

Issue 1196 Monday 29th January 2001

FELIX

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Dying to be thin

Pulse looks at Anorexia

LORD WINSTON IN ASSAULT PROBE

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NEWS

Talk to the hand...

Pro-life campaigner accuses Lord Winston of "aggressive" assault

WILLIAM FOSTER

Britain's foremost expert on fertility research and one of the world's most respected researchers is facing a police investigation of assault following last Monday's crucial vote on stem cell research at the House of Lords.

The claims centre around a usually low-profile pro-life movement, members of which were protesting outside the Lords as peers arrived for the vote. A number of young women, mostly aged in their twenties, had set up 101 cardboard sheep in Parliament Square while wearing lab coats to mark the occasion.

Lord Winston was giving an interview for a television network, believed to be ITN, on the subject of the Bill. Ruth Davies, together with "about twelve friends" said she was

"going in to the Lords" when she overheard the Imperial College researcher answering a question with what she believed was a lie from her knowledge of stem-cell research. She told Felix that she "calmly, without jumping forward, said 'no it is not'".

Ms Davies claims that Lord Winston angrily swung round and "looked like he was going to hit her". She

alleges that the peer then put his hand over her mouth and shouted "Shut up. You keep out of it. I'm a scientist".

The 24-year-old barrister explained that she knew embryonic stem cells are "by nature tumours" and therefore more dangerous than adult stem cells, contrary to what had been said in the interview. She added that she had "picked up quite a lot of science during the campaign", despite having had no scientific training. She also claims that the TV crew ignored his actions, pretending not to have seen anything, but several witnesses witnessed the incident.

Ruth Davies added that she had visited Chelsea Police Station in order to make a formal complaint, and is currently planning to press charges against the peer, but is "prepared to accept an apology".

Felix was unable to contact Lord Winston for

comment, but he is said to deny that the incident took place. Many people have expressed disbelief that the researcher behaved in such a way, and it has been suggested among College circles that the accusations are a way of smearing a high-profile advocate of the "cloning" research while raising the profile of their own, small group of "women in bobble hats". A College source said that he believed the group were "simply capitalising on an exaggeration".

Chelsea Police were unable to comment on whether a complaint had been made against any particular individual. Meanwhile, ITN confirmed that they had also heard about the alleged incident, and a spokeswoman added that it was too early to say whether it was one of their camera crews who had been carrying out the interview, but said that they were "looking into it".

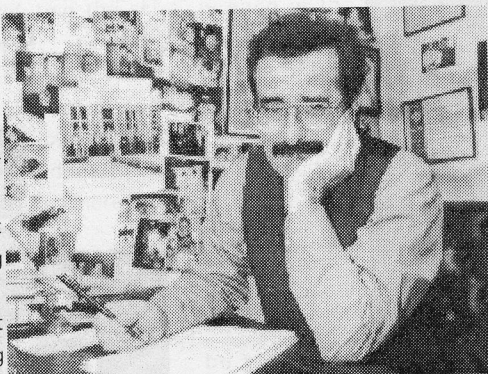
In a telephone interview with Felix, Miss Davies said "It epitomises the way the whole cloning debate has been carried out - self-important scientists trying to silence the voice of the public."

She added "I was particularly horrified to be touched physically by Lord Winston. I am profoundly committed to

the pro-life cause, opposed to abortion and embryo experimentation, and to feel on my face, my mouth, the aggressive hand of somebody who has been so closely involved in the destruction of human life was deeply repugnant."

Lord Winston was elevated to the House in 1995, and is best known for his work in human fertility. Interviewers have frequently commented on how the walls of his office are covered in photographs of childless couples that he has helped through IVF techniques. Unfortunately, he was unavailable for comment as Felix went to press.

Sarah Macken, director of the pro-life group in question, denied that her reporting of the incident was merely capitalising on a misunderstanding to raise her group's profile, soon after she paid her second visit to the Felix Office in a day.



Lord Winston: Extremist target or tyrant?

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STA TRAVEL

Goldman
Sachs

Fast stream



Civil Service Fast Stream Programme

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Murdered student remembered

Memorial service held for former IC student murdered while teaching in Burundi

DEREK PICKARD

The Memorial service for Charlotte Wilson (age 27) was held last week at St Alban the Martyr Church in Holborn, London, on Thursday the 18th of January. Her murder, with over 20 others, including her fiancée, occurred while travelling to Bujumbura in Burundi on a bus. Its random brutality shocked many people.

Charlotte was a student in the Biochemistry department at Imperial College and graduated with a B.Sc. in 1995. After obtaining a PhD in molecular microbiology she decided to help the charity Volunteer Services Overseas (VSO) in their work in the devastated country of Rwanda for a one year period. Her enjoyment and dedication to the post was deeply appreciated by all her school pupils, and also by the government of Rwanda who were keen to employ her in restructuring the science curriculum for schools there.

The memorial service at St Alban was attended by many of her friends and fellow students from her time in the Biochemistry department at IC, as well as from St. Mary's where she

obtained her PhD. The biochemistry department was kindly represented by Dr. David Leek. The government of Rwanda was not only represented by its ambassador to London, but also by the headmaster of the school in Kigali where Charlotte taught and made such an impact in teaching science in an inspired and enthusiastic way. Her loss will be deeply felt by all her pupils at the school.

The moving service for Charlotte at St Alban, was led by the Venerable Howard Levvett. Music chosen by her family (her mother Margot, and younger brother and sister, Richard and Catherine) and the church included pieces from Faure's Requiem which was beautifully sung by the Anton Bruckner Choir with church organist accompaniment. The Imperial College choir in which Charlotte was a soprano sang Henry Purcell's "Music for Queen Mary's Funeral" - again beautifully sang in the lovely acoustic of St Alban church. The whole congregation joined in a number of hymns including a poignant "Abide with me".

This was a fitting memorial to Charlotte, attended by over 300 people. St Alban the

Martyr church was where Charlotte was confirmed just a few years ago and also intending to marry her Burundian fiancée, Richard Notereyimana, later this year. Charlotte was buried in a small church next to her father in Barley, Hertfordshire, on Friday the 19th of January with close friends and family attending.

The VSO, along with Charlottes family have set up a memorial fund which will be directed towards the school in Kigali where Charlotte taught.

Anyone who wishes to make a donation to this fund should send it to:-

The Charlotte Wilson Memorial Fund
c/o VSO
317 Putney Bridge Rd
London
SW15 2PN

To build on what she had already achieved in her short time in Rwanda would be a marvelous gesture that she would have appreciated.

In brief

EROTIC SCANDAL?

Areas of the basement of Elec Eng has been sealed off for the past couple of days - allegedly due to a member of staff being investigated by local police for possession of illegal pornography. Sources within the department say the suspect's computer and office have been sealed off while CID investigate

FELIX PHOTOGRAPHERS

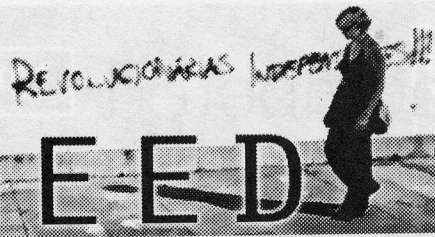
A student attracted suspicion last Friday when he took a number of photographs of a female member of the bar staff in the Union Bar while "acting suspiciously". Although he claimed to be working for Felix, he was in possession of a digital camera, and told the member of staff that the photographs would

be placed upon the web "in a couple of hours". Felix photographers and reporters will always carry identity cards and do not presently use digital cameras. If you are ever in any doubt please contact the Felix Office on 48072 or talk to a member of the bar staff. Action is often taken against people falsely claiming to be working for Felix.

GEORGE, UM, BUSH

The United States may be proud of its ability to alternate peacefully between liberals and conservatives, but practical jokes are clearly still very much allowed. In the transition last week between the Clinton and the Bush administrations all seemed to be going as planned for the new inhabitants of the White House. Bill had left the ceremonial welcome letter on his desk, Hillary left a let-

ter for Laura Bush with details about the living quarters, the offices had been cleaned, and many of the halls repainted. However, the republican entourage and their mindless leader were in for a shock when they went to use their computers. The letter "W" was found to be blacked out or missing on almost every keyboard in the White House. Seriously annoyed by the prank played on them by their democratic adversaries, the conservatives were forced to crawl around under their chairs in search of the missing keys. In some cases the W's were stuck below desks, in others they were taped to moving ceiling fans and air conditioning vents. It is really a shame the republicans were humiliated in such a childish way, I would have thought scorpions and tarantulas much more appropriate. - Matt



YOU

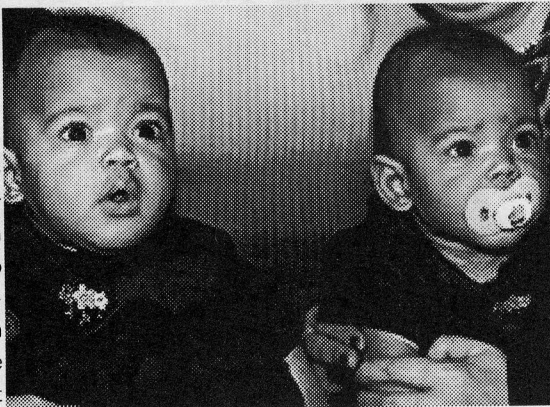
NEEDS TO KNOW

Kneejerk reaction to net adoptions?

MARIAM GHORBANNEJAD

Twins Belinda and Kimberly lay blissfully unaware of the media frenzy surrounding them when they were snatched by Flintshire social services on the night of Thursday 18th of January. Since their arrival in Britain, they have assumed celebrity status. Judith and Alan Kilshaw, the couple who adopted the girls for £8,200 over the internet, have been threatened with legal action from an American couple, Vickie and Richard Allen. This couple claim they had already bought the twins for £4,000 from Tina Johnson, the head of the adoption brokers the 'Caring Heart Agency'. To add to this bizarre set of events, the childrens' natural mother, Tranda Wecker, now also says she wants them back.

'Fury' was Prime Minister Tony Blair's reaction. Jack Straw, Home Secretary, was also known to have been equally disgusted. Public opinion is one of revulsion. Scandals such as this recent one seem to have a much greater affect on the Government than any pressure group could hope to have. The White Paper on adoption that was published in December was not due to be brought in until January of next year. However, the process has been accelerated and is now due to be brought in this April. The



The so-called "net twins", left, and right, Judith Kilshaw

Government have proposed to tighten laws on adopting from abroad, eager to be seen acting swiftly in the wake of the Kilshaw fiasco. Currently, the 1976 Adoption Act is in place. This act makes it an offence for any advertisement to be published indicating that a parent or guardian want their child to be adopted, or that a person wants to adopt a child, or that any person other than the local social services authority or voluntary adoption agency approved by the secretary of state is willing to make arrangements for the adoption of a child. New Labour, like the previous Conservative Government, have been slow in reforming adoption laws. The Adoption (International Aspects) Act 1999 has been passed although it has not yet been activated. This will ensure protection

for children adopted from overseas. It will introduce sanctions against people attempting to adopt children before assessment, including a £600 fine and three months in prison. However this will still not apply to adoptions from America, meaning it will be possible for domestic adoption tests to be by-passed by would-be adopters in this country. Presently, anybody wishing to adopt a child in this country has to undergo extensive testing lasting up to six months. Social services have to carry out assessment of suitability and medical and police references have to be obtained. Adoption websites are to be cracked down on. Health Minister, John Hutton, plans more regulation of the internet. He has said that internet providers will be prosecuted for

relaying information that breaks British adoption rules. Enforcing this rule could cause problems, due to the vast quantities of information which is accessible via the internet. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are not licenced and are not obligated to register anywhere. Their three main functions are to provide access to the web, 'hosted web space' and bulletin boards where articles can be posted. Therefore, it would be feasible for the ISPs to ban a website. But fears are that this could give a site notoriety, prompting many more people to look at it. The law would only be applicable to British - based sites, so the Government would have no power to shut down any foreign based sites. The sheer scale of the internet makes the task of monitoring all information found on 'hosted web space' and bulletin boards

impractical, argues the Internet Service Providers Association. A code of practice to deal with illegal material is already being followed the 130 internet firms who are members of the association.

David Kerr, chief executive of another group, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), said 'I think it's been generally accepted by ministers and the police that the internet service providers don't and can't be expected to know what's on their servers.' He continued that the industry had tried to stop material appearing on the web which would be illegal to publish in other forms in the UK. What remains unclear is what status ISPs have, since some people say that they are just



conduits for information rather than publishers and should therefore not be accountable for any illegal material found on them. A European directive which will become law within the next two years

agrees. But the Department of Health's proposals contradict this. Evidently, in the Government's haste to bring in reforms to our adoption laws, they have failed to properly think through the new legislation. A prison sentence seems a bit harsh while a fine of £600 is almost pointless, given the huge amounts of money people are willing to part with to adopt a child in the first instance. Greater regulation of the internet, although important, will do nothing to stop anyone hoping to adopt a child in the future. The Department of Health did not consult the industry before rushing to their own conclusions, meaning we will have laws which are impossible to enforce and so be no further forward in stopping the sale of children on the internet.

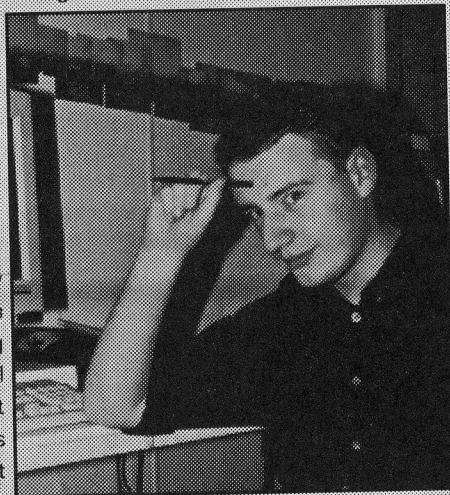
Ghost of Christmas Past

I'm speaking out today on behalf of a small, persecuted minority of society. A high visible group who face continual criticism and curses from ordinary, everyday folk who consider them a burden. And it's a cause close to my heart, because I'm part of it myself. I'm talking, of course, about people who leave their Christmas decorations up all year.

On the grounds that it took my beloved Deputy and the lovely Phoenix Editor ages to put up all the decorations last term, and they really brighten up an otherwise bare office (plus I couldn't be bothered) I decided to leave the decorations up until further notice. The Christmas tree has become a tinsel-and-fairy-light extravaganza to keep sports reports in (kind of like using the Dome as a business park), whilst the downstairs office is a kind of festive store room. Everyone who's come in lately has told me off; "You'll get bad luck"

(the correct response being "have you seen this place) and "why the f*** are you keeping sports reports in the Christmas tree" (the correct response being "Cos I feel like it").

