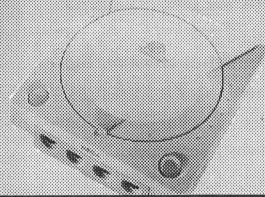
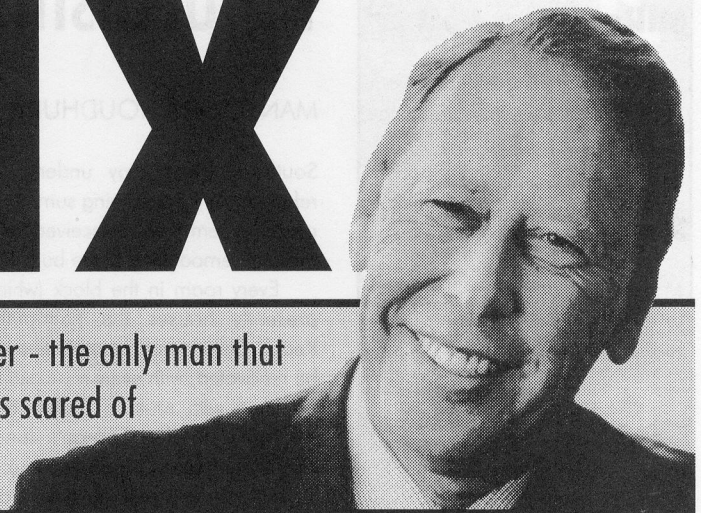


FELIX

Win a Dreamcast in our millennium poll page 4



David Potter - the only man that Bill Gates is scared of page 8



Fibre failure threatens staff salaries

GARETH MORGAN

A hardware failure on Wednesday 24 November caused chaos with Imperial College's payroll. Part-time and casual staff were facing no pay when the finance computer system crashed.

The payroll system runs on two computers: one in the Sherfield building and one in the Centre for Computing Services in the Mechanical Engineering building. The system is designed to survive a fire or other disaster at either location. The two nodes are con-

tinuously mirrored, and linked by fibre optic cable. The connectors to this cable failed, causing both computers to go down simultaneously.

The issue of a system failure if the cable failed had been raised when the system was installed, but the link was not backed up, due to the cost of installing a parallel fibre optic cable. This is the first time since the system was installed that it has failed, but further failures may convince College to install a second cable.

The system was offline for

most of Wednesday and Thursday, but was recovered at around 5.00pm Thursday evening, in time to print pay cheques on Thursday night, allowing the cheques to be distributed as normal on Friday. The BACS (Bankers' Automatic Credit System) direct credit payments to employees' bank accounts were delayed, however, with payment being credited on Monday 29 November instead of the previous Friday.

Among those affected were around 250 students who work

part-time for the Union or for College as bar staff, demonstrators and others who are paid on a weekly basis. Other affected staff were cleaners and a few technicians, according to Malcolm Aldridge, Controller of Financial Services for the South Kensington campus.

Mr Aldridge said that the incident was "a tragedy" but commended the finance office staff, who had worked late on Thursday 25 November to ensure that staff were paid as soon as was possible.

Guilds Union on trial over abandoned bathtub

JIM GEACH

City and Guilds Union, in the form of their president, is facing disciplinary action over events following the Field Cup. After the Rag event, numerous items including a bathtub, a toilet, and a tree were left in the corner of Beit Quad. The action is being taken because of the mess left in the Quad, and, more importantly, health and safety issues.

An ICU source said that the Guilds Union was "in the process of having these removed" when, "before even deciding to give a formal warning", ICU President Tasha Newton ordered that the Guilds Union should be taken straight to a disciplinary. Contrarily, according to Ms Newton, the Guilds Union were regularly told to remove the items for



Dinesh facing the wrath of ICU

Photo: Archive

two months since the Field Cup took place at the end of Fresher's Week. After the items were still not removed, disciplinary action was decided to be taken. Despite this, our source insists that "Previously

there had been 2 verbal requests (not warnings) from the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)". Then, out of the blue, Ms Newton informed the Guilds President of her decision.

Regarding health and safety,

The ICU Source stated "this mess is actually no different to the rest of the state of the Quad" and went on to say that "if you look at the bottle bins next to the bike rails at the front of Beit, you will realise there are bigger Health & Safety issues than a bathtub".

Information from the Source suggests "the final 'real' decision to take CGCU to a disciplinary was raised in a 'behind closed doors' ICU Exec (where the Guilds President was not present), by which time the tub and everything else had been removed".

The ICU Source concludes "ICU has been abusing its disciplinary power - there are even rumours that there is a sweepstake being run of how many disciplinaries they get in a week."

4 Millennium Poll

Win a Dreamcast by listing your all-time faves and pet-hates of the millennium in our massive poll.

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Malaria - silent unstoppable killer or on the brink of defeat? We look at the latest research.

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David Potter is one of IC's most successful alumni. What does he do? Turn to page 8 to find out.

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The Beastie Boys new album, DramSoc's production of Dirk and David Lynch's latest movie headline this week's reviews section.

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RCS need you for their University Challenge Squad. Paxman ahoy.

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Some noticeable absences mean that it's an all rugby back page.

Refurbishment at last for Southside

MANSOOR CHOUDHURY

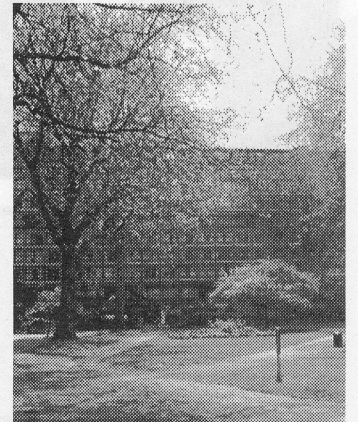
Southside Halls may undergo a refurbishment this coming summer if planning permission is received for a massive remodelling of the building.

Every room in the block (which presently houses the Falmouth-Keogh, Selkirk and Tizzard Halls) will be renovated, with every room set to be fitted with en-suite bathrooms. According to the College's long-term planning and investment analysis, this feature is essential if the College hopes to rent rooms during the vacations for conference attendees. Other possible improvements to Southside could lead to an increase in social space for hall residents and an improvement in the ratio of students to kitchens. The new halls will

be vertical (ie based around a few eight storey staircases) rather than horizontal (as is currently the case), and landings will thus be re-modelled to increase the number of rooms and cooking facilities.

All this will come at a price, however - there will probably be an increase in rent of around £6.50 per week from the current amount. Students could therefore be looking at a total increase of over £200 per year for their living expenses.

Ian Clifford, ICU Deputy President (Finance & Services), said Southside was in genuine need of refurbishment, as the current building was never intended to be a permanent residence. Mr Clifford further noted that "students are more likely to take care of their hall if it's



Southside Photo: Archive

new and shiny" and that if the renovation plans do not go ahead, Southside would probably stay in its current dilapidated condition for the next thirty years.

In Brief

DEBT COLLECTORS CHASE STUDENTS

Middlesex University has chosen to employ a debt-collecting firm to obtain unpaid tuition fees in an action that could set a precedent.

Chase Debt Collectors, Manchester, are primarily to pursue any overseas and post-graduate students who default on their fees, but it is understood that they are to extract money from undergraduates too. The new scheme has apparently caused a few administrative headaches as non-payers are still allowed to attend classes, have work marked and sit exams.

CINEMA DISCOUNTS

Felix has secured a deal whereby students will be able to see discounted films at the Kensington Odeon. The scheme will let students watch any film they want for no more than £4.50 and will be running from Monday to Friday. This is a definite improvement on the deal for students currently running at Virgin, Fulham Road, which runs from Monday to Thursday and costs £5 per film.

This agreement pre-empts a similar student discount, which has

been arranged by the Union, with Warner Brothers. This deal currently operates for students with the NUS, of which IC is famously not a member. The discount, as it currently stands, is £3 for any film every day, excluding the cinemas at Leicester Square. This discount will be nation-wide whereas the Odeon scheme will be restricted to one cinema only. However, the Odeon discount will have started on Friday the 3rd of December while the Warner Brothers scheme is still in the production and printing phase. In addition to this, by getting hold of a booklet from the Felix office, you can take advantage of various extra offers from Odeon. See Screen for further details.

COURTS COST

ICU societies wishing to use the tennis courts will now be charged £5 per hour for the booking of both courts. The price comes as a shock to those at IC who have been used to playing for free. The College has introduced the new pricing system, after taking over management of the courts from the Union when the courts fell into a state of disrepair last year. Origin-

nally under Union control, charges were only made to external users - for example, schools and the public. Tim Traylor, Deputy President (Clubs and Societies), explained that in return for lost revenue from external court bookings, the College will pay ICU approximately £4500 per year - a figure based on the average taking previously received from tennis court bookings.

After a ten thousand pound grant from the Harlington Trust to fund refurbishment of the courts, they are now up to a reasonably high standard. It has been suggested that tennis court revenue might not be as high as expected, due to the deterring cost of play. However, the compensation from College should ensure that the Union will not lose out.

BOOK DISCOUNTS

This Thursday will see Waterstones' second "Discount Thursday", targeted at soaking up the pre-Christmas market. All books (including academic text-books) are available at a 15% reduction on the normal retail price from every branch in the London area - including all three campus branches.

Library plans outlined Tamil Soc Show Shines

DAVID ROBERTS

Disagreements surrounding the proposed refurbishment of the Reynolds Building at Charing Cross intensified this week.

At last Tuesday's Vice-Principal's Question Time, Professor Michael Whitehouse - ICSM's Vice Principal (Undergraduate Medicine) - outlined the current proposals to an assembled crowd of around a hundred Charing Cross students. Amidst suggestions that a decision has practically been made already, he (along with project specialist Peter Griffiths) detailed the results of a "feasibility study" conducted by the Med School, which demonstrated that it would be possible to squeeze Primary Healthcare and Social Services into the building, as long as other services are remodelled and reorganised.

Although the study suggests an alteration in shelf space for medical journals amounting to a 39% reduction in the volume of texts available, Prof Whitehouse promised that "the existing level of library service will be protected - it will just

be reconfigured". Part of the student common room would also disappear, as would several ICSM Union rooms (as computing facilities move into the basement).

The driving force behind the redevelopment would seem to be the undoubted need for total refurbishment of the Charing Cross site. However, although all parties would like to see a thorough appraisal of the building leading to a redevelopment programme, the potential for a quick injection of cash from the introduction of the Primary and Social units into the building would seem to have swayed the discussion dramatically. Prof Whitehouse explained that the special trustees would release £2.5 million if the units can be accommodated.

The big question, however, remains whether or not students will be involved in the decision making process - or whether the crucial decisions have already been made. Prof Whitehouse himself refused to be drawn on the issue, simply stating that "it's a very important project and I'll work very hard to ensure that it happens".

SUNIL RAO

The ICU International Tamil Society annual show was held on Friday 26 November, in the Great Hall, carrying on in the proud tradition of past shows and events. This year's event "Sangamam '99" was billed as a millennium show, aiming to showcase the talents of the members of the society and their friends by "drawing from both Eastern and Western cultures".

The show finally kicked off with the traditional lighting of the lamp and was prefaced by a classical (Carnatic) music solo. Following a brief welcome speech by Sutharsan Vivekananthan, Tamil Soc President, the show began in earnest with a well-received classical solo dance performance. Most of the dances featured in the show were unsurprisingly set to music from contemporary Tamil movies.

Then came the first of the two "fashion show" sections, with a variety of clothing on display, from traditional saris to modern streetwear, all modelled to thump-

ing hip hop sounds. Nearly thirty different students modelled, showcasing dresswear from a number of fashion houses across London.

The best bits - those that got the crowd really going - came after the interval, though. A hilarious comedy sketch targeting "The Jerry Springer Show", but with Tamil participants instead of the usual trailer-park trash, elicited a great reaction from the crowd, and the closing folk dance remained (as ever) incredibly popular, providing a grand finale to an evening that by and large ran very smoothly.

This year's show was attended by almost 350 people, not as many as last year but still a good turnout, with the memories of the drunken brawl outside last year's event still fresh in the minds of the organisers.

The show was, like most of its kind, a charity event, with proceeds going to the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO), a charity set up to aid Tamils displaced from Sri Lanka owing to the violence there.

Angry NUS fees protesters descend on London

JIM GEACH

London's streets were awash with twelve to fifteen thousand angry students on Thursday 25th November, all taking part in the NUS demonstration against tuition fees and student hardship. Students from all over the country attended the march, which was set to be "the biggest show of student protest in a decade", organised after a ballot from union members in July.

ICU President Tasha Newton, despite her initial hostility to the idea at October's ICU Council, thought the demo to be a good idea, even though the Union is not part of the NUS, as it tackled problems that affect all students in higher education. Imperial students were therefore given the option of attending, and appropriate promotional material was displayed around College to drum up support - the demo would be more successful the more students



Students create a sit-down roadblock in protest Photo: Ed Sexton

attended. Ms Newton's only apprehension came from the possible involvement of IC students in minor disturbances that occurred after the event.

Demonstrations began outside the University of London Union on Malet Street, then progressed over Westminster Bridge, culminating in

a mass rally in Kennington Park. This finale was hosted by the NUS Scotland president Richard Baker, who has been a key player in the Scottish campaign against fees and is also a member of the Scottish Independent Committee of Inquiry into Student Finance which the NUS has lobbied to scrap fees in

Scotland.

In addition to various speeches made by politicians and representatives from the major education unions, NUS National President Andrew Pakes also addressed students and union members. Mr Pakes said, "The largest student protest in a decade proves the issue of tuition fees will not die. The march has brought a national focus to fees, hardship and pay for students, and we must now put pressure on MPs locally. This action will be followed in the Spring at a lobby of parliament by NUS and students' unions. It's time that Government and business put their hands deep in their pockets and paid up for a decent and equitable education system."

UCAS figures indicate that fees, since their introduction, have led to a drop in applications - particularly from mature students where there has been a drop of 10 per cent over the last two years.

Poll of the millennium

Felix launches it's poll of the millennium - and gives you the chance to win a Dreamcast - with this simple form. Just fill in each pair of boxes with your favourite and most hated person/thing of the last thousand years in each category and return the form to the Felix Office or the Union Office. One lucky voter will be chosen at random to win a Dreamcast and two games, and the results of the poll will appear in next week's bumper edition.

BOOKS ARTS GAMES FILM MUSIC SPORT NEWS

Person

eg. Martin Luther King, Karl Marx, Charlemagne, Napoleon, Einstein, George Washington, Hitler, Genghis Khan

Invention

eg. the atomic bomb, internal combustion engine, jet engine, silicon chip, penicillin, television, lager, compact discs

Sportsperson

eg. WG Grace, Bobby Charlton, JPR Williams, Don Bradman, Jesse Owens, Pele, Mohammed Ali, David Beckham

Sport

eg. football, rugby, curling, hockey, darts, cricket, snooker, tennis, karate, cycling, volleyball, fishing, baseball

Song

eg. Day Tripper, Stairway to Heaven, My Way, Rhapsody in Blue, Barbie Girl, The Ode To Joy, YMCA

Songwriter / Band

eg. Beethoven, The Beatles, George Michael, George Gershwin, Mozart, Madonna, Steps, Brahms, Blur

Film

eg. Casablanca, Citizen Kane, The English Patient, 2001, Singin in the Rain, The Shawshank Redemption

Actor / Actress

eg. Humphrey Bogart, Harrison Ford, Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn, Sean Connery, Robert de Niro, Tom Cruise

Game

eg. Pong, C&C, Super Mario, Streetfighter, Final Fantasy, Pac Man, Fifa, X Wing vs Tie Fighter, Daytona

Platform

eg. N64, Amiga, PC, Playstation, Spectrum +, Mac, Atari, Commodore 64, Unix, Dreamcast, Sega Mastersystem

Play

eg. Anything by Shakespeare...erm...erm...and not much else really...

Work of Art

eg. Seurat's Bathers, The Mona Lisa, Van Gogh's Sunflowers, Hurst's Dead Sheep, Norman Foster's BMS Building

Book

eg. Paradise Lost, For Whom The Bell Tolls, The Great Gatsby, Hitch Hikers Guide, Great Expectations, Wuthering Heights

Author

eg. Charles Dickens, F Scott Fitzgerald, Thomas Hardy, Voltaire, Ernest Hemingway, Leo Tolstoy, HG Wells

BEST

WORST

NAME

EMAIL

whose IC4life?

... Peter Neill Tatiana Marques Jack McPherson ...
... Bill Nulty Frank Hobson Ronak Patak Gabriella Petras Jonathan Brenner ...
... Sonia Schumann Lisa Huntley Marcia Quantrel Dennis Silwood Martin Beckett Asha Fawcett, Peter ...
... Sabrina Ayadassen Adrea Nicolao Maria Grimshaw Sunil Tham Ya Yu Lin Ketel Patel Lisanne Kellond Javier De S ...
... Kanishka Karunanayake Yokiko Kurasan Mark Blunden Louis Yang Dinesh Ganesarajah Matt Cockrane Romesh Kaluwitharana ...
... Lewthwaite Alan Cheng Simon Khan Amy Gerzon Julia Gervasio Manfred Gentz Lars Persson Anjum Chopra Andrea Heffer Ali Mezak ...
... Cornelia Tan Eric Millard Yunus Muhammad Robert Reece Jean-Samuel Hentz Salma Anwar Dan Wright Sue Morisset Peyrouz Modarres Hiro Hawashi ...
... Chris Huges Peter Broadhurst Valdemar Burn Martina De Araujo Paul Frerichs Mark Shalini Chi-na Benyajati Ismail Jalisi Allister Reeves Mike Dorn ...
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... Louise O'Conner Annemarie Urwin Frances Shea Liam Thomas Louis Kane Gita Mistry Jake Peterson Hannah Best Michael Craig Chris Winters Shung ...
... Louise Windsor Kate Gorran George Constantinos Peter Neill Tim Suarez Jack McPherson Jason Hewitt Bill Nulty Frank Hobson Ronak Patak Gabr ...
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... Peyrouz Modarres Hiro Hawashi Andy Ofori Chris Huges Peter Broadhurst Adam Barnes Martina De Araujo Paul Frerichs Mark Shalini Chi-na Beny ...
... Austin Jones Katie Holder Mike MacMillan Claire Meddings Albert Wilkins Melanie Clarke Saurav Ganguly George Turner Sarah McNeil Eduardo Sanch ...
... Anita Patel Hassaan Shamil Michelle Roberts Alexander Housego Daud Reza Naomi Meadows Abha Kapoor Fiona Greenwood Emma Budd Rahul Drav ...
... O'Brian Mahela Jayawardene Lucy Mahoney David McGuire Peter Wooden Craig Pail Anthony Howard Mark Worthington Joseph Reid Rebecca McNulty ...
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... arston Romero Karin Ronib Bruno Petresco Patrick Greenhaigh Mark Gregoriou Julian Greschnel Ivan Grees-Guan Howard Griffith Wasim Anwar Alist ...
... Grossmann William Halfpenny Kristian Lidholt Warren Mannering Volker Manz Bethany Grahams Luke Philips Greg Simons Dan Severn Karl Capers ...
... ing Helmut Wind Marcus Livingston Sean Bitter Rupanjali Shastri and everybody else's too...

IC4life Imperial College online

Well, it was Reuben who won the competition to name our exciting new web service (nice one Reuben), but soon everyone else gets to play too. And work. And get better jobs. And buy stuff cheaper...

Yes, IC4life is a succinct and apt winning name for our portal,

hinting at the extensive services that will be offered specially for Imperial College people. In fact, no matter who you are, you'll wonder how you ever managed without it.

IC4life - it may be Reuben's for now, but from January 2000 it's 4 everyone else too.

