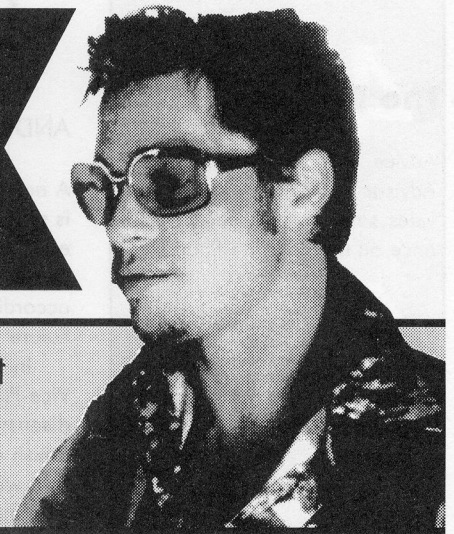
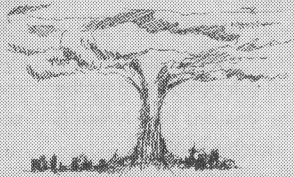


# FELIX



Scientific responsibility  
put into focus  
Page 6



Brad Pitt gets bloody but  
stays cool in Fight Club  
Page 23

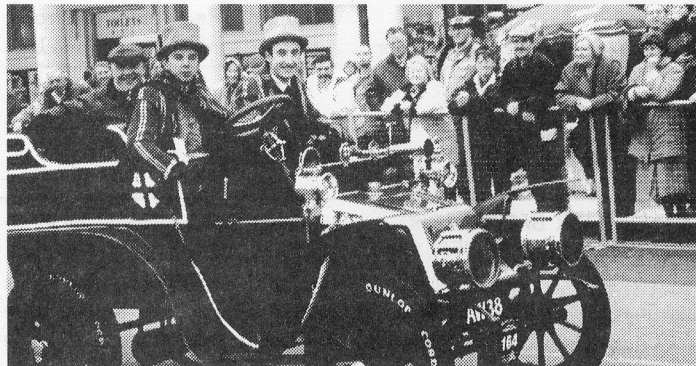
## Guilds Union forced to cancel again

ANDREW OFORI

The innovation of the City and Guilds Union is yet to impress its students, forcing them to scale down their latest venture.

C&GU intended to take a bus load of students to Brighton on Sunday 7 November in support of Bo' (the Guild's mascot) who was taking part in the veteran car run. The antique car successfully completed the journey in 7 hours. Unfortunately with only 12 people showing any interest in the 72 possible places, C&GU was unable to justify the cost of the coach.

Despite the withdrawal of the bus trip the Guilds had intended to take a special guest supporter to Brighton for the day - the ULU President. They hatched a plot to kidnap and drive



A few Guildsmen still made it to Brighton

Photo: Archive

him to the car run in their 'Guildsmobile'. It was decided to go ahead if it could be done legally. They formed an alliance with Chris Campbell, the London Student Editor, and arrived at Mr Butt's house on Sunday morning, only to learn they had been set up. Mr Campbell refused to let them through

the perimeter fencing and then stood by as Mr Butt appeared from behind a wall and shot at them with a Super-soaker.

This latest flop comes soon after the Star Wars party where only 35 out of a possible 100 tickets were sold resulting in a loss of £236. C&GU

President Dinesh Ganesarajah explained his intention was to try and keep the students entertained during the winter term, viewing this as a weakness of Guilds in previous years.

Mr Ganesarajah took the view that risks needed to be taken in order to find appropriate entertainment, saying "The experimental nature of the previous events always meant they held the possibility of being unpopular to the masses, hence the minimal expenditure."

He hopes that the combination of a strong reputation and creative production will make the upcoming C&G Fresher's Dinner a success.

The event is to be held in Sheffield on Friday 19 November at 7pm. Tickets are available at Waterstones and the CCS shop costing £15 for Freshers and £17 for other students.

## Newton sets out plan for an NUS free future for all

SUNIL RAO

Imperial College Union is to host a conference for independent student unions and those who are considering disaffiliating from the National Union of Students, with the aim of setting up a buying consortium. This would be an alternative to the National Union of Students Services Limited (NUSSL), the NUS purchasing group.

Currently, NUSSL provides a platform to buy beer and other goods that student unions require at

a bulk discount. The sheer size of this student market has resulted in NUSSL reaching the maximum level of discounting that most suppliers can provide. However, a student union cannot be a part of NUSSL without paying a large subscription - if ICU were to join, it would mean paying around thirty thousand pounds annually.

NUSSL is inextricably mired in the politics of the NUS, and it is impossible to leave the NUS without also leaving NUSSL [as described in *Them and NUS* in Felix 1155].

Many student unions that disagree with the political stance of the NUS are remaining with it because of NUSSL. Tasha Newton, ICU President, believes that the rate of disaffiliation will rise dramatically as soon as a local alternative that is demonstrably as good is offered.

ICU buys from a range of suppliers including Northern Services (annual fee £25), a consortium set up to serve the Scottish Universities, and TUCO, the College purchasing group.

The conference, to be held on 4

December, will present a range of options to the unions, including setting up a "Southern Services" group, or expanding TUCO. Both would offer considerable buying power for members and be a viable alternative to NUSSL. They would also allow ICU access to greater discounts and therefore better value goods.

When contacted, Tasha Newton commented, "This is potentially something really exciting, but my priority will always be getting the best deals for IC students".



# Dawn of the Virtual University?

ANDREW OFORI

A new breed of virtual universities is set to change the face of further education, leaving traditional universities "well and truly stuffed" according to 'Universities in the Future'.

In his book, Michael Thorne, Vice-Principal of Napier University, discussed the vulnerability of British universities. Virtual universities will offer students tailored learning where and when it is required, jeopardising the reputation of Britain's Universities.

"The image of the isolated computer buff is no longer realistic" commented the chief executive of the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council, Professor John Sizer.

One view of the virtual univer-

sity depicted large scale institutes linked to a global information base. Educational institutes will develop around digital connections and a demand, rendering existing universities useless. Sixth form colleges are predicted to take their place.

Electronic lectures (similar to those currently underway in the Med School) will put an end to the face to face sessions and tutorials will be a combination of video-conferencing and e-mails. Coursework will be carried out online.

A number of US universities have already taken the first steps towards this method of teaching, Wester University has 15 000 students at 64 locations and the Southern Regional Electronic Campus (Similar to the Open Uni-

versity) runs its courses in 15 states, 100 of them conducted via the internet and television.

Wall Street has shown an interest in the concept of the virtual university, but its commercial viability is presently limited by regulations. Sir Alec Broers, the Vice Chancellor at Cambridge said "unless their government allows them [universities] to operate as publicly traded corporations, their growth will be limited by lack of capital and... by their inability to generate maximum performance by providing them with the opportunity to build personal wealth through stock options". The former principal of Strathclyde University, Sir Graham Hills was among those unconvinced by this new era, asking "What would we do with all the professors?"

## In Brief

### SUMMER BALL CHAIR FINALLY ELECTED

Last Tuesday's meeting of Imperial College Union Council saw the election process for this year's ICU Summer Ball Chair reach a successful conclusion. After a string of no-shows and failures to find any willing candidates, two Union members eventually put their names forward, with Andy Heeps the run-away winner. Mr Heeps was ICU President in the 1997-98 academic year, and dur-

ing that time he oversaw the introduction of IC's first Summer Ball. He promised to keep ticket levels below £50, and hinted that Alexandra Palace is now almost certain to house this year's Ball. We'll bring you further developments as they happen.

### CVCP BLOCK NEW QUALIFICATIONS

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (the represen-

tative body for the leaders of all Britain's Higher Education institutions) looks set to effectively veto the government's new plans for post 16 education, with Vice President Roderick Flaud suggesting that "it is very unlikely that we will require any of the new qualifications for entry to higher education". If colleges and universities refuse to accept the new A-level alternatives then it is believed that there will be no desire from schools or students to implement the new scheme.

## 4 The Big Issue

Advice Centre Update - Union Advisor Martin Thomson provides some much needed guidance on housing and finance.

## 6 Feature

We address one of the major issues of the day in the way that only Felix can.

## 8 Union

Once again it's C&G Union's turn to tell us what they're up to and why they exist.

## 10 Columns

Telephone contracts and politics seem to be the issues of the day.

## 12 Feedback

The postbag's back up to it's normal levels, and actually raises some very interesting points.

## 15 Reviews

Two major films - Fight Club and Sixth Sense - receive the official Felix seal of quality.

## 30 Reviews

As predicted, the appointment of a Diary Editor has done wonders for content.

## 31 Crossword

Turnip Henry, king of the alternate spelling, is back once again

## 32 Clubs & Societies

Team Bo report on a very successful trip to Brighton.

## 34 Sport

We win everything again. This is beginning to get repetitive...

# FELIX NEEDS YOU

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**COME AND FIND US IN THE PORTACABINS BY PHYSICS, OR EMAIL FELIX@IC.AC.UK**



## ICU Careers Fair

### THE NEWS TEAM

For all final year students there are few more stressful things in life than traipsing around a seemingly endless succession of companies, trying to find yourself that career opportunity that helps to make three or more years at IC worthwhile.

To save you at least some of the hassle, the Union organises an annual Careers Fair where the cream of Europe's biggest corporate and graduate recruiters come directly to you. So, if you want to see what to see what almost fifty of Europe's best graduate employers have to offer you, all you need to do is turn up at Beit Quad this Wednesday (17 November) between 11am and 5pm and they'll be keen to talk to you. You don't need to be a final year student or have any particularly strong goals or career plans, just the desire to find yourself employ-

ment in the near future.

This is the biggest independent careers fair in the country, and is a valuable chance to check out a wide range of different opportunities. Companies attending include a cross section of the management, technical, financial and consulting world, with Andersen Consulting, Arthur Andersen, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Goldman Sachs, Deloitte Consulting, NatWest IT, Oxygen Solutions Ltd, Cambridge Technology Partners, Ricardo, Ove Arup, Lehman Brothers, Rolls Royce, The Army, Chase Manhattan Bank and over forty others, as well as the College Careers Service.

If you want a job this year or next year there's only one place to start, so make sure you visit the Careers Fair on Wednesday.

Details about the companies attending are available from the Union Office and the College Careers Service.

## Pugwash lecture

### PATRICK BRANNAC

Student Pugwash continued its series of lectures with a talk given by Dr John Hassard from Imperial College's Physics department. The title of the lecture was 'Will Climate Change Drive Nuclear Proliferation?' and it focused on whether nuclear energy could provide a solution to the threat of global warming.

If CO<sub>2</sub> produced from fossil fuels is causing a substantial increase in global temperature, one obvious solution would be to use an energy source that puts out no CO<sub>2</sub>, such as nuclear. A problem with nuclear energy is that it produces material that, especially when reprocessed, can be used to build nuclear weapons. This manifests itself in nuclear proliferation, because nearly every country in the world would have their own factories pumping out material, which has up until now been the major limiting factor in the making of nuclear

weapons.

Dr Hassard argued that if dramatic changes to the climate did occur over a time scale of years, then nuclear energy could be a short-term solution, halting the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere until renewable energy sources become viable. Nuclear proliferation need not result, providing the reactors are designed to minimise the weapons grade material produced. Nuclear accountability could be sufficiently reliable to ensure that there is no increase in the availability of such material to despotic regimes.

The next lecture to be held is 'Verifying Nuclear Disarmament: A Role For AWE Aldermaston' by Tom Milne on 2 December at 1pm. If you are interested in the implementation of ethics in science, then come along to the societies weekly meetings held every Thursday at 1pm in the BCR (top floor of the Union building).

# Mitchell Madison Group

A USWeb/CKS Company

*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:**

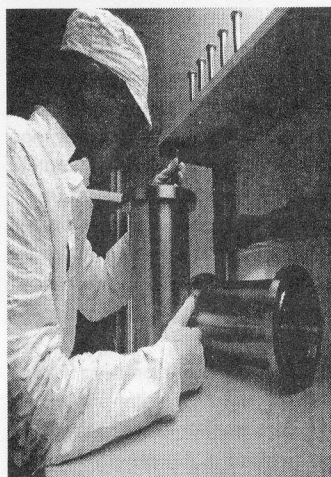
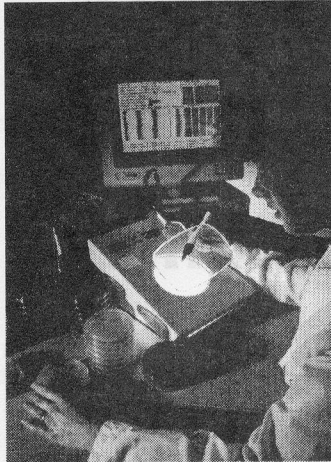
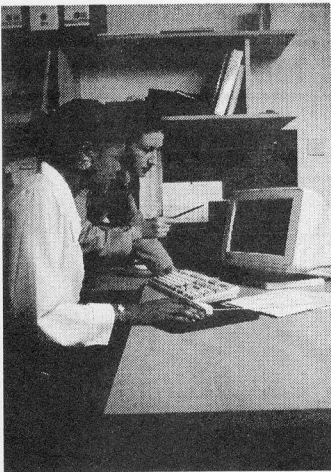
Lisa Holmes, Recruitment Co-ordinator,  
Mitchell Madison Group, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5ZT

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









**ICU presents**

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

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

**UNION BUILDING**  
*Beit Quad*

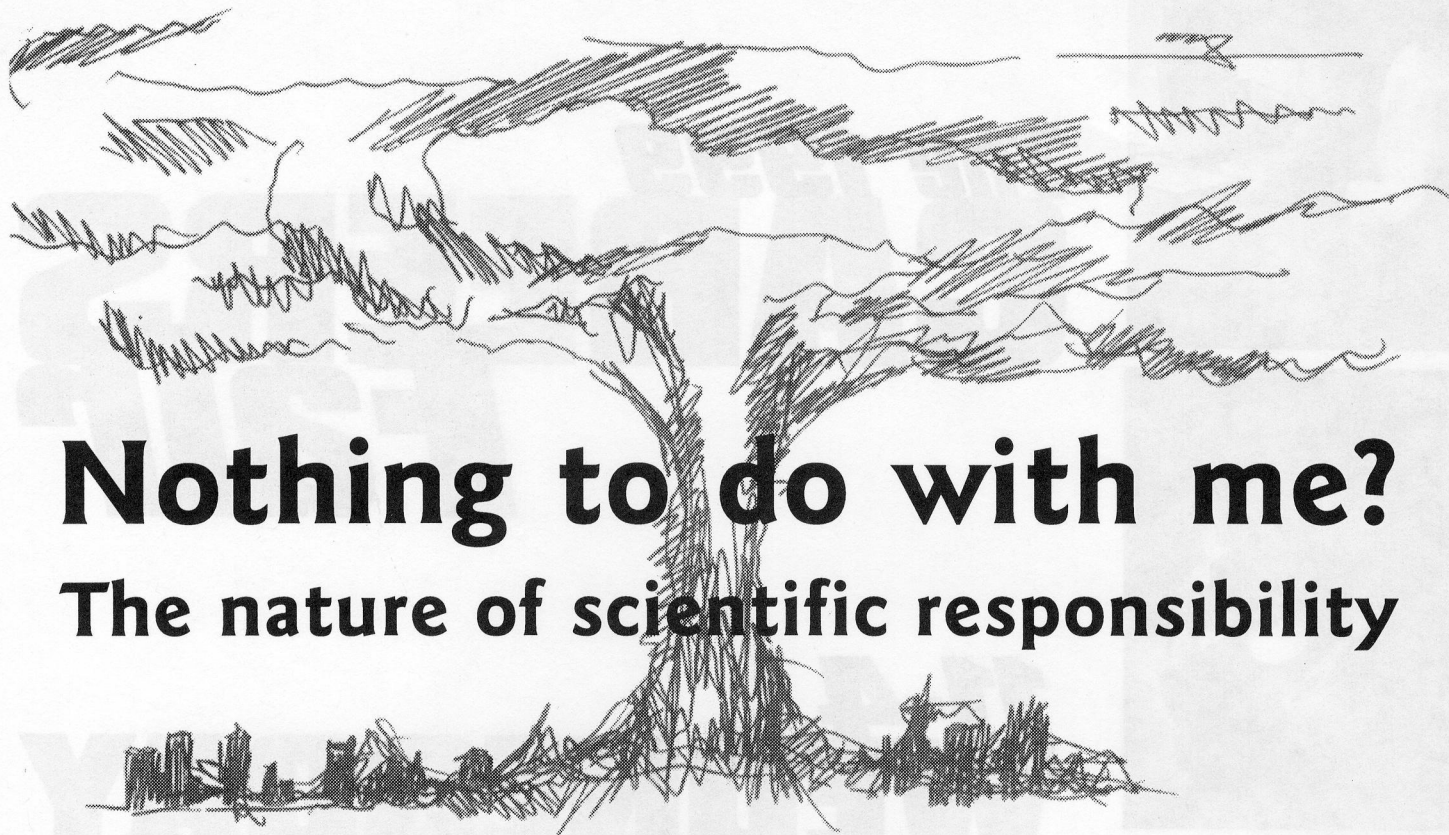
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# Nothing to do with me?

## The nature of scientific responsibility

Engage any group of scientists or engineers in discussion over any ethical, political or sociological issue and you're sure to hear the mantra "knowledge for knowledge's sake" repeated more than once. The insinuation is that pure research is free from any outside influences or concerns, that it is driven by a desire to understand, not by global impact or implication. But is this true? Can scientists and engineers deny responsibility for their work, or must they share blame and culpability along with credit?

The most obvious (and cliched) example is obviously the Manhattan Project. Years later, many of the leading figures on the project accepted that what they did, what they created, changed the face of the world - indeed it would be easy to argue that the invention of the atomic bomb intimately shaped the history and politics of the entire second half of the twentieth century. Yet some would still say that what they were engaged in was still a research based programme (attempting to harness atomic energy for the first time), and thus the responsibility lies not with Oppenheimer and his team, but rather with President Truman and his military advisors, who authorised the dropping of the bomb.

