

# FELIX

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College

Issue 1248

15/11/02

The five wise virgins. Sports has XV of a very different variety...

Back Page



Bo' being prepared for her journey. And what a journey...

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## REFERENCE COLLECTION

Imperial College and Science Museum Libraries

# Strike Hits College

College was much quieter than usual on Thursday when staff walked out over pay across the capital.

Official pickets were set up outside most entrances to College, though movement around College was generally unhindered, particularly for students. However, staff protesting outside buildings made up only a fraction of those away from work, as many others declined to cross picket lines, regardless of their support for strike action.

Many departments, such as Physics, officially cancelled lectures for the day, but in others most lectures ran as normal.

At Imperial College Union, the strike had little effect on student services, despite some members



Pickers were in good spirits, but cold...

of staff walking out for the day.

Four of the main staff unions – the Association of University Teachers, Unison, NAFTHE and Amicus – called a strike to

protest about the amount of extra money awarded to university workers in the capital. It has been fixed at £2,134 since 1992 but the unions would like to see

that rise to around £4,000.

One member of technical staff on strike told *Felix*, "We are very bitter that management get £16,000 London allowance and they won't even talk to us."

Despite the strike, no talks were scheduled between the University of London and staff unions to resolve the dispute.

Unison announced that a focus of the strike would be the Queen's visit to King's College, where she is expected to open a new library.

The AUT's general secretary told the BBC "When reasonable staff are pushed to strike, vice-chancellors should sit down with the unions and seek a resolution. So far, they have not done this."

AW

## 'Speaker Van Man' Is Back

A regular feature of life at Imperial College returned this week when men selling speakers out of the back of a van started pestering students.

The "speaker van man" phenomenon crops up each year. The van's passengers call a student over as if to ask directions, claim that they've had a delivery of speakers rejected and that they are trying to shift them at a knock-down price.

In the past, the speakers have found to be either broken or of very low quality. Buyers have

also been asked to take the salesmen to cash machines, and physical threats have been made against those who refuse to buy.

College Security strongly advise students to stay away from the vans – so far this week a white van and a green van (S904 NGW) have both been used, and there may well be more – but can do nothing to stop them as long as they remain on public roads. AW

• E-mail your *speaker van man* sightings to [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk).



Speaker van man caught on camera

## INSIDE...

What's your worldview? His People are going to find out...

Come on, people. There is so much going on in college this month, and I only received two letters... tut tut.

Two pages of science, examining everyone's favourite illegal drug: cannabis.

I was hoping that the manic street preachers had given up, by now. But apparently not.

15th November 2002

# Graduates Unprepared?

A new survey of final year university students published today reveals that 46% do not feel prepared for work.

The survey of over 1,000 students, conducted on behalf of TeachFirst, found that two thirds of students thought that University should be about preparing students for a professional career, but less than half thought it had succeeded.

Students were questioned at several universities across the UK and Ireland. Oxbridge students proved to be much more theoretically-minded than London students with only 43%

believing that university should be about preparation for a professional career. This was compared to 70% of students questioned at UCL, LSE, Imperial and Kings College London.

Additionally, it was discovered that just over half of the students know what they want to do after they graduate.

Money was rated by students as their primary goal for five years after graduation, followed closely by respect; family was rated as their primary goal twenty years after graduation.

Diana Warwick, chief executive of the umbrella group

Universities UK, said there was a difference between enhancing students' general skills and preparing them for a specific job or profession.

"Some jobs require a specific degree subject, and additional studies – others do not," said Baroness Warwick. "What is clear is that higher education helps students develop transferable skills that are useful in their subsequent careers."

• More information about the TeachFirst programme and recent press articles can be found at [www.teachfirst.org.uk](http://www.teachfirst.org.uk).

## FELIX

Issue 1248

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save a nation  
THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

## WHERE WILL THE CHILDREN PLAY?

Imperial College Islamic Society - Ramadhan 1423 AH

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Tuesday	07.30 - 23.45
Wednesday	07.30 - 23.45
Thursday	07.30 - 23.45
Friday	07.30 - 23.45
Saturday	07.30 - 23.45
Sunday	09.00 - 23.45





# And Alex Said...

"And now on BBC1, we interrupt all half-decent programming to bore you to death with this year's... Children in Need."

Suddenly your eyelids are descending faster than your bank balance. Consciousness is fading quicker than the chances that you'll stick to your resolution to do "a bit more work" this term. Your body collapses in a heap, just like the analogies in this paragraph.

Then you wake up to hear Toby Anstis say "And now we cross over to BBC Dullsbys..."

"This crazy man is sitting in a bath full of maggots!" shouts Gaby Roslin.

"They're crawling up my nose. I think they're biting me inside."

He's a man sitting in a bath, as part of a line of men sitting in baths, and the baths are full of the typical "cray-zee" things that baths get full of at this time of year. You know: custard, gunge, mud, goo, gunk, jelly, acid, fae-

ces, molten rock, water.

"And what about you, what's this bath full of?"

"Razor blades" says a man, in a bath full of razor blades.

"Owch! You must be completely mad!"

"I was almost sectioned."

"What's your name?"

"I'm Sir Derek Roberts, Provost of UCL"

this. The razor blades were his idea," he says, somewhat glumly.

Standing to one side, there is a deep laugh. "Keep up the good work, Derek!" says Richard, with a cackle. "It's this or the top-up fees, you see," he says, turning to Gaby Roslin. "Surprisingly warm, under the glare of these lights," he says, fanning himself with a large handful of fifty pound notes.

A minute later and the hell is in full swing. Ann is in her underwear, and all the while Will is serenading her with "I want to take this moment, and make it last forever..." You wonder whether he really means it.

"Give us your money, give us your fucking money, now, please!" sobs Bob Geldof, eerily reminiscent of his famous Live Aid quote, although this time the anger is replaced by terror, and there are tears in his eyes. "The smell is appalling... people here are dying!" he says, as Ann's bra comes flying in his direction.

Back to the studio, and there's Nicky Campbell from Watchdog. "Right, we've got Will Young and Ann Widdecombe in the studio, and as we said earlier, if we didn't have four million pounds by now, Ann would be performing a sexy striptease. And as if things couldn't get any worse, Will will be singing. Let's check the totals..."

Will's song reaches a climax, Nicky Campbell wipes the sick off his chin and while Ann is dancing, her breasts knock out two cameramen. She moves a large fold of skin out of the way and reaches for her knickers, and then...

Give generously.

Alex Warren

## Charity!

**Teach First**  
presents  
**"How can school beat business school? – How to transfer your skills and accelerate your career"**  
Tuesday, 19th November  
6pm–9pm

**Earnest & Young**  
presents  
**"Surviving an Assessment Centre"**  
Wednesday, 20th November  
2pm–5pm  
Room 6b, East Wing Basement, Beit Quad  
To secure your place contact Nick Gore today  
on n.gore@ic.ac.uk or call ext 4-8097



Another service provided by Imperial College Union

IC Union Amnesty Group presents:  
**Human Rights in Indonesia**

- What is really happening now in Aceh, East Timor and West Papua?
- How much have Esso and other companies assisted human rights violations in Aceh?
- Since the Bali bomb, what next for human rights in Indonesia?

Come and join the discussion with speakers from the Indonesian human rights group Tapol

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
5pm  
Room 119 SAF Building  
www.su.ic.ac.uk/amnesty

# Lord Mayor's Show

The first Lord Mayor's Show was in 1215, after King John had granted a Charter allowing the City's citizens to elect their own mayor. The Charter stipulated that the new mayor must be presented to the Sovereign for approval and to swear loyalty to the Crown. Saturday 9th November 2002 saw the 675th Lord Mayor's Show and City & Guilds College Union once again co-ordinated an entry on behalf of Imperial College. This year's float celebrated the 100th birthday of Boanerges, affectionately known as Bo', one of the vintage vehicle mascots of the Faculty of Engineering.

Generators purred into life, lights lit up, silk flames started billowing around and the air around the float was filled with floating voices whispering "testing" into the microphone. The rest of the students accompanying the float began to trickle in, including members of Skate Soc (on skates...) and Juggling Club (to juggle). After 11am the float finally began to move off, edging forward with Clementine and Jezebel bringing up the rear. Clem appeared to find itself the chosen base for STOIC, who were along to film the event.

In true Imperial College fashion one of our generators chose this particular moment to fail, shutting down the all important sound system (probably much to the relief of the marching band in front). With panic rapidly setting in as we pulled out into the main pro-

cession Bo' and Derrick set out to make up for the absence of sound with quick-fire usage of their horns while enthusiastic students scrambled over the float to try and repair the broken generator (we are engineers, after all). A few minutes later this plan of attack was abandoned and the team started to work on moving the sound system over to the other generator. The lights and silk



flames were reluctantly unplugged, leaving four hideously expensive pieces of silk hanging forlornly across the side of the float. Inevitably the wires were too short and the power plugs in the wrong place, but eventually the sound system came back to life and everyone on the float was able to breath a sigh of relief.

The rest of the parade went almost without incident, with Honourary Secretary Dan

Lehmann calling the 'Boomalaka' to welcome the new Lord Mayor as we passed his stand. The weather held out surprisingly well given the torrential rain the day before and the crowd lining the streets were entertained by the antics of Skate Soc (equipped with their Fred and Barney Flintstone costumes) as well as by Tom Williams and Mustafa Arif sitting on Derrick and leaning radically from side to side every few seconds pretending to turn corners. The BBC proceeded to do their part, capturing the Imperial procession on screen for nearly a minute.

It was well past mid-day when we finally pulled over to stop for lunch. An adjustable spanner borrowed from the RCS Motor Club was put to work on the broken generator and after much cursing and hanging over the front of the float it spluttered into life. The return parade back to London Wall took about an hour and passed mercifully almost without incident though sadly the BBC didn't get a chance to capture our float in its full two-generator glory, with silk flames billowing. As always the show was great fun for those who took part and superb publicity for Imperial College. Assuming the money can be found, there can't be any doubt that we'll be back again next year.

More information on the show can be found on-line at <http://www.cgcu.net/lms/>  
Oliver Pell



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college  
union

ambient or soul:funk:jazz every wednesday and friday  
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Chips/Potato Wedges/Onion Rings/Mushrooms

Indian Samosa served with Salad and Chutney

Side Salad, Hot Dog Spicy Chicken Fillet Burger



# Paradigm Shift

## Who are we?

We're the "worldview surveys team" from His People Society. If you're not sure what a worldview is then Jason has written about these strange creatures on the right. We are Christians and members of His People church (the one that meets in the Drewe lecture theatre at Charing Cross). Besides this we run small groups in halls and we do worldview surveys, which is where this comes in! Over the next months, years or possibly page, depending on the popularity of "Paradigm Shift", we'll be publishing our results and other "interesting things" to keep away the boredom during your lectures, or make it worse depending on your worldview!

## What do we do?

The survey contains nine questions, from which it is possible to determine one's worldview. The questions will be considered in future "Paradigm Shift" articles, provided it lasts that long! There's about six of us on the team and

we go out on Wednesday afternoons, armed with our clipboards to find some respondents. Surveys typically last between ten minutes and two hours and are normally enjoyable for everyone involved. They usually end up more like conversations than just questions and answers, because the whole idea of them is to find out why people believe what they do, and they're often interested in finding out the same about us too! So if you've got a deadline in two hours and you see the clipboards coming towards you then my best advice is to run for your life!

## What is a worldview?

I like the formal definition by John Sire in his excellent book "The Universe Next Door" in which he asserts that a worldview is a set of presuppositions which we hold about the basic makeup of the world. In other words, a worldview is first of all an explanation and interpretation of the world and secondly, an application of this view to life.

In some sense a worldview is like wearing the correct pair of spectacles; it must provide the correct prescription for making sense of the world and like a pair of spectacles must offer focus.

## Supernaturalism

Hello and welcome to worldview of the month. Dictionary.com says that supernaturalism is "The belief in a supernatural agency that intervenes in the course of natural laws." This doesn't help much, though, because we've only got rid of the -ism! To go further we must define what the supernatural is. What do you think about when the word "supernatural" is mentioned? Ghosts and goblins? Well Dictionary.com doesn't exactly mention these, but it does say:

1. Of or relating to existence outside the natural world.
2. Attributed to a power that seems to violate or go beyond natural forces.
3. Of or relating to the immediate exercise of divine power; miraculous.

So it's quite a broad worldview, with Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism being the major supernaturalist religions. Of course many people believe in something beyond the natural world without falling into these categories and the sheer quantity of films and books that have references to the supernatural shows that there is a genuine interest in it. For this reason HPS have organised an event entitled "Shadows of the Supernatural". For more info look out for posters along the main walkway or contact: john.hermes@ic.ac.uk.

## Contacts

We hope to start up online surveys within the next month, but if the suspense is too much for you to bear then send us an email and we'll come and survey you! Similarly, if you have any comments or questions then don't hesitate to click that "send" button. Our email addresses are sam.gilliland@ic.ac.uk (that's me) and jason.robinson@ic.ac.uk

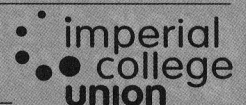
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# Your Letters

## Poster Problems

Hi,  
The union poster regulations contain the rules:

Posters not to be put up closer than 5 metres apart where there is insufficient space.

Posters not to be put up over other in date posters.

