

THE M E L O D Y

The
Students'
Newspaper
at Imperial
College

Issue
1104

23
January
1998

NEW FICTION

Raising Demons

FILM

Win Tickets to
Boogie Nights

NEXT WEEK

Special Bumper
Issue

Hybrid Sportsmen

KENT YIP

The Executive Committee of ICU reversed the decision reached by the council last term to submit joint IC-ICSM entries into BUSA competitions for all sports.

The new "hybrid" proposal, which allows selected teams to enter separately, was backed up by 24 votes to 17. Should this bid be rejected by BUSA, the official position of the Union is to support dual entries for the next three years.

At present, only five clubs have clear ideas on the mode they will adopt next year. Whilst separate entries will be submitted by the hockey, rugby, and football clubs, the rowing and fencing teams will definitely field a combined squad for BUSA events. The respective clubs from IC and ICSM must agree before they can submit a single entry. However, once this decision has been taken, they cannot turn round to demand for separate entries the following year. In contrast, clubs which originally go for

"dual" mode but subsequently fail to put up two teams will still have the option to turn "single".

Most departmental representatives from the Royal College of Science Union voted against the motion because it stipulated "dual entry" as the back-up should the "hybrid" proposal be rejected by BUSA. Katie Nolan, Broadsheet editor and RSCU member, said smaller clubs would lose out. She argued a combined IC team would perform better nationally to attract private sector sponsorship. This would reduce their financial dependence on the Union to the benefit of smaller clubs.

However, there is no evidence that this would be the case with the rowing and fencing teams, the two sports most frequently cited as the potential victim of medics-non medics separation. At the executive committee meeting, Natasha Newton, member of the IC women's rowing squad, expressed the indifference towards BUSA competitions held by her team. Since the

women's squad are made up entirely of students from St Mary's, its strength will be unaffected. On the men's side, only one member will be excluded.

Andy Heeps, president of ICU, said that a hybrid entry would allow a smoother transfer to single entry: "It would come together naturally rather than being forced." He added that most medics at present do not truly regard themselves as part of IC. The situation will be different next years, since the new intakes will be based at South Kensington. He also disagreed that the Union's determination to work towards a single BUSA entry for sports clubs had implications for other societies. It is unlikely that the Orchestra, Opera, and Rag, will be under pressure to merge with their non-medics counterparts in the future, and furthermore such mergers would lead to impractically large societies anyway. "Certain societies will be easier to be merge than others, with sports societies, things were complicated with BUSA."

The World According to Benn

HAMISH COMMON & BUZ
BARSTOW

On Monday 19 January Rt Hon Tony Benn MP gave a speech in the Mech Eng Department, hosted by ICU Labour Club. Mr Benn, 73, showed a remarkable insight into the problems of the modern world: He warned that if the pleas of the poor and unemployed were not heeded, the world could see another rise of fascism as seen in the 1930s, born out of the extreme poverty in Europe.

Mr Benn became an MP in 1950. Though forced to step down in 1960 after inheriting a title, he re-entered the Commons in 1963 and has remained there since. He only left the House briefly in 1984 after losing his Bristol seat to a Conservative - he is currently MP for Chesterfield.

He spoke of the current global political climate, saying that soon the world would be at the same cross-roads it faced in the 1930s,

choosing social justice and freedom rather than the easy answer of dictatorship. The social insurance that safeguarded everyone, he

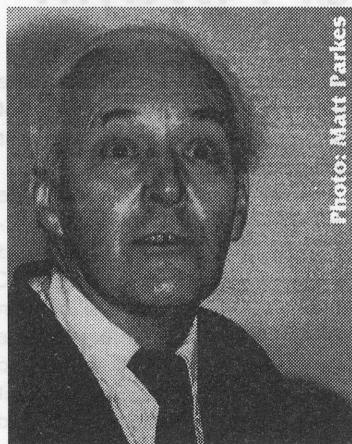


Photo: Matt Parkes

added, was now either too expensive or uneconomical. However, he felt that social welfare was vital, providing social cohesion and a backdrop to the lives under it, in spite of its vast cost with no immediate return. The system self-per-

petuates through education, in providing a new generation of people embedded with a sense of social responsibility. He admitted that this system had come under pressure from economic and media forces, but their influence could be countered by society contributing to building a better future. The struggle, he foretold, could be long and painful, hinting nothing short of deconstruction of the modern world will ensure its future.

Tony Benn's speech was heard by about 100 people, and was forthright and typically off the cuff. Throughout his talk he demonstrated a 'healthy disrespect' for the Labour leadership without criticising them personally, saying that he abhorred personal insults.

Answering questions at the end, Tony Benn continued to display a wide knowledge of a number of fields. However, Tony Benn still seems optimistic: Whatever the way of the world, he stills believes humanity will do the best it can.



Drug Problems for Linstead Warden

NEWS TEAM

Monday night saw yet another drugs related incident in Linstead Hall. At around midnight security guards were alerted after a smoke alarm was activated in a student's room.

Felix was told that security entered the room and found what was later claimed by security to be cannabis. Security was also alleged to have had trouble opening the door, and accused the room's occupants of barricading the entrance. According to one of the students there were six people in the room at the time, including one re-app and one non-Imperial student. The students neither confirmed nor denied that they were smoking cannabis - two of them have also claimed that they were too drunk to notice what was going on. After entering the room, the guards noticed the smell of cannabis, although the students claim that they didn't notice for "a couple of minutes". One of the students indignantly complained that he were subjected to an intrusive and intimate search, to which he had not given consent. Keith

Reynolds, Imperial College's Head of Security confirmed that a guard must obtain consent in such a situation. All students were searched, with protocol forcing a female member of security staff being brought over to assist with a suspected woman. One of those present alleged no evidence was found on any suspect, although one of the security staff found minute traces of what was claimed to be cannabis in a "mix" with tobacco which had been swept to the floor. The students have been told to expect a disciplinary hearing, although the charges against them have yet to be revealed. IC Security said that they were unable to comment further on the matter, saying that the incident was now being looked into by college.

This is the second time in a month that Linstead residents have been involved in a drugs scandal. December saw two students fined £75 each for smoking cannabis. When asked if he was alarmed at the apparent increase in drug abuse within Linstead, the Assistant Warden, Mr. Richard Hamilton, declined to comment, stating only that "the law is the law".

A Long Time Ago, in a Galaxy Far, Far Away...

DAVID ROBERTS

The government of Imperial is to undergo a radical shake-up next term under plans announced by the governing body.

For the first time ever student representatives will be given a vote at the highest levels of College administration, bringing IC in line with most other universities in the UK, a move described by ICU President Andy Heeps as "Excellent news".

The sovereign body of College will become the "Imperial Court", a much larger version of the present Governing Body, which will meet once a year (as opposed to the present six). Included in the membership of this body will be seven

voting members from ICU - the President and Deputy Presidents of the Union, and the four Constituent College Union Presidents.

Most decisions will then be devolved down to the much smaller "Imperial Council", which would be equivalent to the present IC Executive. Again, this will contain students as voting members for the first time, which will allow the two representatives - the ICU President and DP(F&S) - to table motions and speak on all issues (although only the President will have a vote).

Finally, the "Imperial Senate" will replace the Board of Studies, continuing to include the President and two other students amongst its number.

News in Brief...

LETTER OF FATE

On the weekend of 10 and 11 January, 120 members of the college were anonymously sent malicious chain e-mail. The message, entitled 'Letter of Fate' told recipients to forward the e-mail on to five others within three days to avoid bad luck, a common ploy used by internet 'spammers' to spread junk mail. Prof. R. J. Hynds, Head of the Centre for Computing Services, explained that most of the recipients' e-mail addresses could have been extracted from legitimate mailing lists managed by the CCS. Investigating the logs of electronic requests for the addresses and collaborating with AOL, the CCS have managed to narrow down this spammer to only a few suspects. The CCS, collaborating with UKERNA, who manages links between UK university networks, have since restricted the requests for addresses to combat future malicious mailers.

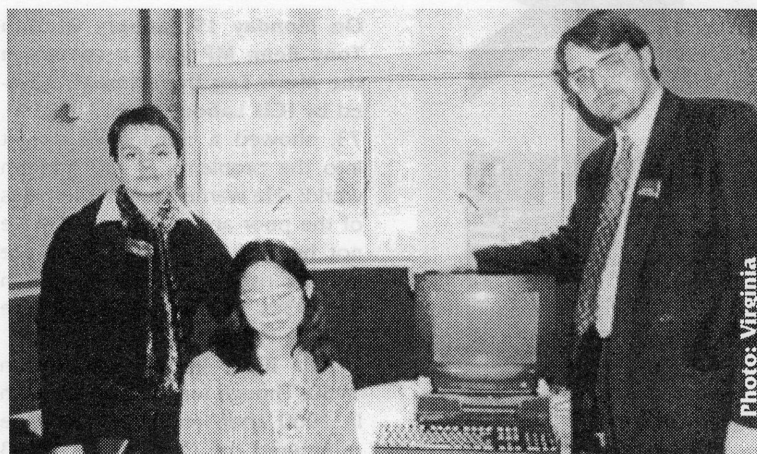
LOW PAY LEVELS

Academic salaries have hit an 18-year low, according to the Association of University Teachers. In a speech yesterday AUT President Penny Holloway said that the last three years had seen inflation go up by 9.2% but

Higher Education staff wages increased by only 8.7%. "Nowhere else in the UK economy ... has suffered a more consistent downward pressure on costs," she added. She cited the increased staff workload, such as administering tuition fees, encouraging wider access to HE, and the continuing cuts that the sector has had to face. Laura Barker, Geology Department librarian and a member of the AUT National Executive, added, "The level of salaries are scandalous... there's been a massive increase in productivity. There does seem to be a blinding lack of appreciation of education, education and education."