I know I'm not the only one to do this- my aunt is extremely proud of leaving her decorations up all year, to such an extent that she tends to put this year's card on top of last year's. I did think this was



a Clifford thing, but I was walking around Earl's Court last night. (I've had to curtail my night-time walks recently because of last week's lil scare- I'm avoiding attracting Old Bob's attention as much as possible these days). I saw no less than three houses which had their lights still up. Respectable, hard-working people just like you and me. Alright, just like you.

So, I want to foster a network of people who consider it ok to keep their lights up all year. If, like me, you have bad luck all year, it doesn't really matter, and they're cool accessories for use as decor and office equipment. We can stand up to superstition and bigotry together. OK, so I'll take it down when you want the tree back, Dave...

You'll all be glad to know that after last week's attack of depression, Felix is feeling

quite happy now. It could just be that I'm writing this a bit earlier on in the evening, before The Time Where Everything Goes Wrong- or ten o'clock as everyone else calls it. The office is full of light-hearted (muppets) music and strangely humorous lines as "Where did I put that keyboard?" and "No, that's last week's pizza". You see, everything goes deceptively smoothly up until a certain point, when everything tends to go horribly wrong at once, and I sit on the stairs and weep softly. The Recovery tends to come at Midnight, when I realise that it's got to be done come hell or high water, and come 10am it tends to be.

See, with election papers going up today (and not last week as previously reported), it's now time to decide if you want to take up one of the fantastic jobs that ICU has to offer, so I thought I'd give you yet another insight into what my job involves. As we've all said, if

you're thinking of going for Felix Editor, come and see me, and I'll show you what I do in a typical week, excluding the yelling and crying. I'll keep a secret, and I promise to be fair to all participants- two of my friends are standing for the same post, so I'm so staying out of this one...

Further reasons to be cheerful; if you're reading this then President

Dubya will have gone nine dim-witted drink-driving cowboy cheating days without annihilating the entire world. Days are getting increasingly longer, however little daylight you may be getting to see at the minute. I'm going skiing at Easter (ok, that's a reason for me to be cheerful, but I might come back on crutches, or Pascale will be writing my obituary, either or which should cheer you up!).

Finally, Saturday sees a great event; Russia will be ditching the Mir Space Station in the Pacific Ocean in a safe and controlled fashion. They absolutely won't lose control of the hulk, and send it plummeting to hit anywhere on Earth causing serious destruction to a random part of the planet in a deadly and infinitely entertaining lottery in which all countries are involuntary participants. Except the UK.

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Dying to be thin?

STEF EVANS

Everyone worries about their appearance, their weight, height, skin hair etc. Like most concerns they pose no problems until they get out of hand and go to the extremes. Thus the line is crossed from a health interested into an obsession.

Eating Disorders

Eating disorders affect many people. Anorexia Nervosa sees the individual starving them while Bulimia Nervosa has patterns of binge eating followed by vomiting and laxative abuse. Either way the relationship with food is changed and are often due to feelings that make the affected person unhappy or depressed. It maybe associated with sadness, guilt, loss, fear or anger.

It is difficult to say how many people in the UK are affected by an eating disorder. Many go undiagnosed but it is believed that one in every hundred young women are affected by Bulimia and a smaller, but still significant, number by anorexia. The Royal College of Psychiatry estimated in 1992 that at any one time 60,000 individuals were receiving treatment for an Anorexia or bulimia. Currently, the Eating Disorder Association believes the figure to be more likely 90,000, with many more undiagnosed, particularly those with Bulimia

It is not only young women affected by such disorders. Women of all ages are affected, as are men. Approximately 10% of those with eating disorders are men and many report that the disorder began at school, with them being overweight and bullied because of it. Older men also suffer periods of eating disorders at various stages of their life often associate with emotional pressures such as the loss/illness of partners/parents, relationship breakdowns, job changes and stresses. Gay men make up about 20% of men with an eating disorder, and is such a problem due to the 'body beautiful' image of the gay male community.

With all these figures taken into consideration, there are about 1.115 million people in the UK with Anorexia or Bulimia

Anorexia Nervosa

Physical signs can include with severe weight loss, dizziness, constipation, poor circulation (feeling cold) and sleep difficulties. Women also experience the stopping of periods, which usually returns once the starving has halted. Often Anorexics will experience osteoporosis (thinning of the bones). Psychologically there is depression, mood swings, intense fear of gaining weight and a distorted perception of body weight and shape. Behaviourally those affected will wear baggy clothes, exercise excessively, lie about eating meals and will deny any problems associated.

Bulimia

Here physical signs can include sore throats, repeated mouth infections, dry/poor skin and sleep difficulties. Periods don't stop, but can be irregular. Due to the vomiting, those with Bulimia often have poor teeth and will avoid going to the dentist. Psychologically those affected feel depressed, and exhibit mood swings and highly emotional behaviour. Behaviourally they will eat large amounts of food followed by vomiting or the taking of laxatives.

Do you have an eating disorder?

Here are some questions. The more you answer yes, the more you should think carefully about your relationship with food.

- Does food always occupy your thinking?
- Do you feel any of these emotions when faced with food; fear, anger, guilt, shame?
- Do you think about your weight, body size and the amount you eat, all the time?
- Do feel you would be happier and more successful if you lost weight?
- Are you critical of yourself all the time?
- Do you think thinness equals happiness?

If you feel you have a problem

If you feel you do have a problem the first step (slightly cliched) is to recognise it. From here there must be a genuine

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Nightline, Confidential listening and information service, 6pm to 8am during term time 020 7631 0101	IC Disabilities Officer 020 7594 8935 National AIDS Helpline 0800 567 123
IC Health Centre 020 7584 6301	London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard 020 7837 7324
IC Counsellors,	

desire to get better, possibly altering your lifestyle, behaviour and circumstances. The reason for your problem also has to be investigated and changes made here as well as re-shaping your ideas about food and weight. Remember though you are not alone. Medical advice should be sought and speaking to a counsellor could be extremely important especially with look at the reasons for the eating disorder.

Loosing weight

If you wish to or need to loose weight for health reasons its best to do it via a controlled programme. Begin with cutting out the crap in your diet; junk food, fatty cakes, chocolate; replacing with additional fruit and vegetables. Take additional exercise, and build up slowly. Remember you can speak to your doctor about advice on your diet and changes to your life you can make

Info/Help

Eating Disorder Association Helpline-
01603 621414 (weekdays 9am to 6.30pm).
Information plus resources in your area

Eating Disorder Association website -
www.edauk.com

Plus also remember there is your doctor or the College Counsellors

The Internet & E-commerce Society

.com Soc



Closer Look
into the
FUTURE
of Technology

Where is the internet going?
How will it affect our lives?

"A view of 2050"

Professor David Targett (FUTUROLOGIST)

"Retail and reality: e-commerce success factors"

Colin Love, Managing Director, Innovations Group

Venue: Lecture Theatre 220, Mechanical Eng. Dept

Date: 1st February, 2001

Time: 6:30pm

Pre-register at internetsoc@hotmail.com or visit www.e-cs.org

"computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."

-popular mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949

Science in Brief

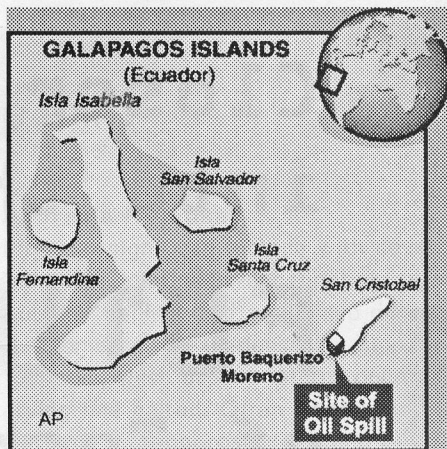
Deadly Virus Created In Mice, Could Humans See The Same?

Scientists in Canberra, Australia accidentally created an aggressive and deadly mouse virus last week that some worry could produce microbes deadly to humans. The virus formed when a mouse immune system gene was added to the mousepox virus in an attempt to develop a contraceptive to control rat and mouse plagues. The result was the creation of a virus capable of killing many different breeds of mice, even those previously immune to mousepox. Dr. Bob Seamark, director of the Cooperative Research Center for the Biological Control of Pest Animals found that vaccines for mice which normally prevent mousepox were also rendered substantially weaker against this viral strain.

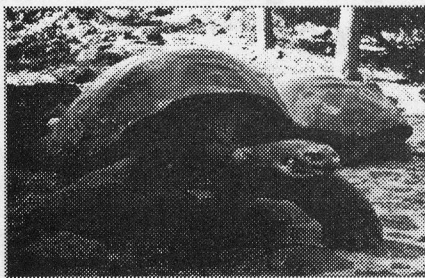
The key concern is obviously not for lab rodent populations but for humans. Scientists at the center say that the mouse virus itself poses no danger to people, but that "this same modification could be made to human viruses and this would enhance their virulence or at least (strengthen) their ability to kill people" Seamark said. Responsibility is key. "Discoveries such as this are being made all the time," said Dr. Annabelle Duncan, chief of molecular science at the Australian government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, "The important thing is to ensure they are used for good, not for destructive purposes." She has urged a stronger Biological Weapons Convention, a treaty ratified by some 140 nations pledging not to develop or stockpile biological weapons.

Galapagos Oil Slick Worsens

The huge oil slick near the Galapagos Islands, which started oozing from a grounded oil tanker nearly a week and a half ago, was



exacerbated this past weekend by pounding surf which broke open new holes in the ship's hull. The spill has now spread over more than a 1,200 square kilometer (460 square mile) area. "The environmental damage is extreme-



ly grave" said Ecuadorian Environment Minister Rodolfo Rendon who is deeply concerned about the area's unique insects, plants, birds, and reptiles (particularly Darwin's Finches and the Galapagos Tortoise). Pollution experts from the US coast guard have been dispatched to protect the wildlife refuge, but even with the aid of the world's best the situation does not look good at all.

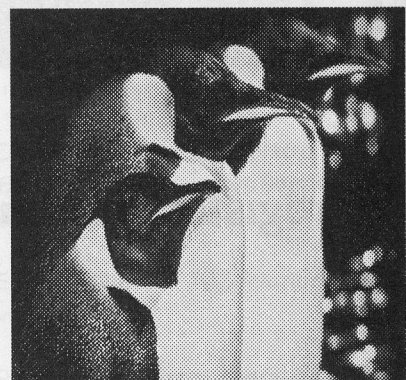
Water Beneath the Martian Crust

Water may have recently flowed on Mars says Harry McSween from the University of Tennessee. While, abundant evidence in the form of surface features suggests that water was once extremely abundant on the planet, samples of volcanically formed rocks from the red planet show little sign of having solidified from magma that was once rich in water. However, analysis of a meteorite from the red planet known as the Shergotty, suggests that the planet had a warmer wetter past.

McSween's team has shown that the meteorite contains many water soluble elements in the interior compared to those in the outer skin. The team's hypothesis is based on the logic that the interior of the meteor is similar in composition to the interior of the planet and the exterior of the meteor similar to Mars' water poor crust.

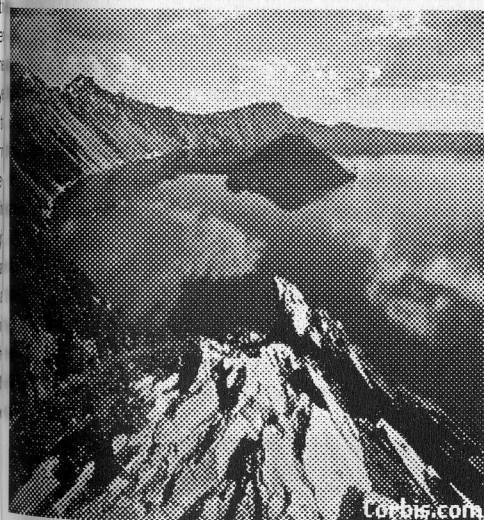
Falkland Island Fire Severely Damages Fragile Eco-System

A five day fire caused by exploding ammunition on the Falkland Islands is feared to have lead to the deaths of thousands of Rockhopper penguins and albatross. The blaze began on January 12 as British Troops were exploding ordnance from two Argentine planes downed in the war with the UK 19 years ago. The fire laid waste to the small nature preserve known as South Jason Island, about 480 km (300 miles) northeast of the southern tip of South America. Adult penguins might have been able to flee the flames but chicks at this time of year have not yet become mobile and were likely burnt to death. Fire crews did however witness burnt Rockhopper penguins crawling from the devastation. As if the physical blow dealt to the seabirds on the island was not bad enough, 90% of the tussac grass supporting the avian population was destroyed and will take at least 3 years to recover. Sadly, this fire only aggravates an already grave situation for the nature reserve which has experienced a 30% decline in bird populations over the past two decades.



Another Word Search From Your Science Editor

Due to the popularity of the first word search, your science editor has produced another. Same thing as last time, simply answer the clues on the right and find them all in the grid below. And in the unlikely event of you completing it, just deliver it to the Felix Office by Friday 1pm and you could win a £20 Waterstones voucher. Usual Felix rules apply- have fun. *Matt (Congrats to the two who correctly solved the last one!)*



1. The first American naval units to arrive at the scenes of the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars were _____.
2. Operating system developed at AT&T Bell Labs in 1969.
3. In the 2nd century BC, the Greek astronomer _____ compiled the first trigonometric table for solving triangles.
4. Common chemical that melts at 800 degrees Celsius.
5. Crater Lake in Oregon occupies the crater of the prehistoric volcano Mt. _____.
6. The Galapagos islands in the Pacific Ocean are a province of _____.
7. Crocodilian unique to the rivers of India.
8. The first scientific illustrator, this man drew the ornithopter as a result of his interest in the flight of birds.
9. This is the study of water on the Earth's surface, excluding the oceans.
10. Chemical formula for #4.
11. Bruising of the brain, a cranial _____.
12. The largest collection of the artist in #8's drawings are found at this location.
13. Famous astronomer, the science editor's personal hero.
14. Large flightless carnivorous bird from the Tertiary Period.
15. Film with Jodie Foster, made in honor of the scientist in #13.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

CAREERS FAIR

(Open to all 4th and Final Year Medical Students and PRHOs)

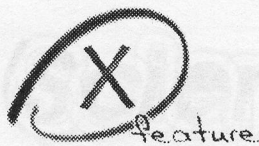
Wednesday 7 February 2001: 4.30pm - 7.30pm (includes refreshments)

Foyer, Sir Alexander Fleming Building, South Kensington

Guest Speakers to include: Dr Elizabeth Paice, Postgraduate Dean

Stands to include representatives from:

British Medical Association, Royal Navy, Royal College of Physicians, General Practice, Radiology, Psychiatry, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), Ophthalmology, Surgery, Pathology, O&G, Anaesthetics, Imperial College Careers Services



What would I do?

