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The Student Newspaper for Imperial College

felix

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COLLECTION

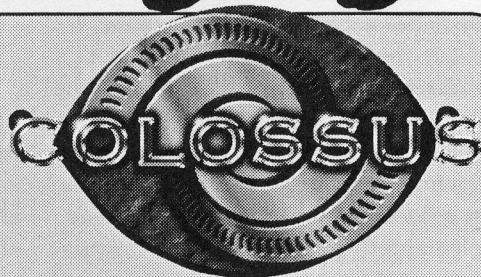
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<http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/felix/>

Manu Chao. Somehow I thought he would be bigger... (Page 10)



The Worlds First Ten Loop Coaster Gets The Felix Treatment. (Page 5)



College Security Guard Knifed

Last monday, in the Blackett Laboratory, home to the Physics department, a security guard was attacked, seemingly without any real motive, by a man wielding a knife.

It should be noted that this is the first serious attack on a member of college security in over a decade, with the only incidents being a few minor scuffles at various freshers fairs.

The man attempted to enter the building, and was immediately challenged by Tom Gamble, a member of the Blackett security team. On being challenged the man produced a blade, and Mr Gamble was only able to prevent a potentially lethal blow to his throat by blocking the blade with his right hand, which was badly damaged in the incident.

When further members of college security arrived the man was wrestled to the ground and swiftly disarmed, and it is alleged that he proceeded to spray those present with some sort of chemical. The police and fire brigade were then called in, and after investigation the chemical



Physics Department: Scene of the Attack

was found to be surgical spirit.

After the assailant had been subdued, he claimed to be in possession of an explosive device, and the Bomb Squad rapidly joined the assembled representatives of the local emergency services. This also necessitated the repeated clo-

sure of Prince Consort Road and much of the surrounding area during the day.

The man was apparently asking for a particular senior member of staff in the Physics department, and while the attacker is not thought to be a member of College itself, he is alleged to have described himself as 'a Physicist'.

Mr Gamble is recovering well from his attack, and was discharged from hospital fairly quickly after being admitted for his injuries, although he is awaiting surgery on his hand. Meanwhile the assailant awaits trial in custody.

In other security news, there have been a number of thefts committed in Evelyn Gardens by an individual who is described as being very tall, having dreadlocks, and being of afro-caribbean origin: anyone seeing him is advised by security to call the police immediately.

Alex

My editorial, which will possibly explain why this issue is so small, and why I'm in a strange enough mood to pretend that the cat is dead.

Oh deary me, Will has finally lost it...



The Union - A New Beginning

The last few months have seen a great deal of change for the Union and College. Under the stewardship of the Rector, the College has undergone many changes. We will see the creation of four Faculties, a sustained drive towards improving the global brand of Imperial, fund raising to develop our estate and setting up an endowment to provide scholarships to the best students. These changes have been implemented to ensure that Imperial College continues to be one of the leading higher education institutes in the world.

The Union too has taken the opportunity to review its operations. After one of the widest consultation processes in recent years we have a new way forward. Gone are the old Constituent College Unions and in come Student Faculty Associations. Council has been changed to allow more ordinary students to participate in the governance of the Union and a new information policy will allow for more transparency in the Union administration.

This represents a new beginning for the Union and a new direction for our members. One of the biggest challenges we face is to ensure that we work more effectively to deliver practical and tangible benefits to students.

Funding

One of the key issues the Union faces is funding. It is clear that funding from the government is not enough to support the activities of the College and consequently the Union. We are still heavily reliant on College for provision of funds. The Union gets some £885,000 from College, it uses this to provide a wide range of facilities and services for students and this figure is generally tied with the rate of inflation.

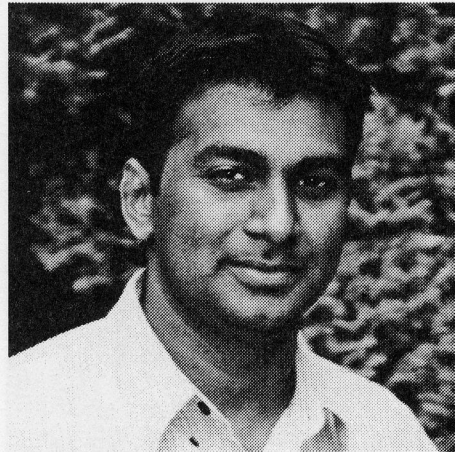
However, more and more students are participating in the Union and using its services. If we want to continue to sustain this growth, we have to seek funding from elsewhere. I believe the Union has to actively engage in partnerships with external organisations and individuals.

Recent examples have been the Goldman Sachs support of the night bus service and the collaboration with the College Wider Participation programme to successfully bid for over £350,000 for volunteer support over the next three years. These partnerships represent the way for-

ward and over the coming months the Union has to increase these types of partnerships in all its areas of operation.

Volunteers

Early on in the year we made it clear that volunteer support is crucial to the future of the Union. The Union has more student volunteers than any other in the country and we are heavily reliant on the support of these volunteers to conduct our activities. However we have very little in place to support volunteers in the Union. One of the most important priorities for the next few months is to establish a volunteer



management programme, one that will actively look at how we recruit, train and reward the volunteers in the Union. We have taken the first steps in this process; the Union has appointed a new member of staff to co-ordinate student activities and another will be appointed shortly to co-ordinate volunteering in the community. In addition a new rewards scheme will be launched later this term, but this is just the start, we have a long way to go to deliver a comprehensive and integrated programme.

Sites

One of the other key challenges for the Union is the way we deal with the many campus sites. Imperial has a large number of sites dotted around London and the South of England and ensuring good communication between them is crucial.

The Union needs to dedicate more resources towards integrating the sites into the centre. There is no doubt that South Kensington will continue to remain the headquarters for the Union, but we

must continue to develop facilities and services on other campuses such as the new bar at Charing Cross and the gyms at Wye and Silwood.

The culture

In addition to these new strategies, the Union has to introduce a more dynamic and pro-active culture. The environment in which we operate is changing rapidly, we cannot simply wait for things to happen and react to them, we must learn to anticipate situations and act appropriately. This is of course not without its risks and indeed pursuing such a policy will lead to some mistakes being made. We will have to accept them and move on because in the end I believe that we will deliver a better Union to our members.

Here at Imperial there has been constant talk of apathy amongst the student population. I do not believe that is necessarily true. Recently the Union called for a referendum on our affiliation to the NUS. After a hard campaign fought by both sides, we had one of the largest turnouts for any college-wide ballot in recent years, showing students care about the issues and will participate in the governance of the Union.

We must continue to build on this and it is important for students to realise that decisions made within the Union can have an impact on life at Imperial.

The future

If we are going to pursue with the development of the Union then we must face up to our challenges. It is important that the Union clarifies its vision and develops long term strategies to meet these goals. For the first time we have two year sabbaticals which I believe will be crucial to ensuring continuity and development of these strategies.

The year ahead promises to be an interesting and challenging one. We have achieved a lot this year, but there is much more to do. The way forward will rely on improving services to our students, forming external partnerships, integrating sites and building support for volunteers. It is important that students continue to play an active part in this process to ensure that the Union fulfils its aim in meeting the needs of the students.