SABBATICAL ELECTION JOY

Papers will go up on Monday for this year's round of sabbatical elections. Four posts are up for grabs - President, Deputy President (Finance and Services), Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and Felix Editor. The posts will be of a year's duration starting next July. Each candidate requires twenty seconders and can sign up on the notice board outside the Union Office. Anyone interested is welcome to speak to the current incumbents.



Kuntinee Maneeratana, a Mechanical Engineering postgrad, has won a computer in a competition organised over the web. Dave Mutton and Emma Warner of the Internet Bookshop (IBS), presented her with the prize in dB's last Tuesday. "We have competitions all the time, and this time Kuntinee was our lucky winner," said Ms. Warner. Ms. Maneeratana, who entered the competition after buying books from IBS, said, "It was great...I've never won any prizes before." IBS can be visited on www.bookshop.co.uk.



DAVID ROBERTS

The next stage in Imperial's "Campus Renaissance" has now begun, with the refurbishment of the college power-plant getting underway. The four existing heavy oil burners, which are reaching the end of their economic lifetime, will be replaced with two gas fired engines which will produce both heat and power. The new plant should be more environmentally friendly than conventional generators, as all waste heat will be recycled. Emissions of carbon dioxide should fall by 7500 tonnes per year.

To maintain the supply of steam to IC, the first stage of the project is the construction of a temporary boiler house on Dalby Court. This plant will be gas-fired,

and requires a new gas main to be laid. Once operational, at the end of March, the existing boiler house located beneath the basements of the Electrical Engineering department will be disconnected and dismantled, and work on the installation of the new boilers will begin. Speaking to Felix, Ron Jeeves, the project manager, said that he hopes the project will be completed by the end of 1999, allowing the new plant to become operational for the millennia.

Mr Jeeves estimated the total cost of the project at £8 million, which should be repaid "over eight or nine years". Considering the estimated thirty year life for the new engines, he felt that the project represented a sound economic and environmental move.

Tiger Trouble

WILLIAM SMITH

The recent turbulence in South East Asian economies could force a decline in applications to British Universities from Overseas students.

As a whole, the UK stands to lose £300 million if applications fall as predicted.

Malaysian authorities have warned that up to 80% of students may now study locally instead of abroad. The average drop is expected to be around 40%. Many universities are expected to shift their recruitment efforts to the Mediterranean, South Africa and Eastern Asia to make up the deficit. Others, such as Warwick, have set

up schemes to give financial aid to overseas students wishing to study here.

Despite fears over some Eastern economies, applications from Singapore and Hong Kong are expected to continue to rise at a steady rate. This was backed by Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister, Tony Tan, who pledged ongoing support for those wishing to study abroad.

It is far too early to have any accurate idea of the number of applications this year, but many universities could find a gap in their income to the tune of millions of pounds.

Russell? Russell Who?

ANDREW OFORI

The mystique of the Russell Group has recently been dispelled by a leaked letter to the Secretary of State.

With the group's pro-fees objectives clearly exposed various student bodies are organising opposing initiatives in an attempt to keep higher education accessible.

The Russell Group, similar to the American Ivy League, consists of 17 of Britain's most prestigious Higher Education Institutions represented by their Rectors and Vice-Chancellors. The group, which includes universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Imperial, has been shrouded in secrecy and consequently attracted the attention of related student unions. The Group was formed in 1994 to prioritise and concentrate research efforts amongst institutions; the discussions have subsequently progressed to the issue of 'top-up' fees which entrants would need to pay for the privilege of having what is deemed to be a better standard of education by attending a Russell Group university.

Despite the fact that many Rectors and Vice-Chancellors have consistently denied the existence of the group, a shadow group was formed to oppose the top-up fees. This committee, known as the 'Aldwych Group' is made up of the presidents of student unions, ULU and the NUS. It had been set up in order to directly counter the Russell Group's pursuit of top-up fees and is leading the battle with positive action. The Group also plan to highlight the threat of top-up fees more openly, thus highlighting the existence of the Russell Group.

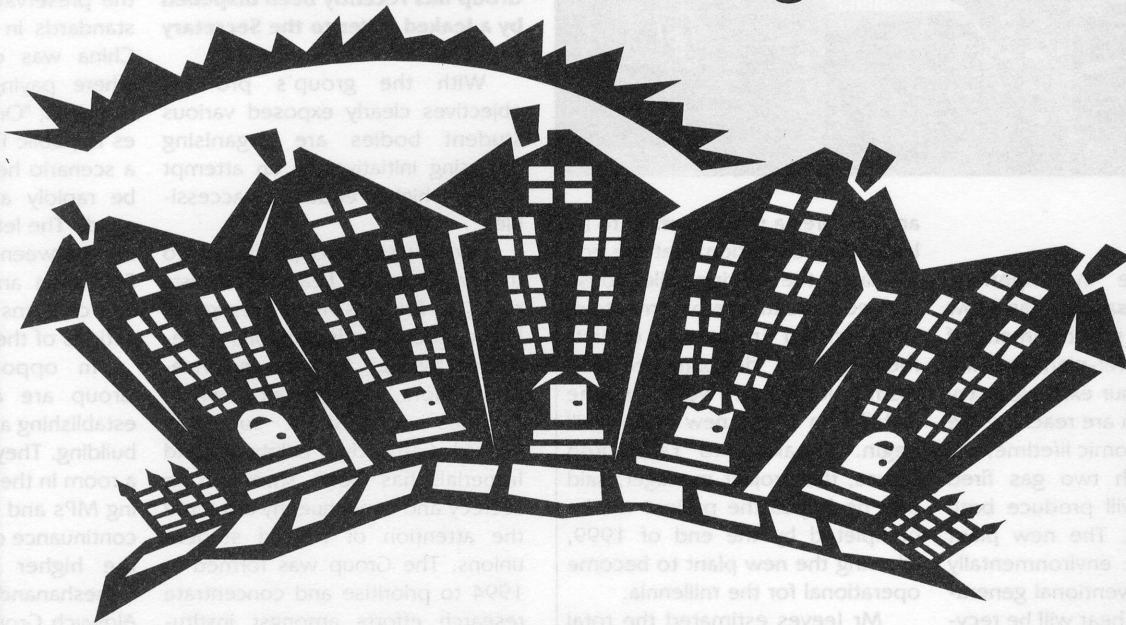
The controversy is currently centred around the 'Teaching and Higher Education' bill that Labour will introduce to Parliament on the 26 January. It currently contains a clause that prevents universities from any financial gain as a result of charging higher fees than the proposed Government levels. The Russell Group are pressing for an amendment that would enable them to profit from whatever fees they decide upon. Sir Colin Campbell, Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham University, wrote to

the Secretary of State on behalf of all the Russell Group, describing the top-up fees as a necessary aid in the preservation of autonomy and standards in UK higher education. China was cited as an example where paying fees privately was standard; "Only substantial increases in public funding can avert such a scenario here unless quality is to be rapidly and irretrievably damaged". The letter alluded to a meeting between the Department of Education and the Russell Group, and confirms the existence and the actions of the Russell Group.

In opposition, the Aldwych Group are also formalising and establishing a secretariat in the ULU building. They are planning to book a room in the House of Lords, inviting MPs and Lords to lobby for the continuance of the current clause in the higher education bill. Siva Ganeshanandan, treasurer of the Aldwych Group, explained how the Russell Group were now "coming out of the woodwork" compelling many institutions to fight for an education "without financial restrictions". The NUS refuse to condemn the Russell Group outright but supported actions of the Aldwych Group when they take effective action against fees.

Andy Heeps, ICU President and active member of the Aldwych Group, explained how the top-up system could lead to the development of an elitist culture within Higher Education. He saw the current situation at Oxbridge where 50% of students are from private schools as a depiction of what could occur in the Russell Group Universities. He predicted top-up fees would place all universities in a 'win-win' situation where the members of the Russell Group would receive all top-up fees (which is not the case with Labour's tuition fees) and the "lesser, newer universities" would benefit as a result of applications from top students that could not afford to enter the Russell Group. Mr Heeps stated it would only be the students that lost out even with the "bursaries and scholarships" suggested by Sir Campbell in his letter, and denounced top-up fees as "detrimental to Higher Education in this country".

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FELIX

Issue 1104
16 January 1998

Renaissance: a rebirth
Felix back on the net!
Who is Tony Micheson?

Double Standards

Ed,
The article 'Double Standards' in the 1103 issue of Felix is a very good example of the kind of journalism that the Imperial College Union should be proud of. It is a pity that the article is so short and that it does not cover the full range of issues that are raised by the article. I am sure that you will be able to find a way to cover these issues in the future.

Extremists: Narrow Escape for IC

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Letters to Felix...

BITCHIN'

Dear Ed,

Does anyone know the collective noun for 'security dog with handler'? If not, might I suggest 'waste'.

Yours,

Paolo Cuomo (EEE3)

STRAW INNOCENT

Dear Simon Baker

At the end of the liberal Swinging Sixties, the student leader, Jack Straw campaigned against cannabis and now, he continues to oppose decriminalisation or legalisation of 'soft drugs'. Whatever, your personal beliefs on the subject, he must be respected keeping true to his. In the case of his son, he took appropriate action immediately when informed of the situation. He acted in a wholly responsible manner and without hypocrisy, and should be applauded for doing so.

It was unfortunate that Robin Cook's marriage breakdown had to be played out in public. However, the Government was bounced by the tabloids into having to deal with a matter that was of no consequence to the general public whatsoever.

It is widely acknowledged that Conservative MPs were hounded out primarily due to their macro-economic ineptitude and to a lesser extent by financial sleaze. Where there was Tory sexual scandal in the last parliament, Labour did not go on the attack as Simon Baker suggested. Again, it was the press that dictated public mood.

I may not agree with Simon on many matters, but I had always thought that he was above using 'trial by tabloid' as a critique of new Labour. The personal lives of all politicians and their families should not be fair game as they do not affect the competencies of the politicians and are not in the public interest. Okay, this may sound a bit post-Diana touchy-feely but would you really like your personal lives dissected by the general public? I don't think so. No one, not even those who choose to be in the public eye deserve this sort of intrusion. I'm sure that their jobs are difficult enough without having to deal with this sort of crap.