In actual fact, the Manhattan Project highlights the real problem with scientific responsibility - if you see the impending implications of your research, should you stop your work, despite the (seeming) certainty that someone else will reach the same discoveries within the next few years? In this case, their desire to design the bomb was driven by the threat of the German's constructing one first (whether or not there ever was actually any chance of a Nazi atomic bomb is a whole different discussion). Although this is a very extreme example, it's still a single example of a much more widespread (and, from a moral standpoint,

incredibly complex) problem.

To use a reasonably recent example, if you are on the verge of discovering the terminator gene for GM modified crops, should you follow through your research. On one hand, you'll gain prestige, cash and the foundations for GM research that could change the world for the better. On the other hand you'll develop a crop that could destroy many third world economies and give one producer an incredibly dangerous monopoly. So, do you go ahead and give Monsanto the fruits of your research, or do you lock everything in a darkened cupboard? Well, some of you are probably thinking that you should (and maybe would) take the moral highground and bin your work. But hang on, if you don't do it, you know full well that a group of US researchers in Chicago are only a few months behind you, and they'll probably have given the gene to their backers by the end of the year... So is there ever any point in trying to control your research, or should you always follow through on your work to the greatest possible extent? Well, do you really think that if the scientists engaged in the Manhattan Project had followed through on their threat and walked out on the US government in 1944 the H bomb would never have happened? No, of course not - someone would have made the breakthrough (although quite possibly not for many years) and who's to say that they would have been any more cautious with their invention?

The real problem, then, is the fact that you will be labelled with the responsibility (whether you choose to take it or not) for your discoveries, and yet you really have no say over them. The way research is funded means that there will always be someone else out there with a say in your invention, be they governmental, corporate,

trust based or even Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine. And most backers will have funded your research from profit driven, not altruistic, motives, so the likelihood of them listening to your moral judgements is slim to say the least. Even if the most dangerous aspects of your discoveries are entirely accidental (they frequently are) your backers will still want to maximise their profits (because, if nothing else, they will only be able to finance future R & D if your developments prove marketable).

So, does all that mean that the scientific community can deny all responsibility for the results of its work? The problem is that, if taken too far, logic of this kind can remove the weight of responsibility from everyone. If the scientist is not responsible for designing the invention, the manufacturer cannot be responsible for building it, or the Chief Executive for deploying it. So we are left to hang the blame on the poor guy at the bottom with his finger on the big red button or the syringe - but surely he's just obeying orders? Ultimately, everyone must accept their share, because all have had a chance to make a difference, yet none have. You *could* block the use of your invention, by one means or another, and if you *choose* not to then with that choice you accept responsibility.

As a final note, there's one interesting sidebar to my main example, the Manhattan Project. In the fifty four years since the bombs were dropped, almost everyone involved in the programme has expressed sorrow and remorse for what they did - the scientists, the pilot, the man who opened the bomb bay doors - with one key exception - the US government. Interpret that as you will...

Comments and feedback are very welcome - email [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk).

DAVID ROBERTS



# London Transport Student Photocard 1999/2000

**ICU WILL STOP ISSUING DISCOUNT CARDS  
THIS FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 19th)**

Cards will be available from Union Reception from 9.30 - 5.30 every day this week

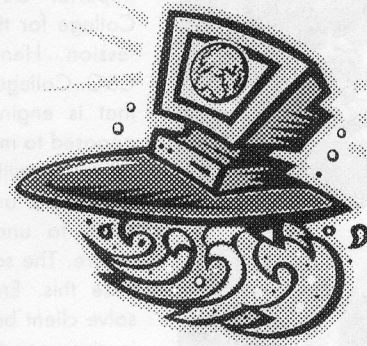
Don't forget that you need one passport sized photo, your College Registration  
form and £3 (cash or cheque)

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# What is City & Guilds College Union?

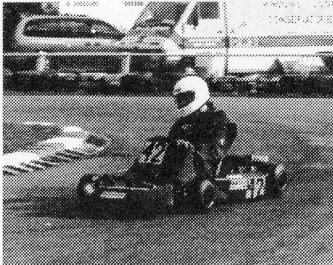
## Generation X

THE CITY & GUILDS COLLEGE UNION SECTION



reengineering the  
way you think

CGCU are back - this time to answer the one big question that students want an answer to....



For the ordinary Joe Bloggs that strolls down the walkway, the thought of City & Guilds College Union seems to bring up one question above all else - what is it? There is little understanding in the general student populous of what City & Guilds College Union is, or what it does. If you are one of these unenlightened souls, hold tight to these pages, read on and prepare to be illuminated.

### City & Guilds College The Cream of Imperial

City & Guilds College is Imperial College's Constituent College for the engineering profession. Hence all students in C&G College are on a degree that is engineering focused, as opposed to medical, environmental or scientific. What does this mean? As an example, science seeks to uncover new laws of nature. The science degrees optimise this. Engineering seeks to solve client based problems within given constraints. All engineering degrees, i.e. those of City & Guilds College, are focused around this implementation orientated approach. The type of student on a C&G College degree is also different to that of a student in any other constituency. C&G College students come to Imperial with an A Level points average of almost 29. This is over one point more than the average medic or scientist, and several points more than the average miner. Because of the lucrative nature of the C&G College degrees, since they are orientated towards industry, C&G College students also earn more when they leave college than the average medic, scientist or miner. Hence C&G College is distinctly different to the other constituencies. "When you enter industry, your degree represents the Cor-

don Bleu of Engineering" David Bishop, City & Guilds College Union President 1965/1966.

### City & Guilds College Union Reengineering The Way You Think

City & Guilds College Union (CGCU) is the student union for C&G College. As such, it represents this engineering portion of the students in Imperial College. Your academic year representatives are just one face of City & Guilds College Union. These students represent your interests at a local level in your degree, raising concerns in that year group. CGCU also has Departmental Representatives, who will raise issues which are not dealt with at a local level, or those that affect a department as a whole. The CGCU Academic Affairs officer co-ordinates with the Departmental Representatives to raise matters insufficiently dealt with at a local level at the highest levels of college, and to bring to the fore issues that effect the C&G College engineers as a whole.

Your Departmental Society is the face of CGCU that you will see on a more day to day basis. These societies represent the specific interests of your department socially as well as in arranging activities that are an extension of your degree. Extraordinary Societies such as the C&G Motor Club, C&G Rugby Club and Eestec provide opportunities to explore your engineering interests as a whole, or to become involved in representing the engineering identity of C&G College.

CGCU also has strong links with the CGCA, the corporate association of C&G College for past and present member of C&G College. The CGCA provides networking opportunities - the opportunity to meet and know people in industry and elsewhere. "Having contacts" has always

been an excellent commodity in life. Guildsheet is the student publication for CGCU, and as such provides a humorous alternative medium, reporting on the activities of CGCU as well as entertaining the C&G College students.

Our events grow from strength to strength. Atlantis - The C&G Freshers Dinner, the annual hit extravaganza returns this week, and future events are all set to be grade A standard. A taster, to give reassurance, is the London Boat Race in February, where Guilds face UCL, Kings and any other London college that wants to be involved in a massive 100 pint Boat (drinking) Race.

As a Union, we also aim to do more. In recent years we have added to our artillery of services. CGCU Buddies, the system for pairing up new fresher students with older students from the department to help freshers settle into university life was a success in its pilot year on ISE and Civil Engineering, and is set to be expanded to the rest of C&G College for the next intake. The Internship Centre is in the CGCU production line, and will ultimately be a place where students seeking summer vacation work can come by and apply for jobs relevant to their degrees. CGCU Active is the new "society extension" of the CGCU Executive Committee, allowing you to get involved in the particular running of a certain area of CGCU, as such allowing you to do more and getting more of what you want from CGCU.

CGCU is a Union that is evolving to meet the needs of its students, and as the Millennium approaches, it will continue to become bigger and better. "Ready to play a prominent part in the advancement of the University" Guilds Union, as described by The Central in 1910.





# The State of the Union

## State of the Union

After consultation with one IC male (who said this column made me sound 'blonde') I am trying to sound a bit more 'nails' this week!

## CHESA

I don't need to explain again why we are not NUS, Dave Roberts did it well last time. Besides he is far more friendly about the backstabbing gits that run it than I could ever be. We're out and it's good for us. We're not alone in thinking this - other Unions have left, some never joined! In previous years there have been ideas on getting us together as a cohesive unit. For the first time ever (we think) we met up last weekend for training and talks. The most exiting thing was the suggestion that Northern Services (a buying consortium which we use, but that is based in Scotland) could provide a new southern division. This could lead to some even better bargains for ICU.

## Warner Brothers update

Allegedly, Warner Brothers care about IC students. They are really sorry that they don't give us a discount at the moment and for their

## By Tasha Newton, Imperial College Union President

massively high charging - ahhh. They care in fact so much that they are prepared to wait until December to discuss us at their next pricing meeting!! Still the Imperial College Union President is not letting them forget that 'student discount' means discounts for students and has suggested they remove their digit from their lower sphincter. They will now decide at the meeting whether they can allow our cards direct or whether they want to produce a card which we could hand out for them. (That was my idea, and you'll believe that until you read the next paragraph.) They fully apologise for any inconvenience and understand if none of you guys choose to go to Warner's in the near future. In the mean time they take ISIC cards, which are available from STA on the walkway. Can I point out that Virgin are IC friendly and cheaper?!

## HMV

This year HMV have been distributing discount cards, for ALL students. They have been sent out via the NUS to be issued 'in House'. But,

individual branches have extra cards to issue to non NUS colleges, unfortunately, the local branch's Saturday staff are slow to get the message and have been demanding NUS ID. After a very quick discussion with the man from HQ, this has all now been sorted with: a memo to ALL branches to be nice to us and 300 cards which are winging their way to ICU as I speak! HMV have also offered their sincere apologies. HMV discount cards should be available from the Union office this week, hurrah.

## Voting for the GLA

Democracy! Register to vote so you can choose who runs London for the time you are here as a student. It couldn't be easier, just email me and I'll send you a copy of the slip or pick up a post card from the office. ULU will be organising hustings for the candidates, so if you are interested in what your mayor will do (or not) for you, watch this space.

## Meningitis update

At the time this went to press things were going much better for the

IC student who contracted meningitis nearer the start of term. I have sent him a card on behalf of all the students of Imperial College Union.

## - This Week's Union Meetings -

Tue 16th Nov

- 12.00 Services Committee, Clubs Committee Room.
- 13.00 A&E Treasurers meeting, Resource Centre.
- 17.00 VP Question time for the medics. St Mary's.
- 20.00 CAG Soup run, meet in Weeks Hall

Wed 17th Nov

- 11.00 Careers Fair, Beit Quad.
- 13.00 Academic Affairs Committee.

Thur 18th Nov

- 12.30 RCC Treasures meeting, Resource Centre.
- 18.00 Executive Committee, Resource Centre.
- 20.00 CAG Soup run.

Fri 19th Nov

- 13.00 SCC Treasurers meeting, Resource Centre.

## Student Rights as Consumers / Student Debt

# NATIONAL DEMO

25<sup>th</sup>. November 1999

From ULU to Kennington Park

## Assemble outside ULU at 11:00

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](mailto:dpew@ic.ac.uk) to arrange a place on the minibus.

Event organised by NUS and ULU, supported by iCU.



## SLIDING TO SAFETY

This week Kevin has been in Nottingham. While in Queen's Medical Centre; a hospital which is also the home of various biological and medical faculties, Kevin noticed that there were curved black plastic doors in the corners of many of the labs. On asking as to the purpose of the doors Kevin learnt that they were escape routes - not just your standard fire exit, but amazingly cool chutes, which in an emergency you could use to slide down to the ground floor and to safety.

## FREE MOVIES

During his time in Nottingham, Kevin stayed in a house with a bunch of students. Kevin was pleasantly surprised to find that his hosts had got cable TV and was able to spend a couple of evenings watching Sky Movies. Later in the week Kevin learnt that the movies were in fact free, courtesy of the telecommunications company NTL. NTL has an agreement with the University to provide a service to the campus, halls of residence, and students living elsewhere in the city. In return for being the sole telecommunications provider, the University, on behalf of the students have been able to negotiate a brilliant deal with NTL. For a monthly rental, which is comparable to that charged for a BT 'phone, students get a 'phone, an answering service, and cable TV. Connection to the college network is an extra

which is also available. Kevin is watching movies, because as part of the deal there is an option to choose between free sports, or free movies when you sign up. As an added bonus the service also gives free calls to all the other NTL users in the area, which unsurprisingly covers pretty much all students in Nottingham. One student's comment summed up the benefits of the system: "We all use it loads. It costs us hardly anything."

# Mish Mash

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

## ERICSSON EXCUSES

Ericsson, the company chosen to provide communication services for IC is not going to come close to the level of excellent student orientated service as is provided at Nottingham. At IC the system is going to be expensive. The charges are going to be partially hidden in hall rents, calls will not be particularly cheep, and

the network will be far from comprehensive. Excuses are already reaching Kevin. For example: IC's halls are old, some of them are about to be sold, or refurbished so it is not worth connecting them - apparently even Southside is not going to be in the first phase of connections. There are also supposedly difficulties at IC because we have got so many disparate campuses, and our students are spread out all over London.

In Kevin's opinion all these excuses could be applied to some degree at the University of Nottingham, but there the students have been provided with a first rate service, for a very reasonable cost.

## OUCH

Surely intelligent IC students do not walk into glass doors and bash their heads on huge steel staircases. However Kevin has noticed steps have been taken to make the edges of the staircase in the BMS foyer more visible, a similar approach has been taken with the glass doors in the Health Centre which have also been marked. Kevin can only presume that these measures have been taken in response to incidents - perhaps this year the Freshers are a more dopey bunch than usual.

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

# Break Point

Oh my god! ICU's gone all political on us. Before you all get alarmed, Tony hasn't selected this year's sabbs to sit in the "all new" House of Lords (we should be so lucky) ; instead I'm referring to ICU Council's decision actually to support something (well, there's a first time for everything).

And what is to be the event which causes council to lose its collective political virginity? Why, the NUS national demonstration against tuition fees. Of course.

Hang on : tuition fees are bad, aren't they? We should be rejoicing in the streets, shouldn't we? Well, maybe yes and maybe no : let's wait and see.... Oh, sorry, I mean "prepare and decide".

While I don't want to get into the tuition fee argument, it seems

that ICU suddenly does, thanks to a little prod from equal opportunities officer George Constantinides. And it's this sudden about-face that worries me.

While it's true that over the years ICU Council has been reliably as dull as the proverbial dishwasher, it has meant that things can be discussed reasonably, and (shock) that meetings can be relatively quick and clear. The NUS, on the other hand, has been consistently stuffed full of the kind of loonies that make Red Ken look like Himmler. It is for precisely this reason that ICU has traditionally hated the NUS with a passion of which Gary Glitter would be proud.

The point is that Council gets its way, whatever it wants. Get the

"right" people on, and you can force ICU to blow great big wedges of cash on virtually anything you like. Thus, there is absolutely NO connection between certain new members of council this year, and ICU "deciding" to spend your money on advertising the NUS march against tuition fees. Oh no.

After all, this particular horse bolted 18 months ago, so how much good is it going to be to march into London now, shouting "here horsey horsey" ? Let's not forget that this march is being organised by the same group which helped Tony to unlock that very stable door.

Thinking about it, though, it's not that surprising. Doug Trainer was NUS president back then : a

position previously occupied by Jack Straw, Steven Twigg, Jim Murphy and Lorna Fitzsimmons. Just like them, he's using it as a stepping stone into parliament. The only difference between him and them is that they voted against tuition fees while students, waiting until they were in government before becoming hypocritical and two-faced. I'm telling you, Trainer will go far.

And the moral of this story? When groups purporting to represent students start playing in the murky world of politics, they soon sell their credibility for a few coins. Those members of ICU Council who lust after a more political forum should learn the lesson of Straw and his mates : Abandon morals, all ye who enter here.



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MR AM KAMAL (0181 846 7173 ahmad.kamal@ic.ac.uk)**

**DEPARTMENT OF RESPIRATORY MEDICINE  
CHARING CROSS CAMPUS**

**for further information ASAP**



# FELIX

## ISSUE 1157

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# Feedback

## ISLAMOPHOBIA?

Dear Sir,

Imagine if Hitler had claimed to be a Christian. Imagine if he had claimed that Nazi views and policies were Christian teachings. Would we refer to him (or other fascists) as Christian fundamentalists, fanatics or extremists? Almost certainly not because we know that fascist thinking goes against true Christian teaching and thus that his claims to be Christian were false.

So why is that Felix has decided to insult the some 300 Muslim students and staff at IC by declaring on the front page that iCU Council Meeting is under threat from "Islamic" fundamentalists? These and other wacko groups may well be "fundamentalist", "extremist" or "fanatical" but the message they convey is not Islamic.

Of course, while we might deserve an apology, we probably can't expect one. After all, the Runnymede Trust in 1997 published a detailed report on the endemic nature of Islamophobia in the British media and has set up a commission to monitor it. Virtually a day goes by without some newspaper report of some dodgy group claiming to be Islamic who are then portrayed as such. Hollywood films such as True Lies (which portray Muslims as terrorists) don't help much either. The average Briton's stereotype of a Muslim is an Arab or Asian branding a kalashnikov out to kill all the Jewish people they can find.

In fact, Islamophobia is not just a British phenomenon but a world-wide problem. So much so that it has enabled people like Solbodan Milosevic to exploit public sentiment by gaining popular support, in their own country, for "ethnic" cleansing of Muslims in Bosnia and Kosovo. We now see Russian leaders exploiting their own citizens' Islamophobia in exactly the same way to gain support for slaughtering more Muslims in Chechnya. These practices are, of course, very similar to those used by Hitler in Germany to gain popular support for the persecution of

Jews.

What we can expect from Felix, however, is clear reporting which breaks down stereotypes rather than strengthening them. Islam is now the second most widely practised religion in Britain (and indeed the rest of the world). Followers come from all walks of life and it is neither fanatical nor extremist. Its message, however, is often distorted by some people claiming to be Muslims for their own political ends (especially when an ignorant body of people can be exploited). I trust that Gareth Morgan will, in future, make a more appropriate choice of words when describing extremist groups which claim to Islamic but convey a very different message.