Sen Ganesh, Union President



Summer

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Imperial College Union

Ball

Main stage on the Queen's Lawn

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7:30-late

June 8

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Entertainment only £25/£35

Available by telephone on 020-7594-8060 and
from the Union Reception, JCR, BMS and Waterstones

For up-to-the-minute details: www.union.ic.ac.uk/summerball

Chaplaincy

Personality is Everything

Cilla's frequent question on Blind Date is "What type of fella do you fancy" or "When it comes to women, what's your type?" The answers are usually to do with appearance and most especially the size of specific body parts. Obviously appearance is instantly accessible. It takes time for inner qualities or lack of them to become apparent. Hence the interest in what happens on the date and the inevitably cutting comments that follow.

To give Cilla her due there is also talk of personality. The seeming impossibility of finding a good date is the persistent attraction of this show that's been running since the last Ice Age.

Personality is something that is often talked about. It is the ever present factor of the power politics in the work place. It is the very basis of friendship. It is the interplay of personality that makes being in a group so fascinating and so potentially awful.

Yet how much do we understand about our own personality? We might have a sense that this person is not our preferred type as a potential friend or partner. But could we explain why?

How often do we do we talk about just 'clicking' with somebody or about a terrible 'personality clash'?

When we move from the personal to the political the nature of personality has an even greater significance. This week's Budget has opened up the old debate about Blair and Brown and 'New Labour' - is Tony really behind the budget or is he just going along with Gordon? Has Blair made an agreement with Gordon to pass on the leadership or do they just put on a show in front of the cameras to pretend they get on?

How far do we understand the ways in which we prefer to make decisions? How easy is it to get along with those who do things so differently from ourselves?

On Wednesday 29th May, two occupational psychologists will be running a workshop in the Chaplaincy Centre. As

well as an introduction to the Myers-Briggs model of different personality types, there will be practical exercises to help us begin thinking about our own personality...How do we make decisions? How do we relate in groups? Where do we get our energy from? There will also be an opportunity to see how understanding ourselves better can help us in all sorts of areas - including communication, understanding individual difference, managing stress, team dynamics, relationships, choosing a career. More details on www.chaplaincy.ic.ac.uk (book a place by May 6th)

In the light of current events in the Middle East we are holding Prayers for Peace on Fridays at 1pm - a short time of quiet reflection and prayer for the peace of the world.

The chaplaincy can be found on the East side of Beit Quad, through the double doors (sometimes requiring a swipe card) and then through the door in front of you at the bottom of the stairs.

First Rate?

'The Colossus' at Thorpe Park

John Clifford encounters the world's only ten loop rollercoaster, as well as the world's most ominous queue

Pinned to my chair, I could see the surreal calm of Staines laid out in front of me, drifting placidly over trees and steeples. Suddenly breathing became an effort, as clouds and grass all blurred into one and shot past me at a terrifying speed, turning my head into my feet and my spare change into a memory. I had another 9 of these to go, and I couldn't wait.

Whilst taking advantage of the free bar, a terrifying thought occurred to me. With albums, gigs, plays and such, it's easy(ish). But what do you say about a rollercoaster? Cute girl from another student newspaper suggested filing the six words "It had its ups and downs" before getting drunk. But, I explained, this is Felix, and whilst you might not have anything useful to say, the primary rule is to be drastically verbose and to employ generously a multitude of synonyms where a singular might notwithstanding suffice.

Remembering I wanted Will to print this, I headed off to the main event, and prepared to be amazed. There's no doubt about it, Colossus is an intense experience and at only fifty seconds, if you blink you'll miss it. Once I'd retrieved my contact lens from my neighbour's forehead it was time to experience it a second time, in order to analyse the experience fully and give a balanced review. Actually it was far too much fun to only go on once.

By the third ride, I'd concluded that the first half of the ride is fantastic. You don't even have a chance to work out where you are as you hurtle past passers-by, dive underground, resurface and loop again. Around the fifth loop we're treated to the surreal sight of a bored looking ride operator in a warm, calm room narrowly shooting past our heads at fifty miles an hour. The corkscrew bit, which takes up the last fifty seconds, consists of being turned upside down four times in a row, which to a speed freak like me isn't quite as exciting.

You see, for all the looping and the screaming, it's surprisingly short. Even going round twice would make it a bit more of an experience, which was fine for me as I didn't have to queue (and had got in free). Riding that coaster 3 times in a row was the most fun I've had in a while. But if I'd paid to queue for up to an hour (and the queuing provision was certainly generous) for a single, 50 second ride, I'd be very disappointed. So while Thorpe Park have certainly put a lot of effort into designing an expensive and impressive ride, coming up with a name with ten loops (C-O-L-O-S-S-U-S -count them if you don't believe me), and dazzling the press for an evening, like most theme parks they haven't really thought about the experience, which will involve a minute standing in a distractionless queue for every second spent on the coaster, which isn't good enough for the fleeting attention span of the average TV viewer.

See www.thorpepark.com for more. Admission: £17-23 depending on demand.

Second chance.

Still wondering what to do after finals?

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Ayes right!

Will,

After a lot of coverage by *Felix* over the last few months regarding the ICU/NUS referendum, I feel there was a need to reply to a couple of the points made.

To start with, on a positive note, the "victory" in the referendum does not lie with either the "Yes" or "No" campaigns. The fact that over 28% of the full membership of the Union voted sends a clear, uncomplicated message to College that we are an active Union. We are a Union that takes part, that has debate, that is political (small "p") if you will. This can only bode well for the future.

Secondly, I would like to respond to a few of the letters your paper received. It was always my intention to invite

non-Imperial people to this debate, and I make no qualms about it. The campaign of the "Yes" team was always one of education. The students I spoke to knew nothing about the NUS. They had many many questions regarding the National Union, including "Why is it that every other University in the country bar one is a member, even though they all hold referendums every 3 years?", "What are the benefits" and a whole stack along the lines of "Is it true that..." The only way these questions could be answered was through experience. Experience of dealing with the NUS. Hence I invited people who were a) London-centric and b) experienced in dealing with the National Union. People who attended included the ULU President, ULU Vice Presidents', a large proportion

of the ULU Exec as well as officers from Kings College, UCL and Thames Valley. The feedback obtained from those students who actually stopped to speak to these people was very positive. If I was to re-run the campaign, I would do exactly the same thing again, as I believe it to be in the best interests of the students here. Thirdly, I would like to thank all those that took part in the "Yes" campaign. Much fun was had, talking to people, rebuffing lies, designing websites (www.nusatimperial.co.uk). From what I can gather, there are still a lot of people asking questions. Asking what ICU does for them. Asking how much of the £900,000 a year they see of the money that College gives ICU. Asking why they don't get discounts. Asking when the next referendum will be. To those people, I urge you to keep asking. Ask until you get an answer that you're happy with; not one that will rob you of a vote for another seven years.

Thanks,

David Francis,
Chairman, Campaign for Re-
affiliation to the NUS

The Nays have it

Sir

What part of 'No' does David Francis not understand? (Imperial rejects NUS, 20 March 2002).

Yours etc.,

Andy Heeps,
Chairman, The NUS 'No' campaign

Letters aren't usually edited for spelling and grammar, but often for length - keeping them to the style of Mr Heeps' contribution certainly helps. AW

The people speak

Dear Felix,

Why has no one done anything about the little gimps from the NUS that have decided to invade College and are annoying and misleading our students? They have no right to be here, the referendum should be for students to decide upon for themselves, without external influence by people who have nothing to do with College. They have also been telling people that beer will be cheaper if we join the NUS. If the reports in *Felix* are true (saying that beer will go up in price by 10-15p per pint with the NUS), then they appear to be spreading lies.

On top of this, they seem to be quite offensive little self-important people, who don't actually have any answers to questions such as what the NUS has ever achieved. Unfortunately, it is too late to do anything about them, but hopefully, no one has listened to the yellow shirted prats and their little bits of yellow paper.

