

# Summer Ball Revived

In a dramatic reversal of fortune, the Summer Ball has been raised from the dead. While it is certainly still in critical condition (to extend a metaphor), hopes are now once again high that the end of year party will go ahead.

Last week, Felix reported that the Ball would be axed, but on the same day that Felix came out, it was revealed that the £20,000 gap in funds would be covered by College.

Sen Ganesh, Union President, had informed Council during last week's session, that it would be inviable to have a Ball this year due to lack of cash. This announcement was greeted with disappointment by a majority of students, but the reality of the situation made this decision necessary.

However, Mr. Ganesh had spoken to College at the beginning of last week, and they had offered to underwrite the Ball to the tune of £20,000, but this had been in place of paying back a grant that the Union insists that College owes anyway. This was deemed unacceptable by



**Bumper Cars At Last Year's Ball** 

Union officials, and therefore the loss that would be made on the Ball would be too large to swallow.

However, on meeting with the Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, a few days later, Mr. Ganesh explained the decision, and surprised everyone by emerging with the necessary money, given to the Union as a gift from College. While this is undeniably a very kind gift, there must be some reasons for it. Tom Miller, College Press Officer, said "College sees this as very important part of College life", explaining that it had been such a great success last year that it would be seen as a great shame not to have one again.

Admittedly this money does not cover the full cost of the Ball, but the Union now needs only a further £10,000 to ensure no loss is made. This money will probably come from corporate sponsorship.

One of the questions if the Ball does go ahead is that of the venue. While the decision is ultimately the Union's, no word has yet been heard from them on this subject. Mr. Miller, speaking for College, said "College is right behind holding it on the College grounds, and we think it's the right place to hold it."

will

"...I'll make you an offer you can't refuse. This week, either your brains or your answers are gonna end up on the grid. Capish?"

Tiny sez 'Do Da Crossword'



# 2 **f**

# IC To Gain Independence

The Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, has announced that the College has applied to the UK's Privy Council for reserved powers to award its own degrees and so become a university in its own right. The announcement was made during the Rector's bi-annual question-and-answer session with Imperial students on 18th January.

The College currently awards degrees from the University of London, a federal institution described by the Rector as "a conglomerate of lots of damn things." If awarded its own degreeawarding status, Imperial will no longer be associated with the federation and its union, ULU. It is thought that IC could gain this independence within the next five years.

The push for IC to award its own degrees is bound up with the Rector's desire to improve both public recognition and the reputation of the College both in the UK and further afield. Speaking to Felix after the address, the Rector confirmed his intention for the College to become a university in its own right and emphasised his belief that the University of London will see major changes over the next five years: "It's not just IC that's going down this road. Other colleges, including King's and UCL, are also exploring doing the same."

Departure from ULU would result in Imperial students losing the benefits which come with membership. Imperial College Union President, Sen Ganesh, warned that "if the union was to disaffiliate from ULU, we would need to ensure that we get adequate compensation



The Rector

for the loss of facilities and services."

Speaking to Felix, ULU President, Justine Stephens, called Sir Richard Sykes' plans for an independent IC "a blow to the federal collectivism that is the University of London."

The Rector spoke at length about strengthening Imperial College brand and his belief that having its own degree-awarding would help to improve the College's standing as a prestigious international university of the same calibre as Oxford and Cambridge. An American student in the audicommented Imperial was almost unheard of in the United States and that he had to tell friends back home that he was studying at 'the University of London' rather than 'Imperial College'.

Other major issues of discussion were the College's sports facilities, student accommodation and the number of first-class degrees awarded, which the Rector said was being monitored, as it was one of the key measures used in university league tables.

The Rector also answered questions regarding the recently revised opening hours of the Central Library and the possible closure of some departmental libraries. He commented that library provision across campus was under review and that the way in which students use these facilities was being monitored. He also answered questions relating to the College's new faculty structure, which is currently being implemented.

The sale of the Teddington sports ground later this year was both confirmed and explicitly linked to the funding of the sports hall at South Kensington. Few medical students were present and the moment passed almost without comment.

On the subject of accommodation, the Rector confirmed that Garden Hall will soon be sold to provide funds for the planned refurbishment of the Southside halls, which is now put at a cost of £25 million. This will result in the loss of around eighty-two spaces, however it is thought that these will be mainly double and triple rooms in the £35 to £50 per week price range. There are plans to refurbish the hall before it is sold in order that it may achieve a higher price.

The College's Strategic Plan suggests that in order to meet the guarantee of accommodation for all first year undergraduate students. replacement accommodation will be found in privatelyowned developments. response to questioning, the Rector promised that students who were housed by the College in privatelyowned accommodation would pay rents "controlled by the College" and that they would be "in the same ballpark as Beit and Southside...if it's **Issue 1225** 

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more than that it will only be by a few pounds per week."

He also outlined his plans for a new £14 million building on Dalby Court to house the administrative departments currently occupy Sherfield. Much of the vacated space would be filled by Computing and Maths, along with provision for unspecified "student facilities." The main walkway will also be rebuilt within the next three years in an attempt to ease the congestion that builds up as students hurry between lectures.

This was the second question and answer session given by the Rector after a successful trial last year and it is hoped that this method of consultation with the student population over his future plans for the College will continue.

Etienne and John S

# Giorgio



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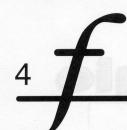


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VICE CE



# The Lord

Just seen the new box office smash The Lord Of The Rings? Nice, wasn't it? Fancy dressing up in a black shirt now? Because that's how the youth arm of the Italian right-wing National Alliance party want you to feel.

They are pinning their recruitment hopes afresh on the film, which they say strongly resonates their own with ideals of "physical strength, leadership and integrity".

Their tradition dates back to the 1970's, when the first Italian imprints of J.R.R. Tolkien's celebrated fantasy trilogy sparked a wave of martial fervour in young boys at the time. A large increase in part membership followed: as a direct result, the fascists say.

While the party hopes for a return to the chest-wigged barnet-bearing glory days of old, leftist commentators within the Italian media and government have insisted that the novel - written partially during

the Second World War - may actually be read as a cautionary tale of fascist oppression, and of a collective (elves, men. dwarves and hobbits) triumph over an omnipotent evil (the evil Sauron).

Tolkien, who died in 1973, always insisted that there was no political dimension to his work, and sought to distance himself from political interpretations of the story, which he considered to be mythopoeic in nature.

Joe

# The World

#### Junk

Thousands of tonnes of scrap metal originally part of the World Trade Centre are being shipped to the Far East, Reuters reports.

Nearly half a million tonnes

of scrap are to be transported India and China, where they will be recycled and reused for new projects.

Steel salvaged form the gutted and destroyed building

is actually quite valuable, due to its resistance to corrosion and weathering.

As well as thousands of twofoot thick girders from the shell of the building, rescue and salvage operations have also vielded burnt yet usable items of office furniture, such as desks, filing cabinets and the occasional Bauhaus-era allmetal basket chair, all of which survived the blast.

#### Zimbabwe

ANS: The eyes of the interna-

tional media continued to gaze upon the former colony of Zimbabwe this week, as the ARC (a body of fellow nations African ostensibly dedicat-

ed to championing new democraciés) declared acceptance of ruler President Mugabe's electoral plans. The 78-year-old ruler has agreed to hold elections this year to find a new ruler, which he insists will be free and democratic. However, spectators have called for Mugabe - who instituted the controversial 'landredistribution' policy parcels out land formerly owned by white colonists to

blacks in the colony - to stand down

Though he insists the elections, to be held this May, will be both fair and truly democratic. spectators have expressed reservations.

> Mugabe owns or controls nearly all of the state media in the country, including three TV channels and seven of the country's radio stations. With this conthe elections trol could easily

rigged, they say.



BBC: Beijing has announced a series of arrests this week in the Xinjiang region, in the northwest of the country.

The arrests are said to be connected with extremist Islamic terrorist cells suspected to be operating in the area.

The province is considered a hotspot by the Chinese religious watchdogs: a series of measures have been introduced recently to clamp down

> on growing numbers Christian Muslim "sects" in the area.

Islamic groups in Britain, however, condemned the moves, insisting that the evidence presented was

"flimsy and circumstantial".



#### Calling...

CNet.com: A new company launched on the Internet this week aims to revamp the image of the mobile phone as a teeny-bopper's toy.

The company, Vertue Ltd., offers handcrafted custom phones designed for the customer, delivering "sheer class... starting at \$1,200."





# $f_{5}$

# Rob Rouse: Man Of Fun

Rob Rouse is a very funny stand-up comedian man, who happened to appear here at ICU last term on the Comedy Network circuit. Felix looked in for a giggle...

Ah, the comedian. That most rock 'n' roll of all teenage icons, the funny man with the twinkle in his eye and the quick wit who can charm his way into the ladies' pants with nothing but a sharp eye for contemporary culture and a collection of idiotic gestures.

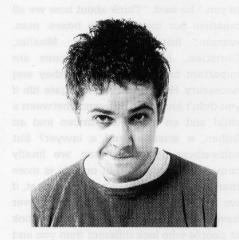
All bunkum, for the life of the comic is one of tragedy and misunderstanding, loneliness and despair. At least, that's the theory. So it's a bit of a shock to find that Rob Rouse is every bit as funny, nutty and generally irrepressibly cheerful as his onstage persona suggests.

Still, it is already three in the afternoon, and Rob freely admits he's only just got up. Living up the party lifestyle? Or the pressures of the tour? No, apparently.

"I'm just lazy, me," he chuckles, "the tour's not hard work at all. It's a laugh - that's why we do it."