New Labour's mission is to

transform and modernise the approach of the Labour Party while remaining true to its socialist ethic - an approach which I remind Simon Baker won Labour an extraordinary election victory.

The Christian values of the Labour leadership are the same as those of ethical socialism and are quite different from the hypocritical 'Remember the Good Old Days' attitude of 'Back to Basics'.

Ashton McGregor
Biochem III

DOH!

Dear Felix,

First I must apologise for yet another complaint hailing from St. Mary's. This time, however, it is not on the subject of union politics though in this case I wish that it was. I am writing to express my disgust at the sports editorial featured last week. I will not repeat it but for those who were fortunate enough not to read it I will merely say that it conveyed the tragic news of a colleague's death in a manner which was frivolous, disrespectful and inappropriate. The writer (Jacob) clearly has no feelings beyond his desperate wish to entertain readers despite such an aim being entirely repugnant in this case. I am at a loss to know exactly why this piece was allowed to be published with the insulting juxtaposition of sad news and upbeat tone. I was under the impression that it was medics who lost respect for human life but clearly I was wrong. I hope that no-one close to Simon read this piece. I'm sorry to be so sombre but perhaps some consideration may be used in the future.

Yours,
Nick Oliver.

As I was with Mr Dunsby at the time of his tragic death in the Guadalajara House of Ill Repute, I feel it is only correct that I comment. Simon's demise at the hands of the knife-wielding pimp was sad, untimely and extremely amusing.

Ed.

IC RED TAPE? NEVER!

Dear Felix,

Last year I was away on exchange to Germany, and spent a lot of time getting annoyed by the bureaucracy. Now I've come back to IC, and if anything it's become even worse over here!

I'm on the committee of two different societies that have had to book lecture theatres and in both cases have wasted hours trying to arrange this. Two years ago we would have gone to the person in charge of organising lecture theatres in a particular department, checked which lecture theatres were free and booked them. This is now impossible.

Instead we have to go there and find it's free, then go and find a member of staff willing to take responsibility, then go to the Conference Office and book the room, then somehow get something from the Union so that we don't have to pay (although the Union said they knew nothing about this when we asked) and so on! Of course, none of these 4 people are there when we want them to be, so everything takes 3 or 4 trips. Why does everything have to be so complicated?

In the year that I've been away this College has got noticeably more bureaucratic and less efficient. I'm sure there are lots of excuses but these come from people whose role in the College or Union depends on the levels of bureaucracy—I wonder whether it's really necessary.

Is it surprising that we "can't be bothered"? I am sick of this and after this week's organising, I'll join the apathetic majority.

Emma Hobbs
Physics 4

Thanks to everyone who wrote in with regards to the creationism feature / issue. Sadly we can't fit them all in, but you can see them in full on our web site www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix.

Deadline for letters is 6pm Tuesday. Letters may be edited for length, but will not be altered or corrected in any other way. Letters may be signed or anonymous, but please show your swipe card when submitting them.

FELIX

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23 January 1998

www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix

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LAZY, MORE LIKE

On Monday, nomination papers for the ICU sabbatical elections will appear on the notice board opposite the union offices. This initiates the annual campus-wide elections to decide who will have the combined priviledge and curse of running the union next year. There are four positions available; the president, two deputies (one responsible for the finances

If you are considering standing, as I hope you are, please remember that the current sabbaticals (Andy Heeps (President), Rob Clark (DP F&S), Charlie Joynt (DP C&S) and Jeremy Thomson (Felix Ed)) are more than happy to offer good and bad advice about the positions. Do talk to them.

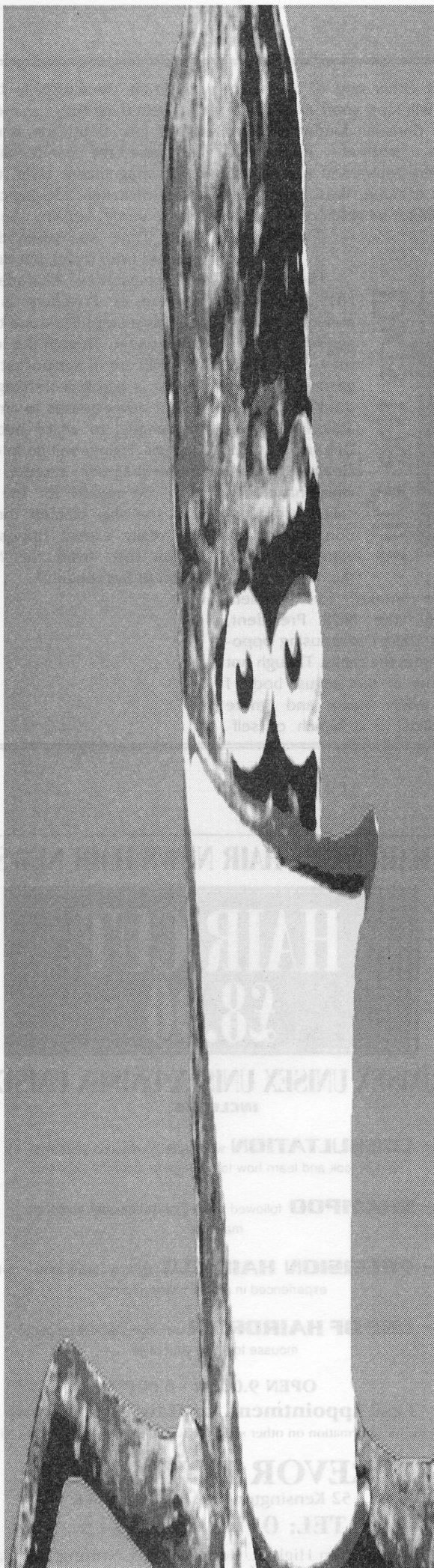
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Apologies to the Friends of Palestine group, who were incorrectly cited in Simon Baker's column (Felix 1103). This group were in no way involved in the incidents described. The group actually involved is calling themselves 'The London Turkish Islamic Association'.

7. C. Student price list

Per session - £0.25 £0.20

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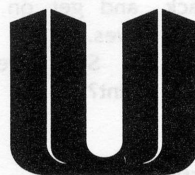
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Religion is, and always has been, a funny old game. It leads people to believe all sorts of odd ideas both for and against the proposition. It even has me agreeing with that fellow right-winger Karl Marx insofar as it is in major part a doctrine of social control that has assured the dominant position of the Church in most societies. Sadly, it does not make for scintillating letter page debates; those of you who have been here longer than is healthy will recall such an episode in 1993. Which brings us to last week's edition. Normally I can see no justification for anonymity on the Felix letters page, but when one writes such an astonishingly ill-constructed letter as our 'astonishingly pissed-off' biochemical friend, I'll accept that there are when one should hide one's light under a bushel. Though I agree broadly with what was said, you are only a slightly sticky wicket criticising the coherency of Wes Hinsley's article. There is also little point getting personal when you are criticising an article as flawed as the one in

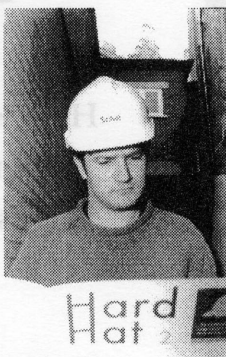
question. I have no intention of entering the debate, but I must say a few words about Mr Hinsley's letter. The style of it started to set alarm bells ringing- dissect the points exhaustively, intersperse vagueness with accurate irrelevance. The lad's a professional, I thought, and, would you believe it, what did I see on the walkway today? A poster from 'His People Religious Ministries' offering Bible studies given by none other than W. Hinsley. It is indeed a small world, whether or not you believe. He created. In short, my Felix colleagues have unwittingly given a platform to an evangelical tambourine operator. Knowing what fine chaps they are, I know this will not happen again. Religion is fine for discussion, but unlike politics, cannot be discussed usefully by

those at either end of the spectrum. I will stop short of suggesting that Christian fundamentalism disrupts normal intellectual processes. You've had your fifteen minutes of fame, Wes. This is not the forum for religious zealotry, I'm afraid.

The dear old NUS seems to making waves again. Firstly, they are suggesting that we drink less, adhering to the Department of Health figures, which have been called into question, particularly with respect to the low recommended intake for women. Secondly, the NUS President, Douglas Trainer is arousing opposition within the ranks. Though not a member of this august body, I always avidly follow and ignore their edicts; if a bunch of self-

important, ideologically bankrupt muppets think they can reduce my forays into Southside Bar, which has started the year in characteristically magnificent style, they are sorely mistaken. Ideological bankruptcy partly explains the second issue. Time was when the NUS spouted utter drivel, but drivel that had conviction. Nowadays, the position of President is simply used as a stepping stone to a safe Labour seat. Though the idea that the NUS are in the pocket of New Labour is hardly a startling revelation, it never ceases to amaze me the lengths to which people like Douglas Trainer will go in order to further their own interest, with virtually no regard for the people who foolishly elected them. Did you really expect opposition to tuition fees from the National Union of Sycophants?

Simon Baker



Digs the Dirt

Thought for the Day:

Neurotics

Risk, as the television commercial goes, is sadly part of our everyday lives, and for each negative facet of existence, there has developed a mentally unbalanced form of individual whose wretched life is deeply affected by the undesirable in question. Those who do not fancy themselves as Sigmund Freud would put this rather more simply: all people worry occasionally. Some people worry a lot.

Everybody knows a neurotic. They live inside a self-fabricated padded cell. (No, that's not a stylish new piece of IKEA furniture.) They distort knowledge, enhance its negative characteristics and then use it to destroy their own happiness. Their minds are black holes of worry; singularities whose event horizon pulls misery from the outside world and traps it forever in an infinitely massive point of concentrated pain.

