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Review of Spring '96:
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the BMS planning saga



FELIX

The student newspaper of
Imperial College

Issue 1054
March 20th 1996

IC Boat Club banned from race

BY DIPAK GHOSH

Imperial College Boat Club has been banned from the Head of the River Race on March 30th.

The ban was imposed on the rowing club after it apparently named an ineligible oarsman for the race. The college rowing club matched Cambridge University over two set-piece rows in the Tideway.

A spokesperson for the organisers said "I cannot see the

possibility of Imperial College crews competing in the event at the moment. I feel wretched about it." The organising committee found irregularities in the status points of the seven college crews and has suggested the total withdrawal of the entry.

Steve Ellis, College's chief coach, admitted that a mistake had been made, but commented that "the punishment does not fit the crime."

Meanwhile, the College is redesigning the boat house development plan after the original plans were rejected by the Wandsworth Council planning committee as too 'bulky'. Another objection, that the planned extension was too close to nearby residential homes, has also forced a rethink by College planners.

The College is presently in the process of redesigning the rel-

evant parts of the complex, primarily to overcome these two objections. Frank Murray, Sports and Leisure Manager, told *Felix* that "we are trying to redesign the complex with minimal reduction in facilities."

He continued, "We will meet with Wandsworth Council in the near future to discuss our revised plans. I am hopeful as well as optimistic about the chances of it being granted."

BY IVAN CHAN

The British Association for the Advancement of Science Youth Section held its third annual BAYS day exhibition at Imperial College and the Science Museum last Friday and Saturday.

The show is intended to increase schoolchildren's awareness of science and technology, and the impact that it has on their lives. It teaches them basic principles of science through playing with 'hands-on' exhibits. As in previous years, there was a wide range of exhibits on display, from the cold and wet 'Water Turbine' to the filthy 'Fun with Feathers'.

Volunteers from several organisations, including staff and

students from Imperial, gave up their weekend to help run the BAYS exhibition. Most of the stalls were open between 10.15am and 3.15pm, but some stayed open all day, resulting in the dedicated helpers missing lunch. Nonetheless, the organisers declared the event "a success", and said that in many ways it was better than last year's.

This year the BAYS day coincided with the SET96 initiative, a project set up by academic and industrial research scientists which sets out to educate the general public about how modern-day science is organised and how research is undertaken, as well as what is done with the knowledge gained.



in summary



Wilson to be next Rector

Glasgow University students have elected Richard Wilson, of "One Foot in the Grave" fame, as their new Rector. Any ideas for our next Rector, anyone? Dale Winton perhaps? **page 2**

Plastic cash

A pilot scheme for the electronic cash system Mondex has been mooted by College for use around campus. The cash cards would also be used as a swipe, and possibly for ICU. **page 2**

Photographers irate

An unfortunate clash with BAYS day led to the premature removal of the Photographic Society's exhibition in the Consort Gallery. They say their pictures have been damaged **page 4**

Electronic cash made for our pocket?

BY MARK BRIDGE

The college and ICU are looking into the practicalities of introducing a combined swipe, ICU, library and bank linked credit transfer card.

The smartcard technology on which the system is based was developed in France in the early eighties and is now extensively used in several European and Far Eastern countries. Throughout Singapore, schools and companies use the cards to pay for food in refectories and as a means of identification, but it has not broken into the mainstream as it has in France, where each phonecard has a chip built in.

Some Oxbridge colleges already work with the system, billing students annually for the goods and services they purchase. Mondex – a pioneer of the technology in this country – has already started a pilot project in Swindon, with 10,000 people and 75% of the retailers taking part. Credit transfer is effected by charging the card with credit, either by swiping through a phone, with Mondex debiting

your account for the sum, or via cash machines. The card also comes with a key-ring credit reader to keep track of card balances.

The system can be introduced rapidly by printing library bar codes and adding magnetic stripes to the card, allowing existing systems to be phased out gradually.

Though free in the pilots, the card is expected to cost users about a pound a month to maintain once properly introduced. Such costs are expected to be met by College through savings in cash handling (counting and transporting monies) and by cuts in the current cards' administration costs. The feasibility of all this will be explored in meetings between College, the Union, and Mondex.

The issue was raised at the Student Representative Council meeting of March 12th when the problems with the previous attempts at introducing a combined swipe-union card were discussed. The main points raised were that students had difficulty



PHOTO: IVAN CHAN

Ian Caldwell's Mondex-card. It's good to talk.

convincing other unions to accept the card as a union card and that there could be a recurrence of the problems with voting that occurred last year. In addition there could be problems where students do not have accounts with the designated banks and any loss of a card will entail a long wait for a replacement and loss of all credit on the card.

These were answered by Matthew Crompton, Deputy President for Finance and

Services, who said that ideas such as having printing on both sides with prominent ICU wording and symbols on one side, and a dedicated voting chip would be explored with Mondex and College in meetings. He went on to explain that the possibility of links to other cash machine systems were being explored, and added that the loss of credit with the cards could not be stopped and was equivalent to anyone losing cash or their wallet.

Richard Wilson pushes out Johnny Ball to be new Rector of Glasgow

BY ROBIN RILEY

On the 24th of April, the actor Richard Wilson will begin a three year term of office as the new Lord Rector of Glasgow University, following his election by students last week.

Star of the BBC's "One Foot in the Grave," Mr Wilson was elected at the third count, beating the previous Rector, lecturer and television presenter Johnny Ball, by 1912 votes to 1483. At Glasgow University the rector is largely a figure head, in a position nominally below the Chancellor and above the Principal in the University's hierarchy. The Rector has the option of chairing the meetings of Glasgow

University Court, a student-staff body, but Johnny Ball is the only Rector in the last two decades to have exercised this right.

Before the voting on February 28th, opinion polls suggested that Johnny Ball would retain the position by a considerable margin. The defeat came as a shock to Mr Ball who, far from his usual effervescent self, was quoted shortly afterwards as saying "I am not some bleeding actor... I've been the most effective Rector in 540 years. I have worked and worked, and I am sad not to be given a chance to carry on. I am bitterly disappointed. Gutted." He also expressed concerns regarding the overt left-

wing political affiliation of Richard Wilson, whose campaign was organised by Glasgow University's Labour club.

Meanwhile, the jubilant Mr Wilson was bubbling between swigs from a celebratory bottle of champagne, most unlike his Victor Meldrew alter-ego: "Although I said I was quietly confident of winning, I wasn't really. I am absolutely delighted."

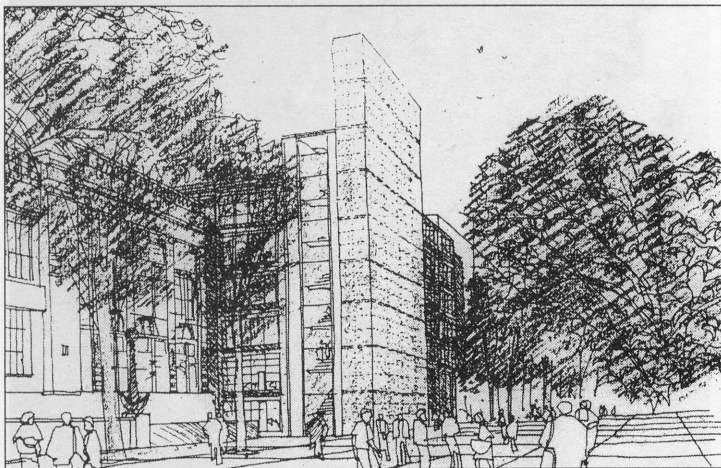
The other two other candidates congratulated Mr Wilson on the result. Dorothy Grace-Elder, a journalist and Scottish National Party affiliate, came third with 446 votes while Professor Al-Mass'ari, a Saudi dissident seeking asylum in the

UK came last, gaining a respectable 280 votes with his high-profile "Mass'ari Must Stay" campaign.

In spite of a pre-election poll which revealed that only 19% of Glasgow students could name all four candidates, the overall turnout for the Rectorial elections was a huge 52%. However, the turnout for Glasgow's sabbatical elections, held last Monday, was only 6.8%, putting Imperial's supposedly apathetic 8% turnout in a more favourable light.

It would seem that the election of a celebrity figurehead doesn't encourage students to take any deeper interest in the affairs of their University.

Designs on the BMS building



An artist's impression of the north elevation of the Basic Medical Sciences building. The façade has concerned English Heritage.

BY TIM ST. CLAIR AND RACHEL WALTERS

Preparations for the gradual demolition of the RCS II building are currently underway after planning permission for the new biomedical sciences building was granted earlier this month.

Kensington and Chelsea Borough Planning Council passed the plans and approved the demolition of RCS II subject to the design being brought up to English Heritage's standards. Amendments to the building's blueprints are now being made in the light of the recommendations.

Alterations to the proposed design include cosmetic changes to the tower, which was to be clad in a textured stone. English Heritage recommended that smooth stone be used instead, harmonising the frontage with the appearance of the Queen's Tower. English Heritage also recommended that the site could be better landscaped to fit in with the current surroundings. These two recommendations are considered as fairly minor and little difficulty is anticipated in their implementation.

A more demanding job will be the redesign of the plant room on the roof of the BMS building. In the present plans, this extends forward, projecting over the top of the building, and English

Heritage has recommended that this be redesigned so that it will not stick out. New designs are anticipated to take three weeks to produce.

While Norman Foster adjusts the designs, demolition of the RCS II building proceeds apace. The building will be dismantled rather than demolished, due to its proximity to the science museum and chemistry buildings. Scaffolding was erected around the RCS II building last Wednesday and the disassembly has already begun. While the RCS II building is taken down, the BMS groundwork will be laid where possible; this move has been taken to catch up on lost time, estimated to be several weeks. Imperial College Estates Director Ian Caldwell predicted that "this won't be last of our problems, so we want to regain lost time while we can."

Mr Caldwell said that the biggest concern now about the project is what impact the noise of construction may have on students doing exams. Estates staff are presently looking at ways to make sure that disturbance is kept to a minimum for the duration of the examination period. As a priority, exams planned to be held in the nearest corner of the Civil Engineering building will be moved elsewhere while the work takes place.

News in brief

BY THE NEWS TEAM

Pot stashed

The Three-Handled Pot of the Royal College of Science Union was stolen from the Union bar during the RCSU Election barnight last Tuesday. The bar was packed with students from all the CCUs, and at around ten o'clock RCSU officers noticed that the prized possession was nowhere to be seen.

Colloquially known as the 3HP, the pot is a one-off design and the RCSU has requested its return "preferably before Wednesday night [this evening]". Rob Park, RCSU Publicity Officer and Hon Sec-elect, assured *Felix* that if the 3HP "can be returned to any CCU office, no questions will be asked."

He warned that if the pot is found in anyone's possession after this time, then steps will be taken to involve the Metropolitan Police and set in motion the Imperial College Union disciplinary procedure.

RCSU Election results: page 4

Banks: "Tory hypocrisy"

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North, gave an outspoken talk on a range of subjects last Wednesday at a meeting of IC Labour Club.

He made plain his disgust with the Tories for their hypocrisy over the Scott report, particularly the ministers who did not resign after having misled parliament, but called for the resignation of the shadow Welsh Secretary after a remark he made regarding Prince Charles' suitability for the throne. Mr Banks also said he looked forward to seeing a united Ireland.

Though looking forward to seeing Labour in power, he is aware of the difficulties the party will face after being on the opposition benches so long, especially as he will still have to ask difficult questions of ministers. Smiling ruefully, he rated his chances of becoming a minister himself as "slim".

Physicist dies in crash

A second year Physics undergraduate, Christos Orillas, was killed in a road accident in France on the 9th of March.

Christos made a lasting impression on many people during his time at Imperial College. Departmental staff described him as a quiet student who was a pleasure to teach. He was studying Physics with Theoretical Physics and his enthusiasm convinced many that he would have given a great deal to science.

To his fellow students, he was someone who always had time for others. He was respected for his wit and intelligence as well as his top academic performance, and was always ready to listen to other people's problems. He was always warm, funny, and understanding, whatever the situation demanded. Chris was also a keen member of the Hellenic Society, who have expressed their condolences to the family.

The funeral was held in France, but his family visited the Physics department last Friday and were deeply moved by the sorrow expressed by Chris's many friends, who came to see them.

Sokol Dauti, Andreas Mershin, Daniel Figueras-Nieto.

Emergency numbers

Kenneth Weir, Deputy Head of Security, has highlighted an increase in the incidence of bogus 4444 calls on the internal telephone network.