Still, exhausting or otherwise, you have

to give the boys credit. This year, the hardworking guys and gals of the Comedy Network circuit are visiting over 20 UK universities' unions, including our



very own dBs, on frequent Thursday nights (including this Thursday). You can witness all sorts of performers, from hot young newcomers fresh on the scene to accomplished veterans, as Rob explains:

"I think it's a really good thing, because for a lot of people, this might be their first contact with (live comedy). So it's about a regular, cheap spot. People know it's going to be something good, that they can come back to."

Comedy capers around the world are all well and good for the superstar comedians of this world (Amsterdam, Poland and Australia have all featured in Rob's itinerary this year). He admits, however, that finding time to enjoy yourself can be tough for the beleaguered London student.

"It's difficult, I never really had much time to take stock, myself! See all the bands you can, see all the comedians, get out to all the clubs. Do all the silly dances, drinking all the cheap beer you can!"

And his ultimate goal? Perfection.

"To get better and better, to keep improving my live show. With stand-up, it's something that you can keep doing, keep on improving at... as long as you can 'stand-up' really."

He grins. "And beyond, I suppose: bath-chair comedy'."

Rob Rouse talked to Joe Parker.



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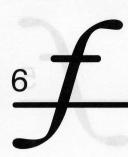
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# Chaplaincy

OK, now you're in London - one of the world's most culturally diverse cities - and you've filled your spare time with trips and outings to expand your horizons and challenge your presuppositions. Your friends are ethnically diverse and you are daily being challenged to become more and more of a world citizen? No? Well, panic not. Help is at hand.

The Chaplaincy and faith societies are organising an afternoon trip on Wednesday 13th February from 1 till 6 to visit places of worship belonging to the major world faiths - yep, all in one afternoon. So if you've ever vaguely wondered what the differences are between a church, a mosque, a gudwara, a mandir and a synagogue but have been too busy to find out, now is the perfect chance.

The trip is part of the Chaplaincy's commitment to encouraging people of faith on campus to come to know and understand one another - a task that seems the more urgent since the events of September 11th last year. Bill Clinton,

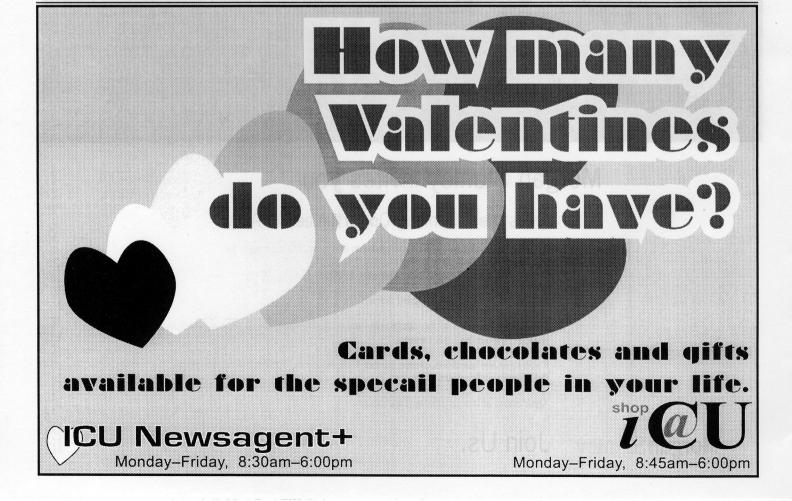
speaking in the annual Richard Dimbleby lecture in December captured the essence of the challenge facing us all. "Think about how important your differences are to you," he said. "Think about how we all organise our lives in little boxes: man, woman; British, American; Muslim, Christian, Jew...Our little boxes are important to us. And indeed, [they are] necessary. How could you navigate life if you didn't know the difference between a child and an adult, an African and an Indian, a scientist and a lawyer? But somewhere along the way, we finally come to understand that our life is more than all these boxes we're in - and that, if we can't reach beyond that, we'll never have a full life... I don't want you to look at people who look different from you and see a potential enemy, instead of a fellowtraveller..."

Don't be a box-dweller. Why not sign up for the trip on Wednesday 13th February and be a better fellow-traveller as a result.

And if you prefer to do your exploring from the comfort of a chair, then join us for THE WEDNESDAY DISCUSSION which takes up the same theme of being a fellow traveller. This term's series 'Being Human' draws together diverse speakers to help us explore what it means to be a person in the 21st century, when the challenge of difference is a daily experience.

On Wednesday 30th January, Eugene Culas from 'The Voice of Dalit International' will talk about human rights violations towards the Dalit (untouchable) communities in India. The following week, Wednesday 6th February, the speaker will be Rabbi Gavin Broder, the University of London Jewish Chaplain. The meetings take place in 6B in the East Basement of Beit Quad from 1 till 2.

To join the WORSHIP WHIZZ on the 13th February or for a full programme and further information, contact The Chaplaincy Centre on x49600 or on chaplaincy@ic.ac.uk





# IC Radio

So what's on IC Rodeo(sic.) this week? I thought I'd bring you a quick summary of four of our best shows. In coming weeks we'll have some interviews with the presenters of said shows, as well as details of forthcoming events. Of course, if you're out doing all manner of exciting things at the time your favourite show is on, you can listen to it on the website later, at http://icradio.com/relive. Of course, if you're sitting at home at the time, lonely and bored, tune in to 999AM (Linstead and Southside halls) or the webstream.

# Felix Forty-Five with will Dugdale.

Monday 11pm-midnight.

The random late-night ramblings of a (usually drunk) Felix editor. Monday night, as you may not know, is deadline night for this lovely publication. As such, Will sees it fit to get somewhat intoxicated and ramble at anyone who is mad enough to still be up, and who isn't out doing better things with their life. All this via the miracle of technology that is IC Radio. There's usually a competition or two, and the munch of Chinese food

being chewed in the background.

# The IC Radio Breakfast show with Steve.

Monday, Tuesday & Friday Mornings 8-10am.

Something nice to wake up to. Tune your alarm clocks to 999AM and be woken by a selection of soothing chilled music, both from the charts and rarer stuff. Or at least, that's the first hour... The second hour takes a more sinister turn, with louder and harder music with an occasional punk/metal tinge to it. The thinking is, that by nine, if you haven't got a lecture, you should be awake anyway. Why should only some of us have to suffer? Of course, there's a selection of random rambling and bizarre burbling too.

# Cheesy Lunch with 'Cheesy' John Stratford.

Wednesday Lunchtime, 12-1pm.

John brings you the very finest in musical stilton. Every track a classic, or your money back. Useful info about the tracks and the bands, so you can swot up on all those things you hear in the Union when you're blind drunk, and impress your friends by failing to remember by Wednesday night. Bargain.

#### Drivetime with Dave Edwards.

Mondays and Thursdays, 5-7pm.

Dave knows what's what when it comes to the latest mainstream music, and usually has a couple of guests along for the show to lower the tone and generally supply comedy interludes in what is possibly the best collection of new music anywhere on radio. The people who brought us 'Tube or Trout' (the comedy quiz show) have various competitions where you can win the latest singles or a variety of other prizes, and the now infamous 'Joke of the Day'.

And for info on what other shows are available, check out the website...



# Medics' Rag Ramble

This year's Medics' Rag kicked off just before Christmas, with our annual Carol singing venture just before Christmas. We raised a sleek £688.60 for CLIC (Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood), this year's designated charity; work I think you'll agree not a bad day's. We thought a good place as any would be Victoria station at rush hour. We sang for nigh on 6 hours straight. People were eventually paying us to shut up, 'cause they were so sick of us. Since then, we have moved onto bigger and better things - Rag Dash.

This year's Rag Dash consisted of a pissed hitch-hike up to the sunny climbs of Nottingham. With over 200 people dashing, this seemed a bit optimistic but in the end, everyone managed it, a little worse for wear to say the least, but booze will do that to you if you consume over 3 times the monthly limit of a Hippo.

The lot of us boogied the night away at a club called McClusky's, an amicable little nightclub which unfortunately did a 2-for-1 offer on cocktails; those who had not succumbed soon fell foul. At 1am, we were all kicked out and piled onto 4 busses which began the long trek overnight to Edinburgh. Sleep came easily to some people who'd drunk the equivalent to a Horse's dose of Ketamine. However, my sleep was inhibited by the babblings of two alcoholics, JB and Bill, who could only spout shit for hours upon end.

For the rest of the day, the dashers were left to their own devices. Hardcore dashers went to a pub or a bar and carried on boozing until they could no longer walk. However, if their legs still functioned, they were free to join an organised Pub crawl to finish off any part of their liver that was still functioning. If that wasn't

enough, post Pub crawl, dashers were free to go to a classy club called 'Revolution' (since we had managed to get on the guest list). I can't remember getting into the club but I remember spending a lot of money in a kebab shop on my way home.

Next day, we finally headed for home. My coach resembled a sauna since the driver was having issues with the heating. The journey lasted for about 9 hours and when home, those who had some kind of brain went straight to bed; those who were clinically insane went to the pub.

Next day, the rag committee had to count all the hard earned money. We had somehow managed to collect the staggering amount of £6,015.85 in just 3 days of hard boozing. Not bad at all. Our Rag week is next week (28th Jan-1st Feb), make sure you get involved!

felix talk

The City and Guilds College Union Present

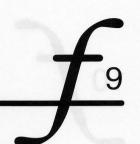
# SUMMER JOBS

From the Internship Centre

Launch Event with Free Food Thursday 31st Jan, 1pm

Civil Engineering Lecture
Theatre 201

www.cgcu.net/internships



# City And Guilds Union

"My complaint arises from the fact that I spent the greater part of the first and second terms of last year searching in vain for a decent job over the summer. I, like many other students, don't want to waste time stacking shelves in Sainsbury's instead I would rather do something that may help me build a career in the future. If the C&G College Union could do something..."