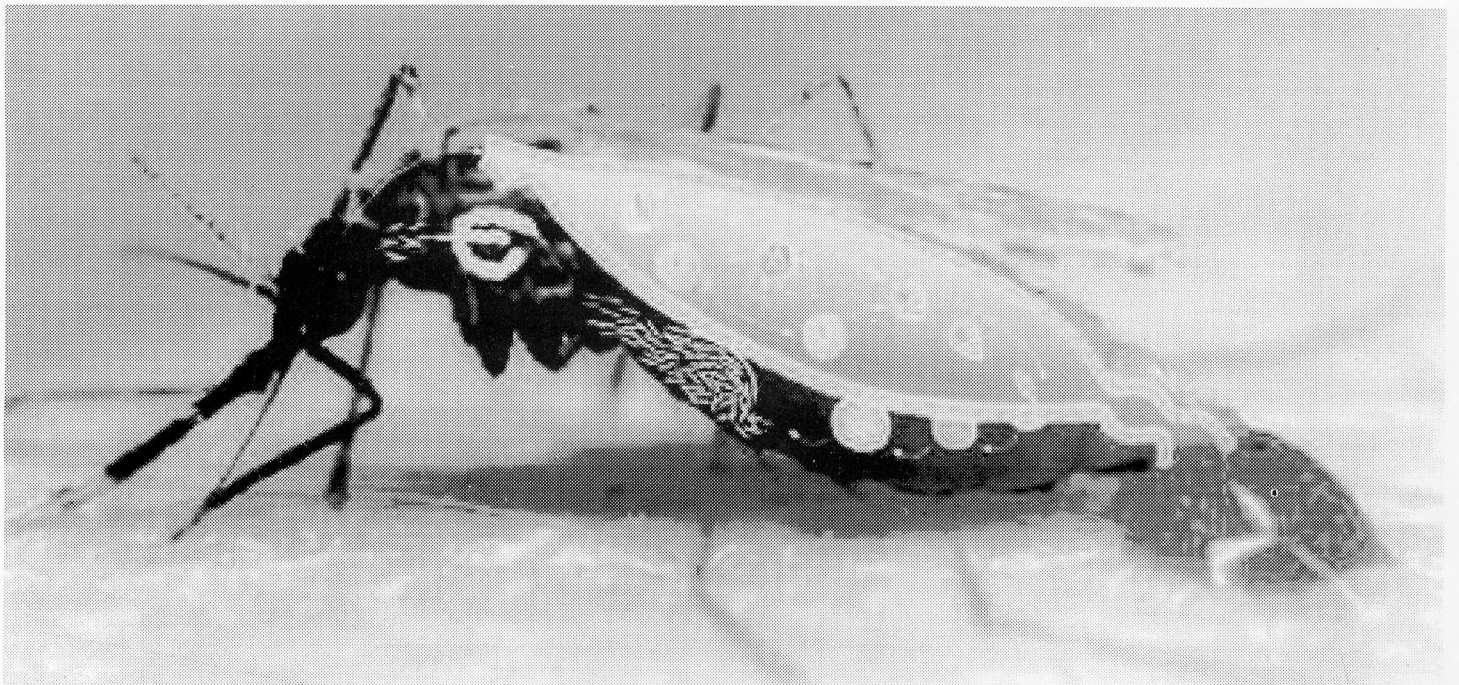
www.IC4life.net - from January 2000

Imperial College
OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

ERICSSON 

How to stop a killer

Up to half a billion people are infected worldwide, and 40 people will die from it while you read this. So what's being done to stop malaria? **John Clifford** finds out.



A mosquito bite can be deadly

Pictures: Department of Biology

It starts off like flu, with shivering and a fever, but generally by then it's too late. Although it begins with a simple mosquito bite, soon the disease progresses to uncontrollable shaking, fits and delirium. Even with medical treatment, the patient is doomed to a long debilitating illness which may recur suddenly over periods of several years, or to become one of the 2 million people who die from malaria every year. It is most prevalent in the tropics, generally in the countries that are least likely to be able to afford the huge burden of healthcare or lost labour that malaria entails. But researchers working at the Sir Alexander Fleming building are part of the world-wide effort to stop the most deadly of tropical diseases.

Malaria is caused by one of several tiny parasites of the genus *Plasmodium*, and all research focuses on somehow breaking the cycle of infection. Before laying their eggs, the mosquitoes take a meal of blood from available animals, including humans. If the human is infected with these single celled parasites, they are able to sense when the blood they are in has passed into the mosquito's gut, and as the blood is digested, the cells mature into male and female gametes, sense each other and mate. The resulting cell matures into a thready cell called an ookinete, which tunnels through the gut wall, where it grows and divides into new forms that invade the mosquito's salivary glands, ready to infect the liver and blood of the next human bitten.

There are three possible approaches against malaria; firstly, you can tackle the vector (the

mosquitoes). For example, in emergencies, the local authorities often spray large areas with powerful insecticides, and many countries have a policy of wiping out marshes, lakes, or even puddles - anywhere where the insects can breed. However, there are limits to this approach. It is not practical to wipe out all mosquitoes and all wetlands, and insecticides tend to have effects on both human health and the environment. For instance, the effects of DDT are well known. However, recent field studies have shown that separating DDT from people by impregnating it into a bed net could dramatically cut the rates of transmission - but this system would cost about \$2 a person, which is still too much for too many people in too many countries.

Secondly, the parasite itself can be attacked with drugs once inside the body. While this works as a treatment, malaria is notoriously difficult to stop, and strains of malaria have emerged that are not only resistant to chloroquine (one of the most effective drugs) but actually become more infectious when the drug is present. New anti-malarial compounds are being developed, but, as with antibiotics, if they are not used sensibly it could be only a matter of time before resistance to these develops too.

Thirdly, you can fight the disease by vaccination. However, developing a vaccine is not as simple as it sounds. Firstly, this is because there is more than one disease. There is the disease caused by the parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* (the most dangerous strain) which kills the most

people, many of them children under 5 in sub-Saharan Africa where it is most prevalent. There is also the parasite *P. Vivax*, which, although it kills rarely, causes a terrible disease which totally incapacitates the sufferer. It is a particularly cruel affliction, as the parasite has evolved to lie dormant in the liver for months at a time before recurring over a period of many years. This mechanism allows it to survive through the winter, when there are no mosquitoes to help it spread.

The second problem with developing a vaccine is this; the parasite and the immune system have been locked in battle since man first evolved, and so it has developed many ways to stay one step ahead of the immune system whilst in its host. For example, the immune system works by recognising proteins on the surface of a foreign cell. Malaria, however, has evolved to show the immune system hundreds of different combinations of proteins, meaning that the body can never learn to recognise them all. The pathogen's system of sexual reproduction makes it very good at keeping one step ahead of its human host.

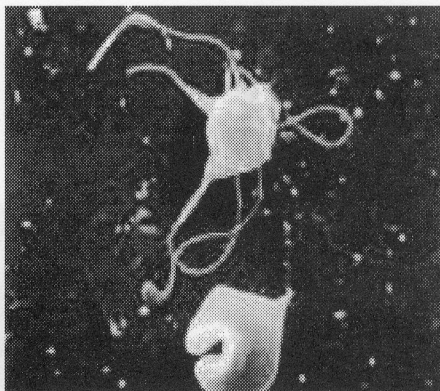
One approach of current vaccine research, however, consists of imitating not the hundreds of proteins that it shows whilst in the body, but the few proteins that the mature male and female cells use to recognise one another whilst in the mosquito's gut. The theory is this; because they are still sitting in human blood, containing human immune cells; if the immune cells can be taught to recognise these particu-

lar proteins and produce antibodies to them when sighted, the mature cells will be unable to recognise each other, sexual reproduction will not occur, and the life cycle is broken off. Although Malaria is used to battling with its human host, it has not been attacked at this stage before, and will be left defenceless.

A vaccine will usually consist of a small amount of protein which is injected in order to trigger an immune response. This is fine in developed countries, but in Sub-Saharan Africa the difficulties in delivering a vaccine become formidable. For example, proteins need to be kept refrigerated and have a fairly short shelf life. This may not be a problem in this country, but when it comes to delivering these chemicals to remote towns in Africa, which frequently lack electricity or proper roads, it becomes a logistical nightmare. Another problem with protein vaccines lies in their manufacture. Generally these are made by inserting the DNA strand containing that gene, along with a chemical message to turn the gene on (called a promoter) into either E Coli bacteria or yeast. However, both of these have their disadvantages. The bacteria, whilst they can string together the chemicals in the correct order to make the protein, cannot quite fold these up in the right way. And whilst yeast cells are more like human cells in their ability to fold the protein together, they have a tendency to add sugar molecules onto the protein, also rendering it imperfect. The only surefire way to guarantee the correct protein is to make it with parasite cells taken from infected humans, but giving people products made from other people's blood is a very risky technique.

However, researchers are also working on a possible solution at present - instead of putting the gene into a cell, extracting the protein and transporting this to the at-risk patient, why not put the DNA sequence directly into some of the patient's body cells, and cause them to make the required protein? DNA is much more stable than proteins, in its dried form it requires no refrigeration, and it has a shelf life of years. The DNA can be transported to the patient and then pushed into the cells of the arm at high pressure using a device known as a Dermojet. The cells would continue to make this protein, priming the immune system to prevent the reproduction of the malaria parasite.

Whilst this technique is certainly less fraught with difficulties, it would still be necessary to go out into the field and vaccinate people, and it is most likely that this is what will be required. However, Professor Bob Sinden of



A parasite cell ready to infect a human

Biology and his colleagues are working on evaluating a revolutionary new idea. The thinking behind this is ingenious. When the mosquito bites a person, it injects a small amount of saliva in order to make it easier to suck up blood, and it is this mechanism which allows the parasite to infect a human. What if the mosquito could be made to make the vaccine protein, and inject it as it took a meal? In effect, could the mosquito become a flying syringe?

Professor Sinden has shown that fruit flies can be made to spit out small amounts of this protein in the laboratory, and is currently studying whether repeated tiny doses such as this would actually produce or suppress an immune response. He stresses, "This is just an idea that is being tested, and should we find that it does not produce a good response, we shall return to the drawing board and think of other ways." And even if it is successful, there is no way that he or his colleagues would even consider introducing this technology until they were certain it was fully understood and safe. "That is a long, long way down the road", he cautions.

Malaria is a disease which affects some of the world's poorest people, and Professor Sinden believes that it will only be defeated by an integrated campaign using all available tools, including drugs, vaccines, bed nets or even genetic engineering. There is an international organisation called the Multilateral Initiative in Malaria (MIM) seeking to do just this. The World Health Organisation has announced its intention to eradicate malaria in the long term - but unlike smallpox, malaria is a very complex disease, for which there is no effective vaccine, and no integrated strategy for its defeat. Clearly, this will require a very long and sustained campaign. But there is no doubt that malaria is one of the worst killers the world has ever seen, and it must be stopped.

IN THE NEWS

In a prolific month for planet hunters, another six planets have been discovered outside our solar system, taking the number of known exoplanets to 28. The team, using the Keck 1 telescope in Hawaii, also found evidence that two of the planets may not be alone.

A study of viruses found in mummified bodies suggests that travellers from Japan colonised South America 20,000 years ago. The researchers first noticed that there were clusters of similar diseases in both south-western Japan and South America.

Evidence has been found that the oceanic current which warms Europe is being disrupted by climate change. Models had predicted that global warming would slow this current down, cooling the continent by up to 5°C, but this is the first direct observation of this worrying trend.

The UK government has established a panel to evaluate the risk of the Earth being hit by an asteroid or comet. Previous governments have dismissed the idea, but now Labour consider that, although the risk is relatively small, a large strike would wipe out civilisation as we know it, and so is looking to co-ordinate an international approach to such a strike.

A new technique is being developed by a British doctor in order to prevent rejection of transplanted organs. Usually patients have to take immuno-suppressant drugs for life, but the new technique involves resetting the immune system, fooling it into thinking that the organ has always been there. The technique could be used within a year.

Researchers are preparing to publish their findings on a study carried out on an avalanche which killed 30 people in February. The experiments involved placing themselves in the path of the avalanche in a bunker filled with radar equipment. The data has allowed them to build up a model of snow dynamics, which it is hoped will allow avalanches to be predicted more accurately in future.

Japanese researchers have revealed the first "wearable" PC. The computer weighs just 380 grams and uses a small headset to project an image into the eye. Future computers could use a contact lens as a screen, obtain power from the shoes and be controlled by eye movements, allowing internet access wherever you go.

Neurologists in Geneva have photographed a memory being laid down in the brain of a rat. The photographs, taken with an electron microscope, clearly show a new connection being made between two brain cells. The process of memory is far from understood and this could prove to be a major breakthrough.

A poll of the world's top physicists has declared Albert Einstein to be the greatest physicist of all time. 70% of the 100 physicists interviewed said they would still choose to study physics if they were entering university next year. 17% strongly disagreed.

David Potter: Is The Whole World in his Palm?

Whilst no-one was looking, IC graduate David Potter built up a global computing and communications empire. So, how did he do that?



David Potter should be a household name. If not a household name, then at least his name should be recognised by every member of Imperial College. There are few computer moguls who head world beating companies that spark less instant recognition. Those in the know recognise his achievements, as is shown by the fact that he sits on several government technology committees. Bill Gates also has a few things to say about him. In fact, in a memo cited in the recent Microsoft antitrust case Bill Gates singled out not Oracle, not Sun Microsystems, not AOL, but Psion as one of the greatest threats to Microsoft's global business. If I were to tell you that David Potter founded and is the Chairman of Psion Group, then the bells of recognition would ring. Depending on your vintage you would probably think first of the Psion Personal Organiser, the world's first handheld computer, or the massive selling Psion 3 series.

You might be surprised to learn that he did his PhD at Imperial and even lectured here for a time, his particular area of interest being non-linear mathematical physics. What is really intriguing is thus the way in which he made the transition from academic to mogul - after all, his company is competing against some of the biggest high tech companies in the world and winning. So it was a privilege to have the opportunity to interview him and hear his story to find out why he thinks he has achieved what he has.

Background

David Potter did his PhD at Imperial from 1967-1970. His research interest was in mathematical physics, especially dealing in plasma physics and all aspects of non-linear problems.

In the course of his work he began using computer simulations of complex physical phenomena, in which he developed a reputation. He was on the staff here at Imperial, and you can even find his book on Computational Physics in the library. Aspects of this area of physics later lead onto Chaos Theory.

The Two Strands

Even during his teenage years there were two particular strands of thought that interested him. Firstly, science and the way things work (following a family tradition - his grandfather was an academic). His other area of interest was in business.

A Smarter Investor

He became involved in stock market investment and research into smaller companies after the huge stock market crash of 1974. He thought that the valuations were 'ludicrous' and bought into the market with his savings. He was very lucky and he did very well. It was this that allowed him to set up the capital base of what is now the Psion Group. It did something else for him as well: It taught him a lot about business and the way companies should be run. At around this time Intel released their 8008 and 8080 microprocessors. Because of the success of his business interests, he decided that he didn't want to spend all his life as an academic.

"When the microchip came along in the middle seventies, I thought that this was going to have a huge impact on the world, and I wanted to participate in that."

Doctor of Strategy

In 1980 with a very small base (initially just himself and about £100 000 of capital that he had made himself) he set up as Psion. This is a big step for anyone to make - he had no previous management experience, no staff, and no income, just himself and his bright idea. He had to start generating revenue and fast. How did he do it? He targeted software publishing on the microcomputer market, for computers like the ZX-80, the Acorn Atom, and the Apple II. You have to remember that at this time it was a tiny cottage industry. He began to make money out of that, and in the first year he registered a turnover of £120 000 and profits of £12 000.

It was not very much, but during the course of that year he could see that the market was going to expand a lot, so he then began to bring in development people - some of whom were from IC. One of them was Charles Davies, who was a research assistant at Imperial, and subsequently he became the lead architect in a number of key software products and operating system components. However, Potter and his ex-IC staff didn't take any Intellectual Product Rights (IPR) from IC. All they took were their skills and applied them to a different area. By the end of the first year, Psion began to develop software.

"In the history of Psion, software has always been the root of the company. We're particularly known for our palm tops and Organisers and so on. The real driver behind all that, all through, has been microcomputer software. Frankly, we are one of the best companies in the world at doing that, in different areas."

Fighting Off Branson and Maxwell

The market led Psion to games. Psion had started off with databases and also produced a program called flight simulator. It must be quite satisfying having been there at the birth of the computing gaming industry

"We were among the first companies in the world to put a simulation of an aeroplane into a small microcomputer and look at it as though you were the pilot. It was terrific that there was real aerodynamics in there - we actually created the equations to do it all"

Other games like Hungary Horace, Horace Goes Skiing, and Chequered Flag to name a few, followed. Psion became the number one in games in the UK from 1982 to 1983 and made huge profits, and it is those profits that formed the capital base of the company. The problem with huge profits is that everybody wants a piece of the action. People like Richard Branson and Robert Maxwell, with Virgin Games and the Mirror Group respectively, geared up for attack, and this caused Psion to change its strategy - they invested in the much longer term sense and moved towards areas where the barriers to entry would be much higher.

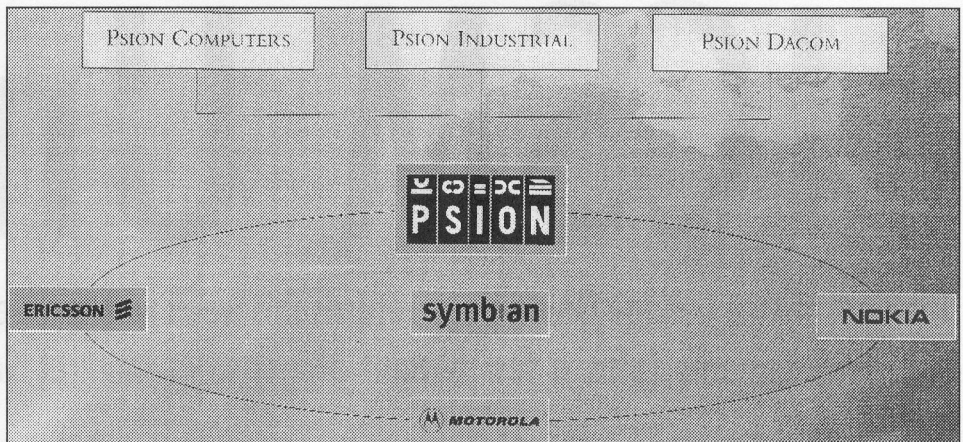
"The question which we asked ourselves is what are the barriers to entry. Okay, we are making giant profits - what is to stop others? And the answer is we couldn't see very much, because barriers to entry were low. And because our capital was so much bigger, because of our success, our resources were much bigger...we had to move on"

There were two main product lines that Psion targeted: the first (and most obvious) choice was application software for PCs. The other, however, was a completely radical concept of a very, very mobile computer. A computer that you could actually slip into your pocket, but which would manage information. It wasn't a calculator, it was going to manage information and they called it the Organiser to try and describe that.

Birth of The Organiser

So, Psion created the Organiser, invented it, and launched that in 1984. The most demanding aspect of it's evolution was the software. 15 years later the evolution of that software is now Symbian, but of it's turned into a giant after all those years. Now Psion Group are on 32-bit platforms, utilising huge software resources and systems. They've done very well in understanding the right technologies, and the right software technologies. And that's why Symbian is in the prominent position it is.

Over the years the company has broadened. They've produced the Organiser, and the Organiser II - both hugely successful prod-



ucts that sold in their millions. Then the company migrated to 16-bit systems that led to the Series 3 family: the 3A, the 3C, and so on.

"We were the first company to produce a Graphical User Interface (GUI) in a highly portable computer - It's that which allowed us to compete and win against Hewlett-Packard, Sharp, Casio and Sony."

Annus Mirabilis

1998 was a year of significant change for Psion. At the beginning of the year Psion was under pressure in it's key palm-top computers. A surge of products produced by rivals such as Palm and various Windows CE based machines had cut Psion's market share in the market that it had created. Sales of the new Series 5 had been disappointing, and at the bottom of the range the Siena was dropped. Admittedly, Psion had a diminishing share of a wider market and it was still the market leader: Psion's share of the the European market dropped from around 70 percent to 59 percent during that year, but still one in four palm-tops sold around the world was a Psion.

Fortunately, there is more to Psion than just palm-top computers. It is the world's third largest manufacturer of mobile PC modems, and sales in that division rose 79% last year as the demand for mobile PC connectivity took off.

Dawn of a new EPOC

On the same day that Psion announced a profits warning, it's share price doubled. Why? On that same day Psion announced that it was to join with three of the world's top mobile phone manufacturers to use Psion's EPOC operating system in a joint venture called Symbian. It is crucial to understand the significance of this. Operating system software for wireless telephony is going to be one of the most competitive and exciting economic and technological arenas for the next decade and beyond.

