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# FELIX

The student newspaper  
of Imperial College

Issue 1058  
May 24th 1996

## Labour party will abolish grants

BY RACHEL WALTERS

The Labour Party revealed this week that it would abolish parental support for undergraduates and install a wider system of student loans.

Reversing its long-standing support for student grants, the education spokesman David Blunkett announced plans this week that his party would install a privately funded £2.4 billion-a-year loans scheme that would leave students repaying their undergraduate debt for twenty years. The repayment would be charged through National Insurance contributions once students were earning more than the national average wage.

The announcement comes in the wake of the policy U-turn of the National Union of Students over Easter. The NUS abolished its committed campaign to have student grants to be returned to their 1979 levels. Jim Murphy, NUS president, said, "The Union is in favour of a fair system of contribution from students who have benefited from higher

education if this means that students will have enough money to live on and will have a fair and balanced scheme for repayment relation to their income."

The Labour Party proposals have also received guarded support from the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, who have long advocated removing students' dependency on parental contributions. But they expressed regret that the policy statement did not accept that "payment of tuition fees has to shift from the taxpayer to the individual."

The policy document also supported the principle of widening access to universities, but there was no commitment to giving higher education any increased funding.

The independent committee set up to review higher education funding, led by Sir Ron Dearing met for the first time on Tuesday. David Blunkett's paper indicated that the details of his proposals would be finalised by this inquiry.



PHOTO: RACHEL WALTERS

Sir Marcus Fox, the Chairman of the Conservative Backbenchers' 1922 Committee, spoke to IC Consoc on Wednesday, reminiscing over his long political career. Sir Marcus told of his experiences as the 'ordinary' backbencher's representative.

He described Margaret Thatcher as 'a wonderful Prime Minister'. Though he later admitted that, "I did think, to be honest, that she stayed on a little bit too long."

In relating the meteoric rise of John Major, Sir Marcus described his initial impressions of the Prime Minister when interviewing him as a Lambeth councillor. He talked of an interview panel that was very impressed by Mr Major, adding that, "If I had known he would have passed me in promotion as fast as he did, I would have held him back."

Sir Marcus went on to discuss the difficulty of 'healing the divisions' of the Tory backbench when the party has a Commons majority of just one. His Eurosceptical stance came particularly to the fore with his insistence that 'Europe is our biggest problem', and criticism of the 'pettifogging directives [that] impinge on our way of life.'

in summary



### Sarah next council chair

Sarah Thomas, the President of City and Guilds College Union, has been elected as next year's ICU council chair at last Friday's AGM. Only 50 students turned up to the meeting. **page 3**

### Ghassan a new Labour

Ghassan Karrian, the President of ULU, has taken up a position as Senior Campaigns Co-ordinator for the Labour Party in West London, leaving ULU without a leader. **page 2**

### Museum lottery award

The Science Museum is to receive £25million from the National Lottery to part fund a new wing featuring exhibits on contemporary science, technology and medicine. **page 2**



## Karrian leaves ULU to become Labour spindoctor

BY RACHEL WALTERS

The President of the University of London Union (ULU) has decided to give up his job this week.

Ghassan Karrian will take up a full-time post next Tuesday as Senior General Election Campaigns coordinator in the West London area for the Labour Party. Although Mr Karrian will no longer be paid by ULU, he has not resigned, nor been ousted, and will keep his official title as President.

Mr Karrian leaves his position in almost as much controversy as when he started. He was elected to his position last year amid allegations that he took on the position merely to further his political career. Sources at ULU suggest that there is a large degree of ill-feeling amongst his staff and colleagues, and incredulity that he should leave so suddenly.

The position will leave ULU without a President until Sarah White, ICU President, takes over in August. Although Sarah has known of the decision for a fortnight, Ghassan only informed

his ULU colleagues this week.

Tara Jefferson, ULU Vice President with responsibility for union finances, will take over the running of many of the day-to-day issues.

A result of Mr Karrian's departure will be the lack of the customary Sabbatical 'handover' period. Usually, incoming and outgoing sabbaticals share a period in office so that the incoming sabbatical can be 'shown the ropes'. Mr Karrian's absence will deprive Sarah of this training which she would have received for her Presidential responsibilities.

"I just don't understand him," exclaimed Miss White. She felt that the positive relationship that she had enjoyed with her predecessor had suffered. "I'm cross, because we were getting on quite well."

Meanwhile, Sarah has been attempting to salvage some form of handover before Ghassan leaves. She has been trying to fit in as many meetings and introductions as possible with University of London staff this week.

## Science Museum gets £23 million lottery award

BY ANDREW TSENG

"Albertopolis is happening piecemeal", commented Ian Caldwell, Imperial College Director of Estates, on the announcement that the Science Museum is to receive £23 million of National Lottery Money. Monday's grant was the first major award of Lottery money to go to the sciences.

The money will be used as part of a new £44 million wing devoted to contemporary science, technology and medicine. Due to open in 2000, the Wellcome Wing will include four floors of new exhibition space and the first 3D IMAX film theatre in London.

The award comes almost a year after the Albertopolis proposal was thrown out by the Millenium Commission. The proposal would have created a huge pedestrian precinct and underground shopping mall around the South Kensington area.

Coming after last week's grant of £40 million to the Royal Albert Hall, the award provides increasing evidence that the

spirit of Albertopolis, the rejuvenation of the South Kensington area is taking place without a Millenium grant.

Mr Caldwell was upbeat about the Science Museum money. Speaking to *Felix*, he suggested that if anything, Imperial's chances of getting lottery funding would be enhanced by the award. Imperial is about to embark on two projects that could be considered for grants: the addition of two floors to the library and the extension of the Sports Centre.

In a related development, a new South Kensington coordination group is to be created. The group, containing representatives from Imperial College, the Royal Albert Hall and the Museums, will enable South Kensington institutions to work more effectively together. Its formation follows the discovery that plans to excavate the Royal Albert Hall's steps were due to start on the same day that the Department of Biology was to move out of the Beit Building. The group meets for the first time today.

## Terry Briley retires from Security

BY THE NEWS TEAM

The outgoing deputy head of security Terry Briley, and his wife Joy, were given a farewell send off at Imperial College Union on Monday. Mr Briley retired from his position earlier this year after taking some time off work through ill-health.

Originally from Cork, Terry had served in the police force until taking up the position of Deputy head of Security in 1986. Renowned for his substantial repartee of police anecdotes and fiercely proud of his Irish heritage, Terry had been popular with staff and students alike.

Reminiscing about his time here, and paying particular trib-

ute to Security Guard Vic Turner, who died last week, he spoke of his commitment to 'looking after' IC undergraduates. "I will always say that Imperial should be here for the students, and they were my first priority," he said. "Perhaps I didn't do as much admin as everyone would have liked, but I never thought that it was important."

His enthusiastic service to IC was paid tribute to by members of ICU, the College Press Office, and also by PC Clive Coleman, who came representing Kensington and Chelsea constabulary.

Mr Briley has asked *Felix* to pass on his thanks to all who organised the event.



PHOTO: RACHEL WALTERS



# News in brief

## Rag Failure

Wednesday's Rag Fete turned out to be something of a non-event after heavy rain forced the Queen's Lawn spectacular into the Main Dining Hall. With the festivities taken out of sight and earshot, attendance at the fundraising occasion was minimal.

A spokesman from the charity Turning Point said, "It's a pity there aren't any students here... but we're all holding each other up." The Royal National Lifeboat

Institute, The Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Leukaemia Research Fund also had stalls, but there were only around six students visiting, most of them committed Raggies, when the event was well under-way at 3.30pm.

With reference to allegations earlier this year that the Rag Chair would not accept responsibility for unsuccessful Rag events, Jon Lambert told *Felix*, "Well you can say I blame this one on the weather."

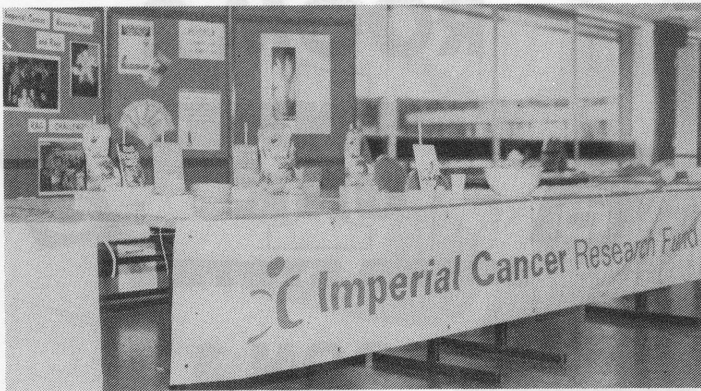


PHOTO: RACHEL WALTERS

## Pimlico Finale

An eventful 21st year of the Pimlico Connection will end next week as students who went to the USA and Israel present their findings to their sponsors.

Several issues have already arisen from the trips. In a presentation to BP on Wednesday, discussions centred on whether tutors should be paid and whether the programme should be expanded to include one-to-one mentoring.

Commenting on the successful trips, Ian Gregory, Pimlico Chair, said, "We hope this will lead to an expansion of students working in the local community."

## Union Elections

Sarah Thomas, City and Guilds College Union (C&GCU) President, has been returned as next year's ICU Council chair. In a battle of Constituent College Union officers, she overcame

competition from her own Vice-President, Duncan Tindall, and the Royal College of Science Union Academic Affairs Officer, Matt Szyndel.

The elections, held at last Friday's ICU Annual General Meeting, saw Anne Ovens, the current Women's Officer, confirmed as next year's Welfare Officer, while Pete Kirtley will take over the position of Accommodation Officer.

Nominations have been reopened for the positions of Transport and Postgraduate affairs officers which will now be elected at the council meeting on June 6th.

The ICU Annual Report was also passed with only minor alterations, although with a turnout of only 50, the ICU President Sarah White complained at the lack of response from the students present. "No-one asked any questions," she protested.

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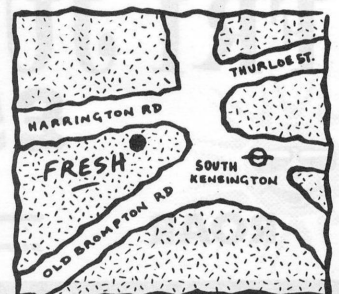
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# A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far, away...

Nooman Haque explores the cultural significance of Science Fiction films.

Roswell will be assured its place in history after an inebriated cameraman ran amok in a tailor's dummy factory. The hoax will also be remembered for creating the first mass interest 'public' conspiracy theory.

Exactly thirty years later, two educated proponents of the cinographic art, with bigger budgets, steadier cameras and colour film, created two of the most influential films to bear the classification 'science fiction' ever seen. Beyond mere entertainment, both serve very different purposes, with the legacy of Spielberg's film, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, manifesting itself more deeply than we perhaps acknowledge. One would have expected George Lucas's first film, *THX 1138*, to have had a greater influence on his career than simply ending up as number plate in *American Graffiti*. The old fashioned tale of adventure that is *Star Wars*, with a Princess, a rogue and a bad man in black, would appear at first to contain no message deeper than the inane mutterings of Alec Guinness. Its fairy-tale credentials were further strengthened by the famous opening words, "A long time ago in a galaxy far far away..." which are nothing more than a modern proxy for, "Once upon a time in a far off land..." Even starting with episode IV was seen by cynics as cinematic fertility treatment – paving the way for commercial spawn in the event of the first films' success.

Despite the assertion that the film is a modern fairy tale, the good-evil battle at the heart of the trilogy is quite complex. The evil is represented by a massive (official) Empire, whilst the good guys are rebel guerrillas. Even a rogue smuggler is turned by rebel forces. Resistance to the Dark Lord's coercive attempts can only be overcome through use of the mysterious 'Force'. The religious and psychological overtones may have gone over the head of the target audience, but they are part of the *Star Wars* films' alluring appeal.

