



# Felix

Issue 1002

10th June 1994

CENTRAL LIBRARIES  
REFERENCE  
SECTION



**Imperial College's smoking policy  
comes under the spotlight  
this week on page 5**



## Study Criticises Exam Marking

BY MIKE INGRAM

Students' degree levels can be affected simply by who marks their papers, according to a study by two psychologists from Plymouth University.

The study, conducted by Professor Stephen Newstead and Dr Ian Dennis, found significant differences in the marks given by individual examiners to the same essays. On one essay, their verdicts ranged from 50% to 85% (ie from a third/lower second to a first class degree). The smallest range of marks given to an essay was 46% to 59%. Even this represents the difference between a student getting a third or a borderline upper second class degree.

The study was carried out using tests on fourteen university external examiners from all over the country. The examiners were asked to mark six papers by third year psychology students. They were given clear instructions on what to look for and how marks should be allocated on a specific scale.

The study report, published in

the *Bulletin of the British Psychological Society*, criticised the differences in assessing students' work: "The results are disturbing. It seems clear that the markers disagree as to what individual pieces of work are worth."

Although the report acknowledged that the effect of inconsistent marking diminished when three essays from each student were assessed, it questioned the use of external examiners to ensure consistent standards across institutions: "The research suggests that we may have put greater faith in the external examiner system than it warrants."

These examiners are the guardians of academic standards so it is reasonable to expect some consistency in the marks awarded."

The external examiner system is an integral part of student assessment at Imperial College. Students' papers are marked by two separate examiners, who are chosen by departments. Markers are issued with University of London guidelines on how examinations are run, as well as marking schemes for

the papers. Although there are no College or University standards for marking schemes, all written papers must be approved by external examiners.

The external examiners are appointed for periods of 3 years by the College Board of Studies on the recommendation of departments. They must also be approved by the University. The examiners sit on the College examining boards, as well as examination subcommittees (eg in departments). They also have access to any individual pieces of students' work. Marks must be approved by several levels of examining committees before being finalised. This is intended to ensure fairness.

In an interview with *Felix*, Vernon McClure, Academic Registrar, said that the College examination system ensured adequate protection from inconsistent marking.

He admitted that "marking is subjective. There are no two ways about it", adding that "there are checks and balances" within the system to ensure fairness.

## Thefts in Physics Building

A female member of staff was injured in a robbery in the Physics department last Friday.

An assailant grabbed the staff member's handbag and, after trying to wrench it from her grasp, kicked her in the leg. He then ran off, dropping the bag.

The assailant is described as a white male, about 6ft tall, with a slim build and blond-ginger hair. Any suspicious activity within College should be reported immediately to Sherfield Security on extension 3372.

A second theft took place in the same building on Friday afternoon. It happened in an office that had been left unlocked and unattended. College Security are reiterating their advice that all offices in College should be locked when left unoccupied. Posters giving crime prevention information have also been placed around College.

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# Student Debt to Increase

## Rector Replies to Petition

Many students will fall into debt as soon as they arrive at university this year, according to the National Union of Students (NUS).

The NUS has predicted that many universities will raise accommodation fees by more than the current rate of inflation. This may push fees above the level of the full student grant, meaning students would have to have other funding to be able to pay them. Some observers have predicted that large numbers of students will be forced into taking out an overdraft or loan in order to survive throughout the early part of the year.

The predictions come after the Government's announcement earlier this year that it is to cut the level of student grants by 10% annually, starting from September.

Jim Murphy, the NUS President-elect, sees the problem as getting worse: "With a further grant cut of 20% over the next two years, some students will soon be lucky if they can even afford two terms' rent without borrowing."



Halls in Evelyn Gardens, where some residents are protesting over lack of common room space.

BY THE NEWS TEAM

The Rector has replied in an open letter to protests from residents of two Evelyn Gardens halls over lack of common room space.

Residents of Holbein and Willis

Jackson halls organised a petition in protest at the inadequate combined common room facilities for both halls.

The petition came after the College failed to act following complaints to the Housing

Committee and a letter of protest in Felix 996.

The Rector's reply has been described by one student as promising, but as yet no definite action has been taken by the College.

## Funding Cuts Attacked

BY MIKE INGRAM

The Government's higher education funding policy came under fire from employers this week.

A report released on Monday by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) warns the Government that £3 billion must be found to increase the number of university places.

It says that the Government's target of 33% of young people going into higher education must be raised to 40% if British business is to compete with the rest of the world. "Economic success depends more than ever on the brainpower and creativity of the workforce."

The report comes after a paper published by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) in May detailed a drop in university funding (Felix 1001). It

said that funding per student has been cut by 25% over the last four years, and predicted a further reduction of 14% during the next three.

The CBI has criticised the reduction: "It means higher education is being rationed and – though we appreciate the Government's motives – in our view it is a mistake."

The report also suggested that universities could sustain an annual 4% "efficiency gain" until the end of the century.

This view is not shared by the Chairman of the CVCP, Dr Kenneth Edwards. Speaking to a CBI conference on higher education on Monday, he said: "it would create a system with high dropout rates, unable to give the individual attention needed to ensure that students develop not only agile and

creative minds, but also core skills and a commitment to continuing self-learning."

The Association of University Teachers has controversially stated its opposition to any further cuts: "Unlike the CBI and the vice-chancellors we are willing to say publicly that the quality of the learning experience available to our students has suffered as a result of under-resourced expansion.

It is time to drop the pretence that it is possible to reduce funding per student year after year without any effect on the quality of education they receive. The damage that has been done to our universities is a national scandal. It should be the subject of an independent review so that the true condition of our universities can be properly assessed before we embark on any more cut-price expansion."

## Self Defence Classes

BY THE NEWS TEAM

In the wake of several robberies and attacks on students and staff members, Imperial College Security are planning to improve facilities for self-defence training in College.

Currently, the Police are holding self-defence classes in the gym in the Union building. College Security are intending to try and find funding for the purchase of a heavy suit and punchbags for people to practice on.

The classes, for both men and women, will be advertised around College.



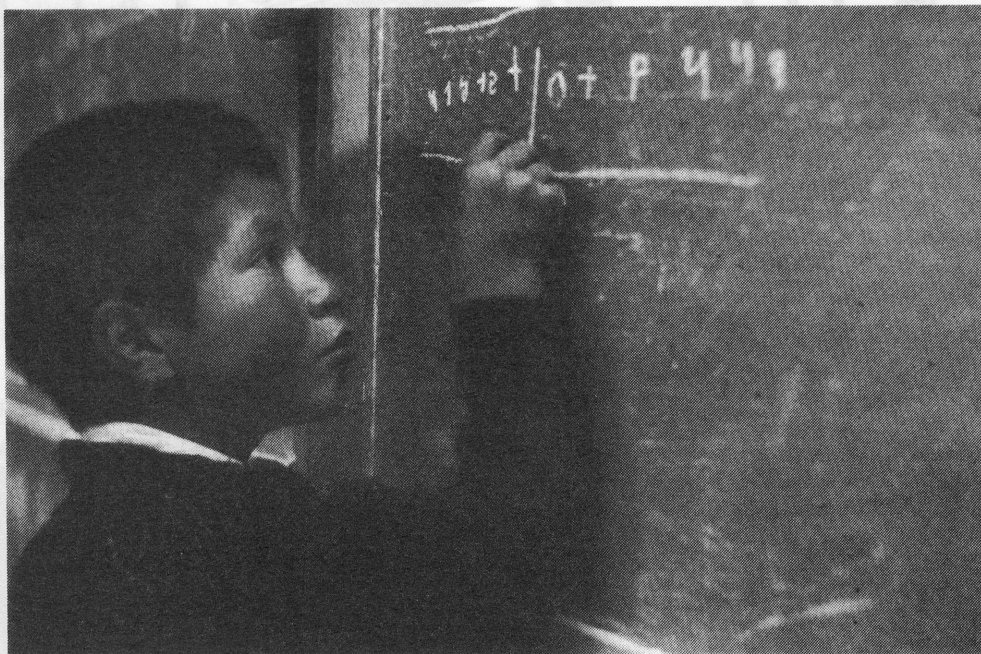
# TWF Support Peruvian Nursery

The Third World First Latin American Night in the Union Building on the 17th June is the third event of its kind; the previous two have been immensely successful. All the proceeds will go to the Westnell Nursery in Lima, Peru. This article describes the nursery and its vital role in the shanty towns of Lima.