Presumably then, if one was to put up some posters following all the rules and particularly those above, they would be left there until the event had been and gone. This is not the case, posters are regularly ripped down a matter of hours after they are put up. The main offenders in this practice are not rouge clubs and societies however, they are the wonderful, unimpeachable fellows who wrote the rules in the first place.

The union regularly carpet bomb the main walkway and JCR with swathes of huge posters advertising their shitty events, popular only with people who would attend them regardless of

there being five inconspicuous sheets of A4 or five million hideously garish posters covering every available square inch of college. Everyone knows cheesy wot-sits is on three times a bloody week, advertising is not the answer for this lame duck. Perhaps if the thousands of pounds spent on advertising pispoor events and inconsequential referendums (for a supposedly apolitical institution) were diverted elsewhere clubs might be able to book a minibus when they need one.

## Political Update

Dear Felix,

After reading the letter last week bitching about Southside shop I thought I should contribute to this worthy cause. I very rarely buy things from the shop and gave up trying to eat basics pizzas a long time ago but am still a regular to the downstairs bit of Southside bar. I was horrified last

Tuesday to see a small brown mouse scurrying along behind some seats. When I casually mentioned this to one of the lovely bar-men, instead of looking terribly embarrassed and offering me lots of free drinks to compensate for my traumatic experience he just shrugged and said there's loads of them around. Lovely. Do you think the Grade II listed status Southside apparently has includes the original rodent population?

Talking of unwanted rodenty types, I was fortunate enough last week (privileges of being a councillor's daughter) to have a very interesting tour of the Houses of Parliament followed by tea on the terrace. I took this opportunity to ask as many important people as possible about top up fees and they're opinion of our lovely Mr Sykes. David Davis (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) was violently against top up fees but did admit that the bill may well get passed when it goes to government. A lovely little man who is

the mp for somewhere in Bedfordshire talked for a good 20 minutes before I realised he was cunningly avoiding giving any opinions on anything, clever little scamps these politicians. Another terribly suave mp, who was also a party whip ( how funny is that? I spent a long time confirming with him that it was his job primarily to whip people) really liked the graduate tax idea and also admitted that Sykes was a conniving little bastard (not quite his words, we were in polite company, but the look on his face was explanatory enough). The general consensus is that the top universities do need more money but that top up fees are not the answer, or at least not right now. I think the best quote I got by far was from an mp who after hearing that I studied maths said 'I'm awful at maths, I see numbers as colours, I seriously think a part of my brain is missing'. And he's helping to run the country...

Amy (3rd year maths)



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**BACK 2 SKOOL CHEEZE WEAR YOUR UNIFORM!**

**8-2AM (BAR 'TIL 1AM)**

**FREE B4 9, 1.50 UNION, 2.00 GUESTS, 1.00 P2P**

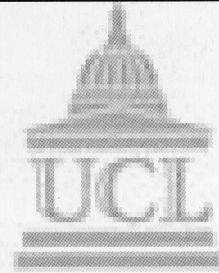
**FRIDAY, NOV 15**

*Friday Night Out Supported by*  
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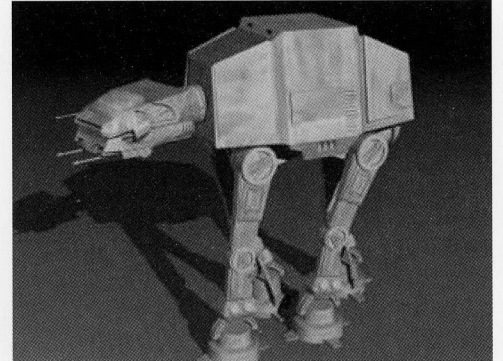
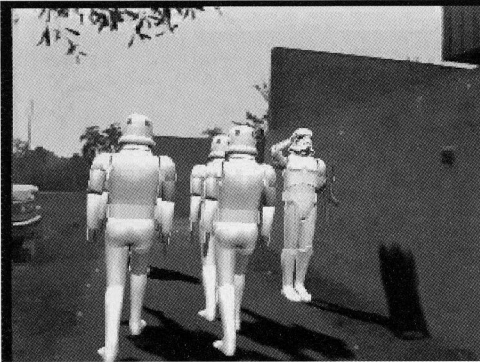
Imperial College  
OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

+



=

?????



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Do you know how will it affect YOU?

Do you know what the \*\*\*\* is going on?

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**VOTE NO**

At the referendum – 25th/26th November

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[www.su.ic.ac.uk/notomerger](http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/notomerger)

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Last year, Brian rebuilt his computer.

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# WorldSoc

We, the undersigned members of B.I.G. (Bigoted Ignorant Goofs) do hereby politely inform Felix readers that we will be annexing focus on: next week.

Each week, we will randomly select a country from a list published two issues previously. Your country could be the lucky winner! Our programme will then be to thoroughly besmirch the reputation of that country. Be warned, no holds barred\*.

## Manifest-ad



\*We dislike not being able to apply "small print" to its logical extremes in the following qualifying clause, but we are being threatened with exile to somewhere foreign so we'll content ourselves with applying it to this rather superfluous paragraph. As to the above, the picture says it all.

Resistance is not quite futile. To avert us trashing your country on this very page you

merely have to write in a paragraph about some aspect of your country. Something along the lines of random national sports, ways and places to have a successful social life in your hometown, interesting foods, local cheesy pop and alternatives, strange sayings - you get the idea.

On the scaffold this week are Nigeria, Korea, Brazil and Japan. Anonymously or otherwise, nationals of these countries, send stuff in, or else...

## Focus on:

### BRITISH COMEDY



Mastery of a country can be assumed when you understand its poetry and humour. Adulation is due if you don't share a common mother tongue with that country.

You've all been able to satisfy Imperial's fairly stringent English ability requirements, and so are ready for initiation into the world of British comedy. I assume little prior knowledge, and hasten to add that this will be extended over several Felices.

This week deals with (fairly recent) historical comedy. I'll leave the great guns to the literati, but in passing make sure you have a look at Shakespeare and Jane Austen.

I implore you to accompany this with an elementary British history primer (or risk having a very skewed view of the last 900 years in Britain), but Seller and Yeatman's *1066 and All That* is a masterpiece, and will give many insights into how we perceive the world.

The following books will gladden those amongst you who hoped to see stereotyped Britain (cucumber sandwiches, tea etc). Jerome K. Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat* is a good place to start. The title, a reference to a nursery rhyme, makes the subject clear.



Oscar Wilde is seminal, and you'll easily find plays, stories and film adaptations. P.G. Woodhouse is fairly flippant, and breezes through the stereotypes. The *Jeeves and Wooster* books got a good TV series with Stephen

Fry and Hugh Laurie. Evelyn Waugh is much more subtle, and though you'll have to overlook the racist mindset of many of his generation, *Decline and Fall* and *Scoop* are great.

Punch magazine was a workhorse for a very long time, and has recently been reincarnated. but you'll have to look up the earlier stuff if you want top quality. Of especial note are the cartoons of H. M. Bateman, of *The Man Who...* series.

Although these are strictly speaking contemporary, the subject matter is historical. You should be able to see *Life of Brian* and *Holy Grail*, *Monty Python* films and the *Blackadder* TV series very easily soon as Christmas and the re-run season approaches. Ask many Brits about these two, and they'll happily wax lyrical about them and possibly provide you with opportunities to view them. Encourage them.

Cholmondely

## RANDOM BRITAIN

We've been relegated this week, as we don't have a lot to say. However, we are prepared to say it very loudly. Therefore we'll be endeavouring to displace Cholmondely and resist takeover bids from the Bigots through sheer volume. Anyway, onto less self-involved matters: We've been to go and see *Ten*, the film by Abbas Kiarostami. It's on at the ICA almost daily until the end of this month. [www.ica.org.uk](http://www.ica.org.uk) for details.

The life of a divorcee (Mania Akbari) in modern Iran goes under the microscope, as we observe her relationships with her resentful, possessive young son, her husband, sister and several other women, including a prostitute. Filmed entirely from inside her car, it's hard to know whether to focus on the car interior, or to try and get fleeting glimpses of Tehran through the windows. It's subtly thought-provoking, and well worth going along to. Soon!

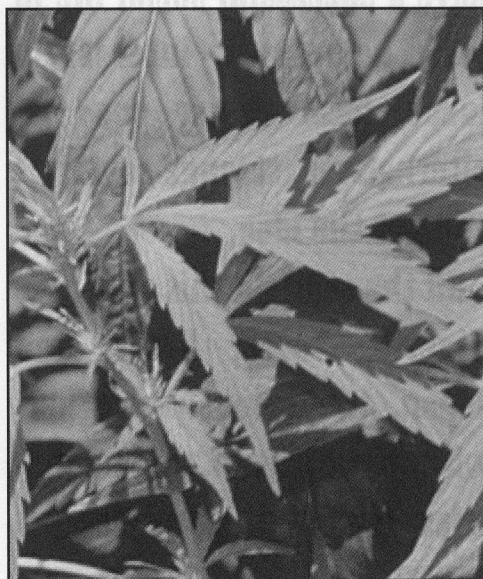


# Cannabis: A scientist's view

## Cannabis usage

### The pros

- Alcohol and tobacco are more addictive.
- It can help make various medical conditions more bearable to live with, for example cancer, HIV, MS, glaucoma.
- Cannabis appears to be good for the heart.



The cannabis plant

### The cons

- Cannabis is psychologically addictive.
- Users can show aggressive behaviour when in withdrawal.
- Cannabis use could lead to 'harder' drugs.
- It has a higher tar content than tobacco and so has a higher risk of lung cancer.
- Users can have trouble controlling blood pressure and so are prone to fainting.

## A scientific history

The cannabis drug is from the plant *Cannabis Indica*, probably first found in India and related to nettles. It has been grown for 'medicinal and recreational' purposes for thousands of years. Most of British cannabis resin ('black', 'soapbar', 'hash') comes in from Morocco, with the herbal cannabis ('grass', 'weed', 'skunk') coming in mainly from Jamaica. There is an increasing trend for 'homegrown' cannabis.

Most cannabis is smoked, often along with tobacco, but it can be eaten, often with much stronger effects. These effects include increased talkativeness, relaxation and heightened experiences of sound and colour.

The main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis is called THC, but this is only one of over 400 chemicals. THC interferes with brain functions by producing signals very similar to that of the brain's neurotransmitters, but with a random pattern. The effects last for about four hours and there is no 'hangover' as such.

Sometimes the effects of a high cannabis dose can be unpleasant, producing hallucinations, panic, paranoia and nausea. Some users have short-term memory loss because the parts of the brain controlling memory have been disrupted. Some research has suggested that prolonged use can permanently affect the memory and the ability to learn.

Cannabis smokers inhale far more tar than tobacco smokers and so there is an increased risk of lung cancer.

Currently cannabis in its herbal and resin form is a class B drug carrying a penalty of up to five years in jail for possession. The Home Secretary, David Blunkett has, however, recently suggested moving it down to class C, and experimental schemes have been introduced in some areas to relax police regulation of the drug

## Medicinal uses of cannabis

It seems likely that soon the British Government will introduce legislation to allow the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes. It has been shown to help reduce nausea associated with chemotherapy, help increase the



'Skunk'

appetite of AIDs sufferers, help relieve eye pressure for people with glaucoma, and to help relieve muscle pain.

The condition that cannabis has been associated the most with is Multiple Sclerosis. MS is incurable and sufferers have balance problems, muscle spasms, incontinence and tremors. A large number of sufferers have said that cannabis helps ease these symptoms, particularly spasms, pain and bladder control. But many are breaking the law while attempting to ease their suffering.

Doctors can prescribe Nabilone, containing THC, but patients complain about 'getting stoned', because the pain relieving ingredients have yet to be separated from the 'mind bending' ones.

For more information see [bbc.co.uk/science](http://bbc.co.uk/science)

# Research proposal competition:

## "Why I need 16 contact lens holders"

### Winner - Wai-mei Chan

In response to angry farmers, grounds-men and gardeners, a research opportunity has arisen in the prevention/minimisation of crop and flowerbed damage by moles. I propose to select 16 moles to experiment (humanely) upon from a mole community. The aim will be to train them to apply their contact lenses once they have surfaced and ascertain whether they

have disturbed a place of agricultural/horticultural significance or a designated mole habitat. If they find that they have done the latter they will know that they can dig more extensive burrows there, however if not, they will know to leave that site as delicately as possible, never to return, and pass the message onto other moles.

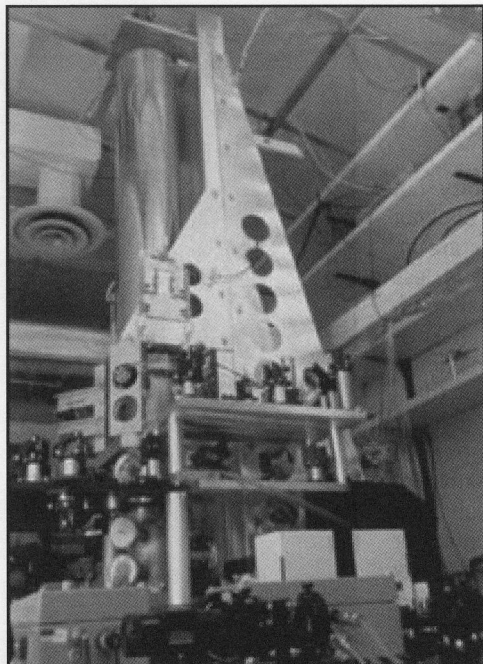
As contact lenses will be easily scratched and damaged in the harsh conditions of a burrow under construction, it is necessary to have funding for 16 contact lens holders, which can be attached to the moles via utility belts. (The lenses being funded by the Moles' protection league). Let me prove that people and moles can live together in peace.