The current situation is that Europe has the lead in mobile telephony. Finland's Nokia is the the world's No 1 cellular phone brand, Sweden's Ericsson is the number 2, whilst the American Motorola is the number three brand. The mobile phone business is exploding: cur-

rent estimates are that global sales will grow from current levels of 100 million to 360 million units a year within two years. Just from these basic numbers you can see the reason for the global hyperactivity in the telecoms industry.

Watch out Europe

One of the major reasons Europe leads the world was the adoption of the GSM standard for the second generation of mobile phones (which we are currently using) whilst in the States there were many competing technologies. Another reason is social. By 2003, analysts expect much of the Continent to follow the example of Finland, where more than 6 out of 10 people own cell phones. If that happens, 248 million Europeans would own them (compared with 141 million today). Economies of scale could mean that within a decade wireless calls could be cheaper than standard landline calls.

Wireless Surfing

The main technological driver for the next generation of phones is the fact that the data bandwidth that they will be able to handle will be much greater than at present. Naturally, this leads you to question why we should be limited to only transmitting voice data. The next generation of wireless devices will enable users to access the internet or exchange email from a 'hand-held device'. At the moment, there function of these gizmos is split between two devices: an organiser and mobile phone. In the future there is no reason for these devices to remain separate.

In my view one of David Potter's major achievements has been to strategically place his company at the centre of this new market. Nokia, Ericsson and Motorola currently account for 75 percent of the world's mobile phones. It will be interesting to see how the telecoms companies battle with the computing companies, each with their hundreds of millions of customers who will increasingly overlap as the boundaries merge. I can't wait to see what happens.

Bashari Bakari

ICSM Union

The Constituent College Union page returns this week with a timely round-up of important events and developments (plus a few blatant plugs) from Medical School President Becky England.

The last few weeks have been busy for Imperial College School of Medicine. We are in the throws of preparing for our dramatic/musical extravaganza of the year, with the ICSM Light operatic society presenting *Crazy For You*, which runs from Monday 6th December until Friday 10th December in the Rec Centre (behind Wilson House). This event promises to be fantastically entertaining, and we are following it up with the Soiree on the Saturday. This is an age old St Mary's tradition which has been rejuvenated by the hard work of Tom Burchell and the Operatic Society. It is an evening of hilarity and entertainment incorporating music and drama of every type you can imagine.

Numerous other events have been happening in the clubs and socs world, from musical concerts to bops and cocktail nights. We had a very successful bonfire party following the Interyear Rugby match at Teddington on the 6th of November (which, of course, the second years won, as seems to happen every year). Other clubs seem to be flourishing from what I hear, and sports are as ever keeping up their tradition of success. We want to particularly point out the success of the 1st ICSM Rugby team, who we wish lots of luck in the new year, with their trip to Cork to take part in the Euro-

pean Cup.

A lot has been going on within the medical school itself. The Union, in conjunction with the powers that be, are looking into the issues of transport and the amount it can cost to travel to clinical attachments in the district general hospitals. We hope to collate all information by the new year and present a case to the relevant bodies. There is also the ongoing concern regarding the future of the main base clinical sites - at the moment we are particularly aware of the problems at Charing Cross, with the threatened library relocation and the potential consequences of such a proposal. The students and the Union are following developments very closely, and we are adamant that we will not be losing out facilities!

A quick run down of events until the end of term:

Opera 6th - 10th Dec
Soiree 11th Dec
Carol Service 13th Dec 7pm
Bop at Charing Cross 15th Dec
Winter Ball 18th Dec

I'm sure other events will spring up as the term draws to a close, as Christmas always provokes spontaneous ideas! Keep your ears to the ground.

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Officers

VP (External) - Lizzie Robinson
Clubs & Societies - Alison Ogilvie
Treasurer - Susie Bloch
Secretary - Marissa See



Douglas Adams'

Dirk

the stage play of
"Dirk Gently's Holistic
Detective Agency"

SEE ARTS SECTION

Wednesday to Saturday
7:30pm, Union Concert Hall

Tickets £4 students, £5 otherwise
Available from the Union Office or on the door

The State of the Union

Charing angry

On the last day of November, over 100 people met to ask questions about the developments which made the front of the last issue of Felix. These were undergrads, post grads and their teachers all interested to see how the scheme would work. Sadly for the powers that be, most of those who attended were not born yesterday and there were many flaws in their plan. Like a two floor gap between where the reference texts are kept and the PCs. Or the fact that the department moving in actually needs room to expand which it will not have in these plans. This was news to those there too – where will they expand? Further into the library I guess, as there is nothing else nearby. The quest to try to get the students and other users of the library in all this, and to get the powers that be to realise that they can't push this mistake through as it stands, continues. I would like to see a person from each year and from each user group involved in the discussion process - at the moment there has been a token offer of two students, who will be heavily numbered on the commit-

tee.

Warner Brothers

Well done to Felix for their deal with the local Odeon! The latest from the new national scheme for Warner Brothers is that the paperwork should arrive on my desk this week, and the cards will be available from January. The card will allow you a discount at any Warner

cinema you choose to visit nationwide.

Sussex in the club

How appropriate it is that, with CHESA meeting this weekend, two colleges may have joined with the free thinking Universities by the end of next week – good luck in your referenda guys. Not that IC has ever done badly being outside the

NUS, but things would get even better for us if more Colleges came on board.

- This Week's Union Meetings -

Mon 6th December

- RCC Winter tours deadline

Tue 7th December

- 13.00 Social Clubs Committee meeting (Resource Centre)
- 13.00 A&E Board Treasurers meeting (Resource Centre)
- 17.15 ICSMSU Staff-student committee
- 18.30 ICU Council (UDH)
- 20.00 CAG soup run

Wed 8th December

- 14.00 Accommodation Committee (Clubs Committee Room)

Thur 9th December

- 12.00 Rag meeting (Rag Office)
- 12.30 Recreational Clubs (Resource Centre)
- 18.00 ICU Exec (Resource Centre)
- 21.00 CAG soup run

Fri 10th December

- 13.00 Social Clubs Treasurers



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Closing date: 28th January 2000.

This week Kevin has been to Cambridge. He learnt that the University's prospectus has been forced to ditch nude photos of students taken whilst they were working for the supermarket company Asda. Kevin understands that advertising the fact that possession of a Cambridge degree has enabled graduates to get as far as Asda is not the best way of attracting ambitious students. However, this was not the reason the photographs had to be removed; University authorities feared they might offend potential applicants. When contacted, Asda claimed intriguingly that the pictures "showed life on a graduate training scheme as it really is."

COLOURFUL COURIERS

Kevin has been listening in on Xerox representatives who were on campus last week discussing the DocUcentre. The plan that was being considered will enable customers to send documents from any computer on the College network to be professionally printed at the Xerox facility. Runners wearing bright red sweatshirts sporting the Xerox logo will then race your document straight to you while you stay seated at your terminal. It is hard to see how such a labour intensive scheme could be made profitable, until that is you consider the vast amount of cheap student labour which is available in South Ken. Kevin understands that a logo and name for the new service has not yet been finalised. As usual, any suggestions made to kevin@ic.ac.uk will be passed on.

ARCHER LINKS

Kevin was recently searching *The Telegraph's* website and came across an interesting feature on Lord Archer's wife. Lady Mary Archer is a top scientist, whose scientific brilliance won her a double first at Oxford. She is now one of Britain's top solar energy experts. *The Telegraph* claimed she was currently a visiting professor at the Department of Biochemistry here at Imperial College. Kevin decided to verify that her links with the College

Mish Mash

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

were for real. She keeps a very low profile within college, not even getting an entry in the IC phonebook. Kevin has also not seen her at any official IC events. Kevin's investigations resulted in an explanation from a source close to Suite Five: "She tends not to be invited to College functions, in case she brings him with her."

Y2K DISASTER

Over the millennium an exclusion zone is to be thrown around the campus. Kevin learns that the only people who will be allowed access to the campus will be the teams who are ensuring that the various bits of kit around campus that could potentially vapourise (or otherwise endanger most of the population of London) are kept under control. Kevin would not be surprised to see backup generators and other essential materials being stockpiled, in preparation for a "worst case scenario."

There is some reassurance in the fact that although steps are being taken to avert catastrophe, the College has, in a worryingly uncharacteristic bout of foresight, recently revised their "Disaster Recovery Plan."

ERICSSON - INSPIRATION

Kevin would like to reassure the campus community that Ericsson have not been taking a keen interest in the mechanics of the proposed Xerox scheme. However, it is just plausible that an army of 'runners' would prove more cost effective than Ericsson's current proposal - telephones - to provide communication to IC.

To comment or contribute:
<http://come.to/mishmash>
or email kevin@ic.ac.uk

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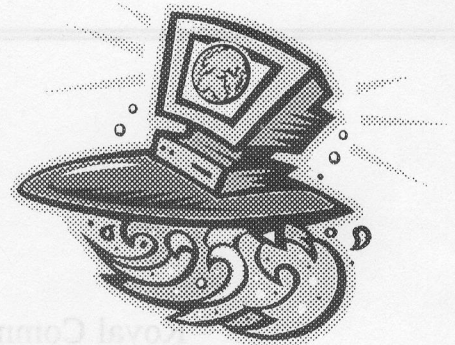
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FELIX

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Feedback

HERE WE GO AGAIN...

Dear Felix,

First of all I would like to make it clear this is not an anti-medics letter, although things do seem to run smoother around here when the arrogant and rude inconsiderates are a few miles of tarmac away in Charring Cross. There are many of the opinion that medics feel superior to everyone else, but these innocent doctors-to-be aren't to blame. We fuel this feeling by erecting a new building for them (including a room complete with fu(ball and "The Crystal Maze" arcade game), we give them the newest computer facilities in college, we support all this with a small workforce of persons in their undergraduate office. Rather than the superb duo in the Biology undergraduate office who run the entire department and put up with 300 moaning biology students, the medics require 15 people working round the clock to keep the wheels of the medic machine oiled and turning. But even this highly organised outfit trips up more than occasionally and when it does it seems to be at the expense of everyone but themselves. A prime example of this happened just yesterday. It was an afternoon like any other in the BMS, some people hard at work, most getting their daily caffeine hit in the café, and the odd few students checking their e-mail. Oh no wait.....they couldn't because of a stroke of genius in computer room management on the part of the BMS staff. The Biology computer room (50 computers for 300 biologists, the maths on that is never going to work) booked for a first year practical, a medic lab with 26 computers filled with third year biologists (who had booked but medic intel reports claimed they had no record of this), and a enormous room with 85 computers crammed full with 8 students having a management lecture that

didn't even require the use of computers. (Didn't anyone tell them they had a school of their own ??) When asked if it would be possible for a few people to work quietly in the corner, the follicly challenged lecturer grumbled a resounding "no." I appreciate that the medics posses well-endowed computer facilities, (Just why they seem to need 17inch monitors when the biologists only get 15 inches is beyond me, although it could be due to their blindness caused by a popular solo past-time....by that I mean studying in dim light of course.) but why do people from the management school feel the need to occupy a room filled with computers when there are countless small rooms hidden away for that sort of thing. Another point to make is the "Lecture in progress, do not enter" signs that get plastered almost as frequently as "Vote Tasha Newton for President." They are up so often that people now misread them to say "Computer room free, anyone welcome" and just waltz right in no matter what the situation. Admittedly the biologists have come up with a timetable outside the door (we are still waiting for the medics to catch on to that one) but a simple "OCCUPIED/VACANT" slide on the door would suffice. A meagre £15 in the £65 million budget would have alleviated so much grief from daily student life but these powers that be don't seem to get that concept in anything they do.

Yours sincerely,

Anon

HOW LOW CAN WE GO?

Dear Felix,

Adrian Spankie deserves applause for raising the issue of the very poor pay levels in student unions (Letters, Felix 1159). I would, of course, support any attempt to increase pay to a

decent level. However I would avoid labelling iCU as "hypocritical". At least we supported the demo - would it be better if we didn't support the demo and also paid lousy wages? Of course not. Why not write a paper on our low pay levels for discussion at union council? You'd get my support.

George Constantinides
 iCU Equal Opportunities Officer

ERRANT EDITING

Editor,

We would like an official apology for the "Outdoor Club" branding that the Canoe Club received in the last edition of Felix (29 November, Issue 1159). Not only does this put us under the same canopy of Outdoor Cooks and La La's, but it suddenly invokes the outrageous idea that the Outdoor Club might be able to paddle down one of *our* rivers. I would suggest they might be pushed to ramble along one of the banks.

To then link many cult paddling names to their society, has done almost irreparable damage. And when one considers the membership boost and consequential budgetary raise they may have enjoyed, perhaps damages should be sought.

Of course, we don't really mind, and no offence meant to the outdoor club who run numerous pleasurable weekends to enjoy the outdoors in a relaxing environment. We simply don't want to confuse punters into turning up for a paddle, to find themselves cooking, or worse still to sign up for a chill-out weekend, and find that suddenly they are flying down a raging river face down.

So, don't let it happen again, eh?

Thanks,

Nigel Thacker

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.

SECOND CHILDHOOD

Dear Kevin,

Yes! At last! Someone else who watched "Ghostwatch" all those years ago.... I too watched it and was scared shitless! I pretended I was a hard 12 year old and wasn't afraid, but I woke up terrified in the middle of the night and had to sleep in my parents bed for comfort! A re-run/make is required I think...

Yours sincerely,

Neil Lardcake

CHARING CROSS LOSS

Dear Sir,

I feel compelled to write to you to express my concerns over the current proposals for the so-called renovation of the Reynolds at Charing Cross. Whilst I wholeheartedly agree that the building is in need of a thorough overhaul, I am increasingly doubtful that this is the way to go about it. It would seem that the College is so desperate for some capital to finance the development that they will do anything in return for money - in this case, they are prepared to squeeze two units that blatantly cannot fit into the present building onto the site, because of a juicy £2.5 million carrot that is being dangled in front of them. I'm sure similar stories abound when it comes to decisions made over at South Ken, with hall renovations and the new sports centre just two of the more obvious examples.

The real problem is that, unless someone else comes in with an offer of a similar level of investment, the decision is as good as made. Prof Whitehouse insists that the development must (and will) go ahead, and thus this is the only way to make it happen - and to hell with the students if they get in

the way. It's just another example of Imperial College's painfully short-termist attitude to life. We know that these units will need to expand in the next few years. We know that more and more more students will be moved out to the Charing Cross site, because of overcrowding in the BMS and the sheer size of the Drewe Theatre - yet the planners and senior staff will happily spend a massive amount of taxpayers money on a scheme that completely blocks any potential for development.

The College frequently talks of it's desire to be seen as the "MIT of Europe", but this will never come about until there is a serious change in attitude. In terms of buildings, of investment, of staffing and (particularly) in terms of funding the College constantly balances itself on a very sharp knife-edge, living hand and mouth, without any means of sensible long-term investment. Perhaps the appointment of a new Rector will finally see all this change, but by then, eighteen months down the line, it could already be too late...

Yours sincerely,

Charing Cross III

AND FINALLY...

Dear Sir,

I would liek to ask your readers help. Christmas is fast approaching, and I have yet to buy a present for my girlfriend. We've been going out for about five months, and I have absolutely no idea what to get for her. Fortunately she's at Kings, so she won't be able to read this, so if anyone out there has any good suggestions for something I can get her that will produce the desired effect, please write in.

Thanks muchly,

Billy

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

Editorial

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

We're now solidly rooted in the festive season, and with just one more issue of Felix left this term (due out next Thursday) my thoughts turn to Crimble (that's Christmas to those of you who don't come from my part of the country). As ever, I look forward to this time of year immensely, yet I can't help but feel that something's wrong somewhere. After all, I'm a passionate atheist (the entire concept of organised religion is a very bad thing as far as I'm concerned, with the possible exception of Buddhism) and I believe in Jesus about as much as I believe in Santa Claus - so why do I get so enthusiastic about celebrating the birthday of a mythical character?

More to the point, why does the entire country (that's a country where there are less practising Christians than practising Muslims) go so mental about this particular date in the calendar, let alone the entire world. After all, we wouldn't turn Islamic, Jewish or Hindu holy days into social events, so why do we do so for Christianity? In reality, a good old-fashioned British Crimble has far more in common with American Thanksgiving than with a religious festival - lots of food, lots of TV, lots of obscure decorations (mostly pagan in origin, by the way) and, most importantly, lots of family. So, ultimately, I don't feel too hypocritical about looking forward to Christmas, because what I'm really looking forward to is the one time in the year when I genuinely want to go home. Any thoughts would be greatly appreciated, in writing or via felix@ic.ac.uk

It's a similar story with the millennium - the entire world is bracing itself (and spending a huge pile of cash) to celebrate the two thousandth anniversary of someone, who the majority of its population doesn't believe in. In effect (as I've probably said before) we're commemorating

the fact that we're entering into a year with a lot of zeros in it. Hurrah.

MUCH CHEAPNESS

At last some of our local companies seem to be cottoning onto the value of the student market. The Odeon Kensington and all Warner Cinemas should be offering moderately acceptable pricing policies in the near future, and even my favourite local store, Waterstones, are running a discount day next Thursday (purchase of text books at a 15% discount is strongly recommended).

Hopefully this might help to start a pattern (or better still a price war), whereby more of the major high-street stores realise the value of decent student incentive schemes. In the meantime, much praise to all those involved in what has been achieved so far.

AND ANOTHER THING...

I can't resist this opportunity to remind you all to enter our Millennium Poll. You'll find the entry form on page four, and all you have to do is fill in your choice for best and worst of the millennium in each category. Think long and hard about your answers, as the final standings will probably have a lot to say about the true IC stereotype (in other words, please don't all vote for sci fi and thrash metal) - the full results in each and every category will be published in next weeks special millennium supplement. But what's the incentive for us, I hear you cry. A shiny new Dreamcast, I reply. One lucky entrant will be drawn from the hat to win one of Sega's state of the art consoles and a couple of games. And if that isn't a big enough incentive for you, I don't know what is - so get cracking.