Letter from Shovi Ghosh, EE2 year rep.
Ladies and Gentlemen!! We at the City
& Guilds College Union are delighted to
announce the re-launch of our Internship
Centre!

The Internship Centre aims to provide students with the opportunity to gain jobs for the summer period. However, we can only get to create such a Centre through progressive stages. This year we have a snazzy virtual Internship Centre, located at the web site http://www.cgcu.net/internships/, which will provide information on placements at a variety of companies - and details of how to apply.

Building on last year's success, the web site will re-open for business on January

31st and to celebrate this we are having a Lunch for Launch in the Civil Engineering Building Room 201 at 1pm, where there will be a presentation showing you how the web site works, and the application procedure... and get FREE FOOD...

Over 100 jobs have been procured for



the Internship Centre Project. The nature of these placements tends to vary but they are mainly those related to the degrees of students in C&G College. The web site will contain details of employers and the jobs offered. Students will be able to contact these employers and apply directly.

The project aims to add to the number of jobs already available from departments and the careers service by mining the membership of the City & Guilds College Association (CGCA). The CGCA consists of past and present students of City & Guilds College. By requesting former students to consider offering placements, we have been able to create extra opportunities for students looking for summer work. Many of these opportunities will be unique to Imperial students, as some of these employers will not have previously considered offering jobs.

There will also be a regular email newsletter that you can sign up to when you login to the site. This will provide information on upcoming CV help sessions, presentations and the latest details of new jobs posted online. An Internships Fair is also being planned. Excited yet!? Keep your eyes and ears open for more adverts around campus.

[Of course if you want to boost your CV points, you could do worse than helping to run the Internship Centre project - and making contacts with companies. Email internships@cgcu.net if you are keen to help in any way.]

Mustafa Arif, C&G President
Email: president@cgcu.net

# Rag Ramble

#### Hey kittens!

I'll apologise now for the complete deranged insanity of this week's column, it's final project deadline time for Physics so after three hours of sleep this weekend I've found myself in the Felix offices again, pouring my heart out to you all while IC Radio plays "spirit in the sky", old Chinese food cartons spit MSG into the basement air conditioning and I try to forget everything I've ever learnt about Biophysics. Mmmm, spring rolls...

# Medics' Rag Dash

Saf wrote it all somewhere else in this issue, those cheeky medics already seem to be famous in Edinburgh from the amounts of emails posted on the web about their antics... A nice load of cash was raised for CLIC - you'll have to wait for Medic's Rag Week next Monday to get out of the library and make some more!

#### Men Of The World

You know how it is, girl meets boy, boy meets girl, a beautiful friendship turns into a beautiful relationship, and before you know it you're buying curtains and matching kitchen accessories in Ikea. If you can't get enough of that lovey dovey stuff (or just want to embarrass the hell out of anyone you know) ICU RAG and Men Of The World are here to help you! They'll be doing their thing to raise cash for the Shooting Star Appeal on Valentines Day, February 14th, and also Friday 15th. For a round tenner, these gorgeous gentlemen will deliver a rose, a close-harmony barbershop song, poem, a teddy, in fact anything short of Anthrax. to anyone in any lecture on campus and sing a stunning serenade to your victim. Ahem, beloved. Email rag@ic.ac.uk for details of how to order instant distraction your lectures, or check out www.su.ic.ac.uk/rag to find out what's going on in ICU Rag Week, February15th to 22nd, get ready!

#### Winkers wanted

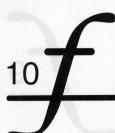
2002 is the last possible year for ICU RAG to revive that time-old tradition of inter Constituent College tiddlywink races down Oxford Street! Contact your local President to find out how to join the team from your departments on February 20th.

#### Mad enough?

There's still places available for anyone mad enough to abseil down Chelsea Harbour, and experience the most inspiring views from halfway down a rope. You can do it for free on Sunday, February 17th just by raising a bit of cash for St John Ambulance. Mail rag@ic.ac.uk to sign up for the ride.

Night! helen

felix talk



# Inkwell:The ArtSoc struggle

Imperial College prides herself on being a specialist institution. Her selection of courses being arguably the most competitive and highly rated in the country, while she sits regally at the peak of university league tables amongst the finest institutions in the world.

The unfortunate result of this achievement however is that it has now come to be regarded within the corridors of power that the study of science and the appreciation of the arts must be mutually exclusive.

It was revealed late last session that Union funding for the Art Society was to be substantially cut, as the idea of susidising students to enjoy opera and theatre was little more than a colossal waste of Union funds.

Of course the impication of this, is that lovers of art who happen to be scholars of science are denied the enjoyment of a hobby that many in other instituions take for granted. Not only has the Union failed to realise the enormous contribution the ArtSoc makes to student life at IC, but like the LEQ blunder, this once again speaks of poor insight and decision making.

Imperial College has neither Art nor Social Science departments, and as efficient as the humanities department is, it offers little in the way of extra-curricular activities for students. ArtSoc served as the bridge between the shallow pocketed London student living on a government loan, and the pomp and culture of the performing arts, by providing tickets to highly acclaimed west-end productions at substantially discounted prices. But sadly the Union does not realise this.

The "democratically elected" union has also failed to see that ArtSoc stands as one of the biggest societies in the college with a membership base of well over three hundred and fifty members. Do the principles of democracy and proportional representation not demand that funding be allocated accordingly to a society that houses a significant proportion of the student body? Sadly, it seems the Union does not realise this.

As Imperial College is located in London: the epicentre of the performing arts, not only did ArtSoc further the appreciation of the arts in a purely scientific institution, it also served as a useful ground for foreign students, enabling them to enjoy the sites of London, whilst mingling with ArtSoc students of other cultures and backgrounds in a non-academic setting. Where ethnic societies further divide the Imperial College student body along racial lines, ArtSoc served as the melting pot of cultures and backgrounds in an institution where racial divisions are

noticeable, and impossible to ignore. But sadly the Union does not seem to realise this

The concept of an all-round education means that students should be given the opportunity to engage in extra-curricular activities that do not necessarily pertain to, or stem from their academic pursuits. As the saying goes: To define is to limit. IC may pride herself on being a fine specialist institution, but if she limits herself to being one by suppressing the activities of a society that aims to bring the beauty of the performing arts to the penniless student, one doubts if the University Challenge success will ever be repeated.

I am not looking to assume the role of the voice of ArtSoc. In fact, let me assert that the views expressed herein are in no way representative of the views of the Art Society. But when a "democratically elected" student-representative-body drastically cuts funding to one of the biggest societies on campus, then one wonders what has happened to principles of democracy that we all should hold sacred.

Funding to ArtSoc should be re-instated. A society that seeks to broaden, enlighten and expose should be appreciated not scorned. Sadly, the Union does not realise this.

Nate Evuarherhe

# **Editorial**

This is my second attempt at this bloody editorial, and the first one was quite reasoned and rational, and then the arsing computer crashed, so now I'm annoyed. So this one's just going to be a real rant.

I'm not going to continue on the subject of LEQs, since my main gripe is with the attitude of College to students in general.

While I am not accusing Prof. Rawlings of this personally (having met him he seems to be one of the members of staff who most cares about students), even he is beginning to exhibit symptoms of this trait. In his letter he spoke of concern that only 20% of students had bothered with the LEQs, but there has never been a note of concern about the pitiful turn out that Student Union elections have every year.

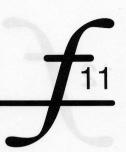
And I am sure many College officials reading this now are thinking 'And why should we', and many students may even agree. This is the problem. The College is under obligation to have a students' union, and this is where it seems to end. The fact that the Union is here to represent the students often seems to be ignored, and in my job I have also found similar problems. I am meant to find stuff out for you. That is my job. But many times I have tried to obtain a quote or information from some member of College or other, only to meet a stony silence, or even abuse, along the lines of 'I don't have to tell you anything.'

This is entirly incorrect. College only exists to educate its attendees, and as such we are all well entitled to know what

is going on. It seems to me that this important fact seems to have been forgotten in the mists of bureaucracy and business of College life, and while the wonderful scores we get in all those things like grants for research and lecturing, and the other things *IC Reporter* tells us about, it should be remembered that these should be the result of a good University. They should not be the end goal in themselves.

But as you all probably know by now, while I like a good rant, I also like to be balanced, and College is not entirely to blame in this situation. Most universities are run like this now, and the government, with no grants, and more fees, is obviously similar.

Oh well, eh?



# LEQ

Dear FELIX

Negative articles about the first Collegewide iteration of the electronic Lecturer Evaluation Questionnaire (LEQ) compel me to intrude into your pages to set the record straight.

Let me start by stating that these articles do give well-earned plaudits to ICU for assuming a greater involvement in the LEQ. Indeed from inception a couple of years ago, student representatives have been supportive of the introduction of a web-based system. The articles also correctly identify a major contribution to the poor response as student apathy. The LEO is part of the quality assurance procedures aimed at improving the learning experience for students: completing the LEQ is to the benefit of current and future students. My view is that students have a responsibility to complete the LEQ just as College has a responsibility to consider and respond to the resulting data.

Both articles declare that the system is inherently insecure and that a public service was performed by those students who had tried to hack it. These statements are inaccurate and misleading. The system detected uninvited interference and identified two students who appeared to be using privileged information gleaned from the pilot study of last year. Both were reminded that the LEO software, as with all software, is protected from hacking by College IT regulations, which they agreed to abide by when they signed on as College users. All College users, whether students or staff, are subject to these regulations and to disciplinary action if they should contravene them. Thus the system is robust and was not successfully hacked.