*Close Encounters* is more sinister but develops the good-evil battle and rebel-as-a-hero idea further. It deserves the label 'science fiction' or perhaps 'science faction' more than the Lucas film mainly because of its claim to 'reality'. Of course neither film was the first of their genre. UFO stories in particular had seen huge growth in the immediate post-war era, when they were metaphors for the real Communist threat. *Invasion*

of the *Body Snatchers* and its kin were Hollywood's attempt to drive the fear of the 'Red under the bed' home to a loyal and morally upright public. The Alien was the perfect symbol: unseen, living amongst us perhaps and threatening to destroy a valued way of life.

*Encounters* differed significantly from these early classics however. In many ways it followed Spielberg's earlier smash, *Jaws*, a film released in the fallout of the Watergate scandal and the failure of the Vietnam campaign, and recognised as a metaphorical snapshot of that period in US history. The hostility towards government of the generation that Spielberg and Lucas came from was a catalyst that eventually redefined the relationship of ruler and ruled. *Jaws* recast the hero as a maverick police official battling against the commercial concerns of a corrupt mayor. *Encounters* took

wasn't anthrax that killed the cattle and sheep in Wyoming, and his compulsive shaving foam sculptures drove him to seek out the truth. He succeeded where his cultural spawn – Fox Mulder – failed (if, indeed, he has failed).

We all want to believe; sometimes out of genuine scientific curiosity but mostly, I suspect, through a deeper desire, almost as if the 'Do they exist?' question will shed light on the 'Why?' of human existence. These are the very questions that Kubrick attempted to answer in *2001: A Space Odyssey*. In fact, Western governments today are perceived as the malfunctioning computer HAL, whose distortion of information threatened the lives it was designed to protect.

Mulder's personal conflict of serving the government, and his desire to uncover the truth, from which the same government 'protects' its people is very similar to that of Chief Brody on Amity Island – and representative of the psychological conflict of America at large. With the Reds defeated, the only battle left is *within* the American people.

The 'truth', symbolising the role America is desperately searching for in the post-Cold War era, will be born screaming and bleeding as the Mother State is dragged inexorably towards the next millennium. That the truth is 'out there' merely confirms the perception that the government has run out of answers. It is up to individual heroes to find the security that is obviously needed.

Mulder's poster, 'I WANT TO BELIEVE' (in aliens) is directed at ourselves, but it is merely the flipside of the alternative, implied suffix, 'I WANT TO BELIEVE' (in my government). The desire for truth is thus nothing more than a wish to wrap ourselves once again, in the warmth of that giant security blanket we call government. Sadly it is unlikely. A roll-call of tags which symbolise modern politics trip off the tongue with monotonous repetition: Watergate, Whitewater, Irangate, BMARC.

Paradoxically, it is to insurgent politicians that we may have to look; to older, wiser statesmen, sidelined by the media as whingers, sceptics and seditious bastards. But they are without the selfish goals and personal ambitions which occupy most of today's headlines.

Help us, Obi Wan Kenobi – you're our only hope.



this one step further and overtly cast the government and military as evil forces and aliens as good guys. The role reversal from the McCarthyist era was complete. Governments could no longer rely on the unquestioning obedience of its citizens, and a painful separation process was beginning as people found the power to question and doubt their government. It was a wholly significant message, as thousands of veterans were returning home to find that their people and Government had deserted *them* after they had committed their lives to the Government's overseas campaigns.

The presupposition that the morals of the state were synchronous with the individual were blown apart. Heroes could make judgments of right and wrong on their own, especially now that the morals of individual and state were divorced. The truth, as Richard Dreyfuss sensed, was out there. It



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# FOOTBALL CRAZY, FOOTBALL MAD...

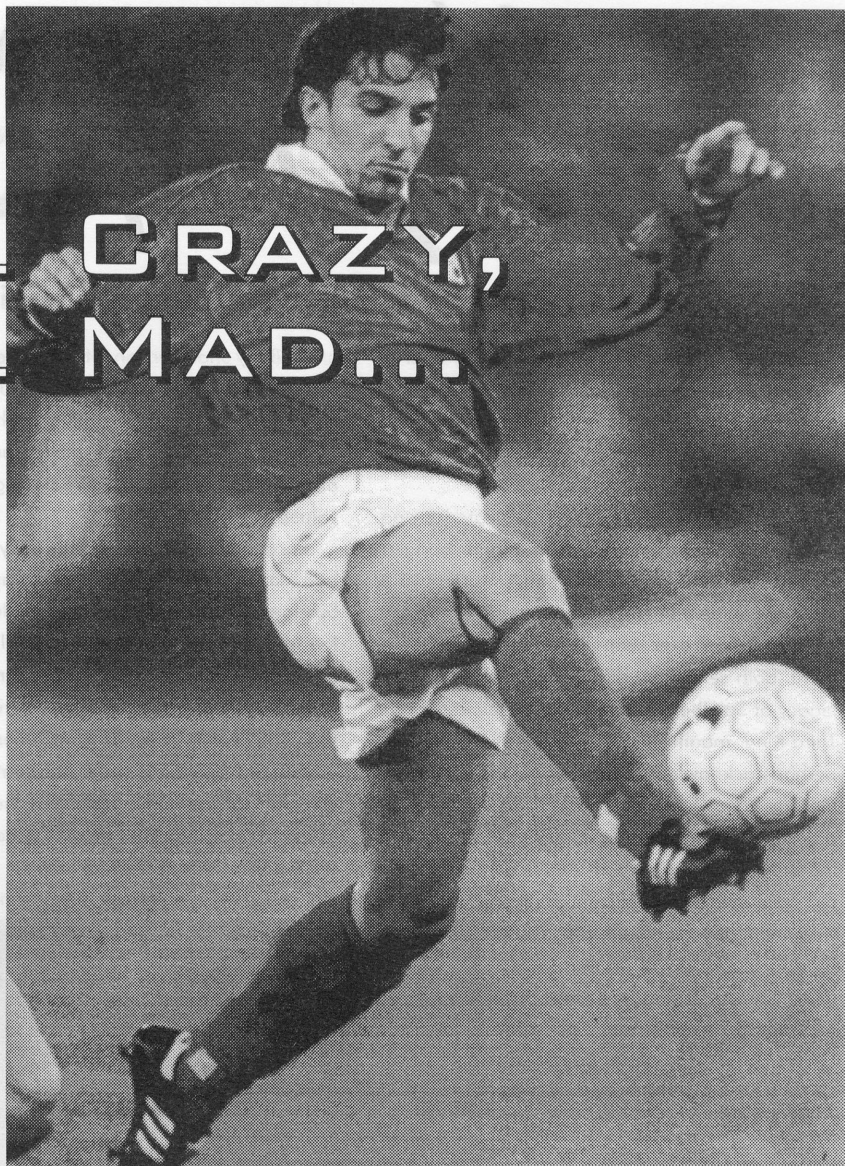
In two weeks time me, and many of my breed, will lock ourselves into our dimly lit rooms armed only with copious amounts of beer, Cheesy Wotsits and a remote control.

Why? The second best footy competition in the known universe is just around the corner. Euro '96 promises to be a sports addicts dream, featuring fifteen teams (plus Scotland) all after one thing: European glory.

You would have to be an old man to have last watched England succeed, infinitely old in fact, as the best we've ever done is a spectacularly grim third. The question is: 'can we do it this year?'



**The Star of Euro 96?**



**"Del Piero, the best thing since pasta"**

## THE ONES TO KEEP AN EYE ON

### ITALY

How can you bet against a side that can simply ignore the likes of Franco Baresi, Roberto Baggio, Costacurta and even the fourteen million pound man Gianluca Vialli, all four being easily good enough to play for I.C. thirds? Coach Arrigo Sacchi could well be the luckiest manager alive. Italy, however, have been known to idle along in this competition, even failing to qualify in 1992, but many have a feeling it won't be like that this year. To sum up, Italy will kick ass, win a big trophy, and Ravanelli will score loads of goals.

### ENGLAND

What can you say about good old Blighty? They're a bit dull, about as good going forward as a Porsche 911 in reverse gear, and... erm... they're a bit dull as well. Anyone, like me, who has watched England recently, and has had a little chuckle to themselves when Jimmy Hill has given them 8 out of 10 will agree. Of course I may be wrong...

### GERMANY

The Germans play football like they build their cars: stylish and eminently reliable. Mr Sugars' best mate Jurgen misses the first fixture through suspension, but will inevitably feature in later games. The only hiccup will be the forced absence of their midfield rock, Moller, bringing speculation in the press of a return of the legendary veteran Lothar Matthaus.

### HOLLAND (AJAX)

These guys have been a bit out of sorts lately, only just managing to qualify for the tournament, but a quick glance at the talent available to Head-coach Gus Hiddink and you realise why they are the tournament favourites. Even without their Ajax Wonderkid Patrick Kleuvert (who is currently facing a prison sentence) the Dutch exude class, and will be expected to do well.

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**BY MARTIN ARCHIBOLD**

## WIN A CD!

Inspired by Euro 96™, a collection of artists, including Blur, Supergrass, Lightning Seeds and many others, have teamed up to make 'The Beautiful Game: the official album of Euro 96™'. Recorded by real fans 'for the fans', the album like Euro 96™ is brought to you by 'Coca-Cola'.

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To enter answer the following question:

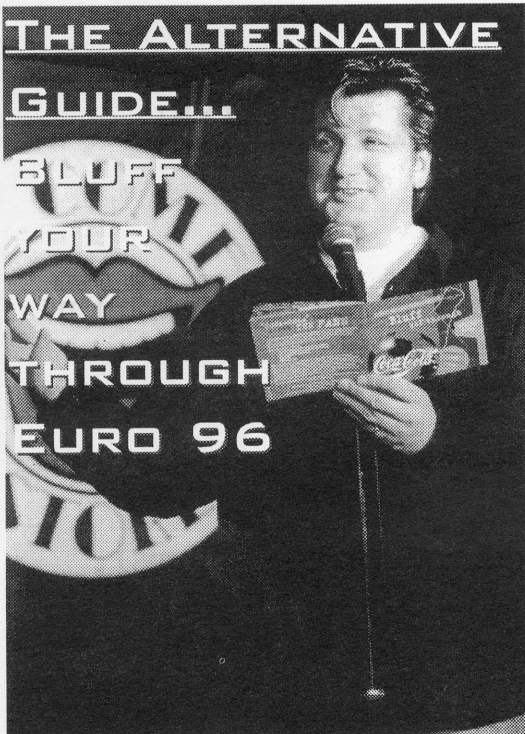
**Which team won the Coca-Cola Cup Final this year?**

Bring or post your answers to Felix, ICU, Beit Quad. Winners will be selected randomly on Tuesday, and announced in next week's issue!



## THE ALTERNATIVE GUIDE...

BLUFF  
YOUR  
WAY  
THROUGH  
EURO 96



He is arguably the finest live stand-up comedian in the country. 'Comedian extraordinaire' Bob Mills is undoubtedly Britain's Mr Funny Man, and he's come up with the ultimate antidote to anyone who would dream of taking it all too seriously. Bob's latest offering, *The Alternative Guide... Bluff your*

way through Euro '96, will run rings round the football-bore.