The 4444 code, which is a direct dial number to the security desk, was established to alert Security to emergency situations on campus and not for day-to-day use. Bogus calls make the service less effective, and endanger those who have a genuine problem.

Another security issue currently a problem around the campus is a rise in reported pick-pocketing and theft from motor vehicles. Imperial College Security remind students and staff to be alert and to keep an eye on their belongings.

Photographic exhibition cut short

BY RACHEL WALTERS

The IC Photographic Society have complained that pictures displayed in the Consort gallery have been damaged by college technical staff, who took them down because the room had been double-booked. The exhibition had to be taken down prematurely, after it was discovered at the last minute that it clashed with plans for the BAYS events of last week.

The organisers of the display were given less than 24 hours' notice that their exhibition, which had been booked until the end of term, had to be removed. As members of the society were unavailable, IC staff removed the photographs themselves early on Thursday morning. The photographic society chairman, Neil Chadborne, told *Felix* that the pictures had been stacked up in two large piles in a cupboard: "one frame has a large chip missing and I'm sure the photos at the bottom of the pile must be damaged because of the weight."

He was also upset that the display had been taken down before the end of term. The society had booked a professional

photographer to come and view the exhibition on Thursday evening.

Anne Kemp, the conference centre manager, said that the double-booking was an 'unfortunate' consequence of a 'break-down in communication'. "I feel we've let them down badly because we didn't know about it," she said. She explained that rooms are not 'booked off' on their computer system if the event is an exhibition which will enable the rest of the room to be used. The organisers of the BAYS exhibition needed to put posters on the walls as well as using the room itself.

Ms Kemp insisted that it was the first time that there had been a problem with double-booking events. "Things like this have to happen so we can learn and make improvements for the future," she said. She expressed surprise that the students had complained that pictures had been damaged. Defending the conference centre technician who supervised the exhibition's removal, himself a nart enthusiast, she insisted that "you could not beat Ned for perfection."



PHOTO: NEIL CHADBORNE

RCS Union elections score poorly

BY MARK BRIDGE

Unbeknownst to many, the Royal College of Science Union elections took place last Wednesday with one of the smallest turnouts for years.

The RCSU held a bar-night-cum-hustings in the traditional bar the evening before the elections, with a promising attendance by current students, but this failed to translate into a high turnout on polling day. The number of people voting was even lower than that for the City and Guilds Union elections a few weeks previously, confirming allegations that students are suffering from 'ballot fatigue'.

Mo Dullo and Chris Bragg, current incumbents of RCSU posts, both won another year in

their offices of President and Honourary Junior Treasurer (HJT). Karl Condon will be the new Vice-President, Rob Park will be Honourary Secretary, and Samantha Baker the new Academic Affairs Officer.

Concerns were expressed in the preamble to the elections after confusion about nominees and a very poor turnout at the original hustings on the 5th of March. Further problems arose when some candidates' names were put on nomination papers without their knowledge. The elections themselves then had to be postponed when candidates manifestoes didn't appear in the RCSU publication *Broadsheet* in time. Voting had originally been planned for Monday and

Tuesday, but in fact ballot boxes were only open for a single day last Wednesday.

The office of the presidency was initially contested, but when Mo's intention to re-stand became apparent the others withdrew in his favour, one opting to run for VP instead. Seven candidates stood for the posts in the end, but three of the five offices were uncontested. The number of people voting reached about 150 which corresponds to around 6% of the electorate.

The presidential incumbent, Mo Dullo, re-stood pledging to "...get rid of the insular nature" of the organisation and to lay the foundations for a strengthened Union which could stand on a par with the Medics in 1998.

Chris Bragg, HJT, promised more active, powerful lobbying for Imperial College Union funds, and Rob Park has said that he wants to expand the role of his office beyond its current remit. He plans to oversee and coordinate the Constituent College Union's internal affairs to facilitating more student involvement and lobbying to create more RCSU clubs and societies.

Karl Condon aims to resurrect student interest in mascotry as Vice President, and Samantha Baker will work to improve communication at the student-academic representative level and ensure that RCSU students are not 'sidelined' with the arrival of St Mary's on the South Kensington campus in 1998.



PHOTO: ALEX FEAKES

Crunch! The results of the collision outside Physics last week.

Third party liability?

BY TIM ST. CLAIR

In light of BMW's takeover of Rover a few years back, the accident which occurred outside the Blackett Laboratory in Prince Consort Road last Thursday was somewhat ironic.

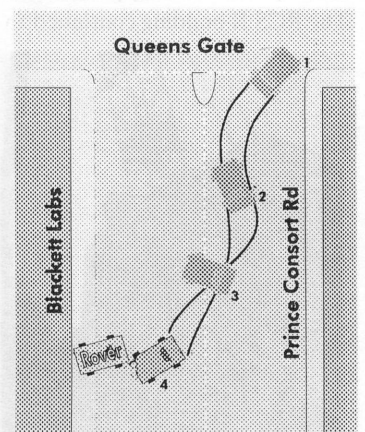
A motorist driving a BMW apparently took the left turn off Queensgate a little too fast, losing control of his vehicle and skidding through 180 degrees before colliding rear-end first with a Rover which was parked outside the Physics building. The force of the impact was great enough to cause the Rover to completely mount the kerb, leaving it 'beached' across the pavement, the near corner of its rear bumper just touching the wall of the building.

The police were on the scene within minutes but the driver of the BMW had already departed, prompting speculation that the car had been stolen.

The Rover suffered surpris-

ingly little visible damage in the crash, having only its front near-side light fittings cracked. The BMW fared somewhat worse; its entire boot volume was caved in and crumpled. (Could this be proof of superior British craftsmanship?)

Below is a diagram of the accident scene, as prepared by our 'on-the-spot' reporter. It shows the tyre marks left by the BMW and the final positions of the two vehicles.



GRAPHIC: JON TROUT

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News Review of Spring 1996:

BY ANDY SINHARAY

Felix 1045

December's Tory budget cuts of £2m were followed by madness of a different kind, though this time the news was better. Following new research, scientists at St Mary's were hopeful that mad cow disease (BSE) couldn't cross the 'species barrier' into humans. Progress on the BMS building appeared to have stalled, still awaiting permission. The RCS II building continued to



stand defiantly in the way of the new BMS block, with College's position on the issue unclear.

Clarity was also absent in *Time Out* magazine, already having shot uncomfortably to fame over IC's alleged drink-problem, were now making allegations of nuclear waste emissions from the Biology department in Beit. Again, the college position was unclear.

Any clarity that there may have been in Da Vinci's was to be removed, after its free newspaper service was withdrawn. "A minority continue to abuse it, stealing papers, tearing them up and generally trashing them," the bar staff complained.

Felix 1046

More theft, tearing up and trashing seemed to be in the offing... Progress on the BMS building appeared to have stalled (again): the medics con-

The Management School
Mechanical Engineering
William Penney Laboratory
Princess Gardens
RSC
Royal School of Mines
STA Academic Travel
STA Student Travel

tinued to campaign for more social space in the new building, at one stage even suggesting that ICU make representations to the local council, to try to block the BMS planning bid.

The RCSU had also been somewhat vexed by the BMS, worried about their proposed move to Civil Engineering, having already been shunted out of old Chemistry into Biology. Their president, Mo Dullo, said, "we'll move again, but my concern is that we have a working office," annoyed at IC's apparent predilection with blue signage rather than student needs.

Theft manifested itself in the form of computers disappearing from Mech Eng Computer centre, student property disappearing from halls and money disappearing from universities nationwide, due to the round of government cuts. Emily Baldock, Durham SU president, was called for a day of student action to oppose any introduction of top-up fees. At a staff level, the cuts were akin to the closure of 7 universities or the loss of 6500 lecturers' jobs, according to the AUT. Pushing for pay increases, "If this...is not forthcoming then we will not take it lying down," said Tom Wilson, their General Secretary. They weren't alone: Similarly skint was IC Rag, having earned less than a fifth of last year's total.

Felix 1047

In an attempt to get things straight, or at least less twisted than before, the Medics claim that they'd be unfairly represented in the last issue; the BMS action group had decided to not

attempt to block the application, but instead called for a cross-campus discussion of student facilities. They insisted that proposed social space for the building had been more than halved, not merely reduced by around a quarter, as suggested by the estates department. Discussions then took place about student social space, with which Sarah White said she was "very pleased." Meanwhile, progress on the building appeared to have stalled (once more) as the planning application failed to be considered anyway. The BMS, not merely content with harassing the RCSU, broadened their horizons by giving the C&GCU hassle with their hovercraft.

Smiles were also in evidence as it seemed likely that IC, with its links with industry, could benefit from a new funding formula, though other universities wouldn't been quite as lucky. The Aldwych Group, also concerned with the state of university funding, sent an open letter to the CVCP stressing its opposition to the introduction of top-up fees. Oddly, the usually vociferous NUS was quiet on the matter. The ICU front doormat, whose theft last term had flung ICU (and certainly Sarah White) into an uncomfortable spotlight, as well as a security photo, had reappeared in Royal Holloway College Union.

Felix 1048

The Government, unusually in agreement with ICU, opposed top-up fees; the CVCP wanted to claw back its losses somehow; HEFCE said that universities could admit fewer students if they needed to. Ideas mooted by the CVCP included the introduction of a one-off sign-

ing on fee, or an annual top-up fee proper. Many were unimpressed, Professor Alan Swanson telling the Academic Affairs Half Day that having to make such decisions amounted to the Government "getting other people to do their dirty work."

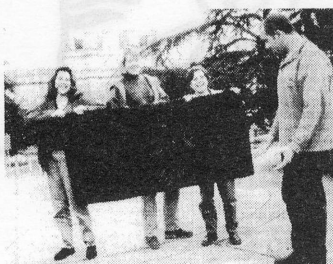
Progress on the BMS building appeared to... well, guess. On a more regional scale, more cuts were sustained when it was announced that Fire Service cover for South Ken was being reduced. College's signage predilection took a new twist when a newly installed placard on the walkway announced the arrival of the Royal Shakespeare Company, while the Saga Of The Rug continued after Sarah White and Matt Crompton phoned RHCUC to retrieve the errant carpet only to hear that it had vanished again. Sarah was said to be unimpressed with their attitude, saying it was irresponsible to leave a £250 item just



lying around outside an office. As opposed to leaving it just lying around outside a Union lobby, perhaps...?

Felix 1049

As if the Government couldn't worsen HE funding, a Tory think-tank proposed to do just that, this time targeting student finance. They suggested the abolition of government grants in order to partly compensate for



Medical plans delayed again Sabb results 'predictable' 'mad cow' research Tories plan to abolish student grants

the HEFCE cuts, with a view to funding by the private sector. The CVCP met in London to discuss introducing a one-off "government deficit levy" of £350 – otherwise known as a top-up fee. However, one university head said this was inadequate, citing £1000 as more realistic figure. But according to IC's Rector, there was "no intention of charging... it would achieve almost nothing for the college." Jonathan Aitken MP dropped by Consoc, outlining Britain's position in the New World Order, while a pair of drunk miners dropped in through the ceiling of the ICU Print Unit, claiming they were lost. Also directionless were ICU's sabb elections, which had not so much started slowly as barely started at all, with only two candidates declaring themselves...

Felix 1050

In the wake of the Docklands Bomb, Sir Patrick Mayhew visited ConSoc, saying that the IRA would have to call the ceasefire again before the peace process could begin. At the other end of the political spectrum, the ex-Labour leader Michael Foot visited, giving a lecture on the far less contentious issue of one of IC's more famous alumni, H.G. Wells. A more right-wing



Labour politician dropped in on ICU (though not through the roof this time) when ULU President Ghassan Karian visited ICU council to describe the new shape of the ULU Consitution, especially with regard to medical school representation.

More budding politicians signed up as the Sabb elections gathered speed, or at least lost slowness. Although contests for two of the four posts appeared to have become one-horse races, there were now two candidates for the post of DP(C&S) and three for the presidency. Many candidates lacked a full complement of seconders. However, many lamented the lack of interest shown in the whole event: "It looks like it's all going to be very boring this year," muttered Tim Townend, DP(C&S).

Felix 1051

Progress on the BMS Building – al together now – appeared to have stalled. The Borough Council should have viewed the application, though it had now been put off for another two weeks, so as to allow English Heritage to put forward their views. This was the third time that the application had failed to even be considered, let alone approved. It was a tough week for the union: ICU could soon be denied bar extensions from the local constabulary, possibly due to police changes in staffing commitments.