Shakespeare knew. (But he still couldn't spell his own name.) Have

not generations of neurotics sympathised with Hamlet's dilemma of life and death, suicide or revenge; his lonely vigil of patient consideration. The science of self-analysis will be familiar to every chronic worrier; an endless circle of contemplation, looking for the bright side and never finding it; drowning men never finding that elusive straw. For the most extreme cases, paranoia creeps in. Many find solace only in death.

I am a self-confessed neurotic; a black body radiator of negative vibes. Misery is my only real companion. Many hours of my life have been spent in reclusive isolation, suffering over potential risks that others would dismiss immediately, and get on with their everyday lives.

Still, never mind. Who's for a pint?

Ali Campbell

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3 minutes from High St. Kensington & Notting Hill Gate



In any organisation, the relationship between the Chairman or Director and the man responsible for the money is always a central part of its running. Splits here have the potential to be extremely damaging to the organisation, and it is common for leaders to be felled by their financial colleagues. When this organisation is Her Majesty's Government, the situation is even more serious.

On the face of it, the present spat between Prime Minister Tony Blair and Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown doesn't look too serious. Things were stirred up by publication of Gordon Brown's biography, written by Paul Routledge. Although Brown's contribution was apparently minimal, his brother had extensive interviews with the author, and it is considered relatively accurate. The main subject of media attention was his opinions of the 1994 Labour leadership contest, which you may have guessed Tony Blair won. At the time Blair and Brown were the foremost candidates, with Blair additionally some way ahead. Brown agreed to stand aside for his friend and colleague to run, allowing him to win the election with little trouble. At the time this was said to be a reasonable agreement between friends, but has now been revised to suggest that Gordon Brown was deeply upset and resented his colleague taking the prize by which

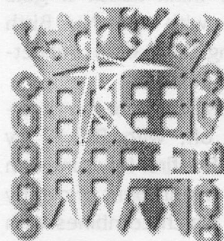
some accounts should have been his. The biography also suggests that even now Brown is not entirely enamoured with Blair.

Spats between Prime Ministers and Chancellors are as old as the Exchequer itself. Perhaps somewhere in the world there will be a 'Number Two' in politics who deeply loves and respects his superior, but none have come to light as

misconception. Labour chose Blair with little fuss, for the first time in around thirty years choosing someone who appealed to the public rather than to its own extremities. Doubtless visions of the election of Michael Foot as leader in the early eighties, purely to placate their own left wing, without a thought for whether the public liked him, flashed through their mind. He led

Number Two) as deputy. Together with his recent spin-doctoring disaster when badly-managed news releases ensured a view of Brown addressing the Stock Exchange in front of a sea of red figures. Soon, both men saw sense and lavished praise on each other to calm the crisis.

The Times may have done its part of the story, publicising and then publishing a serialisation of the biography, and then filling column inches with reports of the backlash. But however one may want to blame the media, they were simply bringing to public attention something which should be in the public domain. Any bitterness that the Chancellor has about his overlord is worrying for the rest of us who have to live under their rule. As one Labour MP said "I'm astonished that people at the very highest level cannot be more disciplined. They are letting this run out of control. We are only eight months in government. They have got to get a grip." There is no question of Brown going in the short term – indeed he has demonstrated competence in his position. But he would be wise to remember that Prime Ministers usually outlast Chancellors, and making himself look silly in front of his party and the public will further reduce his own leadership chances or survival in post.



Hamish Common Westminster Eye

yet. This same resentment, if allowed to build up, can precipitate the downfall of the leader. Geoffrey Howe's public showing of resentment of Thatcher caused her downfall soon after. Macmillan disagreed with and fired two chancellors over inflation, with his authority fatally undermined as a result. However the difference between these cases and this one was the Prime Minister was to blame. This time it is the Chancellor. He had given the impression that he thinks he should have been Prime Minister. He thinks the Labour Party wanted him as Prime Minister. He probably thinks the public want him as Prime Minister. He is labouring under a

them to a disastrous General Election in 1983, when Thatcher's previously unpopular Government extended its majority in Parliament. Blair has been running the agenda: Clause Four, no increase on income taxes, the position on Europe, all this has been of Blair's doing. The public voted for Blair just as much as they did for Labour last May. So with this backdrop Brown's complaints seem all the more ridiculous.

Blair was provoked into slapping the Chancellor down, even removing him as Chairman of the Cabinet Welfare Reform Committee, with himself in the chair and Prescott (who let him be reminded is the Deputy Prime Minister and the real

THE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO GETTING A FIRST with COLIN DALE

Part One: Motivation

Over the next four weeks I will be presenting a practical, step-by-step guide to help you achieve academic success. If you are reasonably intelligent you should have no problem putting my ideas into practice and getting a good degree. If you are unreasonable intelligent you won't need to bother reading it, as you are probably at Cambridge already.

Cut out and keep the set, and for best results file them in the special binder which is available for just £2.50 from the Felix office. In tasteful black vinyl, it comes with a complimentary "I am so gullible I will buy anything" T-shirt.

Before I start dispensing my indispensable advice, I'd like to point out that I take no responsibility whatsoever for exam failures / suicides / increases in the staff mortality rate. This is partly who takes this seriously is so stupid that they will fail their exams anyway; and partly because I don't give a toss. So, without further ado, here we go...

If you get a first from Imperial College, you will be much sought-after. People from many establishments will want to see you and will probably be very keen to hang on to you. But don't let this worry you, you may eventually be released back into the community if they decide that you're not too much of a threat.

The route to academic success is long and hard, and requires a great deal of determination. Your intelligence and commitment will be tested to the limits, and you will be assessed against the highest, most rigorous academic standards. On the other hand, you might be studying materials.

There will be many setbacks. For IC students, the main obstacles to successful study are:

- Unrequited love (does not apply to female students)
- Alcoholism, especially due to a)
- Attempting to get a degree in physics.

These difficulties can all be conquered. All you need is motivation, a reason to get out of bed in the morning (and at this time of year, it has to be good). If you are driven by intellectual curiosity for your subject then you should have

no problem. Those that are not suffering from mental illness, however, will need to train themselves. Remember your new year's resolution (not the one about mixing your drinks before lunchtime; the other one about working hard and going to all your lectures)? Before getting up in the morning, try repeating to yourself "My subject is really interesting", until you feel a spontaneous desire to leap out of bed and rush to your department. If it hasn't worked by dinner time, it's time to see the senior tutor. Alternatively, try reminding yourself of the rewards that your hard work will bring: "In five year's time I will be earning £100,000 a year / driving a flash car / the world's leading expert in non-linear effects in birefringent crystals at liquid helium temperatures." If this still doesn't work, there's always the fear of failure to drive you on. This can be very effective, and has kept me going for two and a half years.

Perhaps, at the end of the day, the best thing is to stop reading this nonsense and just buckle down and work.

Colin Dale



CLUBSCENE - COMPILATIONS

DISTINCTIVE SOUND OF HOUSE

Vol.2. ★★★★★1/2

The ability of a DJ, often depends on weather they can make 12 tunes(ish) converge into what seems like an hour long journey. Unfortunately with DJ'ing becoming everyone's favourite past-time, many forget this. There are those into the scene who play out and aim to do as many events in a night as possible.

Nowadays, with the amount of compilations coming out, there's little or no chance of finding a top quality house compilation. That's why when I first heard this I had to listen to it again and again. The Distinctive Sound Of House Vol.2 is an outstanding 2 x CD package which covers all genres of what used

to be called House.

CD1. Concentrates on the bassier, lighter sounds of both UK and "speed" Garage, with Housey more familiar beats coming a little later. Huff 'n' Puff's Help Me Make It, along with Din Da Da by Kevin Aviance starts the epic combination, funky Garage beats with catchy lyrics. The bassline soon comes in, and the beats continue to roll on in the form of the Headcrash's Give It To Me, and Hyper's Go Go, both absolutely banging tunes, well worth a place on this CD.

Then DJ Supreme Tha Wildstyle is probably the weakest tune on here, but it dose what is needed to change the flavour from Garage to

House. The House featured here is not the cheeseey Pete (can't be bothered (or just can't) mix) Tong, radio 1 style, but the form which house took up before commercialism. Adeva's Don't think about it gets played twice, with the Nu Birth Vocal mix being the harder, reflecting the change of pace.

CD2. Carries on where the previous hour left off, with P.O.W by Mike Crawley. The first few tunes on this CD have a fair amount of catchy lyrical content which combines with the familiar hard house beats. Hot Shot 97' by Karen Young has an old skool feel to it, and is probably the last breather you'll get before the final half hour kicks in with an extrav-

aganza of fast, hard, house beats. Walk with me by Helicopter combines a massive breakdown with over seven minutes of pure sex, in musical terms of course.

All in all this compilation contains 24 top quality tunes, truly capturing what is happening in club land all expertly & seamless mixed together by Richard Ford, a man who been on the scene for longer than most of us new it existed.

Those lovely people at Phuture Trax have some copies of the compilation & some T-shirts to give away, can't be bad.

The three first people to drop name and contact no into Felix office will win. Chris.

STARS

Sagittarius (23/11 - 23/12)

Under the influence of the laborious Eight of Pentacles, you realize that action is the antidote to despair. Your talented accomplishments and skills generate a rewarding sense of achievement, enabling you to overcome recent frustration and disappointment.

Capricorn (24/12 - 20/1)

The accumulation of professional pressure and emotional turmoil revealed by the anxious Nine of Swords puts a considerable strain on your current state of mind. The forthcoming New Moon closes this chapter of trouble and helplessness as you regain your habitual enthusiasm.

Aquarius (21/1 - 18/2)

Guided by the pacifying Justice, a prevailing conflict or disruptive argument approaches a satisfactory resolution. Although you have sacrificed a proportion of your ideals through compromise, your aura benefits from the release of tension and a relaxing environment.