Sid, Aero

Just to be clear, Felix did not say that beer prices would definitely go up - we merely compared prices with another University of London bar, where beer was more expensive. As to whether anybody paid attention to the NUS delegates, it appears they didn't. AW

Hello,

I just went to South Ken to see the doc and picked up a copy of *Felix* while I was there. The Easter Egg thing looks very comprehensive, and I suspect that you'll want to publish this, as I am a ranting post-

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grad and you don't get much publishable mail.

Oh, and why have you stopped sending *Felix* to Hammersmith? It's one of the few good things to read around here.

I'd like to say that the election, and referendum, were a farce. I was not sent an e-mail telling me of the referendum, like I heard other students were, therefore I didn't get to appoint a proxy in time, as the times of proxy allocation were not communicated to me and therefore didn't vote in either. Bit crap really.

So, the issues are:

Why do medics only have one ballot box? Who decided this? Why is there a serious communication problem with getting info to students located at campuses other than South Ken? Who should pay for this? I know that it is too late for the election, or referendum to be re-run (I am personally quite happy with the result thank you) - but for next year, something should be done about this.

Ned Laver

We're glad you liked the Easter Egg review. As for deliveries of Felix to Hammersmith, we do send copies on Friday every week, so they should arrive by Monday. If they appear to be going astray, we shall certainly follow it up. AW

Hi Will,

Now I'm no political expert, and I'm writing on Thursday morning, when the polls have just opened, so I've no substantial evidence to go on, only my judgement. But I'd like to raise a point: What does it say about the state of our Union, and the IC student body in general when we

struggle to have a 10% turnout for an election, but we flock to the polls to vote on the NUS??? Having spoken to people and observed the queues at the ballot boxes, I'm expecting a previously unheard-of ridiculously high turnout for this vote by IC standards. The reason - people actually care and want to express an opinion. Be it student discounts or club funding (seemingly the only arguments for and against) we have a view.

So why don't we care about who doles out the funding?? I'd hazard its because we don't notice any changes from one year to another, we don't know the candidates (so who knows what job they will do) and so none of us care.

Is every Uni as apathetic as we are? Why do we care so much about a card? And why couldn't the sabbs sort out two votes on the same day? Answers on a postcard..?

Libby Jackson
Physics 3

Sobering thought

Dear Felix,

We thought it was important that our customers read the following letter from the Metropolitan Police.

Yours,
Mick (Union Bars Manager)

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Metropolitan Police strategy towards dealing with drunkenness in and around licensed premises in Westminster.

There are Government statistics to show that there is a significant correlation between persons who are drunk and

gon on to commit crime or become victims of crime.

The city of Westminster is one of the most popular areas for visitors and for Londoners to enjoy a night out. However it must be acknowledged that people do get drunk and cause problems for residents and other visitors to the area.

The Licensing Act 1964 makes it quite clear that permitting drunkenness, serving a drunk, or allowing a drunk to remain on licensed premises is an offence.

With these points in mind it is felt that positive action needs to be taken to deal with drunkenness and the issues arising from drunkenness. As such the Metropolitan Police in conjunction with the Portman Group and the British Institute of Innkeepers intend to launch an anti drunkenness strategy. The purpose of this partner-

ship is to provide awareness for drinkers, a proactive police enforcement regime, and an education programme for licensees and their staff. We feel that this holistic approach is the most appropriate method for dealing with a burgeoning problem in London.

Within the next few weeks there will be a police enforcement programme aimed at dealing with drunkenness in licensed premises.

We hope that you will join us in tackling the problem of drunkenness and making Westminster a safer and more enjoyable environment for its residents and visitors.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher Bradford
Chief Inspector

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Editorial

Well, boys and girls. What an eventful time it's been for your friendly neighbourhood editor. Would you like a full rundown on the happy events that have led to my mental downfall? Of course you wouldn't, but as usual, I have nothing better to write about, and I've felt less bitter in the past, and quite frankly, what's the point of editing a student newspaper if you can't exploit it in such a way as to perform self analysis, and achieve some kind of cathartic closure, resulting finally in issue resolution and a positive personality outcome? Eh?

So, first you may have noticed that Felix is tiny. This, I'm afraid, will probably be an ongoing problem throughout the rest of this term, since we have no money. I have been reliably informed that this is due to the tragic events of September 11th, which has led to a record low in graduate recruitment, and thus the advertising on which I depend that funds this august organ. Basically we're out of cash, so I'm cutting back.

Not to mention the fact that nobody ever wants to help during the summer term, due either to exam revision, exams, or the fact that they've finished their exams and are therefore sitting in a hole somewhere, surrounded by their own excrement and evidence of a significant amount of drug abuse. Which is always my favourite option. To be honest, given half a chance, I wouldn't be here either, but then I'm paid, so I suppose I should do something to justify that.

So that's one thing. The next thing I have to talk about is more personal, but then I've never been one to shirk from

exposing myself in public (giggle). You see the problem is holidays. I made the foolish error of going away for a whole eight days, and I have now learned that that is significantly longer than the attention span of certain people who shall remain nameless because while I'm bitter I'm not a complete bastard. Well I am, but not like that.

Anyway the upshot is that when I went away I was happy and had a girlfriend, and when I returned I was unhappy and did not. This doesn't sound too complex, but it wasn't actually my girlfriend who had the short attention span, she was merely the unfortunate injury in an emotional crossfire I couldn't keep together. (Sorry.)

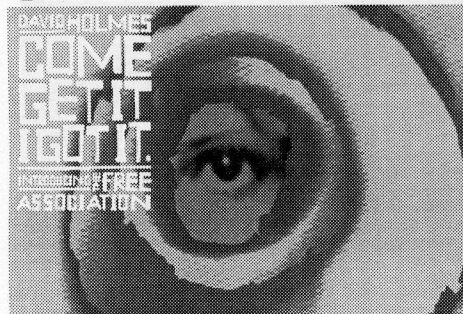
So that's a fairly cryptic reference, and I realise that you all think I'm probably very silly, but you wouldn't believe how relieving it is to publicly air your sorrows. I hope I haven't made myself out to be some unfortunate soul who has been trampled on, because that's not true. I suspect I deserve everything I get, but I'm still allowed to feel sorry for myself, so raspberries to you.

Anyway, on a more cheerful note, it's summer, so at last I can go out and look like a tit trying to play frisbee, not to mention wandering around subtly enjoying the lovely skirts that people (girls, usually) start to wear this time of year. And I don't have to do nasty things like exams, so that's a bonus too.

Good luck, however, to all of you who are sitting them this term. However, as I've said before, you're going to work for the rest of your life, but you're only a student once.