Could you be a sabbatical? It's election time you see, and time to decide very soon. If you're tempted, here's what you'd be letting yourself in for...

ICU President

So you fancy running a £3.5 million annual turnover organisation with 30 full-time and 200 part time staff, six sites, two hundred clubs, three deputies and around 1,000 elected student officers?

Well some of your more formal responsibilities are below, with some advice about each of them:

* Uphold the policy and further the aims and objects of the Union - at the end of the day it is your job to see that Council's wish (that is, what the students want) is done. You will also need to be familiar with a great deal of regulations and policies, as people will come to you for advice about them and others may take you to task if you break them.

* Be the ultimate representative of the Union - you represent people on College's governing bodies, both academic and managerial, and

need to perform

well in front of experienced senior administrators, academics or governors, who've seen plenty of 'your type' before. You will also have to speak to the press (don't shoot your mouth off) and often represent Imperial to the wider world.

* Be responsible for the efficient organisation of the Union - if there are problems in any part of the organisation, people aren't getting along or things need to get done, you need to sort it out. Tact, integrity and maturity are good virtues here.

* Be ultimately responsible for the finances of the Union. If the Deputy President (Finance & Services), or the Union's finance department goofs up, it's your fault. You don't have to be a budding accountant, just be sensible and stay on the alert.

Don't be put off by all of that though. Anyone

clever enough to get into Imperial can learn a lot on the job, and no-one expects you to be perfect. Humility and a sense of humour and an ability to get on with people are useful additions if you want to make the year a pleasant one. It can form a solid start to any career, but don't do it just for CV points, as you will need a commitment and an ability to give a damn about students to get through the long winter nights.

The good points are - more experience of more useful skills than anything else imaginable, you'll make new friends and many ex-sabbaticals I have met remember much they enjoyed about their sabbatical year, even if it was twenty years ago. You are your own boss (to an extent - remember that whole democracy thing), and you enjoy more responsibility than many graduates have after years building up their career.

Deputy President (Finance & Services)

So, not afraid to make difficult decisions? Be unpopular? Sit on lots of meetings? Deal with lots of bits of paper? Say "no" quite a lot? This could be the job for you!

Seriously though, DP(F&S) is effectively the bank manager of the Union, balancing money in against money out, chairing a number of committees based around finance and services, and attending a lot of meetings around College. You'll have to use huge amounts of tact and professionalism to know when a club is going to cause financial trouble, and make sure it doesn't happen.

These are your main areas of responsibility:

* Budgets

Your biggest task over the year is to balance the budget. This means getting as much money as you can out of College and dividing it fairly between societies, salaries and subsidies.

* College Committees

You have to attend a huge number of College meetings, ranging from the very important (a few) to the very dull (very many). On very many issues you and the President will be representing the students - these are mostly College working groups, and will take up a lot of your time.

* Union meetings

You'll be chairing Union Finance

Committee, House Committee (this deals with maintaining all Union premises) and Trading, Services and Retail Committees, which deal with bars, catering, ents, advice and the Union Shops - you'll definitely find you have a finger in every pie.

* Training and advice

To ensure clubs run their finances properly, it's up to you to train up the treasurers - and to be on hand when they need help. Like it or not, your office is the first one along, and when people come in to ask a question, they're almost certain to remember what you say, so you'll have to make sure it's right.

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

The DP(C&S), shall be responsible for overseeing the running and management of all ICU clubs and societies. He/She will also be responsible for ensuring that the CCU clubs and societies run in accordance with ICU policy, Imperial College policy and the law. You are also responsible for ensuring that the ICU health and safety policy is adhered to and that all aspects of ICU run as safely as is practicable.

* College Committees

The DP(C&S) is responsible for representing recreational student activities to College. This requires that the DP(C&S) sit a number of committees, each of which meet at least once a term and are the appropriate place to voice concerns regarding the various areas of sporting activity.

* Union Committees

Within the Union you are an ex-officio member of all committees and it is quite worth popping in to various meetings from time to time just to get your face seen even if nothing else, especially at the beginning of the year. As a sabbatical the DP(C&S) has a duty to ensure that levels of student representation are maintained on all committees this means that the DP(C&S) will often find him/herself attending committee's such as Trading, Services, Retail etc... These committees are essential to the democracy of the Union and you must attend wherever possible.

* Freshers Fair

Probably the single biggest task that the DP(C&S) will face is the organisation of

Freshers Fair. This requires that a list of about 200 companies are contacted and leaflets are sent to them detailing the price of stalls and the date/times of the fair etc... The companies will then mail back booking orders. The DP(C&S) will liaise with the conference office to make sure that the rooms are available (and booked) for the fair.

* Day to Day

Most of the DP(C&S)'s time is spent in day to day problem solving and information dissemination tasks. The DP(C&S) spends a lot of time answering questions, on the phone, by e-mail and in person.

Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

The DP (E&W) shall oversee Imperial College Union's day-to-day duty of care for students in the realms of education and welfare.

*Representation to College

The DP (E&W) shall sit on the following College Committees. Some committees have the Deputy President DP (E&W) as a named member in the Constitution or the Chairs will approach the DP (E&W) directly at the beginning of the academic year. Others have a number of student representatives nominated by Imperial College Union. These are usually arranged over the summer, usually by the President in consultation with those who may be nominated.

*Within the Union

The DP (E&W) chairs the Academic Affairs Committee and Student Development Committee as well as playing a significant part in the Welfare Committee and the Accommodation Committee. These provide lines of communication through which comments and ideas as well as problems and help can flow in both directions.

Being a member of both ICU Council and the Executive Committee provides the channels of communication and an opportunity for accountability. Sitting on the Union Finance Committee provides a means of input on the Union's finances and exercises the financial responsibility bestowed on the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) in the CU Financial Regulations. Being ex-officio on all Union Committees and sub-committees provides for input on all matters relating to ICU. This

excludes the Union Disciplinary Committee for reasons of impartiality.

An involvement of RAG will naturally occur due to the role of a Sabbatical. Taking part in RAG activities is advised, as in addition to being a great way to relax, it also gets you to meet students

*Casework

The job includes a certain degree of casework; Students whose problems may be helped from links with College or those students with "general student life problems" may be those students who could be helped by the DP(E&W). Those students who require legal advice, advice of a more practical nature such as visa problems, problems with landlords, problems with money may be better served by seeking help from the Union Adviser.

Felix Editor

As Editor of the Union's most widely read publication, effectively you're in charge of the Union's communication. Which is good, because in theory no-one can tell you what to do.

In practice, there's three major limits to this. Firstly, you have to pay for it. Secondly, Felix still costs the Union quite a bit, and they have a perfect right to know where their money's going. Thirdly, if you go round upsetting everyone, you'll have very few stories, and very little support the next time you get yourself into trouble.

So what does a Felix Editor do (apart from the obvious)?

*Union Handbook

Together with your predecessor/successor, you have to put a very important 180 page book together. You won't have to write a huge

amount of it, but you still have to make sure it's all ok, and get some adverts.

*Advertising

Although you get some money from the Union, next year's Editor will still have to raise a minimum of £20,000 by getting adverts, any way you can. No adverts, no Felix, no job....

*Management

Unique role this one- you're the only manager who sees a process right through, you'll even do delivery and cleaning. Essentially though, you can't write it by yourself, and you need to recruit and keep an enthusiastic team of sub-editors and writers, right up to the end of the year.

*Computers

Biggest source of pain in your life, you need to

do a lot of computer work. You have to get good at DTP very quickly, and teach it to a lot of people. You also have to keep an ageing network up and running, or things will start to go horribly wrong.

*Writing

Although you don't write the whole thing, you'll still need to cover a lot of stuff- anything not covered by your team is now your problem. You'll also feel a strange compulsion to write a lot anyway. You won't get a chance like this again.

*Editing

Finally, despite the cleaning and accountancy, you are still responsible for a weekly, registered newspaper, and given that if you really screw up, you can go to court, never lose sight of this.

Medics' President

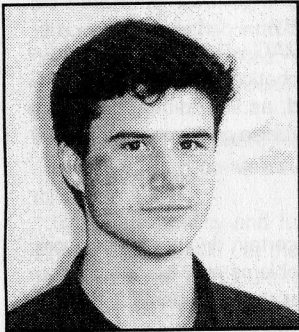
The job of ICSMSU President will not be contested until later on in the year, and will only be voted on by ICSM students- but we'll bring you more details of this post closer to the time.



Sabbatical spin

Well, it's halfway through the year, so how do ICU's sabbatical think they're doing. Felix carried out the traditional mid-term interviews.

Hamish Common, ICU President



"It has certainly been very interesting, an experience like no other"

You've been President for six months now, has it been what you expected?

Mostly yes, I mean there's always areas that are not quite expected, but I think the amount I've worked is a lot more than I'd expected or had hoped, but I think some of that worked I've created for myself. It has certainly been very interesting, an experience unlike any other.

What have been your main challenges this year?

Keeping on good terms with the College is always a good challenge, although a difficult challenge, because you have two competing problems; one you have to represent the students, which might or might

not be in agreement with the College, secondly, you should get on with them to make sure that they're more receptive to your views. Some of my work in the structural review of the Union has been quite hard, in that a lot of people have very difficult views, and getting them to agree on anything is quite a difficult challenge.

What would you say were the qualities that make a good President?

Patience and tact are two very useful virtues, the ability to stand on your feet, the ability to believe in yourself, good advocacy skills, so that if you are trying to present something to a group of very distinguished people or whatever, the ability to persuade

them as to your line of the argument. You've got to be able to get on with people. A sense of humour, essential, if you can't laugh at yourself then don't do this job, because you'll need some. Essentially there's no one overriding skill, it's a whole set of different ones. I would also add that a lot of people grow into the job, you might not think you have all of those skills, but you'll be surprised what you're capable of when you're in this situation.

What would be your advice for someone considering standing?

Don't be deterred by everything I've just said, the job is very interesting even if it's very hard work

Etienne Pollard, Deputy President (Finance & Services)



"You need to be able to take lots of difficult decisions and justify them."

You've been DP (F&S) for 6 months now, has the job been all you expected?

In some ways it's been all I expected, in other ways it's been very different from what I expected. Overall, it's been as good, if not better.

What have you enjoyed most about it?

I think the thing I've enjoyed most has been working with the staff and the other sabbaticals, to be perfectly honest I couldn't hope for a nicer more talented committed and dedicated bunch of people

What have been the main challenges that have faced you?

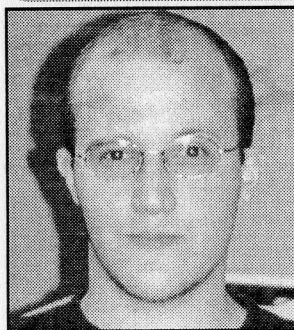
Well, coming from what one would call a non-union hack position I had to spend quite a lot of time getting up to speed on how the whole thing works, but I think that's given me an advantage in as much that I don't have any preconceptions and I can approach the whole question of what we spend our money on and why with perhaps a fresher mind. The main challenges internally have been the continuing closure of Beit Hall, which has had an effect on our trading profits which has been a shame, but we are confident that next year that will improve. We're

also going through something of a staff transition at the moment, and that's been quite interesting to handle. And budgets, naturally, budgets are always a challenge.

So what are the qualities that make a good dpfs?

Inquisitiveness, the primary characteristic of a dpfs is to ask searching questions and to carry on asking them until you actually have the full picture. You need to have a good head for numbers, obviously, and you need to be able to take difficult decisions and justify them to very experienced people in all sorts of different fields.

Sam Sharpe, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)



"My main challenges have been to not get pissed off with people."

Has the job been all you expected?

It's been a little harder than I expected, I've done quite a lot more work than I was expecting to do, but it's been fun.

And what were your other big aims for the year?

I didn't really have many major aims, because now clubs and societies run pretty well at Imperial, I'm just trying to build on what everyone else has done, make things easier, make our clubs more successful than they are already.

What have been your main chal-

enges during this year?

My main challenges have been not to get pissed off with people, I think I've managed it so far, and I think I've managed not to piss that many people off, which was one of my big aims for the year.

What have been the worst things that have happened- what have been your main failings?

I haven't had major failures. The documentation policy is quite a difficult one, it's been quite hard to implement and it's been a struggle to make sure that everything is up to date so that clubs aren't getting penalised when they have handed

things in. But that's not been a massive failure, it's just that it's been one of the hardest things I've done and I think it could have been done better.

What qualities would you say make a good DP (C&S)?

You have to be friendly, you have to be quite organised, but most of all I think friendly is the best one because people come and talk to you all day, and you have to be good with people.

What do you think will be the main challenges for your successor?

To do better than I have done.

Stef Evans, Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

Has it been what you expected?

It hasn't, you expect certain things, I expected it to be challenging, and at times it's as much of a challenge as I thought, but sometimes it goes beyond that and it's also one of those bizarre jobs that gives you a unique feeling. It's difficult to really describe, but it's what you expect, and it's not. It's more work than you think, there's more time to be ploughed in than you naturally think, but it's also rewarding; you expect it to be rewarding, though it's, some days, when you've helped somebody solve a problem, or you've ended an issue that's been going on quite a while, and it makes you have a warm glow, that you've accomplished something. It's very

strange, it's very cathartic.

What are the main challenges you've faced this year?

Don't know how successfully we've managed them, but, Wye coming on board, so many hundred students, quite far away from the main campuses, also the increased amount of representation we have on Postgrad committees; it's been a complete nightmare trying to find postgrads to fill the roles, though we have, well, the majority of them.

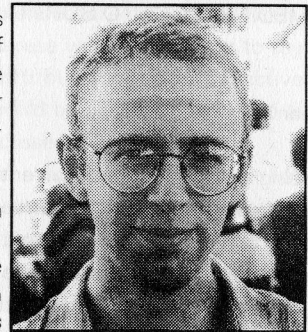
What would you say are the qualities that make a good DP (E&W)?

I think you have to be someone who can listen, someone who enjoys lis-

tening, ask the proper questions which gets more information out of them. Someone who cares, someone who basically can often see the wider picture but also can focus on the individual's needs.

What do you think would be the main challenges for your successor?

I think it could be interesting, with the way educational funding is, and with the potential for certain departments to be in deficit for quite a considerable amount of time, I think a serious number of departments will be laying off staff. It's something to remember and keep an eye on, and ensure that the teaching and learning is always maintained at the high standards.



"You have to be someone who can listen."

John Clifford, Felix Editor

You've been Editor for six months now, has it been what you expected so far?

I knew it would be a lot of work, and it's been even more than I expected, but it's also been a lot more fun, a lot more stressful, a lot more challenging and a lot more worth it than I thought it would be. What I didn't expect was how the two groups I work with - Union and Felix people - would play such a huge role in my life. I'm really lucky to work with such a cool, enthusiastic and talented Felix team.