Pisces (19/2 - 20/3)

The conservative Knight of Pentacles demonstrates that despite following the correct path in life, you have reached a stagnant phase hindering your progress. The adaptation of an efficient strategy is therefore required in order to provide a burst of invigorating energy.

Aries (21/3 - 20/4)

Your capacity for sensitive perception is extended through the creative impulses of the Four of Wands. Truly beautiful things can never be physically touched but must be sensed with your heart. Exciting adventures are imminent as your spirit craves uncharted experiences.

Taurus (21/4 - 21/5)

A sudden dramatic upheaval indicated by the conflicting Three of Swords intrigues and revolutionizes your life, through a transition of assertive priorities. Although union often represents strength, your increasing self-confidence allows greater security and independence.

Horoscopes with Nana

Gemini (22/5 - 21/6)

Ignoring minor elements or individuals reveals an abuse of power and a lack of consideration. The sun loses nothing by shining into a puddle, so reconsider your social contacts, as the intuitive and sympathetic Queen of Cups grants you perceptive generosity and compassion.

Cancer (22/6 - 22/7)

The vulnerable nature of your character is amplified by the reversed Empress revealing an absence of material satisfaction and emotional comfort. Through tentative trust, hope and companionship, you achieve in substance the rewarding picture of your imagination.

Leo (23/7 - 23/8)

A passionate and productive interest in your activities is the precious secret to enjoying and appreciating life. Indeed the presence of the joyful Ten of Cups highlights general fulfillment and contentment within the context of a group.

Virgo (24/8 - 22/9)

As you retract from distraction and commotion, you discover that speech is silver but silence is golden. The solitary Hermit encourages a contemplative approach to your sensitive situation. Progressively, you regain crucial control over influential events and develop a refreshing attitude.

Libra (23/9 - 23/10)

Misguided by your optimistic impressions, the Five of Swords signifies a situation erroneously interpreted to your advantage. A sense of humiliation occurs as your personal desires are abruptly exposed. However your wounded pride enables the direct confrontation of your feelings.

Scorpio (24/10 - 22/11)

The reversed Knight of Swords warns of aggressive impatience and rushed decisions bearing important personal and professional consequences. The worthy roads of life rarely possess any shortcuts, so deliberate wisely on further potentially detrimental choices.

MUSIC - 12

Paul Weller and Superchunk play live (though not together), get the lowdown on the new High Llamas and Ben Folds Five albums, the soundtrack *Boogie Nights* and a double helping of *Tha Bomb!*

CLUB SCENE - 15

Metalhedz the box set and *The Distinctive Sound of House Part 2* in review. Plus half a page of singles reviews.

FILM - 16

Jude and Walkin' & Talkin' videos reviewed. Win tickets to see *Boogie Nights*.

17 - BOOKS

So, who's old enough to remember the Goons? Refresh your memory...

18 - ARTS

On stage, we have the frighteningly good *Pop-Up Apocalypse* and look at the new *Imperial Fringe*. The galleries hold in store [Painting], partly of *Victorian Fairies*..

20 - FICTION

A fresh new tale from Casper- *Raising Demons* part one.

All reviews are given a mark out of five as follows...



NyQuil

★★★★ Sudafeed

★★★ Kaolin & Morphine

★★ Benalin

★ Pro Plus

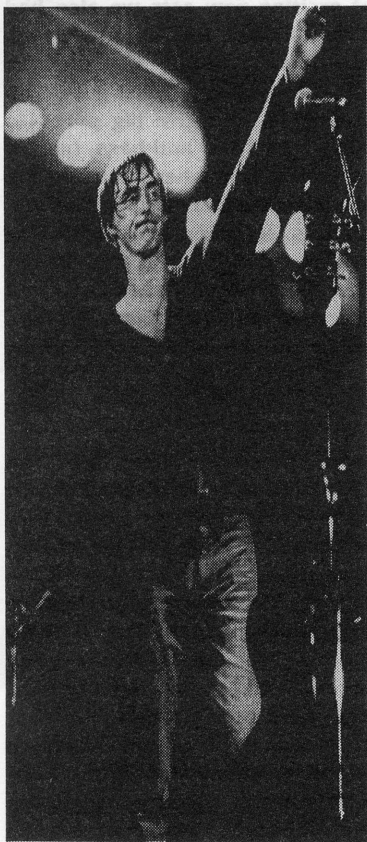
No Stars Buzz Gum



LIVE

PAUL WELLER

Battersea Power Station



appropriately kicks off with *The Changingman*, aptly describing his musical genius that's more diverse than a Cadbury's selection pack. In line with the album, the concert continues on a electric guitar based roller coaster ride, through *Friday Street*, *Science*, *Golden Sands* and occasionally nipping back to *Stanley Road* or *Wild Wood* for a tune or two. *Sunflower* arouses the crowd and is followed by *Brushed* which gets the mosh-heads at the front jumping.

As they switch to the acoustic part of the show, the spliffs come out. Launching into *Driving Nowhere*, *You do Something to Me* is quite literally breath-taking (possibly because you're trying not to inhale any illegal substances!)

All this time a black cased piano has been standing ominously at the side of the stage and as Weller approaches it, he is joined by an impromptu string quartet and the sound of *Broken Stones* fills the air. *Pink on White Walls* raises the tempo and it's back to the guitars for *Mermaids*, one of the best off the new album. The set winds down with an extended version of *Heavy Soul*, Paul's personal favourite and they troop off stage, only to return for a phenomenal *Stanley Road*. *I Walk on Gilded Splinters* caps off a truly remarkable concert.

Weller is an artist who is at his best when putting 100% effort into his performance. With a sweat patch on his back the size of Africa, he knows the punters have had value for money tonight. Proof that, despite what NME reckon, the Modfather can still rock. **M**

Elliot

SUPERCHUNK

The Garage

Grunge is dead (isn't it?) It seems such a long time since Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Alice in chains et al were the bands of the moment. There no longer seem to be any true masters of that fine art form called feedback. Ahhhh - feedback....It brings it all back doesn't it! But can you name a band still playing true grunge? Even the remaining members of Nirvana no longer have the grunge muse, Grohl playing increasingly more conventional rock (and very good it is too) and Novoselic developing his strange and unique form of 'lounge grunge'.

And so to the Garage in Highbury. The first band I saw, having missed the opening act, certainly tried to resurrect the genre but seemed too young to have lived through and understood the grunge attitude. All the same, it was good to hear some good ole feedback; the last couple of songs were actually fairly good and it was a shame we weren't told who the band were.

Moving swiftly on to band two (Umbrella) and another beer (Guinness), we had a complete contrast to the previous band. They were polished where the last band were more ragged but Umbrella looked far too old to be still doing this touring lark. Initial hopes of grunginess collapsed after the first couple of songs and they lapsed into a putrid pit of staid, lifeless rock. Disappointing isn't a strong enough word for it... The person I really felt sorry for was their bespectacled lead guitarist who kept trying to put some life into the songs but was thwarted by the terrible acoustics of the Garage; he

and was obviously playing with great restraint, his frustration quite evident. So far, so mediocre.

Now for the main draw of the evening - Superchunk - who'd come recommended to me by one of my esteemed colleagues as one of the classic grunge bands and I suppose they weren't bad, quite good in fact, but they weren't grunge. A few of the older songs showed that they used to be but the newer songs were progressively smoother, more restrained, more conventional and lacking in originality. It seems that Superchunk, like bands such as the Smashing Pumpkins and Pearl Jam, have obviously felt the need to change. Understandable but I felt I a little disappointed as some grunge would have provided a refreshing change to the normal indie and rock that dominates the gig scene. Still, Superchunk were fairly good and are the first band I've ever heard to actually get a decent sound out of the Garage. Unfortunately neither this nor the delicious female bassist (incidentally, called Xena) managed to ignite the crowd or to dispel the general aura of disappointment inherent in an audience seemingly composed of a large group of fans of the band from "the good old days". Shame. **M**

Martin

THA BOMB!

Milen is back with his RnB crew, with a review of last years news and tastiest cuts.

What up IC !! 1997 has come to an end, lots of shit has happened and Tha Bomb has pulled out all the stops to bring you a whole page (yes, a whole page!) of the wicked goings on as we review the year nine seven.

The big story in 1997 was the death of Biggie (RIP) on 9th March, having just attended the Annual Soul Train Music Awards, the big man was gunned down and died almost immediately. The hip hop world had just suffered a major loss with the death of Tupac and with the loss of Biggie many commented that the East-West war had gone too far. Uncertainty still surrounds both murders, but one thing is for sure - death increases sales and Biggies' second LP, the double album *Life After Death* went on to be hugely successful. It was even given the full five mics by The Source, whether the LP deserved the full five is up to debate; my stand point is that it was good, but five mics? - get real, there were other albums more deserving. To cap it off Puff released the tribute single *I'll Be Missing You*, which went to number one over here and in the States; making loads of dollars. The Bad Boy onslaught continued with Puffy bringin' out his own album (why? He can't



rap) called *No Way Out*. Meanwhile, the situation on the West Coast goes from bad to worse, with Suge Knight in jail Death Row was not as prominent as it once was. Snoop's second album *The Doggfather* wasn't in the same league as his first, the classic *Doggystyle*. Most people put it now to the loss of Dr Dre, who left to form Aftermath Records; so far only two releases from Aftermath, the compilation album *Aftermath Presents...* and the high profile Firm project *The Firm*. Death Row made a comeback late on in the year with the release of the soundtrack album *Gang Related*, most of the success was put down to the number of Tupac tracks present. Tupac remains a huge draw as the release of the double album *R U Still Down* showed; the LP was made up of old stuff from his days with Interscope Records and wouldn't have been released if he was still around.