This Week	Friday	Weekend
Union Events	Dolly Mixtures Ooh err. Friday night rebranded once again. This will be mostly cheese, with some 'proper' music earlier in the evening... <i>Union, Night Time</i>	Ooh, Look I have some nice space to elucidate further on this new night. There was this meeting, you see, and they decided there should just be one night, where everyone
Student Activities	Revise Go on, you know you want to. You have to get it out of the way you know. Otherwise you'll have to do it all again, and then you'll look silly. <i>Your Room? All Day</i>	Hyde Park Although it is summer time, and you are a student. Not that I condone breaking the law, but go and get stoned in a park somewhere. It'll be fun, I promise.
At The Movies	Count of Monte Cristo 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. That is a good gag, isn't it. Well it made me laugh. Ummm... swash-buckling, I suppose, because they didn't have zips in those days.	K-Pax I can't believe anyone's in this film. It just sounds like utter tripe to me, but then I haven't seen it, so what do I know. He's from another planet, or something.
Television & Radio	Neighbours Tad sends mixed messages to Eilly. Will Leo sneak off to the break-dancing competition? Drew has a run in with the law. <i>BBC1, 17:35</i>	Neighbours Isn't on at all, so quite frankly I'm just going to pretend these two days don't exist. It's not that I like <i>Neighbours</i> , but when it's on, Hyde Park empties. Bonus.
Gigs & Concerts	Sonia Fariq Ooh, foreign, and therefore mysterious. Goes without saying. Maybe she's not foreign, but she sounds it, and that's good enough for me! <i>Monarch</i>	Zen Guerrilla Very clever. I'm really impressed. I am hereby embargo-ing (if that's a word) this concert, because they've got an overly clever name. <i>Garage</i>
The Frog In Bank Gag	A frog walked into a bank, and up to the first cashier. After a small queue, she (for it was a lady cashier) greeted him, and with only a mild look of surprise (for he was a frog), said...	"Hello, Sir. My name is Patricia Whack. May I help you?" "Why, certainly," replied the frog. "I would like to apply for a loan" "Oh," replied Patricia, "for how much?"

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>...cont just goes along every week, and knows what to expect. And that's cheese. And, as I said, maybe some house, trance, etc, playing earlier for those who like it.</p>	<p>Trivia You know what this is, and if you don't, then there is no reason at all for going, because you won't win, because you're stupid. Bleh! <i>Union, Go Early & Drink</i></p>	<p>Wednesday Wotsits They used to be cheesy, and now they're not. No-one has told me whether this means less cheese, but I feel it's safe to say that's unlikely... <i>Union, Le Soir</i></p>	<p>Goat Juggling Baaaaaaah. Maaaaaaah. Meep. Blu. Hang on, that's a puffin, what's it doing here? Hello, little Puffin. Blu!. That's the noise that puffins make. <i>Queens' Lawn</i></p>	<p>Dolly Mixtures Hmmm... This is going to make my diary even more boring, with the same thing every week. It was going to be called All Sortz, you know. <i>Union, Blah blah blah...</i></p>
<p>Revise Back to work, you dog. Some people have exams today and everything, so be grateful if you don't. Like I don't. Hahaha. All term. Yay! <i>Library? All Day</i></p>	<p>Revise Oh I do love the summer term. The birds are singing, the breeze is blowing, and the sun is shining. You could revise outside today. <i>Outside? All Day</i></p>	<p>Revise You didn't wear sun lotion yesterday, did you, you silly person? And now you're burnt, and peeling, and all your friends point and laugh <i>The Kitchen, All Day</i></p>	<p>Exam Well you've got to have them at some point, haven't you? Otherwise what's the point of revising. That would just be silly! Pens down. <i>Great Hall, Morning</i></p>	<p>Revise What? You think they're finished? Oh no, they've only just begun. You could revise with friends or lovers today (if you have any). <i>Someone's Room, All Day</i></p>
<p>Blade II It is actually physically impossible to make a better film than this. It has Wesley Snipes in it, and he goes round bitch-slapping evil vampires. What more do you need?</p>	<p>Taxi II Not at the movies, but you could get it on video. Sequel to Luc Besson's Taxi. Well I liked it, but that may have been the company I was keeping.</p>	<p>Beautiful Mind Arse, more like. Somehow I'm already bored of Russel Crowe. And why does he have to keep pretending not to be Australian? Is he ashamed, maybe?</p>	<p>24 Hour Party People Steve Coogan imitates some 80's pop heroes that most of you will think are tragically unhip, but to whom I have a curious, yet slightly sinister, affinity.</p>	<p>Blade Runner This is only on at a cinema in Hastings, but frankly it's so good that you should all go down there right now in a coach and watch it a thousand times.</p>
<p>Neighbours Darcy tries to make peace with Dee. Harold and Lou jostle for position with Rosie. And the revelation that Terri is a policewoman. <i>BBC1, 17:35</i></p>	<p>Neighbours Marc and Steph share dreams for the future, and Darcy tells Dee that her relationship with Stuart is doomed to failure, plus more! <i>BBC1, 17:35</i></p>	<p>Neighbours Stuart refuses to listen to Tracey, Marc gives Flick a dressing-down at work and Elly starts her work experience placement at Karl's surgery. <i>BBC1, 17:35</i></p>	<p>Neighbours Matt takes part in another drag race. Karl admits that he has been trying to find Elly's father. Leo suffers a crisis of confidence. <i>BBC1, 17:35</i></p>	<p>Neighbours Matt suffers the consequences of the crash and Maggie becomes confused about her feelings for Toadie. How good is <i>Neighbours</i>? <i>BBC1, 17:35</i></p>
<p>Gomez Wibbly noise type people who will wobble for your aural delectation, probably while you trip out of your tiny little mind, if you want. <i>Brixton Academy</i></p>	<p>Jetplane Landing I'm afraid it's quite likely that their music is dodgy. I suspect they spend more time thinking up names than practising, and this is bad. <i>Monarch</i></p>	<p>And You Will Know Us... These guys rock, even if they do have a slightly long winded name. Which they do. Okay, you've got them, I know they're a band, that's it. <i>The Forum</i></p>	<p>Alec Empire Even less of an idea who this is, but he's playing the Mean Fiddler, so he's got to be reasonable. After all, it's a hip and groovy place. <i>Mean Fiddler</i></p>	<p>Clinic I've heard of them, and by the name, I would imagine they are certainly angry about something. Insurance premiums, perhaps? <i>ULU, Malet Street</i></p>
<p>"Thirty thousand pounds," replied the frog. Patricia was stunned. "I'm afraid I can't authorise that kind of loan over the counter - do you have any references?"</p>	<p>"I don't need references. My name is Nigel Jagger," said the frog, "I'm Mick Jagger's son. He knows your manager well." Patricia was a little taken aback.</p>	<p>"I'm afraid the bank needs some collateral for loans of this size..." At this, the frog searched his pockets, and produced a highly polished pink china elephant.</p>	<p>Patricia, stunned at this turn of events, told the frog that she would have to authorise the loan with her manager. In his office, she explained and asked the manager's opinion...</p>	<p>The bank manager fixed Patricia with a commanding glare, and declared "it's a knick-knack, Pattie Whack. Give the frog a loan - his old man's a Rolling Stone!"</p>



David Holmes
Come Get It I Got It

Out now on 13 Amp recordings

This mix CD from David Holmes has generous measures of funk, psychedelia and old-style R&B, which come together as a heady Sunday morning pick-me-up.

The songs you'll find on this album will often escape the usual "Best Of..." type compilations - in fact, there should be a prize for anyone who has heard of groups such as The Johnny Otis Show and The Peter Thomas Sound Orchestra.

Holmes mixes the tracks together expertly and with care. He also throws in some sampled speeches and quotations, which sustain the feeling of era and place - the album is lodged squarely in sixties America.

Unfortunately, whilst the album starts with very distinctive, exciting tracks, the novelty wears off. Whilst it undoubtedly has cohesion, it doesn't possess the stylistic variety of, say, the *Pulp Fiction* soundtrack, which is perhaps its closest counterpart in terms of celebrating the music of sixties America. Even as the CD finishes, I can't help feeling that there should have been a more significant ending - a twist, a curve-ball that the listener would never have seen coming.

That aside, *Come Get It I Got It* does contain some of the finest songs known to humanity and fully deserves your undivided attention.