The College has run a paper based LEQ since 1987 but this was showing its age in the last few years of its life before becoming completely decrepit and thus unreliable; its software was beyond repair. Even when operating to full capacity the system was unable to read some responses, was slow and labour intensive.

With the enthusiastic support of the then student representatives, the Undergraduate Studies Committee a couple of years ago commenced the development of a web-based LEQ. A trial in December 2000 involving six Departments proved to be flawed but nevertheless

yielded valuable lessons and helped in the construction of the more robust version that was exposed to science and engineering departments last month.

I am a great supporter and regular reader of Felix and have been particularly surprised at the uncharacteristic and unreasoned hostility that has appeared in its pages. The LEO project team put a great deal of effort into delivering a product which worked to its specification in that it accurately recorded the responses made and successfully collated the free form textual comments which under the paper system a poor scribe would have had to copy. The electronic results were truly anonymous with Departments, including Registry, being unable to track individual responses; furthermore the results were available within a couple of days of closure of the web site.

The most disappointing part of the exercise was the poor response rate by students, just over 20% of those eligible, and the reasons for this are being examined and collated by departmental student representatives.

Those students who had difficulty accessing the system and who reported this to the LEQ helpline had their access fixed rapidly in the main. Some students reported difficulty in accessing the LEQ site from halls of residence; this should not have been a problem and the matter is being investigated, with students being advised during the live running to access the site from their Departmental server; a problem with access from Mechanical Engineering was not reported during the live running of the LEQ and is being reviewed.

The Undergraduate Studies Committee will be reviewing how to improve the promotion of the electronic LEQ among both students and academic staff so that the students feel more empowered to participate in this exercise which is one important (but not the sole) mechanism by which students can make their voice heard to Departments about the quality of undergraduate teaching; the optimum timing of a survey will be one issue. It should be pointed out that a web-based system is flexible and once it is established for LEO it may be readily extended and modified to obtain student opinion on other educational/welfare matters such as the personal tutoring system and research supervision.

Let us work together to make a success of the web-based LEQ to everyone's benefit

Yours sincerely, Professor Rees Rawlings Pro Rector (Educational Quality)

As editor, I feel that I should stick up for Felix, and insist that the hostility was neither uncharacteristic nor unreasoned. As the vocal representative of all students at Imperial, if something as fundamentally important as the LEOs is found to be a flawed system, then this gross oversight by College and the Union should be addressed. The research (which was quite thorough) that I myself carried out, indicated that the students were being held scapegoat, in order for College to save face.

The information I have received has admittedly all come from non-staff members of College, but this is due to every single member of staff I asked having said 'no comment'.

Therefore the information I have recieved is only from 'non-trustworthy' students, but nonetheless, the blame seems to be on College. Last year there was a button on the LEQ website that took you to the administrator page, and while this button had been removed this year, the link was still identical. Also I know personally that more than two students 'accessed' this page, yet the two who are to be disciplined are the ones who published their findings on a news server. So, no, the system wasn't hacked, the students just 'walked' in.

However, as stated, Felix does believe that LEQs are very important, but what we objected to was College blaming students while refusing to either comment or apologise. (See Editorial for more ranting)

# That's Not A Hawk...

Dear ed.

I hope you dont mind the informal style of this email, ed, but there is no place for pleasantries in todays high-pace society. The reason I write is simple. On the front cover of Issue 1224, you glee-fully state "We like this helicopter...Black Hawk Down reviewed" etc.etc. However, next to it you have a picture of an Apache. Thats not a Hawk. So go figure. Do I get a prize?

No. Don't be an arse.



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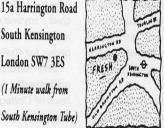
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# This *N*eek

# Friday 25th

# Weekend 26th, 27th

### Supersonic

You might like to consider why Indie music travels through the Universe faster than sound itself. I suspect the explosion of laxative abuse in that sub-culture, personally.

# Whiplash!

Lashings, not of Devoncreamy custard, but instead of some pretty heavy metal - like lead. A lashing with lead is no laughing matter, I'll have you know.

#### **ICSMU** Drama

Apparently, **ICSMU** Drama Society are going somewhere minibus. I imagine it's about as much fun as you can have with your greens on.

# ICSMU Drama

Do you know, they're still at it? In the minibus! I think we should be told what they're up to - I suspect they're spiking otherwise pretzels, myself.

# Harry Potter and the Projecter's Stoned

No longer able to cope with the endless repetition, the cinematographer has turned to drugs to brigten his sad and dull, if magical life.

# Fellowship of the Ring

Not some obscure ritual involving the liberation of Baphomet, instead lots of special effects and other things that make it a blockbusting hit.

# **Felevision**

# The Flying Gardener

That's what happens if you get Alan Titchmarsh to step on a particularly springy specimen of Betula Pendula. You see, I did research this... BBC2, 8:30pm

# 100 Greatest Kids TV

Bagpuss, Heartbeat. Blue Peter and all your favourite plasticene characters frolic screen to the sole gain of uninspired advertisers. Sat, Channel 4, 8pm

#### Marlena Shaw

She seems pretty popular, judging by the ticket sales. That notwithstanding, I'm still going to be rude about her, but in a very subtle way, and after the end of the

No need to wait until the end of the square to be rude about this lot. They make Hear'Say look serious... not to mention that their punctuation is so run-of-the-mill.

# **Theatre**

# **Nightmares** Drames: The Spanish Civil War

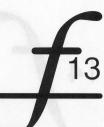
Experience even more war at the Imperial War Museum. It's important, and won't turn you into a violent maniac.

# The Colours Of Winter

This is an exhibition of posters from the London Transport Museum. Hopefully, none of them will be advertising cheap telephone calls to Guatamala.

famous art critic.

you about it. Too rude



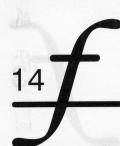
Monday 28th	Tuesday 29th	Wednesday 30th	Thursday 31st	Friday 1st		
Society I'm not entirely sure whether it's the music or the society that's alternative, but I'm sure	Norman, and I'm interested in trivia. Hence, therefore and thus, I am able to win money in	ishly, with people you've never met. Alternatively, you could introduce your friends to new random	Comedy It's in dB's and it might be funny, but not nearly as funny as I am. If only it were true, they could throw a boiled haggis on stage and get some laughs.	sexiest night in pop, but I think fizzy orange is probably the sexiest, myself. All those bub-		
games and some rag. It being Medics, the stunts will undoubtedly be entirely anotomical,	According to further indepth investigation of the Union's activities on your, the reader's, behalf, we have discov-	authority that 'Ski' will be using a minibus on Wednesday. We don't know whether this is the sport or the yoghurt, but	ICSMU Rag They're doing a Circle Line Pub Crawl. You may have heard of this wheeze before, but they still think it's hilariously funny. I'm only saying this to wind them up.	Medics' Rag week, which could be inter- preted as a woeful fail- ure to spell, but may		
The tagline is, apparently, "In War, There Are Some Lines You Should Never Cross." That incitful piece of word-play probably made someone	machine is even meaner. It has Vinnie Jones in it,	not, as it would be horrid to type-cast poor old Julie Andrews. Relive the magic of Mary Poppins in this popular	IMDB, not that this is where we get our ideas,	I feel I should perhaps explain the Baphomet reference in the previous 'Fellowship' entry. Unfortunately, I can't be		
Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? Apparently, lots of people fail to appreciate the disadvantages of being	Delia's How To Cook And, frankly, it's about time some of you	Britain's Brainiest Footballer No, I kid you not, this is ITV's latest attempt to fill several hours of tele- vision without any hope	Restaurants From Hell - 2002 I only wish I'd found these daft ITV types sooner. "Disasterous	Smack The Pony But seriously folks, can it be anything other than		
Playing at the dominion, maybe he'll go into the fancy dress shop and do something truly impres- sive. I bet he's never	She apparently plays whistful 80s brit-pop folk. I'm not entirely sure what this is, but probably like Tinkerbell fid-	The Hammond organ makes a fairly prominent appearance in the write- ups for this act, which	Ah, now I finally see, it's a play on 'Hi-fi'. Having been so pleased at working this out, I went on to prove that black was white, and that I	get that way. While that kind of stain may take some getting out, it'll take little to get you out		
The Tate Modern's usual collection, but re-	An exhibition at the	Yet more work from Hodgeson and Long	Lie of the Land Subtitled "the secret life of maps," one can only imagine what the cura-	The country's best		

arranged in a different order in the hope that nobody will notice. It's also done in memory of a we're not allowed to tell order in a different order in the hope that nobody will notice. It's also done in memory of a we're not allowed to tell order in using worked metal imagine what the curative tors get up to at night in honoured here. There'll message. What it is, the British Library. It's be lots of clapping and nobody knows, but it's probably very naughty, patting on the back, to

if well oriented.

boot. Yes.

probably magnetic.





# Limp Bizkit New Old Songs

Out now on Flip / Interscope records

This album has no new material, just remixes of their old songs, hence the title. These remixes come from some of Fred Durst's new-found friends, like The Neptunes, P Diddy, Timbaland and William Orbit. There's more of a hip-hop feel to all the songs, and it seems like the remixers have put some real effort in.

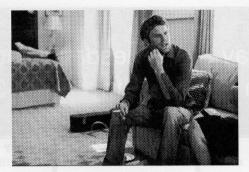
The Neptunes are the most sought-after producers right now, for all types of music. From Britney to Limp Bizkit, they still keep on the hip-hop side of things, and their tunes just make you stand up and take notice. Their remixes of *Nookie* and *N 2 Gether Now* are definitely the highlights of this album.