ICU was also temporarily denied its clock after one of its hands became "mis-aligned", and it was further denied £1000 of disco equipment. To further complicate matters, it would soon be denied some 28% of its budget. The sabb elections, increasingly derided as lacklustre, at least seemed to gather more momentum as the chase for DP(C&S) became 3-horse race, and everyone gradually became fully seconded. Elsewhere, the C&G elections weren't doing quite so well...



Felix 1052

Jokes, bad singing and wide-spread downing of pints. A CCU barnight? No: election hustings (differing from the former in that fewer serious issues were raised). Although there was much amusement at both the ICU ents-lounge event and its blockbusting, flan-throwing sequel at Mary's, few serious issues were discussed. College were still in the dark over English Heritage's decision for the long suffering yet paradoxically as-yet-unbuilt BMS building. Also in the dark were medics over their proposed syllabus, due to be implemented in 1998. A worrying increase in bike thefts prompted suggestions of a 'Big Brother' approach to security - CCTV may end up being installed outside the college library.



Felix 1053E

Election Results! The votes, counted in record time, elected Alex Feakes as *Felix* Editor, Sarah Corneille as DP(C&S), Piers Williams as DP(F&S) and Eric Allsop as President. Yet for all the cheers in the bar, the interviews, the photos, the interviews, the tears, the interviews and the alcohol, did the average student really care...?

Felix 1053

...After all, less than 900 votes were cast, with only 8% of the South Ken students voting. Unlike last year, the Mary's medics didn't seem as united as usual in their block vote... Turnouts were better at the OSC's International Night, successful as ever. The BMS was finally put out of its misery as English Heritage finally gave it the go-ahead: "It's full steam ahead from here," said Estates Director Ian Caldwell, for possibly the nth time. Against a backdrop of new sabbaticals appearing, one of the current incumbents vanished for the day: Sarah White, apparently kidnapped in a Rag stunt. Also experiencing misery was IC's HEFCE grant, facing a 3.7% cut.

Photos: Alex Feakes and Ivan Chan

A Century of Change, A Century of Progress?

Last Easter, Felix interviewed Mr Reginald Pink on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Just before his 101st birthday, Mr Pink passed away. His great-granddaughter looks back upon the past 100 years and considers the changing world that we have created.

The name Reginald Pink will never be found in the history books, although he played a very important part in the history of the world. He left the world almost as anonymously as when he entered it in 1895. Having fought in India in the First World War, he was the last surviving member of his regiment. He was too old to fight in the Second World War, but worked on the railways. He spent over 40 years of his life a widower. Last week, just before his 101st birthday, my Great Grandfather (or GGD, as I called him) decided that he'd had enough, and that it was time to leave the world.

The world he left behind, though, was very different from the one into which he was born. After all, we are talking here about a man who could remember hearing the news of Queen Victoria's death; a man who was already retired when the Berlin Wall went up; a man who was a grandfather when the Beatles were founded! He lived to experience the reigns of six monarchs and twenty Prime Ministers.

Technologically, the world has advanced beyond all recognition in the past century. In 1895, the concept of television would have seemed totally ludicrous. The idea of man walking on the moon would have been reserved for childhood fantasies. Fingerprinting had not been invented, let alone DNA discovered. The words 'genetic' and 'Internet' did not even exist in the English

Fashions are different – I was often accused by him of 'looking like a boy' because my attire was not considered feminine enough. People are no longer punished for writing with their left hands. Everybody receives an education, regardless of wealth or social status. There is a National Health Service (just!).

GGD was born into the pre-suffragette world, before women had even considered being able to vote.

Yet he lived to see a woman Prime Minister come and go. He heard of troubles developing in South Africa – the Boer War was raging throughout his childhood. He saw a black President take control. Ireland was only one, undivided country, and Sinn Féin did not exist. There was still as death penalty, and divorce was only legal on grounds of adultery. There was no Labour Party, there were no Boy scouts. The Kaisers still ruled in Germany, and the Czars in Russia.

GGD saw the world almost destroy itself in two world wars. He believed that WWI was 'the war to end all wars', but humanity created bigger and more destructive weapons, and went to war again. He would never have believed he would see such full-scale mass destruction as that created by the dropping of Atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. How much devastation could we have caused if the Cold War had developed into a Third World War?

As GGD is laid to rest, I cannot help but wonder how the world will look in another

hundred years' time. Can we continue to develop at the speed we currently are, without totally destroying ourselves? I don't want to see us go back to a time when children were sent down mines, when women had no rights, when watching hangings was a childhood treat. I dread to think what would be like if Hitler had been allowed to rampage his way across Europe unstoppable and unhindered.

But I would like to see a world where it is safe for children to play outside in the streets; where there is less pollution; where materialism and consumerism play a less important role in society; where poorer countries are not exploited by larger ones; where children are able to enjoy themselves without the need for expensive toys, computers and television.

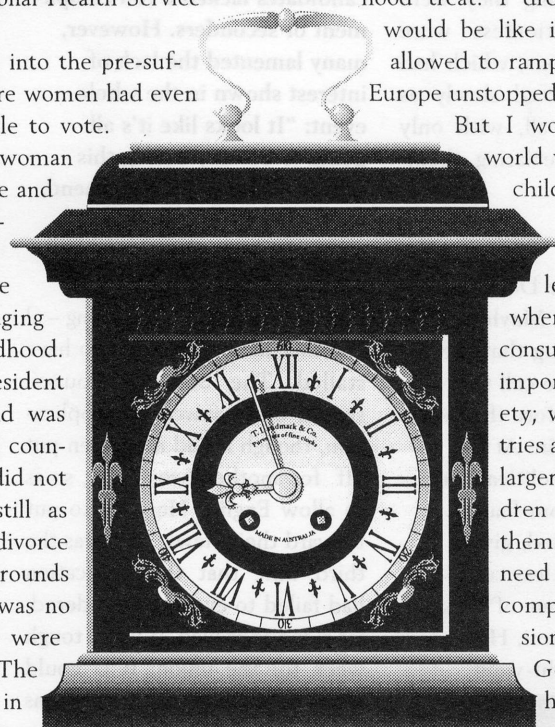
Genetic engineering has achieved some amazing things, but

where does it go from here? Will we soon really see a world similar to that in Huxley's "Brave New World" – written as a warning against such things happening, but looking increasingly likely to become, at least in part, reality?

GGD's own words about the world as it is today were: "It's all wrong! We're doing everything too fast!"

He put it somewhat more bluntly than Aldous Huxley, but the point is the same. Are we really making the world a better place? How will we progress further? Will the world as we know it still exist in another hundred year's time?

GGD knew what he thought – and he should know, he saw a lot of it happen.



Can we continue to develop at the speed we currently are, without totally destroying ourselves?

language. There were no motor cars, no electricity, no radio, no supermarkets, no heart transplants, no penicillin, no polythene...

Socially, too, the world has changed.

Marcia Symonds

fii

The art world loves a bit of controversy, and Jean Michel is a choice morsel. A young rare genius able to express the anger and crap of a dazed and crying generation, or a cunning and cheeky waster exploiting the NY stuck-up-their-own-ass art 'collectors'? Decide today, free, at the Serpentine Gallery, Hyde Park, just a minute walk from college. The show is on until April and includes several TV documentaries which help to understand this weird and scary artist and his work better. Picture shown is 'Untitled (skull)' 1981.



Basquiat

exhibition: jean michel basquiat_{jeremy}

column: simon baker

book: michael palmer - silent treatment_{babe magnet}

insight: set96 & WWW telescope & in-car computers_{ben}

albums: terrorvision & various & afghan wigs_{vik & jim & paul}

albums: lou reed & bad religion & mega city four_{alex & ian}

singles: paul & mr happy & jason & jim & mr trout

albums: sting & lush & various_{m.b. & max & paul shore}

theatre: serving it up_{lucas}

theatre: dead awaken_{d.field}

film: toy story_{d.field}

video: die hard iii_{spooky}

films: get shorty & sergeant bilko_{jenny no & vik}

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simon baker

Well, it happened, didn't it? Not really surprising. St. Mary's block vote, that is. I had heard rumours that it might not be quite as tight this year, but in the event, the dissenting



medics were but a handful. At first I simply thought "what a bunch of mindless sheep", but realised I was doing you a grave disservice. After all, you made up almost a third of the voters, highlighting a pathetic turnout at South Kensington. You bothered to vote, which is more than many of us did. Then I thought again: you did not vote in your hundreds. At most, about half a dozen people voted at Mary's, namely the officers of the Student Union, who persuaded you to vote on their behalf. Why did you? I have had lectures with the 2nd and 3rd year medics over the last two terms, and I have seen intelligent, decent people, who do not require generous hints from the SMHMSSU apparatchiks. For God's sake, do what you want. Without wishing to patronise, we really do value your opinion: it would be nice to know what it is.

I desperately tried to keep the politics to a minimum this week, but cannot let the Common Fisheries Policy debacle go unmentioned. After attempting to protect the already paltry fish quotas remaining to Britain, from plundering Spanish fisherman who registered here in 1988, we now face the prospect of having to pay compensation of up to £30 million to them, when little or no money has been paid to our fishermen whose livelihoods have been ruined. This cannot be tolerated. For some species, almost half are caught by these so-called 'quota tourists', compounding the difficulties suffered here by the shrinking quotas imposed

by this ludicrous system. The only solution is to leave the CFP. The UK should return a situation where we fish our waters, taking account of demand and preservation of fish stocks. The EU has a lot to commend it –

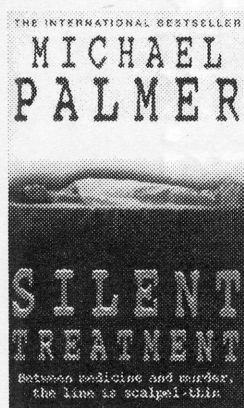
free trade within Europe is a great achievement – but the desire to regulate and harmonise every aspect of life has lead to crackpot systems like the fisheries and agricultural policies that merely create massive bureaucracies, inefficiencies and injustice. As for the European Court of Human Rights, my blood pressure could not stand a discussion of its recent 'judgements.' Mind you, we are partly to blame ourselves. We get two Commissioner posts and who do we choose but Neil Kinnock and Sir Leon Britton. With friends like them...

Now to something really serious. The England cricket team have crashed out of the World Cup in about as embarrassing a manner as possible after a pathetic performance against Sri Lanka, who we should have beaten comfortably. Had it not been for three of our bowlers, the score would barely have made three figures. I've seen Girl Guides that could have batted better, and it showed that we really could do worse than in South Africa. It is a well known fact that every male in England over the age of sixteen is a self-appointed Test selector. You go into any pub in the land, and you'll get your team chosen. So how come the bloke that gets paid for the job the rest of us do for free does not know his crick-eting arse from his elbow? Illingworth must go, get Botham and leave Atherton where he is, since there is no-one else to do the job. Piece of cake, mate. Next week, I'll do England's Euro '96 tactics and world peace in three easy steps.

"I've seen Girl Guides that could have batted better: it showed that we really could do worse than in South Africa."

book: silent treatment -

michael palmer book magnet



"Between — medicine and murder, the line is scalpel-thin" — so screams the front cover as you pick up this book. Inside, a story of torture, intrigue and great entertainment is told.

We meet Dr. Corbett, whose wife mysteriously dies during a routine procedure. The finger of suspicion points only at him, circumstances and his medical training providing the perfect opportunity. There commences a roller-coaster ride for Dr. Corbett around Manhattan and the New York area in search of the truth. He gets more and more distressed, convinced that everyone is trying to frame him. As his life collapses around him he is told "Just try to focus on the truth that today is what you

have - it's all any of us have. The only thing you can do is try to live it to the fullest." At points he nearly gives up hope, contemplating the suicide that has been suggested by one of his enemies.

We get all the classic scenarios and characters: the ex-Vietnam man, the Fed who was double-crossed, a torturing doctor and the alcoholic whose evidence is crucial. We also get the ubiquitous car chase and stakeout in the dark garden of a mansion. More interestingly, we are presented with the scheming of healthcare companies and the secret "Round table" they establish to "save themselves money". This provides a chilling insight into what may happen in the brave new world of genetic testing - health insurance only for those who are clear. Such intellectually complex moments are however sparse in this "pulp" novel.

This book may sound rather predictable, but it actually has many twists and turns that serve to confuse you more and more as the 450 pages fly by. And fly by they do - the cliché about being a "compulsive page turner" does hold true here. I would recommend this to anyone who wants a roaring good read.