# Atomic clocks

## We'll meet in a moment... err... in 5,345669543 seconds

The current most accurate clock (NIST-F1 fountain clock) neither gains nor loses a second in nearly 20 million years. Rather accurate. To understand how this super clock reaches such accuracy let's first remind ourselves what a clock is. All clocks have two basic components:



The nist-1 clock

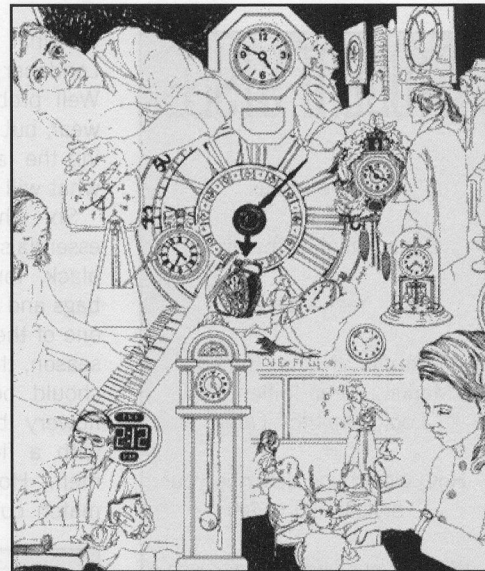
a constant process to mark the increments of time and a means of keeping track of the increments. For example, your grandfather's pendulum clock increments time with the oscillation mechanism of the pendulum. Christian Huygens (a Dutch scientist) made the first one in 1656 and its error was less than one minute a day.

While Huygens' clock (or your grandfather's pendulum clock) is a mechanical clock, the atomic clock is a quantum-mechanical clock. In other words, its working is based on quantum physics (physics of the ultra small). Essentially, the incremental component is given by the radiation frequency that causes the maximum transitions of the clock's atoms (NIST-F1 uses Caesium 133) to another state. In English? Well... According to quantum mechanics, sub-atomic particles can only exist in discrete states and not at in between states (electrons have two hyperfine states). Generally, an atom remains in its hyperfine state. But when prodded by electromagnetic radiation at a specific frequency, it will switch to the other state. For Caesium the specific radiation frequency is 9,192,631,770. Or in other words, when the radiation frequency is 9,192,631,770 a maximum number of Caesium atoms undergo a "hyperfine state" transition. As frequency is expressed in [s<sup>-1</sup>] (per second) it is obvious (...hopefully) that the 9,192,631,770 beats define exactly 1 second. The idea of using hyperfine states for a clock was first proposed by U.S. physicist Isador Rabi in 1945.

After this preamble, you can now understand that an atomic clock: 1) filters atoms by selecting those in one hyperfine state, 2) radiates the selected atoms by microwaves, 3) measures how many changed atoms there are (fluorescence detection), 4) tunes the microwave generator to the frequency that causes the maximum transitions. This optimal frequency (or number of oscillations) represents 1 second.

So now why do we need such accuracy? Innumerable communication and navigation systems as well as synchronising systems

(between computers,...) rely on it. One example is the GPS (Global Positioning Satellites) system. GPS determine the position of a receiver anywhere on Earth by timing the arrival signals from four GPS satellites and doing a quick calculation to triangulate its position. Each



Clocks clocks clocks...

nanosecond (billionth of a second) of error translates into a GPS error of one foot. Thus each of the 24 GPS satellites contains four atomic clocks.

More information on clocks:

<http://physics.nist.gov/GenInt/Time/time.html>

Want to check your computer's clock against the official U.S. atomic clock?

<http://www.time.gov/>

Françoise Mei

## Research proposal competition cont.:

### Runner up (sorry no prize but I thought I'd print it) - Edward Hunt

Inspired by the character "Eyeball Paul" from the Kevin and Perry movie, I have devised an experiment to establish whether drinking shots through your eyes really does get you drunk faster than conventional consumption.

First I will round up 32 sober imperial students (!) and lead them to my underground lab. Each will be thoroughly examined in mental coordination using the classic book "1001 Tricky Tongue-Twisters for Kids". They will then in turn be given a small amount of alcohol (left-

over undrinkable Tesco Value Vodka). Half will be given ordinary shot glasses and half will be given contact lens cases full of vodka. These cases (which must be the double ended type) will be ideal for delivering a swift alcohol shot to each eye. Each sucker will, after their shot, be given a twenty minute exam in tongue-twister dexterity by my lovely assistants. It will be noted, for each subject, how long after the shot it took for their mental abilities to drop.

The expected outcome of these tests will rev-

olutionise the drinks industry. I will release a new line of spirit packaging based on lens case design and become fabulously, fabulously rich. The remaining profits will go to Imperial College, removing any need to merge with anybody, ever. Result!

Inspired by these wacky ideas? For the next issue, with a prize of a £10 HMV token, tell science.felix@ic.ac.uk why you need 30 bicycle helmets...

## IC STYLE

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## THIS SEASON I SHALL BE MOSTLY

## STUDENT STYLE

Name – Alex

Department – Chemistry

Year – 2nd

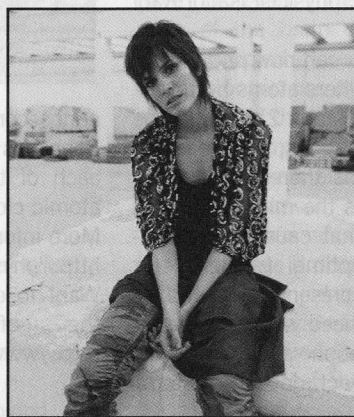
Favourite Shops – Camden Market, Karen Millen, New Look, Brighton Laings

How would you describe your style? – Hippyish

What's your favourite accessory? – Sarongs, great over trousers!

So what will the self respecting Londoner be wearing this winter? Well probably what they always wear, but the shops will be stocking the latest trends and here is what will be included.

So what are this season's essentials? **Corduroy**, in beige or black, for trousers, skirts, hats, bags and blazers. This is probably one of the strongest looks for this season, the cord trousers or skirts should be worn with a chiffon flowery blouse for women and with a flowery vintage shirt for men. However don't mix and match cord, especially not black



and beige together.

**Vintage** or retro gear is still here, this time for men's shirts and women's accessories like bags and shoes.

Winter is the time for big, snugly coats and this season's style is **sheepskin**. This is carried over from last winter but this winter sheepskin is less subtle, the coats around at the moment are very 70's with exotic trims and big hoods.

The final essential item is a **skinny scarf**, the longer and louder the better. It should be knitted and probably stripy in all the colours of the rainbow. French Connection have a mens stripy scarf which is slightly more subtle for £25, it is imaginatively called

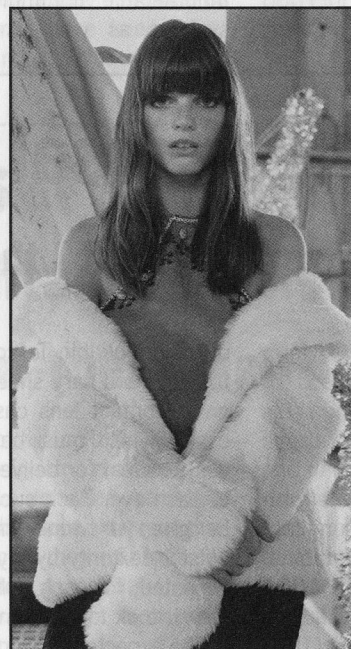
Mens multi stripe scarf.

Now for women we have four styles for you to choose from. There's gothic, starlet, grungy and retro sport.

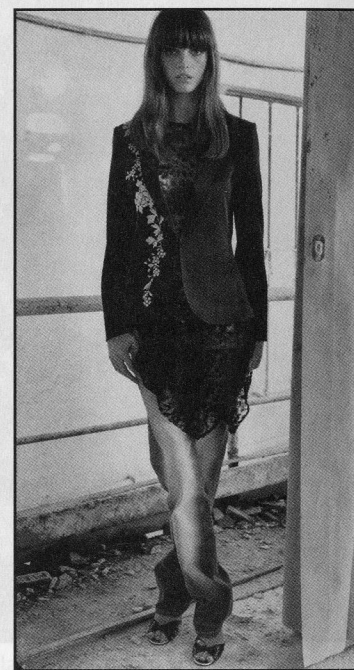
What about **gothic**? Sorry but this does not mean that Slipknot t-shirts or leather trousers are in, this season's gothic look is less scary and more sexy! Floaty chiffon is teamed with crochet knits in black, with highlight colours of claret (dark red) and plum (dark purple).

A good key item for this trend is a black, layered chiffon skirt e.g. Topshop for £38. This can then be worn with a crocheted black or plum coloured top for a sexy party outfit.

So who wants to be a **starlet**? 20's and 30's glamour is back, but this time with a Hollywood twist, a slightly darker version of Marilyn. This is the ultimate party look for all this years Christmas parties, with sexy satin dresses and faux fur. Over the top glamour is the key with sequins and



Glam with chiffon and fur



embroidery, covering every inch.

The key item for this look is the sheer wrap, worn over plain strappy tops, these look incredibly gorgeous and come mostly in gold or silver tones. Topshop do a beautiful wrap, which is white with brown sequin detail for £45, none of these wraps are cheap due to the embroidery or sequin detail on them, but they are a good investment as they can be worn with a range of things.

With the Starlet look comes the **RED** matt lipstick, great if you can wear it but makes most people look like the undead.

How about **grungy** then? Nirvana are back and with them comes a new edge on the grunge look, where blokey items like parkas, bomber jackets or combats are combined with ultra feminine chiffon tops or skirts. This trend includes the military look, with faded khaki and retro military badges etc. However camouflage is not back in and should be avoided at all costs! Mango do a fantastic green military coat for

## IC STYLE

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## WEARING...

£51 with belt and gold stud detail.

If you're intending on visiting the gym sometime soon to shed some pounds and get a head start before Christmas then you'll be into **retro sport**. Well the 70's had to be in somewhere, with jogging bottoms, zip tops and t-shirts, all covered in retro logos and in bright colours. Not to be worn all at once but the zip tops and t-shirts look great with jeans.

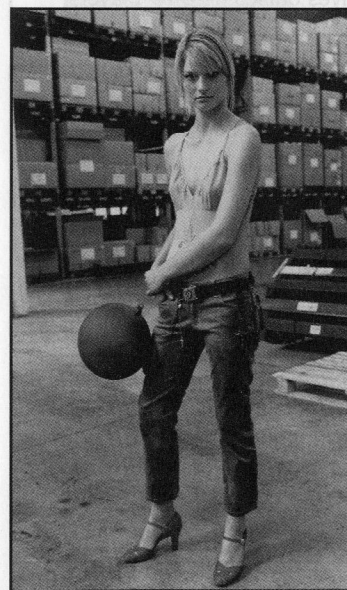
So you've got your outfits sorted, how about the **accessories**? Boots and shoes have evil looking pointed toes this winter, very Cruella De Vil! Mainly in black or brown but plum features in the shoe department as well.

Bright red lipstick is always a good colour and Office do a pair of ankle boots in this colour called 'Pili Demi Boot' for £69.99.

Handbags are still essential and have tassels, embroidery etc. or are found in plain black leather.

Trends for men this season are Ski sport, retro and navy.

The apres-ski look, without the dodgy sunglasses. Lots of knits in this look, with a slightly retro edge, including this seasons odd-



Chunky Knits to keep you warm

est the trend the 'alpine sweater'; the ones with snowflakes and bright colours on, very strange! Also zip tops with retro stripes and again a strangely 70's feel.

These knits are worn with denim or tweed trousers and big parkas or gillets (sleeveless padded coats).

**Retro**, ah, that word again! This season's retro is an excuse to wear flamboyant shirts, with floral print and frills... only for the very brave.

Topman has a lovely green paisley shirt for £25, it is actually nicer than it sounds, which would go well with a pair of flared jeans.

Cord flares and blazers are big and colours should clash but tastefully so, if there is such a thing.

The skinny scarf look comes under this heading and looks fab with a retro style blazer.

**Navy** is a slightly odd trend that has sneaked in to cover the more tailored look, but includes other items.

Big thick white woollen knits are included in this trend, as are stripes in navy blue of black.

Men never seem to do much in the way of accessories but an item I think is fantastic is the Monkey Beanie, from Topman for £10, v cute!

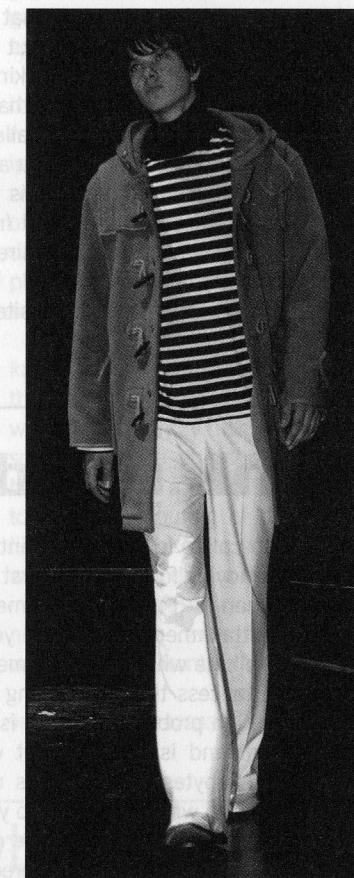
Now it is time for me to impart a bit of fashion wisdom, as we are poor students there is no point trying to follow every trend and changing your style every month.

