

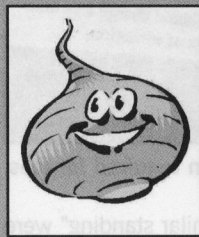
FELIX

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College

Issue 1244



A Turnip. Reprensetting Turnip Henry, back for one night only...
Page 21



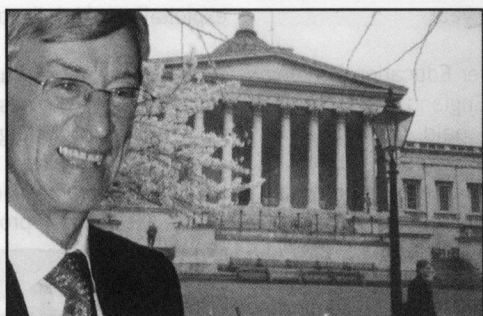
Felix Film makes a comeback with Oceans Eleven.
Page 11



On Monday 14th October, *Felix* published the news that Imperial College was planning to merge with University College London and, seperately, to charge its students £10,000 top-up fees.

Rector's UCL Plan

After the initial publication, *Felix* has since learned that Imperial College's Rector Sir Richard Sykes was UCL's first choice to replace Sir Derek Roberts in the post of UCL Provost during Sir Richard's days at the helm of GlaxoWellcome, before the company merged with SmithKline Beecham.



Was UCL Sir Richard Sykes' plan all along?

Sir Derek Roberts, now in charge of UCL once again as caretaker after the forced resignation of Sir Chris Llewellyn Smith, said of Sir Richard "When I first retired four years ago, Richard Sykes was the first choice for provost. We have been waiting for four years to get his services."

Sir Derek also commented that Sir Richard was days away from accepting the UCL position when GlaxoWellcome's merger talks with

SmithKline Beecham collapsed in February 1998, after which Sir Richard elected to remain with GlaxoWellcome. The successful merger which formed GlaxoSmithKline was re-

announced in January 2000.

If Imperial College and University College do merge successfully, Sir Richard will ultimately become head of one of the largest institutions in the world.

Sir Richard has certainly expressed an interest in influencing the country's research in the past – particularly in biomedical sciences – though whether this merger is part of some grand plan is unclear. However, the merger will provide an excellent stage to direct policy on how universities are run, not just about their research, but the whole of the British higher education system. AW

Full details of the UCL merger can be found on page 3; a Union statement is on page 4.

College Denies Top-up Fees

Despite the planned presentation of a paper to College Council on Friday backing the payment of top-up fees by Imperial students, the College has told the BBC that it was "absolutely not true" that the introduction of top-up fees would be discussed.

This seems directly contrary to the paper, which asks Council to agree that the College should publicly announce its wish to introduce top-up fees for its students should the Government remove the £1,100 cap on tuition fees. The paper does not specify the

level of fees that Imperial would hope to introduce, but £10,500 was used only as an example in a calculation representing the advantages to top-up charging.

Regardless, there certainly appears to be a disparity between the papers published for Council and the impression College sources are giving to the national media. In an interview with the Union media, Director of Strategy and Communication Chris Towler said "it's very clear what the deficits in university funding are", stating that Imperial College lost

£2,800 per year on each student. Pending a government white paper, the contents of which the College administration did not "officially know", he indicated that top-up fees "will be an acceptable way forward."

Fees are unlikely to be introduced before the next general election, nor will any currently registered students be expected to pay top-up fees. AW

Be informed. See inside for the full story of the top-up fee proposals and what they mean.

INSIDE...

Sen (Union President) explains what the hell is going on. **4**

I (Will, Felix Editor) also try and explain what the hell is going on. But perhaps not quite so effectively. **6**

Alex makes absolutely no attempt to explain what the hell is going on.

This being a science university, we thought we should have a science page. What's going on? **7**

18th October 2002

Analysis: The Top-Up Fees Proposal

Last Wednesday there was an Emergency General Meeting of the Imperial College Union Council to discuss the paper that the Rector had produced advocating top-up fees for Imperial Students.

At the meeting, the paper that was to be brought to the College Council was effectively leaked as copies were distributed to the large crowd of students attending Union Council, despite being marked "Confidential". While first reports, even from your trusty copy of *Felix*,

BACKGROUND

1. This Paper seeks Council approval that, should the Government permit Higher Education Institutions to do so, and with certain caveats, the College should charge fees to its Home/EU undergraduate students which reflect the true economic costs of education.
2. In the medium term, prestigious universities cannot rely on government funding to necessary for them to enhance or even maintain their academic standards. Several measures are now being put

Council's permission is just part of the authorisation required for fees

Loss Per Student

The motivation for the paper seems to be the disparity between the cost of educating each student, which College claims is £10,500, and the amount received from

Colleges "of similar standing" were to follow suit. It's certainly true, however, that Imperial seems to want to take a lead in modifying the way in which higher education is funded. This will doubtless go down well with the Government, which backs a "free market" for universities including, presumably, the ability for institutions to set their own prices as well as competition for research grants and exploitation of intellectual property.

Government Support

Given recent noises from the Government, including an appearance by Minister for Higher Education Margaret Hodge on the BBC's Newsnight programme on

scheme the Government has in mind, but it's certainly possible to imagine how the grants may be reallocated to universities with, for example, a lower number of students from independent schools.

4. The results of the Transparency Review for the College have shown that it costs approximately £10.5K per annum to teach a Home/EU undergraduate in laboratory based subjects. The College's current unit of teaching resource (HEFCE Teaching Grant + Fees) is around £7.7K. Hence the College loses around £2.8K p.a. for each such student that it teaches. Similar results would apply to many other UK Higher Education Institutions.

You're costing College £2,800 per year

indicated that top-up fees of £10,500 per year were to be introduced, the paper is actually much less specific.

Student Protest

The Emergency Council meeting eventually evolved into an Emergency General Meeting, where all the students of Imperial College are entitled to debate and vote on the issue on the table – in this case, how the Union should respond to the top-up fees proposals. There was an unusually high turn-out and there was an enthusiastic discussion, mandating the

HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) and current tuition fees paid by students, which total around £7,500 according to the Rector's proposal.

Few can argue that this loss, which in fact totals around £28million each year, has to be met from somewhere but some do argue that a university should spend more on its students than what they're explicitly given for teaching. Indeed, in the end-of-year accounts published by Imperial in July 2001, there was a real operating loss of £1million. College only remained in the black

5. It seems likely that the Higher Education White Paper, which is due to be published in November, will state that the Government is considering removing the limitation on the fees that can be charged to Home/EU Undergraduate students. Any change would be implemented following the next General Election at the earliest. The political implications of such a statement are such that it seems that the Government would probably only wish to do this if there is public support from a number of higher education institutions.

Governmental support is key to College's plan

President to strongly condemn top-up fees regardless of any concessions. The meeting eventually passed the motion that the students should organise a protest outside the 170 Queen's Gate, where the Rector's proposal would be made. As *Felix* went to press, this protest was scheduled to occur outside the residence during Friday morning.

by selling off over £16million of assets, which is far from a sustainable source of income.

Imperial Will Not Act Alone

One of the key points restricting the immediate introduction of top-up fees is the caveat attached to the end of the proposal, specifying that Imperial College could only afford to charge top-up fees if other

Wednesday, it seems likely that approval will be forthcoming which allows universities to charge top-up fees as they see fit. Officially, however, no statement has been made but there is little doubt that the Rector is sure of his ground, given the College management's contacts with policy-makers.

Additionally, for the numbers presented by the Rector's paper to add up, current funding from HEFCE for each student must continue unchanged even after top-up fees are introduced. This money, claims the paper, will be used to provide poorer students with bursaries to cover the extra cost of their degree. Again, we have to hope that the Rector has information indicating that this will be possible under any new finance

FELIX

Issue 1244

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The Council is invited to discuss and, if it sees fit, agree that:

- a. Should the Government state that it would consider the removal of the restriction on the level of fees to be charged to Home/EU undergraduates, the College would state publicly that it would wish to introduce higher fees for this group of students.
- b. The College's

No amount has been set for the fees

Informed Argument

However this proposal is interpreted, the Emergency Council meeting stressed how the importance of an intelligent and informed argument from the student body opposing top-up fees was vital if either the College or Government are to take notice. Even protest could let College know that the students are watching. Part of this must be the realisation that this particular proposal paves the way for, but stops far short of, committing the College to charge top-up fees or to set any level. Instead, the reasons for the release of this paper now, preempting any Governmental announcement and possibly giving *carte blanche* to the Rector on fees, are prime targets for examination by the student body. AW



The UCL Merger In Full

Last week, Imperial College announced that it had been in talks with University College London about a possible merger.

Of primary interest is why this merger might be going ahead. There's no shortage to opposition both among the staff and student populations of the two colleges.

New University of London

While everyone was speculating that the merger of Imperial and University might signal the end of affiliation to the University of London, Imperial's Rector Sir Richard Sykes indicated that he wanted to form "The University of London", despite the current existence of The University of London. This may indicate a plan for eventual absorption of all London's colleges, or even closure of those considered unworthy to join the new body.

Free Market

When questioned on the BBC's Newsnight programme, Sir Richard expressed support for the Government's position that univer-

sities should operate in a freer market. He also "wouldn't mind" seeing smaller, less popular universities shutting down if they were unable to secure the improved funding that the new institution, for example, will be able to command with its increased size.

London School of Economics

Back in 2000, *Felix* reported that the College had plans for a merger with LSE. While nothing apparently came from these talks, the College management did admit that LSE had been approached about merger. Additionally, they are also likely to charge top-up fees alongside other colleges.

Arts Departments To Close?

Most of the immediate advantages from merger arise from the disposal of shared resources that are no longer required, which in many cases means staff. A source in the University of London suggested that UCL's humanities departments might be "phased out" in order to focus on the scientific

departments which bring in the largest research grants.

Merger Rescue

While UCL looks like it has the most to gain from a merger, both Imperial and UCL need some way to secure their long-term future (see *Financial Pressure*, below). The top-up fees proposal that will be presented to College Council on Friday may be one way of balancing the books, but there's clearly a problem at UCL, which is also likely to charge top-up fees when the Government approves the move according to Chris Towler, Directory of Strategy and Communications.

"Critical mass" is a phrase central to College's communications on the merger – the combined power of both Imperial and UCL's attraction for research grants should prove insurmountable.

Government Support

The Government have clearly supported the plan for merger, and that between the University of Manchester and UMIST. Given

that the Government's recent policy on university funding have been less than popular with the Unions, this may be a bad sign if the Rector is seeking support from students for the plan. However, contacting the student body about the merger seemed more of an afterthought than a priority, with both national media and College staff informed well in advance of any official notice from the management by e-mail.

Student Input

With Imperial College Union focusing on the proposed top-up fees, it may be some time before some coordinated response on the merger plans comes from Beit Quad. Certainly students have much to lose from any potential merger, particularly if it fails to lower the need for extra tuition fees. The sheer practicality of getting two classes into the same lecture theatre remains a concern for students and staff alike, though whether staff influence will succeed where students may fail remains to be seen. AW

Financial Pressure

It's no secret that both Imperial and UCL have been suffering financial problems for the past years, nor is it denied by the College that financial motivations are behind the plan to merge.

Imperial College lost around £1.6million last year but sold around £16million of assets to offset the loss and improve their financial reserved. However, since the 2000 fiscal year, Imperial has tightened up its finances considerably, though the published accounts only tell the story of Sir Richard Sykes' first six months as Rector of Imperial.

Conversely, University College are "shafted" according to an accountant *Felix* asked to examine their annual reports, who added "I wouldn't touch them with a barge-pole." While the accounts don't reveal much detail about UCL's activities, they lost £2.8million on 2000-2001's activity alone. They also had to call in emergency over-

draft measures and have £75million in long-term debt.