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silent treatment by
michael palmer

out now in arrow
paperback, price
£4.99

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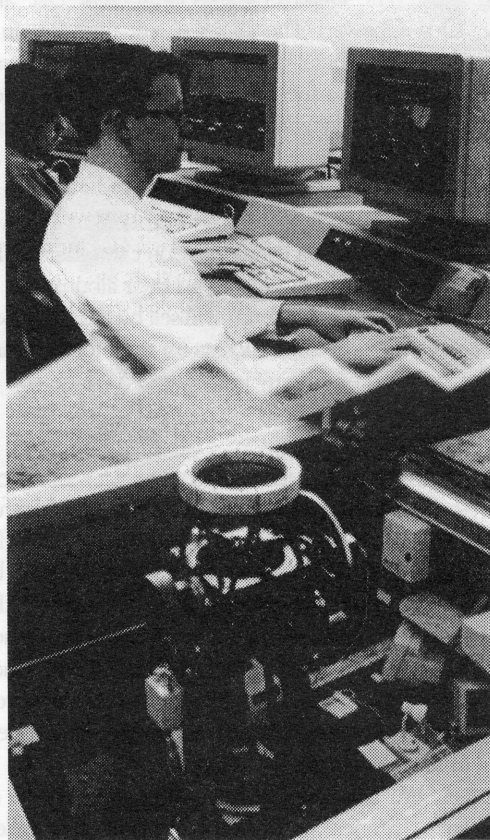
A telescope on the web...

Sabine Louet

We live in the age of the Hubble Space Telescope, of orbiting observatories and Very Large Arrays. The cost of stargazing is truly astronomical. But a British group has set up a telescope that brings these big boys' toys within everyone's reach.

The Bradford Robotic Telescope is a modern 46cm telescope sitting on a hilltop in the Yorkshire Dales. It can be accessed through the world wide web, making it available to millions of people. What makes this telescope unusual is that it does everything itself. It checks that it is not raining or cloudy. It checks that nobody is snooping around the site and most important of all, it knows when it gets dark!

The telescope is a prototype built by the Engineering In Astronomy (EIA) group within the University of Bradford's Department of Industrial Technology. "The site is designed to be used by lots of different people", says Dr John Baruch, of the EIA group. The group hope to make access to the telescope as open as possible. They are already working with a number of schools who can use the telescope as a learning aid. Ultimately, they would like to see a network with telescopes in Tenerife, Japan and Australia.



≥inSci^ght^o

Using the telescope is free, once on-line you just have to spend two minutes registering with the computer to get a password. You can then tell the telescope what you want to look at, and sit back and wait for the results. It automatically stores each request, and when conditions are good, it carries out as many observations as it can. When it has taken the picture you asked for, it sends you an E-mail message inviting you to look at the results. In good weather, this could be the next morning.

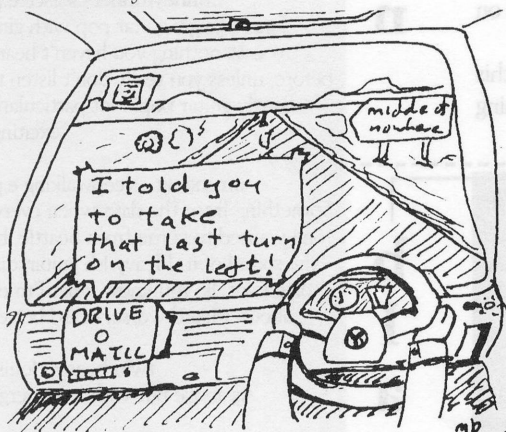
With the less than perfect Yorkshire weather, there is often only a short time each night for observations. Nevertheless, the reward for perseverance can be some spectacular images. Indeed, on a recent visit with a BBC film crew, Sir Patrick Moore was moved to say, "It was just what I expected, only 50 times better."

The site is fairly unique on the Internet. "It is the only one with an autonomous robot and the only one where you can request astronomical observations," says Dr Baruch.

If you have access to the world wide web you can find the telescope at <http://www.telescope.org> – and be that rare breed of astronomer, one with their nights free for other pursuits.

and a car that tells you where to go...

Andrew Lloyd



The Cybergeneration is about to bring advanced technology to driving. In Britain, two hardware companies, Bosch and Philips, will launch versions of a computer guidance system this summer. Meanwhile, Psychologist Paul Jackson, of the University of London Centre for Transport Studies has been examining individual responses to guidance in order to improve existing devices.

In the British system directions are stored on a simple CD Rom containing maps of every big city in the country. The on-board computer tells you where you are and asks you where you

want to go. Simultaneously, the 28 orbiting US military satellites constantly update and pinpoint your position on the computer map. The system then guides you directly to your final destination, saving you time and petrol. In order to focus the driver's attention on the road and not the screen, an electronic voice gives the directions.

Aiming a guidance message at the driver requires more than advanced technology, it also needs an understanding of individual responses to information. Paul Jackson concentrated his research on the way people react, depending on their age, gender and driving ability. Contrary to popular beliefs, gender is not important. Neither sex showed a better ability to find their bearings. Surprisingly, when it comes to navigation, age counts for more than experience. Young women drivers fare better than older, yet more experienced, male drivers.

Research is now focussing on whether certain messages have more impact on us than others. For instance, the order of presentation changes people's response to the guidance system. Hence if the voice tells you "at the garage, turn right", it might prove more efficient than "turn right at the garage".

set96*

This week is Set 96 - the national week of science, engineering and technology. Of the 5000 events going on all over the country, here are a few you may want to check out:-

Lasers – unravelling the mystery

Date & Time Sunday 17th to Friday 22nd March, please ring for times. 0171 594 5808

Venue Imperial college.

Life, Energy and the Universe Talks and demonstrations

Date & Time Wed 20, 22 March 2.30pm to 5.10pm. For details ring 0171 631 6287.

Venue Physics Centre, Birkbeck College.

Sort it out! This tour takes a closer look at how classification helps organise the living world.

Date & Time Monday 18 to Friday 22 March
Venue The Natural History Museum

Modern problems in science solved instantly!

Three Chicago Performers will prove completely any hypothesis the audience suggests.

Date & Time Thurs 21 & Friday 22 March

Venue Bloomsbury, 15 Gordon Street

Cost £8, £6 concs

Science in Art AS Byatt, Steve Jones and Robert May discuss the contribution that science can make to writing.

Venue Science Museum

Date and Time Thurs 21 March 7.30pm

xi

album: terrorvision - regular urban survivors^{vik}

Doubtless thousands will disagree, but I find Terrorvision to be one of those annoying bands whose albums do not exhibit the same quality as their live shows. This apparent contradiction is a result of the type of songs they write - catchy, quirky, bouncy, occasionally heavy but always sing-along-atastic. At a gig, you can't enough of it; over an album, it gets a little bit tedious.

This, you understand, means that 'Regular Urban Survivors' does have its fair share of quality songs. Opener, 'Enteralterego' is one, boasting memorable riffs, a suitably big chorus, and an amusing trumpet section to top it all off. Recent Top 5 single, 'Perseverance', is another example,

although its blatant poppiness did make me feel a bit queasy at first. However, although the likes of 'Hide The Dead Girl', 'Celebrity Hit List' and 'Dog Chewed The Handle' are also fun in a throw-your-brain-out-of-the-window kind of way, there's always the underlying feeling that there's plenty of surface matter but very little actual substance. And can we please have a band record an album at Abbey Road and not end up sounding like The Beatles, please? (No, strike that. Can we please just have a band who don't sound like The Beatles wherever they record their albums?)

Oh well, this album will sell by the lorry-load and doubtless so will tickets for their forthcoming tour. If you can't buy both then I'd advise you to go for the latter... (6)

album: various - slowburn: blissed out beats and after hours anthems^{lucas}

Obviously someone has been going around telling the man that there is a hungry audience for this sort of thing. It never rains but it pours as they say, and this is a veritable storm of different styles, quality and remixes.

The opening track for once is not the best track on the compilation, in fact it is a rather tired sounding, slightly dubby track by the Leftfield produced Sandals. It has also been remixed by the said producers who have thankfully cut out any of the original vocals and really done their best to make this the after hours anthem alluded to in the title.

Cocteau Twins are next with one of their "impossible to comprehend lyrics" tracks which usually annoy but this one is really quite pretty. Then there is Audio Deluxe with a very jolly, summery piece. Some people could even be excused for describing the tinkling bells which run along in

the background throughout as being quite blissful.

This is followed by Warp 69's mellow, shuffly jazz sound, remixed to an unknown extent by Global Communications. And talking of the Aphex Twin we come to possibly the best track on this tape which is Mr James' remixed to fuck version of St Etienne's "Who do you think you are". Lots of scratchy bass and the merest snippets of sampled vocals. Very nice.

We get a predictable Oakenfold remix of Izit's "Stories", a track by some people called Innocence and then there is the interesting combination of an L.F.O. remix Art of Noise "Crusoe". Still recognisable, with a gentle break-beat. Yep, quite probably an anthem by now, in one form or another. The Ballistic Brothers (vs. Accentric Allios) keep on with the jazzy, break-beat sound though by the end of it you are ready for something a bit different... Probably not Electra though, who finish off this compilation on a rather normal note.

So, full marks for eclecticism but as always this means everybody has to put up with something they don't like. (7)

album: afghan whigs - black love^{paul}

Black. Dark. Angry. Three words that on their own pretty much summarise Black Love. Bright, happy and bouncy this is not. This is their sixth album and their most accomplished. The traditional soulful R&B influenced guitar rock returns for business, picking up from where 93's 'GenHemen' left off. The sound is blacker than ever with everything again hinging on Greg Dulli's coarse, emotion-packed vocals. The songs are bleak, dreary and mostly about being shafted by women.

For me, the best track is 'Blame', a thundering epic about one of Dulli's doomed obsessive loves. The intensity and depth of his lyrics is immense, they just have to be rooted in personal experience. Not even Michael Bolton could fake that level of emotion. And Greg must be one seriously unhappy man. After a few listens to this

album you can't help but feel sorry for him. His fury and self-loathing are almost tangible. When he screams "got you where I want you mother-fucker" in 'Honky's Ladder', you almost want to run and hide behind the sofa.

Throughout, the Whigs revel in their angst, but there's an infectious energy about this album that was not there previously. You can actually dance to this album, believe it or not. It's more up-front and confrontational, as if they're feeding from the negative emotion in the lyrics. Having said that, it's a bit short on catchy tunes and you'd be hard pushed to pick out a floor filler.

They are are cut above the indie grunge label that's been pinned on them over the years. Their music oozes a quality sadly lacking in most other bands struggling to fill the post-Nirvana void. The full emotional weight of this album doesn't really hit you until something like the tenth listen, and even then it keeps coming. The waiting is worth it though, and this is sure to go down on one of the classic albums of the 90s. An easy 9.

singles: j.trout, jim

charlies' angels - it's never gonna happen to me
Shampoo trying to be Shakespeare's Sister minus talent and originality: it comes, however in a nice pink fluffy cover with which you can impress your friends.

echobelly - dark therapy
Their best release to date; slowed down, moody and very very good. Buy, buy, buy.

psyched up janis - i died in my teens
Fairly non-descript whinging behind a wall of tuneless guitar noise. One for the fans, methinks...

foo fighters - big me
Poppy, radio-friendly, and utterly devoid of inspiration. An irritatingly bland record.

the trash can sinartras - the main attraction
Starts pleasantly, and remains that way, leaving it devoid of all emotion, range, tune lyrical content... A scottish Crowded House minus the talent.

the rain stones - who
is a good title for this record, as the band is named in four different ways on the cover. Never mind all that, the song is brilliant, in an awful, unaccessible way.

solo u.s. - where do u want me to put it
The sex content of this record does not stop at the title. Embarrassingly cheesy r'n'b/swing tripe.

hunneytunnel - solace e.p.
Jangly, jangly guitar pop with girly vocals. nothing you haven't heard before, unless you really don't listen to jangly guitar pop. Not particularly exciting.

ammonia - sleepwalking e.p.
Something from the days when everyone wanted to come from Seattle, by the sound of it. Heavy-ish guitar, distorted vocals, you know what I'm on about. Heard worse, heard better.

twin hazey - louise
As above but with less energy.

toenut - mouthful of pennies
Distorted guitars, haunting female vocals, experimental sounds and a fair quota of attitude. Should be my fave single this week. But I don't like any of them. Nah.

thirty ought six - adamantime (sic)
First of two offerings from Mute. This one's really bleak. I've heard more than I ever wanted.