It is better to simply buy some of the key items, which can be bought relatively inexpensively.

We now have an email address, which is: [fashion.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:fashion.felix@ic.ac.uk), so please email us with articles, shop reviews or just suggestions. Let us know what you'd like to hear or send us a review of your favorite shop.

Gail

Photos courtesy of Topshop and Topman


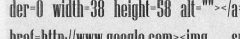
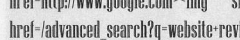
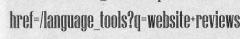
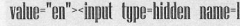


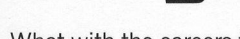
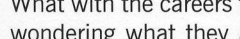
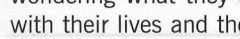
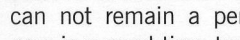
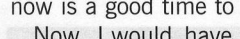
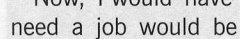
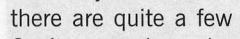
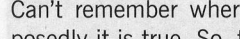
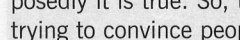
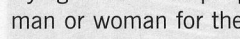
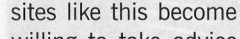
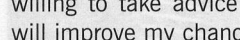
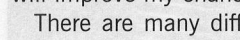


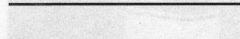


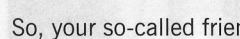
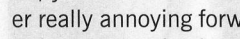
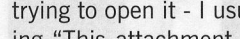
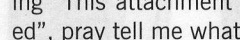
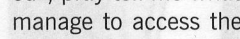
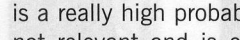
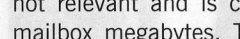
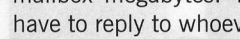
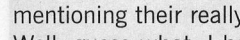
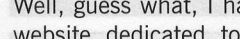
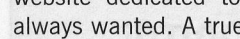
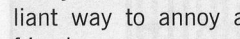
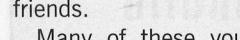
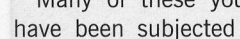
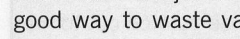
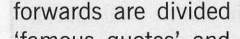
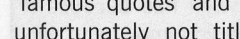
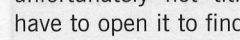
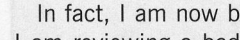
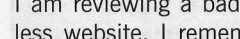
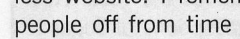
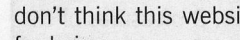
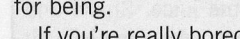
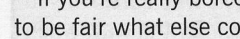
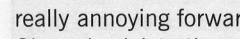
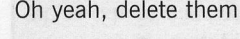
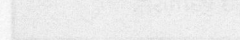






## COCKTAILS : MARGARITA!

Firstly I would just like to raahhh! Some smart arse pointed out to me that Cosmopolitans shouldn't have crushed ice in them. Well raahhh to that, I like crushed ice, my housemate has (well had because it broke) an ice crusher and how many students do you know who can be bothered to chill glasses beforehand?

Anyway, to make your margarita you first stick salt to the rim of your glass. Rubbing a wedge of lime around the rim does the trick. Now juice a couple of limes and stir in a couple of teaspoons of sugar to taste. Into a cocktail shaker put in some ice cubes, 2 measures of silver tequila, 1 measure of triple sec and your lime juice. Shake and serve over ice, crushed ice in my opinion but if not, who cares? If you think the crushed ice melts too quickly, drink faster. By the way, when I say a measure I think I mean a double but these recipes have only been tested in a drunken haze. My housemates seemed to appreciate them even without the recommended baby orchid garnish.

# WebView

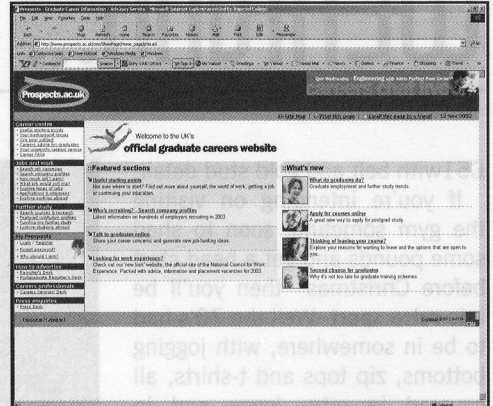
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## Put your hand up if you need a job, I do

What with the careers fair, everyone around me wondering what they are actually going to do with their lives and the scary realisation that I can not remain a perpetual student, I figure now is a good time to start looking for a job.

Now, I would have thought that realising I need a job would be enough but apparently there are quite a few people looking for jobs. Can't remember where I heard that but supposedly it is true. So, the real challenge lies in trying to convince people that you are the best man or woman for the job. This is where web sites like this become useful and frankly I am willing to take advice from all directions if it will improve my chances.

There are many different websites claiming to offer good advice and millions of job vacancies but I think this is one of the best. Clearly laid out with a lot of information including a particularly useful section on company profiles. The frequently asked questions covers anything from what to put in your CV to how to find out about studying abroad. If you register (very easy) then they will provide you with individual advice on your CV as well as informing you of jobs that are likely to be of interest. Once registered you can also display your CV on line for employers to find you. I have always rather fancied being head hunted but I think that is a little unlikely.



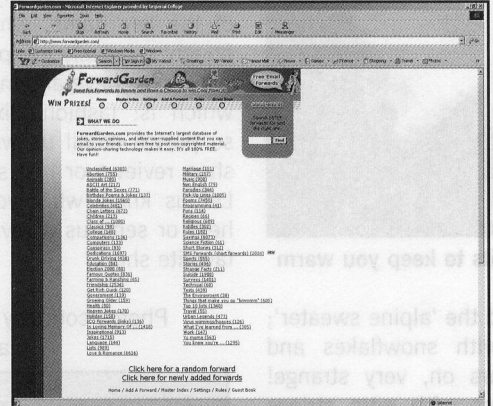
By the way non-final years, it might be a good idea for you to start looking too, don't

leave it too late, most applications have to be in by Christmas. Happy hunting.

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

## Junk yard for forwards

So, your so-called friends have sent yet another really annoying forward. The first problem is trying to open it - I usually get a message saying "This attachment type is not yet supported", pray tell me what does that mean? If you manage to access the damn thing then there is a really high probability that it is not funny, not relevant and is certainly not worth your mailbox megabytes. Then it gets worse, you have to reply to whoever sent it to you without mentioning their really poor sense of humour. Well, guess what, I have discovered an entire website dedicated to them. Just what you always wanted. A true time waster and a brilliant way to annoy all your not-so-favourite friends.



A lovely jumbly total waste of time and effort and paper and printing ink

Many of these you will probably already have been subjected to but this is a really good way to waste valuable time. While the forwards are divided into categories such as 'famous quotes' and 'heaven jokes' they are unfortunately not titled. Which means you have to open it to find out what it is.

### Quick stop web site

<https://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/cocktails/index.html> or <https://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/beer-shots.html>

These websites contain microscopic photographs of your favourite beverage, whether that is beer or cocktails. I don't know if they are actually right, perhaps someone with access to crystallisation techniques and a microscope could tell me. Nevertheless, they are very cool pictures which look really swish. You can download screensavers which you can then modify to your tastes. All good fun.

[www.forwardgarden.com](http://www.forwardgarden.com)

### Term of the Week: DVD

They are the new video with better quality audio and visual, with more features and generally just brilliant - but what are they?

Digital Versatile/Video Discs use the MPEG-2 compression technique to fit enough megabytes for an entire movie on one DVD. MPEG compression works by storing the changes from one frame to the next instead of the whole frame.

DVDs can be described as a new type of CD ROM that hold a minimum of 4.7GB. They are certainly not solely for video, they have also revolutionised the computer world, with DVD drives outselling DVD players.

### From the dotMeister

Yipee! It is now half way through the term and I haven't yet tried throwing myself in front of any buses. That's pretty good going for me. I give myself another week before I am found underneath the number 10 (which it will be - the damn thing never runs on time, I'd enjoy the irony).

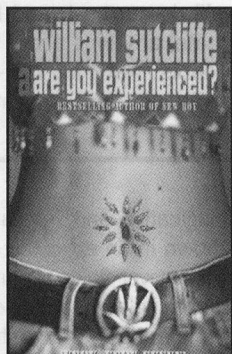
I hope everyone found something useful at the careers fair, like a career. If you, like me, do not have everything already planned then take a look at prospects. As for the second site, do not send all the forwards to felix web because I will not laugh.



# PAGES

## Are you experienced?

William Sutcliffe



time he's back home in the pub the worst bits are forgotten and he proudly realises he has managed to rack up the obligatory collection of stories he will need for the start of university.

If you have been been travelling, this is your Bridget Jones - you'll sit there going "that's so right" and chuckling. You'll have been through most of the situations and met most of the people described. It's incredibly sharp, honest and funny.

If you haven't been travelling, then this is a brilliant expose of what those guys who turned up with weird hair and tie-dyed trousers in the first year did, having spent their gap year on some parent funded gnat-milking expedition to the wilds of a country you've never even heard of. You absolutely must buy it.

Tom Kingham

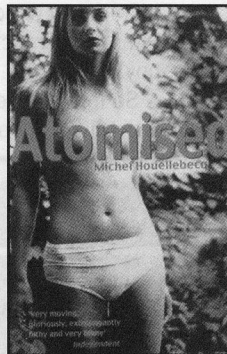
Penguin Books; ISBN: 0140272658

Dave, your average eighteen year old, agrees to go to India with his best mate's girlfriend, Liz, mainly because he wants to pull her. Liz, is obviously not interested and quickly gets drawn into a yoga cult leaving a terrified Dave to travel round on his own. He lurches round the country, getting ill, offending people and trying to see what travellers do all day.

Most of the time he's genuinely unhappy but miraculously by the

## Atomised

Michel Houellebecq



depressingly through their lives, getting laid occasionally and spouting philosophical crap.

It's supposedly a telling insight into the dysfunctional state of modern life. Apparently France is in danger of becoming a third world country through the failure of religion, moral decay and laziness of the population. Many people don't like France, but this seems to be going a bit far.

I do cerebral occasionally but I know enough science to realise that the biological diatribes are well off the mark, which made me sceptical of the philosophy. I feel bad slagging off a book - it's meant to be an outpouring of the soul, like stripping naked in front of the whole world. And here I am pointing and laughing but no, I can't be nice about it - even the naked woman on the front cover is ugly.

Tom Kingham

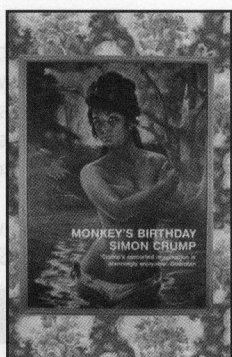
Vintage; ISBN: 0099283360

Only buy this book if Spar has run out of bog roll, and you have cholera plus a runny nose. It's unmitigated crap. By the time I'd finished it, I was so angry that I'd devoted part of my life to it. Counting the bobbles on flock wallpaper would have been better.

It's supposedly a study of relationships in our "atomised" society. Two half-brothers, Michel, a molecular biologist, and Bruno, an unsuccessful teacher, wander

## Monkey's Birthday and Other Stories

Simon Crumps



street of rather unsavoury characters whose lives are intertwined. Their personalities, revealed through a highly descriptive narrative of the mundane objects and routines which fill their lives, left me wondering - just how many homes are littered with free gifts from lager promotions?

English Electric is a depressing foray into the downfall of a man after being made redundant. Short and not very sweet but eye-opening all the same. The final story, Early Doors, introduces you to the highly entertaining world of a conman and his new wife. Has he finally made it big?

These three stories have a colourful cast of characters, perhaps stereotyped, but that is to be expected in such a small space. I did enjoy the stereotypes and Crump uses them to his advantage, injecting them with a surprising amount of humanity. As a result, his characters are fully rounded and lively, inciting you to care about them.

If you prefer to avoid the less desirable side of life, then the cast of wackos, drunks and conmen may not be for you. But if you want your eyes to be opened to different outlooks on life, and to investigate the motivations for some of the most depraved

social behaviour, then perhaps this is the book for you.

There's some strong social comment here. For example, Monkey's Birthday ends with a crime, depicting the perpetrator as a passive agent driven by circumstances and situations. I'm not sure if this book should be taken as an authority on these situations. After all, it's just the author's personal insight, but it'll definitely spark thought in your own mind. On a more superficial level, this is thoroughly entertaining; a personal through-the-keyhole into the lives of a diverse range of lively characters.

Rebecca Purvis

Bloomsbury; ISBN:0747557691

Faced with a far from appealing front cover, which is a prime example of bad-taste wallpaper, and probable choice of several of the characters within, I had my reservations. However, Simon Crump's book of three short stories surprised me by being both highly enjoyable and thought provoking. As they say, never judge a book by its cover!