Their financial management may be partly to blame – the amount of money owed to them by other organisations rose from £84m to £100m in just one year. At the same time, money owed to other organisations by UCL increased from £4million to £10million and UCL's "cash-in-hand" all but vanished. Both IC and UCL lost significant amounts of money in stock market collapses – around 12% of their value, in fact – but Imperial suffered most from the devaluation of Turbo Genset Inc. The value of those shares is listed at £28m, but is now worth little more than £1.5m. If Imperial were relying on the sale of those shares to fund any large projects, the money has now disappeared.


Money is doubtless the main driving force behind the merger, but can Sir Richard work his industrial magic on UCL's ailing finances? AW

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From The Union

Student Fees

No doubt you will have read the news that the Rector has presented a paper to the College governing body asking permission to charge students fees to home and EU students that reflect the true economic cost of education.

The introduction of fees that correspond to the full economic cost of education represents a fundamental shift in the funding of higher education. The Union realises that the cost of providing an international standard of teaching and research must be met and that there is a funding shortfall in undergraduate teaching. A recent review showed it costs approximately £10,500 to teach a Home/EU student. Currently the College receives about £7,700 from HEFCE and student fees, this represents a short-fall of £2,800.

The Union recognises that we cannot allow this funding shortfall to continue. However, we are concerned that most Imperial students are already expected to contribute some of these costs, and any extra financial burden may further increase student hardship.

The College are suggesting charging full fees of £10,500 with the caveat that the College retains its current teaching grant from HEFCE (approximately £50M) to fund bursaries for students that cannot afford to pay full fees. The College aims to implement a needs-blind system, one that aims to allow the top-calibre students to enter College regards of their financial background.

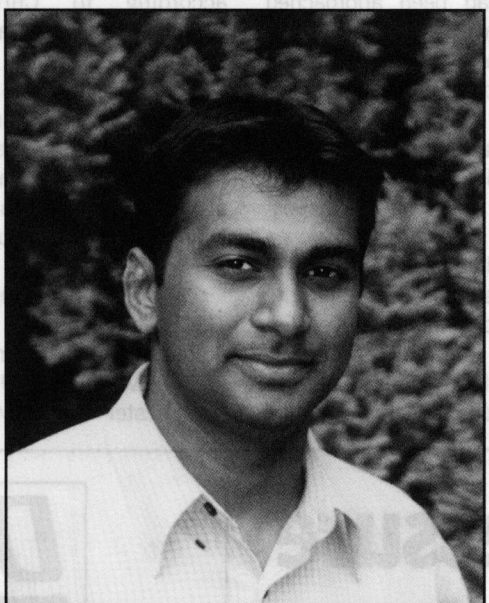
Any system for assessing the bursaries will be based on a means testing scheme. Means testing assumes that parent's wealth equates directly to their generosity towards their children. This is not always the case, indeed a recent survey conducted by Barclays Bank showed that 17% of students receive no contribution from their parents. A further 30% received less than the government's recommended contribution. There is a real danger that a large proportion of high quality students could not afford to attend Imperial.

Imperial College is a world-class higher education institution that must continue to attract the best students regardless of their financial background. We continue to support widening access for all students; and the Union has stated that it opposes any changes that compromise this principle. There is a very real danger that the perception of large debt will stop students from entering higher education.

To gauge the student opinion, I called an emergency meeting of the Union Council on Wednesday where these issues was discussed. The meeting was one of the best attended in recent years. The students gave a clear message that they are totally against the principle of charging full fees and vehemently opposed the paper tabled by the Rector. The strength of feeling was such that the students have organised

a protest on Friday morning to show their opposition to the their scheme. One of the clear messages was that students felt offended that they were not consulted on the issue of student fees. As a major stakeholder, students or their representatives must be involved at all stages when key decisions are being made about the future of their university.

Any proposed changes are unlikely to take effect till 2006 and indeed many students feel that it does not effect them. It is important to realise that if this system is introduced, you will have to start planning to send your children to higher education institutions that may charge full fees.



UCL Merger

The Union was surprised by the announcement that Imperial College are in talks with University College London with a view to a possible merger. The College have stated that it will undergo a consultation with the key stake holders with a view to making a decision by mid December.

Proponents of the merger argue that this will create a "super-university" with a combined population of 28,000 students and the critical mass to compete on the international scale. The proposed merger raises a whole of number of issues and it is important not to jump to conclusions. The Union welcomes the chance for an extensive consultation process with the student body. Any merger proposal would need to show that the university experience for Imperial College students will not be compromised and the proposed merger will add value to the organisation. The Union will engage in a wide consultation with the student body over the next few weeks. We will conduct college wide debates on the issues and will seek to produce a response to the governing body in December.

UCL is an institution which shares our pursuit of excellence in teaching and research, and the

Union is always in favour of enhancing the academic experience of our students. We must work to ensure that the quality of our teaching and research is not compromised by any proposed merger.

The idea raises a number of important question for the Union. Will there be one Union? Where will it be based? UCL Union are in the NUS and we are not and how that might affect the students here. It is also recognised that the cultures at the two institutions are different and that will present extra challenges for any proposed merger. There has already been concern expressed about the relative sizes of both institutions. UCL has some 18,000 students and Imperial has 10,000 and in a democratic system, UCL students may dominate in the arena of Union governance.

It also begs the question of what will happen to the University of London. There have been some clear indications from the College that it wishes to leave the University of London and setup as a stand-alone institution. Indeed it is expected that the Privy Council will grant the College reserve degree awarding powers this autumn. If this combined institution was to leave, University of London will be struggling to survive.

These issues and more will be discussed openly. We need an informed debate based facts and figures, and focused on the real issues. We have met with UCL Union to start discussions and will be producing a joint statement of intent. The Unions will be setting up a joint group to co-ordinate our efforts and both Unions will produce a response to the proposed merger plans. I will outline a more detailed timetable at the meeting of Council on Monday 21st October identifying key milestones in the process.

The proposed merger must not come too much as a surprise. This has been a trend within the UK. Recent high profile mergers have included UMIST and Manchester, and Guildhall and North London. There seems to be a clear strategy to create large higher education institutions that can compete on the global scale. This would radically change the tertiary education landscape in the UK.

A final word

These are undoubtedly the two biggest issues the College has faced in recent years. It is important that the Union plays a key role in ensuring that students' views are taken into account when important decisions are made about your future. It is equally crucial that the student body is active in letting its voice be heard. Over the coming weeks your representatives will be contacting you to gauge your views or you are welcome to contact me to express your opinions. So please get involved and have your say.



Daniel Kipfer / Corporate Center / Zurich / April 2002

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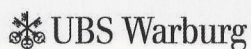
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Editorial

Hmm, well if you are reading this, it would be fair to assume that you've read the news on the front cover. I have to admit that usually I don't write serious editorials, but on a news item such as this, it would be little more than churlish to ignore it, and spout my usual crap (which would be much easier for me, let me tell you).

Usually in *Felix*, or at least certainly in the news sections, I try to ensure that the amount of opinion is kept to a minimum, and that everything that goes in there is fact, however in this editorial section, I can write whatever I like, which, it should be noticed, is not necessarily what I believe.

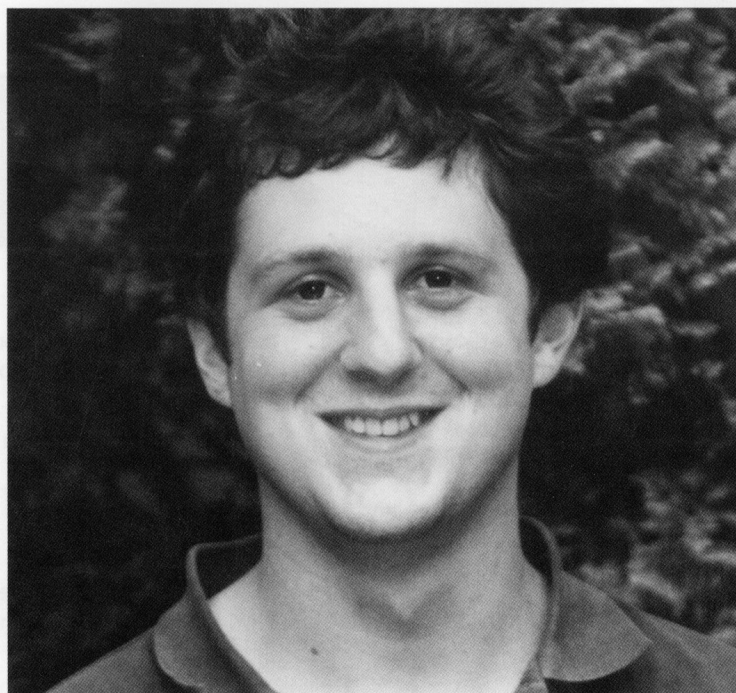
So before I start, I would like you all to hear my warning. I'm an argumentative old fool, and I very much enjoy playing the devil's advocate. Therefore, since it is fairly likely that all you here about both of our fairly major news items will be negative, I'm going to try give you some balance (although that doesn't mean I'm just going to be positive). And what's more, I'm going to try and do it from a student point of view.

Oh, this should be fun. Letters of complaint to felix@ic.ac.uk incidentally.

So first of all this whole UCL merger business. I'm not really sure what's going on here. While, as I have said, we have just reported this in the news, my personal opinion is that something very strange is going on here. If this hasn't been in discussion for years, not just a few months, then frankly I'm the monkey's uncle. Two months just isn't long enough to get something of this magnitude sorted out. However, having said that, if it had been going on for longer on any serious scale, then the number of people who would have to be involved to perform any sensible level of analysis would be great enough that one of them would have let it slip to someone, and gossip being what it is...

So while the Rector is quite cunning, he's not the sort of man who would enter into this kind of deal without first getting some pretty hefty intel on the subject. So what

conclusions can we draw from this? Well, perhaps he and Sir Derek (chap in charge of UCL) have enormous faith in the people they are employing, to the extent that they are entrusting the largest merger in British educational history (and possibly the world) to their care and two months of work. Convinced? Another option is that the whole thing could perhaps be a smoke screen to draw attention away from the whole top up fees thing, but really that seems a little over the top, and there would probably be an easier way of doing it that didn't involve another university (even though they can use the



Another random picture of me, because while I have lots to say, I don't have much time to say it...

same smoke screen for the same issue on their home turf), so that one doesn't really ring true.

It is certainly possible that the two colleges are in such dire financial need that a merger such as this is the only way that they can gather enough cash to extricate themselves from it. From the rumours that one hears in this kind of job, that wouldn't seem so unlikely, apart from the fact that I have gone through their accounts (which are on the ic.ac.uk website, if you want to see them yourself) with a trained

accountant, and while he pointed out some interesting points about sustainable sources of income (if we hadn't sold an ice rink this year, Imperial would be about 10 million pounds in debt), he couldn't see anything that led us to believe that the College is in *real* trouble, and similarly for UCL.

So that leaves us with two options. And these are the most likely two for me (although my economics isn't up to much, so one of them may be completely far fetched). A merger of this variety is likely to gain some interest, and if it were to go through, it would certainly be conceivable that the

Or they actually believe it would be good for the universities. But that's boring.

(While I'm trying to be good, I can't let it pass that Sir Derek is only in charge of UCL for a couple of months while they find a new rector, so that might explain the hurry, but it seems unlikely even then that he has any particularly misanthropic intentions.)

So now onto Top Up Fees. I'm not going to say too much on this one, because I'm afraid, boys and girls, that this is a foregone conclusion. I truly believe that short of burning down College that there is nothing we can do to stop this one.

So you might as well live with it. And to make it slightly easier to live with, let me explain something which no-one else probably will.