In Lima, as with most other Third World Nations, the migration of people from the rural to the urban areas has led to shanty housing on the periphery of the city. Many of these areas are without basic sanitation and amenities and the standard of living is very low: many people have little or no education and earn a living in the informal or service sector earning less than the minimum wage. In many families, both parents work and the children are expected to be economically active at a very young age. These social and economic difficulties are compounded by the political violence in Peru. Many people have limited civil and political rights and live in constant fear for their lives.

Quality education is a way of improving the employment prospects of children growing up in such an environment. Pre-school education, however, is accorded a low priority in the Peruvian state sector, yet children are obliged to sit a basic skills test before being granted admission into the primary school system. Low income parents thus face difficulties in educating their children due to the costly nature of pre-school uniforms and materials.

The Westnell Nursery was set up to circumvent many of the above problems; it was founded in 1986 by two English volunteers and has since given 650 pre-school educational places to children from Doscientas Millas, 25 de Febrero and Boca Negra – three of the poorest shanty towns in Lima. The broad goal of the nursery is to provide a good foundation for school entry at age six. This would include the ability to think imaginatively and creatively and to communicate both individually and as part of a group. The Westnell Nursery is free to all



children in the community and overalls, materials and a nutritious snack are provided. Children are encouraged to take pride in their community; indigenous cultural traditions are respected and a sense of history is encouraged. The staff themselves are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and so have an understanding of the challenges the families face. Educated parents are more likely to educate their children, so staff work with parents on parenting skills. There are also adult education classes for women.

The nursery continues to achieve many of its original aims and has also become a focal point for the community: when political and social allegiances have divided the town, the nursery unites people through its unpartisan concern for their children. Its success has not been without trauma though – in July 1992 a bomb was planted by the 'Shining Path', very close to the

nursery, causing considerable damage.

In the UK, the Westnell Society is a registered charity, and financial support comes from fundraising events in the UK and individual covenants. This does not, however, compromise the autonomy of the organisation in Peru, which is managed by a staff and parent committee. Sadly, supply can never equal demand and it is felt there is a need for similar projects in other shanty towns. It is not certain whether the model of the nursery can simply be replicated in another town, but the management team in Lima have proposed a satellite project in the shanty town of Boca Negra. This is a community with even fewer material resources than the current site and no pre-school provision. The Latin Party on 17th June will provide the charity with an opportunity to raise money for this much needed expansion programme.

## DramSoc Presents: *Equus*

Religious worship takes on strange forms. The boy kneels before a picture of a horse taken from his father's print shop. It is up on his bedroom wall in the place where a picture of Christ had once been: Christ in pain, Christ physically beaten and on his way to Calvary. That picture had been violently ripped down by the boy's father in some sort of Marxist rage ("Religion's at the bottom of this!"). It is replaced by the horse god, *Equus*, and the symbolism and ritual of Christianity are permuted into a worship of horses.

This is no teenage fad; jodhpurs and gymkhanas are the enemy. Even when given the opportunity, the boy doesn't want to ride a horse. He kneels down in his pyjamas late at

night and recites the words of his creed: 'And Neckwus begat Fleckwus, the King of spit. And Fleckwus spoke out of his Chinkle-Chankle: "Behold I give you *Equus*, my only begotten son.'" – phrases taken from the Bible and perversely adapted. The worship ends with the boy physically beating himself.

This is the heart of Peter Schaffer's play *Equus*. But the play does a lot more than just paint this rather perverse scene. We are first introduced to the boy in the psychiatrist's office. He is there for an evaluation: he has blinded six horses by taking their eyes out with a hoof-pick. Is he the enemy of horses? The psychiatrist is charged with finding out why and, through his narrative, we examine the boy's life as it leads

up to the blindings.

The play paints vivid portraits of a relentlessly self-improving old type socialist father and a simple religious mother who is baffled by her son's 'troubles'. Religion is an obvious source of conflict and, although the child's malaise seems to express itself through some corrupt religious fervour, we soon gather that darker forces are lurking...

My personal interpretation: "It's the god of old-style socialist hypocrisy that's at the bottom of this!"

*Equus* will be performed 18th and 19th June in the Union Lounge (Union Building, Beit Quad). £3 (£2 students). Tickets will be on sale on the door.



# Cloud Control

## College smoking policy is breaking down in Physics and the JCR

There is a story that a Japanese tourist, on a recent visit to an affluent Australian city, remarked to his guide on the high class of the prostitutes who frequented the street corners of the business district. It was explained to him that these were not prostitutes but executives and secretaries, forced by Draconian corporate health initiatives to take their nicotine hit out on the pavement.

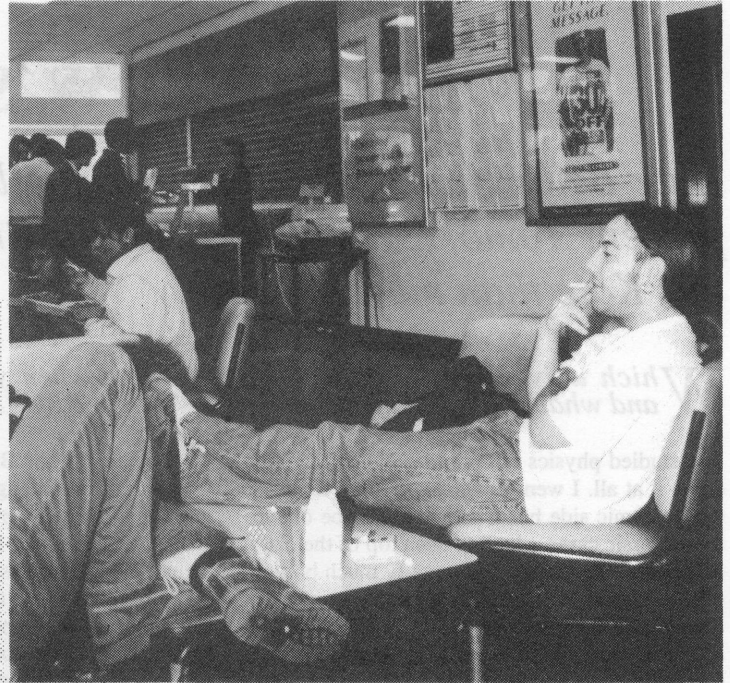
The Imperial College Smoking Policy came into effect in October 1991 with the aim of ensuring that students and staff could go about their business in a smoke-free environment. "In some ways what you do is move the problem somewhere else," admits John Payne, Employee Relations Manager and a member of the working party which drew up the policy. "If you close down one smoking area the smokers will go off somewhere else and then it gets worse in those areas than it was before." He perhaps has in mind the Huxley end of the cross-campus walkway, regularly wreathed in smoke and carpeted with ash after Maths lectures. "I can appreciate why there is a smoking ban," says Tom Griffeth, one of a group of smokers standing just outside the level three entrance to the Huxley Building. "But it would be better to have a smoking area in the Maths department," adds fellow nicotine refugee Karl Lloyd.

"Smoking will not be permitted in public circulation areas such as lifts, corridors, toilets and reception areas," states the College policy. While the Maths department carries out the letter if not the spirit of this guideline, the Physics department does neither. The unenclosed smoking area is situated in the foyer stairwell. So, by a physical process known as 'diffusion', smoke drifts freely and is often very noticeable to anyone passing through the entrance hall. James Gibb, the departmental supervisor,

acknowledges that the situation is not ideal: "I hate smoking myself – and I do sometimes get a whiff of it coming down those stairs." But he cited fire-risk as his main objection to an enclosed, unsupervised smoking room. Among the fair number of those crossing the foyer who turned out to be smokers, none minded the idea of a separate smoking room, but most drew the line at being turned out onto the street.

Any fleeting discomfort experienced while entering Physics, however, is nothing compared to the effect of the unchecked miasma in the JCR. Attempts have been made to make the vicinity of the QT Snack Bar a no-smoking area, but without success – all the signs have been removed. James Woolven, manager of the QT, says he has suffered intimidation from groups of smokers when he has asked them to move away. Rose, a non-smoking cashier, says it does bother her when people smoke near the tills and would like to see permanent signs put up next to the QT. Again, most people didn't seem to mind the idea of separate smoking and non-smoking areas. "Half-and-half would be quite understandable," said Irfan Kausar from Elec Eng, a smoker who is trying to give up. "I don't mind what the policy is as long as I know what's happening."