Patrick



Cornershop
Handcream For A Generation

Out now on Wiiiija records

Before I begin, why not take a minute to listen to the music press as they gush about Cornershop's latest offering: "warm and righteous sunshine..." (*NME*); "an early contender for album of the year" (*The Independent*). Now, I've never been one to fly in the face of public opinion, but on this occasion, I will have to give it a beating, dress it in a clown outfit and leave it lying in the gutter.

After 1997's eclectic and satisfying *When I Was Born For The 7th Time*, this new release comes as a disappointment. While *When I Was Born...* was inventive in a number of senses (the rhythms, melodies and general vibes were a real assortment), this is a samey and over-catchy turkey of a record.

The good points first - no track on its own sounds particularly bad. *Lessons Learned From Rocky I To Rocky III* is funky and bizarre, *Music Plus 1* is good for the dancefloor, and *Heavy Soup* is pleasant enough. The best track is probably *Spectral Mornings*, which features Noel Gallagher's indifferent strumming.

But as a whole, *Handcream For A Generation* is not much more than irritating. *Motion The 11* is possibly the lowest point, but when singing children turn up on *Staging The Plaguig Of The Raised Platform*, I know I've had quite enough.



Derek



Cyclefly
Crave

Out now on MCA records

Cyclefly are a bit of a mystery. Comprised of two Irishmen, two Frenchmen and an Italian, the Cork-based quintet have definitely got something strange going on.

Their last album *Generation Sap* was released three years ago, and fans have been waiting anxiously to see if the multi-national boys can come up with the goods again. And have they? Thankfully, the answer is a resounding yes.

For owners of *Generation Sap*, a warning: this album is nowhere near as punk as the last. In fact, the appearance of Linkin Park's Chester Bennington on the desperately tense track *Karma Killer* demonstrates that Cyclefly have almost turned to nu-metal.

The album begins with *No Stress*, the forthcoming single. This is a metally track, with plenty of low-pitched guitar riffs and gravelly vocals. Then, Cyclefly progress through slightly darker territory (*Karma Killer* and *Selophane Fixtures*), influenced perhaps by Tool and the early Smashing Pumpkins.

Then we come to the title track *Crave*, which is surprisingly different from the first three tracks on the album, being very soft and tender. Other recommendations include the quiet, almost gothic *Crowns* and the very dark *Weary*, which features some interesting chord progressions.

This is definitely no "difficult second album", but it is perfectly possible that old fans could be slightly disappointed. Then again, they could be thrilled - as I am - that Cyclefly have found a few new tricks and are using them with gusto.



Jess

COMPETITION

We've got a copy of *Come Get It I Got It* (see review, above left) to give away.

QUESTION: David Holmes wrote the soundtrack to which recent film?

Please email your answer, along with your name, year and department, to music.felix@ic.ac.uk by Thursday 2 May.

The winner of the A album (Issue 1231) is Emily Yeomans of Biology I.

INTERVIEW with Manu Chao

Compared to my usual hungover Wednesdays, chasing the elusive French pop star Manu Chao around London was quite a turn-up for the books.

After I'd found the right venue - changed by Manu - and waited half an hour, the man himself walked in, looking like any ordinary bloke you'd sit next to on the tube, with his ever-present beanie. Some jumped up to greet the musician with the fervour of teenage girls at a pop concert. Maybe they were just his friends. Anyway, Manu sat at the corner of a large table, surrounded by the groupies, while journalists from student and national media jostled for his attention.

The slightly strange interview began with the predictable questions about his "inspiration", before progressing to the subject of his two recent UK gigs.

FELIX: How does the English crowd compare to France and South America?

MANU: Really well. They were really excited on both nights, and I was surprised that people actually know my stuff here.

Were you surprised that the crowd knew the songs you did with Mano Negra [his old band]?

Yes, it was a great to see that people knew that stuff, but I think a lot of the crowd were from South America and so had heard a lot of my other music.

Did the time you spent in Brazil make your music sound more Brazilian?

Yes, it did influence me a lot, but I think Brazilian music has been ... [speaks in Spanish for a bit] ... pigeonholed too much. They are making so much music and such a wide range that you cannot just say it sounds Brazilian. But yes, I loved a lot of the music I heard out there.

What do you think of the state of latin music worldwide?

The music in South America is really exciting, but the "latin" music coming from Miami has nothing to do with it. They have left behind their roots and changed to an American way of life, and they aren't making real latin music any more. It is a shame, because everyone in South America wants to go to Miami - they all see it as some sort of paradise. The same thing happens in Africa - the people I know there all want to get to Europe, which in their minds is this paradise.

Since you seem to have strong views on these topics, have you ever considered moving into politics?

[Looks offended] No, not at all, I am not interested in politics. It is all corrupt - all of Miami is run by the mafia, and the governments no longer have any control over what is going on. It is all controlled by organised crime or large companies. I am only interested in affecting the neighbourhood where I can see effects of what I do. My neighbour in Barcelona was a fascist, and would not talk to my girlfriend [who is black], but now he has changed and he always speaks to her in the morning. He saw me the other morning and came to say how beautiful he thought she was!

Nick

OUT THIS WEEK

The following are due for release on Monday 29 April:

ALBUMS

- BLUE LIGHT FEVER - Blue Light Fever
- DAN THE AUTOMATOR - Wanna Buy A Monkey?
- FISCHERSPOONER - #1
- PITCHSHIFTER - PSI
- REDEFINE - The Daisychain Cycle
- THE SUICIDE MACHINES - Steal This Record

SINGLES

- TIMO MAAS feat MC CHICKABOO - Shifter
- MOBY - We Are All Made Of Stars
- THE MUSIC - The People EP

Singles Roundup

KOSHEEN - Hungry

Some of the drum 'n' bass hardheads out there who particularly enjoyed Kosheen's *Hide U* might find this a bit tame for their liking. On the other hand, if you prefer beats which haven't come out of the jungle, this may well tickle your fancy. With acoustic guitars, inoffensive beats and a vaguely Corrs-like vocal, *Hungry* is about as hard as a walnut whip, but it's short, sweet and perfectly nice.



Derek

BILAL - Fast Lane

This is fun. Bilal's scattling falsetto swoops over a funky Dre production, with Jadakiss along for the ride providing an enjoyable cameo. Bilal sounds like a young Prince, with, bizarrely, something of a Jeff Buckley feel, which is of course a Very Good Thing™.



Toby G

HAVEN - Til The End

This is one of the softer songs from the album, gradually building up momentum as it reaches the chorus. Gary Briggs' heartfelt vocals work very well with the guitars. Unfortunately though, it sounds a bit too much like Coldplay.



Tank

HOOBASTANK - Crawling In The Dark

Hoobastank are yet another Californian nu-metal band to be launched this side of the pond, but with one difference: they are actually quite good. They manage to get the mix right between rock noise and noticeable lyrics, and (whisper it!) they actually sing, rather than shouting or rapping over loud guitars. The harmonies are clear, even when they're rocking out. Let's hope that there's a lot more to come.



Tank

Michael Connelly always wanted to be a crime fiction writer after reading the works of Raymond Chandler while attending the University of Florida. Once he decided on this career path he majored in journalism and when he graduated in 1980, Michael worked at newspapers in Daytona Beach and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, primarily specialising in the crime beat.