Then we have a P Diddy remix, which isn't bad but has all the same old traits, like the lines "and we won't stop" and "this is the remix, bad boy". Get some new lines P, but keep the beats.

The major disappointments on this album are the remixes of the most famous songs, Take A Look Around and Rollin'. The Rollin' remix sounds like bad jungle, and Timbaland's remix of Take A Look Around just didn't do it for me. The beat consisted solely of two notes of the Mission Impossible sample repeated continuously, and really got on my nerves. I doubt that either of these songs really suited a genre-changing remix.

New Old Songs is really just another money spinner. But although I prefer most of the original songs, I do like the album. I'm not sure if it's value for money, as there are often multiple remixes. However, if you're a fan, then this will complement your collection.





# Neil Halstead Sleeping On Roads

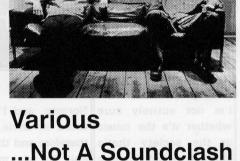
Out this Monday on 4AD records

Formerly of Slowdive and currently of Mojave 3, Neil Halstead certainly has enough experience behind him to deliver a semi-decent solo album. But this is far from semi-decent; it's bloody ace.

Mixing in a whole wealth of supporting instruments behind the slow acoustic guitar, from deep synths to the typical cello/violin combo, this sturdily complete album of soft, mournful songs makes most recent singer-songwriters seem like *Pop Idol* rejects. It revels in influences and comparisons by the dozen, successfully melding the best of the male singer-songwriter genre from the '60s (Dylan, Simon and Garfunkel) with the leading lights of recent times (David Gray without the radio overkill, Kings of Convenience).

OK, so this is not party music. It doesn't shake your rump or tell tales of how successful the guy is with the laydees. There are no sing-a-long-a-Max-style choruses and it will not prompt you to dye your hair stupid colours and pierce your face with bits of metal. But hey, everyone occasionally needs music for the long, dark teatime of the soul, and this album does the job very, very well. Thoroughly recommended.





Out Monday 4 February on Nuphonic

[The full title is *This Is Not A Soundclash*, and the album retails at £2.99].

While Nuphonic doesn't make any pretentious claims for its music, it is known for producing consistently good tunes: danceable, hummable, enjoyable tunes. Surely then, this compilation is a good bet?

Unfortunately, Nuphonic have come up with a dull, shockingly limited example of their wares. Its uninventive, lazy beats, its overlong mixes and its awful lyrics are, for the most part, stupefying. Marginal exceptions are Groove Armada's mix of And That's Saying a Lot by Natural Calamity, and The Sky Is Not Crying by Tiny Trendies. And it would be unfair not to include Block 16's Morning Sun, a track that has some of the soul that the others manifestly lack.

Perhaps dance music has progressed so much in recent years that "seminal" or "classic" tracks now sound unimpressive and unambitious. Or perhaps Nuphonic simply don't have enough really good tunes to fill all their compilation albums. Whatever the reason, a foray into the "Best Selling Compilations" section in HMV will guarantee a better buy than this.

Ben

Libby

#### COMPETITION

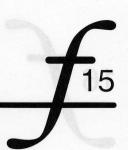
This week, we're giving away 25 & Alive: Boneshaker, a DVD and bonus CD of Motorhead playing live at Brixton Academy on 22 October 2000.

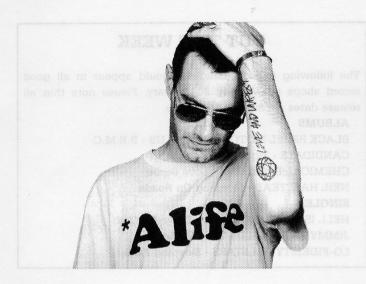
QUESTION: What was Motorhead's original name?

Please email your answer, along with your name, year and department, to music.felix@ic.ac.uk by Thursday 31 January.

The winner of the Ash competition from Issue 1223 is Alison Twelvetrees of Biochemistry I, who wins the Ash video *Tokyo Blitz*.

# reviews music





# Various FabricLive.01

mixed by JAMES LAVELLE

Out now on Fabric records

As you load your CD player with this 70-minute mix by James Lavelle, label manager of Mo'Wax and member of UNKLE, you'll probably be expecting eclecticism, daring and sweltering dancefloor fever!

It's obvious that James Lavelle (pic above) likes a very wide spectrum of music indeed. He mixes abstract hip-hop, trip-hop, breakbeat, pop and house music. Nevertheless, he gives attention to heavy beats, which he brings out on almost every track. Moreover, in spite of this variety of styles, the excellent mix quality makes it all fit together nicely.

You'll discover a lot of new names on this CD. Apart from the well known Quannum, DJ Shadow (both on Mo'Wax), Chemical Brothers, Howie B, Orbital and Radiohead, you can listen to some very interesting new sounds. The most impressive ones are Peter Dildo with his tribal rhythms, Green Velvet with their catchy beats and the funny La La Land, and Buswacka! for The Healer, with its addictive digitized vocals and keyboards. Also, tracks 11 to 17 put some barely known artists together to form a lively new musical entity.

Forget the dancefloor as James Lavelle starts rather quietly, with abstract hip-hop featuring heavily on the first six tracks. Then the Chemical Brothers and Howie B open fire with Hey Jack's fantastic percussion. Now your body begins to move to a frenzy of rhythms charged by heavy, repetitive beats as they provide a mix between breakbeat and '80s sounds. Then Lavelle links all that with house music. He finishes up quietly, with an excellent remix of Radiohead's Everything In Its Right Place that combines pop and minimalist techno.

This record is not a vital addition to your collection, and it's not particularly good at making people dance. You discover a few new bands, and there's a really good Radiohead remix, but it doesn't ease the wait for the next UNKLE record.

# INTERVIEW with James Lavelle

James Lavelle is a resident at Fabric and the founder of Mo'Wax records. Felix asked him some questions over the telephone.

FELIX: FabricLive.01, mixed by yourself, is out now [see review, left]. What were you trying to achieve with the mix? JAMES: I wanted to convey musically what happens throughout the night at the club, so it's just like a snapshot of an evening at Fabric Live.

Mo'Wax was behind a lot of the bands in the trip-hop movement, but you've said in the past that you don't like the term "trip-hop". Why not?

It was something at the time - when you're doing what you're doing, you don't really want to be told by the media what your music is. It wasn't really a term we'd have come up with ourselves, that was why. I think we just didn't want to be thrown into a category, when the whole point of what we were trying to do was not be part of a category, you know? I don't really care anymore. This was seven or eight years ago.

#### What's happening at Mo'Wax at the moment?

There's a lot of stuff coming out this year - there's the new Shadow record, Psychonauts, Black Lodge, Scratch Perverts and lots more.

If the Mo'Wax label represents a lifestyle, what would that lifestyle be like?

Erm... not wanting to have a proper job! No, I think it just represents an area of culture we're all into. I think we're about graffiti and toys, and bike things.

#### Is it fair to say that Mo'Wax is a hip-hop label?

I don't think it's focused on hip-hop anymore. It's about a certain kind of mindset of artists and people, and always trying to push boundaries really. We don't always get it right, but we try!

Where would you like to see Mo'Wax heading in the future? I would like it to be something that survives and continually evolves and develops and pushes contemporary art.

Out of all the roles you play - DJ, producer, businessman, etc. - what would you say is your true title?

Record collector! My collection's not bad; I have about 30,000 records. I stole them all! Or they were sent to me, you know.

### What's the centrepiece of your collection?

Probably my old skool hip-hop collection is what I'm most proud of. This is going to sound quite trainspottery, but I also have all the Beastie Boys records on white label, every Major Force record that was ever released in Japan and all the white labels and promos of very early hip-hop too.

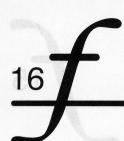
#### What do you think of the current music scene?

I think it's really shallow at the moment, to be honest. Everything from pop to the new wave of rock, it all seems so clean and easy really. And that's not what I'm about!

#### Is there anything you'd like to say to the Felix readers?

Just enjoy the record really! Don't try to read too much into what it's about. I just hope that people get some enjoyment and some inspiration from it.







# LIVE: Her Space Holiday + Wauvenfold @ 93 Feet East

Arrgghhh! So I find myself in ultra-trendy Shoreditch. Luckily, however, 93 Feet East "isn't like that". Hosting some of the most experimental music shows in London, the atmosphere is never one of exclusivity or pretension. And tonight is no exception. With the venue's laid-back ambience and eclectic air, the crowd seem sincerely excited about the line-up.

Wauvenfold, aka Tom Hill and Noel Murphy, spellbind the crowd with their full Powerbook artillery. Squeezing furious noise motifs into glorious glitch soundscapes, the duo contort their beats, clicks and gurgles through countless pedals, Kaos pads and a mixer. The results are imaginative and humorous renditions of songs from their two EPs and forthcoming album.

Tom continuously giggles, obviously not intending to play exactly what he is playing, yet making a mighty fine job of it. Noel hides behind the mixer, visibly shaking with laughter (at Tom, one presumes, though it's impossible to tell 100% with this band). Grinning throughout their set, Wauvenfold clearly enjoy playing their music as much as the audience enjoy listening.

"When you see a laptop on stage, you might be at a Kid606 show, you might be at a Matmos show, but if you're really unlucky you might imminently be watching **Her Space Holiday**" announces the jarring computerised voice of HSH's Powerbook, which introduces the band and each song.

Her Space Holiday is the brainchild of Marc Bianchi, who uses technology to create rhythms over which he lays down vocoder musings and self-effacing guitar passages. Few bands are as modest and unassuming as HSH - the computer issues the apology: "Congratulations to those who've made it through a couple of our songs; unfortunately there are still a lot to go".