The group of smokers flaunting their fags a few feet from the curry bar, who genuinely seemed to believe they should be allowed to



JCR bar: there is no provision to protect users and staff of the JCR from the effects of passive smoking

smoke anywhere, were in a minority. They point out that people can always go somewhere else, and, as far as the students in the JCR are concerned, this is true, at least at lunchtime. But the College staff who work there have no such option; nor at the moment is any attempt being made to protect them from passive smoking. Jackie staffs the curry bar (on the opposite side of the room to the QT, making half-and-half segregation difficult) and has seen people come up to be served while still smoking. Although a smoker herself, she finds this unhygienic and feels there should be signs up prohibiting smoking near the food.

The health and safety of College catering staff is the responsibility of the catering department. Simon Westerman, College Catering Manager, stated that he had not previously been aware of a problem in the JCR, but after being acquainted with the current situation, he acknowledged that the catering arrangements in the JCR would have to be reviewed. The problem is that the JCR, being a student facility, is administered by the Union during term-time. Since the Union has no policy on smoking, it can't do anything constructive until the Executive have drawn one up and had it passed at a Union General Meeting.

It seems odd that an issue that has such potentially damaging consequences for the College should be left to the whims of student politics. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 states that employers have to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all their employees. In 1993, a local government employee received £15,000 in an out-of-court settlement, after her health had been allegedly damaged by passive smoking at work.

**Patrick Wood**

Further to enquiries made by Felix, the smoking arrangements in the JCR are to be discussed at this Monday's meeting of the Union Executive.



The open-plan smoking area in the Physics department foyer

An interview with Kate Bellingham can be found on pages 6 & 7



# Tomorrow's Miss World

*Kate Bellingham is the latest in the line of PEGs (Perky Energetic Girls) to present Tomorrow's World. Paula Bhattacharyya discovers there's more to our Kate than meets the eye.*

**Which university did you go to and what did you study?**

I studied physics at Oxford – I didn't really enjoy it at all. I went to Oxford hoping to enjoy the academic side but it turned out to be one of these classic cases – having been top of the class at school, I then found I was pretty much bottom of the class at college. At school, I was given a lot of encouragement and support by the teachers but, at university, I found myself somewhere where I basically had lectures to go to, which is as good as reading a book because you couldn't ask questions.

I chose to study physics because I was good at it at school and I didn't really know of anything else. What I wish I'd done is taken a year off, gone out and spent a bit of time in the world and then decided what I wanted to do at university. But, then again, if I were to say that I'd do things differently, I probably wouldn't be where I am now and instead I'd be working somewhere as an electronic engineer or a sound technician.

**What did you do after university?**

I left university with a rather poor degree thinking: "That's it, I've had my fill of education." The first thing I did was working in a department store over the Christmas period. I had never done the sort of Saturday jobs that most people did when I was younger – my grandmother lived with us and I used to spend a lot of time nursing her. After working at the store, I did a secretarial course and did a bit of work as a secretary. I was abysmal at it! Having done that, though, it gives you so much more respect. You might have these high flying ideas but, if you don't have someone who keeps their feet on the ground, who knows exactly what's going on and is keeping everything in order, you're lost. I also worked on Radio Humberside, gofering – making the tea, answering the telephone and basically following everybody around. I befriended people and would go and watch what they did; I did that for seven weeks.

I then went for the milkround again. Looking back, maybe it wasn't the best thing to do, going to the milkround with a poor degree. People look at you along with everybody else and the first thing they see is your degree result.

**Is that when you started working for the BBC?**

I applied to the BBC in various capacities – as a journalist, an engineer, a technical operator and I didn't get any of them, so I gave up on the BBC. At that stage, I knew I was interested in sound and electronics and anything that brought these together. But they weren't interested in me. So I did a computer aptitude test and was offered a job as a computer programmer. So, I



*Kate Bellingham, presenter of Tomorrow's World*

worked in Macclesfield, Cheshire for three years in this capacity. I found that I would wake up in the morning and think about what I was doing at 6 o'clock at night. I then saw that the BBC were advertising for electronic engineers. As long as you had a degree, it didn't matter what the degree was, they'd train you up. They were quite keen to recruit people from a variety of backgrounds, not just those who'd been through the electronic engineering sausage machine. At my interview with the BBC, I talked about the voluntary work I had done at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester as part of the sound crew. I used to work there on evenings

and weekends – I really enjoyed it and got to know how everything worked. I think the BBC thought that if you were prepared to stay up all night to work in the theatre, you must be interested. They were very much more concerned that you had potential, a logical mind and the fact that you were interested rather than if you knew all your stuff already. That suited me down to the ground; I knew I was interested, I just didn't have the appropriate qualifications to prove it. They took me on. The course I did

was a mixture of lectures, training courses and practicals at the BBC's Training Centre, with apprenticeship work on location. I loved it. Six months later, I was selected to lecture about broadcast engineering (I had got a reputation as being a bit of a chatterbox!) as part of a high prestige lecture tour to sixth formers. This was hard work – you would have to stand up in front of up to 2,000 young people and stick to your script fairly well to fit in with everybody else. I learnt a lot about cuing, tapes and so on and I also learnt about how to cope with the embarrassment when things don't do what you expect them to – very good training for Tomorrow's World! I did this during the Autumn and Spring terms and, at Christmas, I went back to Broadcasting House and worked the night shifts. I felt I was having a little holiday from doing the real work which was the engineering; I was looking forward to getting back to it.

**How did you get into presenting on television?**

The opportunity to present a programme for Schools TV came up – they wanted women with a genuine technical background to present the science/technical programmes for secondary schools. I went for the audition – I had never stood in front of a camera before, it was hilarious. I had a whale of a time; I smiled and giggled a lot and they offered me the job. Some of the work was in the studio and there were also filming trips. My first trip was to Japan for two weeks. I was so green, I had no concept of why you wear make-up to go on camera. In fact, I had no make-up with me and the cameraman took me to buy some. The powder I still use is the Japanese powder that I bought when I was out there.

Then, the job at Tomorrow's World came up.





*The current Tomorrow's World team*

It turned out that they were quite keen to have a woman with a strong technical background. Apparently, I looked and sounded a bit like Maggie Philbin in her youth. They wanted me to join at the start of February, when I was six weeks away from my final exams to become a qualified BBC engineer. I thought it was a bit too rushed – a bit like going off to become a model a week before your A-levels. In the end, I worked on Tomorrow's World from February to June and did a summer course to get my qualification. That was four years ago.

**What are the things you enjoy about presenting Tomorrow's World?**

It is a chance to see things, go to places and meet people that you'd never normally have the chance to do. There is an element of being paid for things that you'd love to do for a hobby if you ever had the chance to do them like, for example, trying out virtual reality, meeting somebody in the states who's had really pioneering surgery to help her hearing. Normally, you'd just read about it or see it on TV, but I'm actually there, meeting these people.

**Is there anything which you dislike about it?**

People often say to me: "You must love the glamour, the posh events, travelling the world, being treated like a star." In fact, it's quite an effort for me to do all the dressing up although, of course, I recognise the importance of it. This is perhaps reflected by my background – this is

never what I intended to do, it just happened. I still catch the bus to work, I like to cycle and I can't be bothered to wear make-up. The travelling is fun, but it's not like having a holiday everytime you go away, its just another hotel in another city.

**Did you used to watch Tomorrow's World before you began presenting it and what do you like watching on television?**

I used to watch Tomorrow's World regularly, and remember watching Judith when I was younger. I enjoy watching drama and escapism stuff like Middlemarch, Morse and other mysteries. I also like good documentaries such as Horizon and QED.

**Do you watch yourself on Tomorrow's World?**

Always, yes. When you are actually doing it, things can get really out of proportion. I once remember when I felt I had a real coughing fit and I thought I didn't put my hand in front of my mouth. When I watched it later, I realised that I had just cleared my throat. You get hyped and something little happens, you can end up thinking it was the most important thing in the world.

**How do you decide what to feature on the show?**

We have a large team – people scan the papers and specialist magazines, from Plastics

And Rubber Weekly through to Farmers' World. Also, people write in with their ideas. These are all put together to make a varied show.

**Is there any item featured, that for you, stands out from the rest?**

We do so many items and part of the nature of Tomorrow's World is that we only skim the surface of so many things and can't get too deeply involved. The virtual reality sticks in my mind, where I had the chance to experience something that nobody else has.

**What is your target audience, and how do you know if you are reaching them?**

Surveys have been done and they've shown that we appeal to quite a large age range. It is unusually balanced across the age groups, social grouping, male/female and so on, although the last survey was done before we were put in the slot opposite Coronation Street, so it might have changed.