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xii

singles:

jason, mr. happy

sussed - never wanna see your face
imagine a song with the Charlatans' baggy grooves and Gallagher-esque vocals. This near-Manic band have done it.

cecil - my neck
There are heavy tinges of the 'Manics' in this melancholy tune.

space - neighbourhood
Debut single from hotly tipped indie newcomers. The lyrics are extremely funny but I don't think much of the singer's voice.

the prodigy - firestarter
New material from the dance gurus. An exhilarating trip through a fantastic techno production.

black star liner - harmon session special xi
A fusion of sampled tablas, sitars and female vocals with an underlying heavy bass. Initially it is a mellow ambient track but halfway through the drums and treble kick in to give junglist feel to it.

deadstar - going down
The lead singer has the voice of Tanya Donnelly and this band have come up with a fine single.

jocasta - go
This is a heavy alternative outing from a band to watch out for in 96.

syndicate - taxi
This track grows on you after a few listens and you can catch them on tour with Marion.

puressence - india
This song has the haunting sounding vocals of Morrissey on top of a heavy indie/grunge tune.

tripping daisy - piranha
A grune tune from a Texan band whose lead singer could have been in Jane's Addiction.

state of grace - hello
Not quite up to the standard of last years 'Its Not Over' but quite a catchy happy tune none the less!

june - striptease
The latest in a long line of ill-fated American bands out to copy the highly successful Breeders formula. This is quite good, but it's hardly what you'd call ground breaking.

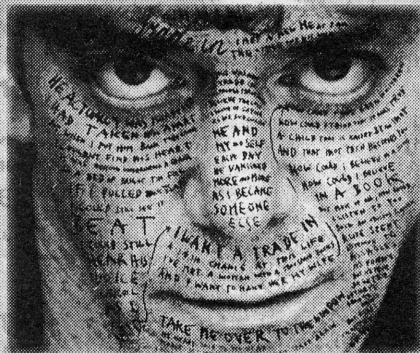
spooky
Clanky, experimental techno with, it seems, everything but the kitchen sink thrown into the mix. It's quite dreamy and has a nice feel to it though. Good stuff.

reeling

album: lou reed - set the twilight reeling^{alex}

Firstly, the CD case. Tinted blue equals twilight? I would have expected more imagination from Lou Reed or Warner or whoever has the unfortunate job of concept design.

For people more used to Lou Reed's earlier output, 'Set The Twilight Reeling' may bring his time with the Velvet Underground in to perspective, contrasting the energy and verve that characterised the Underground with the more settled stuff on this disc. He still manages to dip into that particular pouch, digging out the confusing 'Sex With Your Parents' to accompany the title track in what could be considered a return to earlier form, though the latter lacks the vocal rhythm that carries the former through distracting backing. Running behind these is the first track on the CD, 'Egg Cream', which starts promisingly but fails to



deliver on the dazzle-me front, lapsing into lingering-rockstar music by the end.

That is not to say that this album doesn't hold anything. 'NYC Man' and 'Trade In' prove that Lou Reed can still push out the easy pieces, though nobody knows why there's a wind quartet on 'NYC Man'. Whilst 'HookyWooky' drags the disc into slightly more zippy territory, once you've stopped laughing at the title. 'The Proposition' disappoints, 'Adventurer' slides, 'Riptide' hmmm... Look, don't misunderstand me, this album is good, Lou Reed can still write, play and entertain, but he no longer seems to have "it," the thing that made the Underground and

Lou Reed's post-Underground stuff exciting.

Start listening to this album, and it soon fades into background; you have difficulty picking it up again, it's just too unremarkable. If that's OK, fine, but take your 'Velvet Underground and Nico' poster down off the wall.

For Reed fans 3, for easy-listening folks 6.

gray race

album: bad religion - the gray race^{ian}

The explosion of Brit Pop has produced an endless number of young bands capitalising on the current wave of happy, guitar led songs that are anywhere from the ridiculous description of 'post-punk' to being pure pop. The young age of many of these bands usually leads to debut albums filled with happy, jump-a-long guitar riffs amid the usual claims that the lyrics are supposed to be dark and personal. On some albums, this is refreshing. However, it tends to end up as a clumsy attempt to inject some sort of eloquence into what is usually a load of rubbish. Bad Religion has been around for a while. 'The Gray Race' does not break any new ground musically. Typical guitar riffs and a nice, well backed chorus is the standard fare here. Lyrically, it is brilliant. Phrases like 'forming the fabric of a wayward people' and 'so many righteous revolutionaries spouting utopian

love'. 'Pity The Dead' asks the question of 'why do we pity the dead' and proceeds to elaborate the many negative sides of life. Although it made me take out my dictionary (knew it'd be useful someday), the phrases lacked the raw emotions of the Manic Street Preachers' 'The Holy Bible'. 'The Streets Of America' is probably the best track of the album, making statements like 'hard-cracked, daunting, lifeless veins, false hopes corridors to greener pastures is all that remains'.

For all the eloquent lyrics are worth, the music lacked the right passion. There was nothing great about the riffs and at times, it becomes boring. Extreme is an example of a great rock/metal band and their hugely underrated 'Three Sides To Every Story' is one of the albums to measure any rock album by. Every track here pales musically in comparison to the album. Greg Graffin's lyrics are often a joy to read in a time when lyrics do not seem to matter anymore. It is a shame that the music simply fails to provide an adequate canvas for the various prose. (6)

mega city four

album: mega city four - soulscrapper^{ian}

The album opens with 'Android Dreams' which is a nice tune but frankly, so was Honeycrack's 'Go Away' and so was The Longpigs' 'Far'. It's almost impossible these days not to find a great tune. The only question is, what is the difference? Not very much, unfortunately. One can almost imagine how a good tune will be like. There is nothing wrong with the songs themselves but if a compilation came out, it would be a challenge to remember the title of the last six tracks. Although there are loads of cool tunes around, very few will actually blow you away. In 'Soulscrapper', most

tracks do not even go that far. The music here is so typical of almost every new band that it is not even worth describing. The phrase 'heard it once, heard it all' seemed to have been adopted as the standard war chant of new pop/rock albums. Lyrically, the album is crap. Pure and simple. At times, it seems like a by product of teenage writing and I am surprised that they were bold enough to actually print them out in the sleeves. Well, if they want to print them, they have to take the flak as well. Musically, the only moment for me was the first track which was also their last single. The album tends to become a chaotic mix of loud riffs, shouts and nothing else. Don't bother with this album. There is more than enough out there to attract and hold your attention. (4)

album: sting - mercury

falling_{m.b.}

If you haven't heard of Sting then you must have been in a coma for years, but I'll recap anyway: he's a pretentious middle-class bloke with delusions of being a new-age hippie, he hangs around with Native American Indians (oh-so PC) discovering his inner self. He's hated by many, but I still like his music - well, most of it.

This album is a combination of quite good traditional Sting fare (simple but amusing lyrics, multiple layers of vocals, guitars and whatever other instruments he feels like adding) and some really dire 'experimentation' that he seems to try every other album. "I hung my head" is brilliant, great chorus, silly lyrics ("I pray for god's mercy, 'cos I'll soon be dead..."), everything you could expect from Sting. But the country & western-style "I'm so happy that I can't stop crying" is utterly, utterly dire.

The first three tracks provide a welcoming,

promising start to the album, and include the current single "Let your soul be your pilot", which is much better than the dance remix, needless to say. The quality starts to falter with "I was brought to my senses", which has a very long and boring start before finally becoming almost decent at the end. "You still touch me" sounds like he's ripped off the start of "Soul Man", but the rest of it is ok. Next there is the already mentioned c&w atrocity, a couple of good songs, then just eject the cd and never listen to the last three tracks, basically. You don't want to listen to Sting attempting (and failing) to sing in French and the complete self-indulgent arty toss that is "Lithium Sunrise" should have been killed at birth.

Overall it's a disappointment. I can't help but wonder whether this was released only half-finished in order to recoup some of his recent financial losses. It's left me wondering whether The Ineffable One has really lost the plot for good.

I've decided to give this cd one point for each decent track. So out of 11, it gets a 6.

album: various - annie on

one_{paul shore}

Yes indeed, Annie Nightingale's Radio 1 compilation "Annie on One" certainly is a mixed bag, there is a bit of everything, old and new, and its got a really nice green cover.

First off, there's 'Them' by the Sabres of Paradise, no need to say any more about Weatheralls classic track, so no to 'The Age of Love' by 'The Age of Love', again, if this 'aint one of your top ten tunes, you might as well listen to Bros.

The Transglobal Underground track "Looke here" is definitely one of the strongest tracks on the album, and funnily enough, it's followed by the weakest track, Kris Needs Rockerz Dub mix of Primal Scream's 'Rocks.'

Then there's a good track from The

Prophecy, which is quite Rock-ey and then the outstandingly funky 'Da funk' by Daft Punk.

T-Powers 'Liberation' is awesome intelligent jazzy jungle and Sam Sevens 'What's that sound' is one of the biggest Brit hop tunes of the moment. And then there's my current top tune 'Clubbed to death' - kinda classical piano meets Brit hop-techno-chillout stuff.

Number 10 is some laid back rap from the Black Sheep, and finally its an old indie band Flowered up, with 'weekender' (all 12 minutes and 56 seconds of it). Definitely a step in the right direction for them.

There's only 11 tracks, but most of them are quite long, so there's plenty of music on here. This one will suit everyone, all my mates like it whether they're into indie techno or whatever. And if you don't like it, it's still got a really nice green cover. (8)

album: lush - lovelife_{max}

Having banished the poor management that was partly to blame for the lack of success of their last album, 1994's 'Split', Lush are back with 'Lovelife' and are at last attaining mainstream chart appeal (to some extent anyway), with the singles 'Ladykillers' and 'Single Girl'.

The band have obviously tried to shake off the 'ethereal' tag they have been labelled with in the past, by removing the sound effects which predominated on their debut 'Spooky' and leaving a distinctly cleaner and therefore starker sound to this, their third album. This might have stretched the band's talents beyond their capabilities, but fortunately they have coped exceptionally well and whilst 'Lovelife' doesn't offer anything new, it is an excellent album.

The girl's laddish reputation is reinforced on tracks such as 'Ladykillers' (the latest single), where Miki attacks those men who try to use the thin pretence of having a politically correct atti-

tude towards women to their advantage when trying to cop off - telling them 'I don't need your practiced lines / your school of charm mentality'. Similarly, 'Childcatcher' finds her berating those who can't cope with women with opinions of their own - 'You just want a daughter without the wife / You don't need a girlfriend you need a life'. A number of the songs are concerned with a need to be popular, glamorous and loved.

Apart from 'Single Girl', the majority of these are ballads, such as the excellent 'Olympia', with emotive strings and horns being used to good effect, producing a song that wouldn't be out of place on a 60's film soundtrack. Only once (on 'Papasan') is both the listener's patience and the band's vocal ability tested. Even Jarvis Cocker gets a look in, on the duet 'Ciao', a tongue-in-cheek look at the aftermath of a broken relationship.