Bob's well known on the London cabaret circuit, at such venues as the famous Comedy Store and Jongleurs, and has appeared on numerous television shows. But it is his love of football that Bob Mills is most appreciated for. *The Alternative Guide... Bluff your way through EURO 96™* is put together by EURO 96™ sponsor 'Coca-Cola'. It takes a light-hearted look at the teams, players, terrace banter, chants and amazing soccer trivia as football-fever sweeps England as we play host to the biggest event since the World Cup. *The Alternative Guide... Bluff your way through EURO 96™* contains everything you need to know, and quite a lot you didn't, to help you get the most out of this feast of football.

So if you're a bit iffy on your foreign teams, and can't tell a great Dane from a dud Czech, *The Alternative Guide...* has it covered. If you want to brush up on the history of the tournament itself, there is a whole section about the teams, the players and the stories which made the headlines. And if you just want to hurl abuse from the comfort of your armchair, there are a few key phrases to get you started.

## FREE GUIDE!!

'Coca-Cola' has given us 50 copies of *The Alternative Guide... Bluff your way through EURO 96™* for our uninitiated readers. If you want to be a true soccer pundit and score points with family and friends, run into Felix (NW corner of Beit) and shout "Gimme that Euro '96 guide please please" and you will be rewarded with a free guide!

So there it is, not exactly a definitive guide, but you're going to be drowned in this sort of pointless tattle for at least the next couple of months anyway.

And remember to spare a thought for the less fortunate; after the great event there'll inevitably be great hoards of young males seeking the attention of psychotherapists to ease them from the withdrawal symptoms. The Samaritans will be working overtime grabbing people from high bridges and the like, but remember it's only a game, so don't get stressed, the premier league starts soon after.

First game kicks off on the 8th June, so find a suitable armchair, get a few beers and cokes in, sit back, and think of England.

MARTIN ARCHIBOLD

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The Daily Telegraph

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SATURDAY 18th MAY  
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THURSDAY 23rd MAY  
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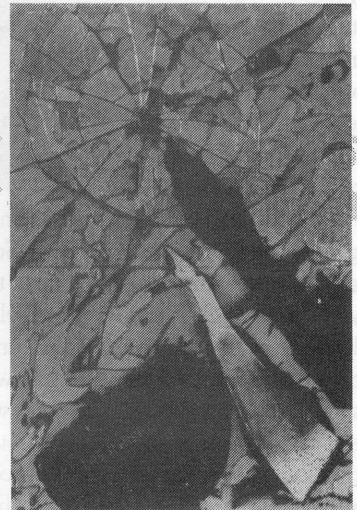
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right: dollar cape  
above: the inheritance



exhibition: **derak jarman**<sub>rachel</sub>

column: **simon baker**

insight: **the colour of monday**<sub>carlo massarella</sub>

album: **orbital - insides**<sub>max</sub>

album: **honky - kuljit**<sub>paul</sub>

interview/gig: **audioweb + northern uproar**<sub>jason</sub>

singles: **jason and paul**

interview/gig: **the almighty**<sub>vik</sub>

album: **pantera - the great southern trendkill**<sub>vik</sub>

film: **primal fear**<sub>spooky</sub>

film: **mr holland's opus**<sub>jenny ho</sub>

ix

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xi

xii

xiii

xiv

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## simon baker

'And that concludes the votes of the Cyprus Jury. Good night, Oslo.' Ah, 'tis music to the ears, which is more than can be said for the cacophonous drivel that spewed out of Norway for the preceding two hours. For much the

same way that people watch ballroom dancing, I sat through the whole of the Eurovision Song Contest last Saturday, purely for the sake of this column, you understand. It is difficult to select the high/lowlight of the evening, but the funniest comment came from Morten Harket, who said that some people refer to the said contest as a 'European championship of culture through music'. Now I can't speak for the rest of Europe, but I think you're overselling it ever so slightly. 'Shoopy doo', the Icelandic entry was not exactly the zenith of twentieth century culture, and the Belgium and Dutch entries, pop pickers, presumably written in 1976, had the same first line (Nah-Nah-Nah etc.) I hate to sound superior, but to group the UK with such cultural pygmies is like comparing the Battle of the Somme with six year girls playing British Bulldog. Thinking about it, the highlight of the evening was the incomparable Terry Wogan, whose wit and downright sarcasm was priceless. Keep this up Tel and you can churn any old rubbish the rest of the year. Good work fella! As for the chances of the beef ban being lifted after Mr Wogan's comments: don't hold your breath.

Computers are undoubtedly a marvel of the modern age. This is being written on one for a start, and the list of possible uses is endless; who hasn't used a spreadsheet to fiddle experimental data, for example? The Internet is also useful, containing all manner of resources. I am even considering selling my pigeons and using e-mail. But I have noticed a worrying side effect of this new-fangled technology of late. We seem to be breeding a class of people who are so absorbed in The Net that seem unable to interact normally with the rest of society. Enough of this beating about the bush. I am sick and tired of desperately sad, socially dysfunctional morons clogging up computer rooms for the sole purpose of e-mailing people on the other side of the same room and playing MUGs (multi-user games, and probably the most apt acronym I've seen in a long while.) What is wrong with you? Some of these characters sit glued to the screen for hours on end, occasionally uttering the odd neurotic laugh, typing out complete jibberish to their 'friends'. Worse still is live e-mailing, where people sit and have 'conversations' via the internet. For God's sake, get a life. Many mountaineers legitimately say their reason for climbing a peak is 'because it's there.' This seems to be the justification for their activities. As well as tying up machines needed by people who need them for more useful pursuits, they are depriving themselves of a normal upbringing. I have absolutely



nothing against the use of computers, but simply playing on them in such antisocial manner for no real reason is pathetic. If that's your idea of time well spent, you should become a traffic warden.

I daresay that most of you will have seen the plans for the new gallery at the V & A that resemble a pile of discarded biscuit tins. Designed by a Polish architect, who clearly had a troubled childhood, it will have the delightful name of 'the Boilerhouse'. The only possible justification for such an outrageously ridiculous design is to make the front Mech Eng look palatable by comparison. The irony is that this plan comes at a time when the College is formulating plans to smarten up this shabby facade, and as my good friend will Ian Caldwell will tell you, the V & A face a hell of a job getting planning permission for it; the BMS has diving beauty by comparison and it took ages to get approval. I have little time for the work of modern architects in general, save for a few notable exceptions, such as Stansted Airport, after witnessing the mess that was left after the sixties. By all means produce radical new designs, but not for the sake of promoting either a man, material or philosophy. The constant desire for change for its own sake inevitably results in stupid monstrosities such as this planned extension, and to provide public money for it would be scandalous. I suppose I could sign this 'disgusted of Tunbridge Wells', but as they say in Yorkshire, I don't know much about architecture, but I know what I like.

Speaking of IC Estates (that makes a change for me, doesn't it children?), I have to apologise for constantly calling in to question the ability of this esteemed department. Yes, you take a simple job and stretch it to ten times longer than it should take, and yes, you have a passion for signs that borders on fetishism, but by comparison with the clowns in charge of the British Library project, you are brilliant and without peer. Not only does it look like an out of town branch of Tesco's, and contain only seventeen more seats than the old building, but it is several years late, hundreds of millions over budget and so riddled with errors, problems and cockups that it may never open. That won't happen with the BMS, will it now?

Regular readers will know that I have a thing about Anthea Turner. Not that sort of thing, dear me, no. She used to generate unsafe levels of hate with my calm and angelic mind. And then, as if by magic, she left the Lottery to be replaced by the brilliant Bob Monkhouse, who should have been doing it from the start. I thought I would wait a week or two to see if her absence, as I predicted, would lead to me winning the odd tenner. Did it? What do you think?

"I daresay that most of you will have seen the plans for the new gallery at the V & A that resemble a pile of discarded biscuit tins"



Carlo Massarella reports on the colourful condition receiving scientific attention.

≥inSci~~g~~ht°

# THE COLOUR OF MONDAY

What makes artists interpret moods, feelings, emotions and opinions in the way that they do? What enables them to convert ideas born of their minds into works of art, whether painted on canvas, sculpted from stone or written as a musical score? The business of art criticism would have an untrained consumer believe that there is a right and wrong way in which to go about creating a work of art. But interpretation is a genuinely personal affair. Grounds for both art creation and art criticism rest upon the same thin layer of concrete testimony. But artists, musicians and writers who have synaesthesia can call to hand scientific evidence to support their personal renditions. For a 'crossing of senses' adds an extra dimension to their lives.

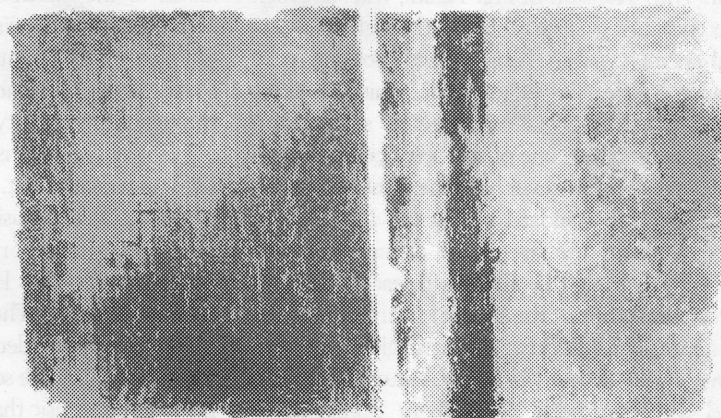
Synaesthesia (from the Greek *syn* (union) *aistheses* (sensation)) is a condition affecting 1 in every 2,000 people. It does not impair their daily lives, if anything, it makes them more colourful - literally. For synaesthetics have the ability to make colour assimilations in anything from months of the year to types of pain. Some effectively hear words, numbers and letters in colour. Other synaesthetics on hearing a particular tone or smelling a certain aroma experience it as a specific colour. People with the condition have talked explicitly of how they even dream in colour.

Synaesthesia has been known to exist for over 300 years, but until recently, little scientific research could offer a worthy insight into the condition and its effects. Simon Baron-Cohen of Cambridge University's Psychological department has led the British arm of research into Synaesthesia since 1986. One of his earlier case studies was that of 76-year-old Elizabeth Stewart-Jones, a professional painter who trained at the Chelsea School of Art in London. Describing herself as 'an artist who has experienced a life-long condition of hearing words and sounds in colour', she wanted to discover more about her bizarre talent, allowing Baron-Cohen to investigate the phenomenon.

The authenticity of a patient's Synaesthesia is tested in relation to a control group of non-synaesthetics. In tests, they are asked to describe the colour evoked by a set of words. Their ability to recite the matching colours and words months later is then assessed. 100% of Stewart-Jones' responses were accurate compared to 17% for the control group.

On hearing words, Elizabeth experienced a colour forming instantaneously inside her head. Each word evoked its own unique colour and texture, independent of the letters and sounds contained within the word. For instance, she envisaged 'Moscow' as being darkish grey, with spinach-green and pale blue in places; 'Fear' was mottled light grey, with a touch of soft green and purple; and the name 'Daniel' was depicted as being deep purple, blue and red and was shiny. Stewart-Jones talked of the letters 'H', 'U' and 'R' being dark red, yellow and dark green respectively, with the letters of the alphabet conforming to a distinct layout inside her head. She pictured the colours associated with the days of the week ordered in a clockwise sense, with the months of the year arranged in an anti-clockwise pattern. Numbers had their own distinct colours, and were arranged in a sequence similar to that of the letters of the alphabet. The numbers 0 to 10 had an individual association with specific colours, with numbers greater than ten evoking a combination of the colours of the individual digits. Elizabeth also related colours to different pitches of voice; female voices were anchored in a blue spectrum with high pitch at the light blue end of the scale and low pitch residing in the dark blue region.