What have been your main challenges this year?

As you might have guessed; getting

the issue out on time has been a nightmare- my first issue coming out two days late was my biggest nightmare, and things all went floopy straight after Christmas, but are hopefully getting better. Unfortunately the nature of the job means that things go wrong which are out of my control for which I get the blame- it's just something you have to live with. Keeping everyone happy is always going to be hard, but as long as someone comes to talk to me we usually manage to sort things out.

What would you say were the qualities that make a good Editor?

Tact and listening skills are important, as people are going to tell you things, and you have to be very careful to distinguish what they want you to print from confidential; sometimes it's a subtle difference. Organisational skills are preferable, but not essential. I think persuasion, ability to listen and knowing when to strike and when to be quiet. You need a sense of humour, definitely.

What would be your advice for someone considering standing for Editor?

I know I sometimes sound a bit pessimistic- but if you can do the job, do. It's been very tough sometimes, but I've never regretted it.



"I'm really lucky to work with such a cool, talented Felix team."

Lorne McEwan, Medics' President

You've been President for six months now, has it been what you expected so far?

Yeah, it's been everything I expected and probably more...It's proved a very hard job, there have been lots of problems over the year. Becky did a fantastic job last year, sorting out a lot of the course, but it's been hard work- challenging but I've absolutely loved it so far, and I'm only upset I'm not allowed to do it two years running.

What would you say your main challenges have been?

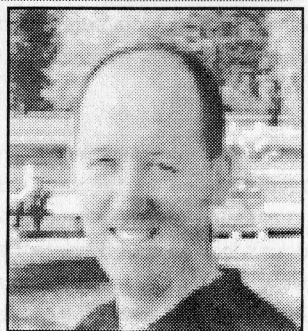
Communication. With the merger it's been very difficult to reach everyone

outside of the now huge sized campuses we now have, out towards Charing Cross, Hillingdon and Northwick Park, so reaching everyone, letting them know what's going on, who they can talk to, what's going on at home base and such has been difficult, but hopefully we've worked around that by building up the web page and newsletter, because the old methods of posters and word of mouth aren't good enough any more.

So what were your main aims when you took on the job?

To try and maintain the medics' ethos within what is now a very big

College structure. Medics are quite unique and therefore have quite unique needs, it's the nature of the course. If you're doing a Physics degree you don't go in in the morning and see some eight-year-old bleeding to death in front of you. And the very nature that medics do experience that means that they react to a lot of things very differently and have different requirements. To try and maintain the fantastic reputation Mary's and Charing Cross had for creating the best rounded doctors possible and try and not let the research heavy ethos of Imperial College take over the medics.



"I'm only upset I'm not allowed to do it two years running."

Feedback

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

MEDICINE FAIL TO SORT IT OUT

Dear Felix

Seeing as so many are currently complaining about their courses, I may as well add my ten cents. How would you like not to have a personal tutor? For those students of the old Charing Cross and Mary's first year clinical medical courses this is a reality. Despite complaining, asking and screaming they still haven't been allocated, despite promises of them being here after the Xmas holidays, which is late enough as it is! I presume the case is similar with the new course students not being allocated their clinical personal tutors for those who started their firm rotations in January.

Exams are close, any chance of getting some support before then? Also, I'd like to get to know a person well enough to give me a decent reference. Currently, this isn't possible with the structure of the clinical course as it is, we never see the same people for more than 6 weeks in our firms!

Name Supplied

As with all anonymous letters we get, names are completely confidential no matter what -Ed

HOPE SO

Dear Felix,

I'd just like to congratulate Felix and more specifically Mariam Ghorbannejad on her excellent article on 'Iranian prison sentences' in Monday 22nd January's issue. Having grown up in England through the 80's and

90's it was very refreshing to read an article on Iran with some perspective. Even though it was by a fellow Iranian, I hope that the article and the new millennium act as a watershed for better reporting of affairs in Iran through the British media. This hopefully will generate better understanding of Iranian affairs in this country, which hopefully should be beneficial for both countries.

Fatemeh Beyad

I KNOW I BELIEVE IN NOTHING BUT IT IS MY NOTHING

Dear John,

I imagine you are overwhelmed after last week's 'interesting' contributions on the letter's page, but then I remember that I am probably the only reader (must be because I'm a chemist, too much lab time you see).

I'm basically going to raise a point I noticed ages ago, but is of particular relevance after the last issue's concentration on depression. Am I the only person who's noticing your subtle references to The Holy Bible throughout the year? No, I don't mean the favoured work of the world's richest non-profit making organisation (amongst others), but the album. Not all of the album is about depression though, it's amazing that this album is still deeply relevant to a lot of issues society faces. I'm surprised you haven't made more of the state of affairs in America, especially now that Tipper Gore's further removed from the political scene, and the Brady Bill seems to be working. Countless songs can be applied to Bush's beliefs and not just the obvious song about capital punishment. Political correctness seems to be less of a mainstream issue now, although cloning laws have reignited abor-

tion rights arguments. Perhaps you should devote a whole column to the subjects tackled by the album?

As for depression, perhaps a more upbeat issue next, concentrate on happy things. Think positive, post Christmas blues? Surely pre Christmas? The commercial concentration of hatred that is Christmas has gone. Days are getting longer, things have stopped dying and flowers will appear soon. Look forward to the year ahead.

Yours completely uninfluenced by anything,

Andrew Jurd
Chem III

Thanks Andrew, glad someone noticed my lil piece of hero worship. For the non disenchanting indie kids amongst you, he is referring to the classic album by the Manic Street Preachers. I'm told there was a book of the same name once, too -Ed

BYE BYE GEOLOGY!

Dear Sir,

If our new rector really is a 'passionate believer in the importance of scientific education' (Felix 1193, p6), then he clearly doesn't regard geology to be a science. I wonder how many other people in senior management hold this opinion. And shouldn't we all be a little worried? .

Simon J Wright
Mathematics III

INSERT CURRY PUN HERE

Dear Felix

As was reported in News In Brief and the letters sections of Felix

two weeks ago, the ICU Curry petition has drawn to a successful close. While the "curry extremists" behind the whole debacle are pleased to have had Catering's support and are said to have been chuffed to bits that the curry has been returned to the union, the responsibility for the next stage - i.e. the return of the curry every day, not just Wednesday - now lies with everyone who has ever bought one to buy them again.

People who visited our site were no doubt tempted to sign our online petition by the offer of 384 bottles of beer to be given to the curry fan with the most witty and compelling reason why the dish should be reinstated. Of the many clever replies we had to sift through (removing references to road-kills and the like), we finally decided on a winner - KATHERINE LEE, Maths I - well done! We will arrange with you to collect your 16 double crates of beer from Cobra.

Katherine's winning line may be found at www.icu-curries.com for the next few days.

In the meantime, we hope you all enjoy your forthcoming lunches at the Union, and don't let the infamous IC apathy put you off doing anything again - we didn't!

All the best

Dan, Martin and Steve

UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING

Dear John,

As part of the ICU Council mailing list, I was really disappointed to find that Hamish's e-mail headed "Last Council" referred to the previous council, not the last council ever as I had hoped.

As ever, Someone

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

Lily Macey, Equal Opportunities officer My role at ICU

I doubt if many of you even knew that there was such a thing as an equal opps officer at ICU much less what they do when they're there. Well I only knew that there was one when I lost out to a certain president's sexist views just before the ill-fated SNKPJ Rag Week 2000. The equal opps officer is the person at the union who, with the help of my fellow welfare officers, stands up to college, other union officials and union members in behalf of anyone who feels that they are not being treated fairly in any way. So basically I hang around, adjusting the union Equal opps policy and wait until someone has a problem. Fortunately at ICU, not many people seem to.

I would like to have a small rant now and in coming issues (when Stef has space) about the things that make me angry. The reading of which may help to describe the concept of Equal Opportunities a bit more clearly.

Equal Opportunities Vs Positive Discrimination

Positive discrimination is not positive at all and I hope to illustrate this by the way of two short examples from recent media.

In the run up to Christmas I happened upon a small article in the Daily Mail (must be true) about some strange goings on in a Labour Council borough in London. According to the article the Council officials had decided not to put up the traditional street Christmas decorations and had

also asked the workers in the council building its self to "keep Christmas celebrations and decorations to a minimum". The reason given for this surprising scrougery was to avoid "offending non Christians". Now, imagine if you will that the exact same council had asked an ethnic minority - a "non Christian" culture if you will - to "Tone Down" celebrations of a major religious festival. There would have been outrage, a front-page story not just a crappy two inches at the bottom of the current affairs summary. "Racist Scandal in London Borough", "Oppression of Minority's beliefs" or some thing along those lines. Here the headlines should have read "Oppression of Majority's beliefs" because that is basically what positive discrimination is about the discrimination against the majority.

Another example of a situation where positive discrimination is rife is human resources. This is caused mainly government pressure to improve employment statistics. If a company is only employing white males then it is considered racist and fined or taken to court. This is also true of educational institutions. Ever wondered why there seems to be more and more girls at IC year upon year? There has been a steady increase in numbers from the days when it was a men only college. A silly and hugely over exaggerated example of such discrimination is a Hale and Pace sketch. It is set in a boardroom meeting of a big company between the main heads of management. The topic of conversation is the forthcoming

expansion and the need to recruit more staff to accommodate the change. The purpose of the meeting is to decide what qualities these new staff would have, in order to decide this they consult a report from the human resources department which details the current workforce ethnicity, sex and disability statistics. The report shows that the work force is severely lacking in mentally disabled Japanese women. There fore the motion is carried to give preferential employment to mentally disabled Japanese women. Needless to say that the actual attributes of the prospective employees that would be beneficial to the job in hand were not discussed at all.

Although this is a comedy sketch which has doubtlessly lost much of its comedy in it's retelling here by me it is based however loosely on the truth. Companies and Colleges should not choose employees or students on a pick and mix basis just to satisfy the demands of an equality obsessed government. When in actual fact in doing so they are discriminating against deserving people.

Equal Opportunities means just that, Equal. Not artificially created and improved opportunities for anyone majority or minority at the expense of everyone else. Create opportunities and encouragement. Allow everyone to have chances and then on their own merit allow to advance themselves. Having flexibility in the work place, giving everyone equal opportunities and equal access to equal representation for their individual rights.

EXTRA COSTS

When out-competing ICU for the right to run a bookshop in the college, Waterstones promised that the Imperial College branch would become their flagship academic store. Waterstones bookshops at university campuses have been the subject of complaints by students who find that textbooks are more expensive in these stores than in Waterstones branches on high streets. The company has accepted the student's observations and explained that as the sales of text books were higher in the university branches, price increases effected by publishers would inevitably be passed on more quickly to customers in these branches. Kevin has also noticed that there are no second hand books for sale in the on campus store, unlike at their Mallet Street and other stores.

their products, pointing to their ranges of contract services set up specially targeted at students. However Carphone warehouse senior sales managers are convinced the problem is real, and have been threatening to stop dealing with Orange should they continue their discriminatory policy.

INEFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

This year residences have a shortage of rooms which are in halls which are open over Easter. Some International students needing to stay in

Mish Mash

A mostly libellous column. Kevin is a random entity who knows nothing about nothing

at an unusual time this year," and assured that "something would be sorted out".

STRANGE SNOW

Last week Kevin noticed that the snow falling in college appeared to be slightly abnormal. The Snowflakes appeared to be elongated and had a stringy appearance. Apparently the mutant snow was yet another consequence of the huge amount of general muck and grime in the London atmosphere, this particular effect being attributed to detergents in the atmosphere. With the effect of the polluted atmosphere being so apparent with the snowflakes, Kevin wonders what it is doing to him.

ADVENTURES WITH BAGPUSS

Currently Bagpuss is safely curled up in DramSoc's cupboard, but is apparently restless to get out. Current ideas over the future of the huge cat seem rather tame, some however have more potential such as seeing how often we could get it to appear on the television news. Kevin believes that the cat could be used to maximum comedy and RAG earning potential on a grand tour of London Landmarks.

mishmash@ic.ac.uk

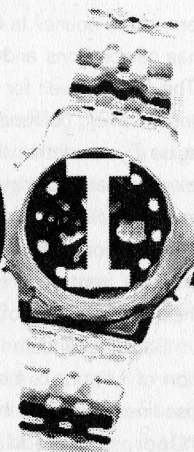
LEGAL REFUSAL

Orange have recently begun to refuse students mobile phone contracts, solely on due to the fact that they are students. One Carphone warehouse manager confused as to why one of is customers was being consistently turned down by Orange, systematically adjusted the credit check form until it became clear that it was the word student in the occupation box that was causing the problem. Orange deny preventing students from accessing

halls over the holiday period have been accommodated in Southside, and are moving to Evelyn Gardens for Easter. In a typical example of one part of college not coordinating its activities with another, there is a four night gap between the end of the Residences' license period at Southside, and the first date at which rooms in Evelyn Gardens are available when booked through the Conference Office. Kevin has been told that the root of the problem was due to: "Easter occurring

FELIX

DIARY



PUT IT THERE

Monday

29.1.2001

5pm DaVinci's: Alternative Music Society

19:30-21:00 Southside Gym: Shotokan Karate BEGINNERS WELCOME

Tuesday

30.1.2001

1pm AstroSoc: Professor Jocylyn Bell-Burnell "In pursuit of Pulsars", Physics LT1
12-1 Inquiry: Civ Eng 301 philip.parker@ic.ac.uk

6pm CivSoc Free talk by Mark Whitby (Whitby, Bird + Partners, VP Inst of Civ Eng) on
"Engineering the future" Civ Eng 301

6-8pm Aiuchi Jiu Jitsu: Wilson House
Rec Centre BEGINNERS WELCOME

8:15-11ish Community Action Group
Soup Run: Weeks Hall Kitchen

No Commitment, just turn up

8pm Davinci's: Bar Trivia

Wednesday

31.1.2001

6-8 Wilson House: Shorinji Kempo

9-1 Union: Cheesy Wotsits. Total
cheese in dBs

Thursday

1.2.2001

12:30pm Southside (Upper Lounge)
Motorbike Club

5:45 Wilson House Rec Centre Self

2 for 1

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c h a i

l a t t e
a t t e

ESQUIRES
COFFEE HOUSES

OPPOSITE
WAITROSE
T. 030 7635 2258

OFFER EXPIRES ON 31.01.01

NEXT TO GLOUCESTER ROAD TUBE STATION

Defence Class

6:30-8:30pm Wilson House Rec Centre Aiuchi Jiu Jitsu

BEGINNERS WELCOME

8:15-11ish Weeks Hall Kitchen Community Action Group Soup Run:

No Commitment, just turn up

6:30pm Internet & E-Commerce Society Mech Eng 220 Prof. Davies Tongett

18:30-22:30 Southside Gym: Shotokan Karate BEGINNERS WELCOME

5-11 Davincis: Cocktail Night

8pm dBs: Salsa Night

Friday

2.2.2001

1pm Southside (Upper Lounge) Photosoc

5pm dB's Animal Experimentation

8pm dBs: Common People

Saturday

3.2.2001

10-12 Southside Gym: Shotokan Karate BEGINNERS WELCOME

Sunday

4.2.2001

Interhall Football

London Motorcycle Show, Alexandra Palace, contact ICU Motorbike Club

2-4 UDH: Shorinji Kempo

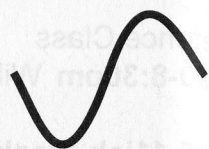
3-5 Southside Gym: Shotokan Karate BEGINNERS WELCOME

ESQUIRES
COFFEE HOUSES

2 for 1
medium cappuccino

ESQUIRES COFFEE HOUSES OPPOSITE WAITROSE GLOUCESTER ROAD

OFFER EXPIRES ON 31.03.01



BS2000

Simply Mortified

(Grand Royal)

BS2000 is the side project of Beastie Boy, Adam Horovitz and tour DJ Amery Smith. With credentials like that, I was expecting something pretty special, maybe a bit hip-hop, maybe a bit punk. What you get is neither of those, and is like nothing I have heard before. If comparisons must be made, it sounds like Bis on acid.