We get a lot of money from a group called HEFCE, who give universities money for fun. This money will now be used to fund bursaries for students who really can't afford to come here, and the idea is that those who can afford to come here will pay. Now this does seem to perpetuate a class difference, but even at the moment the statistics of financial background at Imperial are pretty worrying, considering the current system is meant to give everyone from all backgrounds a chance to come here. So now those who really can't afford it will be able to come (they'll be changing the system for assessing whether you should be 'assisted' or not, hopefully so it will be fair, as opposed to the current system), and those who can afford it will also come. Which seems fair.

I've just done a quick calculation. We get £60 million-ish for taught students. At £10 500 per degree, that pays *fully* for 5700 of them. Leaving 2300 to pay the full price (less than 30%). Not that it will work exactly like that, of course, because it's a sliding scale, but you see my point.

And one final thing to remember: this is not some scheme to screw you around. Your degree may be free to you, but it does cost money to someone: the rest of the British public (most of whom didn't have the chance to go to University).



Alex Says...

I'd love to be able to cook properly and healthily. My diet over the last two years has consisted mainly of ready meals, crisps, chips, burgers, kebabs and pies. Especially pies. They're easy to shove in the oven and damn tasty, but they haven't done much for my physique.

Of course, when I came to university, I was a great muscular hunk of a man with biceps the size of trees and capable of lifting car parks. Honest. But now I'm just a great lardy chunk of a man with biceps the size of pencils, and barely capable of picking up anything much bigger than a pint of Guinness.

I have tried to eat more healthily. One day I went to the supermarket, and I bought four lovely deep-green Granny Smith apples, five nice ripe bananas and a kilogram of potatoes.

Three weeks later I threw out four light-green apples which now resembled the bland "Golden Delicious" variety. I'm sure this is how they are cultivated – if a supermarket hasn't sold a load of their tangy, flavoursome Granny Smiths by their Use By date, just leave your them out in the warehouse for a couple of

weeks, and voila, a truckload of apples with all the flavour of soggy newspaper which you can label "Golden Delicious".

The kilogram of potatoes was trying unsuccessfully to pretend it was a house plant, and, following several letters of complaint, I threw out the five brown mushy bananas which could now be

smelt as far away as Amersham. I thought I'd scrap the fruit and vegetables plan and decided to concentrate on doing actual cooking. I got "How to Cook" by Delia Smith. She was arrogant enough to try to tell me how to boil an egg! Well, I tried it. Several boxes of eggs later, I had probably successfully cooked

enough which weren't cracked or practically raw to finally have some breakfast.

However, by this time it was 6pm. So I turned the page. "Egg and Lentil Curry with Coconut and Picked Lime". Hmm, steady now Delia – you've devoted the best part of a whole tree telling us how to cook an egg and now

I'm supposed to have things like "3 cardamom pods, crushed" and "turmeric powder"? I thought I was taking it seriously when I made the special trip to buy eggs for the first time ever, and now you're expecting somebody who can't cook at all to have a full spice rack?

I think I'll stick to the pies. My arteries may completely seize up well before I go to pick up my first pension payment, but at least I'll have had 50 years of fool-proof, reasonably tasty British cuisine, rather trying to perfect one of Delia's mad recipes. And how would I cope with becoming an old man anyway? Old people smell funny, watch Countdown, spend all day complaining and have all the strength of a particularly feeble gerbil. Oh well, it looks like I'm there already. *Alex Warren*

Food!

bright future

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Qi Gong

Qi gong-strengthens your mind to achieve happiness

Teachings from ancient China—qi gong, are now taught at Imperial by Prof Zhao Lianting from China. With the aim of achieving fulfilment these exercises are rooted in traditional Chinese, rather than western science. But do they work, and how should a western scientist react to this very different theoretical framework?

Want Happiness? Probably. But what do we really mean by happiness? One could venture to say that this question lies at the heart of each human being's life and at the functioning of a society. You may agree that an attempt to define happiness will end in something like: happiness is a state where one 'feels happy', and is thus subjectively determined.

A scientist, however, might click at the word 'state' and say: "states of happiness could perhaps be identified by looking at people who feel happy. It should be possible to determine some key variables that they have in common and hence arrive at a determinable and measurable definition of happiness, albeit originally based on the test persons 'feeling happy'".

So what do you think these key variables would be? Some of you will probably think of very tangible, concise things, perhaps even the right house, car, good-looking spouse, whatever.

Some, be it the Dalai Llama, Muslim/Christian priest or a Chinese qi gong master, would say that this notion of happiness lies at the heart of the problems in the western world, amongst others.

An alternative view on happiness is to identify other key variables, such as the degree of true love you have towards yourself and others. Identifying such variables should properly be considered one of the main tasks of science.

A very specific approach towards achieving happiness can be found in the ancient Chinese teaching of qi gong. Prof. Zhao from the Chinese National Institute for Qi Gong is now teaching a course here at Imperial. He formulates the aims of the exercises as (i) health (ii) become good person. This is the path to fulfilment, or tao, as it is called.

Qi gong thus identifies physical health as a main concern, which you will probably agree with from your own experience. It is hard to be happy when you feel a lack of energy, feel

tense or something else is wrong with your health. It is also hard to achieve happiness without love. In the words of a famous taijiquan master: Chang San-Feng, *...to those who want to know the way to deal with the world, I suggest, love people.*

A westerner approaching qi gong will encounter some thresholds. The most obvious one appears when a master explains why a certain exercise is performed. Chinese philosophy argues that everything has a corresponding antithesis (yin-yang). Hot defines cold, long short, for a sunny side there is a

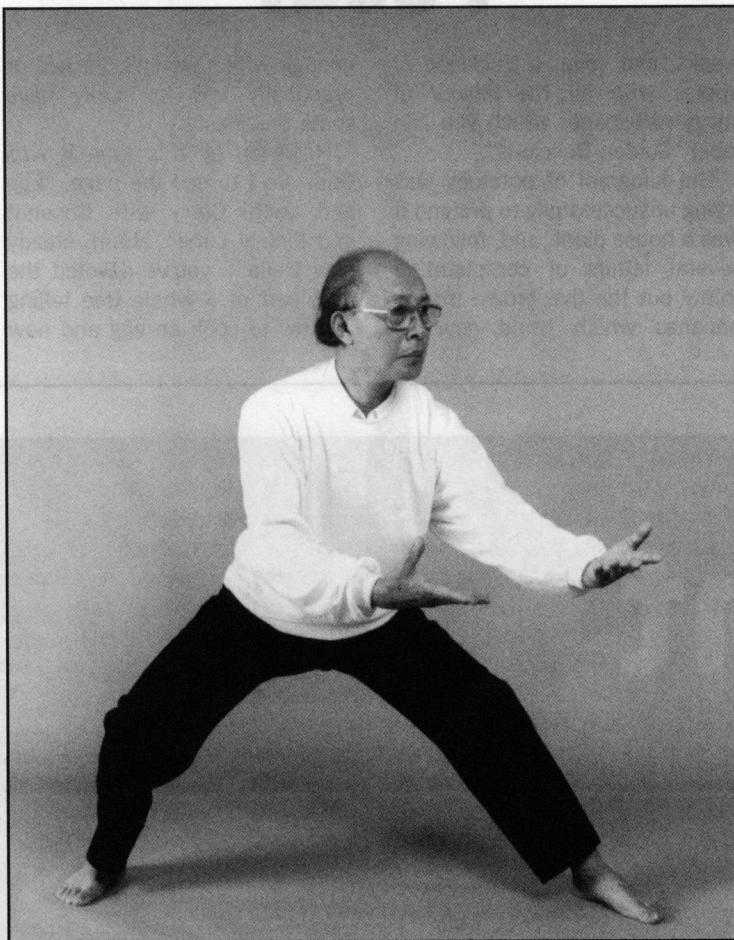
time-period that dwarfs the western medicine. Consider also the well-documented results these methods have had on some patients considered terminal by western medicine. Can it not be the case that these two sciences can learn from one another? Sadly, although some are open minded to teachings expressed in a different theoretical framework to their own, there is often dogma when sciences collide. Stories about priests refusing to look at the results of experiments because they are not in the bible come to mind.

The tension between traditional Chinese science and western science is also clear in China today. The Chinese government is pushing for proliferation of western science and seeks to diminish superstitions in the populous. As a western scientist you would probably find some of the ideas circulating in China unscientific, as would many qi gong masters. It is important that perceived superstitions are met by arguments and evidence rather than oppression, like in the case of falun gong, lead by a man with political ambitions - referred to as a charlatan in government leaflets. Note that apart from some superstitions, there is serious medical knowledge in China recorded and tested over thousands of years that should not be denied the future world.

The first time I personally encountered the qi, a Taoist concept similar to energy, was during a gap year in China. A doctor and taijiquan master performed movements around me and behind my back that I could feel from meters away. I thought long and hard about whether I could be fooling myself but have not arrived at a

reasonable explanation. There appears to be a physical, objective reality behind these ideas. Western scientists are succeeding in explaining some of these sensations in terms of electromagnetism, but a complete incorporation of observed phenomena into western science might require expanding the currently accepted limits of the mind's power over energy.

Go to some qi gong classes with Prof. Zhao and try for yourself. Properly trained, you will learn how to feel good, get more energy and move towards fulfilment. You will also get an understanding of a different approach to the world.



shade etc. Tension between the poles drive change, e.g. weather effects between high and low temperatures or pressure. The interchange between the two is categorised into five elemental phases which need to be harmonised to achieve balance and health. Western science will agree with some conclusions formed within this framework, like the inter-changeability between matter and energy but in general these ideas sound 'unscientific' to someone schooled in a different environment.

Just to open your mind to the possibility that qi gong may work, consider that these ideas have been tested in a quantity and over

Subwarden Required

Southwell Hall accommodates 200 undergraduate students in a recently renovated residence in Evelyn Gardens. The wardening team facilitate a lively social programme of events and provide pastoral care to the students. Applications are welcome from all members of the College, although the position is particularly well suited to postgraduate students with at least two years to completion of their course. Applicants should be friendly, lively, resourceful, energetic, mature, and responsible. They should be able to work in a team and the ability to maintain a sense of humour in a crisis would also be rather splendid.

Applications forms are available (only) by email request to:
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The application deadline is 4pm on Thursday October 31st 2002. Please read the instructions on the application form carefully.

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Sunday	09.00 - 23.45

Your Letters

Fresh Chaos

Hi guys,

I was just surprised to read this week's Felix (have I missed one?), with no mention of the near catastrophe on Saturday 28th September... On that Saturday we had about 800 freshers moving into Halls on Princes Gardens, i.e. about 600 cars driving into a 20-odd space car park. This is a yearly nightmare as it is, but 'they' (not too sure who to blame) decided that it would be a good weekend to block Exhibition Road with a crane to bring in bulky material to the new management school building site. On top of that, there was a peace protest march heading to Hyde park, which no staff had bothered checking on to ask help from the traffic police...

Luckily, in the end, everything worked itself out as 'they' opened a path on the side of princes gardens to let cars in. The traffic & security staff were very helpful, wardening & reapp teams were very efficient in helping students moving in efficiently, and it all actually worked out much better organised than any previous year. I wonder why 'they' never thought

of opening that path on princes gardens before in all the years that we blocked Exhibition Road ourselves!

A Strange Portent

We received this at the beginning of term, but haven't had a letters page yet, as we had no others until this week - Ed

Sir,

As an ex-pat alum, I've just noticed that they're trying to change our name to "Imperial College London". What next? "Harvard University Cambridge"; "Stanford University Palo Alto"...

That's not going to happen and we don't need "London" in our name either.

Nor, by the way, does anybody give a damn that IC is part of London University. If people want to brandish around "London University", then let them go to Goldsmiths or Birkbeck.

They're trying to cure a sick elephant by calling it a mouse. They'll just end up with a sick mouse. Changing the name doesn't change the problem. Similarly, changing IC's name is not going to give it the kudos, celebrity, and

"instant-recognisability" it seeks.

