored a quality 50 yard try with elusive running and great dummies. All in all a good game but we should have scored more. The ref was appalling, the coach driver was a knob, but good play and some good kicking from Hoggy lead to a good win. Roll on next week.

## IC put best foot forward

### Cross Country

Richmond Park was the setting for the second round of the League. Dorchie went one better on her second place last time to win the race, backed up by the ever-present Luise (14th) and debutant Delies in 29th completed the ladie team.

104 men toed the line and Ben-Ron led home the men in 5th place having seen slightly more of Neil than he wanted. The ex-Gaffer (9th) and Frank who spanked the race in 15th were next home before Jodie (20) and Daisy Boy (24) completed the A team.

The runners continued to pile in and before we knew it our B + C teams had beaten UCL and Kings As. We return to do battle in a fortnight at Wimbledon and by Christmas IC should be top of the league. Watch this space.

### SCOREBOARD

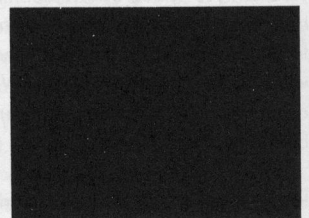
HOCKEY	
IC I	11 - 2 RUMS
IC III	11 - 1 RUMS
IC Wmn II	3 - 1 Georges
FOOTBALL	
IC I	4 - 1 ICSM
IC II	3 - 4 Goldsmiths
IC IV	2 - 6 Kings
IC VI	7 - 2 LSE
IC VII	3 - 11 KCL
IC Ladies	1 - 2 QMW
RUGBY	
IC I	34 - 0 Bucks
IC III	50 - 0 St Mary's
IC Ladies	35 - 0 UCL
DARTS	
IC Darts League :	
Southside 9 - 6 IC United	

Want to see your team in print? Then get your reports to the Portacabins on Wednesday evening!

The entertaining white space that has enjoyed exposure here over the last few weeks, has, unfortunately been head-hunted by "The Mirror" to star on their front page.

In its place therefore, we provide our readers with an opportunity to enjoy the up coming star of space filling, entertaining black space.

Enjoy.



Great.