The tracks are mainly short, upbeat ditties, played on a synthesiser, while someone plays along on drums in the background. There is a very underground feel to this, and no doubt that is the intention. Some of the songs are great fun, cute little pop numbers. My favourites are *Yeah I like BS* and *The Side to Side*. Some of them are just plain strange.

There is no doubt that this is very experimental. I feel the band is just playing around trying to get some inspiration, rather than trying to make good songs. There are highlights, particularly the first few tracks, but the good bits don't last long enough to make this album great.

Tom Bailless



Spooks

S.I.O.S.O.S. Volume One

(Artemis)

Spooks are an American hip-hop act consisting of a female singer and four male rappers, or perhaps that should be a female singer, three male rappers and one obscure alien hybrid who at one stage insists that he's actually "two guys multiplied by 93 guys". Well I believe him anyway. If you're wondering what S.I.O.S.O.S. stands for, I'm afraid you'll have to keep on wondering.

As for the music, two tracks stand out in particular. The polished *Things I've Seen* has a catchy chorus and a good bass line, and the fact that it's their current single would surprise no-one. But perhaps the best track on the album is *Karma Hotel*, which boasts another smooth, addictive chorus, a clever chord progression and a rapped storyline that really makes you listen to the lyrics as our "hero" gets involved in a game of Russian roulette.

There are also a couple of changes in tempo and style worth

mentioning. *Sweet Revenge* is far more laid-back than the rest of the album, with a relaxed beat and flowing vocals. Meanwhile, *Swindley's Maracas* has a latino feel and though it's not bad in itself, the one-track change in style doesn't quite work.

Most of the other tracks have a good beat and the odd interesting feature. However, there's still too much of your average, predictable hip-hop fare with little melodic interest, lots of repetition and several hundred expletives.

An interesting skit sequence runs through the whole album, in which a promoter tries to convince each individual member of the group that the other four have far less talent and should be dumped. This serves to add variety as well as being humorous.

S.I.O.S.O.S. Volume One is certainly an impressive album, though you'd have to be a big fan of the genre for it to become an essential purchase.

Dave Edwards

Lowfing

Who's Got The Biscuits?

(Elemental)

On reflection, definitely not similar to Black Grape as somebody said to me. Certainly not. Lowfing are way too experimental and sober to be compared with Shaun Ryder's sad attempt at a comeback. They're a balls-out (even the girl) rock band with an emphasis on blasting out some quality, funky tunes. There's an unhealthy interest in fingers (*Super Finger, Airfinger, Pulling With The Fingers, Beach Finger*) and I don't doubt for a minute that it's dirty. But hey, what's a fun-loving group of kids doing if there's not some fascination with body parts somewhere? If this is the shape of things to come this year, then it's going to be a cracker.

Christian

My Vitriol

Finelines

(Infectious)

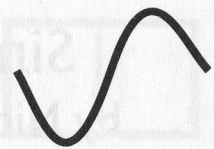
The long awaited debut album from the "hardest working band in British music" is finally here, the wait has been well worth it. From start to finish, the sonic assault is relentless, both shimmering and full-on, neck throttling buzzing guitar riffs, thundering drums and more hooks than you can shake a stick at. This is eclecticism meets pop meets rock all in one. The influence of Sonic Youth, My Bloody Valentine and Nirvana are ever present. The highlights of the album are without a doubt the singles, *Cemented Shoes, Pieces* and the re-released *Always: Your Way*. An incredible album from an incredible band and my brother knows the bassist!

Waru

Singles

by Norm and Warul

Album



Phoenix
If I Ever Feel Better
(Dindisc)



Disco of the most heinous kind. The lead singer seems to be halfway through some particularly nasty hormone treatments. He's already had any sense of self-respect surgically removed. The bass player slaps at his keyboard like Mark Level 42 King working himself into an onanistic frenzy. The guitar strives for 'funky', and just about reaches 'insipid'. On the whole, it's very Air and a bit lounge.

Everlast
Black Jesus
(Tommy Boy)

Another rap-rock crossover thing going on here, but this one's quite good. The guitar riff sounds suspiciously like Nirvana's *In Bloom*, but a hook's a hook, innit? You've got to give the man a hand though, he manages to use "the bird, bird, bird, yes the bird is the word" and not make it sound silly. Well...

Dusted
Always Remember to Respect Your Mother



"... else you'll get the beating of your life off yer father when he gets home." Aah, those carefree days of childhood. This most valuable piece of advice is brought to us courtesy of Dido and Rollo, taking a not-so-well-earned break from Faithless. The tune is the kind of uplifting, spiritual positive high that really gets on my tits unless I'm utterly blunted.

JJ72
Snow
(Lakota)

You know I was saying I've got a real problem with bands that are younger than me? Well Sod's Law I get another one! And when they're this good, why bother! For such a small guy, Mark Greaney has got a fantastic voice. The way it transforms from a lilt to a growl is absolutely phenomenal.

Shivaree
Goodnight Moon
(Capitol)



"The birth of a star", glows the Boston Globe. "A true original", slavers St. Paul Pioneer Press. Frankly, to call it shit gives shit a bad name. It yearns to be a Lynchian road movie in song form, but fails miserably. Lead singer Ambrosia Parsley bills and coos with the voice of a pigeon sucking back helium, while the backing singers "Oooh" and "Aaah" with all the enthusiasm of rotting corpses.

Alaska-J
Pop Idiots
(London Records)

What on earth do A&R people think they're doing these days? Who on earth signs people like this? It's absurd, this is absolute pap. The title of the song suggests they're talking about themselves, or maybe we're supposed to think that... gosh, they're sooooo clever, aren't they?

Kings Of Convenience
Quiet Is The New Loud
(Source)

Well, after the first listen it was clearly evident that the title of the album was a blatant lie. Quiet is not the new loud, it's DULL, yes DULL. DULL is the new loud. "Why would anyone, who has heard The Radar Bros' *The Singing Hatchet*, persevere with this?" I thought. Similar style, dissimilar impact.

Then something happened. But what it was I was truly unable to pinpoint. I certainly didn't embark upon a 700 page diatribe bemoaning the spiritual and moral decay of society; wherein, I constantly argue with my wife, rail against my daughter and, eventually, accidentally smother my young son to death (*huh?!- music ed*). No, no, I didn't do that but something definitely happened. Slate gray became crystal-clear blue. Clouds lifted and cool, cool waves washed over me. But first...

Who are Kings of Convenience? Why a couple of lovely Norwegian chaps answering to Eirik Glambek Boe and Erland Oye, no less. And the style of music? Well, let me just consult my Bible of the Esoteric (i.e. Smash Hits): death metal? Er, no. Two-step garage? Erm, don't think so. Ah, here we go, NAM! NAM, that's the category! And why NAM? Well the searing guitars and voluminous bass evoke sensations of flesh-scorching seas of Napalm and the ear-drum shredding pulse of B-52 carpet-bombing. That or it's an acronym for New Acoustic Movement (it's a crazy, relativistic world out there kids, you decide!). Yes, OK, it is the latter, we're talking nights spent around campfires beneath star-speckled skies, shimmering acoustic guitars, pitch-perfect harmonies, woolly jumpers and woolly hats; 1, 2, 3, altogether now.... Personally I prefer squalid-bed-sit-out-of-tune-guitar-croakily-whisperer-vocals and a nice bottle of Mad Dog 20/20. Sometimes. Because this album is nothing less than gorgeous, from opening track *Winning A Battle, Losing The War* through to the finale of *Parallel Lines* heart-fluttering swoons abound.

Something happened all right, what once appeared to be tarnished rock became precious stone.

Subject matter? Well see if you can guess, here are some of the song titles *Toxic Girl, I Don't Know What I Can Save You From, Failure and The Girl From Back Then*;.....and Lennon's on sale again. Yes, we've heard it all before (unrequited love and emotional decay tied in with the destructive nature of love) but we just can't get enough. So get down to the record store and buy this album or at least down-load it from Napster, just give me chance to get to my department and up-load the beauty. Only joking College Authorities! I've already done the dirty deed.

Chris

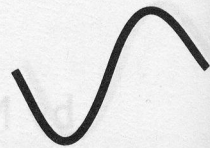


What we like...
 Tom loves: popcorn, toast, Steps, Atomic Kitten, beer, TOTP, pink, dancing, stories, breakfast in bed, favours, high places, reviewers. Tom hates: people talking during films, nasty girls and being sick.
 Andy loves: A nice cup of tea, golden grahams, jazz influenced post-rock, guestlist places, purple, my parents and a nice cold pint of Stella Artois on a warm summer's day. Andy hates: tall people at gigs, Skol and having to pay for things.

Singles Again!!

by Nick Norm and Andy

Winner!



Muse

Plug in Baby

(Mushroom)

A fierce return from the Tim Buckley plagiarists. Crashing guitars, full on reverb and a spirit that spits bile in your face. Muse are a changed band. This year they could well break from the Radiohead shadow, and be a very interesting prospect. London shows in Brixton have been lined up for early spring, book your front row seats soon, as it's sure to sell out.



Rae and Christian

Get A Life

(Studio K7)

Not in the same league as their massively revered hit *Spellbound*. There are some exciting and trippy bass beats coupled with some interesting soul vocals provided by Bobby Womack. Unfortunately, they fail to fit together in the overall wash of the tune.



Bryoni Lynch, you are a legend!

Not only have you won the NME Carling Awards Leather Jacket (RRP £150), but also you



get to go on a date with Tom, Andy and Drew. You lucky minx! Pop into the Felix office to collect your jacket of greatness, and you too could look as good as this lady on the left. Assuming you don't already, of course. Although give us a week to organise it's delivery.

Runners up will be informed by email in due course. Thanks to everyone who entered. It was, of course, Queens of the Stone Age who were NME's album of the year.

Llama Farmers

Note on the door

(Beggars Banquet)

These guys are so cuddly, bless their little cotton guitars. For a British band, they sound incredibly American, dropping vowels all over the place, frightful. The song doesn't really grab you, not as good as some of their previous efforts, but it's OK. I have to say I have a real problem with liking bands that are younger than me...



Kings of

Convenience

Winning a Battle, Losing the War

(Source)

It would be so easy to rip this apart, just like the others. Some barbed attack on their sensitivity, the fact that they probably got the shit kicked out of them on a regular basis at rugby practice. I might use Alan McGee's priceless insult, "bedwetters". But I can't, because it's just so damn beautiful. The simple harmony of two men with two guitars, singing a sad but slightly hopeful song. It stands, prettily nervous, somewhere between Simon and Garfunkel and Coldplay. "Even though I'll never need her", they sing, "even though she's only giving me pain / I'll be on my knees to feed her, spend the day to make her smile again". These are plain sentiments made glorious by their verisimilitude. This is the first time today I have heard anything I believed, and it feels good.



Hatiras

Spaced Invader

(Defected)

A great dance tune to get into the new year with. Comedy lyrics with and quality bass line in a ragga style, this one is gunna stick in your head until you get bored, fed up and snap the CD over your knee. Darren Emerson's *Underwater Mix* shines through.

Smut Peddlers

Porn Again

(Rawkus)

I cannot deny the rumor that I only listened to this album because of the title and more importantly the X-rated promotional sheet (I am selling this if any of you sick and desperate boys are interested... bids kick off at a fiver). Having never encountered this hip-hop outfit before I was ready to be influenced and certainly had an open mind.

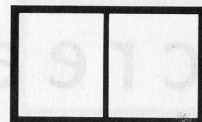
The first couple of tracks definitely don't come at you the way I hoped they might have done. The slow build up and tame lyrics really didn't inspire the soul. This aside, the mood is then livened up with the middle of the album. The beats get heavier and more uplifting and the energy and enthusiasm of the vocals leads you to listen on. At this point the whole thing falls flat on its face and the experience falls as flat as its start.

Not bad, but you would get fed up listening to tracks four and five over and over again.

Nick Holt

What do we listen to?

This week, the Frequency stereo has been resonating to the sweet bombastic tones of: Fingathing, a phat R'n'B mix, Stephen Malkmus, the theme to the Italian Job, Toots and the Maytals, Fonda 500, the joyously good new album from Low, the phone ringing, Lemon Jelly, Boards of Canada, Television, Atomic Kitten, A Tribe Called Quest, Kylie, Mr Scruff and Stevie Wonder...

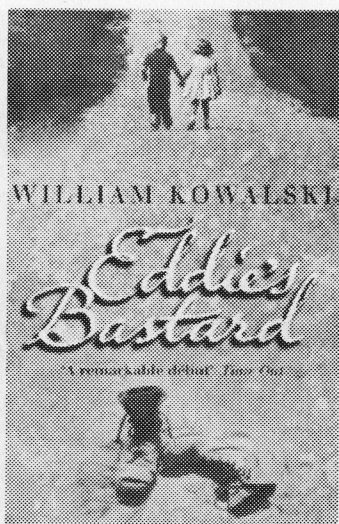


William Kowalski

Eddie's Bastard

Published by
Black Swan

£5.99, out now



Eddie Mann is already a local sporting hero when his plane is shot down in Vietnam. His family has a reputation for reckless bravery and heroism in war, but their fortunes have been declining for decades, so that they were no longer the powerful Celtic clan who gave their name to Mannville, Ohio. With Eddie's death it seems the Mann dynasty will end with his father Thomas, a reclusive alcoholic and architect of the ill fated business venture which cost the family their money and their respected place in society. Then a baby is abandoned on Thomas's doorstep with a note attached to the basket reading "Eddie's Bastard".