Simon Baron-Cohen currently has over 600 Synaesthetics on record, who approached him after hearing of his work through the media. "What struck us was how similar the accounts were", he claims. "Synaesthetics recounted that they



Picture: A painting by Elizabeth Stewart-Jones of the colours she experiences on hearing the name 'Alan Ayckbourne'

became aware they had the condition from at least the age of four, and all recall a day when they discovered that it was not a sensation experienced by everyone. Following this discovery, most do not dare mention it again for fear of being laughed at."

Baron-Cohen conducted a larger study of the phenomenon in 1993 whilst at the Institute of Psychiatry in London to investigate if synaesthetics matched colours with words and letters differently, and what determined the word-colour affiliation. Colours for individual words and letters varied quite substantially amongst the nine patients. However, here it appeared that the first letter of each word heavily influenced the overall colour the word aroused, with colours for single letters echoing the colours attached to words beginning with that letter. Eight out of the nine involved in the study interpreted the vowel 'i' as being white to pale grey, 'u' as being yellow to light brown and 'o' as white - the latter example being consistent with historical interpretations.

Of the 600 cases Baron-Cohen has on file, the majority are female. In the 1993 study, researchers found that all relations to synaesthetics who also experienced the phenomenon were either mothers or sisters. Current research is centred around these findings, with the blood of synaesthetics being tested to determine whether or not Synaesthesia is a sex-linked genetic condition. Evidence suggests an explanation for the condition has its roots firmly entrenched in the human brain. Opinion is currently divided however over which specific regions of the brain may hold the key to unravelling the mystery surrounding the condition.

The current model of the brain is one composed of a number of different processing regions - different regions process different forms of information. So information regarding each of the senses (vision, hearing, touch, smell and taste) is processed in its own distinct domain, with neural pathways in the cortex (the outer layer of the brain) carrying the information to the relevant department. Some researchers believe stray pathways between such regions may account for people experiencing a colour when they hear a sound, claiming we may all be born with some such connections, but that they disintegrate as we grow older. Research carried out in Toronto shows that kittens are prone to having such 'sense cross-wiring' which recedes as the animal develops. A recent study by Baron-Cohen monitoring the brain activity of synaesthetics concluded that the apparent crossing of senses could indeed be the result of some sort of 'integration' occurring between the two regions of sensory processing involved. Others claim a radically new model of the human brain is required, highlighting the processes of the limbic system (a network of communication pathways situated beneath the cortex concerned with basic information regarding emotions, hunger and sex), and an altogether more 'integrated' model of the brains functioning.



## album: orbital - in sides<sup>max</sup>

There aren't many songs that on first listening to them send shivers down your spine. On the rare occasion that one does, it's time to beg, borrow or steal it until you have it in your possession. The opening track on Orbital's fourth album, 'The Girl With The Sun In Her Head', will start such electrical disturbances coursing through your central nervous system. It opens with nothing more than a womb-like echo, after which a lilting melody, and then an unexpected snare drum combine to create one of the best opening album tracks that you will ever have the pleasure to hear.

The high standard set by the first track is maintained by the rest of the album. The vinyl version is a triple disc affair, with each side being dedicated to one of the six tracks. After the opener comes 'P.E.T.R.O.L.', recent single, 'The Box', 'Dwr Budr' (Welsh for Dirty Water), 'Adnan's', and the mammoth 'Out There Somewhere', which is 24 minutes long.

If you found 'The Box' appetising then prepare to really pig-out here. The time and trouble

that has gone into making this album is self evident. The number of different sound effects (squeaking chairs and wood being planed inside a metal pipe amongst many others), melodies and percussion instruments that have been used could have resulted in a disastrous cacophony, but in the hands of the Hartnoll brothers they have been combined to give a cinematic and almost orchestral piece of dance music, which grabs you firmly by the short and curlies and keeps a grip firm throughout its seventy-odd minute duration.

To say 'In Sides' is a stroke of genius is a massive understatement. This is one of the best albums of dance music you are going to hear this year, or ever, for that matter. And take note, for in keeping with the Hartnoll's environmentally-friendly attitudes, 'The Girl With The Sun In Her Head' was recorded using power from the Greenpeace mobile solar generator, Cyrus. If this is the sort of music that comes from using renewable power sources, it might well be time for us all to go green (and not just with envy). (10)

## album: honky - kuljit<sup>paul</sup>

After an absence of almost three years, Honky are back with a new record deal and a new image. But don't be fooled by the gloomy sleeve and the press rumours of a dark and intimidating Honky because not much has changed since the cheese-tastic last album, 'The Ego Has Landed'. You'll suss that as soon as you hear the surreal Scooby Doo pastiche: "Scooby, who's in that creepy castle droppin' slick rhymes on phat beats..."

Honky's last album caught the mood of summer perfectly. This album picks up exactly where that one left off. Okay, so it's not quite as summery, but it's equally irreverent and energetic and

is another dose of the funniest, funkiest, madcap hip-hop you're likely to hear. The new single, 'Hip Hop Don't Ya Drop' is a slamming, shameless rip-off of any number of phat US rap outfits. 'What's Goin' Down', on the other hand, is worthy of a mention if only for the most quotable line of the year: "Honey, you give tongue like Hannibal Lecter, so don't go messin' with my private sector."

On the whole, this is a lively, witty and entertaining album and there are very few serious bits. If you want a record to celebrate the arrival of summer (if and when it gets here) you could do a lot worse than this. (8)

## interview/gig: audioweb + northern uproar<sup>jason</sup>

Just who exactly are Audioweb, who have been supporting Northern Uproar on their debut tour? I met up with them to try to find out. Apparently, the band formed in 1995. Lead singer, Martin, had previously been in a reggae band whilst the other three members came from indie-rock backgrounds. Martin joined the rest of the group after meeting them dealing weed (a ploy by the other three to get free dope, perhaps?).

Audioweb's music is rather difficult to describe. One suggestion by the band is, "A cross between the Future Sound of London and The Stone Roses." They completed their, as yet unreleased, debut album whilst touring the country and each band member was involved in the music and lyric writing processes. There was a good reason for this. "We write about things that we have an affinity for, and by writing lyrics together it makes them less ego based."

The band see themselves as being largely uninfluenced by other bands because they are

breaking new ground. "When we released our first single everyone thought that we were a studio band that some producer with a singer had brought in. However, we are innovators and we can play live and these traits probably set us apart from many other bands."

This is probably true, but at ULU later that evening they are a little subdued. Their set is very tight but Martin seems a little detached from the event and the sound system is a little too loud (hardly the band's fault). The three singles that they played still sounded good though.

Fellow Mancunians, Northern Uproar arrived to a fairly indifferent crowd. After two songs, the first three rows decide that moshing might not be such a bad idea. They jump along happily to the likes of 'Livin' It Up' and 'Kicks', but the rest of the crowd doesn't seem to care. Neither do the band, for that matter, who play well but show no signs of enthusiasm and look as if they don't want to be there.

During the song 'Town' the singer shouts, "I'm going downtown." You're right, mate. Northern Uproar are going straight down.

## singles: jason and paul

the dandy warhols - nothin' to do

They sound like Blur did on 'Modern Life Is Rubbish'. Shame about the name.

jocasta - change me

It nicks the riff from the James Bond theme tune but apart from that it's a good, Ash-style track.

trash can sinatras - twisted and bent

Easy listening indie rock? If there is such a thing, this is it. It has lyrics such as, "You're so lackadaisical, upsadaisy girl." What more can I say?

strangelove - beautiful alone  
The Smiths influence in this song is overwhelming. This band still haven't quite made it big but this could be the one to do it for them.

bennet - colossal man  
Pure indie-pop from a band whose lead singer sounds exactly like the singer from Kinky Machine (does anyone remember them?)

space - female of the species  
Latin rhythms galore in this tune that sounds like it's from a musical. This band will soon be huge.

simon bonney - don't walk away from love  
A plodding, tedious ballad by some bloke repeatedly telling his woman not to walk away. He sounds like an American answer to Lloyd Cole. As if one of them wasn't enough.

ruby - hoops  
Another release from the excellent 'Salt Peter' album. Dance music with attitude.

ricky ross - radio on  
His debut solo single and it sounds exactly the same as Deacon Blue. Draw your own conclusions...

zoe - hammer  
"If I had a hammer I'd hit you on the head. I wouldn't stop banging until I knew that you were dead." Zoe seems a little less pleased than she did on 'Sunshine On A Rainy Day'. Perhaps she's realised how talent-less she is.



## listings:

ash + bis + symposium - 24 may - forum - £9  
 average white band - 24-26 may - jazz cafe - £9  
 cowboy junkies - 24 may - shepherd's bush empire - £12.50  
 robyn hitchcock - 24 may at twelve bar club, 25 may at borderline - £15 and £6 respectively  
 killdozer + ligament - 24 may - powerhaus - £6  
 nefilim + jocasta - 24 may - la2 - £7  
 porcupine tree + dr didg - 24 may - garage - £5  
 neil diamond - 25, 27 may - wembley arena - £27.50  
 mark knopfler - 25-26 may - shepherd's bush empire - £18  
 sidi bou said + joan - 25 may - hope&anchor, islington - £4  
 tribute to nothing + king prawn - 26 may - upstairs at the garage - £4  
 uk subs - 26 may - orange - £5  
 glory strummers + speedurchin - 27 may - hope & anchor, islington - £4  
 manic street preachers + gorky's zygotic minci - 28, 29 may - forum - touts your only hope!  
 moloko - 28 may - sw1 club - £8  
 animals that swim - 28 may - dingwalls - £5  
 hum - 28 may - camden palace - £5  
 pennywise + joykiller + strung out - 28 may - la2 - ring  
 dr. robert - 29 may - jazz cafe - £8  
 dub syndicate + lion's den - 29 may - brixton fridge - £10  
 strangelove + whipping boy - 29 may - astoria - £7  
 candyskins + sun - 29 may - splash club - £3.50  
 gyres - 29 may - borderline - £5  
 ruth + bennet + pullover + cheyne - 29 may - dingwalls - £4  
 butthole surfers + archers of loaf - 30 may - forum - £5  
 dog eat dog + sugar ray + understand - 30 may - la2 - £8  
 dog eat dog + dub war - 31 may - la2 - £8  
 mike flowers pops - 31 may - shep bush empire - £10.50  
 the cure - 31 may, 1 june - earls court - £17, £18.50

## interview/gig: almighty<sup>vik</sup>

By the time you read this, Almighty will have split up. Now for some of you that may rate as being about as emotion-inducing as the nearest Sabbatical election, but for thousands of others the punk/metal quartet were one of Britain's best bands. Just before their final European show at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, *Felix* caught up with their affable frontman Ricky Warwick for a chat over that most expert of conversation instigators - Guinness. So why are Almighty calling it a day?

"Well, we've done five LPs now. We've definitely progressed with each record and our latest LP ('Just Add Life') is our best ever. We could just carry on for the sake of it, but I like a challenge. I've already got a new band together and we'll be playing different stuff than Almighty did."

Ricky was quick to dispel any hopes that they might ever re-form: "Almighty will never play together again. I hate it when bands split-up and then get back together. The Sex Pistols are the only band who can get away with it because at the beginning they were exploiting people and talking about, 'Cash for chaos.' Now, with their new gigs they're just doing the same thing again."

Having done the usual muso-talk, the conversation turned to meatier issues, namely relationships and politics. On the former topic, Ricky was somewhat reticent. This is understandable given that he's only recently divorced MTV VJ, Vanessa Warwick (your interviewer is not known for his sensitivity), but when pressed he reluctantly admitted that, "I do get hit on a lot by men," and that maybe this has "something to do with my short hair and tattoos." But it was on the subject of Irish politics that he was particularly forthcoming.