HSH write saccharine, unpredictable yet sentimental songs about love and loss; about hope and giving up. They are the honest and authentic sound of the US underground pop scene. Don't be afraid to put all your trust in them.

# **OUT THIS WEEK**

The following musical delights should appear in all good record shops on Monday 28 January. Please note that all release dates are subject to change.

#### **ALBUMS**

BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB - B.R.M.C. CANDIDATE - Tiger Flies CHEMICAL BROTHERS - Love Burns NEIL HALSTEAD - Sleeping On Roads

#### SINGLES

HELL IS FOR HEROES - You Drove Me To It JIMMY EAT WORLD - The Middle LO-FIDELITY ALLSTARS - Sleeping Faster

# Singles Roundup

#### HELL IS FOR HEROES - You Drove Me To It

Hell Is For Heroes is the incredible "new direction" of Joe and Will from Symposium (remember them?). Name-checking Fugazi and Deftones as major influences, HIFH are a hailstorm of righteous anger and bilious angst. Live, they're a truly kick-ass band, but this single really doesn't do them justice. It's not bad - it's loud and tuneful and pretty angry - but it's just not one of their best songs. Stick with them until the album comes out or go and see them live. You won't be let down.



Tom M

### JIMMY EAT WORLD - The Middle

Fresh from their sellout show at the Astoria, Rock Sound's "brightest hopes for 2002" release another slice of melodic power-pop. Taken from their self-titled album, this is two minutes of uplifting yet unoriginal MOR. With vocals mildly reminiscent of an americanized Tim Wheeler, *The Middle* is a likeable, albeit unremarkable, tune.



Sajini

### **ALKALINE TRIO - Private Eye**

Hey, someone still remembers Therapy? and the all-out indie rock nonsense that came out of the Midlands. Most of the bands involved are currently trying to reform before young upstarts like these take over. Indie rock? Indie rocks!



Robert

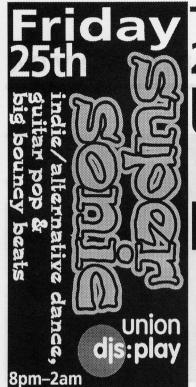
#### ASH - There's A Star

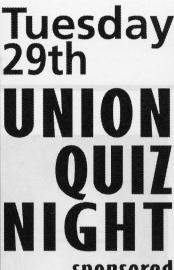
Gone are the almost grungy sounds from Ash's beginnings. Instead, we have nicely polished pop-rock. *There's a Star* is one of the slower tracks from *Free All Angels*, and it might not rock much, but you can still dance to it. With its chilled guitar solo and orchestral backing, this song does seem to sparkle.











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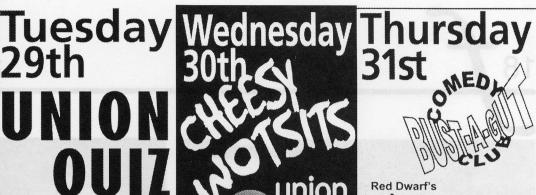
8:30pm/FREE@the union

:plav

£1/pint Tetleys or Carlsberg while beer lasts from 5pm (dBs only)

8pm-2am £1 Union/£1.50 Guests





orman ovett

"...makes Jack Dee seem like Ken Dodd..."

Edinburgh Evening News

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8pm-2am £1 Union/£1.50 Guests



They're playing our song

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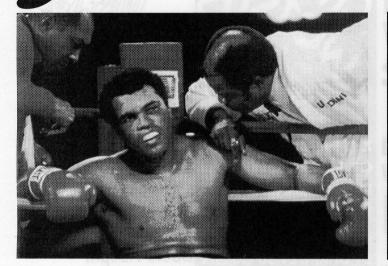
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# Mohammad Ali "Beyond Reproach?"

This week in film, the first part in a two part Ali special.

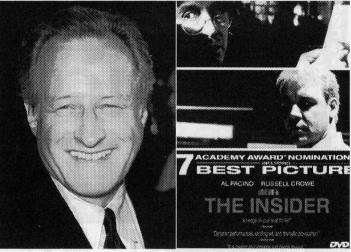
Ali. A man as famous for his exploits in the ring as his political dissidence and spirit outside the ring. In an age when words meant something, he used them to transcend his limits as a sportsman and became a legend. A figure who sacrificed everything for his beliefs, a man who was loved and despised in equal measure, and a man who, in alleviating the suffering of Africa and Black America, saw his mission in life.

This is the myth. The question is, was Ali for real? Was he a man who affected real political change, or a gifted boxer whose garrulousness made him an ideal propaganda tool for extremists like Louis Farrakhan and Malcolm X? Either way, however, Mohammad Ali represented a dissolution of the Black Power movement into popular culture. Here was a man who advocated the views of extremists such as Elijah Mohammad, and who was seen in the company of the Beatles. He was a dampener on a political movement that threatened America with racial upheaval.

What was his legacy to Black America? Mohammad Ali came to epitomise everything that Black America was and still is not. He had money, he had success, he had power and he had a political voice. But Mohammad Ali's real impact was wholly illusionary.

The truth is that Ali was the centrepiece of the 1960s cultural revolution. A folk-hero and myth, whose assimilation into today's popular consciousness is nothing but a detraction from everything he stood for. A man who aligned himself with The Nation Of Islam, a group openly proclaiming "the white man is the devil", is now the darling of liberals everywhere. It is this kind of double-think that moulds our current interpretation of the myth of Mohammad Ali.

The ultimate popular icon. The ultimate example of modern myth. And certainly not beyond reproach. Before making up your own mind, you should go and see **Michael Mann's** *Ali,* released on the 15th February. Interesting and potentially controversial stuff.



# PROFILE Michael Mann

Born in Chicago on 5th Feb 1943, Michael Thomas Mann studied at the University of Wisconsin, before moving to the UK to study at the London Film School.

He quickly gained notoriety as a versatile TV director working on titles such as *Starsky and Hutch* and *Police Story*. His career eventually took off with *Thief* (1981), an intelligent crime caper which earned Mann a Palme D'Or award and, more importantly, respect. Subsequent films, such as *The Keep* (1983) and *Manhunter* (1986), confirmed his status as a talented and stylish director.

Throughout the 1980s Mann worked on the wildly successful *Miami Vice*, thus cementing his reputation. Major success finally arrived when he co-wrote, produced, and directed *The Last of the Mohicans* (1992). Then came his most commercially successful movie, the Los Angeles crime saga *Heat* (1995), featuring the only screen meeting between acting legends Pacino and De Niro. *Heat* became an ultra-contemporary and uber-cool arena for yuppie fantasy. It was De Niro the thief immersed in a quasi-religious code of discipline and prudence, versus Pacino the freewheeling loud-mouthed copper, living and working by instinct and whim. It was Mann's finest movie and made over \$100 million, mainly outside the US.

Heat gave Mann room and money to make the commercial failure and critical success that was his last movie, *The Insider* (1999). In this movie he surpassed even *Heat*, with superior dialogue and photography. His achievement was recognised with seven Oscar nominations and countless other awards from around the world. It was perhaps its anti-establishment theme that denied it an Oscar, but *The Insider* will be remembered for its brutally honest portrayal of the greed of American tobacco companies.

Suffice to say that Michael Mann was the ideal candidate to make a movie about one of the greatest cultural and sporting icons of our time. The movie comes out in the West End on the 15th February. When all the plaudits are going to Will Smith's potentially Oscar-winning performance, don't forget the Mann behind the camera.

interview film

# $f_{19}$

# INTERVIEW Michael Mann

The man who's bringing Mohammad Ali to our cinema screens next month speaks candidly about the difficulty of transferring Ali's larger-than-life persona to screen, his views on boxing, and the clash between mythology and corruption in the sport.

# Why do you think it has taken so long for a film about Mohammed Ali to come to the screen?

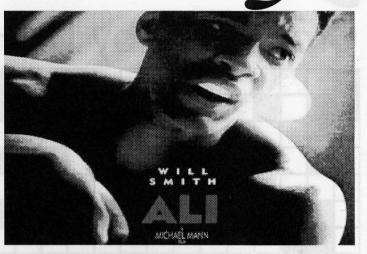
I think the reason is that Ali's life is so extraordinary. It's so dramatic and it has such extreme dynamics of sacrifice. What was actually intimidating about his life was how do you find one piece of it that would authentically do justice to the whole of it? To do all of it reduces the experience. So you want to have a drama, it becomes a docu-drama, which is good. Wonderful documentaries were made, the finest of which is When We Were Kings. But his life is a truly extraordinary life. Will Smith and I probably exhausted ourselves for two years making this film, and what did we do? What we did was replicate a fraction of what he did and we didn't even do it for real! We made a motion picture! So, he is larger to me now than he actually was two years ago when we first started. Not as a person. As a person he is just a man sitting in a room with us, but the scale of what he did actually seems larger to me today than it did a couple of years ago.

### How did you go about bringing Ali's persona to screen?

It evolved, it was very much a year spent with Will and myself learning Ali-ness basically. With everything that Will had learned and all the training, all to you have to do is to push him off the edge of a cliff. The only thing I'm going to ask Will for is being Ali in the moment and being totally spontaneous to it. So if there is an outrage like he has just been visited by a boxing commission, and as he is coming down the stairs in the lobby, he is just exploding. It's not about dropping my breathing to a different part of my solar-plexus so that my inclination drops into Ali's range, and putting your tongue behind my teeth in a certain way so that I get the Kentucky sound. That all has to be abandoned, you have to be on a high wire without a net. But the most difficult thing of all is to see and grasp and have insights into things in advance of everybody else the way Ali did. Because Ali characteristically would. It's almost as if [that's] the way his mind worked. My job is to actually discover the way Ali discovered, to think the way Ali thought. The hardest part of the struggle of actually becoming Ali, in my mind, is to be so totally immersed in character that you are actually thinking and dreaming the way Ali would. That's what we looked for.