This name changing mania apparently arises from a survey sent out to IC grads, from which some cuckoo deduced that the world would be instantly enlightened if "they" screwed with IC's name. Either IC has been graduating a whole bunch of elephant doctors or the cuckoo got it wrong. In the cuckoo's defence, asking the wrong questions can get you to the wrong answer. It's like asking Clinton if he cheated on his wife.

'Imperial College London'. They can't be serious. You want "world renown" like MIT? Pair up with LSE and a first class US school and advertise the hell out of it. Don't change the letterhead; fire the name-changers and hire a world class PR firm instead.

Sincerely,

David Shaw
Physics '70

Not Fee-ling positive

Dear will,

Having moved on to study elsewhere I may have no business here. However, it sickens me to see that foundations of Social

Democracy being attacked underneath our noses.

The consequences of allowing Sir Richard Sykes to run this university with disregard to the education and well being of its students will not only have consequences for current and future ic students but also for all students over the nation. A retrograde step to pre-war social values of education solely for the rich is clearly not a good thing.

We the students must NOT stand by and allow this to happen. If in ten years it costs £50000 to do a degree anywhere (not just ic), and we had done nothing to stop it, the guilt is on our hands as well as the Rector's. If these changes are not stopped here at Imperial, quickly they will become widespread.

I encourage you not to hesitate in using your positions as the students to speak up against fee increases and the lack of respect for the student body. The voice on this needs to be loud and clear and strong:

STUDENTS MUST COME FIRST. NO FEE INCREASE.

Dan Thompson
Maths 2002

Imperial College Union

Careers Fair

Wednesday 6 & Thursday 7, November, 2002
11am-4pm

Visit 90 top quality companies interested in recruiting Imperial Students, on three floors of the Union and in a marquee on the Quad.

Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB



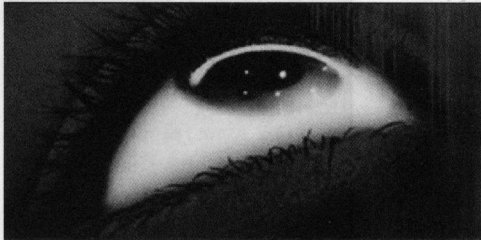


Screen

Welcome to the new and improved(?) Felix Film pages. My name is Simon and I will be your editorial guide (until Will comes to his senses) to all that is great and good in the world of film. And yes, this is the reason why

I'm not defending my GFQQ crown - apparently having access to the writers of the quiz is a "conflict of interest" or something official sounding like that, so I am forced to retire... unbeaten....

Anyway, hope you find these pages to your liking. If you lot out there in the real world have any suggestions as to what you want, then feel free to get in touch (felix.film@ic.ac.uk) and I'll see what I can do. Later...



MY LITTLE EYE

This one is going to be short on the review and long on the social commentary. Yes, I am lazy. Yes, it is getting on for three in the morning. But don't fool yourself into thinking these are the reasons I'm being skippy on the copy. I just don't want to give anything away....

I saw this movie in the company of one exceptionally jumpy girlfriend in one very gothic-esque, empty, echo-y cinema - without knowing anything about the film at all. And this is how I would love you lot to see it too. Its one of those movies that is defanged by overly detailed reviews (Heat - forshame!). Big Brother meets Blair Witch head on, with steadier cameras. That sums it up rather nicely I think.

Five relatively unknown actors 'star' in a low-budget suspense/horror movie of the jumpy persuasion. Their remit is to slum it for a few weeks in the quest for a million dollars. So long as none of the five lose their bottle early everyone gets a share, while the whole thing is broadcast live on the internet.

Billed by the distributors as a film to rival Psycho and Halloween, expectations among horror veterans were huge prior to its October release in the UK. To my mind they weren't far wrong. I'm not a huge horror fan, mainly because I scare too easily, but I've watched (and been scared by) my fair share. My Little Eye managed to give me The Fear in a way I have never encountered before, so it's fair to say I was impressed. The effects (for once aural rather than visual) are spot on, with some fine musical selections - most notably the hugely claustrophobic track "Fuck the Pain Away" by The Peaches.

I have to be honest and admit that I did a little bit of cheating before writing this review. Partly due to lack of faith in my own

judgement and partly due to curiosity as to how sane people view this movie.

What did I find? Polar opinions are what. Now, anyone who's read far too many reviews (me, for example) knows this is a good thing. You will either love or hate this movie, it's that simple. 50-50 chance to those of you with a betting streak. If you fancy a jumpy horror/thriller of the Hitchcock persuasion (bearing in mind the guy is dead and no-one directs a thriller like Alfie) then go see now. You've got a fairly good chance of not being disappointed....

My Little Eye was released on 4th October, Cert 18



Donnie Darko

Freakish high-school kid has run in with the cold, dark rabbit of his soul. No, I am not on any prescribed medication - this is probably the best description of this movie that you will read. Best movie of the year? You'll certainly be finding people debating that once it hits the multiplexes, because it is that good. I bet not one of them can explain the damn thing though - I've been trying to for about three months (it was out in the States in 2001) and the best I can come up is the fifteen word line at the top of this review.

For first-time writer/director Richard Kelly this is an astonishing debut, bearing more than a little resemblance to Lynch's best work. Intriguing and confusing in equal measure with a sharp black humour running thickly through the plot, Donnie will really draw you in. The solid soundtrack, filled with eighties staples like Joy Division and Duran Duran, is topped off by a wondrous

cover of the Tears for Fears track "Mad World". This one will be lined up alongside REM and Radiohead on moody teenage compilation CD's by Christmas.

Don't try to understand, don't try to work it all out - you'll only succeed in blowing a fuse. Lie back and enjoy the strangest movie you will see this year. I guarantee that this is the best film ever made starring a man sized rabbit called Frank.

Donnie Darko is released on 25th October 2002, Cert. 15.

Oceans 11

Ahhh what a lovely watch this is! A film to suit all parties, if ever there was one. For the boys we have cool gadgets and Mission Impossible style stunt work, with the excellent pairing of Clooney and Pitt in the lead roles. For the girls we have... well, Clooney and Pitt in the lead roles (nb - I checked with a few ladies before writing this and they happily confirmed that yes, they have seen/will see/are watching this movie mainly because of the dynamic duo).

A remake of the "classic" Rat Pack film of the 60's, this is one of those rarest of rarities - a cover version that outshines the original. By a long way. The plot centres around a typically audacious attempt to rob some casinos in Las Vegas, a cool premise for the cool cast, cool clothes, cool music and cool dialogue. Thoroughly enjoyable festival of all that is cool in the world.

Ocean's 11 was released on 14th October 2002, Cert 12 on DVD and video

What you should be watching...

...at the Movies : My Little Eye (Released 4th October, 18)

...on TV : Chasing Amy (Saturday 19th October, 22:35, BBC2)

...on Sky : Almost Famous (Sunday 20th October, 22:40, Premier 3)

...on Video : Oceans 11 (Released 14th October, 12)

Albums & Singles

Nada Surf

Let Go



Hats off to Heavenly for another angelic performance. **Nada Surf** will make you cry, make you laugh, make you dance around your room and all within the space of an hour.

As a band that have travelled from nineties Britpop through meaningless and bland guitar

music and have arrived at the stage of electronica and emo-pop, Nada Surf know what we've all been through. They are us – *Let Go* displays signs of heart-break, loneliness, hope and moreover, acceptance of how life can be.

Older influences are evident in the pounding beats of *Hi-Speed Soul*. Electronic strings support a powerful guitar presence with a subtlety that New Order would do well to learn from. The undeniably catchy chorus and ever-building rhythmic bridges are typical of this album.

Nada Surf are indie kids, pure and simple, and *Happy Kid* displays this beautifully. "I'm just a happy kid stuck with the heart of

a sad bloke" they explain in complete honesty. This is a bitter-sweet melody which could have you weeping into your pillow or dancing the night away depending on what you want to listen to – desperately sincere lyrics or a fast and classic melody you can't get out of your head.

There are some tracks of pure brilliance on this album while others quietly slide into the background. Songs such as *No Quick Fix* and *Killian's Red* are "nice" and there's not a bad word to be said about them, but they're not stand-out tracks and are perhaps a sign that however good Nada Surf are – and they are good – they could be better.

Keira

3/5

Singles

Fischerspooner – The 15th

Doing things with keyboards that haven't been done properly in... well, ages, frankly, Fischerspooner's new single has been anticipated in electronica-loving circles since 'Emerge' was released at the beginning of the summer. 'The 15th' is a lot more laid-back and chilled-out than 'Emerge', but is still absolutely breathtaking, with cute little moog noises and synthesised drum beats and almost chilling vocals over the top. If you like electronica, buy this. If you don't like electronica, get a taste transplant, and then buy this.

5/5

Jess

Miss Black America

God Bless Miss Black America



They've already teased and taunted us with the soulful yet hard rocking singles *Infinite Chinese Box* and *Talk Hard* but at last our appetites can finally be satisfied. This is an album of a band who know what we need, what music fans need now after the ever-growing catalogue of New York punk rock. This is the music that matters and the music that should be listened to.

So much popular music focuses on the hardships and downfalls of love, and though this may be a significant concern for today's youth, the time has come for the spotlight to fall on a more imperative issue – that being the

widespread indifferent approach to our place in the world today. **MBA** are trying to lead a revolution, and they look determined to do it in true rock 'n' roll fashion. Stepping in the political shoes of the **Manic Street Preachers** and the punky routes of **The Clash**, here are a bunch of guys who are trying to save us from the soul-destroying apathy of today's youth and they're gonna have a damn good time while they're doing it.

Talk Hard is by far the best track on this album. The softer verses allow **MBA** to really bring their feelings through; it's almost heart-breaking to hear as they desperately try to persuade us that we can do anything we feel. Contrasts of punky guitar bridges, delicate melodies supporting sincere lyrics and unforgettable choruses really allow the band to show their ever-expanding talent. They are a band of passion and self-belief and they know how to stir the same furious determination in each one of us.

The closing track *Montana*

draws you in close with intricate guitar arrangements and then makes you close your eyes and smile as the tender vocals of Seymour Glass rise almost effortlessly towards a gentle yet truly effective climax. For a band that have been compared to punk legends the Sex Pistols, **MBA** sure know how to pull your heart-strings when they choose to and you'll find yourself wishing this beauty of a track would never end.

Some may consider this masterpiece to be emo-punk but please let's not diminish its significance by labelling it in such a way. This album has far too much raw power, too many intelligently crafted lyrics and more importantly, too much meaning to be hidden away in some NME-crafted subcategory.

"And you say 'rock 'n' roll destroys the soul?' I say, 'BITE ME'", they screech in the opening track. **MBA** are fed up with the way they've been put down all their lives and this time there's just no stopping them. And who'd want to?

Keira

4/5

Jetplane Landing – Els Quatre Gats EP

After the incredible talent that surfaced on their current album 'Zero For Conduct' and from the amazingly intense gigs at this year's Carling Festival, you would expect only the best from Jetplane Landing. With comparisons already being made to At The Drive-In and RATM, it could be said that they are in the making to be our next rock and roll saviours. It could be, but it shouldn't.

The four tracks that make up Els Quatre Gats lack the melodic structure of previous Jetplane Landing material and seem to contain the same political standing of the latest Shakira release.

Rather than the usual individual and captivating style of Jetplane Landing, this EP seems to mimic early Seafood material with a bit more thrash thrown in to attract any metal-head wannabes.