"I was brought up in Belfast. I went there when the ceasefire was on and there was such an amazing change compared to when I was a kid. But I went back a couple of months ago and it was awful - the RUC and the Land Rovers were back." Ricky was keen to point out that being in favour of a unified Ireland does not necessarily

mean being in favour of the IRA: "I believe in a united Ireland but not through the IRA. The IRA, like other Marxist organisations, want things done with their people in power. And the thing that people don't realise is that Gerry Adams only has 4% of the vote in Ireland. The only reason that the IRA bomb on the British mainland is because they can't bomb in Ireland because they've got no vote there."

True enough, but thanks to ignorance and general stupidity, many Americans don't see it that way, as Ricky explained: "I had the misfortune to be in New York on St. Patrick's Day. I've never been so patronised in my whole life. Over there they see it as a freedom fight and people were coming up to me and saying, 'Isn't it great what those guys are doing over there?' I was reading an interview the other day with House Of Pain. They were saying, 'Yeah, we're Irish Americans; we support the IRA; we support freedom fighters everywhere.' So the journalist said to them, 'So why don't you support the UDA if you support freedom fighters?' This House Of Pain guy turned round and said, 'Duh, who the f\*\*\* are the UDA?' " Sad indeed, but then what do you expect from people whose most famous musical moment is not exactly a cerebrally challenging song called *Jump*?

With that Ricky went off to soundcheck and a few hours later he re-appeared with the rest of the band in tow to deliver a final show that was every bit as powerful as the fans were baying for. Needless to say, all the classics, old and new, were played, from 'Wild And Wonderful' through to the final Almighty single 'Do You Understand' and it became apparent that the band's wish to go out on a crescendo was a justified one that was being fulfilled in front of our eyes.

It was a bit of a shame that they chose to finish with the melodramatic and (for me) lyrically unappetising 'Jesus Loves You But I Don't', especially after such a stirring performance previously. Nevertheless, if that wasn't quite an almighty finale, the gig itself served as a fitting epitaph to a band who had some fine songs.

## album: pantera - the great southern trendkill<sup>vik</sup>

Pantera? They're really hard and play loud music, don't they? Nobody can like all that shouting and heavy guitars, right? Wrong. Pantera's last album 'Far Beyond Driven' went far beyond expectations by going straight into the US charts at No.1 and into the UK charts at No.3, they've sold six million records worldwide (Blur? Oasis? Don't make me laugh) and their live shows are one of the purest adrenaline rushes on musical earth. Proof enough that people like this stuff...

And with opening numbers like the title track here, it's not surprising. If you're feeling remotely disenchanted, angry or even just suffering from that once-yearly condition of exam stress, then try putting it on and practising screaming in unison with Phil Anselmo's fourteen

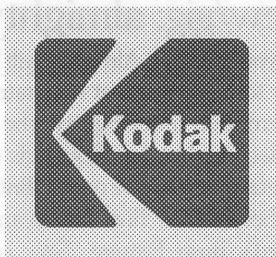
second vomit impression. Then sit back and listen to Dimebag Darrell's gargantuan slabs of guitar and Vinnie Paul's pummelling drums and realise that you don't need to be upset any longer because here are four guys who are doing it brilliantly for you.

That's not to say that Pantera can't display a lighter (I wouldn't go as far as to say sensitive) side when they want to. '10's lives up to the press release's billing as being "dissonantly atmospheric", whilst 'Suicide Note Pt.1' and 'Floods' are almost, well, pleasant (!).

Unfortunately, and surprisingly, it's the heavier numbers where Pantera come slightly unstuck on this album. 'War Nerve', 'Living Through Me' and the stupendously titled 'Sandblasted Skin' are all too directionless to be the battlegrounds of aggression that they're supposed to be. Just don't tell them that I said that, okay? (6)



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## celluloid guide: this week

odeon kensington

01426 914666

secrets and lies

11.55, 3.00, 6.05, 9.10, L

sense & sensibility

12.15, 3.15, 9.05

copycat 6.50, 12.05 fri & sat

toy story 12.05, 2.20, 4.35

the birdcage 6.50, 9.35, L

things to do in denver when

you're dead

12.00, 3.05, 6.10, 9.15, L

muppet treasure island

1.00, 3.30

mr holland's opus

6.00, 9.10, L

spy hard

12.35, 2.45, 4.55, 7.05, 9.15,

11.25 fri & sat

[L=late perf, 12.20 fri & sat]

tube, ken high street. £7, £6,

£3.50 before 5pm mon-fri,

£4 before 5pm sat-sun

mgm fulham road

0171 370 2636

primal fear

12.30, 3.20, 6.10, 9.00

kids 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30

secrets and lies

12.10, 3.10, 6.10, 9.10

mr holland's opus 2.30, 6.15

12 monkeys 9.15

the birdcage 1.00, 3.40

executive decision 6.20, 9.20

tube; south ken then bus

£6.20, £3.70 students and

before 6pm

mgm chelsea

0171 352 5096

muppets treasure island

12.35, 2.50, 4.55

things to do in denver when

you're dead 7.00, 9.30

the birdcage

1.20, 4.05, 6.50, 9.25

richard iii

1.40, 4.10, 6.45, 9.25

toy story 12.45, 2.45, 4.45

copycat 6.50, 9.25

tube; south ken then bus

£6.20, £3.70 students and

before 6pm

chelsea cinema

0171 351 3742

blue in the face

1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00

tube; sloane square then bus

£7, £6, £4 (£2.50 concs) 1st

perf

## film: primal fear spooky

With such a meaningless title it is hard to know what to expect from *Primal Fear*, although the film does its best to give the game away. Richard Gere plays Martin Vail, a hotshot defence lawyer who cares more about winning than the truth.

His beliefs are tested when he elects himself to defend Aaron Stampler (Edward Norton), a young man accused of the brutal murder of the local Bishop. Despite the fact that Aaron is an altar boy who lived with the Bishop and was caught running from the scene covered in blood, Vail believes him to be innocent. But deeper investigation into the Bishop's life reveals both a high-profile property deal gone bad and a tendency toward sexual perversion.

The director is better known for his work on various Steven Bochco TV shows, a fact which is clearly evident. The film comes over more like an extended episode of *NYPD Blue* (with a healthy dose of *LA Law*) than a major motion picture. Consequently, there are a lot of fairly irrelevant minor characters, several obvious plot give-aways, unoriginal characterisations and minimal camerawork. There is also a journalist who keeps popping up, apparently only to try to add some depth to Richard Gere's character, but these scenes always seem artificial and prove to be more a source of irritation.

The plot is something of a mess: it is too scattered, with too many angles which it fails to combine adequately. What is especially hard to comprehend is why Vail should suddenly undergo such a major character change, to care so much about Aaron's innocence. The split personalities plot device

has been used to better effect before, notably in Hitchcock's *Psycho*, although it does have an original final twist.

Richard Gere is basically playing his usual role and is never really called upon to act. However, the best thing about this film is newcomer Norton's performances as a troubled simple youth. Laura Linney also makes a step up from the travesty that was *Congo*, as Vail's ex-partner and ex-lover who also happens to be the prosecuting attorney.

*Primal Fear* is not the 'compelling blend of courtroom drama, suspense thriller and psychological study' that it claims to be, but rather a baffling combination of ill-scripting, poor characterisation and TV direction.



## film: mr holland's opus

jenny ho

*Mr. Holland's Opus* covers thirty years in the life of Glenn Holland (Richard Dreyfuss), whose dream is to become a famous composer. The film begins in 1965 when Glenn becomes a high school music appreciation teacher in order to pay the bills, and in the hope that the job will give him time to work on the opus he is composing. Glenn gains popularity with his pupils by teaching them through rock 'n' roll, but disapproval from uptight Vice-Principal Wolters (an amusing turn from W. H. Macy).

Glenn's initial intention is eventually to give up the teaching job so that he can concentrate on his composition but this becomes impossible when his wife Iris (Glenne Headley, an actress with a very irritating voice) announces that she is pregnant. Glenn attempts to induce an innate love for music in his unborn son by playing it to

him through headphones pressed against his wife's swollen belly, but his efforts are in vain because their son is born deaf. Glenn's sadness and disappointment are made all too clear when, during a lesson about Beethoven, he is asked: If Beethoven was deaf, how did he know what the notes were? Glenn's eyes start to water and his voice cracks as he replies: "Because Beethoven was not born deaf".

*Mr. Holland's Opus* deservedly earned a best actor Oscar nomination for Richard Dreyfuss, who manages to inject humour into his role and convey an infectious enjoyment in his teaching and conduction. He also ages quite convincingly over the thirty year period.

*Mr. Holland's Opus* is an engaging film from the man who also directed *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* and *Critters* and has an ending that is rousing enough to leave the audience smiling or fighting back the tears, or both.



**friday**  
**24**  
may

**Amateur Radio Society (HamSoc)**  
1pm. Top floor of ICU. (R)

**Rag Meeting**  
1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

**Pakistan Society**  
3 - 5pm. Basketball, union gym.  
For details contact Kashif, aero II, k.ahmed@ae.ic (R)

**Wing Chun Kung Fu**  
5-7pm. Union Gym. Beginners welcome. 1st lesson free. (R)

**Fitness Club**  
5.30pm. Advanced Step Aerobics. Southside Gym. (R)

**Ents**  
Two tons of fun! Another evening of double delights, starting at 8pm with the Daily Telegraph Open Mic Award Semi-Finals with compere Boothby Graffoe. That's a total of 14 acts for just £2.50 / £2, and if you bring a copy of today's Telegraph you get a free bottle of Newcastle Brown.

Then we give up any pretence of credibility and indulge in the boogie wonderland that is Shaft. A night full of everybody's favourite 70's and 80's sounds to dance away all those exam worries.

Plus, Trash Aesthetic brings you funk, pop and electro on top of the usual blissed out tunes in the UDH... all for a mere £1, and it's free before 9.

**Free minibus service**  
Bus service leaves from in front of the union, taking lone female students home to anywhere in central London. First run midnight, last run 2am. See Beit Security for times. (R)

**f r i d a y**

the  
week  
ahead

**saturday**  
**25**  
may

**Gliding Club**  
Gliding at Lasham Airfield.  
Contact gliding@ic.ac.uk. Come to Thursday meeting first. (R)

**Ents**  
Standing Room Only - Rugby Special. Warrington v London.  
7pm. DaVinci's.

**s a t u r d a y**

## RCS Union

Biochemistry has elected Abarna Thiru as next year's Dep Rep. They went to the ballot a fortnight ago, and the results have been accepted by the Elections Committee. Dr Mitchell, the RCSU HST, was amused by the pair of underpants drawn on one ballot paper.

Physics? Don't talk to me about Physics! Over Easter their papers were removed, which caused all sorts of problems, not least for the candidates who were nearly fully seconded - the Returning Officer had no alternative but to declare the papers null and void. A new set was put up and one different candidate has stood: Mr Hooman Behnia. Hooman ran for RCSU Vice President, only being defeated at the second count by Karl Condron.

Biology will go to the polls before this Felix is issued; two candidates are standing: Eoin Harris and Yu-Ming Chan, as well as New Election. Chemistry has one candidate, David Robinson, who is certainly going to be ratified by the Chemistry student body this week. Maths has one candidate at present.

As RCSU Handbook Editor, I really want good student participation; articles, photos, ANYTHING - to create a good handbook which reaches out to the average student, requires a coordinated, committed team effort.