Lots of stuff came out during the year as the market was flooded with albums. The most eagerly awaited was the Boyz II Men album, their follow up to *II* was *Evolution*, had the boys evolved into men? Well I don't really know what happen but they have certainly

changed, this is not as good as either *Cooleyhighharmony* or *II*, the main problem being the collaboration with Puffy. They can sing better than most, but they can't sing every style. Mary J Blige, the queen of hip hop soul returned with her third album, all the ingredients were there, big time producers, great voice and yet this didn't seem to be enough. Perhaps its just that *My Life* and *What's the 411* can never be topped. Still, though Mary is the queen. My favourite of the year was tha Missy album *Supa Dupa Fly*, this girl can do it all, she's big all over. She writes, producers, raps and sings! She has penned and produced numerous hits for Ginuwine, SWV, Aayah and many more. Her album blew up huge, the two stand outs being the infectious *Supa Dupa Fly* and *Sock It To Me*. She's gonna me around for a time. so watch out. Speaking of SWV, they also brought out an album *Release Some Tension*, this was one of Puffy's disasters and certainly SWV should've stuck with their former producer, the album consisted of purely guest appearances, they should be renamed SWLOF (Sisters With Lots Of Friends). At the start of the year Foxy released her *III Na Na* set and Lil Kim dropped her *Hardcore* album, question: are they successful cos' they good rappers or because they remove nearly all their clothes? Staying wit the ladies, two nu soul acts appeared on the scene, one of dem blew up huge while the other got lots of props, but not the around commercial success of that other. The two are Erykah Badu and Adrianna Evans, the former blowing up while the latter had a better all round album and yet the success did not come. Erykah's album *Baduizm* was phat and deserve the hype, but Adrianna came correct with an even phatter album (number one). The most surprising thing was the Jodeci wannabes Dru Hill, they can from nowhere to release one of the most wanted albums, the remix of *In My Bed* blew up big, but can they sustain it - I think not.

Having actually read all of dis it seems like there is nothing on the British crew, so lets correct that right now. This side of the Atlantic has got it going on too, in fact it was the Americans who decided that London is the coolest city on the whole damn planet. The British crew are representin' as good as all dem Americans, but for some reason all here we don't seem to realise that our people are as good as them. If the artist is American we seem to immediately believe they're class and if British then we don't consider them good. Our boys and girls got all tha skillz and they bin showing it, we all got to buy the stuff, British is best. The best example is D'Influence, now on their third album they're a class band, both Prince and Michael Jackson have specially requested them to perform at their concerts as support and yet their success still remains limited. D'Influence are hype, their album's called *London*, buy it you won't be disappointed. Next up we have Lyden David Hall, this man has just released his first album *Medicine For My Pain* its described as Nu Soul and is as good as D'Angelo. He says

he's been making this type of music for years, but couldn't get signed till the scene took off big, i.e. Maxwell and D'Angelo. 97 was also the year of Shola Ama, this young lady really blew up this year storming the charts and reaching the great highs of number one on more than one occasion. *You're the One Love*



reached number one and stayed there for an age, Shola must beware though that she is not turned into a pop icon. As well as the emergence of exciting new acts we also had the return of an old one - the Mack returned, Mark Morrison. I really don't know what to say about him, but sort it out. I just got to flip the switch real quick and give big props to Roni Size, I ain't into drum and bass, but for someone to come from nowhere and win the Mercury Music Prize deserves recognition.

There was lots of other shit happening thru' the year that I didn't cover, that wasn't cos I didn't rate the other stuff, but because I didn't have the time or space. Anyway that's all from me and the whole Felix RnB crew. Peace.

Milen

Tha Bomb! - Tha Future

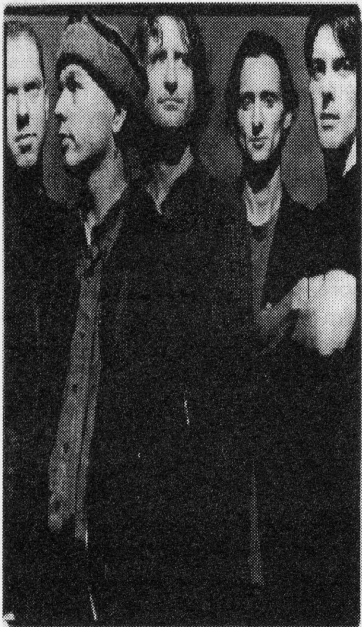
97 over and 98 coming along thick and fast, there's a load of new people to look out for in 1998. First up we got Jagged Edge, they ain't as old as Blackstreet or as feeble as 112, but these guys can sing for real and with the right marketing could blow up huge. They've already dropped the first single *The Way That You Talk*, which has been doin' it on the dance floors now we're just waiting for the long play. Myron is a young man with all the skillz, what can I say, two promos released and blowin' up big on the downlow, whens the album drop-pin' y'all. As well as all the new people we also got some old heads dropin' again. The most wanted and my tip for album of the year before I even hear it is the Faith Evans joint. I already caught the first single of it and if the rest is any thing like dat then we got tha Bomb on our hands. Badboy also gonna come out with the new Total joint, the first album was a hit on a big scale, this needs to follow it up strong. And with loads more to drop in the nine eight lets hope that its gonna be a strong year for hip hop and RnB.

This page was constructed with the help and assiantance of loads of people and shoutouts go to those people : Jason & Alok (Felix music Editors), Roni, Gloria, Nim, James, Andrew, Arinze.

ALBUMS

THE HIGH LLAMAS

Cold And Bouncy ★★



The Llamas: Sorry, but I just don't understand.

I've never had a lot of time for the High Llamas since they remixed a favourite Boo Radleys song *Find the Answer Within* a few years ago. The 'remix' consisted wholly of slowing the song down a little, adding some irritating dog-whistle style organ over the top and altering Sice's voice so that he ended up sounding as if he was singing down a scaffold tube.

But, like everyone else, once I heard the single *Tilting Windmills* on the radio a dozen times I ended up thinking 'Hmmm, that's OK, I quite like that', rather like someone listening to a new Beautiful South song might. Next thing I know, I've got sixteen tracks to write intelligently about. Here we go then with the compulsory trivia section:

By my count, *Cold and Bouncy* brings the Llama-factor up to six albums, not including Sean O'Hagan's solo effort *The High Llamas* (!), the handful of Microdisney jobs or those rather half-arsed mini albums that bands seem to love so much. And yes, five points for recognising Sean O'Hagan as the keyboard player on many of the finest Stereolab albums.

Sadly, though, it's easy to lose count. After all, how do you know which record is playing in the lift in Kwiksave on a particular day? What can I mean with that backhanded insult? Well, simply that this album sounds much like the others; seventy-four minutes of background music. It's pleasant, well-produced, easy on the ear, a little trippy even, but will all the bumps and edges smoothed out I just can't seem to get enthusiastic, as you can proba-

bly tell from this incoherent review. So, before this piece totally falls to pieces in my hands, let's have a look at the tracks:

The Llamas kick off with a rather nice little ditty *Twisto Teck*, which lasting just forty-five seconds, is quite bearable. They launch straight into *The Sun Beats Down*, a gentle track with a soft beat, inoffensive backing chords, xylophones and strange bubbly noises that sound like a bong played through a Moog. Occasionally, some vocals break in, followed by a strings break, as night follows day. It's hard to say exactly when track two ended and three begun, but before you know it *Tilting Windmills* is half way through, and it is the liveliest track on the album. Songs five to ten glide by while you are making yourself quick cuppa, with only *Showstop Hip Hop* living up to its name, at first anyway. Jolly jingle bells accompany a relaxed reggae beat, which speeds up to a break and then it's back to - can you guess? Inoffensive backing chords, xylophones and strange bubbly noises...

If you're a Llamas fan, I've probably irritated you so much by now that you'll buy the record out of spite. Otherwise, save your money by buying the single and playing it repeatedly. 'Music that is at once both easy on the ear and weighted with a depth that repays constant listening', claims their biography. I agree with the first part. **M**

Jeremy

The High Llamas' web page: www.cabinessence.com/high-llamas/

BEN FOLDS FIVE

Naked Baby Photos

★★★★½



The problem with this album is that the fans will have the majority of the songs, and the uninitiated won't enjoy this at all. It's got some great stuff on it, especially *Julianne* and *Song for the Dumped*, but as live albums go, it's fairly average. It can't compare to *Ben Folds Five*, the first album, or to *Whatever and Ever, Amen*, but then, I never expected it to. I wasn't expecting the sheer rubbish of *For Those of Ya'll Who Wear Fannie Packs*, which apparently is a Beastie Boys piss-take, but quite frankly, it's not big, it's not clever and it's certainly not funny. Before I listened to this album, I read the *Independent's* review, which said that Ben Folds Five were a band completely without soul. This was after having listened to the sheer beauty of *Philosophy* and *Alice Childress*. That's a very harsh view, and also an unfair one. This album isn't a good representation of their work, but it'll do until they release a new one. It would get five stars, because I love them, despite their photos, except I hate that Beasties Boys song. **M**

Julia

BOOGIE NIGHTS

Original Film Soundtrack ★★★

The Seventies. What an era. Some will ask why fashion took the course it did back in the days of the sideburn. Why were people allowed to wear bright green satin shirts along with brown trousers that flared over twenty inches? And not only that, why were they allowed to wear ties that could have wallpapered a small room along with mohair jackets that looked as though the wearer had a Van de Graaf generator

tucked underneath? The answers to these questions are academic really but whatever they did a bit wrong with their fashion, they never did it with their music. I mean, this was the decade of bands like Funkadelic (space age sets and, again, stupid clothes), Kool and the Gang (vocals that resembled someone orgasming - all before nosediving into the horrible quagmire that was the eighties) and Hot Chocolate (mmm, you know what I mean...).

Well, this album doesn't contain any of those names and prefers to stay with the more popular and typically Fame-esque songs. It does, however, contain classics such as *Best Of My Love* by The Emotions, *Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now* and the Beach Boys' *God Only Knows*, described once by John Lennon as the nicest song ever written. There's also a helping of some quirky pop too with the likes of *Brand New Key* by Melanie,

a strange little track which has something to do with girls on roller-skates. But it's not all brilliant as it gets into an early eighties phase near the end with songs like *Livin' Thing* by ELO. Eeurrgh!!