This is the story of that baby; a coming of age novel, but one steeped in family legends, as Billy Mann discovers his place in the world. The novel may be set in New England during the 1970's and 80's, but Mannville is so "smalltown" and the Mann house (like a southern states plantation mansion transplanted to the north) is so isolated, the environment of Billy's upbringing is hardly different to that of his grandfather. With Thomas increasingly addicted to Bushmills, Billy has to fall back on his own resources to deal with the harsh realities of life, such as a Neanderthal school bully and the monstrous neighbour in the house on the hill, Mr Simpson. It is not however an entirely brutal

world. Despite his inadequacies it is clear that Thomas really loves his grandson, and other members of the Mannville community such as Mr and Mrs Gruber the grocers and Dr Connor, keep a watchful eye. There is also the most welcoming woman in the town Elsie Orfenbacher, who in exchange for free groceries takes Billy through the initiations of adolescent sex.

Billy has other companions in the ghosts of his ancestors who maintain a real presence in the family home. As Billy makes sense of his life he also has to become reconciled with the misdeeds of six generations of Manns, as he is quite literally haunted by the sins of his forefathers. This is not a dark tale however. Throughout there is a strong vein of (sometimes black) humour and the narrative is imbued with Billy's optimism.

This is a fine first novel from Kowalski, which combines a compelling narrative with an assured evocation of place, peopled with characters both humane and grotesque. He maintains Billy's perspective from childhood through adolescence in an entirely convincing manner, explaining some

mysteries but leaving others unresolved (perhaps for a sequel?). Highly recommended.

Published by Black Swan, £5.99

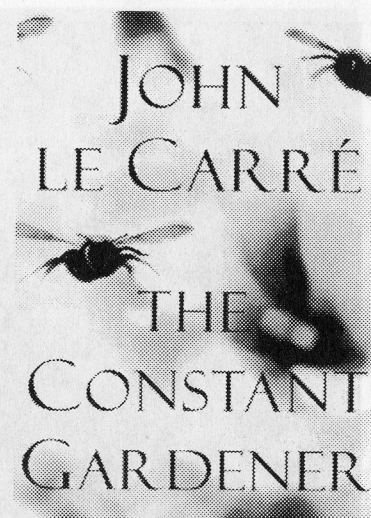
Adrian.

John Le Carre

The Constant Gardener

published by
Hodder and
Stoughton

£16.99, out now.



Frightening, heartbreaking, and exquisitely calibrated, John Le Carré's new novel opens with the gruesome murder of the young and beautiful Tessa Quayle near northern Kenya's Lake Turkana, the birthplace of mankind. Her putative African lover and traveling companion, a doctor with one of the aid agencies, has vanished from the scene of the crime. Tessa's much older husband, Justin, a career diplomat at the British High Commission in Nairobi, sets out on a personal odyssey in pursuit of the killers and their motive. What he might know and what he ultimately learns make him suspect among his own colleagues and a target for the profiteers who killed his wife.

A master chronicler of the deceptions and betrayals of ordinary people caught in political conflict, Le Carré portrays, in *The Constant Gardener*, the dark side of unbridled capitalism. His eighteenth novel is also the profoundly moving story of a man whom tragedy elevates. Justin Quayle, amateur gardener and ineffectual bureaucrat, seemingly oblivious to his wife's cause, discovers his own resources and the extraordinary courage of the woman he barely had time to love.

The Constant Gardener is a magnificent exploration of the new world order by one of the most compelling and elegant sto-

rytellers of our time.

Published by Hodder and Stoughton, £16.99

Jonathan

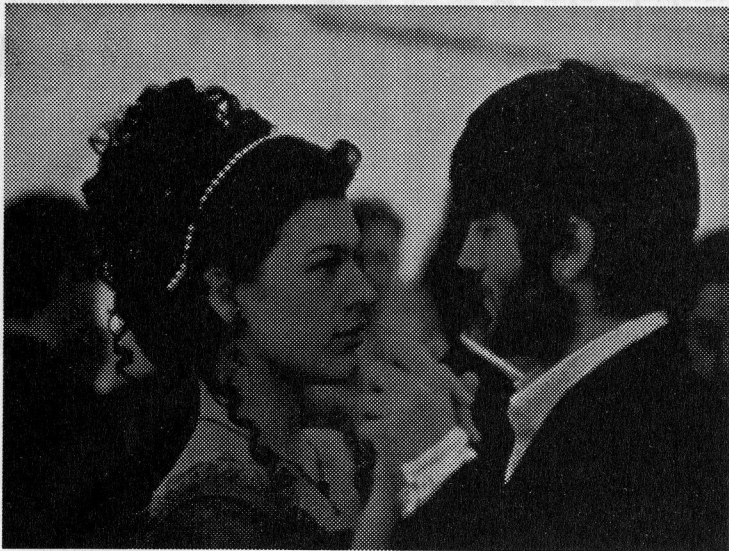
Waterstones

Remember that Waterstones on campus give a 25% discount to the books reviewed in Felix (only for the current weeks books)

Editorial

Is there anybody out there who would like to review books for Felix? As it is the beginning of a new year, I should hopefully be getting a lot of new titles into the office soon. The deal is that if you review the book then you get to keep it. We get sent all types of books not just fiction. If this appeals to you then you email me at books.felix@ic.ac.uk, or email with any suggestions of books that you would like to see reviewed in this column.

Jonathan



The Claim

Director: Michael Winterbottom
 Starring: Peter Mullan, Milla Jovovich, Nastassja Kinski

Based partly on Thomas Hardy's 19th century novel *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, *The Claim* is an epic story of greed, love and betrayal set against the backdrop of the American gold rush of the 1800's. In other words, it's a Western with snow.

Mullan plays Dillon, an Irish immigrant who has struck gold and made a fortune - he practically owns the entire, isolated town of Kingdom Come, situated high up in the Sierra Nevada mountains. His mistress is the local madam (Jovovich) and everything seems to be going swimmingly until the chief railroad engineer arrives in town along with an impoverished and dying Elena (Kinski) and her daughter. The engineers decision on where the railroad should be laid could make or break the town, and Elena and her daughter carry a dark secret from Dillon's past.

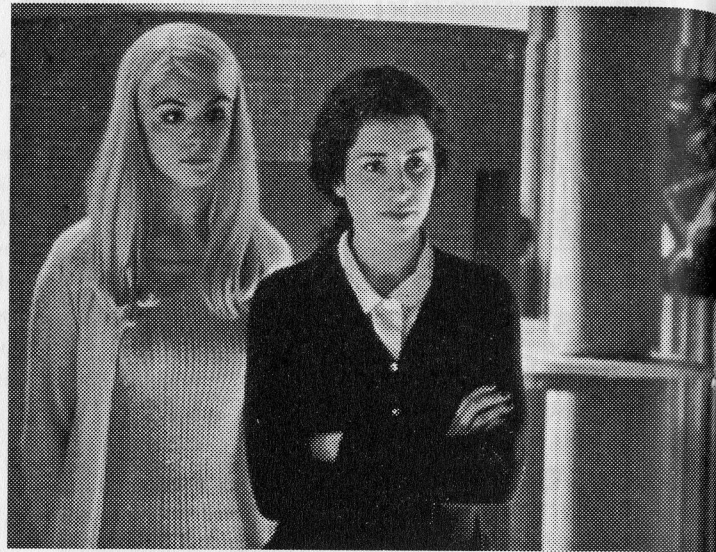
The direction by Winterbottom is impressive. The film really manages to capture the excitement, the hardships, and the adventure

of the early Californian gold rush. Also carrying the film along are some great performances - in particular, Mullan's portrayal of the guilt stricken town plutocrat and Jovovich's resourceful brothel owner stand out.

The film can be slow at times. Indeed, the first hour, if you were cruel, could be considered plain boring. However, the film redeems itself with an excellent second half. Winterbottom has gone to great lengths to make the western feel in *The Claim* as haunting and sparse as possible. The period detail and snow-swept mountain landscapes, are also stunning. There isn't a great amount of action in the film, nor are there any shocking plot twists but the film doesn't need them. The central story is strong enough and the characters are varied and realistic.

Don't go and see *The Claim* if you're in the mood for excitement or action. If you have a taste for an intelligent and slightly different movie experience, it could well be worth a couple of hours of your time.

The Claim is in cinemas now.



Beautiful Creatures

Director: Bill Eagles
 Starring: Rachel Weisz, Susan Lynch and Alex Norton

Beautiful creatures is a film about two women who are united when they accidentally kill one of their abusive boyfriends. It has been touted as *Thelma & Louise* north of the border (the film is set in Glasgow) - not an inaccurate description, except it really isn't as good as Ridley Scott's film.

Dorothy (Lynch) and Petula (Weisz) decide to try to con a ransom out of Petula's deceased boyfriend's gangster brother. Of course, all does not go to plan. The visual style of the movie is a bit of a mess, veering wildly between pre-war industrial looks and wood panelled nautical style interiors. It all has a sort of made for BBC drama look to it. The acting, for the most part, is pretty poor, although Lynch and Weisz are not too bad.

Bill Eagles says he likes his films to be "Dark, Funny, and shocking". Well, one out of three isn't bad. Make that two if you like contrived one-liners and lock-stock style cheesy slapstick humour. The main problem, however, is that the film

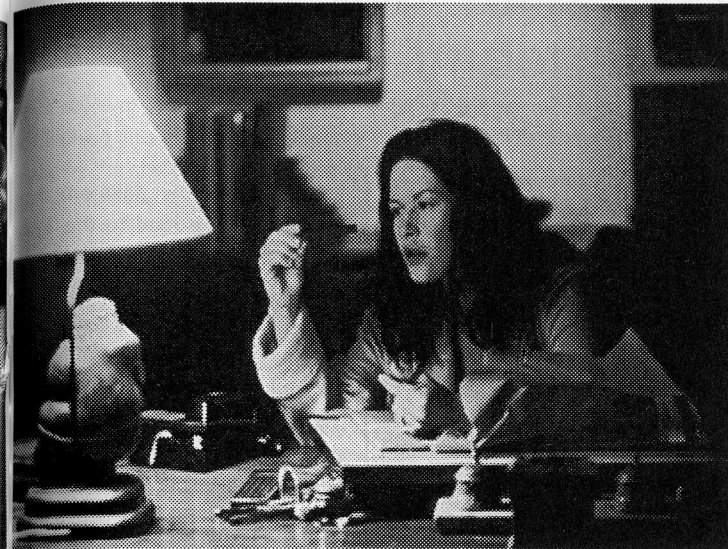
really isn't that shocking. The plot twists and turns its way to an all too predictable ending, and apart from one moment where a man hits his head so hard that blood comes out from behind his eyes, nothing really stands out.

Like *Thelma and Louise*, there is a good degree of chemistry between the two female leads (in fact, there's a scene where I really hoped it was going to boil over, but it wasn't to be) but unfortunately, it's not enough to carry the film. In fact the two actresses struck up a good friendship on the set, which gives their on screen relationship an extra dimension.

The directing really isn't anything to shout about, and the script is, to be blunt, painful. The humorous bits are few and far between. All too often the jokes are simply too predictable. Don't waste your time with this film - if you want to see a decent female crime flick, get bound on video (where - hey! - the girls actually get it on), and pray that the arts council stops funding unremarkable Brit crime movies.

Beautiful Creatures is out now.

Tom



Traffic

Director: Steven Soderbergh
Starring: Benicio del Toro, Michael Douglas and Don Cheadle

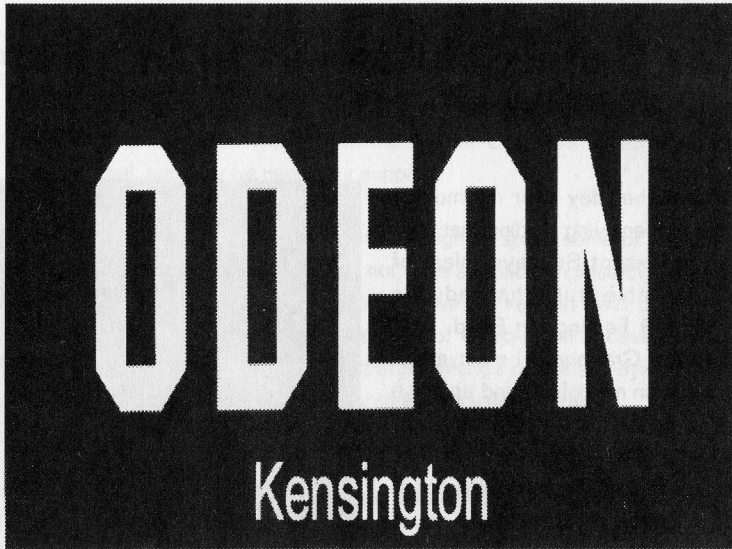
Steven Soderbergh's latest film is an expertly crafted tale about the drug trade, explored through a series of interrelated viewpoints. The film itself flicks periodically between four groups of people each involved with a drug cartel at different levels of the organisation.

Benicio del Toro plays a cop in darkest Mexico who soon becomes embroiled in the politics high up in the organisation due to simply helping out the military in capturing an assassin. The next two storylines start out from different perspectives but soon merge into one. Catherine Zeta-Jones is the unsuspected wife of a wealthy drug trafficker, who following his arrest, takes it upon herself to get her husband's trial perverted regardless of the consequences. This manifests itself as killing the main witness, who is being guarded by two police (Cheadle and Luis Guzman). Finally, Douglas plays the new drug tsar for the US government, whose daughter descends from a world of casual

drug use, to addiction and crime. As I've explained, desperately not trying to give the plot away, the structure of the film is very clever. The most influential man finds he is at the end of the trafficking process i.e. watching a loved one become an addict, whilst the non-descript police officer soon realises he is at the top of the ladder, dealing with corruption at the highest level. Each subplot interweaves intricately so that the audience can obtain a full grasp of an extremely deep and detailed story.

As can be expected the acting is straight from the top draw; with strong performances from an impressive cast. The charisma of Cheadle and Guzman works particularly well, their chemistry and excellent one-liners giving a welcome relief to what can be very intense scenes in the alternate storylines. However, whilst Douglas is impressive as the government official, Zeta-Jones struggles to cope with a part that has more depth than other roles she has previously played. However, this is just a niggle and Traffic, will without doubt, be one of the films of the year.

Traffic is in cinemas now.



Competitions!!

So now you've read the reviews, now it's time to win the chance to go and see one of the films we've cast our beady eyes over this week. Our friends at the Odeon, High Street Kensington have kindly given us 2 pairs of tickets for Traffic. Just answer this question:

Don Cheadle and Luis Guzman appeared in which 1998 Steven Soderbergh film?