Last week saw the Colours Committee meet - I would like to draw everyone's attention to the following people, who were especially mentioned. Thida Tun, MathsSoc President, has breathed new life into the Society. Sean Rands, BioSoc Chairman, actually resurrected the Society from extinction during the first term of the year. Sean got his proposals through a UGM (dominated by Freshers

**sunday**  
**26**  
may

**Gliding Club**  
Gliding at Lasham Airfield. (R)

**Wargames**  
1pm. Table Tennis room. (R)

**Fitness Club**  
2pm. Southside Gym. Intermediate aerobics. (R)

**s u n d a y**

who would vote for anything, even for chocolate liqueurs!), and BioSoc is in excellent health. Dr Margaret Goodgame, working as a College Tutor and in the area of Women's Affairs, is thanked for her many valuable contributions to Academic Affairs. The IC University Challenge team took part in and won for IC - well done, lads! Although it has been noted that Mark Pallen, a Biochemist, failed to recognise the structure of glucose, he and his team were outstanding nonetheless!

*Rob Park, Hon Sec. Elect, RCSU*

**Colours & Awards 1995-96**  
The people listed below have been awarded RCSU Colours.

**PERSONAL POTS:**  
Mohummud Dullo, Matt Szyndel, Chris Bragg

**UGA's:**  
Mohummud Dullo, Chris Bragg, Matt Szyndel

**SOCIAL COLOURS:**  
Dr Anne Mitchell, Jane Hoyle, Rob Park, Helen-Louise Windsor, Ken Pritchard, Kenny Green, Rob Stopa, Paul Shaw, Khurram Mahood, Duncan Robertson, Neil Shirtcliff, Duncan Tindall, Thida Tun, Matt Crompton, Nick Shearman, Mark Pallen, Nick Bradshaw, Jim Totty, Chris Morrison, Pete Kirtley, Mr Simon Mann, Ms Melanie MacDonald, Val, Dr Margaret Goodgame, Sam Pickering, Stuart Jenkins, Jane Lloyd, Prof John Pendrey, Chelsea Fire Station.

**RE-AWARDS:**  
Dave Burns, John Turner, Tony Spencer, Matt Szyndel, Mohummud Dullo, Sean Rands, Chris Bragg, Alaric Turner, Maria Banks, Ric, Stephanie Snell, Jezebel the Fire Engine.

**VOTES OF THANKS:**  
Bernard Middleton, Rachel Walters, Paul Kernow, Samantha Baker, Chris Chamberlain, Chris Saussinan.

**monday**  
**27**  
may

**Student Industrial Society**  
12 - 2pm. Table Tennis room, Union building. (R)

**Fitness Club**  
12.30pm. Beginners body toning (45 mins)  
5.30pm. Beginners aerobics  
6.30pm. Intermediate aerobics. Southside Gym. (R)

**Ski Club**  
5 - 5.45pm. Southside Upper Lounge. (R)

**Concert Band**  
5.15pm. Great Hall. Any ability. (R)

**Cross Country**  
5.00pm. Circuit training. Union gym. (R)

**IC 2nd Orchestra**  
7 - 9pm. Great Hall. All welcome. (R)

**Methsoc**  
6pm. Prince's Gardens Ecumenical Group. Chaplaincy Office, Northside. (R)

**m o n d a y**

## Cycling

**National Student 25 mile Time Trial Championships**  
IC were in action earlier this month, competing in a fiercely-contested championship. The course outside Oxford is not known as the fastest in the country and the two long climbs, together with a nagging crosswind, made the race tough for all 123 competitors.

Fastest college man on the day was once more Liam Maybank with a time of 59:09 (25.4 mph); second fastest was Duncan Emery, recording 59:37 (25.1 mph). Agis Agisilaou and Toby, both riding their first 25-miler, were credited with 1:02:03 (24.2 mph) and 1:09:22 (21.6 mph) respectively.

In the team competition, IC performed well to take 5th place. Overall winner on the day was Olympic Squad member and full-time cyclist Roger Hammond with a time of 51:52 (28.9 mph).

IC Cycling club wishes to express its thanks to Evans Cycles of Wandsworth for their continued support.



## tuesday 28 may

### Cathsoc

12.00 pm. Bagritt Centre, Mechanical Engineering. (R)

### Yacht Club

12.30pm. Lecture theatre 2, Physics. (R)

### African Caribbean Soc

12.30 - 1.30pm. Room G02, Materials. All welcome. (R)

### IC Sailing Club

12.45 - 1.45pm. Southside Lounge. (R)

### AudioSoc

1.00pm. Brown Committee Room. Want to buy cheap CDs? Interested in borrowing high-end Hi-Fi? We have it all! (R)

### Photo Soc

1.00pm. meeting in Southside Lounge. (R)

### Circus Skills

5 - 8pm. Ents Lounge. Contact sdh@ee.ic.ac.uk for details. (R)

### Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced step aerobics. (R)

### IC Bridge Club

6pm in the Clubs Committee Room. (R)

### IQ

9.00pm. Union Bar. Further information from: pink-help-@doc.ic.ac.uk or http://pink.doc.ic.ac.uk/IC/ (R)

### Canoe Club

7pm. Beit Quad. All levels welcome, and free instruction. (R)

### ICCAG

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

### Ents

8pm start. Dan the trivia man returns. Lots easier than your exams, and more likely to earn you instant cash! DaVinci's Bar Trivia, £50 cash to be won!

### After Dark

8 - 11.30pm in the Ents Lounge. Admission is only £1 for a night of swing, hip-hop and jungle with the African Caribbean Society. Definitely the way to celebrate after the bar quiz. (R)

tuesday

## wednesday 29 may

### IC Sailing Club

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

### Skate Society

12.15pm. Southside Lounge. Contact Alex a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk, 0171 352 9111 (R)

### Motorbike Club

12.45pm. Southside Lounge. Contact Ian Robinson, i.robinson@ic for more 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. (R)

### IC Symphony Orchestra

7 - 10pm. Great Hall. (R)

### Wing Chun Kung Fu

1.30 - 3.30pm. Union Gym. Beginners welcome. 1st lesson free. (R)

### Chess Club

6.30pm. Brown Committee Room or Clubs Committee Room. (R)

### Ents

9 - 12am. Frolik! Mindless mid-week partying.

wednesday

## attention phoenix approaching

Phoenix, ICU's annual arts publication is nearing readiness. This year it will feature a full length album of music, a complimentary exhibition in the Ents Lounge and full WWW support as well as the magazine.

Writing, graphics, photography, poetry, music and art. Don't miss out, check Felix for the release date.

Last minute contributions to Mark Baker at the Felix office.

## thursday 30 may

### Fitness Club

12.30pm. Southside Gym. 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. Aeronautics 266. (R)

### YHA

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

### Yoga Soc

6.15 - 7.45pm. Table tennis room. Beginners' Kunalini class. mpn@doc.ic, ex 48237. (R)

### Christian Union

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

### Mountaineering Club

7pm. Meeting in Southside. (R)

### ICCAG

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

### Skate Soc

Night skate - all welcome. Contact a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk for more details. (R)

### Motorbike Club

7.45pm meet in Southside. Rides in and around London. Any size and shape of bike welcome. Contact Ian Robinson, i.robinson@ic for more details. (R)

### Ents

5 - 11pm. Suave sophistication at another great DaVinci's Cocktail Night.

thursday

## icsf

Our annual magazine of fiction, articles and graphics needs your material now, and the deadline for knowing who is going to give us anything is today. Actual material needs to be in a week from now. If you would like to see your written word in print, here is your chance. If you are unsure as to what we are on about, previous years' productions can be seen on the web pages. <http://www.ph.ic.ac.uk/moontg/> for more information.

## friday 31 may

### Amateur Radio Society (HamSoc)

1pm. Top floor of ICU. (R)

### Rag Meeting

1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

### Pakistan Society

3 - 5pm. Basketball, union gym. For details contact Kashif, aero II, k.ahmed@ae.ic (R)

### Wing Chun Kung Fu

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

### Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced Step Aerobics. Southside Gym. (R)

### Ents

8 - 2am. Jazz & Rock join up with Ents to bring you 4 (as yet undecided) College bands live with Abandon 2. Plus the Common People bring you tip top indie sounds 'til 2, plus chill out room. £1/ Free before 9.

friday

## next diary deadline: noon, May 27th

In an endeavour to keep the diary as up-to-date as possible, we need current information on this term's meetings. All regular entries (noted by an 'R') will appear for the final time in next week's issue (31st May) unless they are re-confirmed by noon on Monday 3rd June.

the  
week  
ahead



## LETTERS TO FELIX

REPLIED TO BY SIMON BAKER

## calculating?

Dear Felix,

I would like to reply to the comments in Eric Chan's letter on the subject of calculators in examinations. Over the summer, the college examining board decided that students will no longer be allowed to take their own calculators into examinations. Students were not consulted about this decision, as it is considered inappropriate for there to be a student presence on the examining board. The possibility of student representation on this board in the future is remote, unless we see rioting in all major departments. Student opinion on this change has since been heard by senior college staff at the academic affairs half day and at various college committees.

Departments have dealt with this change in college policy in different ways. Most have chosen a model of calculator which they provide for their students in examinations. The model of calculator varies, leading to some difficulties in humanities examinations. The calculator issued by humanities is not necessarily the calculator issued by your department.

In my opinion, the idea of issuing students with a standard calculator is a fair one. I personally would not like to think that I was at a disadvantage in an exam because other people can afford to buy a better calculator than I can, particularly if the advantage that they gained was due to a full set of lecture notes in the memory of their 'calculator'. I have been led to believe that departmental libraries stock your department's choice of calculator for you to borrow and get used to.

I do find it disappointing that students were not consulted on this matter. It is a shame that college did not include the union bookstore in the bulk purchase deal that they no doubt procured. However I expect that college will be keen to address problems arising from this change in policy.

Matthew Szyndel

RCSU Academic Affairs Officer

Dear Rachel,

Calculators in Examinations.

Your correspondence page suggests that you might welcome further information on the change in College policy over the use of calculators in examinations.

At meetings in autumn 1995 the two principal Committees of Examiners which oversee undergraduate examinations decided that it was no longer appropriate to continue with the current arrangements. This was because there was concern that students with certain types of machines might enjoy an unfair advantage because of the increasing difficulties in monitoring the sophisticated calculators now available (programmable ability, alpha-numeric capability, large memory facility and the ability for calculators in the same room to communicate). Instead it was decided that, from the summer term examinations, calculators would be provided by the College in accordance with the requirements of each department.

For obvious reasons, Boards of Examiners are one of the very few committees at IC which do not enjoy student representation. Once, however, the policy decision was taken the Registry moved swiftly to consult departments on their preferred make and model of calculator. Each department was free to choose independently of other departments, though, in practice, two models only were chosen college-wide which allowed for bulk buying. Each department had its stock of calculators available to them in January 1996, at the beginning of the spring term, allowing plenty of time for students to practise on the model chosen by their department.

Yours sincerely,

F V McClure

Academic Registrar

**It is certainly the case that the scope for cheating with the supercalculators was very great and something had to be done. As for student consultation, Matt, that's a forlorn hope. Thin end of the wedge, my boy, bad for discipline.**

## delightful?

Dear Rachel,

In *Felix* 1056, you suggested in the first instance that Security Officers slept whilst on duty, and later stated that there are "plenty of absolutely delightful security staff".

Security staff are entitled to scheduled breaks, this is not to say that they sleep during this time. As for not being paid enough, that is not for you to comment on but the responsibility of the individual officer.

You also mentioned "not challenged enough". You, Rachel, could not begin to comprehend the various jobs and duties we undertake, perhaps you would like to join us on a 72 hour shift and see if your views are the same on completion of that duty. We try to undertake our duties in the most professional way we can, taking into account the circumstances at the time, at the end of the day we have to make a decision.

I would now like to answer Mr Simon Baker (issue 1057). First of all the V & A does not house or exhibit '1942 Stormtrooper outfits'. Perhaps you use the same researcher as 'Richard & Judy' or did you do it all by yourself?