Yours faithfully,  
 Mustafa Arif  
 ISE 1

## WATERSTONES SURVEY

Dear Felix,

I would like to start another discussion. Waterstones is a wonderful shop which gets all the books the students need and on time too / Waterstones is a terrible shop which gets massive advantage of being on campus and yet gives nothing in return.

[\* Delete as applicable. Game on.]

Cheers,  
 Tasha,  
 iCU President

## CHRISTIAN UNION

Dear Felix,

Following last week's front page article, I would like to set the record straight on the position of the Christian Union towards membership of Imperial College Union.

The Christian Union at Imperial College is entirely run by IC students, and is affiliated with CUs at most other UK Universities. We are

funded entirely by our current and former members, and are open to all members of IC - everyone is very welcome to all CU events.

The CU aims to uphold Biblical Christianity, so it is essential that this is upheld by the society officers. For this reason all our officers sign a widely accepted declaration of faith, which is why we are not currently an iCU society.

Peter Middleton  
 Christian Union President

## VOICE OF REASON RETURNS

Dear Dave,

Hating ding-dong battles on the letters page as I do, I'll be brief. Breakpoint, this is my final word before they nail the lid back down on my coffin. Firstly, the medics did read my column, which is why so many of them took offence. Secondly, the Union fed me remarkably little information- false or otherwise- over the course of my time; while members of Sheffield will sing like canaries, getting juicy tidbits out of most of iCU is much less simple. Thirdly, my letter, if you recall, merely stated that attacks on the Union should be undertaken cautiously, not avoided entirely. For me to claim that the Union should not be attacked in Felix is about as believable as George Best being a frontman for Alcoholics Anonymous. Finally, I have never been in the pocket of any Union official. I may have got on amicably with several of them, but then I have had a pint with Ian Caldwell. Nuff said.

I shouldn't really be writing this. It doesn't offend me, but it was a tad wide of the mark. Last week's column was very good, though if you meet me down Southside, I'll tell you who the real frontrunner is for the Rector's job. Heeps was close, but the preferred choice is a little more surprising.

Good night and God bless

Simon Baker  
 Chem PG

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.



## STUDENT BODIES

Dear Editor,

We were offended by the article in last week's In Brief on page two of Felix. The author suggested that no one at IC 'had it in them' when referring to the Maths couple caught in flagrante delicto in their locker room.

Does the Editor not think it is demeaning to the students here at IC to have their own student newspaper put them down as unadventurous when we already have to put up with insults from the rest of the country's student body?

We assure you that this is not a solitary example and the maths couple should not be made a spectacle of in a paper with such a wide audience.

Maybe the Editor has heard of couples using such places as the main library, or even the Sherfield building for uses other than those the buildings were intended for?

Obviously not. A walk around campus may open the Editor's eyes to the more exciting aspects of Imperial College.

Happy hunting,  
RSM II

## SHOP STRIFE

Dear Sir,

It was interesting to be reminded of this year's graduation by the account in Felix a few issues ago because as well as being the editor's graduation, it was also my friend's. Imagine how joyous this occasion is: the proud family looking on, the photographs, the presents and the graduation card with "congratulations" inscribed. Not, however, if one were to visit ICU shop.

A week before graduation, I went to buy all the associated memorabilia, i.e. ties, teddies and scarves to remind the graduate of his past life at Imperial along with a graduation card. Quite a common occurrence, graduation, especially at a college one might be lead to believe but not one single card was available at the shop. After asking, I was told they might be ordered but

the staff seemed more interested in ignoring the request for fear of sticking more price tags on t-shirts. On the Monday before graduation, I was told the graduation items would be included in stock and visited again but to no avail but was told sanctuary was available on the day in the Union with a little stall. No such luck - it was only T-shirts and mugs.

How can a simple card like graduation be omitted from stocks at Graduation time? If I wanted to buy a card from ICU shop on practically any other subject, I could do so, even if I wanted to make indecent proposals I could do so from the vast collection available! Let other IC students join in the celebration of their peer's excellence at leaving Imperial and not say, "Oh, sorry, ICU shop couldn't be assed to stock it....."

Yours faithfully,  
ICU Shop's best customer

## AND FINALLY...

Dear Felix

I would like to commend you on the improvements made within the reviews pages this year. The breadth and depth across the whole of the music, clubbing, film, books and arts world is to be applauded. I would especially like to mention the Blair Witch feature and the diverse club and art features that have feature gay and fetish themes. I was therefore appalled when I read the slating Felix received in Prince Albert this week. Not only were the insults ill thought out, but the text content was worse than the childish rants that I have sometimes seen in the C&G rag - Guildsheet. The writers of this magazine obvious have a number of problems, the first is being happy to come to an opinion based on nothing less than prejudice and the second is being obsessed with rude words (very clever).

Yours with love  
Ben James (not my real name)  
Medicine 4

PS. Please put my sleepless nights at end - who is this amazing girl [see *editorial*, 1156]. I've spent all last week searching for her.

# Editorial

## LATENT MEDIA BIAS

First of all this week, a massive apology to Mustafa Arif and anyone else who found last week's front page lead to be offensive. Mustafa raises an interesting point that applies not just to so-called "Islamic" fundamentalists but, on a broader canvass, to any form of supposedly religion-based terrorism or extremism. After all, to the best of my knowledge, there is no major religion on the planet that actually condones (let alone advocates) the murder of others (non-believers, sinners, whatever) - and yet, throughout history, religion has been the cause of more and bloodier wars than anything or anyone else.

So, (to get back to the point) both myself and Gareth apologise unreservedly. We term them "Islamic" simply because they do so themselves, not out of any sense of abuse or discrimination. - indeed the biggest problem with finding an adequate terminology for these groups is the fact that it's very hard to find out what they do believe in.

As a final point, I do take the suggestion that I am Islamophobic very personally, but I hope this reply will help to change your mind.

## CAMPUS SHOPPING

The various shopping facilities offered on campus have been on my mind a lot this week. On the opposite page you'll find comments on both Waterstone's and the ICU Shop, and in various discussions I've had with College staff this week, Waterstones and the Computer Centre Shop in Mech Eng have been frequent topics of debate.

All of these services have a very powerful position on campus, perhaps none more so than Waterstone's. Having won a very prestigious contract nearly three years ago (usurping the old Union bookstore), Waterstone's promised to establish a well stocked, competitive and profes-

sional service that would act as its national academic flagship store. Two and a half years after the shop opened, where do we find ourselves? Well, aside from the fact that the flagship store image has now been unceremoniously dumped in favour of one of their larger stores on Gower Street, the big problem is the simple fact that they don't stock enough books. Now, I'm sorry, but it seems to me that if you're running a bookstore on a university campus it might be wise to stock sufficient quantities of the core first year text books, if nothing else. It's patently obvious that at least three-quarters of the new intake will always buy at least one recommended book within the first two weeks (and then leave it to fester on the shelf until they realise, three years later, that they can't remember the Second Law of Thermodynamics any more) - so why, for pity's sake, does Waterstone's always seem to be running out of stock. Of course, whether or not filling half the shop with fiction and travel titles helps is debatable...

That, however, is the bare minimum of a service that we should expect. A good campus bookstore would use its purchasing power (a few hundred copies might not be much in fiction terms, but in terms of academic texts it's huge) to negotiate good discounts and sensible student prices - much like the old Union Bookstore used to. It would also be manned by staff who knew about recommended texts and reading lists and (shock, horror) could actually offer some helpful advice.

So, now I've finished my rant, what do you all think? OK, so the contract might not be up for review for another seven years (cheers College), but the suggestion that we'll all go elsewhere when it's time to buy the next ludicrously over-priced text might just provoke a response. Waterstone's, I'm waiting for your call.



**Tues 16th**

**Weds 17th**

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Wednesday 17th at 7pm  
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# England



v



# Scotland



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SCREENS**

& the Concert hall

1 BIG GAME 3 BIG SCREENS

iCU

ANOTHER BIG SERVICE FROM YOUR UNION

**Euro 2000 PLAY-OFFS**



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Friday 19th November 9-2

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Indie & messy beats plus chill out room  
& 4 bars  
Plus live music from  
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iCU Another service from ICU - your Union

# iCU

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

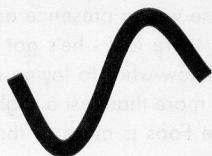
# Your Union - Run for You



# Welcome to the reviews

This week in.....

**frequency**



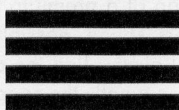
Foo Fighters  
Rage  
Counting Crows

**method**



Turner Prize  
Avant Garde  
Bloomsbury

**books**



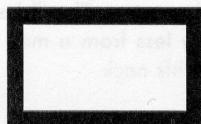
England, England  
Three Women  
Beasts

**react**



Mages  
Flanker 2  
Nocturne

**screen**



Fight Club  
Sixth Sense  
Competition



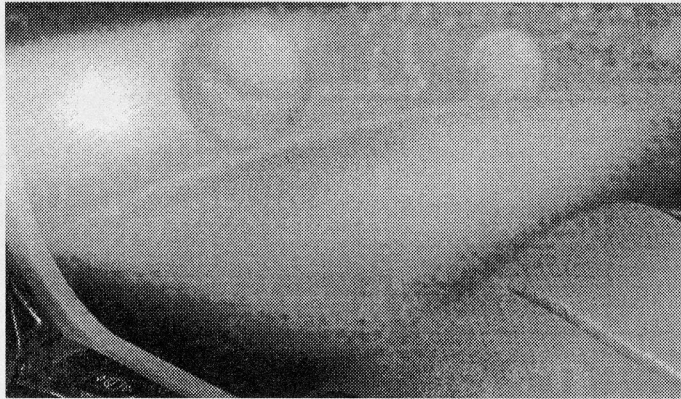
# frequency



Oh dear. We're only in the sixth week of a thirty one week year and the backlash against Felix has begun again. Sadly for me, the reviews section always seems to bare the brunt of this abuse. However, insults such as everything we review is unheard of is just plain wrong. If the slanderers had bothered to examine the review pages of Felix in recent weeks they'd have seen interviews, reviews and competitions involving some of the most mainstream artists in music, films, art and books. This week again sees another storming line-up. For a start in the two following columns we see reviews of the new Foo Fighters and Mariah Carey albums - and who can complain about that?

**... frequency ...  
it's rubbish,  
nobody reads it ?**

With the rest of this space I'd like to make another plea for people interested in writing music articles for Felix. Club writers are especially hard to come by and if anyone is interested in writing in going clubbing for free for the small exchange of a short article about the night then I'd be more than happy to have you. If you're interested just pop along to the Felix Portacabins for our music meetings at 12.30pm on Tuesdays and we'll sort it out.



## Foo Fighters There Is Nothing Left To Lose (Roswell/RCA)

What have your heroes been? Actors? Politicians? Sportsmen and sportswomen? Outstanding scientists and businessmen? Balls to all that. My heroes have always been musicians. Not your poncy lack of substance boy bands or those more than useless one-hit-wonders, but proper kick-ass don't-give-a-shit stars: Jimmy Page, Kurt Cobain, Jimi Hendrix, Flea - all those with a presence and attitude. The Foo Fighters' Dave Grohl is up there too - he's got to be. From powerhouse drumming with you-know-who, to laying down the Foo Fighters' 1995 debut alone, he's more than just a slightly motivated bloke. This latest offering from the Foes is more of that driven power pop that they've made their own.

I read somewhere that the Foo Fighters missed the mark with *There Is Nothing Left To Lose* because it's too upbeat to be grunge. Can we please set the record straight: THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS GRUNGE. Invented to create a niche and sell records; 'nuff said. And no, this album isn't that Seattle sound that served Dave Grohl so well in the past - I'm sure he doesn't want it to be.

We kick off as we mean to go on with the huge chorus of *Stacked Actors*. I had this on my Walkman and ended up dancing along the street like a lunatic, a sure sign of a premium tune. The drums play a large part in the Foo Fighters' sound, possibly because that's what Dave Grohl started with, but I always find the drumlines are that little bit more involving and subsequently the songs are given a greater depth. That's not to say any other part of the track is neglected; the guitars have a distinctive warm, fuzzy overdrive and in Dave Grohl's voice there's a harsh edge to the soft gentleness as demonstrated to good effect on *Live-In Skin*.

There are so many tracks worthy of being singles on *There Is...* I'm surprised there weren't two albums released. There really isn't any filler. *Generator* has a great Talkbox effect on lead guitar, *Next Year* is a superb song to lead us into *Autumn* with its wistful lyrics and *Aurora* is in a similar cavernous vein to *February Stars*.

The Foo Fighters have brought us a beautiful third album, a more poppy sound but a rounded one too. They'll be around for a while yet, but I wouldn't expect any less from a man who has the band's logo tattooed on the back of his neck.



Christian

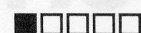


## Mariah Carey Rainbow (Columbia)

Oh, Mariah, Mariah, Mariah. Back so soon? I'm not generally of the school of thought that thinks that if anything is popular it must by definition be bad, but I heard an interesting statistic the other day that has started to change my mind. It was that Mariah Carey is the best selling female artist of the 1990s, has sold over 115 million albums. I mean, who bought these albums? Where are they and why are they still allowed their statutory rights?

That Ms Carey should outsell Madonna, Whitney Houston or even her musical nemesis Celine Dion is unbelievable. I admit that in the past she has released some fairly good singles, notably *Hero*, *I'll Be There* and...er...anyway, she can certainly sing (she's a vocal range of 8 octaves you know). Fine, but the point is, should we buy this album for musical pleasure or because it is able to communicate within the hearing range of next door's dog?

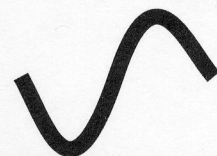
*Rainbow* sees Mariah collaborating with many R 'n' B superstars but this is not an album for R 'n' B fans. The first track *Heart Braker* begins in typical Mariah style with all the usual vocal acrobatics but then we get a somewhat unexpected rap interlude halfway through. Finally, it's back to Mariah. It really just doesn't work. She should stick to her epic ballads - they at least suit her style. The personal and understated melody of *Petals* is the nearest she gets to this but the rest, I'm afraid, just bored me. She may be trying to move with the times but it's doubtful if all the millions who (for whatever reason) love her, will want to move with her.



Rachael



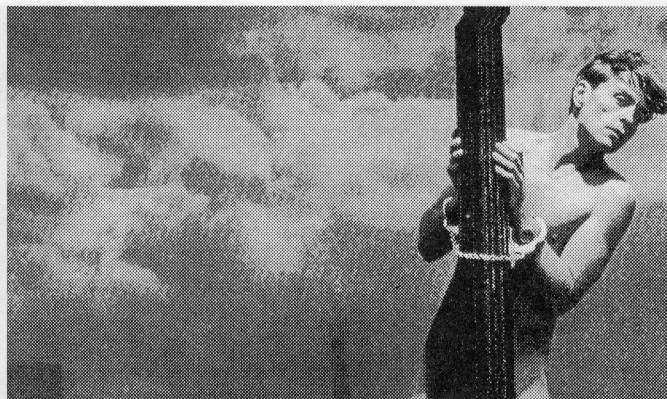
## frequency



**Merz**  
**Merz**  
**(Epic)**

It's the voice. Unique, instinctual, lively, but most of all it's fearless. Merz (Conrad Lambert) has a wonderful array of tunes, but instead of messing them around in order to make it interesting, they're innovatively embellished to gorgeous effect. This means you're going to hear a bunch of things you don't always get from your usual pop album. *Lotus* begins with a brass band picking out a lonely tune, before computerised breakbeats pick up the tempo, followed by that voice. The gospel choir in *CC Conscious* gives way to chunky percussion, squelchy bass and a keening vocal. Although these are seemingly disparate and contrasting elements, every song sounds incredibly cohesive.

This album sounds so original and alive. Music has recently been finding new and exciting ways to diversify and merge, but never to such joyful extent as it does here. Everything from techno, drum 'n' bass, folk, jazz, electro, indie... (the list could go on forever) is absorbed and fearlessly implemented to create something unique. But best of all, the tunes are good. Not just good, fantastic. Indeed, there's a whole new world out there. Let Merz into your life.



**Rage Against The Machine**  
**The Battle of L.A.**  
**(Epic)**

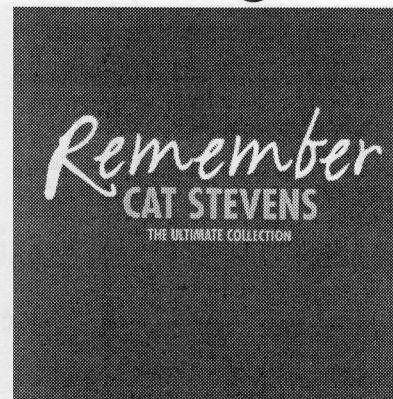
RAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGE! Somehow, these boys are still angry after three albums. Which makes me happy - as it would have been all too easy for Rage to sell out - become all post rock and non-abrasive. But they still rock.

If you didn't like Rage before, this album won't endear them to you in any special new way. But if, like me, you loved to listen to a band with a bit of integrity rather than the usual money grabbing layabouts then this will be right up your street. The track listing says it all really - *Calm As Bomb*, *Voice Of The Voiceless*, *Born As Ghosts* and *Broken Man* being some of the more mellow titles. But it really isn't about the titles, it's all about the depth of real emotion that goes into these songs - the way they smack you in the face and make you think while getting you moshing round the room as well. I defy anyone to listen to *Sleep Now In The Fire* on full volume and not end up bouncing off the walls.

The reason they are still the same after all these years is that the systems that they were originally protesting against still exists. Further, as far as Rage are concerned, in many cases these systems have become even more extreme and unjust. We should be all this angry. But this isn't a political forum, so on with the critique. After listening to this album a couple of times, most US (and US influenced) rock bands sounded hopelessly weedy and apathetic. I suppose not everyone wants to be made to think while rocking out, but I think it's very refreshing to hear it - even if you don't subscribe to their stance.