The first story, Monkey's Birthday, introduces you to a

## WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE EDITORS...

Continuing in my quest for all things media, I gatecrashed a celeb party at the Kensington Roof Gardens last week. Unfortunately, having arrived fashionably late, I'd missed the stars who apparently had turned up, got their photos taken and fucked off somewhere much more interesting. Actually, since the "stars" were dubious popsters Blue and Atomic Kitten, I'm not sure if my tardiness was a blessing... As a celeb-do virgin, I was a tad disappointed. As parties go, it was quite lame, and things got worse when they shut the free bar.

Not that I'm cheap or anything, but I did find myself at another event with free alcohol this week, and I have to say it flowed a lot more freely than in Kensington. Yes, Will

opened the Felix bar tab. A debauchorous time was had by all, and everyone looked a little grey and vaguely sheepish in the office today. I'd love to reveal lots of exciting gossip, but I'll have to get someone to fill me in on what happened first.

Which reminds me: get well soon, Simon! The poor love wasn't feeling at all right today, bless him. I sent him home and valiantly agreed to finish off here. What, you feel too sick and have to go home and leave me here on my own to edit the pages as I wish to? Gosh Simon, so much trust! I'm honoured. Foolish boy...

So in his absence (which may or may not be short-lived, depending on whether he contin-

ues to accept totally un-poisoned, completely safe, un-tampered-with chocolate from sweet, innocent co-editors...), I have made a couple of minor changes, which I'm hoping you guys like - we've slotted in a quick review for those things we just can't cram in, and also experimented with getting two perspectives on a film. Originally it was going to be a "girls v boys" feature, but apparently I haven't got girly enough film taste for Si... If there are more features, stories or anything else you want to see, get emailing and we'll do our best, and let us know if you like (or hate) anything about these pages. Except the editors. Not that you could possibly find fault with us. Well, me at any rate...  
Liz

## HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

**STARRING:** DANIEL RADCLIFFE,  
KENNETH BRANAGH,  
ROBBIE COLTRANE  
**DIRECTED BY:** CHRIS COLUMBUS  
**CERTIFICATE:** PG  
**RUNNING TIME:** 161 MINS  
**RELEASE DATE:** 15TH NOVEMBER



Look! What's that over there? An acting coach?

I messed up this week and got 2 reviews of the same film. Simon wasn't happy. But, since they are both very different, rather than choose one over the other, I decided to include both...  
Liz

## MAGIC

Harry's world has been recreated with stunning visual style, with superb special effects: Dobby the house-elf equals anything Mr. Lucas has done recently, cars swoop with verve and realism and there are spiders that would induce severe arachnophobia in the most passionate entomologist. It is directed with a grandeur that perfectly suits the mood of the film, and the pace is fairly relentless. Beware though, there are a number of sections that will make you squirm by their very cheesiness.

Added to this, the kids' acting is still largely awful, even if things have improved since the first outing. Ron still does a Mr. Soft impersonation when he's frightened, Hermione still has the over-annunciation of a school presentation and Harry is rivalling his wand for sheer woodiness. The teachers have all settled into their roles nicely, with the late Richard Harris bringing an understated humility to Dumbledore, but the star of the staffroom would have to be the OTT Gilderoy Lockhart. Whether you love him or loathe him will depend mainly on how much the sight of Branagh makes your fists itch.

I could sit here nitpicking about any number of things in the film, but overall it remains a very enjoyable way to spend an evening. The humour of the novels is cleverly captured and the story remains in-keeping with the book - well-structured and intriguing. It is a much darker affair

than the first film, with some pretty scary scenes for hardened students, let alone quivering 8 year olds. But go on, get in touch with your inner wizard - it's certainly a lot cheaper than the merchandising.  
Ben

## TORTURE

The second installment of the Harry Potter series was always going to be a sure money earner. Unfortunately this did nothing to motivate the production of the good film. The story was ripped and slashed and at times incoherent, whilst there was little else to compensate for that. As much as the books can be hugely absorbing at times, this

film could be repulsing.

The story, both imaginative and intricate on paper, is allowed to drown in an extremely indolent screenplay. The plot never flows. Columbus can be excused for skimming away many of the minor stories and complexities (at two hours, forty minutes the film can already be tediously long) but he left the film without direction. The script was terrible, containing too many cheap and nauseating lines and the soundtrack was jammed with melodramatic strings - the experience was similar to sitting through a three-hour Werther's Original advert.

The best acting seen was probably Dobby the computer-animated "house-elf" - one of the highlights of the film. Smith (McGonagall), Rickman (Snape) and Branagh (Lockhart) created their characters excellently, but unfortunately Harry, Ron and Hermione did not live up to expectations. Their acting was wooden, and Watson is the only one who looks likely to have a future career.

I imagine for many under-twelves, the world will be a happier place with The Chamber of Secrets, but for me the beauty of JK Rowling's books lies in her imaginative minute details. The film lacks such qualities, resulting in something ridiculous and disappointing. As I looked around, there was little evidence of wonder on the audience's faces - the most frequent expression was a cringe.  
Sachit

## ICU CINEMA

## TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

18:00 - SIGNS (12)

20:30 - NINE QUEENS (15)

## THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

18:00 - NINE QUEENS (15)

20:30 - SIGNS (12)

THE CINEMA IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE UNION DIRECTLY ABOVE THE MAIN OFFICE.

TICKETS (AS ALWAYS) ARE £3 EACH, OR £5 FOR BOTH FILMS

## WHAT TO WATCH...

...AT THE MOVIES: SUPER TROOPERS (RELEASED 15TH OCTOBER, 15)

...ON TV: VERY BAD THINGS (SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER, CHANNEL 4, 22:00)

...ON SKY: TWELVE MONKEYS (FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER, UK GOLD, 22:10)

...ON DVD: STAR WARS EPISODE II: ATTACK OF THE CLONES (RELEASED 15TH NOVEMBER, PG)



**RABBIT-PROOF FENCE**

**STARRING:** EVERLYN SAMPI,  
 TIANNA SANSBURY,  
 LAURA MONAGHAN  
**DIRECTED BY:** PHILLIP NOYCE  
**CERTIFICATE:** PG  
**RUNNING TIME:** 93 MINS  
**RELEASE DATE:** 8TH NOVEMBER

If films wrote history, we'd be screwed. Forget Attila the Hun, Ivan the Terrible and Hitler; in the all-time definitive list of most evil entities the world has ever known, the English would be sitting pretty at Numero Uno. With the exception of German and perhaps Russian, diabolical megalomaniacs always have English accents. Then there's Braveheart, The Patriot, Titanic and countless others. Blighty-bashing is the most popular sport in Hollywood, and with Mel Gibson in particular. And if you've ever talked to an Aussie, you'll know that it's almost their national past time.

Rabbit-Proof Fence is a tale of the subjugation of Australia's native Aboriginals in the name of Her Majesty. This is still a most controversial subject Down Under, and one of 'Straylia's most shameful legacies. Up until 1970, half-caste children could be removed from their homes and sent for education in white environments. They became known as the Stolen Generations, and to this day the Australian government refuses to



They're all the same size really, it's just an optical illusion.

apologise for its treatment of them.

Although this is a tale of the plight of Australia's indigenous inhabitants (and it raises some pertinent questions about Australia's policies on this subject), it is more concerned with what the Aussie film industry does best - which is making simple yet subtle movies about the nature of human emotion. The plot (based on a true story) centres on the plight of three half-caste girls, who are taken from their Aboriginal mother in the 1930s. They are moved 1500 miles to be educated as servants, on the orders of the Minister for Aboriginals, Mr. Neville (Kenneth Branagh).

Refreshingly, the filmmakers have shied away from making an anti-English movie, although it must have been tempting to do so. Mr. Neville comes across as a decent and honourable man, albeit with badly misguided views about race and

equality. In a line laced with irony, he laments, 'If only they could understand what I'm trying to do'. These days, the boot is most firmly on the other foot.

In a film where lines of dialogue are few and far between, a hugely effective visual narrative more than fills the gaps. Stunning cinematography powerfully conveys the vastness and wildness of the Australian outback, while the three lead girls, Molly (Everlyn Sampi) especially, manage to convey much simply through body language and facial expression. The acting in general is astounding considering most of the children featured had never even seen a movie before, let alone acted in one.

A word must be said too about the music. If this were a Hollywood film (and thank God it isn't) we'd have sweeping scores and sentimental interludes. The way that things like this are managed produce an emotional movie despite filming in an almost understated style; by letting the story do the talking, if you'll pardon an incredibly bad pun.

It wouldn't be excessive to say that this is one of the best Australian films I've ever seen, although come to think about it, that doesn't necessarily mean much. One anecdote might convince you though: in a near-packed cinema, no one left until well after the credits had started rolling. Even if you disregard everything I've said above, you have to take that as a sign of a powerful film. *David*

**SUPER TROOPERS**

**STARRING:** JAY CHANDRASEKHAR  
 KEVIN HEFFERNAN,  
 LYNDA CARTER  
**DIRECTED BY:** JAY CHANDRASEKHAR  
**CERTIFICATE:** 15  
**RUNNING TIME:** 100 MINS  
**RELEASE DATE:** 15TH NOVEMBER

Now, just before you nylon flares-wearing disco babes get all excited, this is not a film about ABBA. Sorry. But on the upside, it is about State Troopers. For those among you who have never seen a Smokey and the Bandit film (and why not?!), State Troopers are a) a branch of American law-enforcement, b) stupid and c) wear beige. Oh, and they only have jurisdiction over roads. Which is weird, but does make for a nice little subplot to hang the Jackass-style shenanigans on. It's been decided that the people of Spurbury are only naughty enough to warrant (geddit?) one local law-enforcement agency, and so the boys in brown and the boys in blue go head to head in a bid to crack (ooh, they just keep coming...) a big drugs case.

It must be pointed out here that the actual plot matters not - you'll all be too busy chortling and rolling around the floor among popcorn crumbs and mushy M&Ms to give a toss. This film is hysterical! Written by a group of mates going by the odd name of "Broken Lizard", the film encompasses all

manners of sick, twisted, filthy and downright daft humour. The Troopers amuse themselves in the slow Vermont town by pulling over stoners and freaking them out 'til paranoia sets in, shagging women in exchange for ignoring speeding violations, and having maple syrup drinking competitions. Oh, and they keep brawling with the local cops which does not help their case much...

All in all, this makes for a very entertaining romp, and did cause us to laugh very loudly whilst proper journalists sneered and acted all professional. Which I think is a high recommendation for any film. The acting isn't great, and the simple plot may be an issue for some, but what really sets this film apart from others of its ilk is the group dynamic of Broken Lizard. These are blokes who you know are good friends - the kind of friends who spend all their time chuckling about cartoons and taking the piss out of each other. They are the friends Monica, Chandler and Co. will never be and the kind of friends everyone wants. Amazingly, this rapport carries to film beautifully - Broken Lizard wrote, acted and directed the entire thing. And you just know they had such a wicked time doing it.

Go see this with your own mates, and if you don't have any, go see it to find out what you're missing out on. Feel-good, funny and with a special appearance by Wonder Woman. What more do you want?

*Liz*



America's finest? Don't we all feel that little bit safer now...

**BUFFY SEASON 5 DVD**

**CERTIFICATE:** 15  
**RELEASE DATE:** 15TH NOVEMBER

In the most harrowing series yet, Buffy faces some serious evil, including Dracula, a demon god, a bratty baby sister and the death of her mum. The teen messages the directors love to force-feed fans are slightly overly played, and irritating Riley is still not dead, but the series is worth it to see the darker turn Whedon et al are taking. Extras are pretty standard, with director's commentaries, scripts and behind the scenes look at stunts. *Liz*



# Albums & Singles

## Manic Street Preachers

5/5

*Forever Delayed*



The **Manic Street Preachers** have had a successful career since debuting with their double LP *Generation Terrorists* in 1992. Ten years and 6 albums later, they release a 'Best Of' titled *Forever Delayed*.

Those who don't know the **Manic Street Preachers** can buy this album without hesitation as it contains almost all of their big hits. You will discover one of the better UK bands of the last ten years. For hardcore fans, rush for the limited edition version: there is an extra CD of some of the greatest remixes of the band's hits by **Chemical Brothers**, **Avalanches**, **Massive Attack**, **Mogwai**...which is reason enough to buy it. Moreover, you

will find songs from old albums that you don't know. *Forever Delayed* also includes two brand new tracks and three which have never previously been available on an album.

This compilation is worth looking at. All the songs are reasonably good. Put the CD in and leave it playing till the end. The **Manic Street Preachers** have explored many different styles of music, this album shows the way from debut to nowadays. In these times where 'Best Of's' are fashionable, (Elvis Presley, Rolling Stones) **Manic Street Preachers** release a decent one. Don't miss it - this will keep you occupied while waiting for their seventh album! *Mike*

## Singles

**Athlete - Beautiful**

Simple, catchy songs with decent vocals and instrumentals, and then all sorts of strange noises added on the top of it all. This is what you can expect from this up and coming band. **Athlete's** new single is no exception and is one of their more "chilled" offerings. Pleasant chords and synth strings await you with this one. The lyrics are straightforward too - singer Joel Pott is describing something beautiful.

The overall effect is impressive and pretty close to beautiful in itself. The heavier instrumental towards the end is the only extra thing this song needs to convince me that it deserves full marks, and it does so convincingly.

5/5

Robin

## The Lollies

4/5

*Taste*



**The Lollies** - the name says it all. It's an innocuous moniker designed to lull the listener into a false sense of security, as does the sound itself - colourful keyboards and catchy hooks mask the lyrics of singer Kate St.Claire. Her words are always tongue, often cutting and at times simply brilliant.