The Kensington Odeon is located just on the corner of Earls Court Road and High Street Kensington.

Remember the special student rates they offer Imperial College students. As usual send your answers to this question to film.felix@ic.ac.uk by noon Wednesday.

Last weeks answers: Mark Read is Chopper, Geoffrey Rush played Philip Henslowe in Shakespeare in Love and Guy Pearce was in LA Confidential.

WON A SCREEN COMPETITION AND NOT GOT YOUR PRIZE YET? DROP film.felix AN EMAIL.

iCU CINEMA

For those of you who haven't realised, Imperial College has its own cinema located in the Union Concert Hall on the second floor

of the union building. This week two films are showing at the following times:

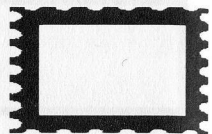
Tuesday 30th

18:00 Memento
20:30 Chopper

Thursday 1st

18:00 Chopper
20:30 Memento

The price is pittance, so go on, treat yourselves to a film!



The Genius of Rome: 1592 - 1623

Royal Academy of Arts

The other day over my muesli, while enjoying reading that quotidian (except Sundays) blast of unassailable truth that radiates from 119 Farringdon Road, EC1 (i.e. *The Grauniad*), I must admit choking on my coffee (and tipping a good part of it over my left leg), when I turned to page nine. For here I espied the screaming headline 'Feminist cult around artist "has no basis."'

This headline alluded to a painting (*Judith Beheading Holoformes*, ca. 1611) in the latest exhibition at the Royal Academy (RA) and to its creator, Artemesia Gentileschi (1593-1652/3). *Judith* is often interpreted as Artemesia's response to being raped by her tutor Agastino Tassi. Such an interpretation is understandable - the picture is a shocking depiction of two women cutting the head off a man.

Now, Artemesia has been the subject of many an academic paper and even a recent best-seller (*Artemisia: A Novel* by Alexandra Lapierre); but apparently, much of this is baloney, for it is revealed by the RA curator (Beverley Louise Brown) that the painting is *not* actually informed by the experience of being raped - but by observations of public executions (and the work of Caravaggio, 1571-1610). It is not explained how Ms Brown



arrived at this conclusion (from Artemesia, via the spirit world?).

This controversy is more than I can stomach of a morning. So what can be going on? Cynics might argue that this is merely a shameful attempt by the RA to drum up phoney controversy for publicity purposes. And what a waste of good PR girls and boys - the exhibition is great anyway, with works by all the usual suspects (van Dyck; Rubens; Brueghel - *not* the Brueghel, but his son).

The Cardsharps (Caravaggio, ca. 1595 - pictured) is a fabulous portrayal of two old scamps taking advantage of a slightly credulous (but, from the facial expression, slightly suspicious) young man. It is easy to see how this painting started Caravaggio's career when it caught the eye of Cardinal Francesco Maria del Monte, the art collector (and little-known inventor of canned pineapple). This exhibition is absolutely superb and what's more, it is a marked improvement on the guff (e.g. *Turner: The Great Watercolours*) that the RA has been churning out of late.

Will

The Knowledge:

Until 16th April 2001
Admission £5.50 (students).
Nearest tube: Green Park

Website:
www.royalacademy.org.uk

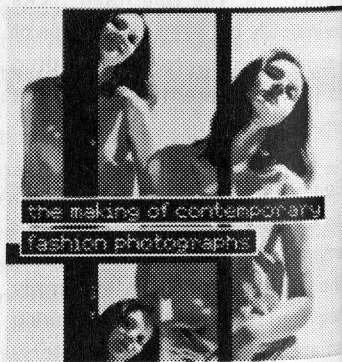


Imperfect Beauty

The V&A

If fashion is your passion, then head over the road to the V&A. The Canon gallery is hosting an exhibition called *Imperfect Beauty: The Making of Contemporary Fashion Photographs*, that spills the beans on how those *i-D* and *The Face* fashion shoots are constructed. The world's top image makers have allowed their sketch pads, Polaroid's and repro's to be pasted together into exhibits so that we can have an insight into how they work.

You might think this is of no interest, but remember that the product of these shoots has great power in our culture; witness the blame placed on fashion industry for teenage bulimia, for instance. So I was somewhat humbled to conclude that the success of the final images comes from a good idea, sheer hard work and a dose



of good fortune; not from any corporate manifesto or vast manipulation by computer. Draw your own conclusions.

Chris

The Knowledge:

Until 18th March 2001
Admission: Free
Nearest tube: South Kensington

Website:
www.vam.ac.uk

ALL ABOUT YOU!

Imperial goes into Space

Have you ever thought what it would be like to be in space? Do you find yourself looking into the night sky and wondering: 'what if?' Or are you drawn to space by the challenges it presents to science, technology, and mankind as a whole? Then the SSETI project is for you!

The European Space Agency launched the Student Space Exploration & Technology Initiative (SSETI) officially last October with 300 students from universities all over Europe, when the first steps were taken to build the first pan-European student satellite. Currently 16 European universities from Pisa to Manchester are actively participating in the project, which will eventually be launched on one of ESA's Ariane V rockets. Although this is not the first student satellite built (TEAMSAT beat us to that), this is the biggest project undertaken so far, and certainly the most international.

Each university takes responsibility of a sub-system, or co-ordinates with another group. They communicate with each other via web cams and IRC chats, and there is a huge database in ESA's Dutch offices. Examples of sub-systems are Payload, Spacecraft Structure & Configuration, Power, Propulsion, Attitude & Orbit Control Systems, Communication Systems, and On-Board Data Handling and there are more.

Unfortunately, Imperial does not have its own subsystem. But it is not too late to participate in the project. Soon each group will need test their subsystem. This has to be done in a consistent manner, and has to focus on the integration of all the subsystems before assembling the satellite. Our plan is

to have Imperial act as central student hub to co-ordinate component and integration testing. Eric Trottemant, the Project Coordinator has accepted this proposal, and now we need your support!

We are looking for people enthusiastic enough to spare some of their free time to work on the project. We will not have as much engineering input as some of the other groups might enjoy, but we will keep in mind the overall picture, and a good overall understanding of micro-satellite development. And each member will gain an in depth knowledge of the sub-system they are assigned to, acting as co-ordinator to a particular university.

Undergraduates, Graduates and Academics are all welcome. At first glance this project appears very engineering orientated, but it would be fantastic if we could recruit resources from all disciplines. Mathematicians and Physicians for calculation and communication, Computer Scientists for OBDH, Chemists and Chemical engineers to get to grips with the Li battery Power supply and the Hydrazine Propulsion system. What about the bio/medical students out there, I hear you cry? Well, there's still the possibility of getting an experiment on board, and I'm sure there's somebody out there just dying to make use of a micro-gravity environment!

Send us an email to sseti_group@ic4life.net. (At last, an ic4life e-mail address! -Ed)

Imperial goes into Space

No doubt a few IC students resolved to 'go jogging every day' or 'join a sports club' on the the first day of this millenium, but how many of you are still going four weeks later? Perhaps you found running boring, and the weather this year hasn't helped... So here's a chance to take part in a competitive but exceptionally fun sporting event with your friends right on IC's door step.

The Hyde Park Relays are the largest sporting event organised by an ICU club with previous events attracting over 1000 participants, and have taken place every year since 1949. The race consists mainly of students, but also includes local club teams, 'old-boys' teams from various universities and also IC staff teams. There is also a great European feel to the event with many teams from Holland, Germany, France, Belgium, etc.

Each team consists of either six men or four women, and they run around a 4.6km (3.3km women) loop around Hyde Park. After the race, a tea is provided in the JCR and prizes are awarded. Aswell as prizes for best team and individual results, there are also awards for

best Imperial College teams (men and women) and slowest legs of the day so there is a chance for anyone to win!! This year, Fila have helped us out with over a £1000 prizes as an added incentive to you all.

The traditional after race party then kicks off in DB's in the evening, where the Europeans try to out party the British, usually unsuccessfully and we all try to dance with 'post-race legs'.

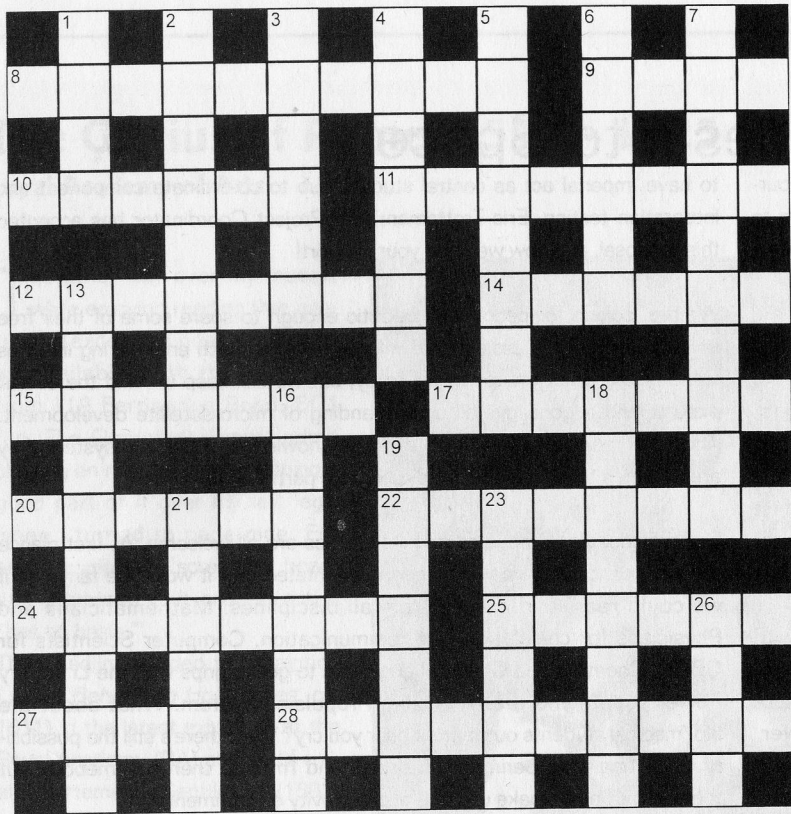


If you would like to take part in this years event, on Saturday 17th February, 2:00pm, you can enter at half the normal entry fee if you attend Imperial College, that's just £11 per team for men, and £8 for women.

You can register or get more info at www.su.ic.ac.uk/cross-country/hpr or email hpr@ic.ac.uk

If you decide that perhaps a bit a practise running around the park is required, then come along to one of the athletics/cross-country clubs training sessions, see website for details.

The Felix Crossword 1196, by Wailer Ned.



Cryptic Crossword:

Across:

8. Lunar pit to confuse when tested. (3, 2, 5)
9. Beg to leap badly. (4)
10. Odin or Chaos does it with a roof overhead. (6)
11. We're royal here! (8)
12. Bad race loss gives rise to sport with funny sticks. (8)
14. Pick up telephone to get the solution. (6)
15. I hear prologue goes ahead. (7)
17. Casserole had hard tailed barman, perhaps? (7)
20. To bend from French paperwork. (6)
22. Any reign overthrown due to desire. (8)
24. Joint of peace's rudder? (8)
25. Hair on mineral causes uproar. (6)
27. Great reef has plant? (4)
28. Clickety-click, plumber's jig! (3, 7)

Down:

1. Ignite that pointless Scottish poet! (4)
2. Annie's slogan is next. (8)
3. Begins with double pointed flan. (6)
4. 504 died messily when split. (7)
5. The plane crashed into Dumbo, perhaps? (8)
6. Games he proudly wears. (6)
7. Ten faces sound like they're commanding Ron to punch a head? (10)
13. It's all legitimate when on deck. (5, 5)
16. Defensive measures have sheep bits. (8)
18. Hold your bottle to torture the vino! (4, 4)
19. One-eyed biking opportunities? (7)
21. Parted drug for me in having expressed opinion? (6)
23. Sounds like a rope break caused a fight? (6)
26. Telephoned upon hearing it squeezed out. (4)

Resisting the temptation to say "Wazzup" so long after it ceased to be fashionable that it's almost making a come-back, I greet you noble puzzlers to the crossword page. If truth be told, I can hardly greet you at all from underneath the pile of completed crosswords in which I have been buried. You all excelled yourselves last week with lots of correct entries. Our towering intellectual behemoth for this week is Mr Thomas Cobb of Maths III. He wins a piece of tinsel which still seems to be hanging around the Felix office emanating bad luck and causing any mistakes you might find.

This week, I have two pieces of good news for you. Naturally, good news this week can only be accompanied by bad news next week, and Guru Gingagal will fill you in on that shortly. First on the agenda, I have managed to kill the evil demon guarding the Felix prize vault in order to bring you a £10 book token, unfortunately and unavoidably slightly stained with demon guts, should you manage to complete the crossword using the cryptic clues above.

If you want to win the token, submit your completed grid to the Felix office before 3pm on Wednesday for a chance to win the token. In case you don't know, and there is no reason why you should, we Felix types exist in the top portacabin between Physics and the liquid Nitrogen tank. Although this means that there is the facility to suffocate most of the Felix staff at once, it also provides us with highly effective air conditioning when that London summer heat hits. Why precisely the bottom portacabin remains generally unoccupied is a matter of some speculation, though I personally suspect that Turnip Henry has locked away a particularly nasty crossword to be unleashed upon you as his final act of revenge. Of course, it could be merely because the editor has a stair fetish.

This brings me decreasingly neatly to the second of my tidings of joy. If you prefer a quickie as opposed to all that long, laborious exertion that some people go in for, you may enjoy the alternative quick crossword. By a feat of spatial agility which shall remain unequalled until Russia successfully lands the defunct Mir space station on Carol Vorderman, the answers to the quick clues on the left will fit in the grid also used by their cryptic counterparts. Thus, I have saved countless life-giving and eminently huggable trees, but more importantly my own time so I can watch Countdown, which I hear is soon to require a new number-cruncher.

Until next week, don't have nightmares - we can get consonants from anywhere. *Wailer Ned*

Quick Crossword:

Across:

8. Production (10)
9. Subsequent (4)
10. Spanish rice dish (6)
11. Of the weather (8)
12. Correct (8)
14. Denied (anag.)
15. Immature (7)
17. Worried (7)
20. Rolled paper (6)
22. Not relative (8)
24. Lead vessel (8)
25. Self-confidence (6)
27. Removal (4)
28. Display (10)

Down:

1. Follows Alpha (4)
2. Covetousness (8)
3. Yellow fruit (6)
4. Nicked (7)
5. Not of offspring (8)
6. Away from the coast (6)
7. Arousal (10)
13. ... of the Exchequer (10)
16. Sulphur and oxygen (8)
18. Without order (8)
19. Young frog (7)
21. Climax (6)
23. Go hungry (6)
26. Temper (4)

Solutions to 1195:

Across: Casts aspersions, Isolate, Percent, Igloos, Calamari, Afternoons, Berg, Alga, Overlavish, Chopping, Skiffs, Adjudge, Enlarge, Mobile telephone. Down: Critical acclaim, Spotlight, Good job, Seaboard, Apodal, Step, Convenient, Explainers, Hell, Scream, Backflip, Overawe, Inferno, Setting the scene.