The same rock/funk/industrial/rap style is very much in evidence, and there's some sparks of reggae (yes, that's reggae), electronica (as the yanks would term it) and even folk flavours too. Of course there's still plenty of grunting and wailing. As voices go, Zack de la Rocha's certainly has a lot of feeling. While he rarely 'sings', I don't think that many people at Rage gigs fail to understand the emotions involved in his rap/rant style of orating.

I think the world would be a better place with a few more bands like Rage Against the Machine. A few more that question the society that they are in - rather than singing about how fine Micky is, or that they are going to blame everything on the weatherman. More of the same - but when it's this great, who cares?



**Cat Stevens**  
**Remember**  
**(Island)**

The Cat's hippie back catalogue has been raided by numerous artistes of late, with covers of *Wild World* and *Father and Son* among a shed load of tracks that have been resurrected by popular modern beat combos. As a result you can hear his stuff on Radio 2 as well as Radio 1, which is kind of an achievement.

Cat isn't his real name of course, and isn't even his name now. He got into religion in a big way after a near death experience type thing, and changed his name to Yusuf Islam (nice). Which religion he found escapes me for the moment... He's turned his back on the whole pop star thang, so there is no new material on this collection - but I daresay at fifty one he still doesn't mind the royalties...

Time hasn't dimmed the tender appeal of most of the twenty four (count 'em) musical gems contained on this compilation. Buy it for your mum or dad this Christmas. You may have a job finding it, cos you'll be embarrassed asking the girl with pierced bits at the counter in HMV. Try looking under 'rock' or 'pop' or maybe even 'folk' or '(ch)easy listening'. Better still, you could wait until the sales and rummage in the less than five quid bargain buckets. Then if you do get a copy make sure you listen to the lyrics.

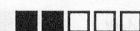
Choose long hair. Choose a beard. Choose a funny old man called Cat Stevens. Enjoy.



Kunal



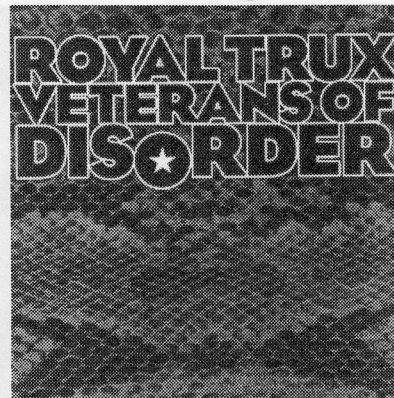
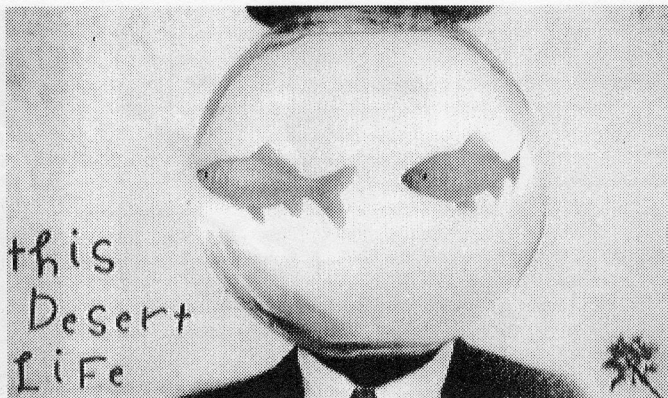
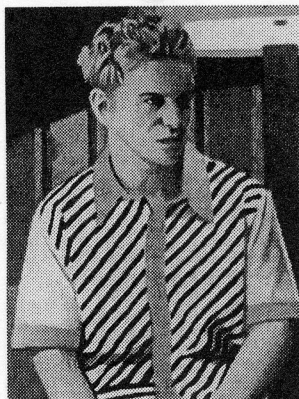
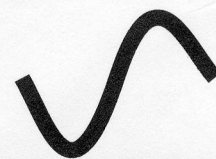
Joel



lan



## frequency



## Little Mothers

### Title (Island)

Song titles such as *The Worry*, *Bad to Worse* and *Moody* suggested a slightly downbeat feel might hang about this album. Likewise, the maudlin sleeve shot of the four unsmiling lads nestled amongst a depressingly empty furniture sale implied a Radiohead-esque offering of doom and despair. And in fact, if you listen to what they're saying on the tracks, this is pretty much what you get. Subject matter includes a badly failed relationship with a mate's little sister, depression over other similarly fated relationships, and cynicism about... well... broken relationships. Hmm. Not one to play if you have any doubts about your ability to hold down a steady girl/boyfriend.

Having said this, The Little Mothers' outlook on life never did the great blues musicians any harm (or Radiohead, for that matter), and there are a couple of genuinely good tracks on this album; *If Love's What You Want* being perhaps the best example - an acoustic tune about... guess what? Lyrics aside, the musical arrangement make this a good record for late at night - just make sure you haven't eaten cheese as well, or when you wake up your dreams will have turned you into a shivering neurotic pile of rubble. Ouch.

## Counting Crows

### This Desert Life (Geffen/PAL)

Everyone has listened to the Crows' first album - *August and Everything After* - whilst not so many have heard their second - *Recovering the Satellites*. This is due to the fact that *August* is regarded as a classic whilst *Satellites* is not. Everyone knows the songs *Round Here* and *Mr Jones* but fewer people would be able to name any songs from *Satellites*. The strange thing about this is that any reviews (both critical and popular) of *Satellites* that you read credit it as a worthy sequel to the band's first album.

*This Desert Life* has been in my stereo non-stop since I received it due to the simple fact that it is excellent. Adam Duritz's vocals continue in their despair whilst the music continues to rock in the chill out manner to which we have become accustomed. I can't find one bad track on the whole album - but I can find a number that I just have to comment on.

*Hanginaround* opens the album with a bounce and vigour that will have you singing along and moving your body in ways that you know are embarrassing but that you just can't stop. *All My Friends* is both one of the best things they've done and a classic mellowed out tune of despair. *Highlife* brings together a stellar arrangement with perfectly voiced lyrics. Finally *I Wish I Was A Girl* is just a ridiculously catchy tune even if it does go on for hours.

One thing I did notice however is that there are a couple of tracks which seem to have been heavily influenced by Ben Folds Five. Both *Mrs Potters Lullaby* and *Colourblind* really could have been written by Ben Folds - but the strange (and great) thing is that they would both (especially *Colourblind*) be among the best tracks on the album and actually sound better with Duritz's vocals.

It's possible that as in *All My Friends* "All my friends and lovers leave me alone to try and have a little fun" but I really wouldn't mind if I had this to listen to on my stereo. Or at least I wouldn't apart from the fact that I really want to go to that party on Friday night...

If you didn't like *August* (or *Satellites*) then you probably won't like this either, but if like me you loved them, then your money should already be out on the record shops counter. *This Desert Life* is an album that only the tasteless should miss.

## Royal Trux

### Veterans of Disorder (Domino)

The musical landscape at the end of the 90's is plagued by irony. Most of our pop stars are sufficiently well trained to talk the talk complete with a photogenic smile / grimace / look of contemptuous aloofness, plastered upon their smug faces. In this climate, praise the fallen angel for bands like the Royal Trux who are prepared to believe in rock 'n' roll as not just a badge but as a way of life. The two main Trux, Neil Hagerty and Jennifer Herrema, live a notoriously narcotic existence and over the past decade or so they have put out a string of records dubbed by many as unlistenable and shambolic.

'Veterans of Disorder' is rock 'n' roll in the truest sense of that much maligned word. The first half of VOD sees Trux drawl and snarl their way through a clutch of gloriously fucked up, raw and dirty mini masterpieces, every one suffused with the kind of swagger and attitude identifiable as the real deal. As time progresses we reach *Lunch Money* in which the Trux get a bit atonal and experimental on our asses, but even the most dim right winger would find it hard not to see the beauty in the squawking racket. We have now reached the point at which things start to self-destruct. The album could have done without a teeth grindingly self-indulgent seven-minute guitar solo finale which is *Sickass Dog*, but in the wake of such a joyous, unholy (and yes, shambolic) piece of rock 'n' roll this seems like a minor complaint.



Matt



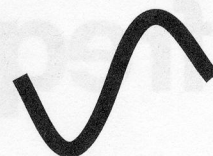
Tim



The Masked Bandit

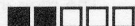


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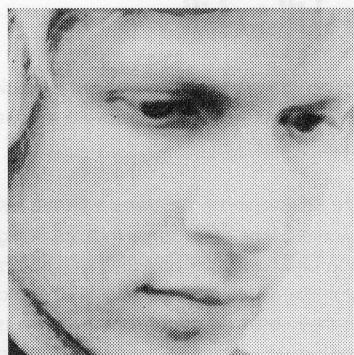
**Bob Marley feat. Lauryn Hill**  
**Turn Your Lights Down Low**  
 (Columbia)

The granddaddy of ganj greets us once more from beyond the grave, via a Lauryn Hill cover/remix. It's a classic tune, with a lovely simple guitar, wasted on Hill's R&B keyboard demo remix. Then again, at least she has the taste to pick something tasty and keep true to the vibe, unlike the run-of-the-mill hip-hop dross which plagues our charts



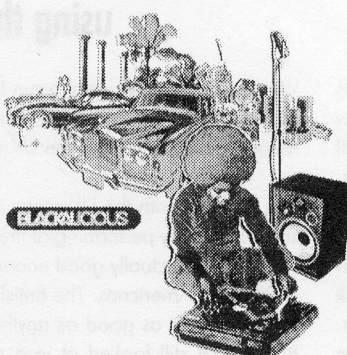
**Beck**  
**Sexxlaws**  
 (Geffen)

Beck was diagnosed at fourteen as chronically unable to release a weak single, and so far no cure has been found. Sexxlaws is the latest and most multi-faceted of his symptoms. Backing up the usual fare of lyrics catchier and more nonsensical than *I Am The Walrus*, we find that Mr. Hansen's extraordinarily polished production spawns the most infectious dancing record of 1999.



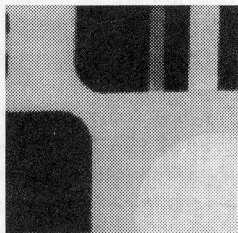
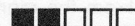
**Blackalicious**  
**Deception**  
 (Mo Wax)

My single of the week! The simple story has a talented MC who loses the plot (*Pt. 1, Don't Let Money Change Ya*), goes through hell (*Pt. 2, Turmoil*), and has to rediscover his roots (*Pt. 3, Redemption*) Tracks 1 and 3 have this kick-ass sung refrain which hooks you like crack, and the rest of the tunage is just sooo dark! Enough said.



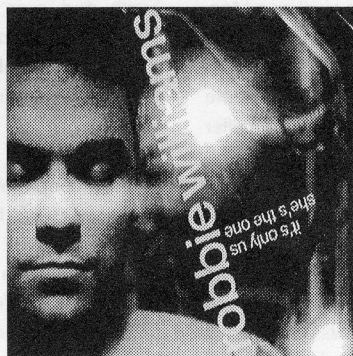
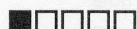
**Woodbine**  
**Mound of Venus**  
 (Domino)

Surely after just hearing the name, anything on this CD has to be an anticlimax! But Woodbine left me writhing on the floor in pleasure and agony. Pleasure at the sheer lesbian shower music of it and agony, well, mild embarrassment at words like 'mound of Venus, ask me to play', and 'don't go to bed with some wet head whose name is Fred'.



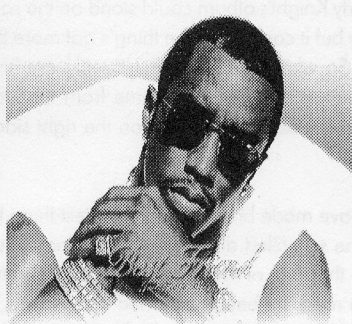
**Thunderbugs**  
**It's About Time You...**  
 (Epic)

It's the band with the lead singer who thinks she's seductive because she's wearing intellectual glasses. The follow up to the mind burrowing *Friends Forever* is tragic; it even has backing vocals of 'doop doo'. Please.



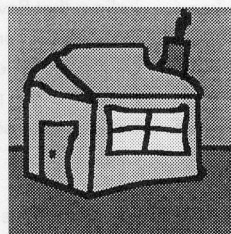
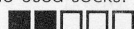
**Robbie Williams**  
**She's The One / It's Only Us**  
 (EMI)

This is nothing but a money-spinner from the boy wonder. No matter how good *She's The One* is, and it is truly beautiful, everyone already has the album. So he's lumped it together with *It's Only Us*, presumably to be taken from the third album. Although it's from the same team as *Old Before I Die* and *Let Me Entertain You*, it clearly isn't as good. The result is a package of two songs, the theory being two halves make a whole.



**Puff Daddy**  
**Best Friend**  
 (Arista)

When a man with a bottom lip worthy of a ramp on *Tony Hawk's Skateboard Challenge* and the musical talent of a peanut manages to engage Jennifer Lopez, you know he must be doing something right, but this is not it. This song is all about his friendship with God, and although that's admirable, it's not much of a compliment; imagine how annoyed you'd be if your girlfriend bought you a token of her love for you and gave her some used socks.



**Shack**  
**Pull Together**  
 (Sony)

With a hurried verse, the chorus combines the formula of both *Spiritualized* and *Embrace*, made epic and loud with a lot of harmonies. They even manage to pull it off, but sadly, they are lacking the character and individuality they need to gain credibility.



...Singles reviews by  
 Dave & Kier...



# frequency



## Montel Jordan Get It On (Def Jam)

From the man that gave us *This How We Do It*, this new release from Montell will not surprise any of his fans.

The first section comprises of some phat tunes associated with Montell. Check out the track *Get It Tonight*. This will certainly be big in the clubs. The hits just keep on coming from *Everybody (Get Down)* to the futuristically sounding *Can't Get Enough*. The second half slows down the beat to more soulful tracks oozing sensuality. That said quite a few tracks in this section are concerned with uncertain relationships. Despite this, there are some songs for a good bump and grind. Tracks worth listening to are *Let's Cuddle Up* and the very sensual *Do You?* Montell also does a very good cover of the classic Phil Collins track *Against All Odds*.

The song *Once Upon A Time* has a Spanish influence, to the point where the second version is in Spanish. Not bad!

Overall, a very good album that should have a position in your musical collection.

Orni

## Chill, it's Will, Keepin' it Real and it's Mil using the skill to kill

What's up IC! We're gonna run through the latest news and have a quick glance at the singles that are doing it, but first up I'm gonna have a serious moan about the state of the UK scene.

The problem with the UK scene is that there are no problems with the UK scene, it's really performing at the minute. Some of the tunes that are being released are actually good enough to blow away the so-called originators of R&B, the Americans. The British stuff that's being released has a vibe and a gloss that is as good as anything they could bring out, but then why is British R&B still looked at in a negative way. So many people refuse to believe that Beverly Knight's album could stand on the same level as a Mary J album; I'm sorry but it can. In fact the thing's got more bounce than Mary's by a good mile. So what's the problem? People are hooked up on the a belief that the phattest stuff can only come from the States... well people better recognise, UK R&B is moving up on the right side and we all better come correct.

The Spice Girls have made breaking up the latest thing to do, following on from them and the so-called disintegration of Blackstreet, we have Another Level. It seems that one of the boys thinks he'll do better on his own and is ready to hit the road. It's been confirmed that Wayne, the black guy, you know, the one who can sing, is gonna be breaking up with his buddies and do his own thang. He's gonna finish off all his duties with Another Level with their current hit "Bombdiggy" before embarking on what he hopes is going to be a fruitful solo career. The rest of the boys gotta be hoping he fucks up, but somehow I doubt it, because he's already got the master don producer lined up to start work on his album... no not fucking Puff Daddy... the Darkchild Rodney Jerkins is supposedly willing to do production duties for Wayne.

After the Bob Marley duet with the multi-talented Miss Hill it seems one of the biggest stars of rap is gonna be making his presence felt from beyond the grave. Biggie's back! The man is weighing in with another post death album. Like Tupac it seems that there is no limit to the records that can be pulled out of the bag, not that that's a bad thing. In the past, I've gone on about the number on guests that turn up on people's albums, well the new Biggie album, "Born Again", has got more big name stars than the Hollywood. Puff Daddy, Lil' Kim, 2Pac, Busta Rhymes, Snoop Dogg, Mobb Deep, Eminem, Method Man, Redman, Missy 'Misdemeanor' Elliot, Ice Cube, DJ Premier, Clark Kent and anyone else you can think of, they're all there. The first single "Dead Wrong" has already been doing the rounds on import.

Milen

## Will Smith Willenium (Columbia)

The man in black is back with this egomaniacally titled new album. This follow up to *Big Willie Style* is a collection of funk and 80's groove-inspired tunes that are guaranteed to pack the dance floor (though not all the tracks can do this). One thing that comes clear is the definite old skool flava to the whole album. Tracks on this album feature quite a few guys: K-Ci, Lil' Kim, Slick Rick, Kool Mo Dee, Dru Hill, his wife Jada Pinkett Smith and even the first lady of the ruff ryders, Eve. Jazzie Jeff is back with the scratching he is able to do well. (Half of track 8 is Jazzie ripping it up with some dope scratching).

The first couple of tracks are your party jams (the ones meant to pack the floor). From the first single *Will 2K* currently on general release now with a slamming video, to the Latino *La Fiesta* (everyone is going Spanish), these songs will keep you moving to the beat.

*Afro Angel* slows things down just a little with Jada laying down some spoken word. The real 'old skool' tracks are next, casting your mind back in time to when Slick Rick and Biz Markie were at the top of the game. An interesting track on this album is *Potnas* where Mr Smith experiments with DMX of the ruff ryders' flow. He does okay but he should stick to what he has 'perfected'.