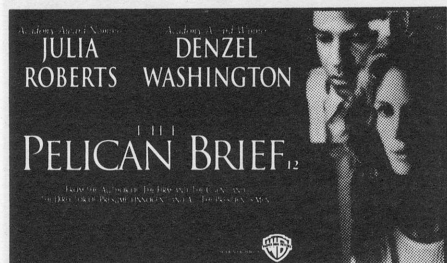
Our target audience is everybody really. We try to appeal to the person who has an interest in science but no scientific background, but also to those who have strong scientific backgrounds. They should not feel that we are short changing the audience and certainly they should not feel that we are telling any untruths. We might simplify things, but we hope we never trivialise them or get things wrong. We check everything we put out through various sources.



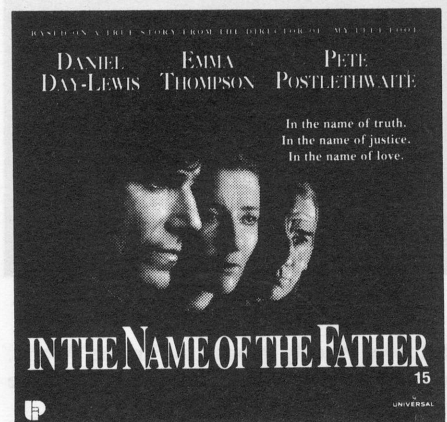
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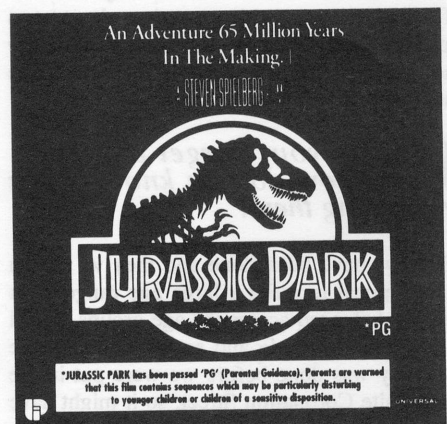
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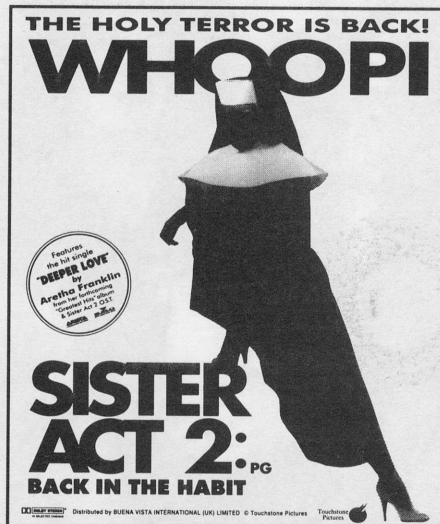
★ Saturday 11th June at 8pm ★



★ Saturday 11th June at 11pm ★  
★ Sunday 12th June at 8pm ★  
★ Monday 13th June at 8pm ★



★ Tuesday 14th June at 6pm ★



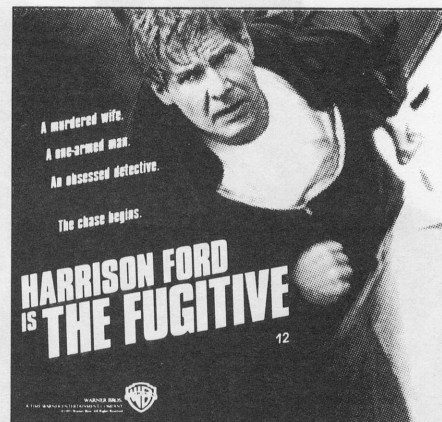
★ Tuesday 14th June at 8:30pm ★



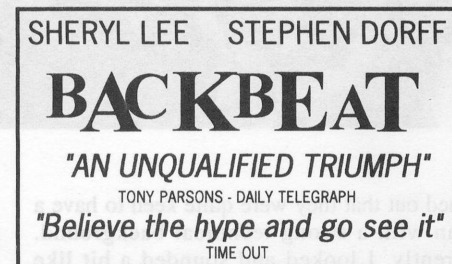
★ Wednesday 15th June at 8pm ★



★ Thursday 16th June at 8pm ★



★ Friday 17th June at 8pm ★



★ Saturday 18th June at 8pm ★



★ Thursday 23rd June at 8pm ★  
★ Sunday 19th, Monday 20th, ★  
★ Tuesday 21st, Thursday 22nd ★  
★ all at 5pm ★

And many more - watch out for further ads/posters and Felix What's On page

All tickets £1.80 except where otherwise stated. Tickets are available one week in advance from Union Reception or on the night from the Cinema. Doors open 15mins before programme start time. Drinks and food from Da Vinci's welcome. Smoking in back five rows only. ICU Cinema is on the second floor of the Union Building.

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Offer not available at Union Reception.



# diary

## 10th – 16th June

### Friday 10th

**Fencing Club Meeting ....12.00pm**  
Union Gym. All standards welcome.

**Chess Club.....12.30pm**  
Table Tennis Room, Union Building.

**Friday Prayers .....1.00pm**  
Southside Gym. (Islamic Society.)

**Rag Meeting .....1.10pm**  
Ents Lounge, Union Building.

**West London Chaplaincy .....2.30pm-4.30pm**  
'The Coffee Shop'. Basement of 10 Princes Gardens. Drop in for a chat.

**Wing Chun Kung Fu .....4.30pm**  
Union Gym. Beginners welcome.

**IC Fitness Club .....5.30pm**  
Step aerobics in Southside Gym.

**Atmosphere .....8.00pm**  
Union Lounge.

**IC Fitness Club .....5.30pm**  
Southside Gym. Beginners aerobics.

**Dance Club .....5.30pm**  
Union Dining Hall, Union Building.

**Leonardo (Fine Arts) Society .....6.00pm**  
Civ Eng 101. £4 staff membership, £2 students. £2 per class (2 hours).

**Chess Club.....6.00pm**  
Brown and Clubs Committee Rms.

**St Mary's Volleyball .....7.00pm**  
Wilson House Recreational Centre.

**FilmSoc Presents:**  
*In The Name Of The Father.....8.00pm*  
ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union Building. £1.80.

**IC Radio Presents:**  
*3/8 Of Alex .....9.00pm*  
Two hours of entertainment on 999kHz AM around College.

**IC Fitness Club .....5.30pm**  
Southside Gym. Advanced aerobics.

**St Mary's Netball .....5.30pm**  
Wilson House Recreation Centre.

**Dance Club .....6.00pm**  
Beginners class in the JCR.

**FilmSoc Presents:**  
*Jurassic Park .....6.00pm*  
*Sister Act 2 .....8.30pm*  
ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union Building. £1.80 each.

**Canoe Club.....7.15pm**  
Beit Quad. Usually polo in the pool.

**Caving Club Meeting .....8.00pm**  
Southside Upper Lounge.

**Mountaineering Meeting .....9.00pm**  
In Southside.

**IC Radio Presents:**  
*Back To Basics .....9.00pm*  
One hour of entertainment on 999kHz AM around College.

**St Mary's Women's Waterpolo .....6.00pm**  
Medical School Swimming Pool.

**FilmSoc Presents:**  
*The Piano.....8.00pm*  
ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union Building. Tickets £1.80.

**Club Libido .....9.00pm**  
Union Lounge, Union Building.

### Thursday 16th

**French Society .....12.00pm**  
Union Gym.

**Spanish Society .....1.00pm**  
Southside Lounge.

**STOIC Lunchtime News Training .....1.00pm**  
STOIC Studio, Union Building. Members free, non-members £2.50.

**ICYHA Club.....1.00pm**  
Southside Lounge.

**Fitness Club.....5.30pm**  
S/side Gym. Intermediate aerobics.

**Christian Union .....6.00pm**  
Room 308, Huxley Building.

**IC Choir Rehearsals .....6.15pm**  
Room 342, Mech Eng.

**Tenpin Bowling Club .....6.15pm**  
Meet in Hollywood Bowl, Tottenham Hale (Victoria line).

**IC Jazz Big Band Meeting .....7.00pm**  
Rehearsals in Table Tennis Room, top floor of the Union Building.

**Dance Club .....7.00pm**  
Beginners Class in the JCR.

**STOIC: 'Into the Night' Training .....7.00pm**  
STOIC Studio, top of Union Bldg. Members free, non-members £2.50.

**Cocktail Night .....8.00pm**  
Da Vinci's Bar, Union Building.

**FilmSoc Presents:**  
*Another Stakeout .....8.00pm*  
ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union Building. Tickets £1.80.