My Fundamental Flow is the better taster of how the usually brilliant Jetplane Landing can sound. It shows signs of a far deeper intellect among the group and has some great guitar arrangements that are clev-

(continued on panel opposite)

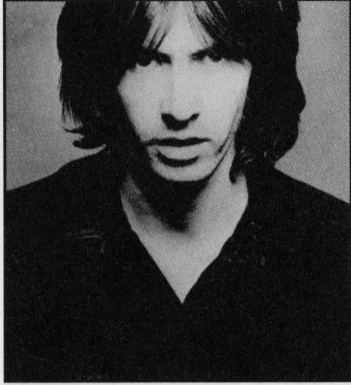


Albums & Singles

McAlmont and Butler

3/5

Bring It Back



Bernard Butler once of Suede has been described in some quarters as the best all-round guitarist since Clapton. But he has also been painted as the most difficult man to work with due to the fact that he has split with all his writing partners citing "musical differences". So after his hit and miss solo career was put to rest he has returned to work with other difficult artist David McAlmont who he had a semi-successful partnership with back in 1995 with single Yes going top 10.

So have the years added more

substance to their music or are they destined to flitter out of the limelight again? Well, on the strength of the first track, the intriguingly titled "Theme From", you hope they carry on forever as this track that has anthem written all over it with its luscious big sound strings and funky beats, mixed with hardwired guitar riffs. This is a song that shows the obvious potential that the duo possess with Butler's knowledge of merging rock and blues together with McAlmont's ability to write soulful tunes and unique voice.

Unfortunately the promise of this opening rarely resurfaces later in the album. Only current singles *Falling* and *Bring it Back* show any desire to stay with the now and not revert back to a sort of Motown throwback tribute band. Most of the songs follow a similar pattern of either blues or funk guitars and background strings that often rise to the fore. Then with the song in full swing the vocals go up higher and the

guitar solos get longer to create a cacophony of inviting sounds. However the overall affect is to make you think that they are trying too hard to make each song into a single.

There are exceptions, *Blue* for example is a song that could easily have been pulled from one of Butler's solo albums and the rather mismatched vocal range possibly supports this idea. Overall there is plenty to suggest future greatness, but it needs to all come together at the same time and not in patches, but the album is worth a listen for those patches alone. *Tank*

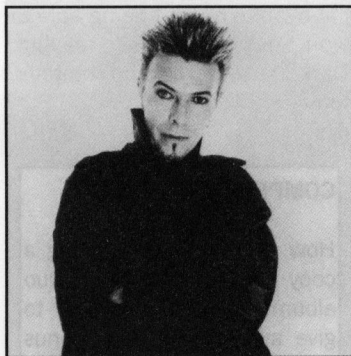
COMPETITION TIME

Would you like to win a signed copy of The Libertines 'Up the Bracket' album?

If you do, please email music.felix@ic.ac.uk with your name and department, before Thursday 17th October and the first reader to reply will win.

Various

Diamond Gods – Interpretations of Bowie



David Bowie: Music legend, famous for Ziggy Stardust (Birth and Death) recognised as one of the greatest songwriters of all-time and general all round weird guy. This album is, like the man, a mixture of the good and the downright incomprehensible.

It's easy to see why people would want to cover Bowie, as he

has some of the most recognisable and loved songs of the last century. But its is difficult to see how getting a bunch of has-been singers (**Buster Bloodvessel** and **Hazel O'Connor**) and new up and coming acts (**David Fisher**) plus some never heard of before to do so is good music. Admittedly, some of the tracks are quite good but overall you get the feeling of union bands trying to copy the great man.

The start is quite promising with **Iva Davies & Icehouse** performing a rather haunting version of *Loving the Alien*. The track is an acoustic version with the different layers beautifully merging into each other to create a version possible better than the original (well at least on par). **EN** do a passable Apollo 440 style version of *Life on*

Mars but it just doesn't quite work on the whole. **Blondie** are represented here with their live version of *Heroes* and this is pretty good, which is what you expect of a band of their quality. The only sour note is the persistent spacey like noisy that runs throughout. Tacye's cover of *The Man Who Sold The World* is worth a mention only for the fact that they at least have tried to do something completely different, but again their techno beats just don't work.

The album is also not helped by the fact that two songs on here are covered twice by different artists the sole purpose of which seems to be that you can compare how bad they are. So overall this album is not worth the effort apart for the first song. *Tank*

Singles

(continued)

erly used to underline the passionate emotions of the track.

As for the usual political angst that Jetplane Landing seemingly love to deliver – if you wanna piss off your parents by jumping around your room with your stereo on far too loud a volume then this is the track for you – but if you're after some decent and meaningful music, look elsewhere.

I'm not saying this isn't good music, it's just not the best they've done and surely if you're gonna do a job at all, you might as well do it well

2/5 *Keira*

The Pattern: Nothing Of Value

Listen up! The world is changing. T-shirts and combats: Not cool. Sharp shirts and skimpy pants: Right on! Flabby emotional ballads about losing your bird by the light of a silvery moon: Shit. But blistering, ballsy punk rock soul boogies like this are THE shit.

It's amazing that some people get wound up when a band gets attention like this. "Oh really," they moan, picking up their fifth slice of pizza while simultaneously dusting the crumbs from the last slice off their beer gut, "I hate it when bands get hyped. They're so crap, and it's all ripped off [insert ill-informed 60's / 70's reference based on something their mate told them drunk once] anyway." "Yeah," agrees

(continued on panel on p14)

COMPETITION NEWS

Well done to Katy Cooper, of Electrical Engineering II who won the Alabama 3 competition.

She correctly answered the question, that Lynyrd Skynyrd released *Sweet Home Alabama*.

Live Review

The Libertines

5/5

London 100 Club, Friday 4th October



The smell of anticipation is more than apparent as we walk through the door (or is that just the result of a few hundred people squeezed beneath the streets of London?). People, it would seem, are desperate to see what could be one of the most exciting British bands in the last five years, with tickets outside the venue selling for about three times their original price. The Libertines have some high standards to live up to.

But before the band has a chance to reward the dedicated crowd, Pearl emerge onstage offering sweet female vocals to soothe any heated tempers. The music attempts to mesmerise the crowd but the truth is that with the buzz surrounding tonight's headliners, this really isn't the time or place for such delicate melody.

It's sad to admit but without the presence of the lead-singer's husband – Supergrass' Danny Glover – on drums, it looks doubtful anyone would have looked up from their pints. A tragic and unfair oversight to make.

Finally it's time for the long-awaited Libertines to make an appearance. Kitted out in vintage

jackets and home-made shirts, the lads seem somewhat unnaturally calm despite the screaming expectations of the crowd. They pick up their instruments and get straight down to business. And as soon as they do, any fears of disappointment from the crowd are immediately dissolved. As that first beat resonates through the floor, there is no stopping the true punk spirit behind the fresh and frantic melodies of these four young locals.

Up The Bracket comes second on the setlist – an unusual place for a band's latest single, but that's because the boys have no need or wish to finish with a sure thing.

As it turns out, every track of the set is an ingenious fusion of energetic riffs and pure rock passion, and this little wonder is no exception. Apart from the few at the back gasping for water, the whole crowd is moving – legs and arms flying in every direction, absolutely everyone is dancing. The crowd tonight are up for a good time and The Libertines are damn well going to give them one.

By the time the opening of *What A Waster* fires up, there is

no stopping possibly one of the greatest nights the 100 Club has ever seen.

The recent nationwide tour has obviously had an extremely positive effect on the band and the set is tight, together and kicking rock-ass. A mutter of an introduction is the only thing we hear from frontman Peter Doherty but the band provide enough of an on-stage presence without the need of witty repertoire – the music speaks for itself.

The Libertines don't show any danger of disappointing throughout all of tonight's forty minute set. The pure rock attitude and unquestionable energy is absolute in every member of the band and it doesn't stop there. Onlookers are helplessly infected with the same dynamic stance and suddenly feel an impulse to become a greater part of the experience tonight.

As the last note of the chart hit *I Get Along* fades away, the crowd is divided into three groups – those who are rushing to snatch a setlist, those fighting to grab a Libertine and those left lying on the floor wondering if it really was the best gig of their lives.

Keira

Singles

(continued)

said mate, running his greasy fingers through his sad-looking 'Gallagher' barnet, "Give me Paul Weller any day. He's so innovative. On his last album he had a record 17 different Hammond organs."

Your fucking stepmother listens to Coldplay, and this is a woman who thought Art Garfunkel was sexy. Put this on loud next time she comes round, throw your clothes on the floor and leave a few lines of talc on the dresser: you won't regret it.

Joe Parker

Queen Adreena – FM Doll

It's the return of Katie-Jane and her temper tantrums. Intense to the max, screaming from the outset, she makes the whole room vibrate with her sharp crescendo and skillfully made background noise. It's typical ragged Queen Adreena full frontal sonic assault, showing the abandonment of their wispiest dark faerie side, which is reminiscent of their new album. Two minutes later, it's more of the same with the same vibrant energy, yet unbelievably enjoyable, and energizing despite my not being able to work out what she's saying. Dark, subversive and metallic fun.

4/5

Sajini

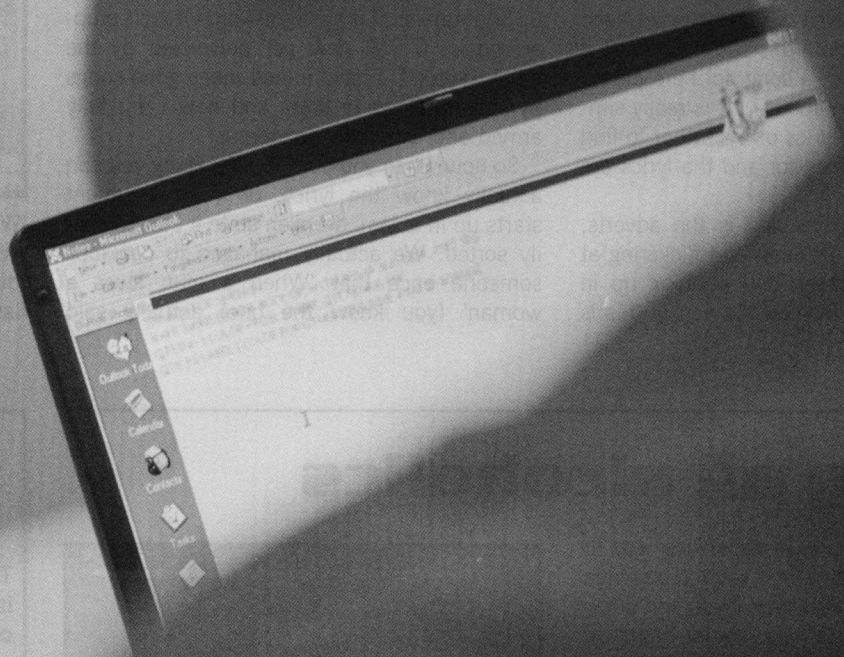
COMPETITION TIME

How do you fancy winning a copy of the new *Safri Duo* album? Felix has one copy to give away, along with Bonus Remix CD to one lucky winner. All you have to do is answer the very simple question –

Which country are the *Safri Duo* from?

Email to the usual place.
music.felix@ic.ac.uk

This is Citigroup.



Last year, Brian rebuilt his computer.

Citigroup would like to invite you to attend our Technology Presentation on 22nd October, 6:30pm in Lecture Theatre 207, Civil Engineering Building. Please see your careers service for further details.



Salomon Smith Barney & Citibank

This year, Brian helped design a worldwide trading network.