Albums of this quality don't come along very often, make sure you don't miss out. (8)

singles: mr. happy, paul

junior dangerous - comin' out to play
average rap/ragga song featuring lucas on vocals. It features 6 remixes (why?) and lasts an incredible 37 minutes which is half an hour too much

pulp - something changed
Pulp, thanks to Jarvis' heroics are currently unstoppable. This is another classy single taken from the superb 'different class' album. It also features 'Mile End' which is taken from the 'Trainspotting' soundtrack

combustible edison - short double laite
This is a really poor effort at being weird and original; it sounds like they're playin at a circus or a funfare.

ben harper - ground on down
Looks like Ben Harper is desperate to be the next Lenny Kravitz. Poor blues which doesn't do anything for me.

intastella - grandmaster
Intastella are best described as a dancier Portishead. Good single that also features an excellent remix by Tricky

nefilim
Carl McKoy goes solo and unfortunately decides to go death metal. I'm sure it's great if you like this sort of thing.

neurotic - heaven
This is just abysmal euro-techno drivel. Buy it only if you're a devoted follower of 2 Unlimited and Technohead.

prophets of da city - muthalandfunk
Another fairly average rap band, this time from South Africa. Imagine a cross between Kaliphz and Credit to the Nation. Bags of energy but nothing much news to offer.

pharcyde
Smooth, tuneful hiphop with a touch of jazz thrown in. This is very mellow, very listenable stuff. A big thumbs up.

republica - ready to go
The first rule of being a band that rips off other bands is to do it better than the band you're copying. Menswear failed, Oasis succeeded, Republica almost succeeded but at the end of the day no-one can touch Suncream at this sort of girly vocal technopop.

garbage - stupid girl
This is the business. Garbage, continuing where the late Curve left off, have produced another excellent single. Not quite as good as "Happy when it rains" but comes close.

theatre: this week

north pole theatre 0181 333 1956 BR greenwich from charing cross
dead awaken
mon - sat 8.00pm £4.00
concs

the bush 0181 743 3388 shepherd's bush tube
serving it up
mon - sat 8.00pm £6.00
concs

almeida 0171 359 4404 angel/highbury & islington tubes, N1
1953
8pm mon-sat, 4pm sat
from £6.50

wyndhams theatre 0171 369 1736 charing cross road, WC2
skylight
mon - sat 8pm, £9.50-£25

royal court 0171 730 2554 sloane square, SW1
valley song
mon - sun 7.30pm, £5-£18

apollo shaftesbury 0171 494 5070 shaftesbury avenue, W1
dead guilty
mon - fri 8pm, sat 5pm and 8.15pm, £8 - £22

duke of york's 0171 836 5122 st martins lane, WC2
the changing room
mon - sat 7.30pm £5-£15

haymarket theatre royal 0171 930 8800 piccadilly circus tube
an ideal husband
mon - sat 7.45pm £10-£24, standby for concs £10.50

criterion theatre 0171 369 1747 piccadilly circus tube
the complete works of william shakespeare (abridged)
tue-sat 8pm £5.50-£20 standby for concs £10

old vic 0171 928 7616 waterloo tube, SE1
the wind in the willows
7.30pm mon-sat, 2.30pm wed & sat, from £10

play - dead awaken id.field

Describing this production, the word 'surreal' springs to mind immediately, closely followed by 'fresh', 'innovative' and 'entertaining'; Ibsen is well known for his often very strange style. The London-Irish playwright, innovator and founder of the Praxis theatre laboratory Sam Dowling has successfully liberated this play from time and place to make it truly universal.

In the intimate surroundings of the North Pole Theatre in Greenwich – possibly the smallest acting space I've ever seen – the audience cannot help but feel involved, especially since the set is continually being painted during the performance.

Right from the start a barrage of complex ideas is fired from the Norwegian playwright's mind as Rubeck, an artist, faces crisis in his failing marriage and the return of his former lover and model Irene. His wife, Nadia, is drawn into the arms of the bear-hunter while the constant presence of the shadow – a silent woman dressed in strange black garb is distinctly unnerving.

Dead Awaken is often described as a problem play because if a cast tries too hard to understand its deeper meaning they limit themselves to portraying only their interpretation. This company, however, work without a director and are continually changing and improving the performance, leaving it up to the audience to figure it out. The play is about an hour long, which is



about as much as the average sane person can absorb, and provides plenty of time to sample the wares of the bar downstairs and argue over why on earth there was a tin bath in the centre of the stage.

In his first article for a fortnightly review in 1900, a young James Joyce described the play as Ibsen's best, but it's not often seen. Discover art, life, idealism, young love, bitterness and the meaning of life – it's all there.

play - serving it up ucas

Set in an urban wasteland somewhere in the East End of London, David Eldridge's play 'Serving It Up' is an in-yer-face tragicomedy dripping hilarity and pathos in equal proportions. Sharp social caricatures are depicted where the slags, the (new) lads and the parents melt into one dystopian and dysfunctional mess. Smart, street-wise banter ricochets around the confines of this compact theatre; the dialogue occasionally scratching the surface of some deeper realities.

Essentially it is a story about the boredom and frustration of the underclass: the disaffected,

the disenchanted and the disillusioned. Their escape comes in many forms. Val, the bored mother, has an affair with the best friend of her son, while Sonny (funnily enough the son) spirals out of control through anger and violence. He develops an overt nationalistic pride - which embodies itself in some rampant racism. The acting is top notch; the cast filling out their limited roles to the fullest extent possible, though admittedly none had any real presence. The set was one of minimalist realism: concrete and



steel bars, while the occasional snatches of music were interlinked with the script and varied from The Who to Supergrass. This is emotionally exciting fringe at its best.

film: toy story jenny ho

Andy's come to life when he and all other humans leave the room. They are led by Woody (voiced by Tom Hanks), a pull-string cowboy doll and Andy's all-time favourite toy. Then disaster strikes for Woody; for his seventh birthday, Andy receives Buzz Lightyear (voiced by Tim Allen), the latest action figure complete with voice sampler, laser beam, karate-chop action and pop-out wings.

Woody quickly finds himself second best, as Buzz becomes Andy's new favourite, and he decides that his only hope of regaining his status as Andy's favourite is to get rid of Buzz. However, his plan backfires and he finds himself lost in the outside world with Buzz as his only companion. Andy's family will soon be moving house so Woody and Buzz must work together in order to get back home before the move.

The first ever full-length computer-animated movie is definitely the most impressive of Disney's offerings so far. Apart from the slightly plastic-looking humans, the end result is awe-

inspiring; both the toys and backdrops have an incredible three-dimensional feel.

Toy Story has many of the ingredients which have contributed to the remarkable success of most of Disney's animated releases: convincing anthropomorphism (Is there any kid who hasn't played with dolls and acted as if the dolls were real people?); good story-telling; marvellous characterisation; humour and excitement. (The climax is real edge-of-the-seat-stuff as Woody and Buzz attempt to board the moving van).

For once, the soundtrack consists of few songs which is a relief in a way, since the old formula was becoming a little predictable. All of these qualities add up to one of the truly unmissable films of 1996.

Toy Story is inventive and imaginative and is a film that keeps children's attention while also entertaining the grown-ups. It has been four years in the making but it has definitely been worth the wait. Go and see it - you'll be in for a major treat.

video: die hard iii spooky

John McClane is having another bad day. This time round, the brother of the villain from *Die Hard* is threatening to set off bombs in public places around New York City unless McClane (Bruce Willis) completes a variety of tasks and puzzles. Samuel L. Jackson plays Zeus, a shop-keeper reluctantly forced to accompany McClane on his chase around New York.

Although the initial plot seems quite promising, the script quickly runs out of ideas and reverts to a secondary plot about a gold heist. Neither plot seems quite compatible with the other, and neither are developed sufficiently to sustain the movie. By maintaining exactly the same pace all the way through, the director has given very little sense of a beginning, middle, or end - in fact, the film seems to end twice.

The Willis-Jackson partnership provides some witty repartee, but the humour revolves around a single joke which wears thin over the course of the film. Willis has perfected his John McClane, doing the whole film as if he really does have a bad hangover. Jeremy Irons is suitably nasty as the villain but, probably through a lack of screen time (he doesn't actually appear until the half-way mark), doesn't make as much impact as Alan Rickman did in the first film.

Because the action is not confined to one location, the film lacks the sense of claustrophobia

which permeated its predecessors. Unlike the first two, McClane is not alone; not only has he been given a partner, but he also has the entire NYPD as support. Last of all, the sense has gone that McClane is an accidental hero; no longer is he simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Because of these differences, this is less a *Die Hard* film and more a buddy-buddy cop movie, and the film consequently sacrifices a lot of originality already. To be fair, it is at least different from its predecessors but what it has become has already been much better done - witness the *Lethal Weapon* series, or *Bad Boys*.

All in all, besides the fact that the protagonist is called McClane and over the course of the film he gets increasingly beaten-up, there is very little to distinguish this as a *Die Hard* film. Although the New York setting could theoretically have provided many plot devices, the sheer range of options means that the scriptwriters haven't had to be as inventive, and the lack of original ideas shows.

Therefore, *With A Vengeance* is a poor third installment to the *Die Hard* trilogy, suffering mainly from a lack of identity. If it had borne closer resemblance to its predecessors (despite having the same director as the first) then it would quite probably have been a worthy third film, but as it is, it comes across like McClane's hangover.

celluloid guide: this week

correct until friday

odeon kensington
0426 914666

sense and sensibility
12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15

french twist
1.55, 4.30, 7.05, 9.40

nixon
12.35, 4.30, 8.25

restoration
1.20, 4.05, 6.50, 9.35

tube; ken high street. £7, £6,
£3.50 before 5pm mon-fri,
£4 before 5pm sat-sun

mgm fulham road
0171 370 2636

get shorty
1.40, 4.10, 6.40, 9.10

trainspotting
3.40, 7.10, 9.30

heat
1.10, 4.40, 8.20

casino
1.20, 5, 8.40
tube; south ken then bus
£6.80, £3.70 students and
before 6pm

mgm chelsea
0171 325 5096

nixon
12.45, 4.25, 8.15

trainspotting
4.35, 7.15, 9.30

french twist
1.30, 4.05, 6.40, 9.25

la cérémonie
3.55, 9.35

restoration
1.20, 6.35

tube; sloane square then bus
£6.20, £3.70 students and
before 6pm

renoir
0171 837 8402

rendez-vous in paris
2.15, 4.25, 6.40, 8.55

ulysses' gaze
12.35, 4, 7.35

tube; russell square
£6, £4 1st perf, £2.50
students

minema
0171 369 1723

the horseman on the roof
3, 6, 8.30

don't tube it, walk it!
£6.50, £4 matinees

empire
0171 437 1234

get shorty
1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45

casino
12.30, 4.15, 8

seven
12.45, 3.25, 6, 8.45

tube; leicester square or
piccadilly circus
£7.50, £9, £4 1st perf mon-
fri

competitions

loads and loads of prizes to give away!!!

'get shorty' is this year's hottest comedy, and *felix* has got together with United International Pictures to bring you this competition to win exclusive 'get shorty' prizes.

the prizes

- a 'get shorty' zippo lighter
- a pair of 'get shorty' shades
- a 'get shorty' soundtrack
- sets of get shorty mini-posters
- a pair of tickets for you local cinema

and all winners will have the chance to win a prop from the film, signed by danny devito

plus

we also have a video of 'die hard with a vengeance' to give away, thanks to fiona from beatwax. to be honest i really enjoyed the video despite the review! (sorry spooky - magpie)

how to enter

write your name and address on a piece of paper, come into the *felix* office and place your entry into the competition box - simple! all names will be entered into all the competitions and those winners will be entered into the national competition for the 'get shorty' prop.

all winners will be contacted by post

the closing date is this friday at 12.30pm

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film: get shorty jenny ho

John Travolta is Chilli Palmer, a Miami loan shark and avid movie fan who is sent to Los Angeles to collect a gambling debt from B-movie producer Harry Zimm (Gene Hackman). After breaking into the flat of Harry's girlfriend, Karen Flores (Rene Russo), where Harry is spending the night, Chilli pitches him an idea for a new movie to star Martin Weir (Danny Devito, who also part produced the film). Martin Weir is a big star in Hollywood and the 'Shorty' whom every producer wants for their movie. He also happens to be Karen Flores' ex-husband.

From his encounter with Harry, Chilli decides to become a movie producer and soon discovers that loansharking was the perfect training ground for making movies.

One of Chilli's recent assignments was to find a dry cleaner who faked his death to avoid paying money he owed to the Mob. Thus, Chilli pitches his new movie as one about a loan shark who has come to Los Angeles on the trail of a

man who has faked his death. The blurring of the world of the Mob with that of the movie-making business is a fun and clever idea but gives rise to a plot which is difficult to follow at times. Nevertheless, *Get Shorty* is a hugely enjoyable comedy/satire (a little reminiscent of Robert Altman's *The Player*).

John Travolta has already won the Best Comedy Actor award at this year's Golden Globes showing that his 'comeback' performance in *Pulp Fiction* was no flash in the pan. In *Get Shorty*, Travolta oozes charisma and epitomises cool. Hackman, Russo and Devito provide able support while Dennis Farina also gives an amusing turn as Ray 'Bones' Barboni. Also look out for cameos from Bette Midler and Harvey Keitel.

Adapted from Elmore Leonard's novel, the end result of Barry Sonnenfeld's (*The Addams Family*) *Get Shorty* is a film which combines humour, intelligence and violence in an amusing examination of Hollywood and showbusiness.



film: sgt bilko vik (yes the music ed)

This is a film that a lot of people have been waiting a long time for. Not in the same way that they have been waiting for hyped film adaptations of Scottish novels perhaps (have you spotted that train?), but with the general hope that this would be the film that sees one of Hollywood's famous actors return to the sort of role which he's made for. Thankfully, Steve Martin has done just that - he's no longer trying to be soppy and paternal; he's just being funny. And yes, *Sgt. Bilko* is funny. At least it is if you like the sort of humour displayed in *Police Academy* before they started recycling gags in the vain hope that only amnesiacs were watching.