But back to that name for a second. I've not tuned in to the entertainment scene for a while, but I'm pretty certain Steve Lamacq has been raving about this North American trio.

**The Lollies** (it's such a Lamacq band-name), are up there with those other Evening Session favourites The Vandals.

As for the album itself - opening batsman *Flavah Of the Week* has **The Lollies** taking several shots at the state of popular culture and the Dandy Warhols (or are they?), and has the album's first great lyric: "Indie cred? 'Ha! I'm just a ho! Sell my wedding photos to Hello!'"

*Call the Girls* is an anthem for the females out there who aspire

to living like Daria; *Office Romance* is a cheeky tale in the vein of **Princess Superstar** (only less explicit, unfortunately). *Channel Heaven* is a decent **Belle & Sebastian** pastiche and *Jamestown Massacre* is an attack on prom queen-culture with Taste's second great lyric: "Femme Fatale all dressed in black/Varnishcrack and marathon slingbacks/Wear that dress like a ball and chain/Lipstick smeared like novocaine".

**The Lollies** never stop trying to be amusing or ironic and this stops the album from being an excellent debut. Sonically and lyrically, it borders on light-weight and silly too often. It will be interesting to see if time will mature their sound and sharpen their wit. What is certain though is that **The Lollies** are part of a new wave of bands reinventing the indie scene - The Strokes, The Datsuns, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs. **The Lollies** are as irreverent, intelligent, hip and self-conscious as they come.

*Robin Som*

**The Liars - Fins To Make Us More Fish-Like**

"Can you hear us? CAN YOU HEAR US?", my stereo suddenly screams after what sounds like a bunch of primary school kids banging saucepans on a washing-line. This shouldn't be good but for some outlandishly obscure reason it is.

**The Liars** are the next band in the line of punk-meets-electronica but these New York lads might just have that extra bit of insanity to carry them through. With their brilliantly named album already receiving critical acclaim and fantastic track titles like *Pillars Were Hollow And Filled With Candy*, where could they possibly go wrong?

This 3-track EP has been painted with punk stripes. A dedicated craze surges through every lyric with screeching backing vocals thrown in for good measure. Fast beats and energetic riffs will get you dancing before you realise it.

4/5

Keira



# Albums

## Various

### *We Are Skint*



This 'Best Of' album uses the money-spinning concept of putting all of one record company's biggest artists, as well as their newest on a double CD and hopefully introduce fans to those newer acts.

Better known tracks are placed on CD 1 - *That Was Then* and new tracks on CD 2 - *This Is Now*. This means the first album is full of tried and tested favourites including **Fatboy Slim's** *Rockafella Skank*, **Xpress 2's** *Lazy* and **Bentley Rhythm Ace** with *Bentleys Gonna Sort You Out*. Stick this on in your hall bedroom and it's a ready-made party. This is what all dance compilations aspire to - a good mix of recognisable but totally non cheesy tracks that all sound different.

However, the second C.D. takes a little more effort. It includes tracks by most of the same artists as CD 1 - **Lo Fidelity Allstars** and **Midfield General** both appear again, but the tracks are as yet unknown.

## 3/5

## Albums

### Gluecifer - *Basement Apes*

**Basement Apes?** Well, judging from the CD sleeve, this Scandinavian collective does look a bit hairy, scary and sunlight deprived. Formed in '95 in Oslo, after meeting each other down a dark alleyway (probably), this band likes to rock. And they do. Tracks such as *Round and Round* (which might as well have been by AC/DC) and *Easy Living*, a single released earlier this year, will have you flexing those neck muscles and wishing you had long greasy hair to frantically whip around, helicopter-style, like the annoying girl in front of you last night at the gig. With titles such as *Biff Malibu* and *Raldo Useless* (that's the bandmembers' names, not the songs, by the way), **Gluecifer** could be mistaken for extras in the Norwegian porn version of *'Mystery Men'*. However, they play their instruments like the best of them, which are always perfectly complimented by vocalist Malibu's convincing growls.

Although the tracks vary in style from fast-paced rock to only-slightly-less-fast-paced-and-more-thoughtful rock, **Gluecifer's** refusal to be monotonous is endearing, and basically distinguishes them from the rest.

These basement apes swing through the trees grunting, with intention and retro-class, their music not particularly evolved in style, but definitely in quality.

4/5

Radha

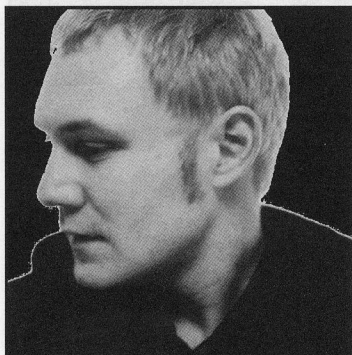
#### COMPETITION TIME

The very nice people at Skint Records, home to Fatboy Slim have generously given away a Skint DVD and CD for you lot!

E-mail us three of Skint's rostre to win these.

## David Gray

### *A New Day At Midnight*



It's been a long time coming, this much anticipated follow-up album to *White Ladder*. Predictably, the first thing that is asked will be how it compares to *White Ladder*, something I'm sure David Gray tried to avoid by going on tour and just staying away for a few years. However the expectation is still there.

The album starts promisingly with *Dead in the Water*, a slow song with a lot more forceful accompaniment than is usual in David Gray's songs. It has a good guitar riff before each verse. *Caroline* is upbeat with a busy drum beat in the background. The guitar is also prominent with a good solo. It then starts to slow down to *White Ladder* territory. *Kangaroo* has a clever beat where it actually hops to sound

The direction **Skint** is heading in seems to be away from big beat and towards a slightly darker, faster club sound. Listen to it a few times and favourites for future hits will emerge. There'll be plenty of screaming in clubs when these tracks kick in!

This will be good at a party, but definitely better when it can be put on towards the end when you just want to stop the uninvited but wasted guests falling asleep and drooling on the floor.

I conclude that this is an excellent CD for the purposes of looking cool and also having something you'll want to listen to - sort of a cross between Ibiza 2002 and some mixmag compilation. It also has a very cool case (worth mentioning, as can be important to the style conscious). Also, for **Skint** fans, there are exclusive tracks so worth getting hold of to own them before any one else does. How many reasons do you need?

Sarah

## 3/5

like a kangaroo.

However the middle of this album start to sound a bit stale and dull. *Last Boat to America* has an interesting xylophone at the beginning but it carries on for the whole song. Nothing much happens in the song and it just gets boring. Luckily the last few tracks of this album carry on from the start. *Be Mine* has a good rousing chorus from the relatively tranquil verses.

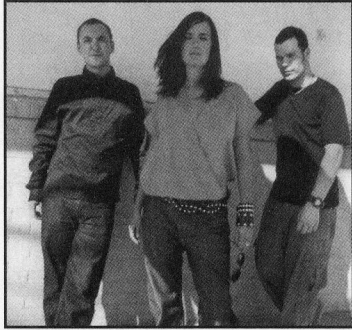
Lyricaly, the songs talk about love themes and loss. *Other Side* is about the loss of his father. You can tell a lot of his emotions are in the lyrics. This album is sufficiently different to *White Ladder* while retaining what **David Gray** does best; good slow emotionally charged songs.

Oscar

## Live Review

## Kosheen

Friday 25th October, Brixton Academy



On the final night of their latest national tour, **Kosheen** played a powerful, emotional and thoroughly enjoyable set at a packed Brixton Academy.

For the uninitiated, **Kosheen** are DJs/producers Markee Substance and Darren Decoder, together with vocalist Sian Evans. Their debut album *Resist* was released last year and is still going strong, having spawned four Top 20 singles, most notably the thumping, hypnotic *Hide U*. The key advantage they hold over so many other groups is their near-unique ability to blend together flowing, addictive melodies and powerful drum 'n' bass beats.

Right from the very first note, the crowd were hooked - many of them didn't stop jumping up and down all night. I'd say this was due to the sheer energy and emotion generated by the band, but I suppose the 10.30pm start (and the resultant

more-time-in-the-pub factor) also had a part to play.

**Kosheen** played through most of the fifteen tracks on *Resist*, beginning with the title track and ending 75 minutes later with *Catch*, part of a rare encore. They also showcased some new material, which, understandably, didn't go down quite as well as the familiar album tracks.

Sadly, having watched **Kosheen** play such a supremely confident set at Pacha earlier this year, I couldn't help feeling that the size of Brixton Academy didn't quite suit them. The complete absence of the guy on the electronic 'cello was a disappointment, and perhaps they should have readjusted the levels slightly to make the vocals more audible.

But overall, this was another special performance from one of the very best live bands around - a band whose stock just keeps on rising.

Dave

4/5

## The Polyphonic Spree

There are very few people in music who wear a grin as large as **Spree** frontman Tim DeLaughter.

After the initial wave of hype, the public seemed to have lost interest in this lot. Thankfully, this second coming (on the day of the Lord) shows why they were proclaimed as the best live band around in the first place.

The band walk out to a fervent crowd and launch into their near-perfect album. The first thing that smacks you is the frenetic energy of **Spree**.

A line-dancing brass section and head banging choir section are the order of the day. You can understand why they are sometimes referred to as a cult, since it is virtually impossible not to be taken in by their overwhelming enthusiasm.

A special band needs a big leader, which can be found in Tim. At times it looks as though he is tapping into some otherworldly force, to bring spiralling harmonies and never-ending sing-a-longs.

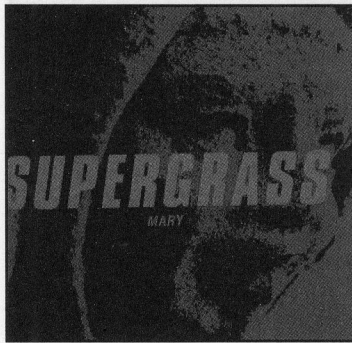
It's *The Sun* is turned from a haunting ballad into an epic romp, and the new material, especially *2000 Places*, becomes an instant crowd-pleaser, although the inevitable favourites remain *Hanging Around* and the rollicking *Soldier Girl* where Jarvis Cocker is brought on to try his hand at choir practice!

It's hard to imagine that The Empire will witness this much euphoria in the near future; if you managed to leave without at least a spring in your step, you truly do have a heart of stone. Whatever religion it is they subscribe to, I'm sure they'll have a lot of converts in the coming months.

Deepesh

## The Libertines+Supergrass

Monday 28th October, Shepherd's Bush Empire



After a band that didn't register in my memories of this concert, came **The Libertines**. I was unbelievably excited due to their brilliant album which sweats and energises. Ragged guitars shot through their first notes with *'The Horror Show'*. Was it a bad omen? As I expected, the guitarists were shaking arrhythmically, going haphazardly from left to right on the stage.

The songs followed each other, the musicians dropped their instruments and fell into the blackness of the stage without a look behind, without a word. Everything was depressingly quick: I was deeply disappointed. They didn't pay any attention to the audience, there was no show as such, they were almost puppets dancing on a stage with music from a CD. Why? They were lost in the space of a stage where we can't see the audience sweat, perhaps they need more privacy to enable exclusivity? Is this the attitude London's supposed finest are supposed to have? It

seems very unlikely that they were urged by the Supergrass not to do too much.

However, it is never easy to play for people that you think didn't come for you (even though I met a lot of people that came for **the Libertines** exclusively), but I think that you should give all that you have in your in order to make the vibration fly above the concert hall. Nevermind.

Then came **Supergrass**. They had the material to make a show with video cameras that threw on-line images of the band on the bottom wall, images of oscilloscopes, but they had the elusive touch as well. The audience was bewitched, the power was flowing. But the big monkeys (not the singer) were behind the railings as the crocodiles in front of a castle to ease your frenetic dance, in and on the audience. Everybody was having fun and it is so better when both parties can get their kicks.

Nelson

3/5

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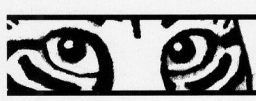
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# GFOQ MK II

by Bobby Cyclops & Dr Hot Fudge

## THE GREAT FELIX QUOTES QUIZ

### THE QUOTES

1. "Cover me, Porkins!"
2. "Sweeping patrols between each of these bunkers - they'll have the whole sector wrapped tighter than an Eskimo's nad-sac."
3. "When things are at their darkest, pal, it's a brave man that can kick back and party."
4. "Remember you told me to tell you when you were acting rudely and insensitively? Remember that? You're doing it right now."
5. "Nobody fucks with me!"  
~"Well, maybe if you find the right girl"
6. "Crazy! I mean like so many positive waves maybe we can't lose! You're on!"
7. "There are three rules I live by: never get less than 12 hours sleep, never play cards with a guy who has the same first name as a city, and never get involved with a woman with a tattoo of a dagger on her body."
8. "In Paris, it's good to smell like you've been fucking"
9. "I'm also known as, uh, Benny the Groin, Sammy the Schnazz, Elmer the Fudd, Tubby the Tuba, and once as Miss Phyllis Levine."