Dave

Can all recipients of Imperial College Union Colours for 1998-99 please collect their certificates and awards as soon as possible from Pat Baker in the Union

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Café-bar

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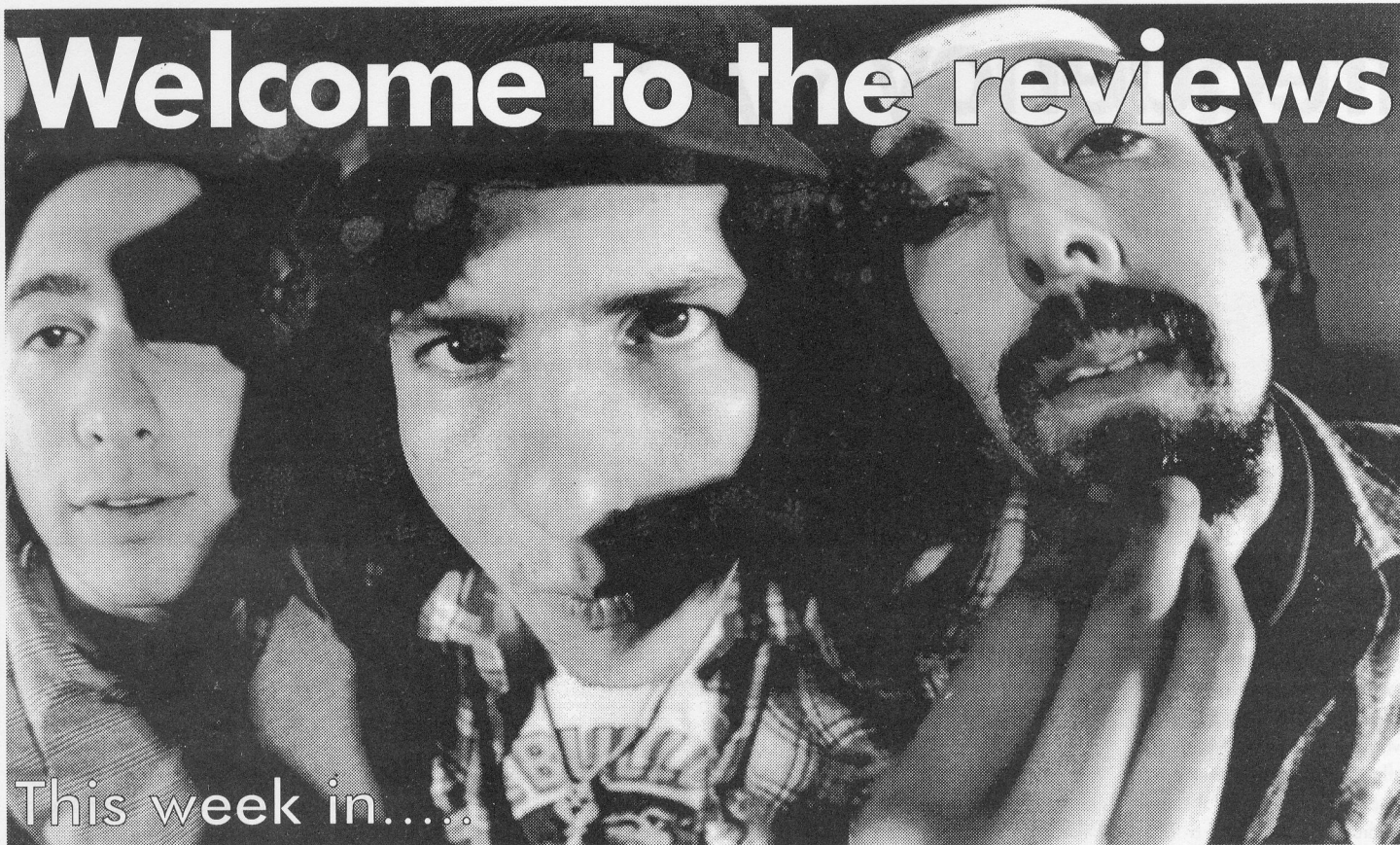
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IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

Your Union - Run for You

Welcome to the reviews



This week in.....

frequency 

Beastie Boys
Beck
Calamari

screen 


Straight Story
Bond 19
Competition

react 

Age of Wonder
No Fear Biking
Pharaoh

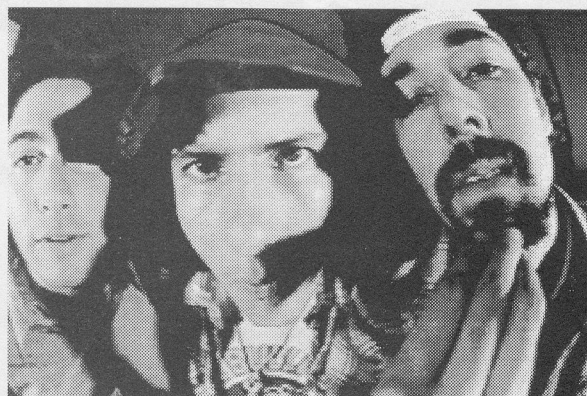
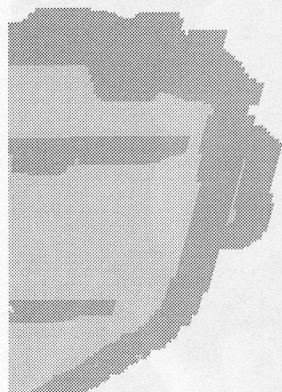
method 

Nirvana
Dirk
Jane Erye

books 

Fire & Life
White
News

frequency Welcome



The silly season is upon us. The media is full of them; you have probably voted in several already. Not one to miss a ride on a good bandwagon, this week frequency offers you the opportunity to vote for IC's music of the millennium. You will find a form back on page four, ready for your discerning vote. So, tear it out, scrawl *Take That* in a couple of boxes and return it to us in the portcabins outside Physics. You could win a Dreamcast for your troubles - so why haven't you entered yet? The results will be published in our bumper Christmas issue, so get thinking...

... frequency ... Beasties Giveaway

As promised, this week we have the great Beastie Boys giveaway. To celebrate the launch of *The Sound of Science* (reviewed opposite) we have some fantastic Beastie Boys goodies to give to you, our lovely readers. We have a copy of the album, some posters and some t-shirts, all awaiting your collection. To stand a chance of winning these amazing prizes, all you have to do is answer the following question:

What are the names of all three Beastie Boys?

Send your answer to music.felix@ic.ac.uk as soon as possible. So, until next week I'll leave you with some fine reviews to read and some serious form-filling to do...

Beastie Boys The Sound of Science (Grand Royal)

Way back in 1981 a group of friends from upstate New York, linked by a common interest in the burgeoning local hardcore punk scene, formed their own band just like loads of kids did at that time. Almost two decades later, Adam Yauch, Mike Diamond and Adam Horowitz (who joined two years later) or MCA, Mike D and Ad Rock as they are better known to the world - the Beastie Boys - are global superstars. They've sold millions of records all around the world, got their own record label, magazine and clothing company (hell MCA's even become a Buddhist) whilst the band staged two of the biggest charity concerts of all time in a bid to free Tibet from oppressive regimes. Along the way they've courted Eminem style controversy, provoking tabloid outrages and accusations of hypocrisy - oh yeah, and they've also consistently managed to make some really exciting and genuinely innovative music. This is what *The Sound Of Science* is here to celebrate, collecting 42 of their best tracks on two CDs - over two hours of music in all. While some "best of" albums seem quite lazy - simply containing a band's twelve top forty hits in chronological order - this is a truly comprehensive career retrospective, from their earliest recordings up to the latest gems from *Hello Nasty*, taking in previously unreleased tracks, remixes, rare b-sides and even a CD-ROM video track of the Beasties in their element, along the way.

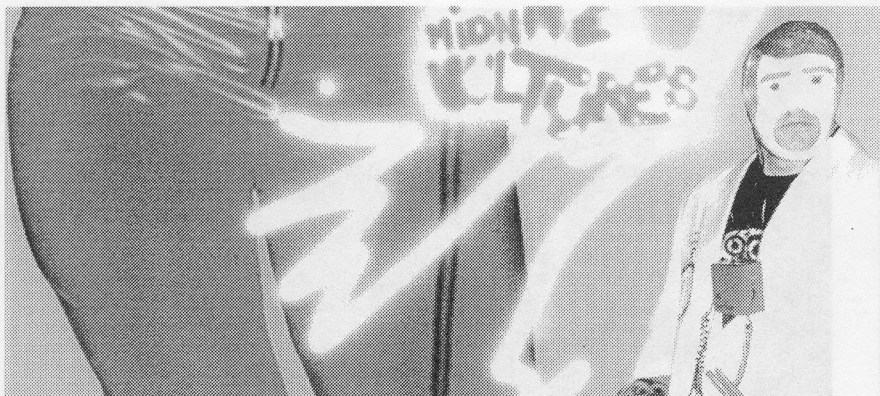
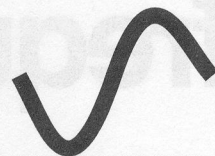
We begin back where it all started, with some of their first sub 90 second recordings as a garage band captivated by seminal hardcore outfits like Black Flag and Bad Brains. *Egg Raid On Mojo* and an eponymous track culled from this era sound far from accomplished, miles removed from their more well known hip hop infused sound, but there is something in the raw energy of the Beasties rocking out furiously that still succeeds in engaging the listener. It was *Licensed to Ill* though, one of the biggest selling debuts ever, that really saw them getting noticed. *Licensed..* marked a distinct change in their sound from hardcore wannabes to three Run DMC loving white boys trading rhymes over old school beats. Given that the average perception of white rappers is akin to the much ridiculed Vanilla Ice, it seems strange that they've enjoyed such a long and successful career - critically as well as commercially. However, unlike the quiffmeister, they've never pretended to be something they're not, instead harnessing their rhymes to big, dumb 70s rock riffs and rapping about what they know - at this stage basically sex and drink. Nowhere is this moment better captured than on the classic anthem *Fight For Your Right*.

Despite the overwhelming success they enjoyed, the Beasties became disillusioned with both their public image and the 'meathead' following they had acquired through their allegedly tongue in cheek anthems of drink and girls. Like any decent band, they decided to continue twisting the formula. *Paul's Boutique* and *Check Your Head* saw them reintroduce live instruments to the mix. An eclectic variety of influences (for which they are now renowned) and a slightly more serious lyrical content began to show and is represented well on this compilation. From the frantic hardcore blast of *Time For Livin'* to more laid back stuff like *Something's Got To Give* and funky shit like *Shake Your Rump*, all the way through to straight up hip hop like *So Watcha Want*, this compilation really does highlight the genuine breadth and sheer quality of their now extensive back catalogue.

Of course, you'll find all their more recent hits on here and as ever it's a pleasure to hear the fantastic likes of *Sabotage*, *Sure Shot*, *Intergalactic* and a Fat Boy Slim remix of *Body Movin'*. If you've only ever heard a few of their songs, this album is probably the best place to start. If you're already a big fan, you might grumble about a few omissions like *No Sleep Till Brooklyn* and *Looking Down the Barrel of a Gun*, but basically you get a load of your favourites plus quite a few you might not have, all on one tasty double album. Either way, there really aren't many bands quite like the Beastie Boys, and you'd be a fool to miss out on this. Excellent.



frequency



Beck Midnite Vultures (Geffen)

Good old reliable Beck. Providing music for people who like to have everything in the mix, be it hip-hop, country, rock, Albanian trad-folk, whatever. He's spat out singles and albums as diverse and entertaining as anything you could shake a very big stick at, and his live shows have been fantastic riots of good-time decks'n'pop action. He's been the frazzled pop genius who's managed to add another adjective to the language - "Beckesque" - which has been handy when describing anything that's been genre-bending and innovative.

And when opener (and single) *Sexx Laws* kicks in, it feels like the same Beck we all know and love. Bouncy beats, immense choruses, and a load of noises you wouldn't expect, including a banjo. So he's back. But this time something's different. Beck's found something else to aim his musical pistol at. This once self-confessed *Losers* now thinks he's Prince, and he's after your young daughters. And your sexy girlfriends. And probably even your nice old mothers.

Beck is on a sex trip. He's ditched the slacker persona for the moment, and traded it in for a casanova-eyeing-up-the-laydeez style. This is Beck's skewed vision of how the funk should be done, and he's not half-bad. *Peaches and Cream* has him wailing away in an ecstatic falsetto over some grinding guitar and body-slammng beats. The wall of sound created by the piano and Hendrix-guitar in *Milk and Honey* retain both that classic r'n'b sound and Beck's insane inventiveness. Filthy horns (ahem) parp their way through *Debra* whilst Beck oohs and ahhs breathily. That said, there's still plenty of that old Beck magic: the aforementioned *Sexx Laws* was the obvious choice for the single, and you could spend days finding all of the weird and wonderful flourishes on here.

But - and this is a big but (ahem) - this time round it sounds as if Beck is joking. When Prince (for example) does this sort of thing, it sounds like he really wants to get into the listener's pants, whereas our man here is simply flexing some more musical muscle. The situation is not helped by his lyrics. It's never been a problem before, but here the wilfully obscure references and rhymes don't suit the music and just sound silly. A sample: 'Her left eye is lazy, She is so Israeli, Nicotine and gravy'. Or how about 'Tweak my nipple, Shamans go cripple, My sales go triple'? Very odd. Of course, it's all about shagging, but at times it sounds more comedic than genuinely sensual, and that's clearly not the point of 'the funk'.

But - and this is an even bigger but (ahem again) - that doesn't mean this album is in any way bad. There's more invention and tip-top tunes here than anything released in most decades. Maybe he should just stop trying to sound like something else and stick to being himself. That way we're more likely to have an even longer-term relationship with the Beckster.



Kunal



Pan Am - The Sound of the 70s Yoshinori Sunahara (City Slang)

When I got this CD to review I thought it would be a compilation of 70's disco or funk or suchlike. It turns out to be nothing of the sort. Although some of the tracks do have a seventies feel to them, I don't think that any of the tracks are actually from that golden era of glam, disco and punk.

The tracks are mainly instrumental, with only the occasional vocal sample thrown in. The music is chilled. Chilled to an ice cool level of cold that the likes of Massive Attack can only dream of. To give you an idea of how chilled it is, when I played this to my house mates last Wednesday afternoon, they were all asleep after 20 minutes. True story. Now, this could be a good or bad thing, depending on what you want from your music, but I don't know anyone who doesn't want to switch off once in a while and just, well, chill.

At times, the music does get a little cheesy. The tracks are loosely based around a plane trip, hence the Pan-Am reference in the title. The album opens with *Take Off* and ends with *Landing*. The tracks in-between don't have such direct references, but you get the idea that it's trying to recreate the feelings you get on a long flight. The opening is more upbeat, with a little anticipation creeping into the electronic beats. This moves onto sleep in the middle. At the end, it's moved into a kind of tired but happy mood, as the collection draws to a close. I was a bit disappointed that there wasn't a track called *Overly made-up trolley dolly serves meagre portion of dried-up meat and stale roll*, but you can't have everything.

Overall, the album is great to have on in the background, or to relax to when you are doing something else, but there isn't really enough substance to give it the longevity it needs. I can see myself getting bored of it quite soon, although it is nice while it lasts.



Tom

frequency



Calamari and Phaser @ Hope and Anchor, Islington

Of all the Imperial bands named after dishes at the local bubble restaurant, Calamari are the best. Easily! They wipped the pants off Phaser, the so-called headline act. The arse-crack, belly and monotone drone of their front-man, (I hesitate to use the term "singer"), was plenty to put you off. The other support act advertised had a nasty chill, so failed to show up.

The venue was your typical downstairs-at-a-boozier set up. A stage around the size of a postage stamp could barely accommodate our boys. A strong show in too small a venue affected the balance on occasions. Very few IC students could manage to drag themselves over to Islington to lend their support, so there was just enough room to dance around your handbag. If that's your thing.

All in all, Calamari put on a creditable show. Starting with *It's Hard*, their set of 8 carefully crafted songs easily filled the half hour slot allocated, and you weren't left looking at your watch. Everything was impressively anchored by the rhythm department, courtesy of Alec and Martin, but the melodious inputs of Alex (vox) and Mat (geetar) still had chance to shine. *Last Tear* was an attempted change in tempo, but came across as a bit ponderous. *Max the Bugbear* (sic) was chance for the popstars in the making to dance with their womenfolk (cringe). Alec (stuck behind his big kit) missed out here. There were some hints of The Barenaked Ladies (homeboys), a bit of Reef (wild) and Jamiraquai (funky) which all seemed to gel wickedly. Later on two similar songs went back to back: it's not always wise to do this (especially if they're in the same key) but really there wasn't much else to criticise!

The brooding *Never Look Back* and *This Life* finished their set and you sensed they had plenty in reserve. A sincere performance. Nice to see indie rock types obviously enjoying being up on stage - too many of them have the charisma of a dollop of crusty taramasalata.

In short, Phaser are the kind of band to give grassroots indie a bad name. Calamari are your intelligent alternative. Listen out for them. Maybe next time they gig, you should stir from your torpor and go see 'em.

Ian



Jazz and Rock Soc Gig @ dBs, ICU

A couple of Thursdays ago, dBs resounded to the sound of a number of the best bands in College playing their hearts out to a near capacity audience. The packed venue was buzzing with energy as the first act took to the stage and I indulged in a colourful drink of some kind.

Rocky and Bullwinkle are actually something rather different to normal - just two people on (mostly) acoustic guitar. But what a performance! Warul was very impressive with a very emotionally-charged voice, giving moving renditions of songs by the likes of Radiohead and REM. Ably assisted by Will, this was a very good performance, with the encore of *Black Star* finishing off the set perfectly.

Another band, another intriguingly monickered cocktail! Second on stage were Resist, a band with a unique sound, playing original songs. The darkened stage set the scene perfectly for their style of music, with barely more than the luminescence from some fairy lights wrapped around their amps and microphone. They describe themselves as playing 'gothic-psychedelic-pop' which is probably as close as you'll get, but think Radiohead meets Garbage in a not-really-dancey-but-loadsa-FX kinda way. The atmosphere was intense, the band giving a great performance, especially from the singer, Dave, and the guitarist, Ash. My only criticisms would be that the songs were drawn out a little too much and the effects need to be used a little more carefully. Otherwise an excellent gig and I'm sure we'll see them on stage again soon.

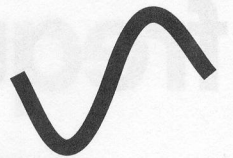
As a very odd smelling blue cocktail arrived, on came band three - Soul Doubt. Introduced by the effectively incoherent ramblings of the compere, they launched into a particularly energetic and tight set of covers. All of the band were obviously enjoying themselves, and this enthusiasm carried over into the audience. Highlights were *Celebrity Skin* and *More Than Words*, where singer, Emily, and guitarist, Nigel, gave a great performance. This was a great debut gig and testament to the hard work they must have put into rehearsals.

A few pints later and on came the final band of the night. One of the more established bands at College, Ticket have built up a justly deserved reputation as a very tight and skillful outfit. With the addition of guitarist Spencer, they've really filled out their sound and tonight we were treated to a fine performance including many original songs, taking full advantage of their headlining slot. A faultless gig, they got the whole of dBs into their 70s psychedelic groove, with Steve 'sounds more like Paul Weller than Paul Weller' Reece as excellent as ever on vocals and guitar, the rest of the band merely being extremely good! A treat.

All in all a great night featuring a lot of talent, especially in the form of bands doing their debut gig at IC. It seemed like everyone in the near capacity crowd had a great time and hopefully this will set a precedent for the next Jazz and Rock society gig on December 9th. Be there - you don't know what you're missing - and what's more it's free!

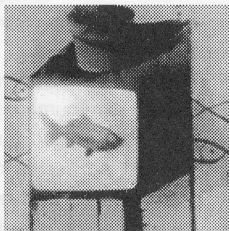
Martin

frequency



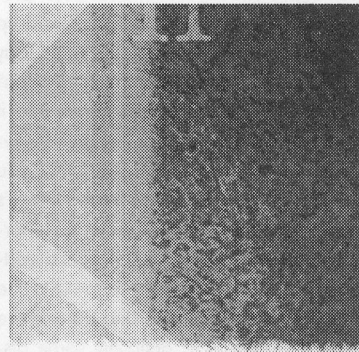
Counting Crows
Hangin'around
(Geffen)

This bouncing, reef-style, guitar led melody about the fundamental principles of life, (ie just taking it easy), makes it as single of the week! I was singing along after only a couple of listens. It's excellent and bound to cheer you up on a rough day. Top dollar.



Chris de Burgh
A Woman's Heart
(Mercury)

The sheer fact that this achy-breaky heart type effort has a 'doo do doo' backing chorus part way through really only supports the opinion that Mr de Burgh should be happy with his past successes and stay at home and far away from any recording equipment. Bearable, but not a good cookie.



Whitney Houston
I Learned from the Best
(Arista)

This, the first track from her platinum album *My Love Is Your Love*, is a good effort from one of the most undisputed powerhouse soul divas of our time. Full of big notes, with shady jazz and soul brass undertones, this rings out well. Should be big.



The Dust Brothers
Music from Fight Club
(20th Century Fox)

It's just a novelty *Choose Life* from a hardly ground-breaking movie, and consists of narration to an underground beat. It tells of you how your life means nothing, and concludes with a repetitive 'You have to give up'. Don't buy it for the feel-good factor.



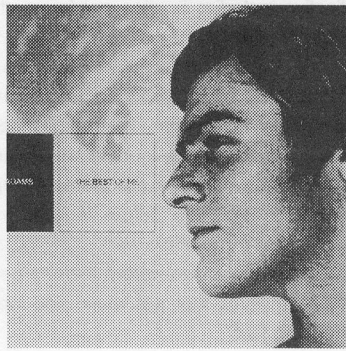
Longpigs
The Frank Sonata
(Mother)

The Longpigs have done some good stuff in their time and although this isn't their best, it's still much better than average. Their recent album is also worth checking, and although not the best album out this year it is definitely worth a space in your CD collection.



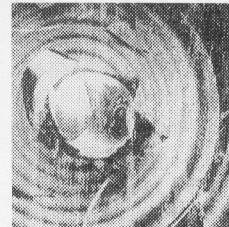
Memphis Bleek
What You Think Of
(Def Jam)

Memphis Bleek gets together with in-form rapper Jay-Z on this joint so you'd expect this to be quite a tune. Sadly, however, this is far from the standard it should be. The lyrics are dull, the beat is poor and overall this a tune that is better best forgotten.