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cellspacing="0" border="0">
 align="right" valign="bottom"><http://www.google.com>
 width="38" height="58" alt=""
 align="right" valign="top" class="h-b" style="font-size: 14px;">
 href="/advanced_search?q=website+reviews&hl=en&lr=&ie=UTF-8&AdvancedSearch=1&sa=Q&btnG=Google+Search&btnI=I'm+Feeling+Lucky&form=gs method="GET" action="/search/" type="hidden" name="hl" value="en" type="hidden" name="lr" value="" type="hidden" name="ie" value="ISO-8859-1" type="text" name="q" size="31" maxlength="2048" value="website reviews" type="submit" name="btnG" value="Google Search"/>

WebView

Stop abuse of music through karaoke

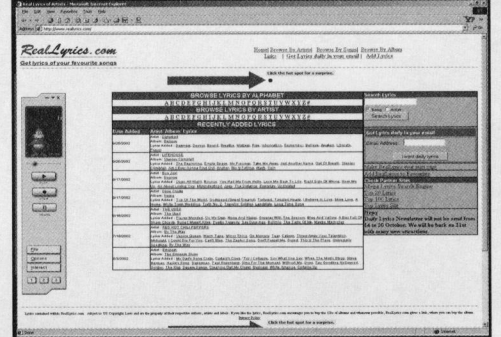
Ok, how annoying is it when you have all the words to a song worked out except one line that you cannot make out the lyrics to? Anyone who has a habit of singing along (very badly in my case) will treat this web site as their bible. Every song you can think of that has ever been released can be found on this site – although if you manage to think of a song not here please don't bother to tell me about it. It is really simple to use, search by lyrics or by author to find the song you are looking for and the lyrics are written out very plainly.

The problem with this site is the adverts, rather a lot of them, flashing and flickering at the edges of your screen and popping up in their usual annoying fashion. Obviously this is

the way that the web site is funded and I think it is worth putting up with them because of the comprehensive nature of this site.

I don't think a song is worth listening to if you can't sing along, forget the dance, trance, techno rubbish if it ain't got words it ain't proper music. (I will now get pulverised by the music editors). I have ruined many good songs by singing along to them and now I am fully armed and extremely dangerous.

So now when you start to sing along you can actually know the lyrics, or if an argument starts up in a semi drunken state it can be easily sorted. We actually managed to convince someone once that 'When a man loves a woman' (you know the one) actually said



'When a man loves a chicken', but, no longer will this be a source of entertainment because this web site will settle all such arguments in a flash.

www.reallyrics.com

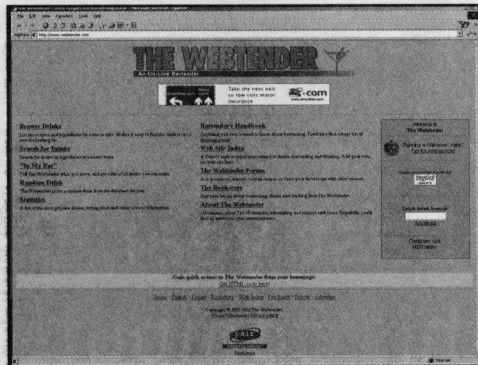
Calling all alcoholics

Admittedly cocktails are an expensive way to drink alcohol and expensive is often a bad idea on a student budget. However, if you and a few friends (supposing you have some) make an investment into certain highly alcoholic beverages and the most exciting thing you can come up with is the classic vodka and orange then this is a pretty good place to look for further inspiration.

This entire website is dedicated to cocktails, and while there are quite a few websites of this nature, this one seems to be the easiest, most straightforward to use.

A simple search system allows you to look for a drink by name or by ingredient and there are plenty of different recipes to browse through. The website includes webtenders weekly top 20, all time top 100 and best drinks chart (voted for by site visitors). There is also a comprehensive list of drinking games some of which are not for the faint-hearted. The Jerry Springer game involves watching an episode and taking a shot of beer every beep, every fight, whenever a guest comes on with a prop, whenever someone says the name of the show, if you get confused during the final thought as well as many other rules resulting in further shots. This can get rather complicated so there are much simpler, solely verbal ones for the less well organised.

Go forth, enjoy this lovely little site that will surely provide for all your spiritual needs (sorry, I really apologise, very bad joke).



Ok, so it looks a little grey, but by the time you have finished here everything will be blurred into a great grey mess anyway.



Emily the (miniature) armadillo meets Will the editor and he seems mighty pleased.

www.webtender.com

Term of the Week:

BIOS

This stands for Basic Input/Output System, it is very basic software that is built into your computer so you can use it without a disk.

It can be found on your ROM chip (if you look really closely – it is quite small), this means that when there is a disk failure you can still use things like your mouse, keyboard, screen etc. However, your RAM is faster than your ROM (it's true, I raced them across the office) so in many computers, when you startup, your BIOS is copied from your ROM to your RAM. This copying is known as shadowing.

So three cheers for BIOS because it's good.

From the dotMeister

Oh dear it is that time again. The time where I start typing rubbish and you stop reading. It seems only five seconds since I was sitting here typing last week's drivel.

Anyway, suppose I ought to say something vaguely constructive. This week is what I would consider the best of the cocktail recipe web sites, after extensive research naturally. Secondly, I present to you the ultimate karaoke aid. So, you are making the great mistake of having a house party, well now you can provide the lyrics to the cheesy music that will inevitably be played at the end of the evening.

Jenny

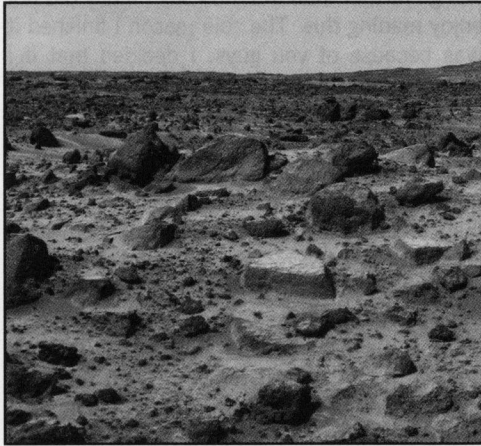


News in Brief

Mission to Mars?

Apollo astronaut Dr David Scott, speaking at a debate on space exploration, has said that one day man will walk on Mars. He argues that the technology is available but prohibitive costs mean that it might not happen for hundreds of years.

Robots and probes are capable of doing all the work carried out by astronauts on the moon but Dr Scott thinks that man will want to see for himself.



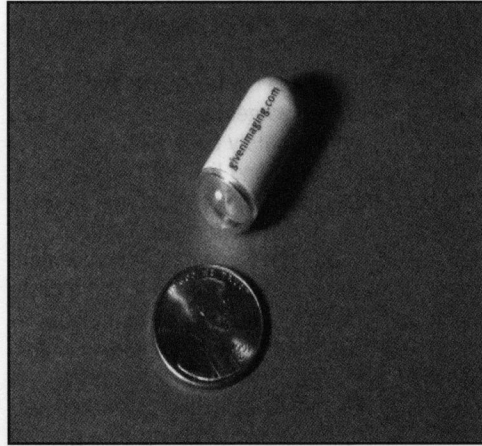
On the pathfinder mission, images were taken using rover robots

Dr Scott advised that a manned trip should include poets and writers, versed in skills such as communication and metaphor who could convey the "beauty of space" to humanity better than scientists. He also thinks that space tourists should have a place in helping to advance space exploration. As his colleague Professor Pillinger says, space tourism was "no bad thing".

"It's going to make space exploration go much faster".

Pill camera

A camera the size of a pill has been tested by a patient at the Royal Hallamshire hospital in Sheffield, giving detailed pictures of her digestive system. The camera measures 26 mm by 11 mm and passes colour images to a belt unit worn for the eight hours it takes to travel through the body. The images can be watched by doctors to diagnose problems in the small intestine, which would normally require the use of an endoscope or barium meal.



New camera the size of a pill could revolutionise medical diagnosis

Dr Mark McAlindon said: "This is a major advance. It provides a far better picture of the small intestine. ... Now we can see all five plus metres of it".

The patient, 26 year old Joanne Rossall, said: "I was quite worried that it wouldn't go down. I generally get stomach pains but this was no worse than normal". While the camera was inside her, Joanne carried on her life as normal, by having lunch and going for a long walk.

Bid to clone humans?

The scientists who cloned Dolly the sheep at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh plan to put in an application to clone human embryos within six months. Professor Ian Wilmut would like to produce stem cells using the same technique that produced Dolly. He would grow stem cells that could be used in the treatment of heart disease or Parkinson's disease, for example. The application would have to be approved by four ethics committees.



Dolly the Sheep was the first successfully cloned animal

The Scottish Catholic church is strongly against any research involving human embryos. A spokesman said: "An embryo is a human life with potential. To use that as a means to someone else's end - however well intended - is wrong".

Professor Wilmut said in January that Dolly has arthritis, possibly because of genetic defects introduced in the cloning process. He thinks that all clones are possibly genetically defective.

Wanted:

Science Writers

Contact

rosemary.chandler@ic.ac.uk

with your ideas

Editorial

This is the first installment of a weekly science column, and was prepared by me during a Sunday visit to my parents-in-law. In the future I would like to include contributions from students in all IC departments, so if you fancy being a science or technology writer then contact me at rosemary.chandler@ic.ac.uk with your ideas. In upcoming issues there will hopefully be articles from IC scientists and engineers, and also from other research laboratories across the country, but I bring you this week's column mainly from the BBC web pages.

I need 20 rubber chickens, all with squeakers...

An essential skill as a scientist is to be able to write convincing research proposals to get that all-important funding. In order to lighten up the science pages of Felix, I would like you, dear reader, to set your mind to writing, in 100 to 200 words, a proposal for an experiment or project that requires the items described in the title of this section, namely twenty rubber chickens, all with squeakers.

Perhaps you want to investigate "Schrödinger's chicken" by setting

up an isotope decay to trigger a squeezer that squeaks the chicken. Or maybe you are interested in creating exotic chicken breeds (or perhaps even "anti-chickens") by colliding high velocity rubber chickens into a target.

Send your proposals to rosemary.chandler@ic.ac.uk.





PAGES

A Certain Justice

P. D. James

This is the first P. D. James novel I've read and I'm hooked. I love a really good whodunit and this is the genre at its best. James tosses your imagination around so that at the final confrontation with the murderer you have suspected and disregarded just about every character in the book.

Adam Dalgliesh is the chief investigator; he and his team were brought in because of the high social standing of some of those involved. Venetia Aldridge, QC, is a brilliant, ambitious woman with the ability to rub everyone she meets up the wrong way. This includes her ex-husband, his new wife and child, her own eighteen year old daughter, her boss, her colleagues. In fact, the best thing that anyone can say about her after her death is that she was a "brilliant lawyer". So Dalgliesh is not short of suspects, since the murder took place in Chambers it had to be committed by someone with a key or someone whom she knew well enough to let in. There is also a strangely symbolic act of desecration to the murdered body of Ms Aldridge which adds another dimension to it as far as the investigating officers are concerned.

The police have the added problem of dealing with lawyers who are skilled at the art of not telling the whole truth without actually lying. This results in obstructions and problems which slow their progress. These sometimes political, sometimes selfish acts have serious ramifications in the end as another murder takes place. This time, the prime suspect for the murder of Venetia Aldridge is the victim, but is it the same murderer? It has to be connected, but it is difficult to see how. As the connections become clearer and the murderer's identity emerges, there is a race to stop further deaths.

James also questions our morals, when is a crime not a crime? Is our justice system right if someone who is known to be guilty can be let off by a jury? Innocent until proven guilty? Are some crimes forgivable under certain circumstances?

P. D. James has written an evocative, thought provoking mystery that I thoroughly enjoyed reading and hope you will too.

Published by Faber and Faber Ltd.

ISBN: 0-571-19541-5

£9.99

Bad Heir Day

Wendy Holden

Ok, so this is not a highly intellectual book but if you like to escape into a different world without having to occupy any brain cells, then this does a pretty good job of creating a suitable world for you.

Anna Farrier begins the novel in a live-in relationship with a gorgeous heir called Seb Lavenham. Unfortunately he is also a complete nightmare to be with and live with. Anna starts to have doubts despite being head over heels in love with him. After receiving advice from her new friend, Gina, she leaves an advertisement in the Kensington library to try and find a place as an author's assistant. She takes up a position as an assistant to the famous novelist, Cassandra Knight, with the intention of advancing her plans for being an author herself. However, she in fact ends up as a general scivvy pandering to Cassandra's every need, and nanny to her appalling child, Zac. Zac who finds it funny to put cereal in Anna's hair on the way to school. Zac, whose sole aim is to make his nanny's life hell and is very good at it. Zac, who has been through five different nannies in twelve months.