Bonus Question. In what Bond film was his family motto revealed?  
(1 point)

### ANSWERS TO GFOQ 1247

1. Prot/Kevin Spacey - K-PAX
2. Garth Algar/Dana Carvey - Wayne's World
3. Thulsa Doom/James Earl Jones - Conan the Barbarian
4. Rigby Reardon/Steve Martin - Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid
5. Philip Marlowe/Humphrey Bogart - The Big Sleep
6. Charlie/Jim Carrey - Me, Myself & Irene
7. Dr. Hannibal Lecter/Anthony Hopkins - Red Dragon
8. George W. Elam/Biggs - Commando
9. Donnie/Jake Gyllenhaal - Donnie Darko
10. Joe Friday/Dan Akroyd - Dragnet
11. Winston Zeddemore/Ernie Hudson - Ghostbusters

### RAMBLINGS

A dark cloud looms over the Felix office - it is the ferric colour of a dirty pint, and is chanting "come to the pub, come to the pub" over and over again. A sentient gas you say? I say a Class III full roaming vapour, and a real nasty one at that. We'd better charge the proton packs and crack open the trap soon, or our ass is grass... alternatively we could knock off to the bar. In either case I must finish this paragraph eventually - and there is no time like the present (unless you happen to be a resident of Hill Valley, which I'm not). Forgive my ramblings, for, despite the misleading title, we aim to educate, captivate and stimulate you in this short burst of literary diarrhoea. Let me first let you in on a little secret...soon there will be a new player of Ultraleague, but it will not be human. Allow me to explain - for the last few months we have been constructing a quiz playing intelligent algorithm which goes by the acronym G.I.Z. (for reasons which will become apparent in later issues). G.I.Z. has been quietly watching you readers, evaluating your weaknesses...waiting. Watch out for him. Time is passing and I have said too much, but let me add this...I can't stress enough the importa-

B.C.

Sorry about that readers, he managed to sneak some smarties in with his medicine this morning so he's not fully dosed up. There will be no more talk of this algorithm character, it will be a cold day in hell before I see G.I.Z. on my page.

H.F.



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# GFLQ (THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ONE)

## THE GREAT FELIX LYRICS QUIZ

### LEADER BOARDS

#### GFOQ

Name	Score
50D	40
Geoff Lay	40
Jennifer Williams	38.5
JMC4 Coalition	28.5
Richard Hutchinson	28
Chris Ince	28
Alexander Plato	27
Fred Marquis	26.5
Ongar Rd Massif	25.5
Christopher Dent	25.5
Luke McManus	24.5

#### GFLQ

Name	Score
Jennifer Williams	54.5
Geoff Lay	54.5
50D	53.5
Chris Ince	43.5
Christopher Dent	43.5
JMC4 Coalition	43
Ongar Rd Massif	42.5
Richard Hutchinson	39.5
Luke McManus	38.5
Anthony Jude Rodrigues	34
Samuel Jackson	32.5

### ULTRALEAGUE

Name	Score	Name	Score
Geoff Lay	94.5	Rosemary Chandler	33.5
50D	93.5	Richard Moore	31
Jennifer Williams	93	64	21.5
Chris Ince	71.5	Chris Tickner	17.5
JMC4 Coalition	71.5	Ruth Loeffler	15.5
Christopher Dent	69	Christopher Pollock	15
Ongar Rd Massif	68	Rebecca Newman	13
Richard Hutchinson	67.5	Leo Harrison	12.5
Luke McManus	63	Ben Dudson	10
Anthony Jude Rodrigues	54.5	Kev Fox	6.5
Samuel Jackson	53		
John Anderson	35.5	<i>Mr Lay, Miss Williams and 50D</i>	
David Mercer	34.5	<i>dominate the top of the boards</i>	
		<i>this week - but will it last?</i>	

### WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

[www.michaeljfoxdatabase.com](http://www.michaeljfoxdatabase.com)

**Synopsis:** No words can describe this wonder of the modern world.... oh great one, we salute you.

**Rating:** Michael has moulded me into the man I am today. Without him, I would be nothing. Take a moment to visit this site and reflect on the greatness he bestowed upon the most decadent decade of them all..... THE 80's!!!

Coffeebreak score: 9/10

### Boy Band 'Special'

- "It's gotta be social, compatible, sexual, irresistible."
- "First time was a great time, second time was a blast, third time I fell in love...now I hope it lasts."
- "Wiggy, wiggy. I'm gettin' jiggy. Open up the door got the keys to your city."
- "Although loneliness has always been a friend of mine I'm leaving my life in your hands. People say I'm crazy and that I am blind, risking it all in a glance."
- "Now this hot girl (hot), she's not your average girl - she's a morphotic dream from a magazine"
- "So step back 'cos you don't know this cat I know deep down that you don't want me to react. I lay low leaving all my options open. The decision of the jury has not been spoken"
- "Darlin' look both ways before you cross me. You're headed for a danger zone."
- "I touch your face while you are sleeping and hold your hand, don't understand what's going on."
- "We're the young generation and we've got something to say"
- "Even though I am with someone new, all I can think about is you."

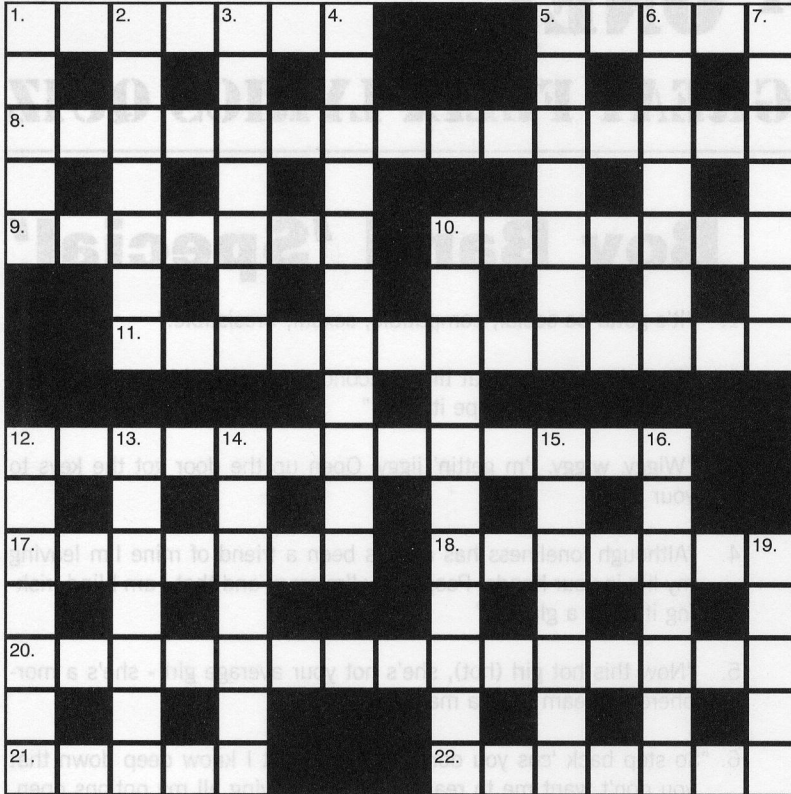
### ANSWERS TO GFLQ 1247

- AC/DC - Big Balls
- Kenny Loggins - Danger Zone
- Simon & Garfunkel - Mrs Robinson
- Joan Baez - Diamonds and Rust
- Supergrass - Pumping On Your Stereo
- Notorious B.I.G. - Kick In The Door
- Badly Drawn Boy - The Shining
- 2Pac feat. Dr. Dre - California Love
- Lionel Richie - Dancing On The Ceiling
- Deep Purple - Smoke on the Water



# Felix Crossword 1248

By Mummy Huffwell



**Across**

- 1 You also desire rise. (7)
- 5 Jesus himself ate fish. (5)
- 8 Rant about station plan during move. (15)
- 9 Checker of sound has time to repeat. (7)
- 10 Leaves strapped, returns without penny. (9)
- 11 Pop sore angrily before barrel maker picks up crap. (6,7)
- 12 Nasty Ken rucked with lust for weapon. (13)
- 17 Fashioned country undergarment is most sophisticated. (7)
- 18 Biting sounds like it's expensive to college. (7)
- 20 Behind the Spanish prop, hide fictional character. (15)
- 21 Public bathing beaches provide solid experience. (5)
- 22 Streakers shockingly stun Sid. (7)

**Down**

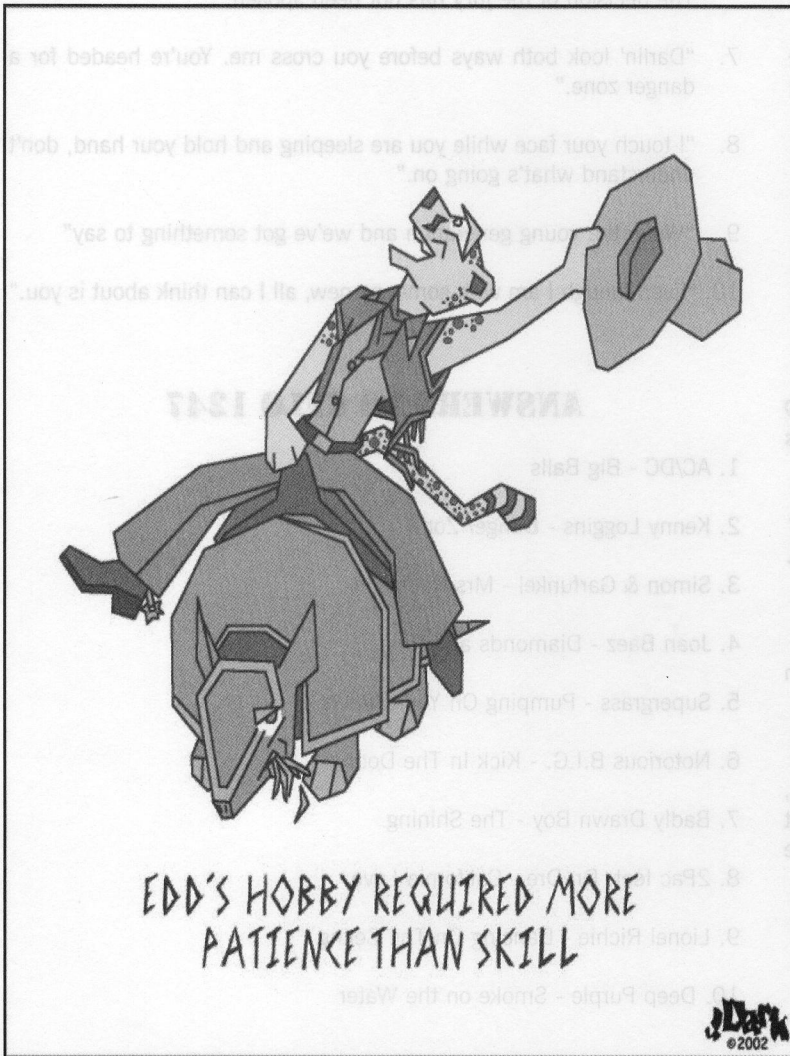
- 1 Extreme sport is surprisingly absorbed by Lawn Tennis Association. (5)
- 2 Comedian Laurel fooled with dessert. (5,2)
- 3 Dish: Two ducks with bone stir fried. (7)
- 4 Growth achieved by big blokes in a strange number. (11)
- 5 Wash hair in fake shit, we hear. (7)
- 6 Arouse and rightly raise part of tackle. (7)
- 7 Suction is erratic inside air conditioner. (7)
- 10 Problem hoover captivates one after pleasure, about time! (11)
- 12 Bird smells wafted with tender loving. (7)
- 13 Defenceless man rued attack. (7)
- 14 Custodians (Queens) are after middle of castle. (7)
- 15 Relative penetrating the editor is reproached. (7)
- 16 A king hidden in wild trees shoots again. (7)
- 19 Ice cream held by trick paper. (5)

It's hard to say for whom the horn extraction was more painful. Having retreated to Sarcophagus Huffwell in anticipation of a long quiet holiday with Boris at the crossword reins, imagine my surprise to be woken by frantic knocking on the lid. Finding it hard to believe that I could have pulled for the ninth time that day, I got out slowly.

It was on the way to A&E that I was put in the picture. Boris the Inquisitive Goat had, it transpired, got a bit too inquisitive whilst out grazing the streets of London, and rightfully paid the price. Although somewhat irresponsibly wearing an T-shirt suggesting that Boris's type might not be unwelcome sexually, you do have to absolve the recipient of one of Boris's rather large and pointed appendages from all blame. The upshot of all this is that your favourite goat will be recuperating for some while. Next week help is at hand in the form of a hunky tanned warrior, or at an outside chance, a can of dog food. Obviously I'm hoping for the former. This week's winner is **Tigger Sempers, Chemistry III**, who emailed in her answers. Had she brought them to the office in Beit Quad West basement she may have glimpsed the delicious Bobby Cyclops, motivation for anyone to solve a crossword. *MH*

**Answers to 1247**

Across: Aphorism, Gadget, Sordid, Language, Downcast, Tuvalu, Reins, Overreach, Detention, About, Raider, Knapsack, Cup of Tea, Tribal, Spread, Litigate.  
 Down: Propose, Ordinance, Indian, Molotov Cocktail, Geniture, Guarana, Trebuchet, Redirection, Embossing, Iterates, Tripper, Up Coast, Past It.



# TOP-UP FEES


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WORKING GROUP



# Cherbourg Trip

It was a Friday afternoon when we left South Kensington in a big red smelly minibus, which we singularly failed to crash, and hopped along the road using two hands to change gears. After a quick meal, safety brief and putting on of lots of extra layers we left Portsmouth Harbour in the early evening, stuck the motor on and pointed the boat for France.