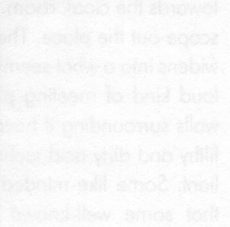
Bryan Adams
The Best of Me
(A&M)

I've never been able to forgive Bryan Adams for that satanic sixteen week reign at number one all those years ago. *The Best of Me* is, of course, another terrible offering and who could expect anything else from the husky Canadian. At least there's no Mel C collaborator to spoil things further, and being as kind as possible I can only describe this as a monotonous rock dirge. Please Bryan, go away



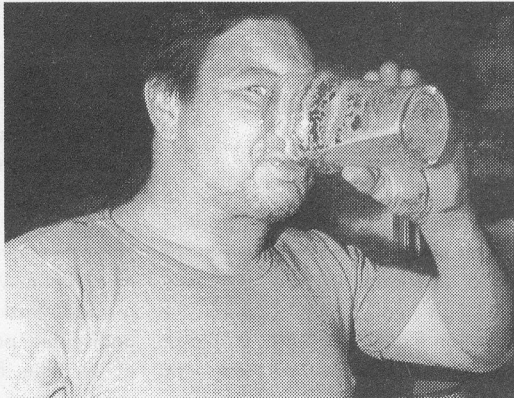
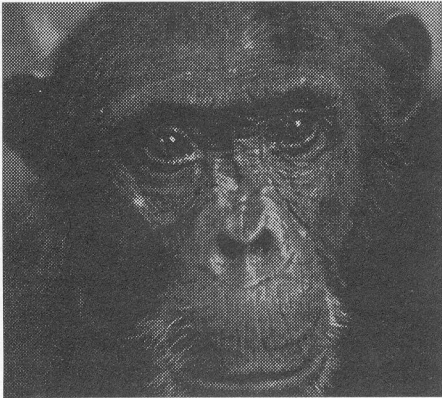
Rico
Shave Your Head
(Chrysalis)

Rico apparently puts on quite a live performance and as such I was expecting much from this latest single. Once again though, the listening leaves me disappointed. This is nothing more than standard generic indie rock that has been done a thousand times before. What's worse is that it's also been done a thousand times better.



...Singles reviews by Pete & Tom...

frequency



Trancentral @ The Pleasure Rooms

It was by word of mouth that this night first came to my attention, and with the enthusiasm that came with the recommendation I know it's gonna be a stormer. So off we go. We get to the door and security seems a bit too aggressive for my liking. The twelve-pound entrance fee also seemed a bit much, but at this point we still didn't really know what was to come.

Inside now and there's a long corridor occupied by a long and slow moving line of people edging towards the cloak room. Forget that then, lets just scope out the place. The main corridor ends and widens into a what seems to be a nice and not too loud kind of meeting place. However, the four walls surrounding it have entrances to potentially filthy and dirty acid techno and hard trance. Brilliant. Some like-minded friends have mentioned that some well-known DJs are playing today. They're not wrong. Posted on the doors, the line-ups consist of sets from Trancentral residents Orange Peel, Zebedee, plus regular favourites Dave the Drummer, John Little, Chris Liberator and more. We are also being treated to a live set by special guests Punk Floyd and some funky flavours from some live bands in the chill out room, including Frontside. Of course, now we've been here a while, the night is going to start getting better and better, and, oh yeah - very messy. Nice - this is what the weekends were made for.

Now it's somewhere between 3 and 4am, and Punk Floyd have just started. One of the other non-chill out rooms (Room 2) is being rushed (!) with clubbers in anticipation of the music getting harder and darker. And how! Orange Peel is rocking the main room with his down-right filthy acid techno, and I find my self dancing on a table with my good friend Mark. At 5am it's all gone a bit twisted, but of course we still love it. Then finally it's six and I'm off to the after party for some more monkeying around. Nice.

Kesh

Botchit & Scarper @ The Junction

Botchit and Scarper, the Bristol based big beat boys, presented this showcase of Nu-skoool breaks and mixed-up beats at that well-known club, The Junction. Err, when I say well known, I actually mean not well known, and I don't think anyone can blame me for not having run into it before. The downside to this place is that, for anyone living North of the river, it's a bit out of the way. Once you get to Brixton tube, right at the end of the Victoria line, it's a further 20 minutes walk down the notorious Coldharbour Lane. From the outside, the club looked a bit deserted. There was nobody about (ominous compared to the bustle of Brixton), the windows were boarded up and the door was firmly shut. But there was definitely some distinctive melodies floating out from within, so we investigated further...

Happily, we were not disappointed. Once inside, we were greeted with a warm, cosy atmosphere, lots of friendly faces, and extremely loud music. The interior is painted a deep red, and there are plenty of large, comfy leather sofas to relax into before launching yourself onto the dance floor. The drinks were pricey (£2.50 for a small bottle of lager), but we weren't there to get wasted, it was for those rhythms that just make you want to move those dancing feet.

And what rhythms they were! Enormous tribal beats hammered home by the powerful sound system made all the people lose it. Crazy dancing, throwing themselves all over the place, for the sheer joy of it. There were no inhibitions. The place is small, producing an intimate atmosphere that makes it feel like you're with a bunch of your mates. The lighting was fantastic for such a small room, painting multicoloured tiger stripes across gyrating figures, creating a living, breathing, work of art.

This wasn't a big, high profile super-club, but I had just as good a time thanks to the unique atmosphere that such a small place can produce. It even smelled nice! The music was very alternative, and although I was sceptical at first, the intense bass lines soon won me over and I was up there with the rest of them. DJ Freq Nasty was the star of the night. The Junction has opened up a new genre to me. Good fun all round.

Tom

Recommended Clubbing

So, as the festive season dawns and we all get a chocolate every morning, there is no excuse for not clubbing your socks off at one of the many clubs recommended by the lovely lady above.

Monday 6th December
THIS @ Bar Rhumba; £4

Gilles Peterson and company are the hosts of this night that seems to get better and better as the years go by. I've been a few times and I believe that this is the best Monday clubnight in London.

Tuesday 7th December
Tuesdays @ La Scandale; £3

Your penultimate chance this term to hit the 60p shots at every self respecting IC student's favourite club. This is sure to a large one with plenty of silly dancing and even more silly snogging.

Thursday 9th December
Movement @ Bar Rhumba; £3 b4 10.30pm

Bar Rhumba gets a double mention this week, and it's not a surprise considering the consistent quality of the nights. Movement is all about drum'n'bass so if you like it hard then you should check this out.

Friday 10th December
Fridays @ home; £10

Home is now beginning to step up a gear with it's Friday night promotions. The mission is to make this night as popular and as successful as the Saturday night soiree.

Saturday 11th December
Fabric @ Fabric; £12

Well if you've not been to Fabric this year I'd really like to know why. As a superclub it's got everything, and the line ups are never less than impressive. This is always a good night. **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: music.felix@ic.ac.uk
phone: 020 7594 8072 and ask for James



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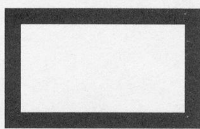
Finance: £007/£6 with entscard.

Ticket Availability: FROM MON 29th NOV.

***The* Carnival *Is Not* Enough**

icU

screen



What's Out On Video

Cruel Intentions (Out to Rent 13/12/99)

This is the movie that had every hot-blooded male racing to the cinema this summer. Based on the novel *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Cruel Intentions* takes the bold step of transplanting a period drama into contemporary society. Set in the Upper East Side of Manhattan it stars Sarah Michelle Gellar as Katherine. She wagers her stepbrother Sebastian (Ryan Phillippe) that he can't seduce the publicly proclaimed virgin Annette (Reese Witherspoon). If he wins, he gets to finally bed Katherine, but if he loses she gets his convertible sports car. Shot for a modest \$10 million, the movie always looks top notch, with some excellent sets that suggest the story's period roots. Staying close to the original plot (and supported by an excellent soundtrack) the movie progresses at a good pace. First time director Roger Kumble gets superb performances out of the three stars, particularly Phillippe. The result is a fresh, extremely enjoyable, movie with many memorable scenes. Great! (3/5)

Dave

Notting Hill (Out Now)

William Thacker (Hugh Grant), the owner of a travel bookshop in (surprise, surprise) Notting Hill is broken out of his monotony by the arrival of famous film star Anna Scott (Julia Roberts). Their first encounter is fleeting and the chances of them ever meeting again seem minimal until they, quite literally, bump into each other. Sparks fly and soon they are falling in love just like any ordinary couple. Except, of course, Anna Scott isn't ordinary. Neither Grant nor Roberts are on new ground here, but they work extremely well together. Grant plays his usual foppish character while Roberts is dazzling. Arguably the supporting cast, had they more screen time, could have stolen the show - Rhys Ifans revels in his part as the unwashed, uncouth Welsh flatmate, and Gina McKee and Tim McInnerny also produce memorable performances. This is both a good romance and a good comedy. Guaranteed to make you hang off the edge of your seat one moment and laugh the next. (5/5)

Katherine

Human Traffic (Out Now)

We follow Jip (John Simm), as he joins his mates in a local night-club. Jip's main aim is to have a wild night and forget all about his dead-end job. *Human Traffic* resists the urge to present the much-publicised worst side of clubbing (beer, drugs and vomit) and focuses on the positive up-beat party atmosphere along with romance and comedy. Filled with likeable characters and music from Pete Tong. (3/5)

Katherine



The World Is Not Enough Competition

This week the friendly people from the Odeon not only have five pairs of tickets for the action packed *The World Is Not Enough*, but they also want to give away loads of promotional CDs for PCs. These fab CDs contain Bond screen-savers, behind the scene interviews and sneaky bits from the film. To get your hands on one of these CDs just cut the Felix title out from the front page and take it along to the Odeon Kensington. Just hand over the Felix title at the box office and in return you will get a CD. To get to the Odeon all you have to do is walk to the far end of High Street Kensington or get on the number 9 or 10 bus (which will drop you off right outside the cinema). So go on, get a Bond CD.

You can also win a pair of tickets for the new Bond film by answering this not so simple question:

The character played by Desmond Llewelyn in the Bond films is nicknamed 'Q', but what is the characters real name?

E-mail your answers to film.felix@ic.ac.uk before 12pm on Wednesday to be in with a chance of getting free tickets.

The answer to last week's question is :

Sacha Baron-Cohen (Ali G) went to university at Cambridge and he studied history.

Bradley Baskett is the lucky winner of an *Ali G*, *innit* video. Please call into the Felix office to collect your prize.

Odeon Kensington decide enough is enough and introduce:

£4.50 STUDENT CINEMA TICKETS

Proving ODEON Cinemas are no VIRGINS when it comes to propositioning students!

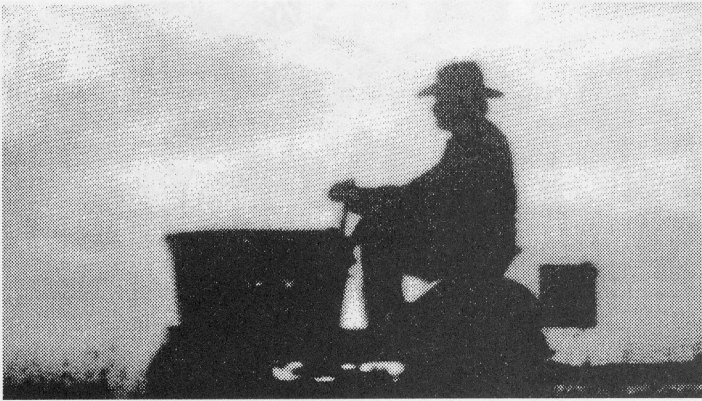
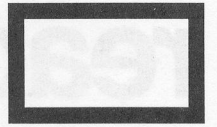
THE OFFER!

1. Bring valid student card
2. Visit Monday - Friday and/or Saturday Late Shows
3. Show student card
4. Pay £4.50
5. See film
6. Enjoy

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screen



Straight Story

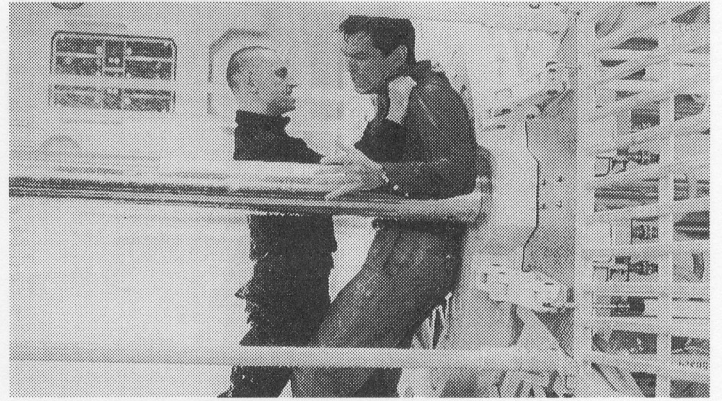
David Lynch is, undoubtedly, one of America's greatest living directors and thus the release of a new movie carrying his name becomes an eagerly expected event – and the chance of disappointment looms massively. This potential is made all the greater by the fact that this his latest offering is a sign of a major U-turn in his directorial style – unlike his recent works (*Lost Highway* in particular) it's a simple linear story told in a simple, engaging, style. Free from surreal characters, flashy directorial tricks, incomprehensible plot or any complex deep-seated messages about the American psyche, Lynch gives himself scope to tell a simple old-fashioned story.

Of course, it's still a David Lynch movie, so the plot is hardly an everyday one. Alvin Straight is an arthritic eighty-something living with his daughter in small town Iowa, where he leads a simple life mostly confined to four walls and a garden. His carefree existence is broken, however, when his brother suffers a stroke, forcing Alvin to set out on the 350 mile journey that will eventually bring him to the lonely Wisconsin hilltop where his brother resides. The problem for Alvin – and the key to the movie – is that neither he nor his daughter can drive, and public transport won't take him in the right direction. So he comes up with an incredibly innovative solution – he decides to drive 350 miles across the state on the back of a motorised lawnmower. Like I said, never expect a David Lynch movie to be 100% straightforward...

It probably sounds like a slow way to travel (and it certainly is – his journey will eventually take several weeks) and that in turn makes for a very slow movie. Filled with beautiful panoramic shots of mid-western cornfields, slow pans and gentle fades, the movie deliberately mirrors the pace of Alvin and his surroundings. He's a man who embodies the "slow, careful, steps" philosophy of his generation, and by capturing this attitude in every inch of celluloid, the audience is thrust into his head far more forcefully than any amount of clever dialogue or intricate symbolism could do. For the same reason, you might be stunned to find a David Lynch movie that's been awarded a "U" certificate – Alvin's lifestyle (and, indeed, the entire world that this movie inhabits) would grate so strongly with any violence, sex or swearing that their inclusion would simply be wrong. Indeed, what the "U" certificate actually proves is Lynch's class – really good directors use extreme violence or strong language when they are needed and when they fit into a story. This isn't *Blue Velvet* or *Twin Peaks*, and it isn't set in that kind of world. *Straight Story* is the movie in which David Lynch has started to grow old. Having moved through adolescent fantasy (*Dune*, *Eraserhead*) and mid-life world weary gloom (*Blue Velvet*, *Lost Highway*) he has reached a stage of life where he has found contentment. He is happy with the world and so, finally, his movies are too.



Dave



The World Is Not Enough

James Bond is back to save the world (yet again) from another terrorist who has got his hands on a nuclear device in *The World Is Not Enough*. In this 19th official Bond flick, Pierce Brosnan plays the suave, sophisticated spy that everyone loves alongside a star studded cast including Dame Judi Dench, Robert Carlyle, John Cleese and Robbie Coltrane.

While you would expect something extraordinary from a cast like this, the film leaves you a little deflated. There are gadgets aplenty too, but they are just an extra as opposed to an integral part of the Bond experience. The cast and gizmos do not have a chance to shine, as it seems that the makers have fallen foul of giving the stunts centre stage. In fact, there are so many extravagant stunts the plot is slightly lost amongst them, which is a shame because there is a slight variation on the normal Bond format. Of course, you've still got bedding of the beautiful women, but the bad guy of the film is not so plainly obvious. Robert Carlyle has a good crack at the narcissistic headcase, but he is only the henchman, like Oddjob is to *Goldfinger*. Don't get confused by this as it will all become clear, and I am dying to tell you more but if I did, I'd spoil the film, as there isn't a lot more to tell you. Fair enough, the stunts are amazing but they couldn't even pretend to be able to happen in real life. This causes the film watcher, every time a stunt happens, to just want to unnaturally say, "As if!". Maybe Bond has slipped too far into the technological age, and the makers are forgetting that it is Bond's character that makes the story as well as the magnificent stunts.

Bond has undergone a re-invention in the past with the introduction of a female M, and now they have re-invented the Bond girls. Instead of bimbos who sigh 'Oh, James!', *The World Is Not Enough* has a nuclear physicist (Denise Richards) and a rich chick (Sophie Marceau). There are no bikinis but lots of bare flesh but that's not surprising as Bond always gets his girl(s).

The film whisks you around so many locations that it is hard to remember where all the action is happening (unless you happen to have a perfect memory). Fortunately, however, whilst the plot of this film leaves something to be desired, the script is still full of those classic Bond moments and corny one-liners.

If you like your Bond films full of action and explosions then you are going to love this movie, but on the other hand if you're looking for a fantastic Bond story you will be disappointed. Yet, despite this all this, I still have to say that this is a film that has to be seen – it is Bond after all.



Helen

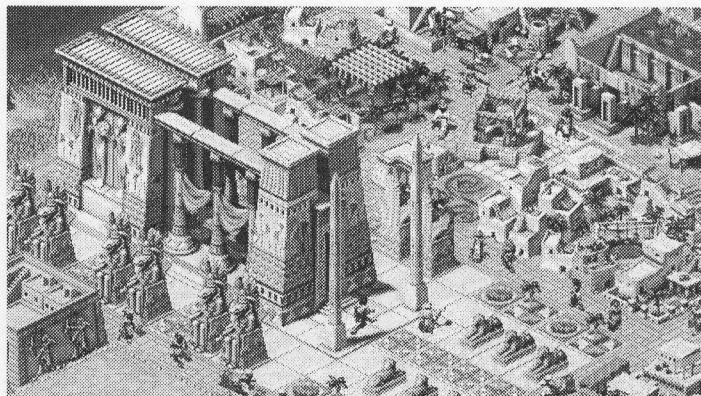
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A WHOLE NEW WORLD



No Fear Downhill Mountain Biking (PSX)

The *No Fear* trademark officially endorses Codemasters latest outing for the Playstation. With this in mind, anticipation began to rage inside my mind. Would I become fully integrated into the game, having become immune to all other sensory stimuli, so that I felt every sump, jump & bump, or would I be chucking the CD out the window? Boy oh boy did I fall for the former. Why? Because this game's a stormer.

There are around 11 tracks, each in a different country and with completely different scenery. They range from the streets of San Francisco to the deserts of Morocco and have but one thing in common - they all go downhill. I, of course, failed to appreciate this in my impatience to get on my bike and have a go, and duly paid the price as I started my first race up in Yorkshire. Yep, I pedalled like mad right from the start, failing to realise that you can let gravity do all the hard-work for you. I couldn't understand it when I was panting like mad on the level track at the end, whilst my opponent zoomed past. The trick is to make sure you pedal at the right time (energy levels are depleted quickly but will recover when you coast along), and also to make sure you brake at the critical moments. You may be good at steering, but fine tuning your braking is essential if you plan to progress, often being the difference between success and failure. As the words 'No Fear' imply, much of the time you will be racing on the brink of control, and this provides an incredible rush.

Depending on your preference you can view the action from behind your character or from the handlebars. If you choose the latter then you will turn your body perfectly in tune with your bike, and wince when you see a tree coming straight your way. It is this level of immersion that makes this game great, with good quality visuals and audio unlocking the stored potential.

There is much lasting appeal in this game. Not all the tracks are available at the beginning - you'll need to complete some to open the others. To beat a track you need to win 3 rounds, each against a different opponent. It would be nice to have more than two racers per race, but this isn't much of a problem as there is just so much else to distract you with. There is even a track where you can perform stunts - but somehow the only trick I managed to pull off was the one where you wipe out. Finally, of course, you can race against a mate - although you'll need a fairly large TV to enjoy this one.

No Fear Downhill Mountain Biking is a classic. There are simply very few other games that offer the dose of adrenaline pumping action this does. Bike down to Gameswire.com now and grab a copy.