#### How did you go about capturing Ali's vocal mannerisms?

We would analyse an interview he did in 1965. Someone just stops him on the way into a Rooster in a Holiday Inn and asks him if he has a prediction and Ali would say in five lines that he didn't have a prediction, but he pronounced the word prediction three times in a different way. And we were working on it and realised he's three different characters in one paragraph.



The film is about a supreme boxer, but what is your view of boxing as a sport?

I think, first of all, boxers are like actors, like directors. I mean, an actor isn't intimidated to get on the stage, he can't wait to get on the stage and he has to have his mind in that perspective. It's the same with a boxer. He may have anxiety in a fight but, if he's prepared, he can't wait to get in that ring. The spectrum of boxing personalities we encountered on this film included intelligent, literate and decent guys. For these men, boxing is about commitment, courage, and strategy. It's an art and not two guys getting in a ring, hitting each other, with the one who hits harder winning. That's not boxing.

# How do you reconcile boxing mythology with the corruption that has always been endemic to the sport?

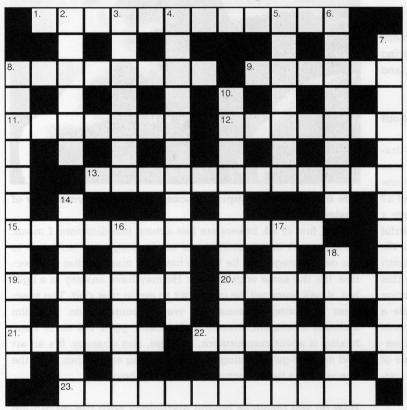
Of course. I'm not saying there's not corruption in boxing. In fact, the area where Ali learnt how to box was taken over by a couple of guys from Chicago and suddenly there were illegal fights. I remember being a kid in Chicago watching an unauthorised Friday night fight with my dad and all the bookmakers had inside odds. There is plenty of corruption in boxing. At the same time there was something real about boxing. There is all that wonderful cultural history in the 1960s, tracking primarily Muhammad Ali's progress. So why did people watch it? Because boxing is very corrupt, but it also elevates itself sometimes to become almost mythic. Clearly, the Rumble in the Jungle, which is where we elected to end this film, was a perfect example of the mythology. Ali came to signify some kind of aspiration to a lot of people all over the planet. He signified something positive to everyone. His opponent, George Foreman, came to signify something else. He signified an indifferent, anonymous, disinterested power and the Frazier fight, which the film doesn't deal with that much, was absolutely an analogue of a pro-life America. Everybody rooted for Mohammad Ali and the establishment rooted for Foreman or Frazier. That's how it worked.

# The film seems to deal with the history very fairly and honestly, but has there been any negative reaction from people portrayed in it?

Not so far. We have had a lot of contact with everybody in it. Malcolm X's daughter saw the film last week and liked the film very, very much.



# Crossword by Dr. Hot Fudge



Welcome friends. To coincide with our 'Gangster special' GFQQ, I tried to write a mafia-themed crossword. Unfortunately, the logistics were too damn difficult so I gave up in the end. There are a couple of clues that relate to the Cosa Nostra but that's about it. If you're 22. Uses pit as bed when 18. An average moment is interested, King's College are holding free screenings of classic films on Mondays and Tuesdays for all University of London students from now 23. Revered figure out of years. (6) until mid-March. Monday nights will be American gangster movies and Tuesdays will have a range of themes. Details are in last week's Time Out in the student section, so root out your copy if you've still got it. I've had only one entry to this week's crossword, so the winner is Somsuddin Ali. I don't know if it was too hard or you've just lost interest, but remember there is a playstation 2 on offer at the end of the year and every time you hand in a correct grid you get one more entry in the tombola. I tell you what, I'll make you an offer you can't refuse. This week, either your brains or your answers are gonna end up on the grid. Capish?

# Across

- tage. (3, 2, 3, 4)
- a killer. (8)
- of precipitation. (6) delighted. (7-5)
- 12. An offence in the East English studies. (8)
- played by courageous shilling. (12)
- 15. Unpopular open university to get very loud 10. Pick up the lamb awk-
- 19. Concurrence above claim of responsibility. the knee. (7) (4, 3, 5)
- 20. Local rules bid 14. An Italian theme is Angeles women's society. (3-4)
- 21. Country ganster is foil? (7) concerned with drug 17. Start to undress in church. (6)
- Manchester swallows softly. (3, 2, 7)

- 1. An expert in prison 2. Captain America's in has a hidden advan- love with gambling house. (6)
- 8. Two idiots get in with 3. Motivate in church tower. (7)
  - Struggle on the street 4. Gun-toting horse is
- 11. Browning reserves 5. Clothes worn by Mafia take two points for crime syndicates? (7)
  - mixed drink. (7) 6. Reads paper in
- is foolish. (7) 7. Scattered and wrongly 13. Extreme bravery disinserted over each
  - Elliot, perhaps. (12) 8. Famous naturalist at Xdistrict? (12)
  - dust particle. (3, 2, 7) wardly and get extra
  - farewell to Los corrupted in Greek temple. (8)
    - 16. Protein made from can
    - convertible. (4-3)
  - given a name. (8) approximately 3 light

Answer to 1224 - Across: Sorcerer, Fleece, Matches, Rapport, Elijah, Sacmpi, Agreement, Gnat, Item, Bird Table, Cheers, Stewed, Cartoon, Formula, Peseta, Computed.

Down: Summer, Rotting, Else, Lipoma, Erosion, Extracts, Arachnids, Healed, Immigrant, Night-Cap, Master, Escorts, Law-Suit, Resort, Edward, Afro.

Dr. Hot Fudge













follow.



# GFQQ - The Great Felix Quote Quiz

by Bobby Cyclops & Dr. Hot Fudge

# Mafia Special.

- 1. "I want someone good, and I mean good to plant that gun. I don't want my brother coming out of that toilet with just his dick in his hands."
- 2. "Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer."
- 3. "A man who doesn't spend time with his family can never be a real man."
- 4. "Ever since I can remember, I always wanted to be a gangster."
- **5.** "I want this guy dead! I want his family dead! I want his house burned to the ground! I want to go there in the middle of the night and piss on his ashes!"

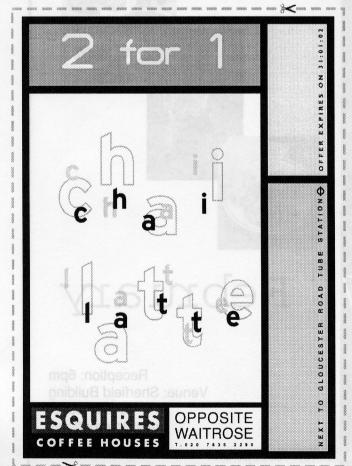
**Bonus Question.** What was the name of the dog Frank Sinatra gave to Marilyn Monroe as a gift?

Number of players: 61

The Leader Board - top 15

Name	Score
Daniel Sauder	78
Chris Ince	74
Andrew Ince	73
Simon North	73
Anthony Rodriques	72.5
John Anderson	71
Christopher Dent	69
Rebekah Hymas	62.5
Arosha Bandara	61
Gregory Mann	59.5
Geoff Lay	58
Kim Randell	58
Vuk Cerovic	55
Fred Marquis	51.5
Chris Toffis	51

Answers to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk or to the Felix Office - West Wing Basement, Beit Quad.



#### Answers to Bond Special:

- 1. Sean Connery/James Bond From Russia With Love
- 2. Roger Moore/James Bond The Spy Who Loved Me
- 3. Roger Moore/James Bond The Man With The Golden Gun
- 4. George Lazenby/James Bond OHMSS
- 5. Michael Lonsdale/Hugo Drax Moonraker

Bonus. In Goldfinger, Sean Connery's Bond likens drinking Dom Perignon '53 above a temperature of 38°F to 'listening to the Beatles without earmuffs'.

A lot of you tripped up with quote 2 last week believing it was from Moonraker. Although Jaws (played by Richard Kiel) does appear in Moonraker, he is in fact Bond's ally. Jaws is, I believe, the only henchman not to be killed off in a Bond film - though feel free to correct me on that. Needless to say, this disparity might be cleared up in a possible Jaw's Returns scenario in a future Bond. More information can be found on the Richard Kiel website: www.richardkiel.com.

This week we have another special for you with a Mob theme (Fudge has what some might call a penchant for trilbys and splurge guns, but not necessarily in that order). Competition for the top spot is heating up, and what with a PS2 being given away in the crossword section, and a possible £300 prize for GFQQ, this is probably the biggest giveaway in Felix history - just keep those answers coming in!

Today I'm feeling somewhat philisophical, and I quote the greatest Gangsta Physicist of them all - Al Einstein. He once remarked: "A table, a chair, a bowl of fruit and a violin; what else does a man need to be happy?". How true.

That's all for now 'Packers, see you next week!

STA TRAVEL

# nterna

Food Cultural Show After-Show Party

(3 for 2 on Smirnoff Ice and Bacardi Breezer)



February

Thursday 7

OSC Members Tickets: £12 Non Members Tickets: £10

Reception: 6pm Venue: Sherfield Building Dress Code: Smart/International

**Tickets Available From Union Reception** 

# Fortune Favours The Brave

The defeat of Saturday 20th January 2001 (over a year ago now) was the last time that the ICUAFC third team was beaten. by anyone. Saturday the 19th of January 2002 and IC 3rds played Kings 2nds to stay in the ULU reserves cup and to keep their incredible unbeaten run intact...