**ICCAG Soup Run .....8.30pm**  
Meet Weeks Hall basement. Give food and drink out to the homeless. Info: Polly Griffiths, Biology UG1.

### Saturday 11th

**FilmSoc Presents:**  
*The Pelican Brief.....8.00pm*  
*In The Name Of The Father.....11.00pm*  
ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union Building. £1.80 each.

### Sunday 12th

**War Games & Roleplaying Club.....1.00pm**  
Table Tennis Room, Union Building.

**IC Fitness Club .....2.00pm**  
Southside Gym. Intermediate and step aerobics.

**FilmSoc Presents:**  
*In The Name Of The Father.....8.00pm*  
ICU Cinema, 2nd Floor, Union Building. Tickets £1.80.

### Monday 13th

**Fencing Club Meeting .....12.00pm**  
Union Gym. All standards welcome.

**ArtSoc Meeting .....12.30pm**  
Union Dining Hall, Union Building.

**West London Chaplaincy .....2.30pm-4.30pm**  
'The Coffee Shop'. Basement of 10 Princes Gardens. Drop in for a chat.

### Tuesday 14th

**CathSoc Mass.....12.00pm**  
Sir Leon Bagrit Centre, Level 1, Mech Eng. Followed by lunch.

**Yoga Society .....12.15pm**  
Southside Gym. New members welcome.

**Food For Thought.....12.30pm**  
A weekly diet of discussion and talks. Food for stomachs, too. In the Committee Rms, Sherfield (317a/317b/318). Run by the Chaplaincy.

**Ski Club Meeting .....12.30pm**  
Southside Upper Lounge.

**Sailing Club Meeting.....12.30pm**  
Southside Upper Lounge.

**Yacht Club .....12.30pm**  
Meeting in Southside TV Lounge.

**Liberal Democrat Society Meeting.....1.00pm**  
Southside Upper Lounge.

**Ents Meeting .....1.00pm**  
Ents/Rag Office above Traditional Union Bar.

**Boardsailing Meeting .....1.00pm**  
Southside Upper Lounge. Info: J. Mayhew, Mech Eng pigeonholes.

**Circus Skills .....5.00pm**  
Union Lounge.

### Wednesday 15th

**Parachute Club .....12.00pm**  
Table Tennis Rm, Union Building.

**Labour Club Meeting.....12.00pm**  
Southside Upper Lounge.

**War Games & Roleplaying..1.00pm**  
Brown Committee Rm, Union Bldg.

**Hoverclub .....1.00pm**  
Build a hovercraft. S/side Garage nr Southside Shop or E-Mail j.bell@ee.

**IC Fitness Club .....1.15pm**  
Southside Gym. Intermediate/Beginners aerobics.

**Wing Chun Kung Fu .....1.30pm**  
Union Gym, Union Building.

**Tenpin Bowling Club.....2.15pm**  
Aero Eng foyer for trip to Charington Bowl. Transport provided.

**West London Chaplaincy .....2.30pm-4.30pm**  
'The Coffee Shop'. Basement of 10 Princes Gardens. Drop in for a chat.

**Flamenco Dancing .....6.00pm**  
Union Lounge. More info: Pablo on 4999. Organised by the Spanish Soc.

**Chess Club.....6.00pm**  
Brown and Clubs Committee Rooms, top floor, Union Building.



## Book

## To The Ends of The Earth

by David Yallop

This is no detective story but the work of a top-class investigator whose mission is to establish the truth about two related subjects: terrorism and the Palestinian issue. There is no doubt that a strong correlation exists between the two and 'Carlos the Jackal' is a man inextricably linked with both issues. As the prologue says: "All I had to do was find him, interview him, tell his story." Whoever said "easier said than done" must have been talking about this mission. After reading half the book, we discover that the two highly intriguing interviews that have been related so far were in fact with an impostor!

So, off he went again to locate the real McCoy, or should I say, the real Jackal. The trails in this search seemed twice as misleading as in the first but, like all professionals, David Yallop did not rest until he found what he'd been looking for. From beginning to end, the search for the Jackal took a full ten years from 1983 to 1993. If you're unsure about whose side you're on, the Palestinians or the Jews, reading this book will help to open up your mind.

Highly recommended to everyone, although non-fictionally it supersedes any thriller ever written.

ZIEGLER

Published by Corgi  
Price: £6.99

## Book

## The Book of Ultimate Truths

by Robert Rankin

For some years now, many people have laboured under the misconception that 'Ultimate Truth' could be found within the pages of such works as The Bible, The Koran or, for those of a particularly perverse nature, The Maplin Electronics Catalogue. Only now, due to the dedicated investigative journalism of Robert Rankin, can the real *Book of Ultimate Truths* be revealed. Yes folks, buy this book and you'll have the answer to all the great mysteries of the universe, like: "Why can you never find a biro when you want one?" and "Why is it impossible to be first in a post office queue?"

Well, not really. Rankin is a humourist in the style of Terry Pratchett or Douglas Adams and his latest book sends up the human vice of searching for 'the meaning of life', instead of just getting on with living. Cornelius Murphy, the hero of the book, is a bored teenager who knows he's destined for better things. The problem is convincing anyone else of his heroic destiny. Cornelius spends much of his time avoiding totally dead-end jobs fixed up by Mr Yarrow, a Youth Employment Officer who works on the strange principle that people will be happy in jobs that begin with the same letter as their surname.

Just when it seems that Cornelius will be forced into a career as a mime-artiste, fate

intervenes and a mysterious publisher hires him to recover the Book of Ultimate Truths, the last work of Hugo Rune, mystic, brain surgeon and dodger of unpaid restaurant bills. A surreal journey begins, but will Cornelius be able to face the Ultimate Truth about himself?

Rankin has found a successful formula for comedy and stuck to it: bizarre characters and situations, a fine ear for dialogue and perfect pacing. The plot is stretched very thin indeed to get laughs and Rankin's writing doesn't have the emotional range of Pratchett, for example. Because of this, I didn't care much about Cornelius and the other characters; they're treated like circus clowns who perform for our amusement and can't really be hurt.

The human need for answers about the world has a rich potential for irony; both the scientific and religious approaches can and should be questioned. Unfortunately, Rankin limits himself to unsubtle digs and parodies of organised religion. Having said that, most of the jokes do hit the mark and you could certainly do worse if you want a light and amusing read. Those who like Rankin's earlier books will love this. If not, you won't find anything new here.

The St Cronan's Day Massacre

Published by: Corgi

Price: £4.99

## Book

## Poseidon's Gold

by Lindsey Davis

This is the fifth book in a growing series about a character named Marcus Didius Falco, 'the world's first detective'. Falco (Marcus to his friends) is a roman centurion-turned-informer (a private investigator) – he's good at his work, but he doesn't get enough of it.

However, the same can't be said of Ms Davies, the author. Although the book isn't bad, it's not particularly outstanding either. The first book of the series, *The Silver Pigs*, won her an award for Best First Novel, which gives me the unfortunate impression that she's jumping on her own bandwagon.

Although the mystery itself is quite well constructed, it moves too slowly and the attempts at adding deceptive twists and red herrings are sadly transparent. Ms Davies is at her best and most humorous when writing dialogue, but not really anywhere else. The story is let down by vague scene setting and scant characterisation, most of which the reader is left to insert for himself. I was left with the feeling

that the characters were interchangeable, distinguished only by one or two traits simply to fulfil a role required (or not) by the plot.

It seems that Ms Davies simply transplanted the 'private dick' genre to ancient Rome as a gimmick. All the normal clichés remain: the underemployed surly PI, his high class girlfriend, numerous scoundrels. There was even a seedy dive bar where our hero imbibed cups of wine rather than shots of Bourbon. It might as well have been Hollywood.

All in all, not nearly as gripping as Raymond Chandler (Philip Marlowe), or as atmospheric as Ellis Peters (Brother Cadfael – now the world's second detective?) but a reasonable effort. I might give her a second chance and read *The Silver Pigs*, but probably only if I could find it in the library.

Catfish

Published by: Arrow

Price: £4.99

## Book

## Missing Joseph

by Elizabeth George

An interesting exploration of motherhood and what it means to different people. A woman who lost a child and another who can't have one. But this isn't all girls' talk because it's the men who complicate the two situations by being apparently insensitive to the issue in question.