For me the most wonderful thing about this book is what the Literary Review describes as the "nanny mafia". The idea is that nannies conspire to create a demand so that they have better working conditions than their employers, with posh cars, holidays organised around their demands plus fantastic accommodation. The sole purpose of the nannies, male and female, is to capture a rich, important partner and Gina takes it upon herself to find Anna a suitable match. This match ends up being yet another gorgeous heir, this time to a Scottish castle, Jamie. Anna begins to develop an attraction to him before her break up with Seb and continues feeling it at a chance meeting while acting as nanny to Zac. It is Anna's tendency to get involved with men who are heirs to a fortune that provides the title for this book.

This is a cheeky, cheerful book with a very humorous take on the life of the upper class wannabes. It is an amusing tale, with stereotypical characters resulting in a fun, entertaining story of life's little problems and bigger mishaps.

Published by Headline

ISBN: 0-7472-6130-X

£5.99

Cocaine Nights

J. G. Ballard

Oh dear, will everyone please do me a favour – do not buy this book. It is not good. In fact, I will go further than that and say I really did not enjoy reading this. The sole reason I finished it was because of you guys. I decided that if I was going to be this rude about a book then I really ought to have finished reading it. Less a novel about the deleterious effects of cocaine on a society and more an advertisement for how "cool" the author thinks he is. If you only read these reviews to find a good book, then stop now. If, however, you want to listen to me having a good moan or you're incredibly bored then carry on. Either way, it makes no difference to me because I've still got this printed and off my 34D chest.

Frank Prentice admits to quintuple murders to the shock of the many people who know and love him. Frank's brother Charles is informed and sets off to try and discover the truth since he cannot believe that his brother could do such a thing either. All this takes place in a sexy Spanish resort for British people with far too much money and far too little sense. The sophisticated appearance of the resort at first impresses and stuns Charles but soon he discovers that this is, in fact, a smoke-screen covering up a society with an insatiable and dangerous desire for fun and leisure. This novel could be viewed as a sociological study when Charles takes charge of the creation of a new leisure plaza. He attempts to establish a community in a limited time scale and in the process of doing this he discovers the weaker, more brutal side of human nature.

What really confuses me is the number of brilliant write-ups this book seems to have received from critics. I think that it could be due to the fact that this book was short listed for a Whitbread award. Once one 'literary genius' has decided it is to be a modern classic the rest follow in a somewhat disappointing fashion. Reading is a personal and individual experience, so I cannot guarantee that you will dislike this as much as I did. I can only give you my opinion, which is what this column is for. I think it was a waste of good trees and will be a waste of your good money if you buy it. So don't.

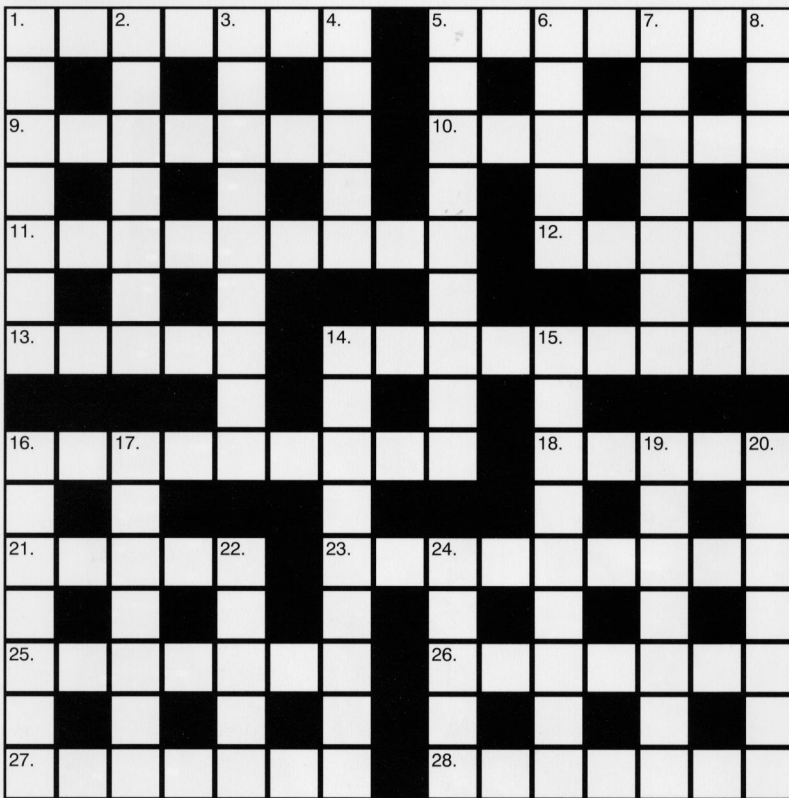
Published by Flamingo

ISBN 0-00-655064-9

£6.99

Jenny

Felix Crossword 1244



By Mummy Huffwell

Across

- 1 Direct sea. (7)
- 5 Stopped drab toe awkwardly. (7)
- 9 Chariot mangles bean. (7)
- 10 Shops take rents from closets. (7)
- 11 Blown fruit? (9)
- 12 Ga-ga about Dario? (5)
- 13 Saucy Dance? (5)
- 14 Model professional will be class. (9)
- 16 Invertebrate has six points and a lip. (7)
- 18 Eat it during exercise. (3-2)
- 21 Two men belong to the Windsors? (5)
- 23 Set out, make crate badly. (9)
- 25 Painfully nail roe flap. (7)
- 26 Escorts return unaccompanied after concert. (7)
- 27 Opposing mothers surround dishonourable bloke on road. (7)
- 28 Able to make right sad, are unfounded rumours. (7)

- 2 Can internet provider contain love God? (7)
- 3 Winning margin in second-class competition supports head. (4,5)
- 4 Flat error discovered in the future. (5)
- 5 Unknown arse, why moon around inside?. (9)
- 6 Idiot Terrace found inside animal. (5)
- 7 Stay due for part of week. (7)
- 8 To get rid of, perish with quiet SOS. (7)
- 14 Horribly, dupes on my alias. (9)
- 15 Hormone resembles green soot. (9)
- 16 Man enclosing crashed vehicles makes wounding comments. (7)
- 17 Perfect learners immerse themselves in woeful DIY and one club. (7)
- 19 Boat creates hollow leer after horrible wart. (7)
- 20 Sleep as makes happy. (7)
- 22 London Union to purge ghastly colours. (5)
- 24 Publication of college is amazing. (5)

Down

- 1 Companions beds contain, we hear, prostitutes. (7)

Welcome once again to wordy wonderland, where this week, you have been warned, even this page is contagious. Fudge and I are both seriously ill with lexicographic diarrhoea and spent the weekend in bed, separately sadly, but this seems only to have increased our snivelling and suffering. It is a good job then, maybe even a delight, that next week's offering will come from a surprise source. So surprising in fact that we don't know where, but you can rest assured that suspect quality will always be the cornerstone of our crossword compiling principles. It is with this in mind that you should bow down in awe of all those who correctly completed last week's grid, including the winner, **Neil Marsh, Physics II**.

All entries will be placed in Fudge's tombola at the end of the year and the name drawn out will win a prize so sublimely expensive as to be really, honestly, unsuitable for any self-respecting student. To participate in this extravaganza, simply bring your answers (and a large wad of cash to stand a chance of winning) down to the office located in Beit Quad West Wing basement or email them to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk. I must now go before I'm forcibly fed free beer.

MH

Answers to 1243

Across: Crudity, Award, Applauded, Isolate, Forecasts, Ma, Pirated, Staircase, Guarantee, Gallops, Go, Theme Park, Origami, Cordially, Doses, Scanned.
 Down: Chaff, Dullest, Tsunami, Abhorrent, Advantage, Depends, Disparage, Sarcastic, Is, Shillings, Argonauts, Aground, Up, Nomadic, Explain, Keyed.



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October 23**

8:00-1:00
(Bar 'til 12)

£1.00 Union/£1.50 Guests/£.50 P2P
P2P members must enter before 10pm for their discount to be valid





GFQQ MK II

by Bobby Cyclops & Dr Hot Fudge

THE GREAT FELIX QUOTES QUIZ

THE QUOTES

1. "As you wish!"
2. "I see you shiver with antici... ..pation."
3. "The meanies are coming!"
4. "You obviously have no idea who you're fucking with!"
5. "If only you could see what I've seen with your eyes..."
6. "I'm sorry, Dave, but I'm afraid I can't do that."
7. "Imagine the size of his balls... Imagine getting into a fight with the fucker..."
 ~"Please, I don't feel well"
 "That's what you'd say, but that wouldn't wash with Geoff. He'd want some pleading first. He'd probably tell you what he was going to do before he actually did it. I'm going to rip your head off. No, please, don't rip my head off. I'm going to rip your head off, because I don't like your head."

ANSWERS TO GFQQ 1242

1. Chunk/Jeff B. Cohen - Goonies
Mouth/Corey Feldman
2. Spiderman/Toby Maguire - Spiderman
3. Nick/Christopher Walken - The Deer Hunter
4. Annie Wilkes/Kathy Bates - Misery
5. Yoda/Frank Oz - Star Wars Episode II - Battle Of The Clones
6. Shooter McGavin/Christopher McDonald - Happy Gilmore
Happy Gilmore/Adam Sandler
7. Marsellus Wallace/Ving Rhames - Pulp Fiction

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

www.extremeironing.com

What more can you ask for? A website that combines the adrenaline fuelled excitement of free climbing with the joy of a newly pressed shirt.

Go here, and you need never wonder whether it's possible to paddle in a canoe while ironing again.

Coffeekbreak score: 8/10

RAMBLINGS

In very much a similar way as Dracula in the film 'Dracula's Dead', in which the aforementioned Count is raised from the dead in a particularly unlikely way (but not, in fact by a pig passing by Castle Dracula on a Tuesday playing a banjo), I, the turnip of destiny, have return-ed to wreak mighty havoc upon your unsuspecting cerebella. Some of you may not remember me at all, your youth still flowering like a geranium, but the older, and perhaps better of you will certainly recall the fiendish way I taxed your minds with such clues as "Rub oil around large breasts for phallic fun! (5)". Ah, the days. But why have I returned, you may ask, consternation dripping from every pore... drip. drip. drip. Mmmsk!... It involves a freak accident with three paw-paw, a violin, not to mention a large bowl of banana custard. Suffice to say that the good Doctor and his monocular compatriot are temporarily engaged elsewhere, allowing me to wreak my vengeance on the unsuspecting Coffee Break page (and my, how it's grown...)

Anyway, the point of all this is that I am *Turnip Henry* the instigator of all this madness: all who hear my name tremble at the sight of my visage. And so to end, because I'm running low on melodrama, I will tell you this:

"A damsel with a dulcimer, in a vision once I saw. It was an Abyssinian maid, and on her dulcimer she played, singing of Mount Abora. And should I revive within me her symphony and song? Oh, with what delight t'would win me, as with music, loud and long, she'd build that sunny dome in air; that sunny dome, those caves of ice, and all who heard should see him there, and all should cry beware, beware, his flashing eyes, his floating hair. For he on honey dew has fed, and drunk the milk of paradise."