□ □ □ □ □ Viv

Pharaoh (PC)

First off, can I please apologise to the members of my coursework group for not doing any work this week. It wasn't my fault - if anyone is to blame it's the people who wrote *Pharaoh*. Never before have I been so addicted to a game - at one point I looked up at the clock to find six hours had passed without my noticing.

Pharaoh is the newest city building game from the people who wrote the *Caesar* series. As the player you play the part of the local noble, controlling the city indirectly through construction, resource management and politics. If you've played *Caesar III*, then you'll know what to expect. If not, then just imagine *SimCity* with five times the complexity and a million times the addiction factor.

What entranced me for so long is the incredible level of detail. From the basics of ensuring a constant supply of food and water for your people to the complexities of keeping the gods and your neighbouring pharaohs happy, there's always something that needs your attention in and around the city. With the added problems of coping with the flooding of the Nile and finding the money to build gigantic monuments and pyramids, *Pharaoh* is one of the most complex and involving games I've played.

As games go, this is not an easy one. Once you complete the first few tutorial missions, things start to get more and more difficult as nearby cities request goods and invading forces threaten your city. I am currently about five missions in after 30 hours playing or so, and the feeling of joy when you finally achieve your objectives after hours of managing crisis after crisis is well worth it. Creating a good city requires a lot of planning and thought, but if you get stuck there are loads of web sites around full of useful tips and strategies for building the perfect metropolis.

The graphics, especially in high resolution mode, are excellent and give a great sense of a living, bustling city under your control (assuming you're any good, that is). The sound effects are atmospheric enough, but the in-game music really got on my nerves after a while. At least you can switch it off, I suppose.

Overall, this is an excellent game. I haven't seen a game this addictive, involving and interesting for ages. The sense of actually controlling the lives of thousands of citizens is very strong - a good game for the meglo-maniacs amongst you. If you've got important coursework to do, you might want to wait until the holidays, but otherwise I'd advise any gamer to buy this now.

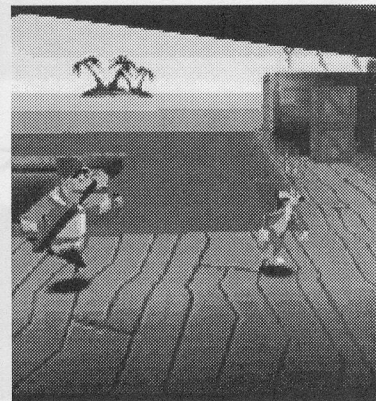
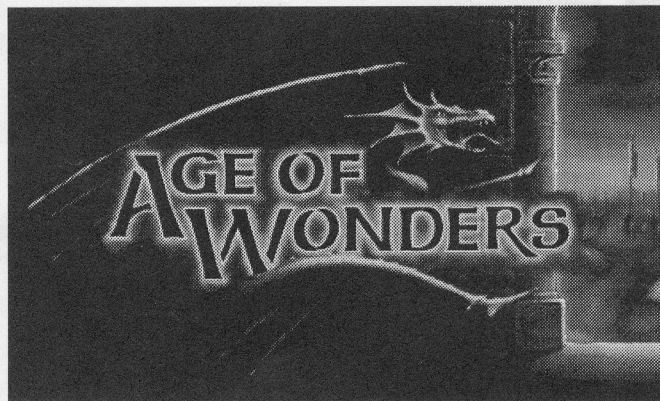
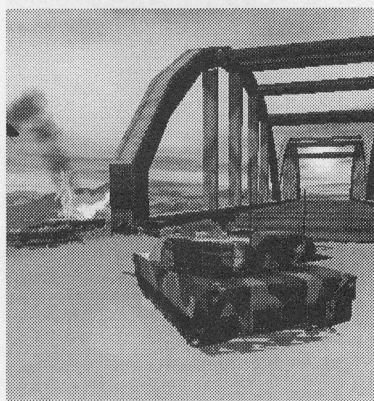


□ □ □ □ □ Ben

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A WHOLE NEW WORLD

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Armoured Fist 3 (PC)

I don't know about you, but I haven't played with tanks for many, many years so it was a breath of fresh air to take control of a whole group of them in this new game from NovaLogic.

I had a preconceived idea that tank simulations were slow and difficult to get into, requiring you to read through the entire manual and even then being forced to refer back to it every 30 seconds to seek out some obscure key combination. However, after installing *Armoured Fist 3*, I found the control mechanism very intuitive and within five minutes I was blasting enemy tanks and riding over sand dunes like a gulf-war veteran. The game centres on the M1A2 Abrams tank and (unfortunately) this is the only one that you get to ride in - however you do get to take control in three very different roles and perspectives, as the gunner, the tank commander and the driver. My favourite was the tank commander when he is sitting atop the tank wielding a .50 calibre machine gun - even if there is nothing to shoot at it's still a great vantage point to watch the hills roll by.

The game's only drawback is the graphics. Five years ago they would have been fine, but today's gamers expect better.

So in summary, NovaLogic's *Armoured Fist 3* is quite a decent attempt at a playable tank battlefield simulation, which is unfortunately flawed by the company's reluctance to embrace the technological revolution that 3D graphics cards have brought about.

Age of Wonders (PC)

Age of Wonders is the latest strategy/fantasy game to hit the shelves. On the surface it looks like a lot of different similar games - *Heroes of Might and Magic III*, *Warlords*... But this is its strength not a weakness - it manages to superbly pull off an excellent strategy turn-based game.

You control a hero who roams around the countryside, rallying troops under his banner to ultimately vanquish the opponents. There are 8 different races to choose from and over 100 different units, and you have to capture cities in order to get revenue to get troops to get an army to conquer more cities. You move around the screen in exactly the same way as in *Heroes* (point mouse and click) but unlike *Heroes* your army consists of only a few units, which makes the battles much more strategic. There are several new features, such as when you pass an enemy unit he can strike you but you cannot retaliate. Also, with ranged attacks you have to consider line-of-sight and the arc of the shot (a catapult is more likely to hit someone behind a city wall than an arrow). If you don't like doing tactical combat, or you know you'll whoop the enemy quick, you can opt to have the combat in "quick" (ie *Warlords*) style. The combat system is very good because it is tactical and easy to use. Another interesting option is that when you capture a hostile city you can get your own race to immigrate to it and boot out the existing inhabitants.

The levels are huge with usually one or two subterranean areas too, which makes for very long games. In my view this is a plus because it adds to the strategy side of the game, but it can be extremely annoying when your enemy sneaks behind your army and captures your city deep within the kingdom. You have to leave behind a border guard to prevent this happening.

The sound is adequate and the graphics are brilliant, although the characters look a bit cartoonish. The gameplay on the whole is excellent. Picking up the control system is as easy as pie. The multiplayer option (absolutely essential nowadays) is very good. It allows you to take turns simultaneously instead of waiting for your opponent to move, chess-like.

Age of Wonders is a great strategy game with real depth to it (almost like a proper RPG). While it may not be a breakthrough in gaming, it has enough new bits and an excellent interface that should serve to satisfy any strategy fan, with hours of gameplay available. The only gripe I have is that it can be slightly long and that there is now an additional candidate for best strategy game of the year.

Bugs Bunny (PC)

At last Bugs Bunny makes it onto the small screen with this new game from Infogrames entitled *Bugs Bunny - Lost In Time*. The intro picks up Bugs on route to the beach for his holidays, but unfortunately he gets lost and ends up in an inventor's shed. With the famous last words of "that's a funny looking carrot juice dispenser" Bugs is flung into the mists of time and so begins an epic adventure to return him home.

In the game itself you take charge of Bugs from a *Tomb Raider* perspective (ie behind him) and must guide him through a series of challenging puzzles. Like Ms Croft, Bugs has a wide range of the normal moves available to him including kicks, dives and rolls. In addition, however, Bugs also has his ears! These are a welcome feature that act as directional indicators guiding you onwards towards the next stage of the level. This drastically reduces what was for me the worst feature of the *Tomb Raider* games - that of being in a huge level and not having a clue which direction to go in.

The graphics are spot-on - they really give you a sense of being in the cartoons that we all used to (and indeed still do) watch. During the course of the game you will be reunited with all of Bugs's favourite enemies, including Yosemite Sam, Witch Hazel and (my favourite) Marvin the Martian. These characters, like Bugs, are all well animated and crisply executed.

Overall this is a fun game that, despite the title, is not just for children. It will present a good challenge to the average gamer and will also give a great deal of enjoyment along the way.



Andy



Mark



Andy

method



Mnemonic

Riverside Studios
£12.50 Conc.
Nearest Tube - Hammersmith

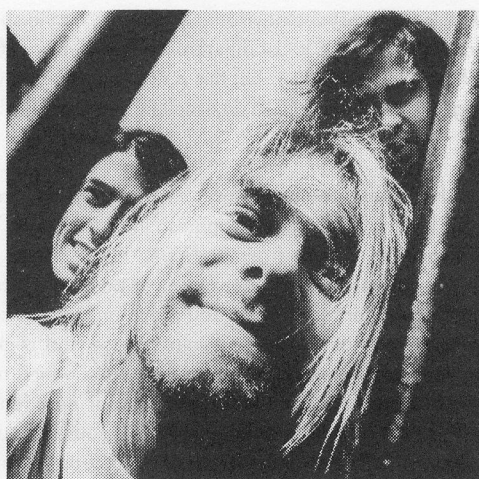
If it's got the label theatre de complicité you've just got to go - never have I seen such original and engaging physical theatre. I was in awe of the polish both the actors and the technical crew achieved. *Mnemonic* is a devised piece of theatre that keeps you on your toes and the edge of your seat for the entire show. It explores memory and time - giving you a shocking sense of perspective about just how small we all are in such a vast, old world. I have made it sound heavy, but it isn't - the whole play is fluid and powerful; at times visually stunning, at others hilarious.

I arrived to find a leaf and a blind fold attached to my chair. I looked around and saw everybody else was similarly endowed. Before I knew it the play had begun. I was immersed in an extraordinarily eye opening world. It is difficult to detail many examples because to do so would be to spoil the surprise, but to cite one: A prehistoric man has been discovered in the ice and is the focus of much scientific debate; tattoos are discovered on his front. Parallels are continuously being drawn between this mystery Ice Man and the main character. We hear on the TV about the said scares as the main character talks to his girlfriend on the phone; a ghostly hand appears upon his chest and begins to scar his body - the effect is incredible. It is obviously achieved through some sort of projector, but nobody is thinking that at the time. The silence in the theatre is complete and the hair on the back of my neck rose. The play is packed with similarly astonishing effects. It is the most powerful piece of devised theatre I have ever seen.



Ben

Nirvana - A retrospective



Proud Galleries £3 Conc.
Nearest Tube Charring Cross

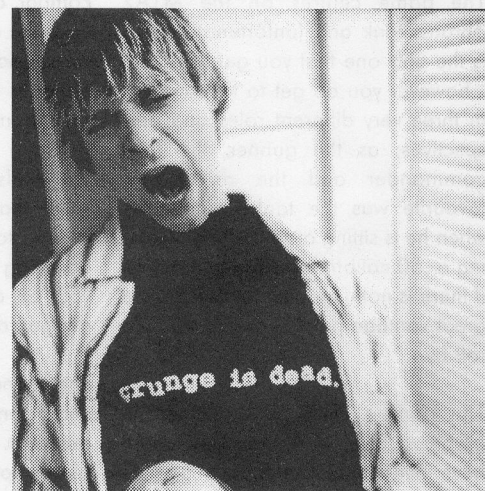
Hello, hello, hello, hello - yes my friends let me take you back to your grunge days with *Nirvana - A retrospective*. This is the biggest British collection of Nirvana photographs, providing a wide and detailed insight into the essential 90's band, with back stage photos and those taken in and around London. The three guys who put this together - Martine Goodacre, Steve Gullick and Stephen Sweet - were all music photographers working for NME and all had good access to the bands early popularity here.

Proud galleries is just two minutes walk from Charring Cross Tube and is the perfect place to visit to experience some hard hitting and easy looking photographic art for the first time. It is a flashy little venue and worth a look - even if you hate the band, the imagery is impressive.

Kurt probably would have hated it - but he hated everything to do with fame and money - "if you're rich, you're a dick". Certainly everything to do with the opening party was everything Nirvana wasn't: suave, flash and pretentious. Nirvana were raw and honest, they just plugged in and poured out their emotion through the amps. The

pictures, however, do the band justice in this regard. Seeing the live pictures with the sounds of *Lithium* rampaging through my head made me want to return to those days of wearing "grunge is dead" t-shirts and getting pissed for the first time.

Obviously, the eventual suicide of the man himself will be in the back of your mind as you wander between these flashes of the Nirvana era. It was not, however, something that the exhibition dwelt on - instead being "A tribute to the life of Nirvana, not to the death of Kurt Cobain" say Gullick, Goodacre and Sweet. Of course, it is impossible to blank it from your mind completely when looking into Kurt's eyes in some of the more sombre photographs, with the haunting rasps of *Penny Royalty Unplugged* filling the air.

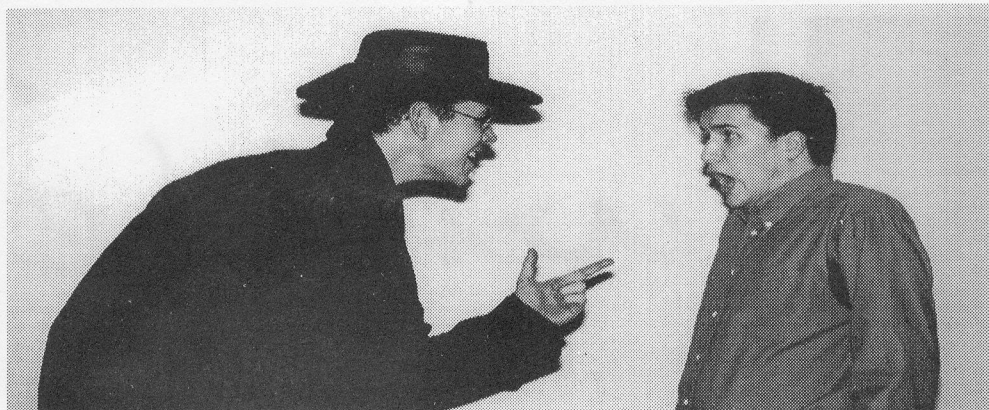
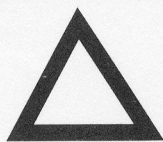


The gallery aimed not at a definitive history of the band, but rather a more British and personal slant. I feel the range achieved in these pictures was impressive - it wasn't all pictures of Kurt looking fucked up or endless blurry live shots of the band smashing up their equipment again. No, the pictures were a perfect balance. Go on, entertain yourselves.

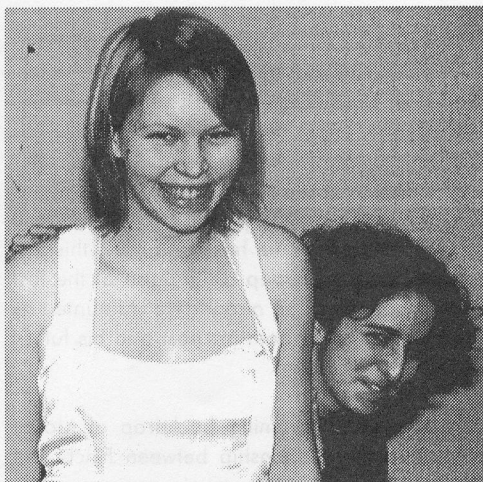


Ben

method



Dirk A thumping good detective-ghost-horror-who dunnit-time travel-romantic-musical-comedy epic



Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency is the creation of Douglas Adams - author of *Hitch Hikers Guide To The Galaxy*. *Dirk* is the play of the book, he is a detective with a twist, believing in the fundamental interconnectedness of all things. He finds them between a dead cat, pizza and Samuel Taylor Coleridge (poet) - he also saves the world as we know it.

Yup the humour's zany - Adams at his best - and the task for Dramsoc is huge. The play originated in Oxford, being first performed at Stowe School in 1992 then progressing, with advice from Douglas Adams and National Lottery money, to a 1997 run at the Oxford playhouse. This is the first independent production in the world! *Dirk* has many a challenge for the technical crew and actors alike. Andrew Prowse - a first year Materials student - has taken on the title role. He is joined by Dramsoc members old and new (and extremely old - Ed) in this fantastic theatrical challenge.

The cast is under the direction of Philip Lunn. He has much and varied experience in the theatre and says his main aim is to "entertain people". Philip shares the same birthday with Adams (there is probably some fundamental reason for this). He is confident of a successful and pol-

ished performance, labelling the play as "brilliantly written" and "extremely funny". It has taken him and Dramsoc seven months from conception to performance. When moving from novel to stage there is always the risk of sacrificing parts of the story to make it suitable for performance. Although changes are present in the form of small omissions and additions those who enjoyed the book can be confident of seeing a new lease of life in the characters they know; the spirit always remains the same.

To end with a quote from the writer of the new script: "Lots happens, people die and there's very little sitting around and talking and with a bit of luck everybody gets to the pub well before last orders. You can't say that about Beckett"

Well done Dramsoc, break a collective leg!



The Show runs from Wednesday to Saturday this week in the Union Concert Hall (Beit Quad, second floor) @ 7.30pm each night.

Tickets are available on the door at £4 concessions, £5 otherwise.

Jane Eyre

New Ambassador
£5 - 10 Conc.
Nearest Tube -Leicester Square

I have not read the book, but I have seen the film; this is much better than the film. It is an original slant on the story with slick and extremely versatile actors. They play a huge range of characters - including the horse and dog! I'm serious I have never seen a better stage dog in my life, quite touching really. The play was very well received from the packed out crowd and easily held my attention throughout.

Jane Eyre is basically about as repressed a person as it is possible to be. She had an unhappy childhood, and ever since she cannot get in touch with her sexual side - she almost has a fit when Rochester kisses her neck. The play uses an interesting theatrical device, which involves the mad wife of Rochester (the guy Jane is in repressed love with) called Bertha doubling as Jane's "other self" who is locked away in the attic/Jane's mind. When Bertha bangs on the door Jane flinches as if repressing her darker side. As Rochester talks of love to Jane she keeps busy repressing herself whilst her alter ego is upstairs busy masturbating. A little obvious but none the less effective.

The play is a psychological drama, effectively and powerfully acted, maybe not of the puritanical lit. crits. But I'm inspired to read the book and that can't be a bad thing.



Bringing The House Down

With the least impressive acceptance speech of all time, Steve McQueen wins the Turner prize. On display at the Tate and well worth the visit.

Ben

books



California Fire and Life, Don Winslow

This book does not set out to be classic English literature; it sets out to be a modern detective story/thriller. It is centred on Jack Wade (wonderfully macho name), a claims investigator specialising in arson for the California Fire and Life Insurance Company. The story is that he has to uncover a murder and attempt to stop the murderer pressing for the life insurance. Oh and the Russian Mafia, Vietnamese gangs, the CIA and other stereotyped law enforcement agencies all have bit parts too. Cool.

What struck me first about this book was the tone of voice. It is just so laid back, chilled out, Southern-California style that I found myself drawing the lines out loud. I loved the style; it was good-humoured whilst also being cynical. The 'voice' continues in that style throughout the novel, reinforcing the thought that this is one person's individual experience; that this is a real life situation because there is a real person behind that distinctive voice.

What particularly made me laugh was the way most chapters ended with a punchy little line or catchphrase in that laid back voice - 'So shake that' or 'Give him a headache for a change' spring to mind.

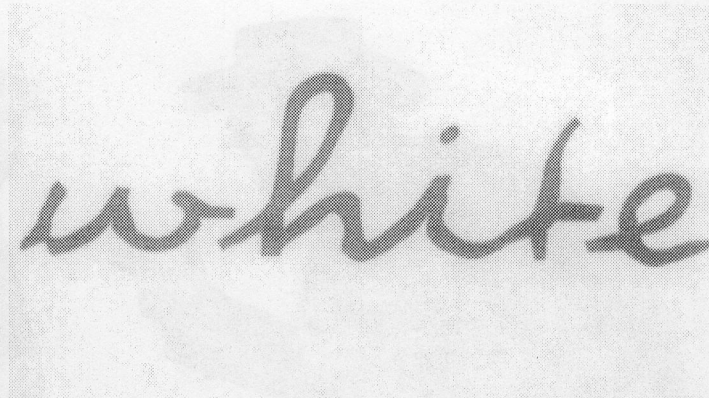
However, the best part of the novel is when Jack is describing his education at 'fire school' and his investigation into the murder. There is a definite feeling that the author is sharing personal experience with the reader. Coincidentally, the author spent 10 years as a consultant on litigation involving fraud cases, especially arson.