The two separate plots are brought together rather skillfully with adequate overlap to give continuity. A bit of mystery is thrown in for good measure but it doesn't grip you. If you want some heavy psychology in layman's terms then this is the book to read. Overall, this is no compulsive read and it's just so easy to put down.

ZIEGLER

Published by Bantam Books  
Price: £4.99



## Cinema

## Serial Mom

Starring: Kathleen Turner, Sam Waterston.

Ricki Lane

Director: John Waters

Beverly Sutphin (Kathleen Turner) is the 'quintessential American housewife', ie. she restricts herself to cooking, cleaning and caring for the children. However, all is not as it seems. After viciously swatting a fly at the breakfast table she proceeds to make obscene telephone calls to the neighbours.

Later on, while back in her perfect mother mode, she visits her son's maths teacher who suggests that her son needs therapy for his obsession with horror movies. Bad idea – she runs the teacher over in the car park.

Next, her daughter Misty (Ricki Lane) is dumped. Never fear, mom comes to the rescue and stabs the foolish boy with a poker in the gents. As the killing continues, woe betide anyone who is even mildly unpleasant, as mom will dispose of them with anything that comes to



Mom seems to be the only one of the Sutphin family who's happy with life (or death)

hand, be it a pair of scissors, an air conditioner or even a leg of lamb!

A murder trial soon follows and the film gets much, much worse. I won't spoil the non-existent plot by revealing the verdict. This film was tasteless and grotesque, these minor faults could have been forgiven had it been in anyway

funny or even slightly amusing.

If you go to see this film make sure you have a few before you go – trust me it'll be worth the investment.

dlh

Opens today. MGM Fulham Road. Tickets: £6 (£3.50 before 6pm, Mon-Fri)

## Cinema

## Three Colours White

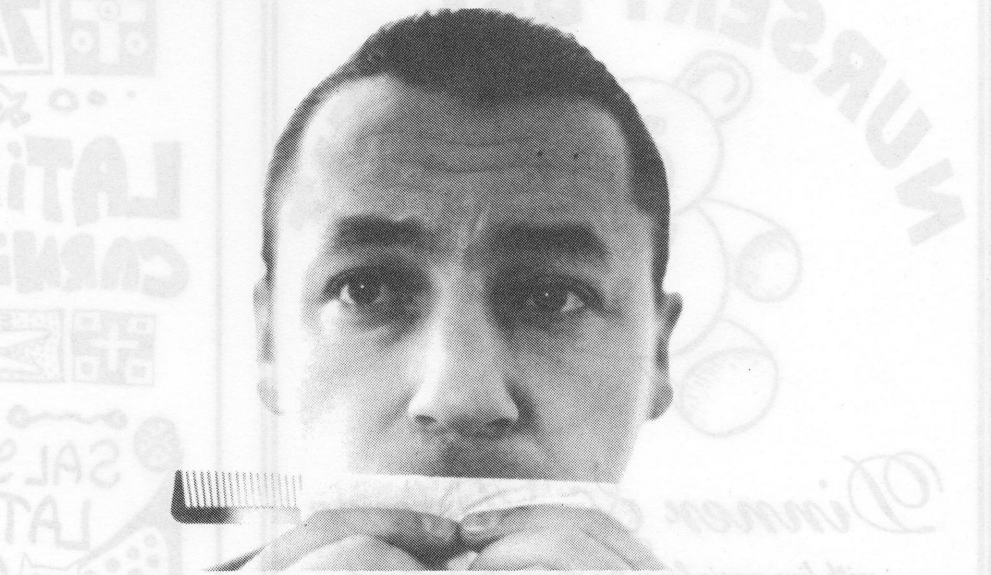
Starring: Zbigniew Zamachowski, Julie Delpy

Director: Krzysztof Kieslowski

*Three Colours White* is Kieslowski's second film in a trilogy studying the ideals of the French Revolution: liberty, equality and fraternity. (You don't need to have seen the first film, *Three Colours Blue*, to understand this one).

The film tries to examine the concept of equality through the story of Kavol (Zamachowski), a Polish hairdresser. He is divorced by his beautiful French wife, Dominique (Delpy), due to his inability to consummate his marriage. This would have been more understandable if she had refused him – she is gorgeous and he is, to put it simply, not. Left homeless and penniless in Paris, he ends up sleeping in Metro stations, playing tunes on his comb to earn money. He is befriended by Mikalój, another Pole, who smuggles Kavol back to Warsaw. Here, Kavol manages to become very rich surprisingly quickly and easily and he then revenges himself on his wife, only to find that they can still love each other.

The main problem with this film is that it has such high ambitions. A study of equality is a pretty major subject, which Kieslowski entirely fails to come to grips with. Maybe it was just over-subtle for me but, if I had not been told that this film was about equality, I would never even



Kavol (Zamachowski) resorts to busking to make ends meet in the Metro stations

have guessed. The film also claims to be a comedy which, again, is something of an overstatement. It's only funny in the same way that Carla Lane comedies are funny (ie. one laugh every half hour and far too much misery in between).

*Three Colours White* has a lot of style

(possibly largely due to being in a foreign language) but very little substance. Not a bad film if you do not believe all that has been promised of it, but a definite disappointment.

KA

Opens today at the Chelsea Cinema, Kings Road. Tickets £6, first perf £4 (concs £2.50).



## Theatre

# His Lordship's Fancy

The theatre, situated conveniently above a pub, was small, cosy and a strange shade of pink. We stepped out from the busy streets of the city into the warm rural countryside of Italy and felt immediately welcomed by the singing and dancing cast. The stage was in the centre and could be effectively viewed from both sides. The audience sat amongst props (such as underwear drying on washing lines). The atmosphere was excellent right from the start.

The play, an English adaptation of an Italian script, was set in the village of Montefosco. It concerns the misfortune of the beautiful, melodramatic Rosaura, who fights to claim the estate which rightfully belongs to her. However, she has no money to bring the case to court.

Enter Beatrice and the young Marchese, a dominant mother and a feeble, womanising son of noble status who believe the land is theirs. Beatrice, realising the threat that Rosaura brings, decides to marry her off to her son. Meanwhile, the young Marchese is upsetting the male



*Eat, drink and be merry and then spit...?!*

villagers by sleeping with their wives and daughters. Accompanied by a village committee, three tarts and an alternative Manuel from Fawlty Towers, the production was fun and humorous with a hint of politics. All the cast was superb apart from their peculiar Italian accents and frequent spitting(!).

It was highly entertaining and well worth watching.

**Tom and Jerry**

The Gate Theatre, 11 Pembridge Road. Tube: Notting Hill Gate. 071 229 0706. Tickets: Mon-Thu £10 (concs £5). Runs until 2nd July.

## NURSERY BENEFIT



## Dinner & Dance

*with live music from the Ray Rich Band*

**Wednesday 15th June**

Union Dining Hall, 1st Floor, Union Building, Beit Quad

**Drinks Reception at 7.30pm**

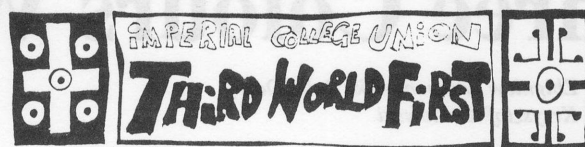
**followed by Dinner, with Jazz from the band**

Beef Stroganoff or Spicy Chickpeas,  
with Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Tea and Coffee

with paying Bar, Raffle, FREE miniature for each guest and dancing until late.  
Tickets are £10, available from the Union Office, 1st Floor, Union Building,  
Beit Quad or the Nursery, Princes Gardens.  
ALL PROCEEDS TO THE IC NURSERY



... presents: ...