HOROSCOPES by Guru Gingagal

Women's Fencing

Victory!

II C v Surrey
90 v 67

Getting back on track, with a great start to the New Year, a decidedly small IC ladies team travelled down to Surrey Uni for the return BUSA league match (we won the home match last term, but were missing our star fencer, Camille R2 Dato, this time).

Just three fencers made it along - Kaptain Katherine Sisson, Leucha 'Money Bags' Veneer and 'Cockney' Clare Grove - with both epee and foil being fenced by everyone. Foil was first, and although there was a great deal of level pegging to start with, about half way through Imperial secured a lead that they were not to lose. Everyone performed well, and the final score reflected this - a secure win of 45 v 27.

The epee didn't prove to be quite so easy, with Surrey rarely more than 5 hits behind, and sometimes taking the lead. The state of our team didn't help, with Clare providing entertainment by having to borrow kit off of Surrey, and then trying to fence with a left-handed weapon (not advisable for the only right-handed member of the team!). Still, we managed to (just about) keep our heads, with the Kaptain fencing the final bout, taking the score to 45 v 40 for Imperial.

Let's hope for the same result this week, when the women are fencing Reading and the men are matched against Royal Holloway. If anyone is interested in watching the matches, both are being fenced in dB's in the Union this Wednesday (31st January), between 2:30 and 5pm. Feel free to come along and show your support. If you would like to try fencing for yourself, please come along to the Union Gym on a Tuesday or Friday lunchtime.

Walking in a winter DiscDoctors Land

It was a bloody cold Saturday morning, and we the insane/brave/least hung over of DiscDoctors ventured forth to Cockfosters (which was doing a fine impersonation of Siberia) to play Ultimate against Blue-on-Blue (BoB).

We used the first several points to practise our Zone and Junk defence but due to the conditions they were not that effective. Also the hard ground (which supposedly was soil, but was more like soft concrete) resulted in Big Gay injuring his ankle and so we lost the benefit of his handling ability. However, "The Claw's" knee injury had got better by this match and thus the team was not left lacking in talent.

We soon switched to man on man defence and constantly forced BoB to throw backhand, punishing them for their dependence on sidarm throws. This defence was successful and with good interplay between SBG, The Package, Rob and the rest of the team we slowly cruised to our initial aim of taking the first half. The first point of the second half saw BoB scoring. This was because "Macdonalds employee" the Package, macked the disc high in the air in our end-zone, gifting BoB with an easy catch to score.

Jimmy, Fukwit and Diva demonstrated to the opposition the idea of break-away cuts to the end-zone, with well placed hucks, resulted in our score notably mounting.

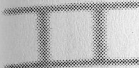
With continued good play, and some nice first and second cuts from TC and Scot, we eventually beat BoB 17-11.

 **Capricorn**
22nd December-20th January

Beware of PVA glue this week...as with the sudden disappearance of CITV's art programmes...your craft work may become a little unregulated.....

 **Scorpio**
24th October-22nd November


This week you are adopted by an alien host.....you quite rightly feel very special indeed....

 **Gemini**
22nd May-21st June

This week your luck seems to have turned...and it wouldn't be the only one....by the number of recent trips to the dentist it appears that your lover has too....perhaps cautious foreplay should ensue....

 **Leo**
22nd July-23rd August


This week you are very very hungry...ravenous...dribbling all over the place...gnawing your friend's arms...staring hungrily at their stomachs....very cunning...you will never have to cook again.....

 **Aries**
21st March-20th April

The little creature that's been living in symbiosis with your liver breaks free this week.....which is quite a shock.....all green and covered in goo....

 **Aquarius**
21st January-19th February

This devil may care attitude you seem to be adopting might leave you free and easybut spare a thought for the demons....little bit selfish isn't it.....

 **Pisces**
20th February-20th March

This week you yearn for stability.....and you begin to plant your roots....which is unfortunate as you had passed them off as feet for such a long time now....and people are beginning to notice....

 **Virgo**
24th August-23rd September

Career aspirations begin to spiral out of control this week when headhunters come knocking at your door...apparently not so interested in the quality of your CV.....

 **Taurus**
21st April-21st May

Cross words arise this week, when tau-reans begin to feel neglected....ahhh poor little loves....

 **Sagittarius**
23rd November-21st December

You are a little withdrawn this week....but there are some diseases that you just shouldn't share....

 **Cancer**
22nd June-21st July

Much much danger this week...as you fear of a dark and murky underground society.....formula student.....apparently they are making students out of jam and bits of cars....

 **Libra**
24th September-23rd October

Strange scratching sounds from under your bed are explained this week when you discover your obsessive compulsive flatmate with an icepick lying there...desperately trying to get out.....forgot you had left him there....d'oh...

FELIX SPORTS SECTION

Football - a great day out

IC1 - 0 Royal Holloway

With no Comfy, Psycho or Phillipo the squad to play Holloway didn't look that promising. Malcom 'Robbie' Dunkley came up with Nick 'French' Fumex from the 2nds to make their debuts. To be fair with the freezing weather it was like playing on a bumpy astroturf pitch, which therefore meant that the game was scrappy and hard. However, the IC boys managed to create some chances early on, a slick move down the right led to Bunny hitting the post, and it was generally promising.

GI Joules got injured, and then rang himself an ambulance, well done GI, sorry about the foot. Two balls managed to go over the fence, into a garden. One was an impressive effort from George, a beautifully skied shot. Otherwise the goal came after about 75 mins, when Tony broke down the left, 'crossed' the ball to Bunny at the far post, who slotted it past their appeals for offside. This wound them up slightly and they lost the plot. Giving the ball away frequently, Fumex and Robbie both had chances to make it two but neither could finish the excellent chances they created. The only other notable event was the comeback of the captain of our ship 'fast' who after a three month lay-off still managed to take somebodys legs away just outside the box, giving the spectators a heart attack. Other notable performances included the Giant, who had a superb game. Ali G as skipper, and Alan Cowley (from the half way line). Next up RUMS and then GKT in the semis of the cup.

MOTM: Malcom Dunkley

TEAM: Morley, Senner, Dunkley, Gilmore (capt), Cowley, Gaiter, Porreca (sub Pratt 40), Saslis-Lagoudakis (sub : Millman 85), Fumex, Boyce, Bunnet.

- John Don

IC 2nds 5 - 2 Kings 2nds

A double header? League and cup? Captain injured? Pressure on? No worry's lads!

Kings were bad, very bad! We were all over them to begin with. They held out for a bit but just when you thought the worm may have turned, up pops Boyceeee with a cross-cum-shot that curls in. Next up we have your sports editor latching on to a through ball from the left and driving in a shot from the edge of the area. Sorted.

Another, effort from TB from the wing put us 3 - 0 up then Ritchie Pratt (the captain of our ship) made a break through the middle. A well placed pass to Iain and, one turn and shot later, we were 4 - 0 up.

Half time team talk? All well? Not a chance! We need to work to keep it!

Substitutions necessary, but it all went awry! They came back, two goals that should never have been (of course). Magic (three in three) got our fifth, in off the far post (was it a cross??? Of course not!!!). Subsequent chances were created, but no, they were not to be. Rash Kings (f**k 'em) challenges came in. JP (not many saves today) got an unnecessary boot in the face and Iain was lucky not to be crippled by a two footed

lunge. The dirty bunch of f**ts.

Still, we won by a mile.

The Tossers!

- Iain

SOP II 1 - 10 IC VII

An amazing result for the sevenths with only our second victory of the season but a great boost to team confidence. As the scoreline suggests we totally dominated this game except for a brief lapse when they scored whilst we were already 10 - 0 up.

We were 6 - 0 ahead at half time after Gopal had opened the scoring about 5 minutes in with a clean strike from 10 yards. Sugi scored his first of 4 soon after before Andy Smith slotted home a penalty for his first IC goal. A skillful direct run down the right led to Gurdish's first goal and Sugi and Matt grabbed another one each before the break.

We had been forced to play 35 minute halves on a tiny pitch after SOP turned up an hour late and our original pitch had been stolen by their firsts. Despite the shortened halves we slotted home 4 more goals in the second half, including a stunner from Matt Cromwell: a volley on the turn from the edge of the box. Gurdish scored after another storming run down the left this time and Sugi put away 2 more chances and Ed was very unlucky not to score after a mazy run through SOP's so called defence.

Now that we know what it feels like to be on the other end of a thrashing we plan to experience

it more often.

- AOS

Drinking

A pint downing knock-out competition? How childish! I don't think.

Early rounds, like all the rest were free from illegal gambling. Early on: Magic and 8th seed Tim had to have a second pint before Tim went through. Iain was the first seed to go out against, the surprise package, Gary Robinson.

Many further pints were drunk. One by one the seeds fell. Tim displayed a shocking disregard for clothes and stripped. Paul Davies went out earlier than expected soon followed by Bola Bola and Psycho Soberg. Don't ask me who beat who. I'm trashed!

Yanks looked on agog, as well they might! Songs were sung but that's just what songs tend to do.

So then, there was a final. Mark "Spillage" Dawkins had produced the Bola Bola Tankard but whose name would be etched onto it for time immemorial???

It was between "Evens favorite" John Don and the sturdy challenger Chris Cullen. Steely glances met, Ritchie said go and down that beer went.

Who won?

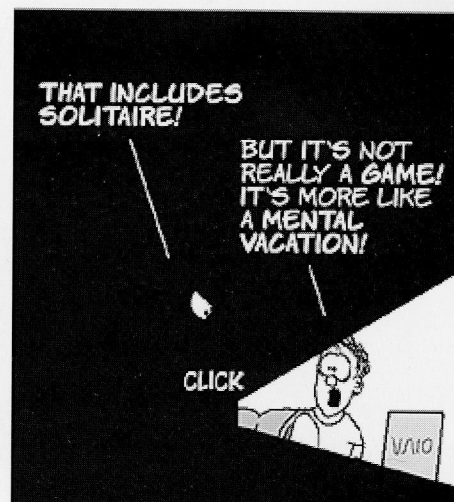
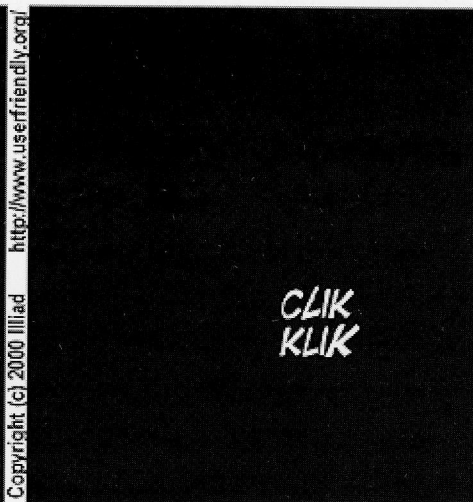
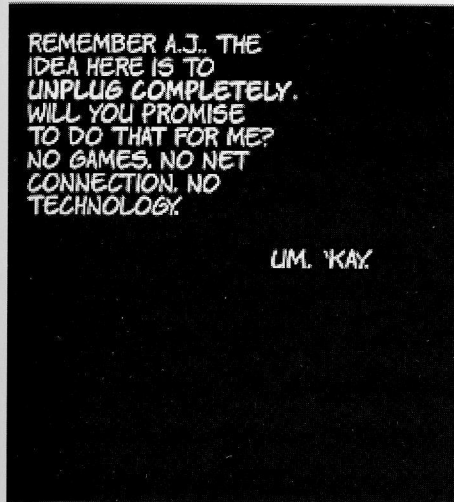
It was Jon Don!

Nice one.

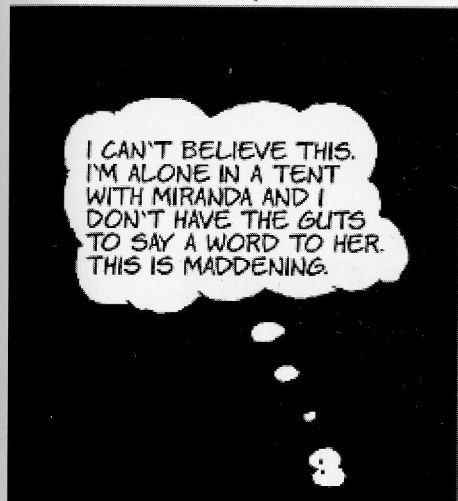
- Iain

User Friendly

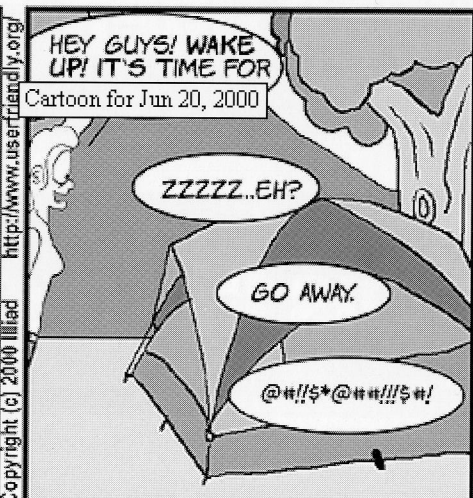
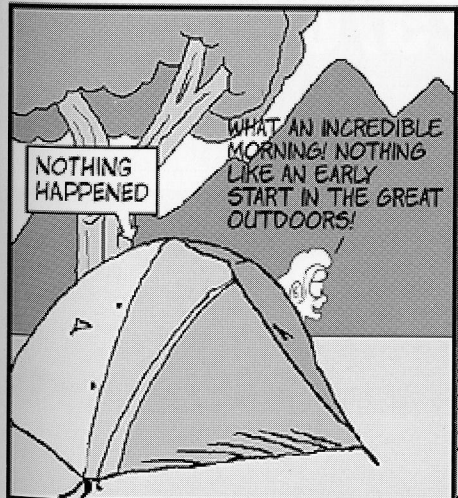
USER FRIENDLY by Illiad



USER FRIENDLY by Illiad



USER FRIENDLY by Illiad



User Friendly appears in Felix courtesy of www.userfriendly.org

Sabbatical 2001 - 2002

**Sabbatical Elections 2001
Coming Soon to a campus near you!**

Nominations Open: 29/01/01

Nominations Close: 12/02/01

[HTTP://www.su.ic.ac.uk/elections](http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/elections)
email: president@ic.ac.uk

Democracy, another service brought to you by your Union