Steve Martin plays Sgt. Bilko (surprise, surprise), a man who can smell money like a shark can smell blood and who runs a million and one illegal gambling ventures at the army camp

whilst pretending to be head of mechanics. This is about as inventive as the story gets. The tale is a familiar one, of a corrupt-but-lovable hero fighting to keep the camp open despite the efforts of an equally corrupt-but-not-half-as lovable past adversary, with a sub-plot involving an honest rookie who joins Bilko's division but predictably ends up as dishonest as the rest of the people there. No, it's not very original but then this is not the sort of film you go to see for an intricate plot and message. The emphasis is firmly on the gags, both visual and oral, with some particularly hilarious ones which make light of the 'homosexuals in the army' issue.

All in all, *Sgt. Bilko* is a welcome, if not spectacular, return to form for Steve Martin. It's amusing and a pleasant way to pass an evening, although it lacks that certain *je ne sais quoi* that would make it a great film. I suppose if I were doing a music review, as I'm accustomed, I'd give it a (7), but I'm not so you'll just have to imagine

wednesday

20

march

IC Sailing Club

12.15pm. Meet outside Southside, go sailing. (R)

Skate Society

12.15pm. Southside Lounge. Contact Alex on a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk or 0171 352 9111 for details. (R)

Wargames

1pm Table Tennis room. (R)

Fitness Club

5 - 6pm. Southside Gym. Intermediate/Advanced step class. (R)

Squash Club

3.20 - 5.20pm. Sports centre. 'Club Night' (R)

IC Symphony Orchestra

7 - 10pm. Great Hall. (R)

Wing Chun Kung Fu

1.30 - 3.30pm. Lesson. Union Gym, 2nd Floor Union Building. Beginners welcome. 1st lesson free. (R)

Ents

8-1am. The final chance to FROLIK! this term. ICU. Free.

w e d n e s d a y

next diary
deadline:
noon,
April 29th

the
week
ahead

thursday

21

march

Fitness Club

12.30pm. Die Hard circuit training
5.30pm. Beginners aerobics. (R)

ConSoc

1pm. Southside. <http://www.su.ic.uk/clubs-/societies/scc/consoc/home.html> (R)

Gliding Club

1pm. Aero 266. (R)

Mountaineering Club

7pm. Social, Southside Upper Lounge. (R)

Yoga Soc

6.15 - 7.45pm. Table tennis room. Beginners' Kunalini yoga class. More information from mpn@doc.ic.ac.uk, ex 48237. (R)

Christian Union

6.30 - 7.45pm. W2 in Biology. (R)

ICCAG

8.15pm. Weeks Hall basement. Soup run for the homeless. (R)

Skate Soc

Night skate - all welcome. Contact Alex on 0171 352 9111 or a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk (R)

YHA

1pm Southside Lounge. "Take a walk on the wild side." (R)

Ents

8-11pm FREE. Celebrate in style with the Davinci's Cocktail Night.

t h u r s d a y

Computer Programming

1996 British Computer Society programming Competition

The regional heats of the annual BCS Programming Competition took place on 25th February. Five teams from Imperial College took part in the South East Regional heat at the British Aerospace centre in Farnborough. The teams were made up of five people and the competition involved solving several programming problems within the short time period of four hours using a single PC.

The all-2nd year team *Moccasin*, made up of John Scott (Team Manager), Phillip Pearson, Leon Brocard, Alex Yip and Xiang Feng, finished third in the heat and is through to the final, defying most people's expectations. The second IC team through is *Turquoise* who finished 5th in the heat.

The final will be held on 23rd March at Preston.

friday

22

march

Amateur Radio Society (HamSoc)

1pm. Meeting, top floor of ICU. (R)

Rag Meeting

1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

Pakistan Society

3 - 5pm. Basketball, union gym. (R)

Wing Chun Kung Fu

5-7pm. Union Gym, 1st lesson free. (R)

Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced Step. Southside. (R)

Ents

9pm - 3am. ICU. You'd better believe it! EASTER CARNIVAL. Three bands, four discos, cabaret, seven colour laser, guest DJs, late bar, barbecue and big give-aways (right) £5 / £4 with entscard, available now from the ICU office. Buy before it totally sells out.

Free minibus service

from the union, taking lone female students home to anywhere in central London. First run midnight, last run 2am. (R)

f r i d a y

Tropical Dub Storm

On March 1st, Flor Del Bosque, an environmental group dedicated to global forest protection whose key members work in the Biology department, called upon The Mighty Jah to unleash a vast storm in Central London. Four hundred disciples followed the paths of environmental enlightenment and converged upon the School of Oriental and African Studies to witness the sermon of Aba-Shanti-I, whereupon the Bass Guru let rip the full power of the sounds of Jah, lightning and thunder until the early hours.

The whole spectacle was well keyed up with Shanti-I's 10K rig: a bass machine so potent it is more suited as a weapon of awesome destruction in a Bond film. People danced themselves into a carnal fever fuelled by mesmeric dub and Red Stripe. In addition to this aural orgy, Flor Del Bosque provided full visual effects centred upon high profile projects based in South American rainforests. By the last half hour internal organs had been reduced to pulp and the building's foundations were in danger of collapsing, besides, the bar had been reduced to selling the last few cans of warm cider.

Long range weather forecasts predict another dub storm at the same venue on May 3rd when Flor Del Basque and House of Roots in collaboration with SOAS Union call upon Aba-Shanti-I to unleash Tropical Dub Storm Chapter Two. Further info from: jrwill@ic.ac.uk or m.schoeman@ic.ac.uk.



OpSoc

Do you envisage spending the summer catching up on some serious work? If the answer's no, come on tour with OpSoc. You won't get any work done but you'll have the best holiday ever (well the best this August anyway).

Yes, the time of year is approaching when a large group of people descend upon Budleigh Salterton, a small seaside town in East Devon we think (you forget so much after a few pints of the local cider). Whilst in Budleigh Salterton we aim to put on a show. This year Susan Foister is directing *The Gondolier's* with a difference!

"Venice 1958: a typical cross section of young working-class Italians: mechanics, office workers, shop assistants, and of course, serving the burgeoning post-war tourist industry; gondoliers. Into this bursts the decadent but glamorous world of film stars, paparazzi, minor royalty and professional celebrities.

"Great music, a very silly plot and a

sharp suited, fast-moving, sex goddess of a production owing more to La Dolce Vita and West Side Story than to Richard D 'Oyly Carte.

"What more could you want?"

The Finer Details:

•We need technicians, cast and musicians – in fact anybody who wants to take part is welcome.

•We need you between 27th July and 11th August.

The Important Bits:

Come along to the informal first meeting / sing through on Tuesday 19th March at 7.30 pm in the Huxley building, room 308. If you can't gain access to Huxley, meet in Da Vincis slightly earlier (by far the better plan). If you can't make this meeting, don't worry as the first rehearsal of next term is on Tuesday, 30th April with auditions on the 12th and 13th May, so there is still plenty of time to get involved. Watch the OpSoc notice board for further information.

For more details contact Susan Foister on 0181 - 390 0110.

Alcohol Awareness Week

Dependence on alcohol can be difficult to define. How can you tell if you are?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Have you ever tried, unsuccessfully, to cut down or stop drinking?
- Have you ever found it hard to control your drinking?
- Has your drinking ever interfered with your work, social life or relationships with family or friends?

• Do people ever criticise your drinking? Does it annoy you if they do?

If the answer to any of the above is YES think carefully before answering the following question:

Do you drink too much? If you do, why not cut down!

Try keeping an *honest* drinking diary (see below): the recommended weekly limits are 14 units for women and 21 units for men.

Women up to 3 units/day, men up to 4 units/day: but not every day!!
1 unit = 1 small glass wine = 1 measure spirit = ½ pint beer or cider

Drinkwise Diary				
	What	Where/when	Units	TOTAL
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				
Sunday				
Total for the week:				

Game On!

Now that I've chewed my nails to the quick, I am happy and very much relieved to announce that the Easter Carnival will be going ahead and there will be a bar extension, despite any rumours to the contrary.

And of course it's going to have been worth every little panic attack 'cos for your pleasure we've got entertainment from three live bands, four discos, cabaret, a seven colour laser, a cocktail bar, a barbecue and three different giveaways.

The headline band is are new One Little Indian signing *Shaker*, a band promising big chords, surging guitars, and vocals laced with poison. They're on a definite pop tip, a darker Jamiroquai, who are expected to do huge things. Support comes from a College band called *Movement* who are quite dance orientated and should have you moving your arses. Upstairs in the concert hall the Mantra crew are resurrected as *Zenith* and promise some pounding club sounds.

Cabaret is in the Ents Lounge between groups, and comes from the man known as "The Bastard Son of Tommy Cooper". If you've not seen his act before, either ask someone who was at the Bust-A-Gut show and could bear to keep watching, or imagine the sort of thing you could do to yourself with 26 inch nails and a sledgehammer. Not for the faint hearted, he makes The Regurgitator look like your favourite uncle.

The four rooms of music throw together all your Friday night faves; Pop Tarts in the Ents Lounge, the UDH will be its usual chilled out self with a cocktail bar, the gym falls under the spell of Sex on The Beach, with the posse on a more mellow tip. Finally, the Concert Hall, with a seven-colour laser, becomes home to Hedonizm - top bengin' club tunes and special guests in the shape of Andrew Archer & Scott Dawson from top remix outfit *The Forth*.

On top of all this there's our usual Barbecue, and as a special treat we've got three lots of goodies to give-away, with T-shirts, records, sunglasses etc for "Die Hard With a Vengeance", the band *Whipping Boy*, "Get Shorty" and the "Annie on One" compilation.

All of this could be yours for just £5 or £4 if you've got an Entscard, and tickets are available now from the Union Office.

the
week
ahead

IC Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert

Aristocrats and Plebeians:
Copland Fanfare for the Common Man
Walton Violin Concerto
Tchaikovsky Symphony No.6 in B minor

Friday March 8th, 1996

Word is getting around! Even with the extra seating, there was a capacity audience for what turned out to be a remarkable evening. This was heralded by Copland's Fanfare for Brass and Percussion of 1942, which immediately established the precision and flair of these sections and set the standard for what was to follow.

All three composers were crucially influenced and supported by older women with strong personalities. Copland was inspired by his Parisian composition teacher, Nadia Boulanger, who he found "exhilarating" (and who captivated those of us who saw and heard her at the RCM a few years ago). Walton was supported by Viscountess Wimborne, who lived in Wimborne House at this end of Piccadilly. Tchaikovsky's muse was Madam Nadezhda von Meck, who gave lavish financial support for 15 years and then broke off the passionate but entirely platonic (they never met!) relationship in such a way as to affect him profoundly.

The Walton violin concerto expresses his

feelings for Alice Wimborne, who took him to Ravello, near Naples, to aid his convalescence from surgery and to encourage him, rather forcefully, to write the piece. After many wartime tribulations it was given its English premiere two years later in 1941, at the Albert Hall. David Juritz, the leader of the

takeable. This is Walton at his very best. Particularly memorable in this performance were the meltingly beautiful sounds from the woodwinds.

Tchaikovsky's "Pa'thetique" symphony took us to another emotional extreme. Given what follows, the middle movements exemplify Auden's remark that "Music is the brandy of the damned". Walton's brandy is for enjoyment, but here we really need it to get through the last movement. It was the turn of the strings for prominence, and their playing, in both intonation and attack, and better than ever before, took us to the brink of the abyss. The music stopped; there was a long pause, followed by a gasp of appreciation and then grateful applause.

Nine days after the first performance, Tchaikovsky died, probably not as a suicide as has been claimed, but by contracting cholera by drinking unboiled water. Evidence from the Tchaikovsky Museum in Russia (which only became available in the last year or so) seems to be conclusive on this point.

If performances like these can be produced with current facilities, we can look forward very eagerly to the future endeavours of master blender Richard Dickins, when the music distillery which is to be built above the college library, as announced by the Rector at Commemoration Day last term, becomes available.



London Mozart Players, is an ideal soloist for this piece. His unassuming manner and powerful playing match the relaxed opening, which gives no hint of what is to follow, and the developing brilliant display which was designed to stretch the abilities of Heifetz in all three movements. Throughout, the sense of romance and Italian provenance are unmis-

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LETTERS TO FELIX: EDITED BY ALEX FEAKES

Dear Rachel,

Congratulations to your team on producing the elections special so speedily. I'd just like to point out that my comment – "those Mary's votes didn't make the difference at all" was said tongue in cheek.