## LATIN AMERICAN CARNIVAL NIGHT 3

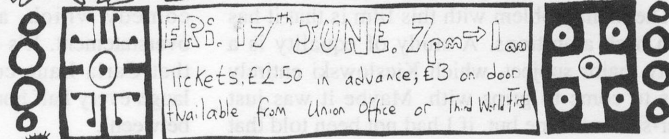


**SALSA BAND**

**LATIN DISCO**

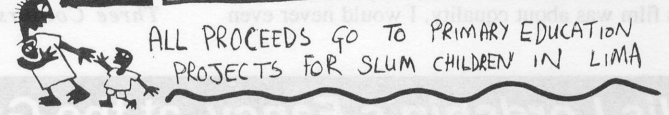
**Cheap Beers + Spirits**

**FREE HATS + TSHIRTS**



**FRI. 17th JUNE. 7pm-1am**

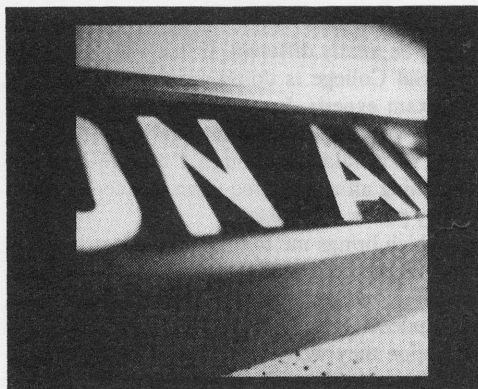
Tickets: £2.50 in advance; £3 on door  
Available from Union Office or Third World First



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO PRIMARY EDUCATION  
PROJECTS FOR SLUM CHILDREN IN LIMA



## Albums



"I heard of a man who says words so beautifully that if he only speaks their name women give themselves to him. If I am dumb beside your body while silence blossoms like tumours on our lips, it is because I hear a man climb the stairs and clear his throat outside our door." So Leonard Cohen speaks as a piano starts and we shyly inch from his poem into the ariel words of Tori Amos' 'Silent All These Years'.

Live cuts culled from LA station KCRW, this compilation, *'Rare On Air Vol. 1'*, calls my name gently for a first half of Peter Dinklage, Michael Penn, Juliana & Evan (that rhymes with heaven) and Beck.

The second half trails its tail in the mud but to finish a 'various artists' album with new names to whisper in the the heat of passion, "you make such a cool distraction", demonstrates that the first volume of a series had fulfilled itself. (7) *Tintin*

America, checked shirts, guitars...you've heard it all before a thousand times but still they keep coming. Actually, it isn't quite fair to tar **Vanilla Trainwreck** and their album *'Mordecai'* with this brush. They've been delivering albums regularly ever since their self-financed tape debut of 1989 and the guitars and shirts are about as close as they get to the US indie mainstream.

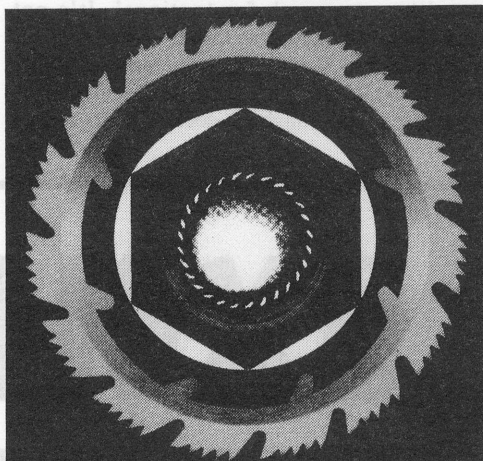
While labelmates such as Juliana Hatfield have hit the big time, fame has always eluded them but then again they've never really tried too hard. It's difficult to pin down their sound. You listen to a track, think you've got it and then the next is completely different. There's the brooding intensity of 'Alex' and 'Nothing I Suppose', the deranged melody of 'Quagmire' and the surging guitars of 'Pink Smoke', reminiscent of Sub Pop's new stars Hazel. And then there's 'Sister' with its infectious tune that just won't get out of your head. It's quite impossible to sum up, which makes it all the more interesting to listen to. (8) *Ridley Dash*

Another offering from the Aussie folk-rocksters, **Wedding Parties and Anything** and their album *Kingtide*, a worthy successor to 'Difficult Loves' which came out here only a few months ago. Poignant snapshots of the underside of life, love and social commentary are accompanied by down-to-earth language, all with the distinctive vocals of Mike Thomas - poet, philosopher and mainstay of the band. The band themselves are accomplished and reliable,

slipping from the REMish to the Cajunish, via Celtic sounds and the obvious influence of Kilburn (where some of the songs were recorded) and its folky Irishness.

This is the music of the Australian new man, bar-room philosopher with plenty of soul-bearing and 'person-of-the-world' advice. Maybe it's an acquired taste but one with plenty to savour. Even the weaker tracks like 'The Rain In My Heart' and 'Stalactites' hold the listener until the next flash of brilliance. Get hold of it and broaden your tastes. (8) *AI*

The release of **Strobe's** third album, *'The Circle Never Ends'* sees them add a female vocalist, an extra guitar and a second percussionist, giving them a much broader sound. They're still mainly like the psychedelic guitar rock reminiscent of Hawkwind, Loop and Spaceman 3 but, to this, they have incorporated ambient tribal sound, heavy hypnotic rock and hard-hitting industrial riffs. This is cool background music but unfortunately it goes on a bit too long for its own good. Strobe do all the right things but lack that extra ingredient needed to make it stand out. (7) *Mr Happy*



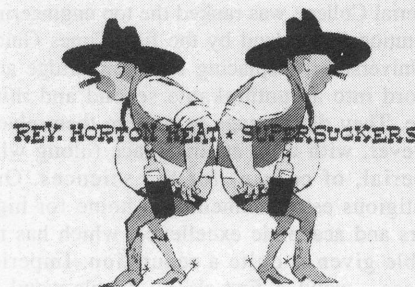
From the staring eyes of Gano, Ritchie and Hoffman to their avant-garde waywardness, the **Violent Femmes** can be a daunting proposition and so it is in their album, *'New Times'*. It's not that they can't play great songs which draw you in to stamp your feet and clap hands. No, the problem is they just don't wanna do it like that; too clever by measures.

The lyrics are to blame, of course. You can't use phrases like "the poets they still had to muse over the classicism of clean shoes" or "it was either take over the world or learn French" and hope to produce any melody, sweet or otherwise. And when they were reduced to every third line being "I see that she is pretty" in the deeply ironic 'Mirror, Mirror', I wondered if the irony was so deep it was imaginary.

The singular leap from reason, when it did come, was necessarily sparkling. 'Jesus of Rio' charts the world summit through a seedy liaison in Copenhagen. Saving the world or getting a quick feelgood? The Violent Femmes leave it 'til last to show they know there's a difference.

(6) *Tintin*

## Singles



**Primal Scream** - *'Jailbird'*: From a riff which wants to be a Harley Davidson when it grows up, a deep down fried Southern Chicken rib of a song gets hewn. Spicy outside, raw inside, but make sure you get it while it's hot. *Tintin*

**Sepultura** - *'Slave New World'*: The Brazilians thrash gods spew forth yet another exquisitely brutal single from last year's stunning 'Chaos AD'. This one'll eat your flesh faster than you can say 'necrotising fasciitis'. The perfect soundtrack for bloody revolution, but plush packaging doesn't excuse another ropey selection of b-sides. *Freddy Cheeseworth*

**Rev Horton Heat** - *'Caliente'* / **Supersuckers** - *'400 Bucks'*: The Rev does the Supersuckers on some speeding tickets left by rockabilly and the 'Suckers do the Rev with a five-line whip on guitars. Take your pick but in my book the Fotheringham cover (as above and below) wins bottles up. *Tintin*

**Opus III** - *'When You Made The Mountain'*: A six-track remix ep from the trancy technoheads best known for their absurdly catchy 'It's A Fine Day'. The winner is 'Afro-Cuban' trance edit but title of the year goes to the 'Well Hung Parliament Adventure Mix'. *Ridley Dash*

**Shed Seven** - *'Dolphin'*: Claiming that they're a "pop band in the same way that the Stone Roses and AC/DC are pop bands" may be a load of pretentious piffle but, if they keep writing ditties like this with rhythmic guitars subtly overlaying drums and bongos, then maybe we'll let them off. *Vik*

**Nation Of A Bell** - *'Save Yourself'*: Crash, Bang, Wallop, Bang, Wallop. Terence Trent D'Arby meets Prince (NPG) and they get along OK. Prince is a little shy so he only does the backing vocals while Terence dominates the lead guitar. This exemplifies New Jersey soul and genuine talent, but the sandwich spread is a little too thin for this kind of bread. *Sphinx*

**Portishead** - *'Numb'*: Take a fragile female voice, some hip-hop beats add a liberal dose of Twin Peaks and you know you're in for a strange evening. *Ridley Dash*



It's summer and I'm just a little dummer



# Educational Reality

Imperial College was ranked the top engineering institution in England by the first Times Guide to Universities, displacing both Cambridge and Oxford into an unthinkable second and third place. They did manage to redeem themselves, however, with a tie at first place (along with Imperial, of course) for the sciences. Our prestigious establishment is a home for high flyers and academic excellence, which has no double given it quite a reputation. Imperial College – wow! A first class – double wow! In short, a passport to success.