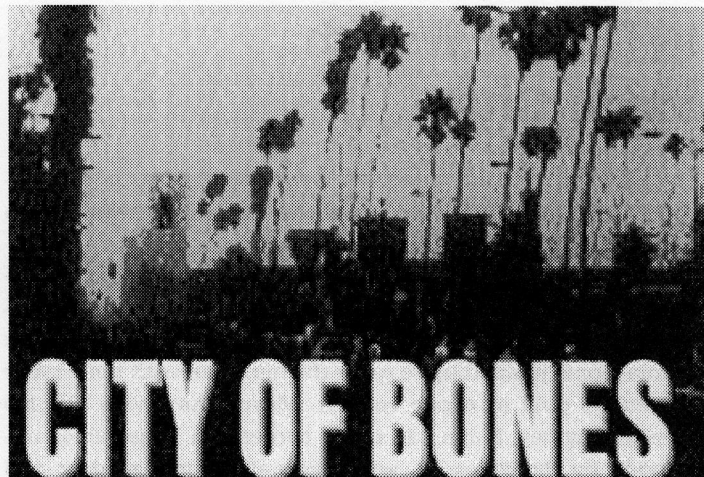
In 1986 he and two other reporters wrote a magazine story on an aeroplane crash and the survivors that was later short-listed for the Pulitzer Prize. Michael then moved to the Los Angeles Times as a crime reporter. After three years in LA, Michael started to write *The Black Echo*, a novel featuring LAPD detective Hieronymus Bosch. Since then Michael has written a further ten novels, seven of which feature Harry. These works are reviewed below and an interview with Michael appears on the next page.

Michael Connelly Novels Published by Orion

In 1992 Michael Connelly wrote his first novel, *The Black Echo*, which later went on to win the Edgar Prize for Best First Mystery Novel. *The Black Echo* introduced us to LAPD detective Hieronymus (Harry) Bosch and saw him investigating the death of Billy Meadows, a former colleague of Harry's during the Vietnam war whose body was found in a drain pipe at the Mulholland Dam. From the beginning Harry was very much a maverick whose conflicts with his Lieutenant and the hierarchy of the LAPD would constantly see him in trouble but apart from this Harry was regarded as a first-class detective. Instant success with *The Black Echo* was followed with the next three Bosch novels *The Black Ice* (1993), *The Concrete Blond* (1994) and *The Last Coyote* (1995). *The Last Coyote* being one of my favourites (and also Michael's) in which Harry deals with his suspension from the LAPD by re-opening a thirty-year-old unsolved crime: the murder of his own mother.

In 1996 Michael wrote the stand alone novel *The Poet* which concerned crime reporter Jack McEvoy and the death of his brother, a homicide detective. Jack finds that the best way to deal with the death of his brother is to investigate and write an article on suicides in the police force. When he begins his research he soon makes the shocking discovery that maybe not all of these officers committed suicide.

In 1997 saw the release of the next Bosch novel, *Trunk Music*, and in 1998 came the novel *Blood Work*. In *Blood Work*, Connelly introduces, Terry McCaleb, a former FBI agent whose heart ailment forced his early retirement. When Graciela Rivers asks him to investigate her sister's death, her story hooks him immediately: the new heart beating in McCaleb's chest was hers. In 1999, *Angels Flight* (Bosch) was released and in 2000, *Void Moon* hit the shops. *Void Moon* features Cassie Black a former burglar who would rob wealth gamblers in Las Vegas finds herself returning to Vegas for one last job. In 2001 saw a Terry McCaleb and Harry Bosch novel, *A Darkness More Than Night*, in which Terry investigates a murder and finds that Harry Bosch is the prime suspect. April 2002 saw the release of *City Of Bones*, the latest Bosch novel and a full review appears on the next page.



City of Bones Orion, Hardback, £17.99

On the first day of the New Year, Detective Hieronymus (Harry) Bosch is called out when a man reports that his dog has unearthed a number of bones in the Hollywood Hills. The dog's owner, a retired doctor, informs Harry that the bones are human and it is soon determined that they are the twenty years old remains of a twelve-year-old boy. Harry is drawn into a case that evokes memories of his own past and for him this is one case that he is determined to solve.

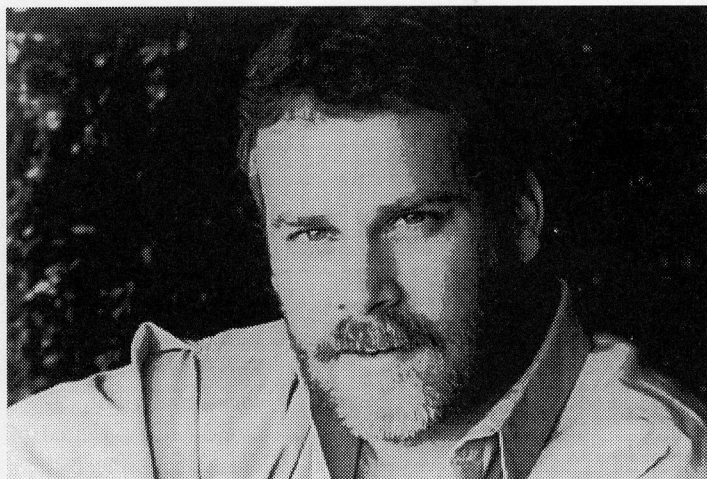
Most crimes that have gone undetected for twenty years never get solved but Harry is confident that he will bring this killer to justice and after much detective work he discovers the child's identity and the background to his turbulent life.

At the same time as the case is unfolding, Harry starts an affair with a rookie female officer, Julia Brasher. After being emotionally hurt when his wife, Eleanor, suddenly left him, Harry is once again starting to open up to someone.

When a supposedly straight forward meeting with a former friend of the murdered boy goes hideously wrong Bosch begins to doubt his beliefs in both his actions and the job he holds. As the investigation heads towards its startling conclusion Harry is on the verge of an almost unimaginable decision.

With the Harry Bosch novels, Michael Connelly created one of the greatest crime fiction series of the nineties. With *City of Bones* (and last year's *A Darkness More Than Night*) this belief can be carried into another decade as well. Michael is one of those rare writers that manages to never write a bad book. His description and feel for Los Angeles is haunting and the dialogue that his characters purvey is realistic and never over the top. The plot to this and all his novels show a mind that is both methodical and he is constantly asking his reader to think about the images that his work portrays.

As the Bosch series continues we've been witness to both the highs and lows in Harry's life and this is one thing that keeps fans returning to these works. With everything that happens in *City Of Bones*, Harry has some big decisions to make about his future and if Michael Connelly writes (and I'm sure he will) more books of this standard there will be a lot more people following Harry too.



Michael Connelly Interview

First of all, can you tell us about your background and what you did before you became a crime fiction writer?

I was born in Philadelphia but I say I'm from Florida because my family moved there when I was small and that's where I grew up. For the last fifteen years I've lived in LA although recently I moved back to a part of Florida where my wife is from and we'll probably move again in a couple of years. I moved a lot in Los Angeles, seven times in fifteen years but it seems to be in my blood and it kind of helps me with my writing and I find it invigorating.

I decided in school that I wanted to be a writer and hopefully write some crime novels but I knew that at that point in my life it seemed a long shot so I went to journalism school and hoped that that would be a means to an end. When I left school I became a police reporter and after a number of years of doing this I started to write books and for a while the two over-lapped. These days I'm no longer a journalist but it seems that I've been writing in some form my entire adult life.

How do you go about writing a novel?

It has changed a lot over the years but in general and definitely more recently I do a lot of thinking before I even start to sit down at the computer to start writing. For me the thinking and planning is the best part of writing as it can get you really excited and then you have to sit down and start writing it which is less so. In general I know the beginning and the end of a novel and the three hundred pages in between I make up as I go. It's hard to have the beginning and the end planned without having some idea of how the middle will shape out, for example, I might know what clue will put the detective on the right track so I'm not totally in the blind when I get to the middle.