However, I'll stand by what I said. The results would not have been affected if no-one at Mary's had voted: mainland IC voting gave the four victors convincing wins, even in the well contested posts. Only for Felix, where the block vote weakened a little, did Mary's fail to confirm the freely made choices. A win's a win – it's not the size that counts.

Though entertaining in parts (whilst being generally insulting and immature) the hustings at Mary's needn't have been treated like a victory parade. As far as block voting goes I'm all in favour so long as all the candidates are considered. If groups of people make the effort to calculate what's best for them why should-

n't they promote their candidates? And if anyone can drum up enough enthusiasm to get more than half of their colleagues to vote then that has to be better than the feeble turnout in my own department.

The turnout of 11% was disappointing. If 89% of us have no interest (or at least don't have a say) in who is: representing us in IC and beyond, keeping an eye on union services and budgets, looking after the interests of the enormous range of clubs and societies, or producing our weekly news-sheet, then that's a great shame. Well done to those who had the courage to stand for the elections.

Olly Newman, Elections Committee, Civ Eng dep rep.

Dear Felix,

On behalf of ConSoc I am writing to express my thanks to ICU for providing the necessary funding for Daniel Neiss, one of our members, to attend a 7-day

conference in Oxford at the end of this term. The conference, which will focus on the current and future role of the EC, will be an excellent opportunity for discussion of real and highly relevant issues. The findings of this meeting will be presented to the EC commission at a future date.

Jamie Oliver, ConSoc Press Officer.

Union money used for political ends? No, just joking. Good luck, Daniel, and let's just hope that you all reach a consensus for once, eh?

Dear Felix,

I'd like to say congratulations on a well-written piece concerning the International Night in last week's issue. Regrettably, however, I must say I was somewhat annoyed by an error in the article in which I was misquoted as saying 'there were a few more mistakes last year.' Despite the fact that I was not involved with the

Overseas Students' Committee last year (and therefore could not make a comment regarding last year's event) and that Mr Riley, the journalist who penned the article, did not interview me himself – I fail to see how an irresponsible remark like that could have made it to the piece. I realise that occasional misprints do occur, but let's not keep them too occasional, shall we?

G Tan (OSC Honorary Junior Treasurer).

As far as I can gather, your quote was passed on to Robin by someone who had spoken to you. In any case, it only served to underline the ever improving success of International Night.

Deadline for letters in Felix 1055:

12pm, Tuesday 30th April

Please bring your union card for identification. Letters may be edited for length. The opinions expressed by the editor or guest editors are not necessarily those of the paper as a whole.

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Please note payment in full is required to guarantee accommodation. Provisional reservations will be released if not confirmed within one week.

FELIX

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journalists

Ever since I started this job I have insisted that I'm not a journalist, that I have no intention of adopting journalism as a career, and that this one-year foray into the printed media didn't make me one of *them*.

But nonetheless, when I get introduced, that's the label I have to live with, and that's the corner I had to explain my way out of one day this week when the assembled company had had just a bit too much of the Dunblane tragedy. We had been watching the News at Ten's "home affairs correspondent" storming into the home of Thomas Hamilton's mother in Glasgow: *"Did you have any idea that your son had the potential to take the lives of so many innocent children? Didn't you ever think it was strange that he should want to spend so much time with little boys?"*

Now I'm not for one moment trying to suggest that editing *Felix* is akin to being some kind of hardnosed, ruthless Fleet Street hack, but in some small way I can empathise with that kind of journalistic sensationalism. I've felt the frustra-

tion of watching someone throw away a great many hours' worth of informative articles because they're all "boring".

Everyone knows that you get a certain kick out of finding out something scandalous before anyone else, and being able to announce the news like it's some prized possession of your own. It gets somewhat better when you're announcing it to several thousand people rather than just your flatmates. What must it feel like, I wonder, having your byline on the front page of the *Sun*, knowing that several million people are going to devote their attention to what you have to say?

It really is true that journalism is a massively corrupting force. Many times in the couple of years I've been involved with *Felix* I've seen otherwise thoughtful and caring individuals turn thoroughly nasty as they worry at the bones of a story, not afraid to keep kicking and kicking and digging some more when their victim is down. It's times like this week when I am immensely thankful that the vast majority of what we deal with here centres around issues like electronic cash cards and Estates

EDITORIAL TEAM:

NEWS: ALEX FEAKES FEATURES: MARK BAKER

SUB-EDITING AND PROOFING: TIM ST CLAIR

MUSIC: VIK BANSAL CINEMA: WEI LEE

PHOTOGRAPHY: IVAN CHAN SPORT: JONATHAN TROUT

PUZZLES: CATFISH CLUBS AND SOCS: STEPHEN HAMILTON

THEATRE: KATHERINE FISHWICK AND CLAIRE SAMUEL

ARTS: JEREMY SCIENCE: BEN WILKINS

COLLATING LAST WEEK: MARKS BAKER AD BRIDGE, AND SOME
RANDOM RCSU TYPES DELIVERIES: ALEX AND ROB

PRIVATEYESED: MANY THANKS TO IVAN, TIM, ALEX, MARK, JEREMY,
ROBIN, JONATHAN AND DAVE

We Want

blatant publicists to plug ICU for all it's worth. Yes! It's time we were all thinking about the
1996 Union handbook

Papers for the elected positions to amass information, edit and put together the handbook have been put up: see Rachel in the Felix office for more details... oh, and you get money for the privilege, too.

Clubs and Societies

You should really be thinking about how you're going to publicise yourselves and get huge numbers of new members next year NOW! That means taking photographs of what you get up to, and beginning to think what you want to say about what you do and where you're going.

FELIX WEEK

The indispensable guide for Felix contributors and helpers

monday, high noon
clubs & societies
articles deadline

monday 1.20pm
reviewers'
meeting

monday 6pm
news meeting
tuesday noon
arts meeting

tuesday noon
letters deadline

tuesday 6pm
features meeting
thursday night
collating

friday morning
another Felix hits the street...

Women Play Football!

IC II 4 - 0 UCH

It was a joyous sunny morning as IC II found themselves at Harlington with a full team and nearly six supporters.

This unprecedented turnout led to some confusion; the match was preceded by a changing room catfight as only seven full strips emerged from the kitbag and Juliette ran off with the last sock.

The first half was messy but debutante Sarah Turner made her mark with a well timed goal.

IC really showed off their ball skills in the second half as Joanna banged one in and then Juliette did her stuff.

Well done IC, onwards and upwards next season.

Mixed form and ban for Imperial Boat Club

Last Saturday saw the eagerly awaited match between Imperial College and Cambridge Boat Race Clubs. The supreme confidence of the Cambridge crew was evident, more so after they were handed a length lead from the start.

However, by the four minute mark, IC had drawn level, and finished 2/3 lengths ahead at the end of the Chiswick Ait. The second race saw the Light Blues cross into IC's water and amazingly unpunished for this by the umpires, they managed to win by a half length. Cambridge will need more than bad umpiring if they hope to retain the Beefeater Trophy this year.

The Queen's Tower Eight met the Goldie crew over the

same distances. Unfortunately, a mistake in the coxing allowed Goldie to take the first piece, but IC won the second by a larger margin in what was described as a 'confidently inevitable' win.

Similar form was displayed by IC at the Reading University Head. The Novices won this event by 30 seconds, and the Senior VIII's were also victorious. The IC III's were beaten by both the ISI seconds and Oxford Brookes' first crews.

On a sourer note, it seems that the entire club is to be punished with disqualification from the 1996 Head of the River Race, due to some errors in the entry for two IC boats, leaving IC unable to defend their title. It seems that the committee intends to make an example of

one of Britain's top clubs.

IC crews will be competing though in the prestigious Heineken Head in Amsterdam, where they will be guests of Holland's top student club *Nereus*.

They are also to race at the Woman's Head and at the Kingston Head.

SportsNews

Well, England won the rugby and Sri Lanka won the cricket. As for anyone stupid enough to give BSkyB a tenner for the privilege of watching a bit of broadcasting from Las Vegas at a ridiculous hour of Sunday morning: you would have been better off getting a good night's sleep, quite frankly.

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FELIX SPORT

IC Judo men help ULU to win gold in BUSA championships

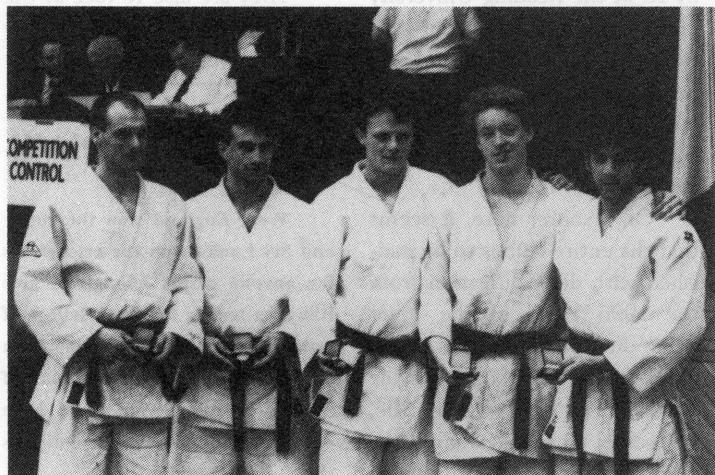


PHOTO: CHRIS LEACH

Congratulations to the Imperial College Judo Squad for winning three medals last weekend at the national BUSA finals in Cannock, Staffordshire.

We were fighting as part of the ULU team. It was an IC final for the under-78kg category between Steffen Fredersdorf and Hrvoje Jasak, with Hrvoje Jasak taking the Gold.

Oyvine Eikeland (under-78kg), Christophe Carrere (under-71kg) and Apostolis Galantis (under-86kg) unfortunately lost their repechages for bronze medals.

The under-65kg competition had valiant efforts from Chris Leach, Richard Tompkins (IC)

and Richard Webster (UCL) against the better skilled black belts.

On the second day, the five-man and ten-man team events were fought.

The five man team, Apostolis Galantis (of UCL), and Oyvine Eikeland, Hrvoje Jasak, Steffen Fredersdorf and Christophe Carrere (all IC), won convincingly against Cambridge in the finals, winning gold for the first time in six years.

For the second year running the ULU team consisted mostly of IC players (all 5 last year and 4 out of 5 this year), which serves as a good measure of the quality of Judo at IC.

To Hull And Black

At the Annual British Universities Snooker Championships, Imperial's 'A' Team boy opened well with a 10 - 0 thrashing of loudly supported Loughborough, and proceeded snugly through the early group stage, then beating Leeds and home-team Hull to reach the quarter finals.

There they tragically fell foul of the luck of the Irish, in the form of mighty Ulster who achieved their second-best ever result in the championships.

The 'B' team also beat host's Hull in their early group, with a crunch last-ball win in their final match seeing them through the round. They also succumbed to the Irish, losing to no.1 seeds Queen's in the quarters, for their best ever result.

Dead In The Water

The IC Polo-canoe team outdid themselves this year by being placed dead last in the recent University of London Union tournament (on a par with last year's performance)

Our team; well there was Paul who stunned the audience with his incompetence in goal, and Garth, who attracted all eyes with his nude-look swimwear. Tasmin baffled everyone by spending half the match upside down. ShitCliffe lived up to his name, and Matt - well, at least he knew the rules.

So now we look forward to next year when we can be beaten again.

No Break-through For Virgins In UL Cup Final

VIRGIN 0 - 20 UMDS

The scoreline does not reflect the Virgin's domination of the match until well into the second half, and with Guy's up only 5-0 at half time, Imperial were still confident that they could still win the UL Cup.

The IC forwards outclassed the medics, with both Adele and Lyndsey playing exceptionally well. Guys' advantage lay in the alertness and speed of their half backs, only kept at bay by the excellent tackling of the IC backs.

The previous Sunday saw the Virgins take another beating, this time at the hands of American tourists from the Champagne University, Illinois. The visitors gave the Virgins an excellent game, playing superb technical rugby.

As ever, IC's forwards played extremely well, though weakness in organisation was highlighted by impeccable rucking and mauling from the opposition. The IC backs were confident and aggressive in attack, though this confidence was sadly lacking in defence. In the end, IC were well beaten by a superior side.

All the Virgins would like to wish the girls who are leaving this year all the best for the future; you will certainly be missed.

IC Athletics Clubs Committee is sponsored by



Results

RUGBY

VIRGINS 0 - 35 CHAMPAGNE UNIVERSITY

VIRGINS 0 - 20 UMDS

FOOTBALL

ICWAFIC II 4 - 0 UCH

WATERPOLO

IC IN LAST PLACE