Kings were a bit late arriving to Harlington and turned out in mismatched kit and a couple of obvious ringers. Despite this, the first fifteen minutes of the game were all about the 3rds. Chances came and went think and fast but the ball just wouldn't seem to hit the back of the net. Jaime hit a post, Gabba had a goal disallowed and Iain went close. This scared Kings into waking up and they started to produce a couple of chances themselves and only the intervention of Ricky in our goal and the inside of the post kept the scores even.

Finally the deadlock was broken in our favour. Sherlock got round the back of the defence, crossed to Steakhouse who, rather than take it round the keeper, opted to square the ball to Gabba who literally walked the ball into the goal. The quite ludicrously biased linesman tried to give it offside but the referee pointed out that if you pass the ball to a player behind you, he can't be offside.

Our second came from Gabba again who was found space on the right hand side of the area and slotted the ball in past an advancing keeper. We went into the break 2 - 0 up and feeling very confident. No changes were made by us but Kings tried to counter our dominance by trying out our effective 3-5-2 formation. This formation requires an able and effective sweeper which we had in the shape of Dan. Kings did not have a good sweeper and their defence was a rickety as ever.

IC chances continued to be churned out, Basis went close with a free kick and a couple of runs through the middle, but the final touch was lacking. Lily came on for Johnny and the Hamster came on for Iain to consolidate our lead just before the game took on its interesting twist.

In a rare attack, Dhruve gave away a free kick on the edge of our area and when it was taken, the wind got a hold of the ball and unluckily, it lobbed Ricky. 2-1 is far from safe and we were nervous and felt robbed that they had scored with their first chance of the half but our response was swift. Jamie took the ball from inside our half, ran all the way to the goal line and, at full stretch, lobbed the keeper from an impossible angle. Quality.

Our fourth was sheer comedy. They got a corner and, it being a cup tie, their keeper went up for it. Stupidly they played it short, got caught in possession and the ball was cleared. Their hapless keeper legged it back to his goal unaware that the ball was rolling only a couple of feet behind him. Gabba sprinted clear of the recovering defenders to be first to the ball and, when his shot was blocked, the Hamster was on hand to knock in the rebound.

It finished 4 - 1. We drubbed a team in the league above us to stay in the cup.

# **Hockey Success**

IC 1st Team.....4 ICSM 1st Team.....0

IC ended their Liverpool-esque run of eight games without a win with a comprehensive quality crushing of medics. ICSM has little answer to IC's tide of blue and white goal pie.

We arrived at the palacial union at 11am for an early pushback but were still waiting at 11:30. We eventually arrived at fortess Harlington as we were due to push back, but that didn't stop the monster IC goal machine.

After a half of piss-taking, Essex Wide Boy scored from typically short range. Shortly before Herpes' inspiring team talk: "Pain is fleeting, chicks dig scars and glory is forever!" (What a tool!), Villager skillfully placed the ball between the keeper and the far post, a feat he was to repeat at a similar time in the second half.

After a spell of some total village hockey, epitomised by Gump trying to hatch out baby hockey balls, IC decided that the Medics has been out their own half for long enough, and an awesome team goal was finished off from about a foot by our resident Geography Teacher.

Gump then pelted the ball between the ICSM keeper's legs. I think the phrase is 'nutmeg'! Nice.

The scoring did not stop there with Essex Wide Boy scoring another rubbish goal, before Villager repeated his first half cock-up with another spool of a mammoth propor-

We are legends!

# Imperial College Student Support Facilities

# Who's Here to Help You?

# **Union Advice Centre**

Imperial College Union, Beit Quad, East Wing Confidential and impartial advice for students and staff on legal, academic, financial, housing, immigration and benefits. Martin Thomson

Telephone: 020 7594-8067 e-mail: advice@ic.ac.uk

# Other Support Services

Chaplaincy Centre

Imperial College Union, Beil Quad, East Wing Telephone: 020 7594-9600 e-mail: chaplaincy@ic.ac.uk Reverend Alan Gyle, Anglican Chaplain of Imperial College Mobile: 07973-654082 e-mail: a.gyle@ic.ac.uk Reverend Cathie Bird, Methodist & Free Church Chaplain of Imperial College

Reverend Father Ivor Netto, Catholic Chaptain of Imperial College More House, 53 Cromwell Road

Dr Anna Thomas-Betts, Royal School of Mines, Room 1.07 Telephone: 020 7594-6430 e-mail: a.thomas-bls@ic.ac.uk Dr David Lloyd Smith, Civil Engineering, Room 426 Telephone: 020 7594-6029 e-mail: d.lloyd-smith@ic.ac.uk Counselling Service

15 Prince's Gardens

David Allman (Monday-Friday) Telephone: 020 7594-9430, e-mail: d.allman@ic.ac.uk Sarah Cooke (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings) Room G30, Royal School of Mines

Telephone: 020 7594-9419, e-mail: sarah.cooke@ic.ac.uk

lealth Centre

Southside, Watt's Way, Prince's Gardens

Telephone: 020 7594-9375/6 Doctors, nurses, psychotherapists, counsellors, psychiatrist, sports medicine specialist, physiotherapy, acupuncture, Alexander Technique, homeopathy, osteopathy, reflexology,

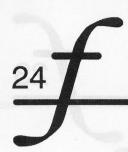
aromatherapy Muslim Prayer Room

9 Prince's Gardens, E-mail: islam@ic.ac.uk

Nightline
Confidential listening and practical information,

elephone: 020 7631 0101 e-mail: listening@london-nightline.org.uk





# Ladies Stepping Out

#### Ladies' Football

Ladies Football	IC	 3
LSE		 4

Indeedy. There were only 9 of us playing in this Sunday morning match, due to reasons beyond our control. LSE had a full team, complete with sub, three coaches and someone's mum to support. I am not a betting woman, but I would say that the odds were against us!

After about 15, a great pass to Teens gave US the first goal! The crowd (someone from LSE's mum) was silenced, and we realised that despite being two women down, we could darned-well win this thing!

Our stunning second goal by Maewie-baby (her first for IC!) seemed to put a confused LSE into panic mode, and rightly so, because by anyone's standards, we were winning!

Oh, but then they got one back. No matter though, because by half-time, another smooth attack and a beautiful strike by Teens had made the score 3-1 to us. Nice!

We geared ourselves up for a gruelling second half, in which

the strong wind would now be against us. LSE, having been shouted at by their three coaches, piled on the pressure - especially in central midfield, giving Iona lots of work to do. Goalie Anneke had to make several excellent saves. But despite our best defensive efforts, with Mo, Rim, and Claire coping commendably, they scored after about fifteen minutes of relentless attacking.

Another scrappy LSE goal late in the half, and suddenly, we found ourselves at 3-3 with 4 minutes left. Exhausted by our efforts so far, we gave it our all to try and get the winning goal. Twice, our strikers Louise and Teens came achingly close to getting the fourth, but it wasn't to be. What was to be was an unimpressive, wind-assisted LSE goal, and the final whistle being blown, in a seemingly very short space of time.

So there you have it. In the end, I think we had a bit too much to do. LSE got far more than they bargained for with the nine of us, so well done everyone!!

# Ladies' Rugby

# Sunday 20th January

A soggy start to this term down at Honour Oak Park ended with a disappointingly soggy score. We fought hard but the highlights of the day were the giant bath and sausage (or vegeburgers! - Lu), beans and chips to follow. Never mind girlies, things can only get better.

#### Wednesday 23rd January

With our spangly new line-out calls, fantastic scrums and wonderfully brilliant team, we trekked to Harlington ready to whoops some Royal Holloway ass. The massive turnout at Monday's training session payed off to make today's match some of the best rugby we've played this season. We even had a sub and two fab supporters who rallied round when times got tough with a few choruses of "ICU Babes! Shaking that ass!"

Quote of the match from Holloway's front row: "It hurts, ow!" - well, it is a scrum, ladies. Injury of the match goes to an inanimate object! Thank you to all those who played and supported, and let's make it an even better one next week!

#### Netball

Well the year shot off to an impressive start giving us another victory. Unusually the weather was on our side but the court was ugly. As well as the mounds of gravel there were also several used sparklers lying around. So when slipping on the gravel (which I managed quite a lot) we then had to avoid landing on a sparkler and impaling ourselves! Rumours are the netball courts are home to closet sparkler users! Anyway back to the match, the game started fairly messy but we soon gelled back together and by the last quarter the goals were flying in, excellent attack from Mills, Jo and Jen! The umpire

however was not so good, any attempt from our side to touch the ball led to us being pulled up for some reason. Common examples were; catching the ball perfectly, running too fast towards the ball and finally for landing on our feet. However the other team managed not to get pulled up for throwing their weight at us and starting to play basketball half way through! No bias there then! Hats off to Sherry who got the most of the umpire's bad side for basically being too tall! Oh well we still hammered them! So to sum up it was netball on rollerskates. with a blind umpire but we kicked a\*\*e!



on the BIG SCREEN

Saturday 26th Jan.
Middlesbrough v Man United 12pm
Kilmarnock v Celtic 5.35pm
bar open at 12 noon

Sunday 27th Jan.
Arsenal v Liverpool 1pm
Darlington or Peterborough
v Newcastle United 4pm
Man City v Ipswich 7pm
bar open at 12 noon

Tuesday 29th Jan.
Bolton v Man Utd 8pm

Wednesday 30th Jan. Chelsea v Leeds 8pm

**Ground floor, Beit Quad Prince Consort Road** 

imperial
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union
BARS