Overall, *Willennium* is average, without as many jams as *Big Willie Style* but an OK album with a variety of tracks using different styles. The main grumble is that some would argue Will's flow as being too commercial and downright whack. That may be true but you can't stop this guy stacking chips with his flow so don't playa hate.

inO



# frequency



## ClubOne @ VenueTwo

Some club nights manage to stand out from others with effortless ease. It's nothing to do with their DJ line-up, nothing to do with the venue where they are held and nothing whatsoever to do with the state of the toilets. Quite simply, the club nights that stand head and shoulders above others are all about the vibe. They seem to capture the spirit of the house party and transport this heavenly atmosphere directly to a club venue. Last Saturday's ClubOne night was a perfect example of this.

Put on by a group of people clearly more interested in having a good time than impressing anybody, ClubOne proved to be an excellent night for more than just those out for a big one. With a techno-trance mix in the main room and eclectic mix of beats in the back room, clubbers were treated to a mystical experience of music rarely served in the more mainstream clubs. From people dancing like no one was watching to those just sitting around on the floor chilling out, this was a house party in a club and the vibe was clear for all to see. Indeed, as one walked around a feeling that everyone knew each other seemed to ooze from every corner.

Sadly though, these ClubOne nights are something of a rarity, as they only seem to appear every few months with little promotion. Yet it is maybe this infrequency that keeps the vibe so alive, and the people present so special. And this is why this club is not called ClubOne and why it is not held at VenueTwo. Sorry.

James

## Ram Trilogy Party @ The End .. if you like it hard ...

With the recent opening of home and Fabric, the End could have found itself struggling to keep up. However, Friday night proved that this venue and the genre of drum and bass can still get the punters in. This was a 'roadblock' event with the club almost full to capacity by midnight.

The first couple of sets in the main room were good without really getting the crowd jumping, playing music that anyone can easily get a hold of. The lounge was a more laid back affair with drum and bass being played first up, but not the real heavy bass line stuff, complementing the havoc being created in the main room. It then switched to hip hop before finishing with some chilled out breaks and beats.

Enter Roni Size on the decks, in the main room. His reputation precedes him with main room getting packed out to the point that it was almost impossible to move. He played an excellent set with a mixture of jazzy breaks, vocal tunes and bass heavy dubplates. He really did get the crowd going and the presence of MC Dynamite only added to experience.

Next up came the highlight of the night. Andy C came to the decks with crowd at boiling point. Now to those of you that don't know, Ram records is Andy C's label and so you would expect this set to be special. He didn't disappoint. He played a technically amazing set, running mixes at length and constructing the set well. He mixed up the set playing the very newest dubplates and dropping the odd blast from the past- you didn't know which way he was going to take it next. Some might have felt that his set was maybe too bass heavy, but the nutters in the crowd were feeling it hard!!!

Next up on the decks were the highly acclaimed producers, ed-rush & optical - they played a good set although it was a little anticlimactic after the mayhem that preceded it. Randall closed the night off with a tight set mixing the b-line styles with the more experimental stuff.

All in all a good night was had by all, with a broad spectrum of drum and bass catered for. Those of you that are interested, there many more drum and bass nights from now to the end of the year at the End. It's still a wicked venue - pretty modern with a body shaking sound system. Watch out Fabric, the End isn't dead yet.

Gav

## Recommended Clubbing

This week's selection is more than impressive, so take your pick from this veritable box of delights.

### Monday 15th November

#### Boom or Bust @ The Project; £4

Fat Tony on the decks with more flavours than most. This club has changed names loads, but remains a quality night out.

### Thursday 18th November

#### The Beginning @ The End; £3

This night is a proper party so make sure you're dressed up. DJs on rotation include Brandon Block, Streetboy and Alex P and three quid for this is more than a bargain.

### Friday 19th November

#### Varsity @ 2 New Burlington Street; £8

Ex-clubscene writer Jo Public is a resident at this new up and coming garage club. There are good guests each week from some of the best London radio stations.

### Saturday 20th November

#### Fabric @ Fabric; £12

Fabric's in these listings again! Sorry for the repetition, but this really is a brilliant club. This week sees Felix favourite Ashley Beedle in room 3, and this surely will be a stormer.

### Sonic Mook Experiment @ Scala; £8

Held in a converted cinema, Sonic Mook is a night getting better all the time. Tonight sees the wonderful Psychonauts get groovy, so do you really want to miss out?

*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



# screen

# ICU CINEMA



## What's on at ICU Cinema This Week

As you can tell from the screen pages there are some good films in cinemas out there. Our very own ICU Cinema is no different. This week they boost a fantastic line up for you to feast your eyes upon. Films that are being shown this week are 'Mickey Blue Eyes', 'Shakespeare in Love' and 'Saving Private Ryan'.

**Mickey Blue Eyes** stars Hugh Grant, James Caan and Jeanne Tripplehorn in this romantic comedy about love, fine art and The Mob. Michael Felgate (Hugh Grant), an elegant, debonair Englishman who runs an auction house in New York, is head-over-heels in love for the first time in his life. After only three months of dating his beautiful girlfriend Gina (Jeanne Tripplehorn), Michael gathers up his courage and proposes marriage. But, to Michael's shock, Gina declares that, though she loves Michael very much, she can never marry him. Michael doesn't give up easily and ends up getting involved with the Mob curtesy of Gina's father (James Caan).

**Saving Private Ryan** is about World War II, which was a pivotal event of the 20th century. It shifted the borders of the globe. It forever changed those who lived through it, and shaped generations to come. It has been called "the last Great War." Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is ordered to take his squad behind enemy lines on a dangerous mission to find and retrieve one man: Private James Ryan (Matt Damon). This film deals with difficult issues such as sacrifice and death.

**Shakespeare in Love** is a brilliant comedy starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Ralph Fiennes. Set in the late 1500's, Shakespeare has writer's block and is struggling to finish his latest piece of work. He needs inspiration, enter the lovely Gwyneth, to help him get over the block. This movie is amazing but don't expect factual historical detail. This film boasts a fine English supporting cast with Dame Judi Dench and the guys from the Fast Show. A must see for everyone.

There has been some confusion with the prices at the cinema. You don't need to be a member to go and see the films, as all screenings are now £3. So you now have no excuse s everyone can afford £3 to see some of the best films ever. Go get a beer and a curry and enjoy some fantastic films this week. To find out the times of the films just go to the walkway you'll see posters. All the information about screenings is on those posters.

ICU Cinema is still looking for people to help out selling tickets and selling ice creams. In return you get to see the films for free. Just e-mail [cinema@ic.ac.uk](mailto:cinema@ic.ac.uk) and they will be able to tell you more or ask the people in charge when you go and see a film this week.

## Brokedown Palace Competition

This week the Odeon Kensington have five pairs of tickets for **Brokedown Palace** to give away. As well as these tickets we have a cd of the soundtrack including tracks from Audioweb and Asian Dub Foundation to give to one lucky winner.

Brokedown Palace is a story about two high schoolers Alice (Claire Danes) and Darlene (Kate Beckinsale) who go to Thailand for a mega-holiday to celebrate their graduation. From there they plan to go to Hong Kong but drugs get found in their bags so instead they end up in a Thai jail also known as a brokedown palace. Hank (Bill Pullman) is their lawyer who tries to get them out.

The Odeon is at the far end of High Street Kensington and the number 9 and 10 buses will take you down there for a small charge. These buses go from the park side of the Albert Hall. So now you know how to get there all you have to do is answer a question. I realise that last weeks question didn't go down too well and that IC students don't want to think up interesting answers they just want an excuse to surf the web. Well if this is the case then here is this week's question:

**In what film did Bill Pullman star as Lone Star?**

Answers to [film.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@ic.ac.uk) before noon on Wednesday 17 November.

The people that made the effort to enter last weeks competition and win a pair of tickets each are:

M Doering  
P Sharma  
M Obhrai  
C Toffis  
M Arendt

Please call by the Felix office to collect your tickets.

## More Offers, Offers, Offers

The Odeon have yet another offer to delight you film-loving people. They have introduced a booklet that allows you to buy three cinema tickets and get one free. These booklets also contain vouchers for money off Heat or Empire magazine and go large vouchers for drinks and popcorn. "What's the catch?" I hear you shout. There is no catch. The booklet is free and you can get them from the Felix office any time you like. So come on what are you waiting for?!



## screen



## Fight Club

Despite what you have probably heard about *Fight Club*, this is not a film about violence. Sorry to those of you who wanted to see Brad Pitt get his head smacked in. While it does involve a lot of bare knuckle fighting, it is more a story about one person, acted by Edward Norton, and how he accidentally founds a cult.

Based on the novel by Chuck Palahniuk this film has been adapted for screen by Jim Uhls. This is his debut screenplay and he has done extremely well. David Fincher directs this film in his very distinctive style. Most of you will know him from films such as *The Game*, *Seven*, and *Alien 3*.

The main character narrates the story for you and occasionally talks to the viewer in the first person. He tells you about himself and his day to day life. All goes well until he meets Tyler Durden (Pitt). Durden is the sort of person who is always popular and everyone would love to be. He and the narrator start a fight club completely by accident and, as you have probably heard from the film trailers, "The first rule about Fight Club is not to talk about Fight Club." So I won't.

Making a starring and fantastic appearance is Meatloaf. He plays Robert Paulson who has had testicular cancer and now has big bitch breasts. He acts his part extremely well and it is worth watching this film just for him. Also starring is Helen Bohnam Carter, not playing her usual English Rose character but more of a leachy type of person. The cast works incredibly well and it is rare to see so many famous people actually giving a good performance in one film.

*Fight Club* is one of those films that you think you understand and quite enjoy. That is until about three-quarters of the way through when it suddenly changes. The plot doesn't quite lose you as much as it confuses you. This is the type of film that takes a while to sink in and leaves you wondering about various aspects for days later. It is full of dark humour and there is even a brief moment of idiocy when the film suddenly seems like a modern day scene from *Monty Python's Life of Brian*.

Ok, what I said about violence isn't exactly true. There are fights and where they occur there are lots of fantastic special effects. It does get a bit gruesome at times but at least the blood does look like blood.

Helen



## Sixth Sense

With the recent spate of "slasher" movies, finally abating with the release of *Scream 3* early next year, it's a refreshing surprise to see more conventional supernatural thrillers picking up steam. *The Sixth Sense* is a welcome addition to this genre.

This movie must have been a nightmare to pitch to studio executives. Let's take a story, by an unproven screenwriter/director, set in a genre last made popular in the mid 1970's, with the emphasis of the acting on a 9 year old kid. Then add Bruce Willis as a psychiatrist, into the mix! Granted that Willis hasn't had a great track record when it comes to playing a psychologist (*Colour of Night* anyone!) or acting opposite a child (*Mercury Rising*), it's a surprise that this movie works so well - the studio execs must have had great hindsight to green-light this project. But we should be thankful because M Night Shyamalan has been able to craft an extremely well acted and well delivered thriller that may not scare you out of your wits, but will definitely leave you with a sense of unease as you leave the cinema.

Willis plays Dr Malcolm Crowe, a psychologist, who at the start of the movie is shot by a former patient before the patient turns the gun on himself. We are then whisked towards "The Next Fall" where we meet Crowe. He now has a new patient, 9-year-old Cole Sear (Haley Joel Osment), who exhibits the same problems as the former patient - and so Crowe sees the ability to redeem himself in the boy.

What unfolds is an exceptionally well-crafted piece of moviemaking in which the suspense factor is cranked right up. But what makes this movie really work is the acting. Who would have thought that Bruce Willis could be able to convey emotions in a subtle manner without giving a one-liner, cracking his trademark smirk and then whipping out a gun before all hell breaks loose? Toni Collette, who plays Cole's mother, is also outstanding as a woman who is trying to understand what is wrong with her son whilst keeping her family together. But the real discovery is Osment, whose acting in this movie is nothing short of incredible - there are already whispers of an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor. He's able to hold his own in scenes with Willis and it's these scenes which provide the backbone of this movie.

Much has been said about this movie's big twist ending, and all I can say is whatever you've heard is right. The ending in this movie belongs on the same mantelpiece as *The Usual Suspects*, and *Seven* among others, with the hints towards it being provided all through out the movie.

Imran





# react

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A WHOLE NEW WORLD



### Eidos/Post-it competition

This competition was really over-subscribed.....mmmm. What is the matter with everyone? We are prepared to give away FREE stuff to you poor students but not many people entered the competition. We would like to see an improvement next time. Anyway the winners of the REACT acronym competition are:

Peter Reeves-Hall  
Chris Haynes  
Chris Dickinson  
Joel Dearden  
Paul Alexander

The 3 best acronyms in our humble opinion were:

Reality Endures And Computers Tease

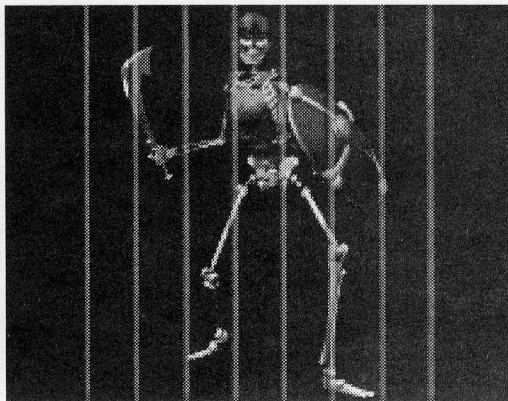
Really Enthusiastic About Computer Technology

Runny Ectoplasmic Arseholes Creating Treacle

Please come and collect your goody bags at the Felix office.



Just look what the winners are enjoying...



### Rage of Mages II (PC)

*Rage of Mages II* is much like the original, a hybrid of RPG and strategy, but there have been some very welcome refinements. As before you wander about a *Warcraft*-like map, fighting monsters and trying to accomplish goals. As you whack monsters, they can leave behind gold and equipment that you can use to improve your character, plus your skills and hit points as you fight. Upon completing your goal, you can move on to the next mission, or hang around and explore the map fully, looking for more monsters and more gold. Between missions, you stop at towns to trade stuff, or hire mercenaries if you think the next mission will require an extra body.

What is great about this game is its non-linearity. You don't have to do the quests in a particular order, you can choose which quest and when. On the down side the graphics are not very advanced so do not expect to be wowed. Also, the character's movements are quite jerky and slow. Saying this graphics are secondary in these sorts of games and it is really the playability and interaction that you're after.

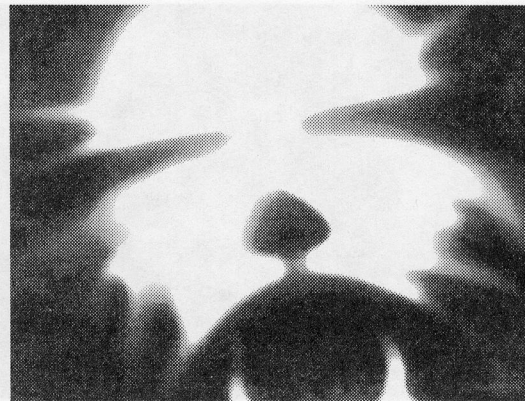
ROM2 features a simple but effective battle structure, akin to the world of *WarCraft*. Point and click to tell your character what to do, which spell to cast, which monster to attack, etc. Real time gameplay forces you to determine plans of attack before the fight, and ROM2 will keep you constantly thinking.

One thing which I found annoying about this game is that it is very hard. Usually hard games make for an interesting challenge but when you keep on dying you lose interest. It was a case of saving every couple of minutes for fearing of being massacred by certain zombies and other nefarious creature.

In conclusion the game is a nice RPG/strategy but there is not much new here. I, personally enjoyed it but it does have a jerky quality and is sometimes very tricky. If it weren't for the likes of *Diablo II* coming out soon I might have bought this game straight off but I think it is best to wait for it to come out in budget.



Mark



### Nocturne (PC)

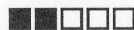
I can't remember the last time I was as disappointed in a game as I was with *Nocturne*. I read all the hype, drooled over the screenshots and was so excited to have a preview copy, I could hardly get the CD into the drive.

I would guess that the feeling of excitement lasted about two minutes once I started playing the game itself. The problem is that it lacks that most important element in - a decent, original, idea. This game has been made so many times before, so much better. This is the kind of game that causes me to lose faith in the industry. I mean, the guys who write these games must be intelligent or they couldn't cope with the programming. So how can no one in this big group of intelligent people spot that what you are releasing is a pile of warmed-over repetitive rubbish?

First off, any sense of immersion in the game, vitally important in horror games if it is going to be scary in the slightest, is destroyed by the infuriating fixed third person viewpoint. The graphics may be good, but as the only thing that actually moves is the main character and a few pathetic looking walking corpses the visuals soon lose their appeal. The camera angles are so bad half the time you can't even see your character - falling to your death over a precipice you couldn't even see because the game engine is so poor is not my idea of fun.

Then there is the combat. Aiming in third person is difficult enough, but the control system is even worse, leading to bizarre situations with my character standing in the corner shooting at the ground instead of at the dog that was busy gnawing my leg off. Personally, I think the only reason the bad guys are all slow moving zombies is that shooting anything moving much faster would be impossible due to the poor controls and camera angles.

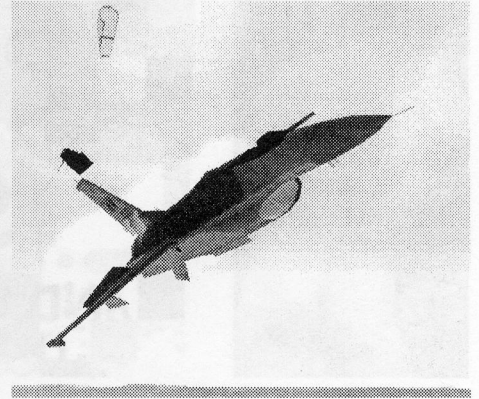
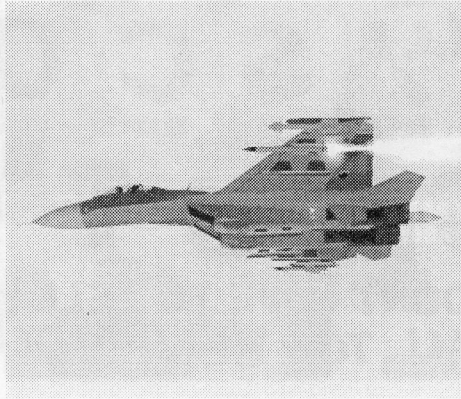
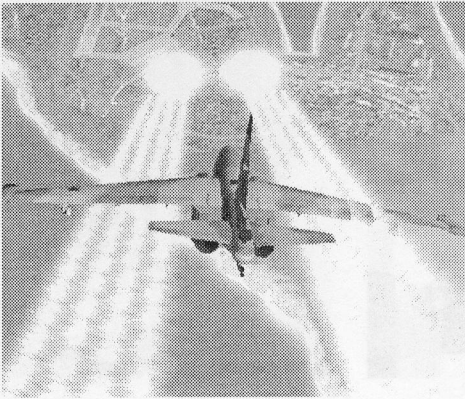
Even worse, in order to play *Nocturne* properly requires a very high-end machine (about a PentiumIII-450 and a decent 32-bit 3D card). This is most definitely not the kind of game that would encourage me to upgrade. Avoid it as you would the walking, disease ridden corpse of Maggie Thatcher.