Closure of the Falmouth gates at 11pm – they are closed for two reasons, the left hand pedestrian gate was closed originally to allow noise to be kept to an acceptable level when passing the private flats opposite 170 Queens Gate. Closure of the gates at midnight in my experience would only raise the noise level by people using it as a short cut from bar areas such as Southside and Beit Quad. The right hand gate was closed when the Library building work began to prevent accidents.

Whilst writing, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the article on the tragic loss of Vic Turner, who will be sadly missed by us all.

Yours sincerely

Gary Gray

**May I congratulate you on your encyclopaedic knowledge of the V & A collection. The article should have read "from the 1942 Stormtrooper at C & A collection." Methinks your love of this great museum led you to**

**miss the point slightly. The question of pay was speculation, not given as fact, but I must agree with you on the challenge and variety of the job. The fact remains that some of your staff are sometimes plain rude to students. As for the gates, if you wanted to prevent accidents due to the building work, why not seal it all off?**

## poor library

Dear Felix,

You are quite right that, in comparison with Oxford, and to a much less extent with Cambridge, expenditure on libraries in College, 44 out of 100, according to the Good Universities Guide, is rather poor. The situation is even worse since the figures for Oxbridge exclude expenditure on books published in the UK: under the legal deposit scheme they receive these free. Lavish spending on libraries is supported out of their endowments and, in addition, HEFCE gives £1.1 million per annum to the Bodleian and to Cambridge under the non-formula funding arrangement to cover the additional costs created by their legal deposit status.

When you look at the rest of the field, IC is the third best, following the two specialist Social Sciences institutions, LSE and the University of Buckingham, which regard their libraries as labs. Nevertheless, it would be foolish to be complacent. The British Library is cutting thousands of current periodicals, so resources in London will be greatly diminished. As for electronic publications, they cost extra for site licences and equipment and expert staff to run them.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Magda Cziganay

Director of Library and Audio-Visual Services

**I was surprised at the low rating, having used the library a lot recently. Cambridge do have the upper hand in one respect. They've just banned mobile phones from all their libraries. Please take note.**

Letters may be edited for length. Deadline for letters in *Felix* 1059: midday, Tuesday 28th May



The 9th Colin Cherry Memorial  
lecture on Communication, entitled

## “Creating Value in the Information Society”

will be given by

**Sir David Puttnam  
(Chariots of Fire)**

6.00pm on 13th June 1996 in the  
Great Hall of Imperial College.

For free tickets please phone  
0171 594 6261.

# iCU

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

## 1996 Handbook

### Advertising Manager

Have you 12-16 hours a week free in June?

We need someone to start as soon as possible to bring in and coordinate the advertising for the 1996 ICU handbook. Good communication and negotiating skills as well as a professional and efficient manner, and the ability to set and keep to deadlines are essential. IT skills are important but training and support will be given.

£375 paid for a minimum of 60 hours work.

Write, detailing your experience and suitability for the position, to ICU, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, SW7 2BB.

### Features editor

We need a features editor to commission and/or write 10-12 informative articles (as decided by ICU executive) to introduce next year's freshers' to IC and the South Kensington area.

Good, fluent written communication skills are essential, as are an imaginative and creative sense of humour. The candidate should also have a thorough knowledge of Imperial's facilities, and good computing skills.

£275 will be paid for a minimum of 48 hours work.

Write, detailing your experience and suitability for the position, and including a short example of your written work, to ICU, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, SW7 2BB.

Further information and contractual details can be obtained by calling Michelle on 0171 594 8060, or by calling in to the ICU office. Letter of application for both positions must be received by noon on Monday June 3rd.

# FELIX

FOUNDED 1949

PRODUCED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION  
PUBLICATIONS BOARD

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A couple of weeks ago I wrote an editorial in which I proffered the opinion that the public face of IC was badly let down by a few staff who could have perhaps brushed up on their customer care a fraction. It was perhaps a little cynical, but quite frankly the suggestion that some of the catering staff are a little rude, and some of the security guards a little grumpy is not a particularly outlandish viewpoint to express.

Nonetheless, I have since received an unprecedented amount of response, some quite supportive, but most expressing the opinion that I had no right to say such things. I felt reasonably cowed by it all: there are quite a few folk at IC who can do rather a good line in making you feel that you can't possibly know what you're talking about because you're only a student. How the hell have we managed to find ourselves at a college where you can't complain or criticise at all?

It's perhaps typical of the way so many things happen here that the issue of calculators in exams should only reach public debate now, when the issue is implemented. It really does seem that this is a case of 'mummy

knows best' because standardising the calculators that students use must surely be sensible. But none the less it seems tragic that the undergraduate response is the usual mournful "Well we don't have any choice". Matt Szyndel reckons that it would take 'rioting in all the major departments' for the college authorities to pay any attention to student opinion, and I suspect he may be right.

This particular issue may not be a case of gross injustice but there are plenty of examples of cavalier disregard of student interest that go by unchecked. Somehow we've got ourselves into a situation where they're automatically right, always, because we are the students. Besides, they've got the money, so what are we going to do about it?

The editorial in this week's edition of Gair Rhydd, the Cardiff student newspaper, expresses student concerns about the college registry, who appear to have had a few problems sorting out the new exam timetables. It's vitriolic approach made me realise that *Felix* is in fact *very* tame. But I wonder what their college authorities say about it?

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

NEWS: ALEX FEAKES AND ANDREW TSENG

FEATURES: MARK BAKER

SUB-EDITING AND PROOFING: TIM ST CLAIR

MUSIC: VIK BANSAL CINEMA: WEI LEE

PHOTOGRAPHY: NO-ONE, NOT EVEN THE TREES

PUZZLES: CATFISH CLUBS AND SOCS: STEPHEN HAMILTON

THEATRE: KATHERINE FISHWICK AND CLAIRE SAMUEL

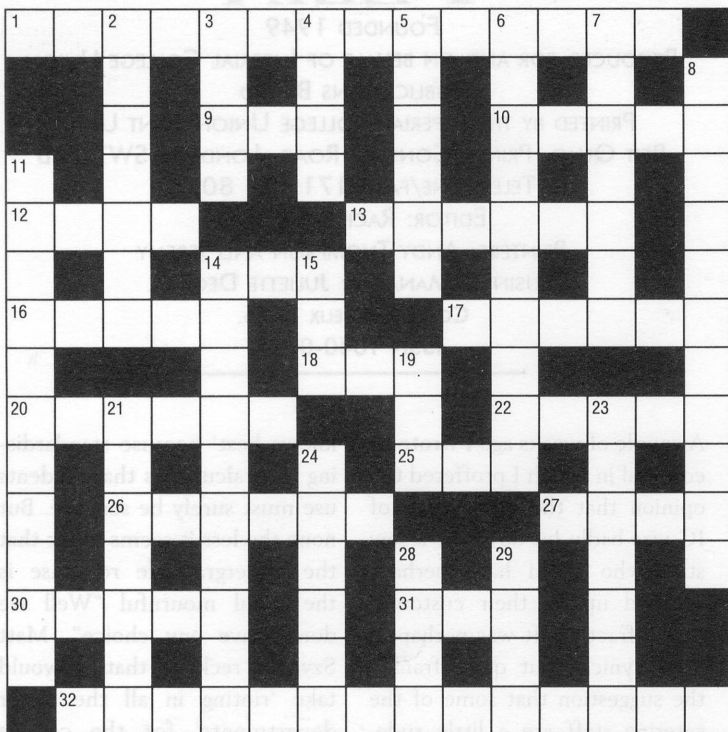
ARTS: JEREMY SCIENCE: BEN WILKINS

COLLATING LAST WEEK: ANDREW, TIM, BEN, AND JEREMY

DELIVERING LAST WEEK: ALEX AND ANDREW



# The Daily Telegraph Sports Crossword



**Across:**

1. Reigning champion flat jockey (7,7)
9. World Cup cricket minnow from the Middle East (1,1,1)
10. Nickname of Middlesbrough manager (5)

12. \_\_\_\_ Stewart, Surrey and England cricketer (4)
13. American city, home of the Broncos and Nuggets (6)
14. A run at cricket without any contact with the ball (3)
16. South African star over

- 10,000m, Elana \_\_\_\_ (5)
17. Italian word for fans (6)
18. Prefix for Richard Hadlee and Bobby Charlton (3)
20. A follower of Pittsburgh in baseball or Bristol Rovers in football (6)
22. Paul \_\_\_\_, Kenyan 800m champion at Barcelona 1988 (5)
25. \_\_\_\_ Rutherford, former New Zealand cricket captain (3)
26. Second Division men's hockey club (6)
27. Liverpool striker Collymore (4)
30. Norwegian marathon legend, \_\_\_\_ Waitz who won the 1st London Marathon (5)
31. Ireland's most capped prop, won 58 caps between 1976-87 (3)
32. Former Tottenham manager and Argentine World Cup winner (7,7)

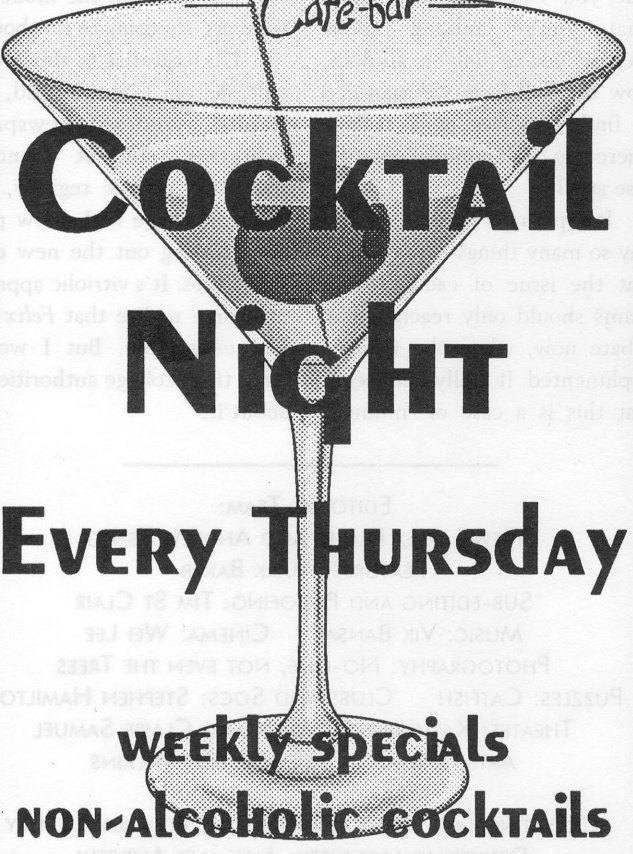
- Cup skiing champion (4)
4. Fencing sword (4)
5. Courage Rugby League division four club (6)
6. US golfer and winner on the European Tour last year (10)
7. Italian footballer Baggio (7)
8. Scottish snooker star (4,7)
11. Californian resort and championship golfcourse (4,7)
14. Slovakian city, home of football clubs Inter and Sparta (10)
15. Golfer who won US Open in 1994(3)
19. Indiana Pacers and Dutch basketball star, \_\_\_\_ Smits (3)
21. New York's ice hockey team (7)
23. Site of Portuguese Grand Prix (7)
24. 1968 GB Olympic hockey star Chris or South African cricketer Allan (6)
28. Rosa \_\_\_\_, 1988 Olympic women's marathon champion (4)
29. \_\_\_\_ Friedel, US goalkeeper (4)

**Down:**

2. Olympic sport (7)
3. Lasse \_\_\_\_, Norway's World

A prize of a £25 sports voucher will be awarded to the first correct entry drawn, and five runners-up will each receive a Daily Telegraph T-shirt. Entries must be submitted by 6pm on Wednesday 29th May, and the winners' names and the solution will be printed next Friday.