Unfortunately, a decent plot and some really superb factual information are all this novel has to offer. And even the plot turns down a dodgy alley at the end. The characterisation is limited to the 'I came from a dysfunctional family' cliché and 'jet black hair and Liz Taylor eyes and big boobs and a little butt' descriptions. So, whilst there are some good investigative techniques hidden in there, they are really badly utilised by a group of pulp characters.

It isn't a book that I would personally buy but it is worth borrowing from a friend if only for the factual bits and the amusing accent.



Flic



White, Rosie Thomas

Following an extremely diverse group of climbers, as they are about to embark on a gruelling expedition to conquer Everest, *White* is the latest novel from Rosie Thomas. Dr Finch Buchanan, a young Canadian, is restless and seeking something more in her life. She is employed as the expedition doctor and is responsible for the health of the other members of the group. Al Hood, a vastly experienced Welsh mountaineer, will lead the party and has made a promise to his teenage daughter that he will leave climbing once he has conquered this last (highest) peak. Sam McGrath joins the group on impulse at the last minute, following a chance encounter at an airport. He is haunted by his childhood but is forced to reconsider both his past and his future as the expedition progresses.

Set against the beautiful yet often threatening backdrop of Mount Everest, the complicated, triangular relationship between Finch and the two men plays itself out with, ultimately, tragic consequences. Thomas' descriptions and attention to technical detail transport the reader to the mountainside, bringing the group's experiences to life - even for a non-climber such as myself.

Although I am not normally a big fan of romantic fiction, I have to confess that the complex characters and unusual setting of this book had me hooked. My only criticism would probably be regarding the ending. After the pace of the rest of the novel, I was left disappointed by the conclusion. However, don't let this put you off - it's a brilliant book.



Helen

Free Stuff

Actually reading the books section? The best answer to the question 'Why the Books Section in Felix is my favourite Books Section in the Universe' will win Paul Burgess' picture book *Satellite Sex Pistols*. Email answers to rc97@ic.ac.uk. You don't need to hurry - the only other person to read this is Tony Poppleton in Physics and he hates the Sex Pistols, so you can take your time.

Felix Recommends

Remember that reviewed titles are available from the Waterstone's on campus at a discount of 20% during the week of the review. Take advantage of this offer Monday to Friday 9:00am to 7:00pm and Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm. Go on.



Colours of The Mountains, Da Chen

Colours of the Mountain, the memoir of Da Chen, deals with his early life growing up in rural China during the later part of Mao's reign. The grandson of a former wealthy landlord, Da is born into a family continually persecuted by their small village at the insistence of local Communist Party officials. Chen spends most of his childhood trying to overcome his politically incorrect background and deal with the poverty and adversity facing his family.

Colours is not very literary in its style or approach, consisting more of a statement of a series of events than a gripping narrative. Basic emotional reactions never really come into play for the reader, resulting in an intellectual realisation that some of the events should be heart warming, funny or even infuriating - but nothing more.

Chen does at times employ some seemingly poetic imagery to describe the landscape of his childhood, but without much effect. The members of Chen's family, who have been through such adversity and triumphed, are not treated any better. The story of what they went through is very powerful and yet the passages that deal with his family are not. Perhaps it is difficult to see where more characterisation is needed when one is writing about one's family, but we do not share Da's familiarity with his subject.

That is the shame of it all - Chen has really achieved a great deal in his life and overcome a huge amount of adversity, but even as we follow along with him towards his ultimate success, there is no real emotional involvement with the reader.

I would have preferred to read about one man's view of this tumultuous and chaotic time in the history of China, but instead the book offers only one man's view of himself. I admire Chen for his achievements, but I'm not a fan of the book.

Perhaps I'm just jealous.



Russell

You've heard about it. You've thought about it. Your friends are talking about it. Your girlfriend wants you to do it together. Your mother thinks you should do more of it. Take the plunge and do it!

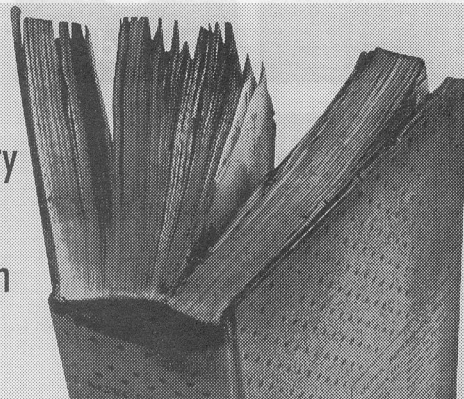
Write books reviews for Felix. Its all the rage in France.

email rc97@ic.ac.uk or stop by the Felix office at 12:00pm on Thursdays.

books



Helen's Literary Events in and around London



MONDAY 6th

- BALTIC POETS - Paddington Library, Porchester Road 18:30. An evening with Tomas Tranströmer, Jaan Kaplinski, Tomas Venclova and Vizma Belševica. Tube: Royal Oak
- RELIGION vs PHILOSOPHY - Waterstone's, Piccadilly 19:00. A round the table debate about the compatibility of faith and philosophy with some of the nation's finest thinkers, assembled by *Philosophy Now* magazine. Free (book in advance), 0171 851 2400. Tube: Piccadilly Circus

TUESDAY 7th

- SHOPPING: THERAPY OR CORRUPTION? - Voice Box, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank 19:30. A topical look at the effects of today's enormous consumer choice on our traditional values, with writers Bryan Appleyard and David Starkey. £5, students £3, 0171 960 4242. Tube: Waterloo

WEDNESDAY 8th

- SHERE HITE - Waterstone's, 1 Whittington Ave, Leadenhall Mkt 12:30 - 13:30. The author of the controversial *Hite Reports* returns with her new book about the problems of business and sexual politics. 0171 220 7882. Tube: Bank

THURSDAY 9th

- MICHAEL PALIN Waterstone's, Leadenhall Mkt 12:30 - 13:30. The comedian and globetrotter will be signing copies of his new book *Michael Palin's Hemmingway Adventure*. Free, 0171 220 7882. Tube: Bank or Monument

EVENT OF THE WEEK

- Campus Waterstone's 17:30 - 21:00. An evening of affordable prices, with 15% off the original price of every book in store. An opportunity not to be missed. South Kensington Campus, next to the Main Library. Tube: South Kensington
- UTOPIAS? - Voice Box, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank 19:30. John Carey, professor of English at Oxford, explores the literary search for utopia through the ages. £5, students £3 0171 960 4242. Tube: Waterloo
- SHERE HITE - Waterstone's, Piccadilly 19:30 - 21:00. (See Wednesday) £2. Tube: Piccadilly Circus

FELIX
S Monday
E Tuesday
V Wednesday
E Thursday
N Friday

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

Excess
Two rooms of tunes, cocktails, a lot of drunk sportsmen and women, and some of the cheesiest music known to man.

The Electric Cafe
DJ Alick Sethi spins cutting edge loungecore and chill-out, progressing to House D'n'B etc. Come down chill, drink or dance. The backroom at Southside 7.00 - closing time.

Pop Tarts & Karaoke
Cheesy classics and four bars - a perfect combination. £1 students, £1.50 guests, free with an ents cards

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Archery
6-10pm, Projectile Hall (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)

Dram Soc
The first night of their stunning interpretation of Douglas Adams' novel. Runs through to Saturday. Concert Hall, 7.30pm

CAG Soup Run
8.15pm, Weeks Hall Basement

Music

Trash @ The Anexe ; £4
Erol & James Heavy duty stuff as usual! Glam, electronica, 80's etc.

Bullitt @ The Dogstar ; Free
Ollie Teeba & Sahin Delleman. Big name tunes all the way to 2am.

Blurt @ TJ's Bar; £3
Ted Milton plays awesome sax with some nigh on poetic lyrics. Very funky!

Bjork & Brodsky Quartet @ Union Chapel; £20.
Icelandic nutbar puts on another good show.

Bozone @ Wembley Arena
Oh no! It's sold out! Damn...

Film

The Fight Club
Deserving of its critical acclaim and Oscar hype, this is a truly entertaining movie. Go see.

The Straight Story
Lynch once again produces an excellent movie, free from the emotional hellscape of his recent films. Warm and satisfying.

Tarzan
Astounding and enthralling, if somewhat mushy and American. Watch it!

Guest House Paradiso
Mayall and Edmonson in exactly what you would expect from the pair. Mildly amusing (if you're pissed).

The Clandestine Marriage
Nigel Hawthorne is splendid, in this tense 18th century drama.

TV

Billion Dollar Secret
Discovery channel, 9.00pm
Cool military death stuff! Top secret secrets unsecreted.

Neighbours
BBC 1 1.45pm
Do some of you actually watch this? Reply to : You'reanidiot@sad.com

Finest Hour
BBC 1 9.30pm
Isn't war glorious? More terribly upsetting stories of men trying to kill each other.

Ray Mear's Extreme Survival
BBC 2 8.00pm
The Arizona desert is very harsh etc. Gorgeous panoramas.

Have I Got News For You
BBC 2 9.00pm
Keep up on polotics without nearing a catatonic state.

Arts

Tuner Prize
It seems McQueen's the man; a house fell on him - but he survived to win the prize. Tate

Van Dyck
Your last chance to see this historic collection covering every aspect of Van Dyck's work. Royal Academy

Dirk
The first night of the fantastic Dramsoc Christmas show. A must see show on every level. Union Concert Hall

Balm in Gilead
The seedy life of King's Cross is explored in... Kings Cross Courtyard Theatre + Dirk

Merchant of Venice
Shakespeare (if you didn't know). To be reviewed next week. National Theatre + Dirk

D Saturday
A Sunday
Y Next Week

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

Christmas Carnival
Three floors of Bond themed entertainment heading your way on the 17th December - tickets on sale soon.

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

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

Shed Seven @ Shepards Bush Empire; £11
More samey britty popy cliched rock stuff.

James & Cast @ Wembley Arena; £17.50
Will probably muster up a couple of good tunes between them.

Macy Gray @ Forum; £15
What a legend, with a voice which would arouse an impotent deaf man.

Alice et Martin
French love tale. Somewhat unorthodox, but filled with strong performances. Excellent.

Dom and Jake do Hyde Park
The first IC porn society production. Two fabulous specimens enjoy the fresh air. Oh yes.

End of Days
Arnie's back, and this time he's taking on the Devil, face to face. Too stupid for words, but probably lots of fun.

Grandstand
BBC 1 12.15pm
Football- Spurs take on the Toon in the premiership. Poor old Newcastle.

BBC News
BBC 1 9.00am
Don't be an ignorant scientist. Watch the news - there is a world out there!

Mnemonic
Remember to go - theatre de complicité are always worth the price of admission. Riverside Studios + Dirk

Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)
It's a classic and it's brilliantly funny. Enough said. Criterion Theatre

BioSoc Present
The 1999 Sir Alexander Fleming Lecture
 Sponsored by Waterstone's Booksellers

Professor Steve Jones
Homo sapiens: just another animal?

6 pm, Tuesday 14 December 1999

Lecture Theatre 2
 Sir Alexander Fleming Building
 South Kensington Campus

Free admission & Wine reception

New Library system

All IC Libraries and the Science Museum Library are changing to a single UNICORN computerised library system on Tuesday 7 December.

Initial benefits will be: One catalogue which includes the holdings of all the IC Libraries, and a new Web interface for the catalogue. Find it from the Library Home Page <http://www.lib.ic.ac.uk>

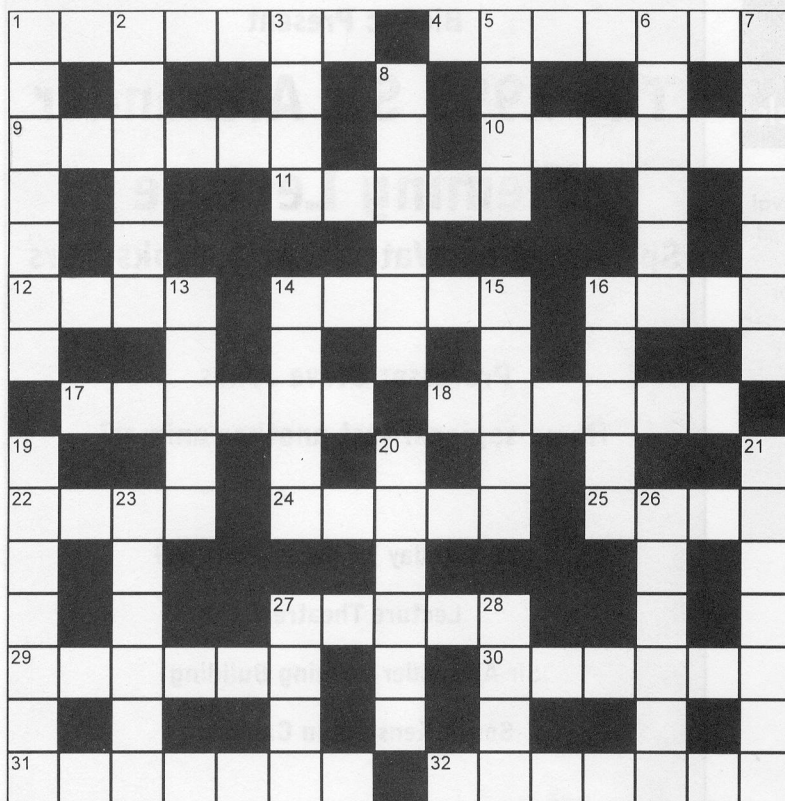
Please note:
No Library loan services on Monday 6 December. The Central Library and Science Museum Library will CLOSE on Tuesday 7 December until 14.00.

Loans due back on the old Libertas system will automatically be re-issued on the new Unicorn system.

No reservations can be carried forward to the new system. If you had reserved a book and have not yet received it, you will need to place a new reservation (now known as holds) on the new system. Inter-library loans will carry on as before for the time being.

The Library apologises for any inconvenience during the transition between systems. If you have a problem please email libhelp@ic.ac.uk

The Felix Crossword 1160, by Turnip Henry



Answers to 1159:

Across: Digit, Pseudonym, Nebula, Caesar, Rapport, Torso, Rave, Connect, Inverse, Kiwi, Alias, Pivotal, Pistol, Spirit, Pantomime, Pupill.

Down: Drumstick, Ginger, Slapper, Ulcer, Merit, Tuna, Silver, Rosehip, Trivial, Menstrual, Noises, Blossom, Instep, Top-up, Islam, Acid.

Across

1. Ah! Satan backs President. (7)
4. A Northern mist around you from the sea. (7)
9. Heart could wind down. (6)
10. Exciting lady, perhaps, is contagious. (6)
11. Man in Japan has arse-kicking capabilities. (5)
12. Body of water that might need a key. (4)
14. Water vapour could mix. (5)
16. Scuffy? Neat? You're making a mountain... (4)
17. It hits pig that band reverses over. (6)
18. A trail? Yes, but I don't care. (6)
22. Extremely fast group. (4)
24. Chunky Sid's around. Oh 'ell. (5)
25. The first son sounds like he could. (4)
27. Clothes thread to the North. (5)
29. Is mule eating cereal? (6)
30. Holiday with stone figures. (6)
31. Dead Egyptian god left the side. (7)
32. So-so baby goat churns snow-mobiles. (7)

Down

1. Sphere of mesh on court. (7)
2. Not quite sweet strategy. (6)
3. Randy rams get it. (4)
5. So far it sounds like a chair. (4)
6. Dignified time of year. (6)
7. Sounds like poorly bird is not allowed. (7)
8. Now, back around. The worker is licentious. (6)
13. Right past the house. Doh! (5)
14. Mate in French? Essential. (5)
15. Semi-conductor is stoned. (5)
16. Bonus supplement. (5)
19. Yes. Balsam when broken is terrible. (7)
20. Up Alp ten went back to the earth. (6)
21. Laurel's mess is tempting. (7)
23. Usually unaccented, but cheerful. (6)
26. Restaurant right in the gravy. (6)
27. Currency goes off the rail. (4)
28. Stick it out by a small amount. (4)

Your chance to win 007

Well, at least ticket 007 to this year's Christmas Carnival, to be held across three floors of the Union on December 17th, the last day of term.

The carnival this year has a Bond theme with full Bond décor, music from the 007 Band and a different Bond theme in each. So, you can check out some reggae, house & garage with the Channel One Sound System (one of the Notting Hill Carnival's longest running and most popular systems) in the "Live & Let Die Room", stand the chance to win a sexy black mountain bike in the "Casino Royale", or chill out and relax with martinis in "Pussy Galore's Cocktail Bar". [Mark, thou art truly the King of Cheese - do you really have no shame? Ed]

There's also music from the Pop Tart DJs and an opportunity to live out your Bond fantasies in

the laserquest in the Quad. Dress is strictly Bond, villain or Bond girl, and there'll be a prize for the best outfit on the night.

All this costs a mere £007 - however, you and a friend could be going for free. To win the much desired ticket 007, all you have to do is track back through your memory or delve into your parents record collections and name the artists who recorded the theme tunes to:

For Your Eyes Only.
The Man with the Golden Gun
From Russia with Love
Live and Let Die
A View to A Kill.

Think that sounds easy? Then either e-mail your answers to m.horne@ic.ac.uk, or drop your solutions into the Union Office before noon on Weds 8th. The winner will be announced in next weeks Felix.

Last week's competition

The winner of last week's crossword competition was **Rosie Beckett**. Congratulations - please come into the Felix Office ASAP to pick up your tickets to see Dram-Soc's excellent production of *Dirk*, which is showing from Thursday this week in the Union Concert Hall. Don't miss out on what should be a truly spectacular show.

Although there isn't a prize for this week's crossword, next week's mindbendingly difficult offering from *Turnip Henry* will be accompanied by a suitably impressive catch for the winner (I've got Ferrari on the phone right now), so make sure you watch this space next week. There should also be a regular prize attached to the crossword every week next term, so keep practicing - and, in the meantime, enjoy...

Bust-a-Gut Comedy

The final show in this term's Bust-A-Gut comedy roster lands in dB's this Friday, with the best line-up of the year thus far. Barratt & Fielding are an award-winningly funny double act, so don't miss this chance to see them live and in full flow. They'll also be support of one kind or another, plus the unmissable comic stylings of our very own Mark Horne - a man so far ahead of his time that, sadly, no-one will get his jokes for the next twenty or thirty years.

Tickets cost £2.50 (£2 with an Ents Card) and are available on the door or from the Union Office all week. Doors open at 7.45pm, with the show pencilled in to start at roughly 8.30.

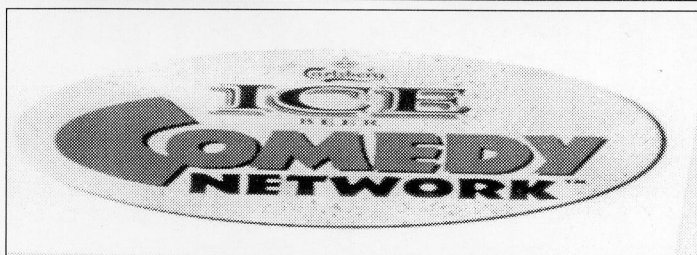
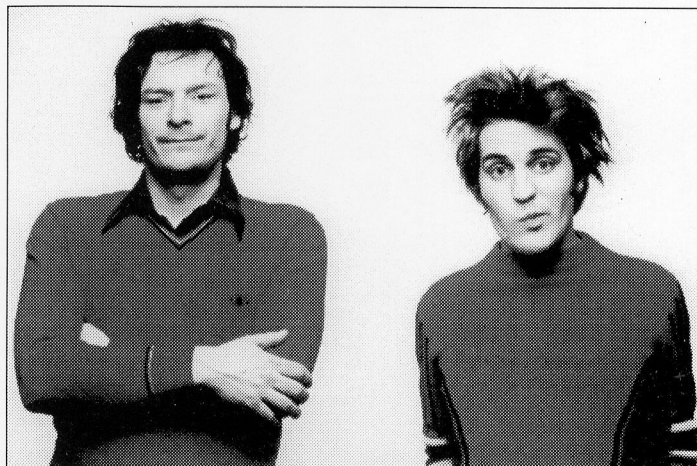
Julian Barratt & Noel Fielding

Having starred alongside one another in the hit TV shows *Gas*

(C4), *The Comedy Network* (C5) and *Unnatural Acts* (Paramount), Julian Barratt and Noel Fielding, two of comedy's most "brilliantly original and intriguing" (*The List*) comedians join forces to perform their own unique brand of anarchic comedy.