Ben



# react



## Flanker 2.0 (PC)

Flight simulations are usually divided into two types - the mindless, arcade style affairs and the type that comes with a manual four hundred pages long requiring a degree in aeronautics and a private pilots license to fly.

*Flanker 2* is supposed to fill the void between these two types - even without the manual I was in the air and shooting things down well enough after a few minutes. There are also various training missions available in-game in which, and as a learning method they are extremely effective. The *Flanker* of the game's title is the SU-27, the latest, hardest (and probably biggest) Russian fighter plane. I am told that because the Russian armed services do pretty much anything for money these days, the developers were allowed access to all sorts of information on the plane that wouldn't have been available if they'd chosen an American plane. Whether anyone but the most dedicated flight

fanatic would notice the difference I doubt very much, however - when was the last time you actually flew an F-16?

I do think that perhaps this realism drive might have gone a little far though - all the cockpit switches are labelled in Russian only, which does nothing to enhance playability. Indeed the whole game seems to have been designed with a very Russian military design policy in mind: keep it simple, build something that does the job and forget the rest. Where it counts (ie around target areas) the graphics are very detailed, but elsewhere they become blurry and lack colour depth. This means it runs extremely smoothly even on my old PC, something many other modern flight sims don't do. The emphasis is very much on the details of flying, not on flashy eye-candy.

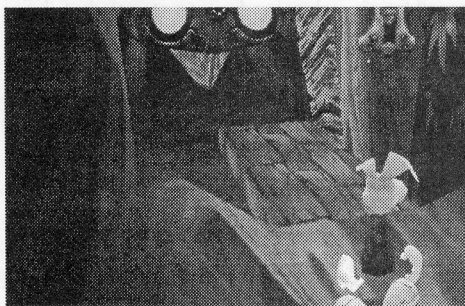
Here's one example of the kind of mission in the

game: during one anti-ship mission I took out the combat air patrol from long range and dove in on the target ship. Firing two sea-skimming missiles at it I turned for home on full afterburner, skimming the waves at 1300kph. As I watched the missiles streak targetwards, two ship-launched SAMS downed both of them, leaving me with no weapons and looking a right fool. Now that is detail.

If you take the time to get beyond the initial training missions, this is a big game with loads of missions to play. The multiplayer section is well implemented and entertaining, although it lacks the personal combat touch of World War II dogfighting games. It is not a new benchmark in combat flight simulations, but it's definitely up there with the best of them.



Ben



## Rayman 2 (PC/N64)

The most important fact about this game is that it's great fun to play. From the cutesy, squeaky cartoon characters to the very clear graphics, everything is enjoyable.

A 3D platform game along the lines of Mario 64, *Rayman 2* is definitely worth a try if you like that sort of thing. The storyline may be a bit weird at

times, but then who really takes any notice of plots in games anyway? Basically, you play Rayman, a floppy-eared creature with no arms or legs - his feet and hands just float around - and have to save the world by jumping around and collecting things.

The game eases you in gradually with a lot of easy levels early on. With a bit of patience you'll soon get on to the more challenging and fun levels. This is certainly a big game, as I've been playing for a week now and my score is still only 8%. It's also rewarding, as you are always discovering new levels and special sections, not just frustratingly walking round the same levels again and again looking for the exit.

A fair bit of thought has obviously gone into the level design, and some of the puzzles and tricks are especially cunning. They are also varied, not just the endless repeating "jump, walk, jump, shoot" of many 3D platform games on the PC. The puzzles aren't exactly brain-taxers, never going beyond the

standard 'pull the switch to open the door' kind really, but you need pretty good coordination to get far. On the whole the camera angles are good, and you can always move the camera if you need to.

The graphics are well drawn and detailed, and the sound effects are suitably squeaky and cartoon like. The music is bouncy and fun, with nice little trills when you do something important. It's a little like playing in one of those kids cartoons that are on TV early Saturday morning.

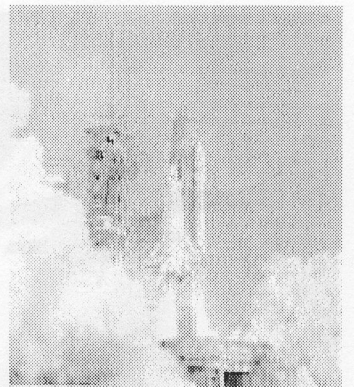
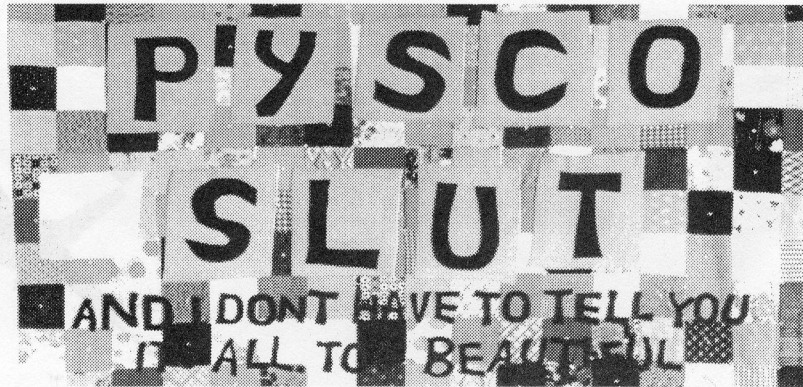
All in all, *Rayman 2* is an extremely well polished game. It may be a little childish, but if you treat it as a bit of a laugh and just play the game, it'll soon draw you in and have you hitting the keyboard in disgust when you miss an easy jump and poor little Rayman plunges to his doom just before you complete the level.



Ben



# method



## The David's The Turner Prize 1999

Finborough Theatre -  
Earls Court tube  
£5 Conc.

Hard core. I am well aware that this play was not aimed at a wide section of the public and unless you are a middle-aged homosexual unable to find the balance between a monogamous relationship and midnight sodomy with strangers on the heath, then the issues of this play will perhaps seem a little distant.

The play attempted to deal with these issues through the uncertain relationship between an older lover and a young guy in a boy band. The characters spent almost half the time butt naked or shagging. I respect the actors for attempting such a hard core piece of theatre and the writer for dealing with the issues in such a frank way but it never really worked.

Basically the production was out of it's depth and as a result ended up being long periods of boredom punctuated by brief moments of bug-gery.



Ben

Tate Gallery - Pimlico tube  
Free

If you decide to visit this exhibition (and you should), you will not depart with the same impression as us. That's what the *Turner Prize* is all about; it challenges our definition of "art". Short-listed for the prize this year are four very controversial artists - none more so than Tracy Emin. Her work is striking because of the wide range of responses that it provokes. Her showpiece comprises of her sick bed, embroidered quilt (pictured above), memorabilia and video footage. Is she a self-centred narcissistic tart who boosts her ego through capturing our sympathy? Or is she wanting to shame herself through laying bare her life to the judgement of others? Do you feel sorrow for her or contempt? Either way she has had a colourful and, at times, sordid past, which perhaps she is trying to reconcile through her work, coming to terms with the trauma (particularly sexual) she describes in her childish scribbles. It's probably the most immediately accessible of all the work shown.

Jane and Louise Wilson's display also studies aspects of human nature, through looking at how experiences have become ingrained in the fabric of two distinct locations; the Hoover dam and a Las Vegas casino. Their wall to wall cinematic display not only recreates the atmosphere and disorientation of the Casino life style (with it's wrap-around visuals and evocative sound track), but it also reflects the uncertainty and cheapness of such an existence. The dam's corridors stretch away into nothingness, complementing the casino footage, making you unsure which path or chance to take.

Steve McQueen aims to produce a physical reaction in the viewer, this time more for comic effect. His *Dead Pan* is a recreation of a Buster Keaton sketch, with the side of a house falling on the artist, only for him to miraculously survive since the empty window frame falls around him. This promotes the idea of gravity creating a solid and very real threat, and of the artist taking a risk for his trade. His work can be interpreted in a number of ways, and in spite of the fact that it is not immediately accessible, this makes it all the more rewarding.

On the surface Steven Pippin's work seems more like science than art. He has converted twelve washing machines in to pin hole cameras, capable of developing their slides within the washing cycle. These pictures are displayed in series along the wall, but unfortunately the concept of how they were taken is more exciting than what you actually see - although him walking through the launderette in his y-fronts with a visible erection may be interesting to some. A good idea but the results were uninspiring.

We couldn't agree on an overall winner.



Tom & Emma

## Dirk

The countdown begins for DramSoc's amazing Christmas production

Imperial's thespians are taking on something huge; the first independent showing ever of *Dirk*. The script is adapted from *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency* by Douglas Adams (author of the *Hitch Hickers Guide to the Galaxy*).

Mr. Adams was involved in the writing of this play and has sent words of advice to DramSoc; "Don't worry about the story and just have fun".

This play is easily the most technically challenging that DramSoc has ever done (it includes a spaceship landing on stage), but if any tech crew can handle it, DramSoc are da boyz.

Tickets £4.50 from 29th Nov - at the Union Office or on the door. Showing 8 - 11 December

## Time's Running Out To See . . .

### Higher than Bable

The relationship between Science and Society is explored.

Bridwell Theatre.

Finishes 20 Nov - £8

### Some Explicit Polaroids

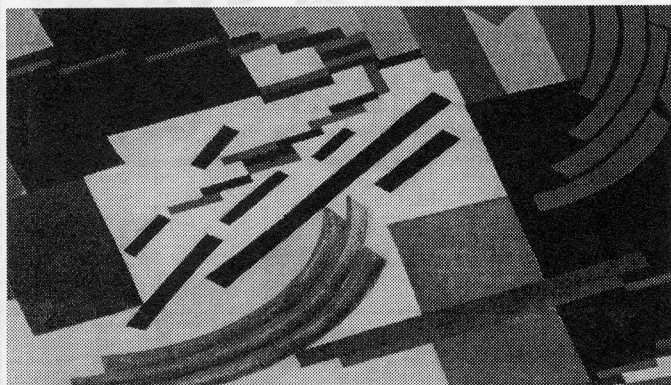
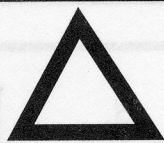
Do we care about any real principles or do we just want to get pissed all the time?

New Ambassador Theatre

Finishes 20 Nov - £5 -20



# method



## Amazons of the Avant-Garde

Sackler Wing, Royal Academy of Arts - Nearest Tube: Green Park  
Until: 6 February 2000

This exhibition was something of an October Revolution. If you go, you may be forced to agree that it is the exhibition of the year. Amazing as a whole and yet every painting is special in its own right. The hype was: Five Russian (Natalia Goncharova, Luibov Popova, Olga Rozanova, Varvara Stepanova, Nadezhda Udaltsova) and one Ukrainian (Alexandra Exter) artist showing more than fifty paintings, many never before seen in the West. We follow the careers of these artists in a sweep through the years immediately before and after the 1917 Revolution. I went in wanting to like this exhibition and came out in love. But there are just too many fantastic pictures here and I am struggling to describe them.

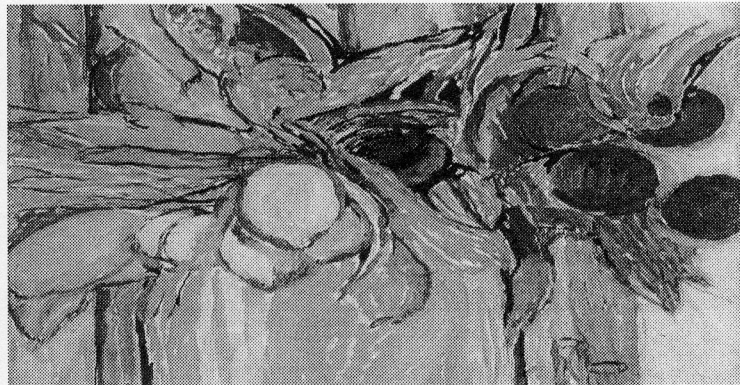
Approach Olga Rozanova's *Jack of Hearts* and you think: she is copying Picasso. Then you read: painted about 1912. Then you wonder: this painting would pass for a Picasso circa 1960. In 1917, Rozanova painted *Green Stripe (Colour Painting)*. This is purely abstract, reductive and almost unbelievably ahead of its time. Popova is equally impressive with her bold, dramatic, often abstract forms (*Painterly Architectonics*). These artists were so avant-garde that they foresaw the future of Western art. It's almost as surprising as Queen Victoria predicting the internet, and then having her palace wired up for it.

Of the six, Goncharova was the most dedicated painter (the others worked on theatre sets and textiles). She picked up Western influences and madly ran with them, producing pictures of quite striking originality. Starting in 1907 with a beautifully executed Impressionist self-portrait (*Self-Portrait with Yellow Lilies*), she evolves effortlessly into a more futurist style (*Pillars of Salt*, 1908). Then, in a little over two years, she paints the darkly-brooding masterpiece *Apocalypse (Elder with Seven Stars)*, which could be contemporary art. So forward looking, it was considered blasphemous and caused a political storm at the time. Unperturbed, she spearheaded the Russian Cubo-Futurist movement, with pictures like *The Weaver (Loom and Woman)*.

But the paintings are more than wonderful. Every one is a unique synergy of Western influence and Russian folk art. Goncharova takes the traditions of Russia and reinterprets them in pictures like *Mowers*, which has the air of a medieval allegorical painting. Alexandra Exter painted in an abstract style but was forever interested in the traditional, classical representation of landscape, magically expressed in *Cityscape (Composition)*. I am speechless!



William Burns



## The Art of Bloomsbury

Tate Gallery - Nearest Tube: Pimlico  
Until: 30 January 2000

Gatecrashing Thursday Night Cocktails at UCL Union. Is this your only Bloomsbury Experience? If it is, Bloomsbury will not be a very evocative place for you. After closing time, we all know that you need a junior doctor's stamina just to stand near those sloshed students sicking up and up and up.

But having been a UCL undergraduate and sometime resident of Cartwright Gardens, I also know Bloomsbury for its leafy squares and graceful Georgian terraces: semi-mythical homeland of that famous collective of radical intellectuals known as the Bloomsbury Group. Within easy stumbling distance of UCL are the former houses of Virginia Woolf, John Maynard Keynes, EM Forster, Roger Fry, Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant. The last three were artists and this new exhibition follows their interlinked careers from 1910.

Sadly, this exhibition inadvertently portrays Bloomsbury as a fossilised backwater of artistic mediocrity. Although Roger Fry was the first to introduce Impressionism into the British art mainstream, most of his own work and that of Bell and Grant is, without doubt, incredibly dull and very much of its age.

There were over a hundred archetypal Bloomsbury works (still-lives, portraits) and some of them were distinctly third rate. Vanessa Bell's *The Haystack, Asheham* is barely distinguishable from the poorly executed daubs of an amateur. Yet others give the impression of boredom: imagine Vanessa Bell sitting around with nothing to do and desperately racking her brains for something 'clever' to paint. In the background of Duncan Grant's *Still Life With Matisse*, there is a reproduction of Matisse's *Blue Nude I*. I'm afraid to say that Matisse, even in imitation, put everything else to shame.

The tragedy is that there were only five really striking paintings in the entire exhibition. These were actually not all that wonderful and have been done elsewhere and better. Yet they were aesthetically pleasing and captivated me either by their intimacy with the subject (Grant: *Vanessa Bell at Charleston* and *Vanessa Bell Pregnant*) or their vibrant warmth (Grant: *The Doorway and South of France*; Fry: *View of Cassis*).

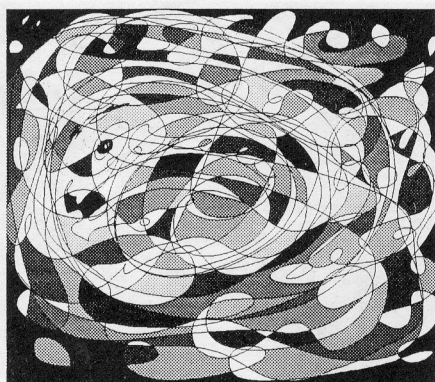
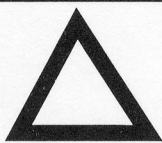
The impact of this exhibition relies entirely upon its context. The Bloomsbury celebrity connection means that people hand over money to see something that would be, under normal circumstances, firmly rooted in the second division (and I am being charitable here). But, in spite of this, I couldn't help but fall into the celebrity trap and begin to like these pictures.



William Burns



# method



## Rocket Girl Fringe Thoughts

Finborough Theatre  
Nearest Tube: Earls Court  
Until: 27 November 1999

Houston, we have a problem! Or rather several problems, which left this play drifting somewhat forlornly in space. All two of us in the audience were told the wacky story of a Kentish Town caterer who believed that his mother was an astronaut. The play ended to the strains of *Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds*, which I think just about summed up this surreal experience.

Given the constraints of this tiny theatre, the two-person cast (Anthony Best and Denise Lane) did what they could. Mr Best did not always do his best, once forgetting his lines rather noticeably and needing three loud prompts. Ms Lane also suffered from First Night Nerves and it concerns me that professional actors should be so amateurish, especially when the punters are paying good money.