About twelve hours later we arrived in Cherbourg, a bit tired and cold but otherwise fine, having motored almost all the way as there was next to no wind. Unfortunately all the weather forecasts we heard were implying that this was definitely the calm before the storm, with each forecast predicting that the gale force winds would arrive sooner rather than later.

Since being stuck in the middle of the channel in howling winds and rain was not quite what we had in mind, and nor was being stuck in Cherbourg all week while they went on - although maybe it would have been nicer than lectures - we decided to head home a little earlier than we had originally planned. We left Cherbourg some six hours after arriving, having indulged in the necessities of quick nap, some breakfast, showers, a trip to the hypermarket for chocolate and alcohol, and lunch.

As we left we checked the engine and fuel like the good

responsible sailors that we all are and in a still non-existent wind motored back towards England feeling rather as if things were too boring to be true. And so they were. Two hours later and our engine started to make very strange noises, so we turned it off, never guessing that it would not turn back on again. Half the crew retired down below at this point, and spent the next few hours with their head in the engine trying everything they could think of while the other half stayed resolutely on deck in the cold - mainly because they couldn't get down below as the steps had been removed to get at the engine - and concentrated on sailing as fast and efficiently as possible in what wind there was. Soon we were storming along towards home and the shipping lanes, with a stiffening wind, but no engine. We decided that it would be safer to continue on our way than to turn back, considering the weather forecast, and settled into two watches to sail through the night.

Thankfully the wind held pretty constant and ten hours after our first sighting of the Isle of Wight and a lot of big ships later we found ourselves back in the Solent. Still with no engine. We obtained permission from the Portsmouth Harbourmaster to enter the harbour under sail, something which is normally for-

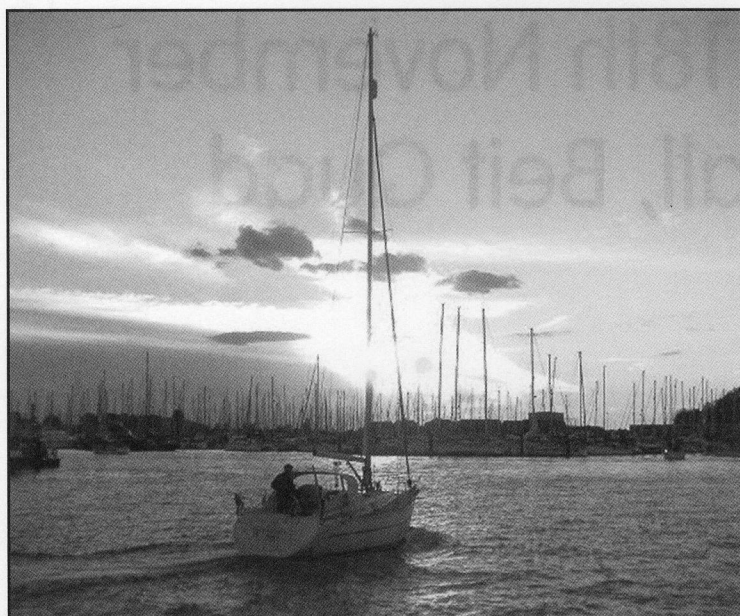


bidden, and considered berthing under sail. This is a tricky manoeuvre which would have been possible, but had it gone wrong there were an awful lot of boats around to hit and we had no back up engine to allow us to reverse out the way.

After a lot of decision making we phoned the marine equivalent of the AA, who sent a guy

out in a rib to help us in, and then fixed our engine in two minutes since we had ran out of fuel. Turns out the fuel gauge was wrong...

If you are interested in coming sailing with us then come to one of our meetings which are held on a Monday at 6pm in south-side bar, or visit our website for more information.



Imperial College Union, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road

imperial  
college  
union

CHEESY

Wotsits

November 20  
8:00pm - 1:00am (Bar 'til 12)

£1/pint Tetley & Carlsberg  
(In dBs, from 5-7 or longer while stocks last)

Discount Jugs of Cocktails  
(All night in the Paradise Bar)

Dry white and soft red wine £1/125ml  
(In Paradise Bar from 9-11 or longer while stocks last)

Try the new hot  
Paradise Bar catering menu





# Success on the Water

Bill Mason's last year as chief coach of Imperial College Boat Club ended with strong performances by the eight crews that competed at Henley Royal Regatta in July.

Four crews in total progressed to the semi-finals on the Saturday. In the Temple Challenge Cup, the 1st eight narrowly lost to their main rivals, Oxford Brookes by half a length. Both crews were pushed to the limit, so much so that Oxford Brookes were arguably too tired to beat Harvard in the final.

In the Grand Challenge Cup for eights, an Imperial College composite crew comprising rowers from the national squad went out to a German national crew in the semi-finals. In the Visitors Challenge Cup for coxless fours, the Imperial College A crew were beaten in a tight race against a composite crew from

Oxford Brookes and Imperial College. It was later revealed that Imperial College's 3-man, Tim Perkins was suffering from gastroenteritis during the competition. The composite crew containing Dan Marret and Dave Gillard of Imperial went on to win the event in a controversial final requiring a re-row when a flock of geese wandered on to the course.

Other crews of note included the second Temple Cup eight who lost a narrow race to a strong crew from Marist College, USA. Finally a pair from Imperial raced the South African world bronze medallists, worrying them off the start going out in a well publicised race.

Four members of the Temple Cup eight, George Whittaker, Hugh McKenzie, Ed Johnson and John Weale, went on to win silver in open coxed fours in the National Championships. This

experienced crew raced with tenacity over the 2000m course, only being overpowered by the winning crew from Nottinghamshire County in the last 300m.

This ended a successful regatta season that saw various wins at the Metropolitan, Docklands and Reading regattas. Imperial also sent an eight to an invitational student regatta in Valenciennes, France, where they beat Dresden of Germany to win the final. Special note should go to the new members of the club who won novice coxed fours in convincing style at Putney Town regatta.

The women's squad prevailed through a difficult year and produced strong performances from a small base. At Women's Henley Regatta, Cathy Burgione, Kelly Cummins, Ali Elsey Helen Ellison, and cox Seb Pearce competed in the College coxed fours event. They raced with determination and skill against the much bigger, but younger, crew of Eden High School, Canada, but were unable to prevent them slowly edging out a 1 length lead by the finish line. Comfort was to be drawn from the fact that it was the closest any crew got to Eden in the event.

Imperial College was also well represented at the various international regattas during the summer months.

At the World Championships in Seville, Steve Trapmore, Luka Grubor and Kieran West from Imperial College, together with Tom Stallard of Cambridge University and cox Christian Cormack of Leander competed in the men's coxed fours. They dominated the event, rowing to gold in the final in commanding fashion. This adds to their impressive Olympic gold they achieved in the British men's eight in Sydney 2000. Imperial's Dan Ouseley also rowed in the British men's eight this year in Seville to come 6th place overall, a most respectable result considering their initially poor

performances at the preceding World Cup regattas. James Haddow, who coxed the Temple Cup eight, went on to steer the British lightweight men's eight and came 5th in the final.

Other international appearances included Angus Rivers, who rowed in the coxless four at this year's under 23 regatta, the Nations Cup. Seb Pearce coxed the British men's eight at the World University Championships. Ironically this was the Oxford Brookes crew who beat the 1st eight in the Temple Cup at Henley.

Marret and Gillard, along with their Oxford Brookes crewmates, represented England at the Commonwealth Regatta. More controversy was in store when they had to re-row for the bronze medal against former Queen's Tower members John Langley and Tom Morgan. Once again, they won the re-row and achieved bronze, proving that fitness over 4000m is a more prudent tactic these days. Helen Ellison and John Weale rowed for Wales at the Commonwealths, with Ellison winning bronze in the women's eight.

Simon Dennis, former member of the British Olympic gold medal men's eight from Sydney 2000, has now taken over as the Boat Club's new head coach. He inherits Bill Mason's 24-year legacy of consistent success as a coach at the top of British rowing. It includes 17 wins at Henley Royal Regatta, 15 World Championship medals, and national chief coach for women at the Atlanta Olympic Games, and many who have been coached by Bill have risen through the ranks to enjoy successes in the national team. He will now work in a more supportive role as Director of Rowing at Imperial.

A dinner to celebrate Bill's life and work at Imperial will take place on Saturday 30 November at the Hilton Olympia, London. Tickets are available from peter.holt@ic.ac.uk.

## Ski & Snowboard Club

# TIGNES - £309

## 13<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2002



Price includes accommodation, travel, 6 day lift pass, insurance, social program, guiding, discount card and black tie fondue night.

e-mail [ski@ic.ac.uk](mailto:ski@ic.ac.uk)

or come along to Southside Upper Lounge on Monday or Wednesday lunchtimes.

# Unlucky Seconds Very X-Country

## IC II 0 - 4 Reading

The second ladies hockey team were in their element once again in yet another excellent match. We were encouraging each other throughout, and ignored all the insults the opposition threw at us.

With only ten players on the pitch we saw all sixteen members of the Reading team turn out in their matching purple kit and we realised we were playing the bitches from hell.

Having told nat that she 'would be' playing in goal - once she had finished sulking - she did an excellent job, growling from her line and intimidating the opposition. Belinda and Katherine did an amazing job defending and passing strong balls up the wings to Anna and Frances. Ysanne, even though she was nursing a very painful hangover, did well helping out

Kate, who also had a great game, putting in a fantastic effort throughout. They were both really unlucky not to score from their midfield positions.

Clare was able to whack balls hard and fast up the right hand side and this combined with some awesome runs straight up the middle from Marriane made the team look very impressive indeed.

All that needs to be said is that the Ladie's seconds are a superb team and that spirits are running really high.

It was just unfortunate, however, that we didn't manage to score and allowed the opposition to get four particularly sneaky goals past us.

But well done girlies! And especially well done to Jenny for actually getting us organised this week - she's slowly learning how to be a great captain and we have high hopes for her in the future.

As usual the turn out for the second race of the series was somewhat down on everyone's favourite Parliament Hill course. Perhaps this was because it was the rain, or maybe Jeff's reputation for organising successful transport to the race venue had preceded him. Whatever the cause, it didn't seem to affect the overall quality of the field, which turned out to be superior to the first race.

In the men's race several notable absentees and a strong turn out from Brunel meant that IC A team was unable to maintain their impressive second place overall from the Parliament Hill leg. Finishing third, however, still left us above all the ULU colleges and only beaten by two PE teacher training establishments. Captain Dave Mulvee ran the fastest time of the day coming individually 10th and was closely followed by Chris Mullington, thus setting up a personal rivalry. UL captain Oli Thwaites was finally back to

somewhere near good form, whilst team legend Gavin 'the Gopher' made an appearance for yet another IC sports team. Unfortunately, due to the lack of depth in the team this week, the Bs and Cs couldn't quite live up to the standards set previously, but with the expected return to full strength next week this result should be reversed.

The women maintained their excellent start to the season with the As and Bs coming 5th and 8th respectively, with the As being 2nd of the UL colleges just behind King's. Emma Calderbank was the first runner home for IC in 9th place and good runs from Minna and Zoe ensured the result. For IC to have a women's B team is unusual, but for them to do so well is virtually unheard of. There seems to be worryingly large number of girls at IC this year with a love for mud, cold weather and excruciating pain... long may it continue.

## Virgins Trounced

### IC Virgins 0 - 22 Brighton

Although there has been some debate whether Jenny pulled Ash or Ash pulled Jenny, there is no question over the fact that Aleks pulled a 16 year old (Porkwell's brother) so the Porkwells have had all the action really.

Getting back to the rugby - Looking at the opposition before kick off, it looked like it would be an even match and so it was for 60 of the 80 minutes. Our play in the first half can only be described as beautiful. There was low tackling, running both forwards and fast and hands were good especially in the torrential rain. Notable good runs were made by Gemma and Ash and only a lack of support prevented us from storming into the lead. The end of the first half (a good 5 minutes early) found is camped in our 22 and not a little pissed off.

The second half started as the first had finished, playing on the half way line for a good 15 minutes. Unfortunately, after that it went tits up and they scored their first try after sustained pressure on the 5 yard line. After this, we kept our heads up for a good 10 minutes before we decided to roll over and die, and they put three more tries past us in ten minutes, enough said. By this point, we were dropping like dead flies, with the captain off the pitch, the vice-captain - who may have cracked her ribs - writhing in agony, and a handful of minor complaints, it was all too much, and the game ended a couple of minutes early to put us out of our misery. Women of the match were Monkey and the Ash Meister who were both lush.

Haven't got a game for a couple of weeks now, so don't be too upset when you haven't got anything interesting to read in next week's Felix... hehe.

## Live football on the BIG SCREEN

imperial  
college  
union  
BARS



imperial  
college  
union  
CHARING CROSS BAR  
(WEEK DAYS ONLY)

**Sat 16th Nov**

**2.30pm England v Australia (RU)**

**6.15pm GB & Ireland v N.Z. (RL)**

**8.30pm La Coruna v Barcelona**

**Sun 17th November**

**2pm Liverpool v Sunderland**

**4pm Man Utd v West Ham**

**7.30pm Real Betis v Celta Vigo**

**Wed 20th November**

**Greece v Ireland 7pm**

**Portugal v Scotland 9pm**

**BEWARE!**  
**Bright new screen DaVinci's**