Disgust aside, this album is a pretty good collection of some of the (camp) best of the '70s...viva disco! **M**

Alok



METALHEADZ. THE BOX SET

★★★★★



I doubt there's been a compilation to date that been so eagerly awaited as this. So much so, that I've seen people buying it without even listening to it first (me included) because you know what your gona get, a awesome collection of breaks 'n' beats. *The Box Set* was released just before Christmas (excellent timing by the marketing people, as it made the perfect Christmas present, I saw these flying out of the shops, five in the few hours I was there & at £35 a go that's not bad at all).

All the artists are taken from the Metalheadz label, and all the material is new. Now these aren't cheap I paid £35 for mine, but you do get 18 tracks in all about 1/2 D&B and 1/2 down beat chillers. Showing the diversity and ability of the featured artists. Who are Photek, Doc Scott, Ed Rush, Dillinja, Optical, Hidden

Agenda, Dollis Hill, Lemon D, J Majik & Digital. A fine collection of some of the biggest names in the business, a shame there's no track by Goldie.



So if you still haven't brought one yet, you'd better hurry as only the first 10,000 copies will be presented in a highly collectable metal circular tin, after that it's plain old cardboard, and last I heard 8,000 had all ready been ordered by the

shops. I wish I could afford two copies, one to cain & one to keep untouched, as in times to come these are going to be serious collectors items and worth money.

Now for the music, every single track does it for me, some very dark, some futuristic, you've got some steppers, some laid back chillers, some are experimental all are packed full of originality and total slamming. Some of the high-

lights are Doc Scott's *Swarm*, a killer amen work out, J Majik's *Future State* falls between D&B and down beat, cleaver arrangements dark 'n' beautiful, soothing atmosphericals roll behind crazy beats. Optical's totally tearing remix of *To Shape The Future*, it doesn't get much better than this, and Dillinja's *Warrior Jazz*, and that's exactly what his created a crazy break beat affair with a jazz lick, awesome.

So all in all, this collection justifies the price tag, just about. I do not think a better collection could have been put together, perhaps a more out 'n' out D&B numbers from Photek and Dillinja, but you can't have everything can you?

MetalHeadz keeping it real.

Jo Public.

CLUBSCENE - SINGLES.

DRUM & BASS

Future Forces Inc. *Dead by Dawn* (Renegade Hardware) Out Now.

This is a teaser from the fourth coming album *Quantum Mechanics*, a hotly anticipated collection from the Trouble on Vinyl camp or Renegade Hardware there sister label. If this track is anything to go by it's gona be absolutely tearing.

Starts off with plenty of atmosphericals, dark stepping beats roll-over the moody strings, with beats cut in & out over the top. Then in drops a dark stretched acid b-line. Impressive stuff, it's dark, it's hard, it's intelligent, it's wicked.

Adam F. *Music in My Mind* (F-Jams) 2nd Feb

Another killer track from one of the men of the moment, I love the Talk Box vocal at the beginning by Adam himself, giving his voice that Electro sound, live squelchy b-line, wicked break beats, stabs of trumpets. It would not surprise me at all, if it goes top 40. And look out for the remixes that are sure to follow soon.

Blu Mar Ten (Looking Good Rec.) *Global Access* / *Myriad*. 16th Feb.

As with every release coming from the LG label you don't have to listen to it before you buy it as your assured top quality production, and a deep 'n' meaning full track. And this is know different. The trademark percussion rolls, and a rolling jazz break paints a picture on your mind. It takes you up nice and step, so it can drop you in nice 'n' deep. Absolutely wicked tune.

TECHNO/HOUSE

Ollie vs Jon The Dentist. *The Fourth Kingdom* (Truelove) Out Now.

This is definitely a track I'd buy, it's what I would call banging house. With a trancy feel, Strong drum rolls, and a pleasant break down. Jon's mix is harder, more full on, bouncy bass-line, eerie vocals and hard driven drum rolls. Sure to keep an up for it crowd going mental.

Viper. *The Twister* (Hooj) 26th Jan.

This tune use's probably the best sample your likely to hear, taken from Nina Simones song "New Day" "It's a new dawn, it's a new day, It's a new life for me & I'm feeling good" full of depth and feeling, and when used with those banging house beats, thumping b-line & moody strings, it's a sure hit. If this doesn't send a shiver down your spin nothing will. You have 4 mixes to choose from all on the harder side of house.

Paganini Traxx. *Release Yourself*. Out Now

Six mixes to choose from on this one, all but one are in a hard, trancy, techno house styles and a wicked break-beat working. For me the vocal doesn't really fit with the hard 'n' deep feel of the track, which is to weak and going on about nothing. I much prefer the mixes without the vocal keeping it hard 'n' fast.

GARAGE

Joey Ducane. *Cosmic Funk* (Montana) Out Now

The first time I listened to this one I didn't think much of it, but on repeated listening it grew and grew on me. Funky b-line rolls on & on over the track, the percussion rolls give it that jiggerly feel, stabs of what sound like trumpets, looped title sample & nice use of funky 70's disco sounds, sure to keep the floor moving.

George E. *Inna City* (Catch) 2nd-9th Feb.

My favourite mix out of the 5 on offer, is the 2nd on the b-side I think. Where it's given the dub garage treatment, fat b-line, chopping beats, stabs of the vocal, reminiscent of TJR's Just Gets Better. Nice diversity of sounds used with those tuff stepping beats, another quality production from the Catch crew. Also with street soul mix, and more vocal & upbeat workings as well there's something for everyone.

Banana Republic & The Zoo Experince *Feat. Judy Obeya* (Catch) 9th Feb.

There a variety of mixes on this one, my favourite is yhe 2nd on the b-side, a fat Garage working, strong stomping beats & nice Wah Wah bird sounds echoing in the background. Excellent use of Judy's vocal talents, this is much more a nice tune than an out-right floor filler.

Jo Public.

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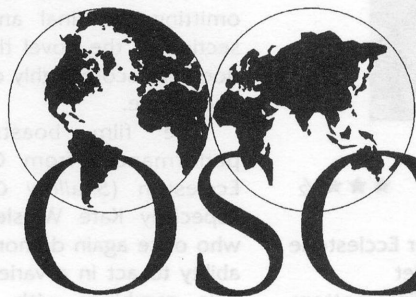
International Night '98

The Overseas Students Committee are looking for enthusiastic people to help with the organisation of the evening, which takes place on Friday 13th February.

No previous experience required. Different areas include:

- comperes (auditions to follow)
- stage crew
- technical support
- fashion show coordinators
- and many, many more....

Interested? Then get in touch with
Tanya Siraa (t.siraa@ic.ac.uk)



ODEON KENSINGTON FILM COMPETITION

WIN TICKETS TO SEE STARSHIP TROOPERS



Quite possibly
the daftest film
of all time

Time is running out to see one of the most over-the-top effects-laden films of all time. Paul Verhoeven's *Starship Troopers* is pure entertainment with a negligible plot, more evil alien bugs than you can squirt insect-repellent at and no famous leads to get in the way of the fun.

The Odeon Kensington is giving you one last chance to see the great film this week, and we have five pairs of tickets for the late-night screenings tonight and

tomorrow. The tickets will be given to the first five people who drop into the Felix office with the answer to the following simple question:

Which classic Paul Verhoeven film featured the line "You have twenty seconds to comply"?

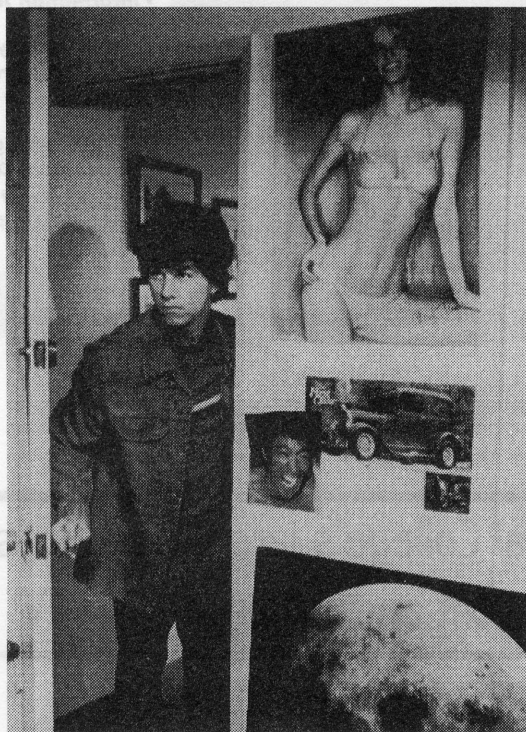
The first three people with the correct answer will also win a *Starship Troopers* sweatshirt, again courtesy of the local Odeon.

WIN TICKETS TO SEE BOOGIE NIGHTS

This is the film everybody is talking about (well, apart from *Titanic*). The artist formerly known as Marky Mark stars alongside Burt Reynolds in a sharp look at the seventies porn industry. Fortunately, the emphasis is on the dysfunctional characters involved rather than the problem of censorship which has already been covered in *Larry Flynt*. It shows the lengths desperate people will go to in pursuit of stardom and the tragic consequences that so often await those who fail.

There are five pairs of tickets to be won as well as exclusive *Boogie Nights* mugs and pens. These prizes will be given to the first five people who come into the Felix office today and tell us:

Which film starred Burt Reynolds as a trucker pursued by pesky cops?



Mark Wahlberg
plays Dirk
Diggler, a hero
of the seventies
porn world

VIDEOS TO BUY



JUDE

★★★½

Starring: Christopher Eccleston
Kate Winslet

Director: Michael Winterbottom

On retail release at £12.99

Based on Thomas Hardy's novel, Michael Winterbottom's film tells the tragic story of stonemason Jude Fawley, who tries to pursue his dream of attending university and escaping his mundane rural life. Despite omitting the final and bleakest section of the novel this film still does not score highly on the feel-good scale.