I find it hard to slam this play (I feel sorry for them). But if you want to go, I'd hurry, because I suspect this performance will be pulled long before the end of its scheduled season.

"Let a thousand flowers bloom" said Mao Tse Tung then stamped on their heads as he didn't like the colour.

The fringe scene. It's made up of a number of sides; we have the writers who strive to create the truly original - actors who try and breath life into the new scripts - and critics who slag off both the others for being crap.

Is there any way out of this paradox. Nope. For every great play there are thousands of rubbish ones - there has to be. Yet without the fringe scene (which allows experimental theatre to develop) we would never have the truly great.

Most of the stuff on at the fringe is bad. But this does not mean it is worthless. For something to be original it must take a risk - and that risk is that it will end up being crap.

We all remember Shakespeare, but there were hundreds of playwrights around at the time; most were infinitely forgettable, but Shakespeare would never have developed without actors willing to act and theatres in need of shows.

New original theatre is very rare and - to top it off - when it does come along, society dismisses it as worthless as it is not ready yet. But this is the only way it can be - there needs to be a large and vibrant fringe scene full off crap which the great will transcend. And yes we even need the critics trashing every thing they don't understand and hailing something as a masterpiece every fortnight or so.

Let a thousand flowers bloom, but accept most of them will be ugly.

■■■■ William Burns

□□ Ben



Royal College  
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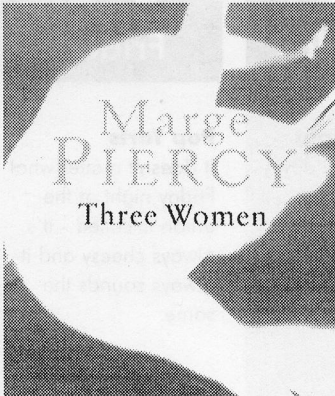
**FREE!**

**Monday 15 November**

7:30pm in the  
Senior Common Room



## books



### Three Women, Marge Piercy

*Three Women* is the latest novel from American author Marge Piercy and follows three generations of women: Suzanne is a highly successful lawyer who has just embarked on a new era in her life, teaching at Boston University and beginning a new relationship following an internet romance. Beverly, her mother and one time political activist, is fiercely independent yet her life is shattered as she suffers a debilitating stroke and becomes increasingly reliant on those around her. Elena, Suzanne's feisty daughter, loses her job as a waitress and is forced to move back in with her mother.

As they are thrown together, the women are forced to readjust their lives and reconsider their relationships. Piercy tackles both maternal responsibilities and filial loyalty in a way that is challenging yet poignant. The story also touches on issues as diverse as euthanasia and adultery.

The book is written from the point of view of all three women and the author's attention to detail allows the reader to empathise with all the main characters. However, at times I found the book, particularly the references to American law, very heavy going. If you like intense, romantic sagas, this is the book for you! Unfortunately, it is not the book for me.



Helen



### England England, Julian Barnes

This one goes out to all the Murdoch-haters out there. Nominated for the 1998 Booker, here is a book that builds upon the standard theme of art being used as a substitute for reality. The book starts out with an exploration of the manner in which we construct artificial worlds, only to finish with a scathing attack on what Barnes generally perceives as a lack of consciousness with regard to true authenticity and heritage.

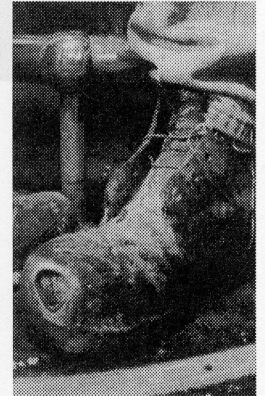
The basic story line follows the rather grandiose scheme of multimillionaire Sir Jack Pitman to create the greatest tourist attraction ever - the theme park to beat all theme parks. This is no ordinary park, this one occupies the whole of the Isle of Wight! The isle, now re-christened "England, England" has lifelike replicas - and in some cases, the originals which have been specially moved there - of all the usual tourist attractions that earn the British Isles so much of their wealth. Stonehenge, Westminster Abbey and even Buckingham Palace are included in Pitman's collection. With the Royal Family, The Times and Manchester United FC all set firmly in place on the Isle, "England, England" sets all out to bring the once-mighty nation to its knees.

The central character is the cynic Martha Cochrane who, despite being unusually dissatisfied about things in general, manages to get involved with this giant project and eventually blackmails her way right to the top. Barnes is at his best when depicting Martha, whose dialogue rings very true and is never overly harsh despite the ever-present sarcastic undertones.

However, the end is fairly dire and predictable; England, England declares its independence, joins the EU, shrugs off the mainland completely and generally leads the rest of the world to first ignore and then condemn the mainland. Old England in a desperate bid to regain some credibility re-christens itself "Anglia" and then expels the errant island. The Times (which has moved - along with all other institutions - to the Isle) labels this the act of a "bankrupt parent exasperatedly declaring that it would no longer underwrite the bills of its millionaire child". The world at large begins to forget about everything to do directly with Old England, and the island simply reverts back to the quaint primitive days of yore. The focus shifts back to Martha at this point, as she reflects on how things have changed so rapidly.

The end really does seem tagged on, however. It is extremely abrupt and everything changes in the space of a few pages. This disturbs the narrative flow and means that it doesn't finish strongly.

If you're a fan of the dry acerbic form of satirical wit Barnes has employed frequently, then there are a few gems, but if not then there is little reason to read it.



### The Restraint of Beasts, Magnus Mills

The first novel by Mills, who worked as a bus driver during its writing, *The Restraint of Beasts* is a book of real character and comic charm.

Two Scottish working class brothers, Tam and Richie, wannabe hard-rockers and slacker fence builders, provide the humour as viewed by the poor soul freshly assigned as the boys foreman.

While not quite a laugh a page, I did laugh out loud countless times during the course of reading, prompted by Mills' dead pan delivery and the apparent idiocy of the two brothers, who manage to get themselves into all sorts of trouble.

A fresh change of pace and well worth a look.

You will laugh

■■■■■□ Russell

Remember to stop by Waterstone's on Campus where 'Felix Recommends' titles are at a 20% discount.

Sunil



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

**EVENTS**

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

**RAG**  
 Pint glass sale. 12.00 - 2.00, JCR

**XS**  
 Classic party tunes for the post-match party. 9-1am, dBs

**Standing Rm Only England v Scotland**  
 The bar opens at 5.00 and the pre-match build-up commences at 7.00.

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

**Pop Tarts**  
 It doesn't matter what Friday night at the union is called - it's always cheesy and it always sounds the same.

**CLUBS**

**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**

**Boom or Bust @ Project Club**  
 Free entry B4 11pm. Drinks £1 each, usual mix of music.

**Feet First @ Camden Palace**  
 Packed each week with well over a 1000 students and such like.

**Space @Bar Rhumba £3 B4 11**  
 Deep- tech- disco-funky-house grooves. Excellent night.

**Eurythmics @ Wembley Arena £35-25**  
 Help Greenpeace and take a trip down memory lane.

**Sneaker Pimps @ ULU £8.50**  
 Sure to be fantastic. Do not miss.

**Film**

**East is East**  
 Comedy set in early seventies Salford about a mixed race family. Virgin Haymarket. 4.00, 6.30, 9.00

**Ride with the Devil**  
 Epic of the American Civil War, huge critical success. Empire. 2.10, 5.30, 8.30

**Run Lola Run**  
 Lola must raise 100,00 marks in 20 minutes or her boyfriend gets it. Odeon Camden 12.30, 2.40, 4.50

**Ratcatcher**  
 Set in 70's Glasgow about a bloke who feels guilty about killing his pal. Virgin Fulham Rd. 4.00, 7.00, 9.20

**Fight Club**  
 Violent, bloody, Brad Pitt stars in this recommended film. Odeon Kensington 5.25, 8.35

**TV**

**A river runs through it**  
 10.00, C4  
 Brad Pitt stars in an 'unexceptional' family drama.

**Embarrassing Illnesses**  
 8.30, C4  
 Laugh at people with BO and smelly feet. Finishes Friday.

**The Big Match**  
 7.30, ITV  
 England and Scotland battle it out in a Euro 2000 qualifier.

**Who wants to be a millionaire?**  
 8.00, ITV  
 Chris Tarrant makes some more people too rich.

**Top of the Pops**  
 7.30, C1  
 More cheesy chart hits from the country's top ten.

**Arts**

**Resident Alien**  
 The Bush Theatre. A new play based on the writings of Quentin Crisp the legendary English eccentric.

**Some explicit polaroids**  
 New Ambassadors A refreshing play that tackles many issues including socialism. Finishes Friday.

**Bell's eye**  
 Barbican  
 The Guardian columnist shows 20 years of political cartoons.

**Mnemonic**  
 Riverside Studios  
 A new show about place and memory previews today.

**King Lear**  
 Barbican  
 The over-the-top RSC production finishes tomorrow.

**D** Saturday  
**A** Sunday  
**Y** 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

**CARWASH @ London Astoria**  
 Glamorous disco and funk club, good for a laugh

**Bowfinger**  
 An all star cast of comedy greats. 'Preposterous and utterly self-absorbed.' Trocadero 4.00, 6.30 9.00

**Casualty**  
 8.05, BBC 1  
 Forget all that London has to offer - stay in and watch pretend doctors.

**Higher than Babel**  
 The Bridewell  
 About the scientist's role in society. Finishes today.

**Southside pub quiz**  
 The quiz for regulars and newcomers alike continues today. 7pm Southside bar

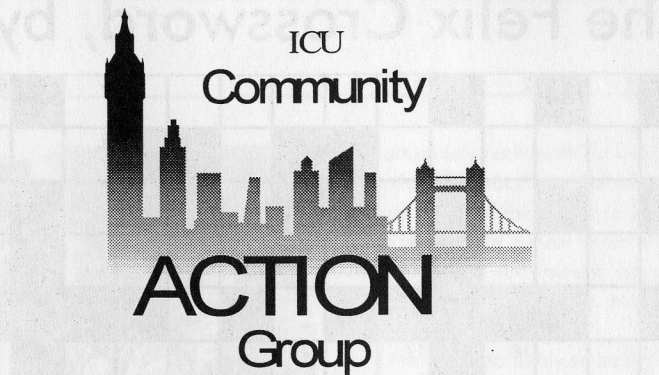
**Kung Fu Club**  
 (Wu Shu Kwan)  
 Union Gym  
 4:30pm - 6:30pm

**Comedy Store, Piccadilly Circus**  
 Cheapish entry on a Sunday.

**The Out of Towners**  
 Steve Martin, Goldie Hawn and John Cleese star in a half-hearted re-make. Trocadero 4.15, 6.20, 8.35

**EastEnders omnibus**  
 1.00, BBC 1  
 Catch up on the ever popular soap.

**Artists book fair**  
 Barbican  
 The three day event for those interested in artists books draws to a close.



**ICU Community 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)**

**ACCESS FUNDS**

AUTUMN TERM 1999

Full-time home students (including EU students registered as "home" for fees purposes) are invited to apply for Access Funds this round.

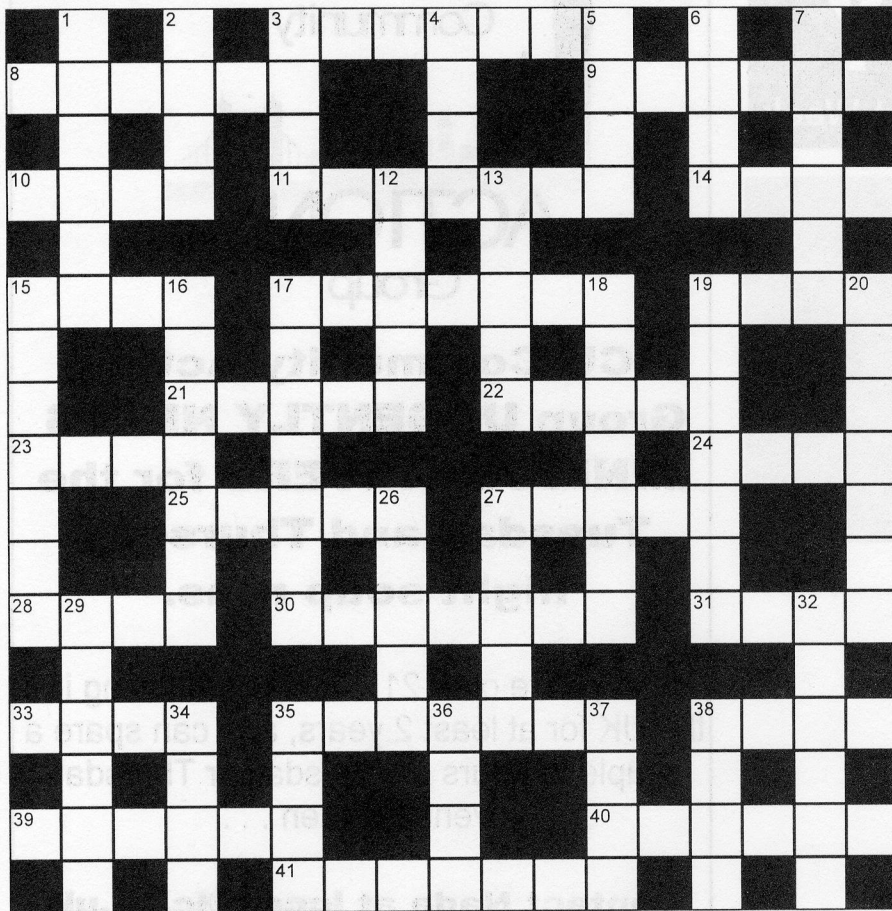
Undergraduate students should note that applications can only be accepted from those who have taken out a student loan this session. First and second year undergraduates are also required to apply for an additional hardship loan.

Forms are available from Student Finance Office (334, Sheffield Building, South Ken) or iCU Reception (South Ken). Contact Student Finance (x. 58010), Kevin Butcher (x.58064) or Martin Thomson (x.48067).

**Closing Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November**



# The Felix Crossword, by Turnip Henry



## Answers to 1156:

**Across:** Deserts, Earlobes, A Long Time Ago, Jacob, Talent, Intoner, Orator, Bandicoot, Newsagent, Ticket, Inhabit, Quiche, Euler, Aphrodisiacs, Admitted, Totters.

**Down:** Doorjamb, Rhombi, Signet, Eliminate, Llama, Senator, Ancient China, Over The Hills, Trotsky, Necktie, One-Handed, Thermals, Tequila, Bedsit, Tenant, Hi-Hat.

## Across

3. Vehicle hits dogs on the floor. (7)
8. Married barber. (6)
9. Girl's songs, perhaps. (6)
10. Playing Sega for years. (4)
11. Old Etonian mixes Latin. Joy! (7)
14. Copies monkeys. (4)
15. Walk to the stars. (4)
17. Fall ill in fang. Not doing very well. (7)
19. Sounds like hitting a symbol. (4)
21. Walkthrough band. (5)
22. Only a butcher has the stomach for it. (5)
23. Animal sounds false. (4)
24. Signal to a swell. (5)
25. Cuttings are missing from step backwards. (5)
27. Disagree about age? Right. (5)
28. Ineffectual clothes. (4)
30. Bits of trouser for the books. (4-3)
31. Spiritual bear. (4)
33. Race around a field. (4)
35. Sellers of birds? (7)
38. Complain to the fish. (4)
39. Process summary. (6)
40. Build iota up. Paradise. (6)
41. Calling forth bit of evolving monarch. (7)

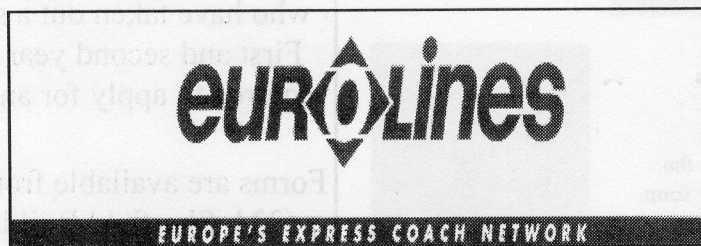
## Down

1. Spice Spice. (6)
2. Chocolate god. (4)
3. Tasty speaker. (4)
4. O no! Point to glass. (4)
5. Stuart can keep the rhythm. (4)
6. 1.3 yards by 4 metres. (4)
7. Two men please Victoria. (6)
12. Sail round a nickname. (5)
13. Silly person I do confuse in it. (5)
15. "Bird-seed", Edward sang. (7)
16. Vital beans. (7)
17. Arranger has lillies or roses, initially, in fist. (7)
18. Go South around Beatle to be non-Mexicans. (7)
19. Berry we mistakenly used to make beer. (7)
20. Mistake love in Alistair for breathing. (7)
26. Used to suck warts up. (5)
27. A goddess of art will entertain. (5)
29. A church in Rome looks after orphan. (6)
32. RAG up amd left Imperial because of a plant? (6)
34. Eastern study is like the garden. (4)
35. Emotion from going quickly; not south. (4)
36. Bend perversion. (4)
37. Bullet for garden pest? (4)
38. Cut up pork. (4)

## And the winner is...

Back in Issue 1154 Felix gave you the chance to win a pair of Euro-lines one month coach passes around Europe. A massive number of people entered the contest, and, finally, the winners can be announced.

But first, the answers. Somewhat unsurprisingly, every single entry that I saw got the answers right (which may have had something to do with the fact that they were contained in the accompanying blurb - see, your teachers were right, reading is important). Anyhow, just in case you're still interested, I was looking for the following



responses :

- The capital of Hungary is Budapest.
- A EuroLines pass starts at an unbelievably cheap £159 if you're under 26.
- Gothenberg is situated in Sweden

So, now that's out of the way, down to the important stuff - the winners identities. Well, after applying the wondrous invention that is the official Felix winnerometer™, I was stunned to discover that the winner wasn't someone from the office, and was in fact a pair of

bona fide Imperial College students. And their names? They were (or indeed are):

**Terrence Choi  
&  
Michelle Choi**

Congratulations - please come to the Felix office (situated in the portacabins outside of the Physics department, hidden behind the liquid nitrogen tank) or email the editor [ felix@ic.ac.uk ] so that we can arrange for you to receive your prizes. For more chances to win, see page 22.