GFLQ (THE FIRST ONE)

THE GREAT FELIX LYRICS QUIZ

LEADER BOARDS

GFLQ

Name	Score
50D (Roland Burton)	22
B. Walker & O. Rd. Mass.	20.5
Chris Ince	20.5
Christopher Dent	20.5
Jennifer Williams	20.5
Samuel Jackson	20.5
JMC4 Coalition (A Rogers)	20
David Mercer	20
Rosemary Chandler	19.5
Anthony Jude Rodrigues	11
Chris Tickner	11
Christopher Pollock	11
Geoff Lay	11
John Anderson	11
p.lahoud	11
Richard Hutchinson	9.5
Pippa	9
Ruth Loeffler	9
Rebecca Newman	8.5
Dan Plant	8
Leo Harrison	8
Richard Moore	8
Ben Dudson	7
Luke McManus	7
Kev Fox	6
Richard Byrne	4.5

GFOQ

Name	Score
JMC4 Coalition (A Rogers)	16
Chris Ince	16
Dave Roberts	16
Jennifer Williams	16
50D (Roland Burton)	16
Samuel Jackson	16
B. Walker & O. Rd. Mass.	14.5
Christopher Dent	14.5
David Mercer	14.5
Rosemary Chandler	14
Anthony Jude Rodrigues	8
Geoff Lay	8
John Anderson	8
Richard Hutchinson	8
Alexander Plato	6.5
Chris Tickner	6.5
Laura Borrer Closs	6.5
Peter Warman	6.5
R. Chandrashkara	6.5
Ruth Loeffler	6.5
Ivanka Mandzj	6
Luke McManus	6
Richard Moore	6
Carl Isgren	5.5
Leo Harrison	4.5
Rebecca Newman	4.5
Christopher Pollock	4
Tom Badran	4
Ben Dudson	3
Kev Fox	0.5

ULTRALEAGUE

Name	Score	Name	Score
50D (Roland Burton)	38	John Anderson	19
Chris Ince	36.5	Chris Tickner	17.5
Jennifer Williams	36.5	Richard Hutchinson	17.5
Samuel Jackson	36.5	Ruth Loeffler	15.5
JMC4 Coalition (A Rogers)	36	Christopher Pollock	15
B. Walker & O Rd. Mass.	35	Richard Moore	14
Christopher Dent	35	Luke McManus	13
David Mercer	34.5	Rebecca Newman	13
Rosemary Chandler	33.5	Leo Harrison	12.5
Anthony Jude Rodrigues	19	Ben Dudson	10
Geoff Lay	19	Kev Fox	6.5

THE LYRICS

1. "Quick to the point, to the point no fakin'. Cookin' MCs like a pound of bacon."
2. "Hey. You kids. Come here a minute: I've gotta good thing for you."
3. "What am I doing here? Your face is a mess... you walk back in the room, and you put on your dress."
4. "Squeeze me baby, 'till the juice runs down my leg. The way you squeeze my lemon, I'm gonna fall right out of bed.."
5. "Here she comes like a brand new day - belly dancing across the room"
6. "He'd end up blowing all his wages for the week: All for a cuddle and a peck on the cheek"
7. "And I dreamed your dream for you and now your dream is real, how can you look at me as if I was just another one of your deals"
8. "And I wish you all the love in the world, but most of all, I wish it from myself"
9. "In my commitment to staying away from guilt, I feel no emotion for those I have gone and killed"
10. "Conversations, hesitations in my mind - you got my conscience asking questions that I can't find"

ANSWERS TO GFLQ 1242

1. Radiohead - Climbing Up The Walls
2. Rolling Stones - Ruby Tuesday
3. Bon Jovi - Living On A Prayer
4. Bryan Adams - Summer Of '69
5. Stereophonics - Nice To Be Out
6. Thin Lizzy - The Boys Are Back In Town
7. The Pogues, Feat Kirsty McColl - A Fairytale Of New York
8. Coolio - Gangsta's Paradise
9. MC Hammer - You Can't Touch This
10. Michael Jackson - Wanna Be Startin' Something



ICSM founder

ICSM II 5 - 6 Birkbeck

The ICSM 2nd eleven strode out onto the sunny pitches at Cobham, confident in the knowledge that they were capable of winning this years league.

We were modelling the new kit, with Marco and Sheriff proving that the extra large sizes were a valid choice. Led from the sidelines by captain Roland Hettige, (who devastatingly is out after a heroic performance during this summer's football match on tour against Sporting Lisbon).

ICSM started the match well, attacking and keeping the ball deep in the opposition's half. Notable performances from the maverick strikers, Marco and Johnny Hailes made the opposition defence almost cry with embarrassment, and new signing Rob displayed some Brazilian style flicks to worry the Birkbeck

keeper from the starting whistle.

ICSM was rewarded after only 7 minutes after when the new fresher signing 'Texan Mike' who dominated the midfield with his firm challenges and typical Texan bravado that we've come to expect from him, struck a shot from outside the box, and left the keeper standing as the ball shot right past him into the top corner and ICSM went ahead.

However, while rejoicing in the first goal of the season, we forgot that the match had re-started, and constant pressure on the usually fortress-like defence of Tom Brick, Chris Alesakis and the other star fresher Seb Ellis, caught ICSM unaware and Birkbeck calmly slotted in an equaliser. However, the 2nd team spirit was un-fazed, and we came straight back, and for long periods were in control of the midfield with the only trouble coming from the opposition no. 7.

Due to his Goliath-like proportions, he managed to provide our defenders with a fair amount of trouble, but Brick organised the defence well and our keeper Fleming pulled out the save of his career. We scored 2 more goals making the score 3-1, but then Birkbeck, with the aid of their no. 7, and a few comedy errors on our part, managed to scrape the score back to 3-3.

ICSM started the 2nd half strongly (after their inspiring team talk), with another 1st year Jason being brought on for the injured Seb. Jason immediately proved his worth playing a great ball to put the goal-scoring machine Marco Calandrini, who calmly slotted away his 2nd goal of the match. However, Birkbeck didn't want to be left behind and immediately scored again, making the score 4-all. We began to detect a pattern emerging. Things began to

get annoying as this time Birkbeck went ahead when Fleming our keeper, who decided to cover his gloves in fairy liquid to keep his hands soft and gentle, dropped the ball to an awaiting Birkbeck attacker, who put them ahead. However, the ICSM spirit couldn't be beaten down and Tom Cusack dribbled through 5 of their players, and after receiving the ball on the edge of the area, linked up with the pace-machine Johnny Hailes, and fired a shot into the top corner making the score 5-5.

However, sheer bad-luck and a lack of fitness overcame us at the end, and despite all our best efforts, we couldn't stop their no. 7 from scoring another goal. However credit has to be given to the lads for putting on a great display and playing well in a very memorable match. Judging by this first performance, the 2nds have great potential this season.

Wye girls triumph

GKT II 0 - 3 Wye

Sunday mornings are never a good time to try and get eleven girls to play football, especially in the freezing rain where the pitch is a two-hour drive away. We soon found this out when the minibus pulled in to find five cold girls waiting. Panicked phone calls started, as did lots of frantic running round the village trying to coax others from their warm, comfy, beds.

In the last two seasons, Wye's record has not been the most impressive, but this season we have roped in one of the lads to coach us who is even willing to come to away matches. However this might have been only for this match - GKT have the great bonus of a huge bath for after the match, and given the image of eleven girlies in a steaming bath we didn't wonder why he

was so willing to come.

We kicked off in the drizzle after a crash course in keeping for one of our last-minute additions - the only reason she decided to be goalie was the advantage of trousers against the bitter cold.

Both teams played really well and I was particularly impressed with the structure kept by the GKT team and how often they called to each other.

Wye kept up the pressure all through the first half, with several shots on goal, and Maria managed to get one in before half time. Our coach kept us level-headed and constantly reminded us that we couldn't get complacent even though we'd scored.

Into the second half, great play from the Wye midfield sent a ball up to Geraldine in front of the goal, and she managed to send us 2-0 up. This was followed by

another great shot from Laura that was stopped by the GKT keeper. Becks put our third goal home, building on an earlier effort in a scramble in the first half involving almost kicking the keeper in the head!

The defence did an excellent job of sending the ball forward the few times it did stray into our

half, and Rosie's shouting certainly scared off a few GKT who tried to tackle her!

Full time and we were amazed - our first match of the season a win. Then off to the much-awaited bath (keeping the coach firmly outside) and then down to the bar for some very healthy beans and chips.



Virgins violated

IC Virgins 0 - 19 Herts

I thought that our massed faithful readers would like a bit of pre-season waffle, slander and gossip so -

We went to Sandersfoot on tour, got very drunk, played no rugby at all and went to a really classy club. The start of the year has been muy interesante (*just shows what level 5 spanish does for your diction - ed*), but due to an incredibly successful bribery attempt, I cannot divulge all of my deepest darkest secrets (get the pints down ya Dapps) but i can tell you that a certain budding romance between a certain curly-haired fresher and an really unattractive male rugby player is off. Bastard.

So, to last wednesday, with our shockingly over-enthusiastic freshers, who also turned out to be a bit bloody good, when we played a pre-season friendly against Herts. Not to say that they're all a bunch

of whining bitches, but they really do go on, and we addressed their usual 'issues' in full.

Aoife (said efa) and Rachel were both outstanding, and were our back and forward of the match respectively, showing us all a few of their slinky moves and proving that they really knew what the hell they were doing.

I'm really struggling to find any particularly memorable moments, other than the three tries they sneaked past us, but there were some crunching tackles, including some sexy efforts from bally Ally and new girl Priya.

Spatchy's bruise is f***ing whoppin', so if you see her make sure you give it a good poke. By the way, if any of you are looking for any tips on cooking a high quality spatchcock chicken then see the aforementioned, and she'll be happy to help.

So to conclude the watch for



you, oh my children, the match went well, we were pretty lush, and the new people seem to have added some much needed and most certainly appreciated class to the outfit.

So they can all get the first second or two of their fifteen minutes of fame they were: Alex - Chantel look-a-like - Aleks, Rachel, Priya, Kitty, Tanya, Jenny, Aoife and Ella. At the other end of the age range, slapper Beth has demanded, and

deserved to be fair, a mention for traversing the north south divide to watch her fave team.

And just to add to the Chris Prothero hall of fame (see any first's report), don't go there girls. Ever. Need i say more? I think not.

Cheers then, and watch out for our first league match next week, against Surrey. We're still looking for more people for the team, so if you want to play check out union.ic.ac.uk/womensrugby.

Shoot!

Competition continued through the summer vacation for the Imperial College Rifle Team. We were competing in the West Kent Rifle League Summer Short Range Team Postal competition for the first time. The competition is organised into divisions containing six teams. Each team then shoots ten rounds, twice against each other club in the division, and points are awarded for a win, loss or draw. A win would secure the team 2 points, a draw 1 point and no points for a loss. The other clubs in the competition were all non-university clubs. Teams consisted of five shooters, and for each round they had to shoot 1 ten-bull card at 25 yards.

It was clear after the first few rounds that one team were the clear favourites. Team Nypro were shooting consistently high scores, and indeed they went on to win the division, but not as convincingly as

one might first have thought.

IC started well, winning their first round match. The second did not go quite as well, however, seeing us beaten by Blackpool A. Amazingly we managed a tie in the third with City of Stoke, with both teams getting 477 out of 500 points. Some extremely good shooting on the part of our opponents, and some slightly below par shooting on our part, saw IC lose the next two rounds. However, we did not allow ourselves to be discouraged and put in some very good scores for the next three; winning rounds six and seven, and only losing out to City of Stoke at the second attempt by 1 point in the eighth.

The final two rounds did not go our way despite some good scores by our able shooters. We finished in 5th place, which was disappointing as the middle of the table was fairly close.

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Saturday 19th October
Leeds v Liverpool 12pm

Sunday 20th October
Charlton v Boro 4pm

Monday 21st October
Villa v Southampton 8pm

Tuesday 22nd October
Sp. Moscow v Liverpool 5pm

Arsenal v Auxere 7.45pm
(not at Charing cross due to comedy)

Wednesday 23rd October
Olympiakos v Man Utd 7.45pm



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