In 1998, Julian and Noel wrote and performed in *The Mighty Boosh* at the Edinburgh Festival. The show received critical acclaim, being described as "truly and undeniably funny" (*The Scotsman*) and went on to take the prestigious Perrier Best Newcomer award (the previous winners of which include the likes of Harry Hill).

Noel and Julian have recently returned from the Edinburgh Festival once again, with their smash hit follow-up show *Arctic Boosh*. They are now preparing their own television show.



iCU Jazz and Rock presents...

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In DBs on Thursday 9th December – first band on stage @8pm

FREE

CALAMARI

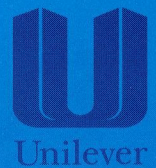
Xmas Xtravaganza - 15/12/99 – Cairo Jacks

<http://listen.to/calamari>

Flyers from Union office

mpf2@ic.ac.uk

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Be part of it.

Linux Users Group

Linux has been in the news a lot recently, but, just as with other buzz words, few ordinary people know what it is. In its most basic definition, Linux is a collection of programs that control and run a computer, usually a PC. This collection of programs is referred to as an "operating system". From the point of view of the computer user, Linux is what allows him/her to communicate with the computer. The operating system determines how a computer runs tasks, the kind of software that can be loaded, and what kind of "interface" it can have. Examples of other operating systems are Unix, MacOs, and the ubiquitous Windows.

If you ask the same question to the great majority of Linux users the answer you will probably get is: Linux is cool. To explain this suspiciously smug answer let's ask more questions.

Why Linux?

Linux was invented because its inventor, Linus Torvalds, did not like what was on offer to run his PC. He offered his brainchild free of charge to the world, with the condition that it should be kept freely available and open to anyone who wanted to add to it. Hence, from the start Linux was destined to be born and raised by creative programmers who not only wanted quality but also took pride in their contributions. Imagine, that the Linux factory is the whole world, and its personnel are some of the best programmers anywhere - and all are working for free!

The end result is an operating system that is open, free, easily available (on any archive site), supported by a huge number of users and developers, dependable, stable and very powerful. Oh, and free.

Something is fishy here, I hear you mumble. Nothing can be that good? Well... there are a few drawbacks. Until recently, it has been said that to own Linux meant having to be a hacker. Nowadays this is not entirely true, because there are many companies and free distributors that are producing Linux packages that are easy to

install and easier to manage than previous versions. In the recent Las Vegas Comdex show Corel's version of Linux was claimed to be "easier to install than Windows".

More and more vendors are realising the potential of the free operating system market and are writing software for Linux as fast as they can. Some well know names are Matlab, Mathematica, IDL, Star Office (now owned by Sun), Corel, and even Silicon Graphics. The question should be rephrased to: Why not Linux?

Who is using Linux?

Linux is moving slowly from the exclusive realm of Computer Science departments to other university departments, and ultimately to the real world (well, almost). There are a few companies that have become converts after bad experiences with unreliable systems and it is, together with Unix, one of the best systems for Web servers. Here at Imperial, the Linux user community is growing and active, as exemplified by the activities of the Linux Users Group and its ic-linux-group mailing list. There are several departments that run computers with NT/Linux partitions and because of its advantages for scientific use it is gaining followers in research areas.

Candid comments from a few Aeronautics students (both undergraduate and postgraduate): "quite easy to install", "OK, screen fonts need some work but I am quite impressed with it", "I am not very experienced but I have found Linux to be very reliable and considerably quicker than NT..it 'feels' more stable", "Very reliable and fun desktop", "lovely operating system, I like going to the Internet and find anything I like", "A lot of the free software is brilliant".

How do I learn more?

Come to the next Linux Symposium organised by the Linux Users Group or, alternatively, visit <http://linux.cc.ic.ac.uk/> to subscribe to our mailing list. Hope to hear from you soon!

RCS University Challenge

The time has now come for the Royal College of Science Union to launch the 2000-2001 University Challenge Campaign. Imperial Students have won this prestigious national competition in the past, and earlier this year the medical school opened up the possibility of Constituent College Union entry, by getting a team of medical students to represent the College on the world renowned television show. Although their progress exceeded that of the 'official' IC team, who never made it to the televised rounds, the medics performance left a lot to be desired. The RCSU has now taken up the baton, with its sights firmly set on this year's trophy.

Amongst the thousands of our students, we must be able to find four who can combine to become a team better than anyone else's in the country. We definitely have the students to win this competition - we just need to find them. We could follow the example of

our predecessors and send four random volunteers, and hope for the best possible outcome. However, we are looking for a group of razor sharp, outgoing, lively individuals capable of working together as a team (and taking on the formidable force of Paxman).

The selection process, will involve you (as an individual) proving yourself not only as a prodigious fountain of general knowledge, but also as a team player, with an excellent 'television personality'. The contest will culminate with a democratic selection by all those present.

So, do you want to be on TV? Could you outwit Paxman? If so - and as long as you will be a registered student during the next academic year - just turn up at the selection meeting

Selection:

Clore Lecture Theatre (Huxley)
17.30, Tuesday 14th December.

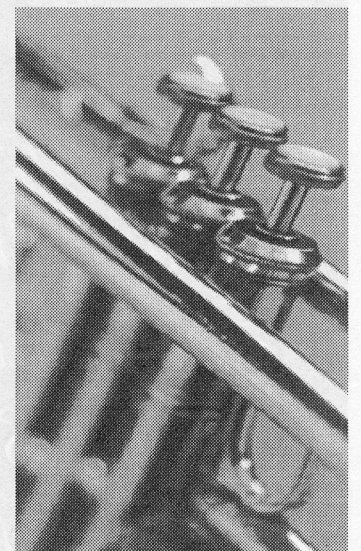
Imperial Winds

The Imperial Winds is a sub group of the Symphony Orchestra and is now in its third year. Under the baton of our conductor, Colonel Duncan Beat, the band has grown to a regular 45 players covering a range of abilities.

A wind band is made up of a brass section (trumpets, trombones, french horns and tuba), a woodwind section (flutes, clarinets, bassoons, saxophones and oboe) and percussion. We have a wide ranging repertoire, covering pieces from classical to jazz - whatever people want to play. Our rehearsals are fun and informal.

Our free Winter Concert will be held on Tuesday 14th December at 18.30 in the Great Hall, Sheffield. This year's programme includes Holst's *Second Suite in F*, *The Blue and The Grey* (a selection of American Civil War pieces) and *Trumpets Wild* along with some festive tunes.

We always welcome new play-



ers, especially percussionists and french horn players. For more information on the concert or joining the band please e-mail the chair at the address below.

Contact Lorna
lorna@redvan.net

IC takes BUSA by storm

Tenpin Bowling

At last weekend's BUSA Tenpin Bowling Championships in Nottingham, Imperial produced the best result in years – having three representatives in the elite ten men and ten women BUSA team for 99/00. Coincidentally, we also have the largest number of BUSA representatives of any of the universities present.

Our top woman bowler, Elizabeth Ivory, scorched the lanes with blistering scores of 201, 209, 181, 189 and 190 en route to a brilliant 176 average over nine games. She was ranked third overall in the ladies section and easily qualified for the BUSA team. She was also picked to be

the vice-captain of the BUSA ladies team for the coming year. Not to be outdone, our two top male bowlers - Graham Johnston and Robert Crosbie - also produced fantastic games. Rob consistently bowled games of 187, 195, 202, 203 and 197 to average 191 for the day. With his excellent debut showing, Rob came in third overall in the final standings. Both of them automatically qualified for the BUSA team. This is an amazing feat from all three of them considering that there were about 230 male and 70 female bowlers present at the championships!

Mark Tham

You can now submit your reports to the all new sport.felix@ic.ac.uk email account. Just do it!

Imperial hits the target

Archery

Imperial College vs The World

On Sunday 28th November, the honorary company of Imperial College archers set out, bows in hand, to the darkest suburbs of Uxbridge and the Brunel University Open. This incorporated the BUSA Southern Area Universities and university competitions.

Our secret weapon was Leo's clicker because it managed to squeak every time she shot - to our opponents' dismay. We met some very nice people who chatted lots and offered bits of advice. There were several strange Surrey people who had war paint on and one guy looked like a raccoon.

The journey there and back was crap - the tube bounced too much and yours truly ended up with a very messy article. Oh, and

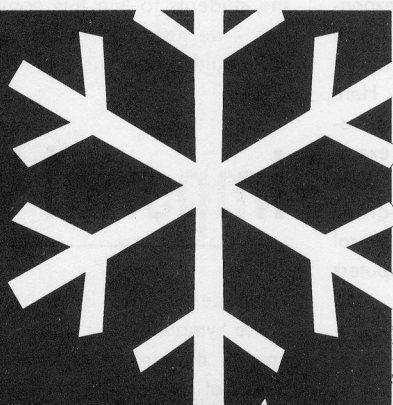
Gavin was attacked by an empty Lucozade bottle.

There were, however, excellent performances from all archers, particularly the captain who swept the board and washed the floor with everyone else's hair (Well not quite; silver in BUSA, bronze in the Universities and 4th in the Open.) Keith and Ruth managed personal bests and came 28th and 16th respectively; Matt and Gavin both shot well to finish joint 33rd and 41st out of 65 men.

Despite this being the first tournament for all bar the captain, a thoroughly good time was had by all and lots of jelly babies were consumed. (And we didn't have to get up early either.)

Training takes place every Monday and Friday at 6pm in the Sports Centre's Projectile Hall.

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Charity Christmas Cards,
gifts and wrapping paper
ICU Shop is open on
Sherfield Walkway*



Have you entered our Millennium Poll yet? If not, why not?

One lucky student will win a Dreamcast package, courtesy of Felix, and every vote will be vitally important in deciding the winner's of this exclusive contest.

So, turn to page four, fill in the appropriate boxes and return the completed form to Felix (in the portacabins behind Physics) or the Union Office by Wednesday evening this week. You haven't got long, so get cracking...

Fifths go marching on

Football - fifths

QMW VI 2
IC V 5

After last week's 12 goal extravaganza against Goldsmiths IV, which was shared 6-6, we knew we had to get back on the winning trail against a mid-table side who had nevertheless beaten some good teams.

With many players missing from the squad, and our keeper once again called to higher things with the 4th team, we started the game rather slowly, conceding an early goal when a lightning fast break from the QMW front line outpaced the defence to slot one home. The 5th team spirit is fast becoming legendary, however, and we didn't let it phase us, with an equalising goal coming almost immediately from the boot of Dino, back on the goal trail after 2 weeks off. With QMW's pacey forwards always threatening, the rest of the half was fairly even - a great save from stand-in keeper

Andy Pease keeping the score level, before we took the lead with a 3rd goal of the season from Gazza.

In the 2nd half we again started poorly, letting them score from a corner with a tap in from inside the 6 yard box. As the half wore on, though, we began to click into gear with great work at left back from Tiger and on the right from Vince. A cross from the left from Dino then fell to Spaceman, whose persistence in a ruck of players saw the ball into the net from close in to regain the lead at 3-2. There was no looking back from there, with Andy in goal having a great game, and even Dij and God coming very close to scoring. Dino took the chance of notching up a second hattrick of the season, with the third goal a brilliant curling left foot shot from the edge of the area. A late debut appearance by Steve from the 7ths was another bonus from the day, and IC V's march on.

Sevenths lose the battle

Football - sevenths

IC VII 1
Kings VI 4

Our last meeting with the side currently leading the 6th division ended in a very heavy defeat, so we were all really up for this game. Due to some freak train delays, we actually got to their ground half an hour before they did!

Kings started extremely aggressively, and we found ourselves pushed back to our own half. However, despite the notable absences of Caprano and Andy Smith, our defence held solid. Despite all their possession, Kings only created a handful of opportunities in the first 40 minutes. However, they finally broke through when a cracking shot took an unfortunate deflection off the Guvnor (playing in an unfamiliar left-back role) and flew past Andy Pease in goal.

We kept our heads up though, and managed to equalise when Mark finished superbly off a great free kick by Leacho.

We started the 2nd half with our heads up, but they scored shortly after the re-start from a good header. We then lost Barney to injury, and from then on it was always going to be difficult. We continued fighting for every ball, and we were dangerous on several occasions as the wingers managed some good counter-attacks. Longy managed to kick the bar at one point off a great cross by Ker! However, as the half wore on we started to tire, and they scored two more goals against our now makeshift defence.

However, it was a brave and spirited performance by all of the IC VII squad, and this result should bode well for the remainder of the season.

IN BRIEF

Cross Country

We boarded the tube at South Kensington, and 21 stops later we reached beautiful Cockfosters - home of Middlesex University.

Miss Whiplash continued to dominate the all comers, picking up her own gold medal, ably backed up by Louise in 13th. The woman's team came third overall, despite not having a third runner.

Imperial provided 10 of the first 12 men and won the team championships, with the 'B' team in second place, easily beating UCL, King's and Holloway firsts.

Stan-ron was first home, winning a second gold individual medal to add to his collection. XXX Gaffer was next in to collect silver, with the Veteran arriving 4th. Frank and Stereo-Dan finished joint 5th, holding hands like the daisies they are, with Daisy Boy right behind completing the team.

We left Trent Park confirmed once again as the undisputed champions of London. Until next time boys...

Boat Club

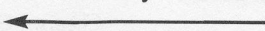
The weekend before last saw the Imperial College and Queens Tower Boat clubs romp home to glory yet again ahead of Oxford and even the GB Elite squad, Leander.

The Fours Head has teams from almost all clubs in the country taking part, with the start number for each crew taken from last year's finishing position. The ICQT mens coxed four won senior two, as did the QT men's quad and the women's coxed four, the women's coxless four won the elite level open (the top level of entry for this regatta).

To put all this in context, together ICQT won 4 pennants compared to Oxford, Leander and Oxford Brokes who each got two and dozens of other BUSA and club crews who at best got one each.

Well rowed IC.

Cross Country win ULU!!



Netball

ICSM 18
IC 40

For the first time the sun shined on IC Netball team as we ventured down to Teddington. After ogling the rugby players the match finally started. Everything went well, with shots flying in from all angles from our super shooters Sarah and Shirley. The first quarter ended with us 8-3 up, a lead we would not lose. During the (extra long) second quarter our players were flying all over the place. In the centre court Jane, Jess and Dorothy intercepted nearly every pass. At half time we were streaking ahead 17-8. Thanks to our extra stretchy defence, Kirsty and Kathryn, ICSM scored only 10 more goals. Substitute shooter Rebekah arrived at half time to dart around the circle scoring goals at a rate of knots, and the score was 40 by the end of the match. Congratulations - still unbeaten in the Union.

Hockey

Imperial IV 1
GKT III 1

The fourth team's eternal quest to field a full side remained unfulfilled, despite Feminine Geordie leading by example and squeezing his large posterior into a keepers kit.

The match began promisingly as the 10 warriors present scored an early goal (that's been 2 goals coming) from the penalty spot, due to the GKT keeper being intent on putting "I'm too good for DBs" on his arse. The second half was not so impressive - IC milled about in usual fourths style and conceded a weak goal. Then the fourths nearly scored again, but old habits die hard and the match finished 1-1. Following his recent yellow streak and extreme deviant behaviour, Grease & Groom umpired the game admirably and managed to avoid getting involved in a ruck. Well done that man! Bring on the ULU cup so we can groove on with the Diisco Boys!

SPORT

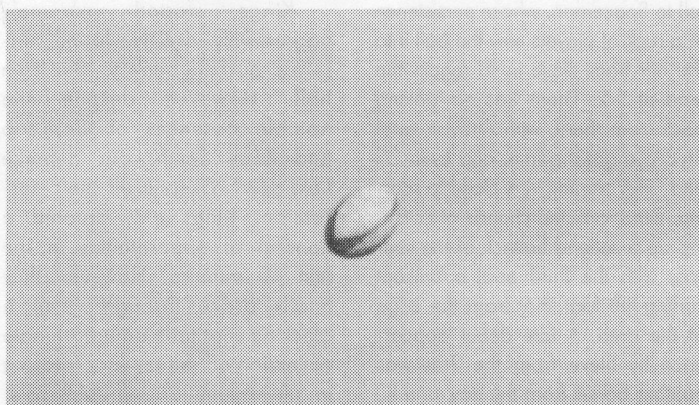
Imperial edged out by Brunel

Rugby - Sponsored by 

IC I 25
 Brunel Institute II 30

This was no friendly, with Brunel still smarting from their defeat last year. With this in mind, Rod Hull, the Brunel coach, fielded his best possible side including a few first team players, and our ex-coach Graham the Nonce. We'll get you next time mate. The stiff first half wind worked in the P.E. teacher's favour and it was only monumental work from the forwards and flashes of inspiration in the backs (Jim P. in particular) that allowed us to lead 17 - 13 at the break.

They brought on some big fat bastards at halftime and the second half quickly took the form of one long scrum. This combined



The ball heads on it's majestic path towards goal Photo: Dave

with the wind deserting us allowed them back into the game. In the end they scored some dull tries and despite some spirited play from us they managed to hold out.

They would have been more excited with the score but half of them couldn't count. This thought (and a party bus on the way home) made sure the day was enjoyed by all.

Virgins shut out Cambridge

Women's Rugby

IC Virgins 27
 Cambridge II 0

This "friendly" match started off as a day trip to Cambridge. We didn't have a full team due to injuries but neither did they. We took pity on them and lent them Beth (well she had been on a pub crawl the night before, and wasn't exactly a picture of good health).

We spent long periods of time camped in their 22, but they were

defending well. Eventually Betsy broke through to score her first of four tries. They tried hard for the next 5 minutes but we broke through again. Curly Clare converted the try despite it being only her second place kick ever.

By then we were beginning to enjoy ourselves and notice odd things about their players. They had a hunchback for a wing and their hooker could have shaped straight out of St. Trinnians.

After half time we carried on the way we left off with excellent handling, rucking and mauling.

They had a scrum on their line but Emma nicked the ball and Betsy went over again. More good play resulted in a try for Ling and then Betsy's final try.

In the end it was great to breath some unpolluted country air, kick some butt and have a great meal courtesy of Ling's parents.

You will notice on turning the page that Cross Country have become the first IC team this year to win a trophy - retaining the ULU title. It's a shame that they didn't make more of it with a bigger report. Submitting it on nice paper, printed out in colour with big

headlines is nice, but doesn't quite have the same effect once it has been typed out. So, when you win, shout about it, and shout lots!

Which reminds me, next week is the last issue of 1999, and with BUSA drawing to a close and some

sports finishing their seasons for another year, now is the perfect time to submit a report/review of the year!

Unfortunately I won't be here, so have a great Christmas and an even better 2000.

Cheers, Gus

SCOREBOARD

DARTS (Mixed)

IC 6 - 9 Southside
 High score - Wardy (135)
 Check-out - Dave H (77)

FOOTBALL (Mens)

- Wednesday 1/12
 - IC I 1 - 2 UCL I
 - IC II 1 - 2 RSM I
 - IC IV 1 - 2 Goldsmiths
 - IC VI w/o UCL VI
 - IC VII 1 - 4 KCL VI
- Saturday 28/11
 - IC I 0 - 2 KCL I
 - IC II 1 - 3 SBLH
 - IC III 0 - 3 GKT II
 - IC IV 1 - 3 LSE IV
 - IC V 5 - 2 QMW VI
 - IC VI 1 - 2 KCL V

HOCKEY (Mens)

IC IV 1 - 1 GKT III

NETBALL (Womens)

IC I 40 - 18 ICSM I

RUGBY (Mens)

IC I 25 - 30 Brunel II

RUGBY (Womens)

IC I 27 - 0 Cambridge II

In the true spirit of Christmas, we now present, for your viewing pleasure, and at no added cost, an entertaining festive space.



Nice.