In your first novel, *The Black Echo*, you introduce us to LAPD detective Harry Bosch. How did you come up with the character of Harry?

He is definitely an amalgamation of many different things and people. Real cops that I know or knew, fictitious cops from books and movies. The aspects of his personality even come from other

writers such as James Ellroy who has a similar background to him. At the time of putting Harry together Ellroy was getting a name for himself and it was clear to me that this guy was working out whatever baggage the murder of his mother had left with him by writing mystery novels. I thought then about a detective who has the same sort of baggage but works it out by solving crimes. Harry really does come from all over.

How has Harry Bosch changed over the years?

I think that he has become gentler and more inward thinking and assessing of stuff he did. In *Black Echo* he was too stuffy, too much of an unyielding tough guy. By the time he got to *Angels Flight* he had learned more about the world and realised that there is more grey in the world than black and white. In *City of Bones* we come to an ultimate evolution I think with him, he is coming to a realisation that he may have been using the wrong fuel in his engine. For a long time, Harry held to the belief that he needed the badge to go out and conduct the mission which in his mind is solving murders to make up for the big one that changed his life. There is nothing wrong with this mission or that it is still intact in Harry's mind, but he sees another way of going at it now.

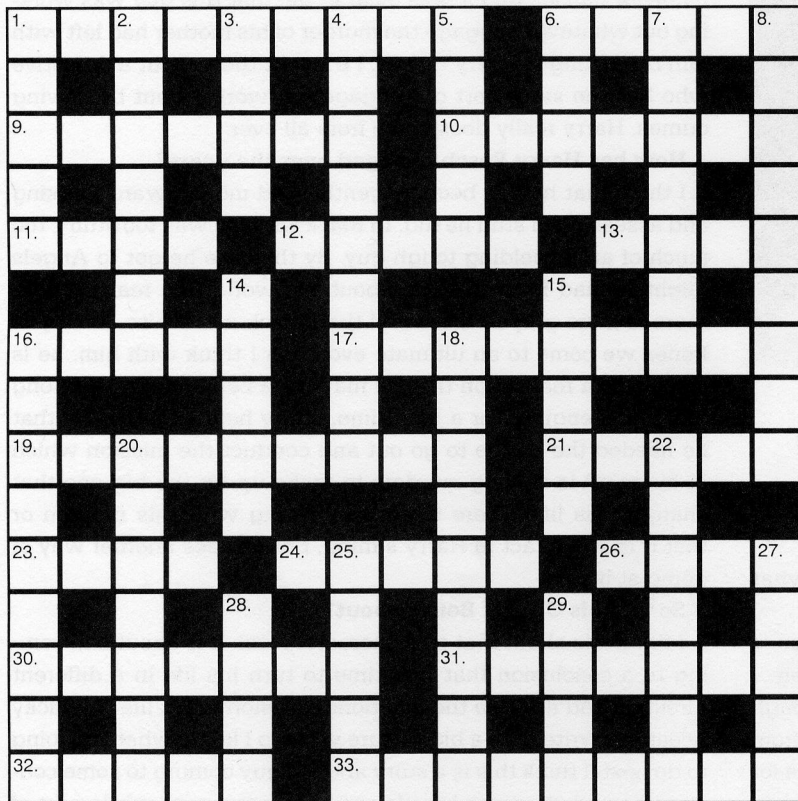
So what is *City Of Bones* about?

I think it is about that on a character level. It is about him coming to a conclusion that it is time to turn his life in a different direction and not lose the emotional mission in his life. I'm lucky because I write from a big picture view so I know what I'm going to do next. I think this is a story about a guy coming to some conclusions and changing his life and that is the very subtle part of what is pinned to the mystery that he is investigating. The part about the bones is something that I've wanted to write about for some time. I came across some academic literature on anthropology and child abuse and it was something that I wanted to write about. The challenge was to get Harry emotionally charged with a victim where there is no victim just bones. There is no flesh and blood he can look at to get him angry to find the killer. That is why there is a pretty tough scene in the coroner's office when the doctor is going over the injuries with Harry and it gets to him because it could have been him. He was a thrown away child so there is a connection between Harry and the boy.

What is going to happen to Harry?

He is definitely coming back. I've just finished a stand-alone novel and I'm getting back into Bosch. Basically, I've rocked his world like I've rocked mine with moving three thousand miles. The next Bosch is written in the first person and he is not a private detective but he is going to get involved with solving those cold cases he walked out of the door with. He will get a private detective license about a month after he retires because it is a routine for cops in California to do so once they retire. Harry does this, and what I've written so far, is it's now eight or nine months after he retired and he is opening those boxes and looking inside. My aim is to write two books with him on his own and then I'm going to have him join the newly formed homicide squad that is being set in LA to solve cold cases that is going to be run by talented, retired detectives. My goal is to write two Harry's in private and then bring him back into a bureaucratic setting because he is interesting to watch in this way.

Crossword by Turnip Henry



Across

1. Arse! Sounds like my willy is nobbly. (9)
6. Gastric juice around Bishop and his book. (5)
9. Short lorry the French write about. (7)
10. Attack may cause upset. (7)
11. Greeting for weather, perhaps. (4)
12. Fast bird. (5)
13. Capital punishment for computer crash. (4)
16. On Saturday, a vegetable became very smooth. (5)
17. Imply that it sounds like you consumed during a misdemeanour. (9)
19. Worsen aim around Lothario. (9)
21. Stoneworker is free, perhaps. (5)
23. Flower went up. (4)
24. Quiet hunk is a bit fat. (5)
26. Novel with a tonne for animal. (4)
30. Alistair left a fusion reactor for a great sportsman. (3-4)
31. Shut away and regurgitate tea with soil. (7)
32. Girl from country in the sun. (5)
33. The best part is the sun. (9)

Down


1. Silence after support is a bit boisterous. (5)
2. Mathematical concept could aid sleep. (7)
3. Brit chap has irritated me. (4)
4. Seed Lewis cultivated into small plant. (9)
5. Deride the practice of eating greedily. (5)
6. Rub in the nude. (4)
7. Fruit with Penny in head gear. (7)
8. Plant that's always colourful. (9)
14. Drug is very smelly. (5)
15. DNA structure without drug makes a little man. (5)
16. Points to rarest form of underground rodents. (5-4)
18. Sing about curved bottom stealing apples. (9)
20. Scum mixture Lesley has makes you strong. (7)
22. Girl explodes: the whole lot. (7)
25. Tree left on a curve. (5)
27. Nipple is about right for a prize. (5)
28. Drink in the light to amaze. (4)
29. Bread can trundle. (4)

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Only those candidates who have worked as a shiftleader previously with Accommodation Link or those candidates with prior Reception experience in a Hotel environment will be accepted for these positions

Dr. Hot Fudge had absconded to Mexico with the prizes from both the GFOQ and the crosswords from the previous two terms, and so in my fury I set out to find him with my chocolate seeking device, hoping to teach him a lesson he wouldn't forget in a hurry. However, when I came to getting on the 'plane, the security men deemed my weapon too dangerous, and said I couldn't continue my chase without a missile-ectomy. Therefore, unarmed, I arrived in New Mexico, only to find that Fudge had been deported for DVD trafficking. Imagine my horror to return home to find him under house arrest with Slobodan Milosevic. Well, suffice to say I couldn't have him write a crossword in that state, so here's one of my old ones from the crypt. And I've no idea where Bobby C is...