I came an idealistic youth (now I'm just idealistic), hoping to find something that would fascinate me enough that I'd consider making a career out of it. Both the first and second year were shoved down the throat faster than I could swallow – you can taste it later kid, just gotta get fattened up a little first. Here I am in the third and final year, beaming with triumph; I can do what I want now.

Yep, there's *options* this year. Oh, wow! We can all do what we *really, really* want. Then again, if you're among those who don't know what to do – never mind, just do what's *easy* since it doesn't matter does it? Why make life difficult, right? You have to be realistic, you know.

Funny thing, unless there's something wrong with that logic, it seems quite a few of us don't

really know what we want because *easy* is the in thing. Because when it's easy, you get a first. Because that's what we're here for – graduating cum laude. You have to be realistic, you know.

It's not a bad system, exams are necessary, grade streaming is necessary. We all need to know who has quality, since that's a precious commodity. How many of you have been turned off by something that was somewhat interesting because it might be hard to score or perhaps it would consume too much time or maybe there aren't any past papers (risky new course!) or because it is just plain difficult. How many of us would jeopardise a first class degree for some interesting or useful (which does lose its appeal if you flunk it) course – if we were in such a position. A very big zero I would think. You have to be realistic, you know.

A first class isn't everything (well, maybe a bit more important than what's interesting, but it really isn't everything). An easy thing to say if you've already secured that first or maybe if its well nigh impossible. But, if you were kind of teetering on it, or perhaps just *fearful* then it is a whole new ball game. You can't just take what you like – so much for 'options'. It's not something that anyone addresses seriously at all. We're all told to pick what interests us, right? But behind that nodding facade, what manner of force drives us? Maybe it doesn't really matter

what we do now, since what we do later on would be totally different. If that's the case then Imperial College is doing a great job churning out exam experts. In any case, the inclusion of courseworks and projects attempts to create more of a balance, though I'm sure it is not something all of us agree upon – except when it is easy points, of course.

Which brings me to the point that if it would be at all possible, College would alter the grade contribution/distribution/allocation in order that the students would be more motivated to select an option they were interested in as opposed to one they could score in. A simple suggestion would be to reduce the contributing percentage of option courses. This assumes that since these courses do not affect grades very much, there would be a greater inclination to take risks, like doing an interesting course. The implications are of course unclear as to whether it is truly beneficial to us students since it means that we have to perform well in compulsory courses, which may be quite difficult, which of course means it is harder to get a first.

So, which has top priority? To get the highly acclaimed first class honours or to do something interesting? "Both!", I hear some of you cry. Well, it is clear they can sometimes exhibit mutual exclusivity. A+ for any genius solutions.

Howard Lee (ISE III)

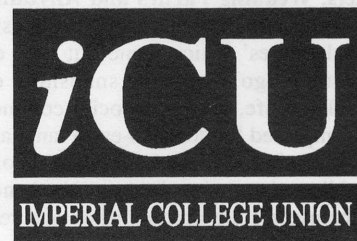
## BOOK EXCHANGE

Turn your old text books into cash

FRI 17th &  
WED 22nd JUNE

in the JCR, Level 2, Sherfield Building

- We are buying text books which appear on reading lists next year.
- Books must be in good condition.





# Editorial

## Smoking Policy

It seems that more and more places are enforcing no smoking policies and, at the moment, the Union seems to be sitting back and doing nothing. A while ago, the College brought in a smoking policy, which was a start, but it does have some strange quirks, like the Physics foyer. I've walked through there many times and am amazed that anyone could have even thought to allocate the area at the bottom of the stairs for smokers. Many other departments force the smokers outside, why was Physics any different?

Most restaurants have separate smoking and non-smoking areas, but can you have a meal in Da Vinci's or sit in the JCR for half an hour without having to breathe in other people's cigarette smoke? In Da Vinci's, there are signs above the counters asking people not to smoke at the serving counters, but there is nothing done about providing somewhere for people to sit and eat without the off-putting smell of cigarette smoke. It isn't like there is somewhere else that non-smokers can go, is it.

Even the ICU Cinema allows smoking. Admittedly it's only in the back five rows, but most cinemas now don't allow smoking anywhere. Why should the ICU Cinema be any different? The smoke still drifts around the room

and I'm sure I am not the only one who finds it unpleasant to have to put up with it.

Isn't it about time that something was done about all of this. As is mentioned in the article on page 5, the Union can be mandated to do something if it is submitted as a motion to a Union General Meeting; the next one is on 17th June. The deadline for motions is 6pm today, so it's not too late to do something about it. A motion about smoking was submitted and passed by a UGM a while ago forbidding smoking at any Union meetings. I'm not sure if this is still in operation, as Union policy only lasts for three years. But it would be a start if students could get the Union to do something about providing smoking and non-smoking areas within Da Vinci's and the JCR. I can't believe that smokers are in the majority within the College, so don't non-smokers have a right to some areas that are free of cigarette smoke?

## Submitting Letters

Just a quick reminder that if you want a letter published, you must show your swipe card or Union card to prove authorship of the letter when you submit it. If you submit the letter by post or by fax, the same applies – you must bring in proof, otherwise I cannot print the letter.

# It's Pleasing To Some People

Dear Beccy,

Simon Baker has gone too far this time! How dare he imply that *Felix* will make IC 'the laughing stock of the British University system'? He is undermining your authority as the editor and insulting members of your news team who, as far as I can see, are doing a sterling job. Regarding the slur on the news editor, I think Mr Baker meant 'Fenland Mountain Rescue Service' but that's not the point. His criticism was uncalled for and

unfounded. I have read many student newspapers and *Felix* is undoubtedly the best example.

It is obvious that Mr Baker has not done his research at all well, as most of us at IC really enjoy the features and news. So, everybody who thinks *Felix* is the dog's bollocks, write in and tear down Simon Baker's ivory tower.

Yours sincerely,  
Jonathan (Hamish) Teale,  
Physics I

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## Answers to last week's

# Elimination

a	Heavy, Light	22,26
b	Show-Off	15,5
c	Dead, Yellow	8,35
d	Race, Education	12,41
e	Bib, Tenet	2,30
f	Level Crossing	25,38
g	Jelly, Society	24,37
h	First Rate	19,13
i	Flaw, Floor	9,21
j	Elbow Room	18,14
k	Ben, Time	1,16
l	Last Straw	10,29
m	Flesh, Shelf	20,27
n	Mirror-Image	33,23
o	Dry, Bucket	4,31
p	Box Office	3,34
q	Bass, Glazing	6,36
r	Maiden Over	32,11
s	Cells, Squirrel	7,40
t	Laughing Stock	39,28

The word left over was *Light*

## Subwarden for Montpelier Hall

**Requirements:** Research student with at least 18 months remaining at IC.  
Proven interest in pastoral care and social activity.

**How to apply:** Application forms are obtainable from the Accommodation Office (15 Princes Gardens).

**Deadline:** 20 June 1994. Completed form should be sent to the Warden, Dr. Richard Clarke, Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department.

**Enquiries:** Contact the Warden on extension 5124 (day) or (071) 581 8895 (evenings and weekend).

The deadline for letters is 5pm on the Monday before publication



# Elimination *by Sphinx*

Eliminate two words from the right hand columns for each clue on the left. Then touch your toes. Which word is left over?

a	Two synonyms	1	Big	22	Cheese
b	Boss of large culture?	2	Bus	23	Finish
c	Two forms of public transport	3	Gag	24	French
d	A chance to snap?	4	Gas	25	Flower
e	Two palindromes	5	Put	26	Flying
f	"A woman _____ me to _____ and I never had the courtesy to thank her." ( <i>W C Fields</i> )	6	Sea	27	Grease
g	Two suggesting Albert	7	Hall	28	Number
h	Drop an insult	8	Tax	29	Prince
i	Two homophones	9	Cart	30	Redder
j	⊕ ⊗	10	Dish	31	Toffee
k	Two associated with satellite	11	Down	32	Doctors
l	What the royal dentist might do	12	Lump	33	Opinion
m	Two anagrams	13	Tube	34	Compound
n	A quantity expressed in two or more different but related units	14	Bread	35	Laughing
o	Two words suggesting poll	15	Brown	36	Memorial
p	The main source of nausea?	16	Crown	37	Sickness
q	Two going with sugar	17	Drink	38	Terminate
r	<i>Pain</i>	18	Drove	39	Television
s	Two words joining with apple	19	Flour	40	Opportunity
t	Nitrous Oxide	20	Photo	41	Refreshments
		21	Agrees		

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