**Da Vinci's**  
Café-bar



**Cocktail  
Night**

**Every Thursday**

**WEEKLY SPECIALS**  
**NON-ALCOHOLIC COCKTAILS**

**Da Vinci's**  
Café-bar

**8pm EVERY TUESDAY**

**bar**

**TRINIA**

**£50 CASH PRIZE**  
**& more !**

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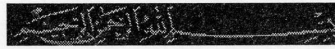
*The Qur'an*

**&**

*Modern Science*

Produced by the Imperial College Islamic Society





## The Qur'an and Modern Science

### Introduction

RELIGION and SCIENCE have always been considered to be twin sisters by Islam and today at a time when science has taken great strides, they still continue to be associated. Furthermore, certain scientific data are used for a better understanding of the Qur'anic text. In a century where, for many, scientific truth has dealt a deathblow to religious belief, it is precisely the discoveries of science that, in an objective examination of the Islamic Revelation, have highlighted the supernatural character of various aspects of the Revelation.

### Does the Qur'an contradict established scientific facts ?

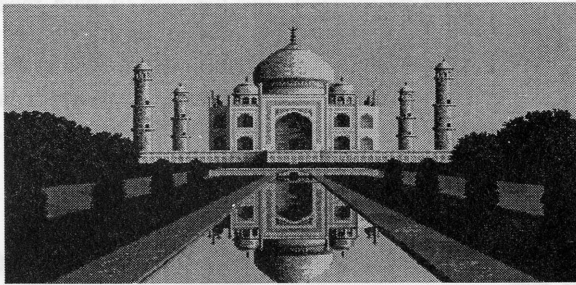
After a study which lasted ten years, the famous French physician Maurice Bucaille addressed the French Academy of Medicine in 1976 and expressed the complete agreement of the Qur'an and established findings of modern science. He presented his study on the existence in the Qur'an of certain statements concerning physiology and reproduction. His reason for doing that was that *"our knowledge of these disciplines is such, that it is impossible to explain how a text produced at the time of the Qur'an could have contained ideas that have only been discovered in modern times"*.

Decades later a noted embryologist Keith L. Moore and expert in his field, upon being presented with the statements made in the Qur'an regarding the stages of the formation of the embryo from the mixing of the male and female gametes up to the embryo's full development remarked *"It has been a pleasure for me to help clarify statements in the Qur'an about Human Development. It is clear to me that these statements must have come to Muhammad from God or Allah because almost all of this knowledge was not discovered until many centuries later."* Professor Moore presented his findings to scientists at several conferences. Several Canadian periodicals published many of Moore's statements and in addition he presented three television programmes in which he highlighted the compatibility of modern science with what has been revealed in the Qur'an 1400 years ago. Consequently, he was asked: *"Does this mean that you believe that the Qur'an is the word of God?"* to which he replied *"I find no difficulty in accepting this."*

In fact Professor Moore was so amazed at the accuracy of the descriptions and the terminology used for the various stages of the development of the embryo that he



modified his own textbook on the subject. He incorporated all the relevant Qur'anic passages and authentic statements of the Prophet Muhammad into his book, *The Developing Human*, 1987, which is a standard university textbook in the United States. The book now contains passages of the Qur'an and the Hadeeth (verified statements of the Prophet Muhammad) for every stage of development and Professor Moore has also adopted the classification used in the above two sources.

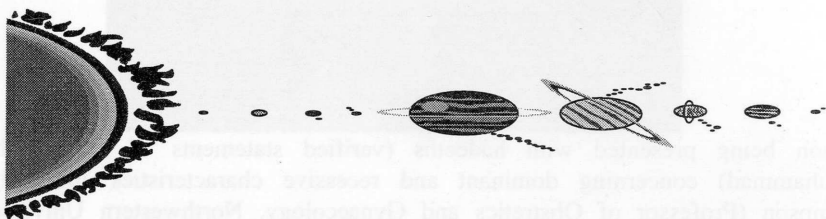


Upon being presented with hadeeths (verified statements of the Prophet Muhammad) concerning dominant and recessive characteristics Joe Leigh Simpson (Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, Illinois, USA) said: *"... these Hadeeths could not have been obtained on the basis of the scientific knowledge that was available at the time of the 'writer'... It follows that not only is there agreement between genetics and religion (Islam) but in fact religion (Islam) may guide science by adding revelation to some of the traditional scientific approaches... There exist statements in the Qur'an shown centuries later to be valid which support knowledge in the Qur'an having been derived from God".*

Consider also the statement of T.V.N. Persaud (Professor and Head, Dept. of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Manitoba, Canada): *"Muhammad was a very ordinary man, he couldn't read, didn't know how to write, in fact he was an illiterate... we're talking about 1400 years ago, you have some illiterate person making profound statements that are amazingly accurate, of a scientific nature... I personally can't see how this could be mere chance, there are too many accuracies and like Professor Moore I have no difficulty in my mind reconciling that this is a divine inspiration or revelation which lead him to these statements".*



These are just a number of quotes from the "Scientific Community" regarding the nature and the origins of the Qur'an. In fact the Qur'an and Hadeeth do not just talk about embryology but hundreds of other phenomenon including the earth and sun being round, spinning around their own axis and following their own orbits, the origin and formation of the universe, the two types of seas between which is a barrier, the role of mountains in stabilising the earth's crust, the formation of milk in cows, the cause of sexual diseases, the location of pain receptors within the body, the expansion of the universe, the precise nature of the water cycle, the change in atmospheric pressure at high altitudes, the gender of the bee responsible for producing honey (female), the stars consuming themselves via combustion of their gases and this being the source of their light, and many more.



### **Can this all be by chance ?**

Explaining all these statements by chance alone is something which has been resorted to, surprisingly by those deemed to be possessors of intellect and erudition. However this is not tenable as the following demonstration will show. When you make a guess regarding the true nature of something (in an accurate and precise manner that is) there are only two possibilities. Either you are right or wrong. If you make another guess then you only have one chance in four of being correct both times. If you make a third guess then you have one chance in eight of being correct all three times and so on. The chances of correctly describing, lets say, ten phenomena are 1 in 1024. Another point to bear in mind is that the greater the number of things you describe, the chance of being wrong is greater and thus the risk you are taking of being discredited gets bigger and bigger. The Qur'an and the Sunnah (Authentic sayings of the Prophet (peace be upon Him)) make statements on literally hundreds of phenomenon and at the same time openly calls the scientific community to verify them. If one from the scientific community was to make hundreds of new claims regarding his particular field and was then to call

all his fellow specialists to prove him wrong he would know without doubt that he is standing on an undermined sand cliff which is ready to crumble with him. How then for the one who makes statements about the specialities of others?

### **Judge the Qur'an scientifically ?**

One will be surprised to learn that such a scientific approach has been commanded in the Qur'an with the objective of ascertaining its truthfulness.

**Do they not carefully consider (investigate) the Qur'an or are there locks upon their hearts. [Surah 47:24]**

**Do they not carefully analyse the Qur'an. If it had been from other than Allah then surely they would have found many discrepancies therein [Surah 4:82]**

So religious (that is Islamic) beliefs are not based upon blind acceptance, contrary to the commonly held view applied to all religions including the Qur'an and Islam. This has been the experience of Europe in the past 300-400 years in which scientific advancement and its findings were seen as heretical, its proponents ridiculed and often exiled and tortured. Islam, has never had that experience.

It is true that peoples academic capabilities differ and thus some will be unable to ascertain the truth of it and therefore may accept it blindly. But again they have the opportunity to ask the people of knowledge, those who are in a position to make such a judgement, like those quoted above. It is from the principles of wisdom and justice that when you don't know you don't make a judgement yourself but rather consult one who is in a position to do so. In fact this is something Allah has also commanded:

**So ask the People of Knowledge if you do not know [Surah 21:7]**

and He (Allah) has also said

**And those who have been given Knowledge know that that which has been revealed to you from your Lord is the Truth [Surah 34:6]**



This is clear proof of the lack of dependence upon dogma, superstition and personal experience. Rather, it is an indication of the obligation to research, ascertain and to verify in a scientific manner the credibility of religious (Islamic) belief. Fortunately there are those who have done exactly that like Keith Moore and his scientific colleagues but there are others who have invented lies and slanders in order to discredit the Qur'an and the Prophet. However when these lies and slanders are put to the test scientifically they fail miserably and their irrationality and bias becomes evident. Some of the common claims are that Muhammad (peace be upon him) was possessed or was an eloquent poet, or a magician, or brainwashed, or even a soothsayer. In fact all of these have been denied and rebutted in the Qur'an itself in numerous places and numerous times. It is even more strange that these were the very same claims made by the people who belied the Prophet during his lifetime, and they are the only ones that are resorted to today. What a great advancement!

**Nay! We hurl the Truth against falsehood and it does smash it's brains and thus it perishes. And woe be to you for what you describe (with your tongues) [Surah 21:18]**

Science has come across many historic controversies with religions where the clergy had put their views and related it to God.

All physicians in the world agree that each cell in the human body has a specific role or purpose for which it is there. This purpose ties it with the purpose of tissues, organs, systems and the whole body. Thus, there is infinite wisdom in each part which makes up the whole. It follows, therefore, that man was created for a purpose and wisdom not realised by those who think that they exist aimlessly.

### **What is the Qur'an**

The Qur'an is the sacred book of the Muslims. It is the last book of guidance from Allah, sent down to Muhammad (peace be upon him) through the angel Jibraeel (Gabriel). Every word of it is the word of Allah. It was revealed over a period of 23 years in the Arabic language. Muslims usually learn to read it and many

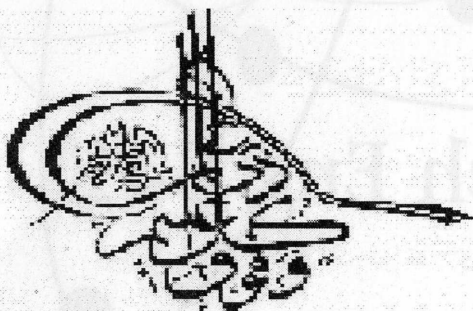
memorise it by heart. They are expected to learn its meaning and practice its teachings.

The Qur'an is unrivalled in its recording and preservation. The astonishing fact about this book of Allah is that it has remained unchanged even to a dot, over the past 1400 years. The Qur'an deals with man and his ultimate goal in life, its teachings cover all areas of this life and life after death. It contains principles, doctrines and directions for every sphere of human life. The theme of the Qur'an broadly consists of three fundamental ideas: Absolute Monotheism, Messengership, and the life after death. The success of human beings on this earth and in the life hereafter depends upon obedience to the Qur'anic teachings.

The Imperial College Islamic Society, May 1996.

Note: All quotes have been taken from a video in which after having been presented with the statements in the Qur'an and Hadeeth and given the chance to investigate, the various scientists were questioned as to their opinion regarding the Qur'an. Their response was recorded live. The video is called "The Truth" and is available from the Islamic Society upon request. If you would like to know more or have any queries about this topic then please feel free to contact the Islamic Society via [j.sheikh@ic.ac.uk](mailto:j.sheikh@ic.ac.uk) or if you prefer you are more than welcome to the Society Prayer Room in the basement of 9 Princes Gardens, next to the Sports Centre.

For quick referencing : <http://cswww2.essex.ac.uk/users/rafiam>





Imperial College Islamic Society

presents

# *The Clear Evidence*

*The Proof of the Divine Origin of the Qur'an*

A Lecture by A. Green

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

5:45pm

Mech Eng 342

All non-muslims and muslims are welcome  
*refreshments will be provided*