Yacht Club Misadventures

It all got off to a bad start. It was the weekend of the yacht clubs annual mad dash across to Cherbourg and back again.

The plan was to leave London early Friday afternoon, leave Portsmouth around nine that evening, get to Cherbourg for a late breakfast on Saturday, go to the hypermarket and pub and then leave on Saturday evening to be back in Portsmouth on Sunday afternoon. Sadly this was not to be. What with leaving London over an hour late, the mini bus breaking down and not buying quick cook pasta for dinner we didn't leave until midnight.

Having left the lights of Portsmouth Harbour behind we found that the wind was not in a direction suitable for just pointing at France and hoping we got there, and a more zigzagged approach was required.

We started on a westerly tack and stormed along at about seven knots for a few hours, three of the ten crew on watch and the others fast asleep, apart from the skipper who had chosen to sleep next to the chocolate and was therefore frequently disturbed by members of the watch. Three hours later the first watch went to bed and the next took over. Unfortunately at some point in the next three hours the wind also decided to change and it became clear that we wouldn't get to Cherbourg until dinner time on Saturday, which would leave us with only a couple of hours there before the long trip home. It was therefore decided at a very sleepy six in the morning that we wouldn't bother, and instead we continued on our circumnavigation of the Isle of Wight, heading for Poole which we reached nine hours and a fine cooked breakfast later.

We stayed in Poole just long enough to shower and go to the pub, and then headed for along the coast to Lymington. The trip out of Poole harbour was an exciting hour of spotting flashing lights and matching them to those on the chart, a task somewhat complicated by a random cardinal buoy, and the difficulty of distinguishing between a light flashing every four seconds and one that flashed every five.

We arrived in Lymington at half past midnight, with the intention of leaving again at 5 am, however, for reasons that are unclear, this didn't happen.

Instead we left at half past eight and went the short way along the coast, reaching record speeds of over ten knots and finding ourselves outside Portsmouth Harbour very much ahead of schedule for the first time all weekend. So we found ourselves a quiet spot and threw a buoy called John overboard until he was rescued after spending hours in the freezing water and losing both legs. We then headed to the Isle of Wight for lunch and a quick drink before heading back to Portsmouth to hand back the boat, having had a fantastic weekends sailing even if everything hadn't gone to plan....

In slightly more serious Yachting news, over the final weekend of last term a Yacht Club crew, out to prove that they weren't quite as incompetent as the first half of this article suggests, enjoyed an eventful two days of one-design racing in the Solent. The company organising the regatta has recently purchased a fleet of brand new Sunfast 37s and so we had the pleasure of racing a boat that had only been sailed once before.

Conditions for the weekend were forecast to be excellent for racing with calm seas, good visibility and moderate winds. Despite the fine weather and the new boat we soon encountered a problem. During a downwind run shortly before the start of the race a shackle broke, dumping our spinnaker in the water and sending its halyard to the top of the mast. Quickly we recovered the sail from the sea and hoisted a willing volunteer up the mast to retrieve the halyard, completing the task in time for the start. After a reasonable start we worked our way up the fleet of 23 other yachts and, despite a close encounter with the London Business School boat, finished a respectable 11th. Following a long lunch break, for repairs

to be made to other yachts, the second race went ahead with no problems and we finished 10th. Encouraged by the days performance we returned to Portsmouth and hurried to the pub for food and beer.

Sunday's weather was better still, as was our performance. During the first race of the day some superb teamwork and crafty tactics meant we crossed the line in a very pleasing 6th position. With this encouragement the final race of the weekend started superbly putting us in the top five for most of the race. Unfortunately as the saying goes it isn't finished until the fat lady sings and the saying couldn't be truer for sailing and we finished the race in 7th position.



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FIGHT THE COLD VIRUS!

Mud-Wrestling Extravaganza

A sunny day it was that dawned to see me scrabbling north on this country's famous rail network to one of the most bleak and desolate parts of England; to the very heart of the North: Bolton.

I was here to observe that fantastic new sport that is sweeping nation after nation, catching all who experience it in an upswell of enthusiasm, like a veritable brown tsunami. I speak of none other, of course, than the famous 2002 Mud-Wrestling-Slow-Down-Mow-Round-Ho-Down Grand Finals.

Last year's winner was there to defend her title, but the format of this year's bouts took a different format from previous ones. I can tell you that last year was a distressingly Non-

Politically Correct affair, with different divisions for each sex. Of course that kind of old fashioned out-moded thinking was right out at this year's event, and the foolish complaints of many that 'Girls aren't as strong as boys' was bitterly ignored, and quite rightly so. This sport isn't about mere strength: this is a game that can be played on a mental level as well as utilising speed, courage, and a vicious desire to expose your enemy's genitals..

The rules are complex, and can't be explained in detail here, but it's fair to say that the first person who finds themselves butt-naked up to their neck in mud lost. Imagine, if you will, a lovechild of rugby, wrestling and strip poker.

This year's first bout (sorry, but I just can't resist this) was between Doug 'Pretty Filthy, Really' Williams (seeded 4) and Mary 'Slightly Soiled' Dane (6), which passed relatively uneventfully, apart from some slightly suspect play from Mary that seemed to suggest a swift kick between Doug's legs. However, never one to give up, he came back to eventually pin her down and claim victory.

The next three first round matches all went as expected, with the higher seeds all winning their matches. This led to Doug 'Really Quite Filthy, Now' Williams (4) being up against Ali 'Nasty Mucky Threesome' Tehran (3), and current champion Penny 'Dirty Filthy Dirty Little Vixen' Monsoon (1)

was to play Fryn 'Could Be Much Dirtier, But Is Nonetheless Pretty Manky' Farrer (5).

After much to-ing and fro-ing, Fryn beat Penny using a surprise headlock, and went on to face Ali, who had overcome Doug using his patent 'Four Footer' Manoeuvre.

This final match lasted several hours, and both players looked like they enjoyed every moment, but all good things must eventually climax, and once the mire had cleared, it was found that Ali was up to his neck in it, leaving Fryn 'We Knew She Had It In Her To Be A Really Really Dirty Little Deviant' Farrer as the winner.

Rest assured: I will keep you informed of future games...

A Personal Plea

As you may have noticed by this point, the sports section this week consists solely two articles concerning yachting. I know that this will seem less than fair to some of you, but I would like to point out - so I don't get too much abuse from those of you who are not fans of the nautical arts - that there was nothing else to publish.

This is not a complaint directed at the ICYS, to whom I am indeed most grateful, but at the rest of you bastards who didn't send us anything at all. I know that the summer term is a busy and stressful time for us all but it's also a time for some of the finer pleasures in life: cricket, and, er, swimming, and all that kind of stuff.

So get out there and play frisbee, you lovely people. Get out there, enjoy the sun, and then come back and write me

some 'we're enjoying the sun' reports, and I can have a whole new section that entirely relates your lazy afternoons sat in the park with your friends rather than revising. Which is great. Let me repeat myself once more: there's more to life than a degree, you know. Like sunburn.

So as this, possibly the weirdest issue of Felix ever published, draws to an end, it merely remains for me to fill up the rather large empty half-page above my head. To do this, I'll tell you about my enjoyable time at a certain rapidly growing sport's finals.

Suffice to say I won't mention the bizarre incident with the goat, the lightning and the small kitchen utensil used for crushing garlic, but the goat is happily living in Brighton with the utensil, and I'm off to have a nervous breakdown.

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