# Team Bo

## Bo Goes to Brighton '99

At the crack of dawn the intrepid two, Paul and Mark, got out of bed and headed for the Bo' [short for Boangeres, City & Guilds College Union's motorised mascot] garage. Last Sunday was the biggest day of Bo's year, the Brighton run.

Along with five hundred other veteran cars, Bo' headed to Hyde Park and the starting line. Paul knew he had forgotten something until a silver car suddenly pulled up in front of him. Out jumped Professor Briscoe, the Dean of C&G. No wonder Bo' was going so well - we'd forgotten the passenger.

Eight o'clock was Bo's starting time and he set off from the start line doing his own impression of nine three-legged horses in an attempt to catch up with Clem, the RSM mascot. Unfortunately in the



twenty-five years between the construction of the two mascots, they had learnt how to make engines - so Bo' had no chance.

I believe the Dean would like to say the journey was uneventful. What he did say is he was impressed with Bo's road holding.

Unfortunately Paul made full use of his pilot like reactions and very little use of the brakes. He is yet to understand that ninety-seven year old cars are not meant to out accelerate and overtake modern vehicles.

After a remarkably smooth trip, Bo' arrived in Brighton to be greeted by a Boomalaka. This year all the motorized mascots made it to Brighton and the RSM even joined C&G for dinner. Copious quantities of wine were drunk, especially by Mike the Derrick rider. The stories of his hangover will be legendary.

Thanks should be extended to Paul the Bo' driver and Mike the Derrick rider for all their work in getting the vehicles ready, Professor Briscoe for being willing to spend the day freezing in the back of Bo' and Stuart Hamilton for organising a fantastic dinner.

## IMPERIAL'S NEW SPORTS CENTRE

ian cauldwell (the director of ic's estates division) and a representative of the sports centre will present the college's plans - which have recently received planning permission - and will answer any questions relating to the project

although representatives of the clubs affected by the programme are particularly welcome, all students are invited to attend

when : 12pm, thursday 18 november

where : union dining hall (on the first floor of the union building)

contact tim trailor  
[ dpcs@ic.ac.uk ] for details

iCU Jazz and Rock presents...

# TIXKET

SOUL DOUBT

RESIST

ALONE IN A GODLESS UNIVERSE  
(and out of "shake and vac")

In DBs on :

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November

First band on stage @8pm

FREE!!!!!!



# Reserves show the rest how it's done

## Football - 5ths and 6ths

Sat 6th Nov 1999

UCL VI .....1  
IC VI .....8

This fixture saw the return of the mighty sixths to the ground where we thrashed the UCL whipping boys 7 - 1 in the cup last season. The journey was a contest in itself - a breakdown in communication left us without a keeper. The match started untidily, with the wind and wet pitch causing problems for both sides. Mark, our new midfielder (and a games editor of this esteemed paper, might I add) ferociously went for the bol.... knees of their players, sliding in from all angles and nearly always winning the ball! After probing their box several times, IC scored albeit by an own goal from a Dan M cross. We scored again soon afterwards, a Dan W penalty from a foul on Dan M. OK, so perhaps we had been lucky so far but our third was pure class, Dan M passed to Dan W who flicked it back and the shot hit the top corner. In the second half the Dan and Dan show started

again but failed to break through. Instead, Animesh, with Rivaldoesque brilliance ran from halfway (with the ball for once!), thrust through the hole in their back line and lobbed his shot over the keeper into the net. Another own goal put us 5 up and the game lost all edge. With 20mins to go, James decided to start playing and scored a hatrick. Blatantly offside (their ref. was awful) for his first, no. two came from smart play by Matt on the left, who, along with Rob and Luis, worked hard all game even though out of position. Before no. 3, they pulled one back. A long ball from the back went over the otherwise excellent centre back pairing of the two Alex's to first-rate stand in keeper Leon. The slippery wet ball fell from his gloveless hands into the path of their onrushing striker who gently stroked it in. Furious at this lapse, Alex Jekyll n' Hyde went in search of a goal, steaming forward like Jonah Lomu but getting nowhere before James sealed it with his third, a simple nutmeg and the last kick of the game.

School Of Pharmacy ..... 1  
IC V ..... 3

After a midweek break for the team, with no match on Wednesday, it was back to the serious business of the league on Saturday.

With a record of 2 wins, 1 loss so far, we needed to put together a run of victories to climb the table. SOP were last year's whipping boys, losing all but 2 of their games, so we fancied our chances of boosting that goal difference.

After taking 2 hours by minibus to travel from South Ken to Turkey Street, just by the M25 in North London, we were in no mood to slip up, and started the game brightly with skippy returning to Centre Back while Sol was away, giving "tiger" Rob free reign at right back. This soon proved to be a great move, with the 1st goal coming from Dino' head, the ageing beast feeding off a great cross from Tiger, which left their keeper flapping and helpless. 1-0. IC

now clicked into gear with great midfield work from JP in particular. His reward was a chance to pick up the ball on right, drive infield, and let fly a fantastic shot which sailed over the keeper into the far corner for a man-of-the-match winning goal, and it was 2-0. More was to come, as Dino's persistence on the left led to a sharp cross to the centre, where "Space-man" Lovell waited to apply an expert finish for 3-0.

We were now cruising, and thought the game was won by half time. Unfortunately we took our foot off the pedal, and in the second half it was all SOP, with only great work by Buzz Foster at left back, along with Dij, skippy and Dave preventing more than the one SOP header. So, a disappointing result in the end, as we just never got started after the break. 3 points, but standards need to go higher if promotion is going to look likely. Luckily, a lovely warm 5th team bath after the game helped keep spirits high...

# Ultimate projectile is force to be reckoned with

## Ultimate Frisbee

### Friendly Fire Tournament

Wednesday 3rd November saw the first games of the new year for the DiscDoctors (the Imperial College Ultimate Frisbee team) in the form of a friendly fire tournament at Regents Park. Kings and UCL stepped up to play, and as there were so many of us, we split into two teams - a Darkside, and a Lightside.

### The Darkside

The Darkside played Kings first, whose recent addition was an ex Discdoctors player (and ISE student). We opened with a gorgeous cut from Martin into the oppositions' end zone. Unfortunately Kings replied with two cheeky points. The Darkside felt they had had their chance and promptly took

three points on the trot. Jez kindly made an appearance, and with brushes firmly fixed in our minds, we finished whitewashing Kings, taking them apart with 1-2 combos from "Waterboy" and Worship Me. We finally beat them 13-6.

UCL were up next. "Jabba the Tat" kept up his extremely solid and tight defence, with "The Italian Stallion", although new was making some very tasty cuts from the stack and was rewarded with some nice passes to him. The hammering of UCL was short and sweet, and although we didn't bagel them, we still trounced them 13-4.

Finally, before it got too dark to play, we played the Lightside. Although not really a match, we still beat them 6-2, and Worship Me and Martin demonstrated that practice makes perfect, because

on their 50th attempt, they finally managed to huck it into the end zone for a point.

### The Lightside

Our first match of the day was against UCL. Within the first half hour we were up 5 - 0. The arrival of Catch started our plummet to the depths of despair. Within 15 minutes we were level at 7 all, how could we be doing so badly? After an hour the game was capped at 11 points, with the score 10-9 to UCL. All we needed was 2 straight points to seal victory. The first came from a quick response to our impending doom. But their response was just too good and they stole the game from us. 11 - 10 to UCL.

The second match was against Kings. We didn't disappoint our

adoring fans with some storming play and solid defence. They didn't stand a chance, perhaps a little unfair but we still managed a win with the final score 12 - 7 to the Lightside.

Our final and most challenging match was against ourselves (?). OK against the Darkside. With Astro-fuck having gone to work we were forced to pay iron-man (no subs). We started off well, but really couldn't be arsed. The final straw came when Baby subbed off injured and in the true spirit of the game they gave us their Waterboy as a replacement. With that we quit with the score at 6 - 2 to the Darkside.

A special mention has to go out to Constant Pressure who courageously managed 5 minutes of a match, then adopted his position of the month - the sideline.



(continued from back page)

a lightning start with a hat trick within the first twenty minutes. All three goals illustrated his goal scoring prowess but the pick of the bunch was the third set up by an unselfish pass off the goal post by Geography teacher.

The team the relaxed expecting a walkover but were broken up by a textbook short corner by the opposition. From the restart IC were back into action and attacking form as the Geography teacher got the just deserts for his phenomenal midfield vision and individual skill with a hat trick forever logged in all our minds. After a textbook short corner strike, our main man dribbled past 5 men and struck the ball firmly past the keeper into the left corner. The crowd went wild and girls started throwing their knickers on the field, as Geography teacher came back to strike his third. Giles tamely scored a seventh, roofing the ball into the net.

A sensational team performance worthy of the scoreline against a fired and organised team.

## IC edge Holloway

### Football

IC I ..... 1  
Royal Holloway I ..... 0

Another day, another game and another victory for the mighty firsts. The fine form of recent weeks continued straight from the kick off. Resolute defending, fine passing in the midfield and varied movement from the forwards combined to leave the boys from Holloway in a daze. Early in the second half, with the wind in our sails, Foulstone whipped in a corner that found the boot of Rich. The resulting shot curled past the bemused Holloway keeper into the roof of the net. The team maintained its impenetrable integrity until the final whistle, holding out for a fine victory.

This result leaves the firsts in a strong position in the BUSA league: Bring on the rest of the country!

# Turkey Street roasting

### ICSM Football

Carried over from Saturday 30/10/99 (sorry for the delay)

RUMS ..... 1  
ICSM I ..... 3

ICSM continued their winning streak by beating RUMS at Turkey Street. Formed as a result of the merger between Royal Free and UCH, RUMS had the capability to provide tricky opposition. However, ICSM had the upper hand in the first half and took the lead after some clever wing play resulted in Jonathan Kennedy putting in an excellent cross for Kash Akhtar to head home. The lead was doubled 10 minutes later when Jeremy Welch pounced on a loose ball after a corner and thundered home from close range.

The game became a lot more physical in the second half with lots of late tackles flying in from

all over the place. Jez Welch led the way by flying in where angels fear to tread, and was ably followed by the rest of his teammates who showed the passion and teamwork that has been a defining feature of the season so far.

The ICSM defence fared well against a potent attack and Eammon Rabie in particular helped neuter the RUMS strikers. The ICSM team lost its way somewhat as the game degenerated into a physical battle, but then wrapped the game up with 20 minutes left as Kash Akhtar pounced on a fumble by the RUMS keeper and back heeled the ball beyond the despairing defenders into the net.

RUMS scored a solitary goal near the end after a goalmouth scramble, but by then ICSM had the game well and truly in the bag.

## IN BRIEF

### Ladies Rugby

Bart's ..... 0  
IC Virgins ..... walkover

Because of our superior skills And natural ability, this week's Rugby match was the easiest yet. Tries were  
Scored left, right and centre,  
With every player  
In the squad scoring  
Multiple points and no injuries.  
Passing skills greatly improved,  
Enabling a fine performance.  
Dropped balls were a thing  
Of the past – all that training hey!  
Unfortunately, we couldn't stay out  
There all day. Lots of love Bart's.  
We kicked your butts!!!

### Netball

GKT ..... 25  
IC I ..... 24

We arrived at the court just as the rain started. The scene was windswept, desolate and the GA was at least 8 foot tall. Great. This meant that Rachel had no chance of getting rebounds and therefore Alex had the novel task of marking both the GS and the GA in the circle. Well done Alex. At half time the scores were evens. But then the curse of the third quarter struck again and we fell behind 15 – 22 with 15 minutes to go. Some fabulous play from the girls in the centre (Dorothy, Becky and Paula) and some hot shooting from those starlets Rebekah and Sarah saw us pull it back. Next week we're trekking out to Wye...fingers crossed.

### Tennis

IC's tennis season began with a disappointing start. Despite Magic Hani and Captain Julien displaying great skills in their impressive victories, Olivier and Antonis were severely crushed by Royal Holloway's "bizarre" talents. The score was all even again after the doubles but the set lost in one of the doubles proved to be fatal.

Final Score: IC 3-3 RHUL but RHUL won 7-6 in sets.

Match 2 of IC's campaign quickly turned into a nightmare for UCH. Fielding the same team that had lost 6-0 last year, UCH were once more whitewashed. Playboy Chris and our German prodigies Jan and Christoph each thrashed their opponents, dropping only one game each. Medic Jason decided to do the same only after having lost the first set. In doubles, our German duo crushed their opponents while Stuart and Remy finished the job with a clean 6-0, 6-0.

Final Score: IC 6-0 UCH

### Ladies Football

IC I ..... 5  
QMW I ..... 1

Our strong 10 player team held the game well with an excellent start and showed domination throughout the match.

Helga von Crick, Hedge, Hard Kaur and Frenchie were dazzling in defence and midfielders 'Dumb and Dumber', Girlfriend and The Mayor showed continuous skill. It didn't take much for the talented Clark Kent to beat the (larger than life) QMW defenders. Her 2 added to The Mayors first goal of the season meant we were 3 nil up at half time. Clark's final goal was shortly followed by a lucky shot from the opposition but Jazzy Jeff brought the score to 5-1, finally striking on target. Goalie G'n' T held her ground well with her excellent dives saving the day.

It was a tres magnifique performance all round and The Shady Ladies walked away with style.

Sports reports.

Wednesday evening.

Or you team

won't be in.

Simple as that.

Sports players beware!

Felix's crack team of sports reporters will be at Harlington on Wednesday - so wear your best kit!



# SPORT

## Imperial rack up the points

### Rugby

Sponsored by  **ALTRAN**

IC I ..... 30  
University of Essex ..... 0

Another day, another set of victims. After two hours on the coach, the boys were slow starting and the forwards never really got it together all game. The first try came after sustained pressure with Ricky Martin diving in at the corner. Then Gayro scored the first of two tries. Further scores from Wonderboy Willis and Gayro again completed a disappointing but workmanlike victory. They were a bunch Essex wideboys but we stole the keys to their Escorts and shagged their women. Nice one.

University of Essex ..... 0  
IC II ..... 63

After a two hour coach journey, we arrived in some god-forsaken hell hole in the depths of Essex. IC took to the field with some notable absentees including GI Tim, who had a dodgy stomach due to par-

taking in too many salty substances. IC 2nd XV still prove to be a force to be reckoned with, running some flowing play just after kick off that even the All-blacks would have been proud of, before our first try was put down in the corner. Once first blood had been drawn, the flood gates opened and there was no chance of stopping the indomitable IC war machine, with the score at half time being far too large to count. Second half started in much the same vain with IC continuing their merciless romp to victory. Tries came from Alessandro, Rich, Frank, Jan, Matt and a couple each from Nick, Texz and Huy. Next time we are again on our travels, this time to raid Norwich's UEA with more tries to follow. Watch this space.

IC III ..... 69  
RUMS III ..... 0

On the 10th of November, Harlington witnessed a celebration of all

that is good about the game of rugby. Right from the start the IC pack were rampant, untamed and wild! RUMS clearly had no answer to the "witchcraft-like" skills of IC. The first try came from an inspirational interception from the IC captain, Dave "Boyo" White with some sexy support play from Sam Bale and Akira. Man of the match Devon rampaged over from the resulting scrum. The floodgates then opened and IC pulled away. Halftime came upon us unexpectedly due to the shortened match length.

Throughout the second half the pack were dominant with some good lineout play by James Ireland. Little opposition was offered by the floundering RUMS midfield and the tries were scoring themselves. A total of eleven in all coming from Devon(3), Ollie(2), Paul(2), James(1), Akira(1), Dave(1), Stuart(1). James Welch slotted over 7 conversions in windy conditions. Nice!

## Hockey: Firsts draw, seconds win

### Hockey

IC I ..... 1  
GKT ..... 1

Turning up an hour and a half before the game we had plenty of time to talk about team plays and tactics. However, after a few minutes we had returned to the village style hockey seen in the first game of the season. But luckily, after a G.Minger own goal we saw some champagne, 11+ giving us the equaliser courtesy of Jambo just before half time.

After an inspirational half time talk, the team decided to play! Some good attacking play by Jambo, Herpes, Pink Gash and 11+ saw IC unlucky not to take the lead at the start of the 2nd half. This bad luck contrived with a shortie blown as the ball went into the back of the net.

Their keeper's good form continued as he saved Pink Gash's deflection with his armpit and 2 minutes of shot stopping even though he didn't realise it.

So there we go, a 1-1 draw. But the mens 1sx XI are still unbeaten and going strong in BUSA. Role on UCL and the medics.

IC II ..... 7  
RHC ..... 3

The seconds built on recent form with a convincing win which ensures a top spot finish in their BUSA merit league with a game to spare. Bermuda triangle provided

(continued p35 col. 1)

### SCOREBOARD

#### BADMINTON

IC 1st 5 - 2 UCL 1st

#### FENCING

IC Men 24 - 3 Kings

IC Women 7 - 11 Kings

#### FOOTBALL (Mens)

IC 1st XI 1 - 0 RHUL 1st XI

IC 2nd XI 4 - 2 RHUL 2nd XI

IC 3rd XI 4 - 0 Barts

IC 4th XI w/o RUMS

IC 5th XI 3 - 1 SoP

IC 6th XI 8 - 1 UCL 6th XI

ICSM 1st 3 - 1 RUMS 1st

#### FOOTBALL (Womens)

IC XI 5 - 1 QMW XI

#### HOCKEY (Mens)

IC 1st XI 1 - 1 GKT 1st XI

IC 2nd XI 7 - 3 RHUL 2nd XI

IC 3rd XI w/o Barts

#### NETBALL

IC 1st XI 24 - 25 GKT

#### RUGBY (Mens)

IC 1st XI 32 - 0 Essex 1st XI

IC 2nd XI 63 - 0 Essex 2nd XI

IC 3rd XI 69 - 0 Essex 3rd XI

#### RUGBY (Womens)

IC XV w/o Barts XV

#### VOLLEYBALL

IC Men - KCL

IC Women 3 - 0 KCL

#### TENNIS

IC Men 6 - 0 UCH

IC Women 4 - 2 UCL