The film boasts brilliant performances from Christopher Eccleston (*Shallow Grave*) and especially Kate Winslet (*Titanic*), who once again demonstrates her ability to act in a variety of roles. This combines with well-paced direction to create yet another quality adaptation of a classic novel. **F**

Stephen Tarlton



WALKING AND TALKING

★★½

Starring: Anne Heche, Catherine Keener, Todd Field

Director: Nicole Holofcener

On retail release at £15.99

CINEMA BOOKS

Pierce Brosnan - The New Unauthorised Biography

Available now at £5.99

No stars

There are two thoughts that spring to mind when one is contemplating an "unauthorised" biography. The first is plenty of dirt and juicy gossip. The second is that it's so bad that the subject didn't want anything to do with it.

It doesn't take long to place this in the second category. The author begins with a nauseatingly sycophantic description of the Leicester Square premiere of *Goldeneye* and manages to irrelevantly include how much more regal Brosnan is than the future King of England. The narrative remains at this level throughout. The writing is reminiscent of pre-GCSE essays when one is still learning to master onomatopoeias and simile. To be fair a lot of information has been collected but most of it is based on remarks made by neighbours, distant family and numerous magazine and newspaper reviews.

A picture of Brosnan does slowly evolve and for somebody who felt abandoned by his parents and picked on at school for being a tall skinny runt, he has done quite well for himself. However, one cannot help but feel that any valid biography should include a substantial input from the subject himself. This book is only likely to appeal to a love-struck fan and I defy anybody else to be able to read it. **F**

Stef

Touted as *Friends* meets *Swingers*, this film follows the developing relationships of two lifelong friends. Heche has a fiancée but still fantasises about sex with other men. Keener is in a worse situation still - even the ugly bloke from the local video store has dumped her and she's worried that her friend will forget her once the wedding day arrives. This is an observant but gentle film with likable characters. There are one or two interesting subplots along the way but the happy ending is never really in doubt. This video is thus only worth buying if you are fascinated by insecure females and their relationships. **F**

Chris



THE GOONS - THE STORY

Sir Harry Secombe, Eric Sykes, Edited by Norma Farnes



Two men and a nutcase

The Goons first went on air as "The Crazy People" in May 1951. Having met in a pub in the early post war years, Milligan, Secombe, Michael Bentine and the landlord Jimmy Grafton met and began a "rasping, squealing, giggling, snorting period of lunacy" which continued unabated until 1960. They brought the most absurd anarchic comedy ever

heard to a stolid, traditional radio audience, and generations discover afresh their brilliant legacy. The book follows their history and features a unique collection of Milligan's personal memorabilia and photographs, as well as contributions from Goon co-writer Sykes, and several celebrated fans. It is extraordinarily well researched, with superb source material and

hundreds of personal photographs. The many sketches transcribe well, but you are left feeling a little segregated from the writers, as if it were a private conversation to which you are not party. The writing tends to be uneven and fragmented with pointless trivia and attention to detail too overworked for anyone but the most obsessed fan. There is inherently no self criticism, making this seem a real backslapper of a book, with no input from outside the tight circle of friends and partners which defined the Goons phenomenon. An ideal book for the devout, dare I say trainspotting fan, but containing little of worth for the casual reader and occasionally downright dull. The Goons were a blast of fresh air for radio, for comedy. Morcambe and Wise, Monty Python and Reeves and Mortimer share The Goons in their comic ancestry; this slightly dreary book does them little justice. A shame really, and if I haven't yet convinced you, at £16.99 it is not at all

cheap, and should be bought only if utterly desperate in the lead up to Father's Day.

Mr. Trout

Published by Virgin

Price £16.99

Available now

BOOK REVIEWERS NEEDED

If you can read books, then you can probably write about them too. Why not use this talent, while getting free books at the same time by joining the Felix review team?

Just come to the Felix office at 1pm on Mondays to get your hands on the goods..

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Wed. 28th Jan. 6pm & Thurs. 29th Jan. 8.30pm-

The Full Monty.

Wed. 28th Jan. 8.30pm & Thurs. 29th Jan. 6pm-

Wilde.

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Imperial College or ULU students & staff. Compulsory annual membership of £1 (payable on first visit).

Doors open 15 minutes before time stated. ICU Cinema is no smoking but drinks from Da Vinci's bar are welcome. E&OE; ROAR



HELL IS OTHER PEOPLE

IN THROUGH THE OUT DOOR

Imperial College Fringe Theatre

The newly-born IC Fringe Theatre, a semi-professional theatre company consisting of student, staff and external members, was crowned with success last Wednesday on its opening performance at the College.

Directed and produced by Dr. Caroline Baillie from the department of Materials, "In Through The Out Door" was a trilogy of one-act plays, focusing on the issues of individual freedom.

The evening began with "One For The Road" by Harold Pinter, a play about a dissident family who have been forced into submission in a police state. The "face à face" between Nicolas, the state official, played by Nick Roberts and Victor, the father of the persecuted family, played by Qhygoem*z, was laden with a strong intensity. Without words, Victor transmitted, by the convulsion of his face and limbs, his rage, the unbearable helplessness of his situation, the atrocious mental torture inflicted upon him and the disgust of a man who is being afflicted more each second, all of which enhanced Nicolas' sadistic enjoyment and perseverance.

Caroline Baillie interwove the plays in such a way that the second play directly followed this confrontation. There was a brief switching back to the former, before the last play. Finally, it is the last scene of the first play which ends this trilogy, very originally put together to emphasise the various

potential links between the three.

"Gotchal", by Barrie Keefe, focuses on a different kind of individual freedom; freedom within the school system and how quickly you are excluded if you do not fit into the mould. An educational system which lacks not only the ability but also the will to make the most of individual capabilities, quickly marginalises the 'different' and the weaker.

In an extreme situation, following a strange turn of events, the roles of authority are re-verses and the Kid (physics postdoc Matthew Williams) confronts his school teachers and headmaster. His desperate cry for attention ends dramatically, as he is thrown back, banished forever to his status of outcast in society.

"Hell is others" - probably one of the most famous lines of French Theatre, summarises Sartre's "No Way Out". Upon their deaths, two women and a man arrive in Hell, one after the other. There is no fire nor a torturer as they would have expected but they rapidly realise that the greatest torture that could have been imposed upon them was to be confined together for eterni-

ty. Unable to free themselves, by death, of the ever growing torture one inflicts on the other by pressing upon him for what he will never get, there is no possibility of escape.

The actors, Ron Irwin, from the European Administration Office, as Garcin, N'Dirol Ba, a final year chemist, as Estelle and Caroline Baillie as Inez, succeeded with brilliance in developing this infernal spiral whose culmination goes beyond human perspective.

Amongst the various links between the three plays was the closed room, with the locked door. All the time, the audience too was locked in. Tying the plays together so closely was an invitation to draw the different characters together in one way or another. It left open the possibility for the spectator to imagine a character from one play developing into that of another and relate a certain behaviour to its possible evolution under new conditions.

The production was put on in the Union, without a stage, making use of the entire space of the room with the audience seated all around it, very close to the actors.

The music was produced in Australia by Solange Kershaw. She

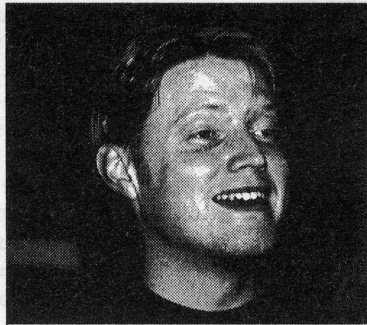
worked on it in conjunction with Caroline Baillie via email. Caroline would email her every night after the rehearsal and explain her exactly what had been done, how the general feel for the production was progressing. "The other day I explained how I needed to create the idea of a child's spirit floating around the parent's heads" she told Felix.

And the result was a wonderful achievement, music that formed one body with the acting. But she added: "Solange and I understand each other well - we wouldn't have been able to do this if we had not worked together for a long time". How did she go about directing? "I tend to go by intuition" she said, emphasizing that she is very conscious of not changing that approach.

Dr. Baillie indeed leads a double career - as scientist and engineer, she understands the constraints of rigorously, and as actor and director, she wishes to leave an open space for creativity.

Often asked whether she sees herself always having these two separate strands in her life, she replies that she believes that "society is beginning to understand the need to develop cross-disciplinary skills. In ancient times, engineers were also artists and musicians. Why should this be so strange today?"

Danuta Pieter



The Kid in "Gotchal": Physics postdoc Matthew Williams

MARIO BENZEDRINE'S POP-UP APOCALYPSE

Etcetera Theatre, Camden

This is an unnerving, vicious and shockingly funny play. It is performed with spectacular power by the lone Rhodri Hugh, in a gargantuan physical display of emotive violence, exploring with uncontrolled savagery the crisis-ridden modern psyche.

Mario Leonardo Benzedrine, as he introduces himself, is a soul on the very edge of the abyss. The monochrome set consists on a ring of fairy lights, an ethereal door and an item of strange wheeled monogrammed furniture which Mario later introduces as his wife. The room is entered by Mario, hyperactive, besuited, addressing the audi-

ence, rolling, jumping, pacing every square inch of the lit circle. Hugh's portrayal is mesmerising; each biting phrase given full treatment, the slightest shudder made brutally apparent for the invasively close audience.

The play consists of a single fifty-five minute monologue, broken only by the increasingly large mood-swings of the increasingly manic performer. The more deranged he becomes, the more animal his motions become, the further we delve into his soul to his primal fears, the more Mario's physical appearance mirrors what is going on; his pinstripe suit alter-

ing into a mental patient's romper suit and his pleasant features contorting in unfathomable emotion and dazzling verbal torrent. His mood swings coincide with crisp sound and lighting effects and 180° turns in subject matter; a laying bare of the layers of the troubled being before the audience, culminating in a desperate whirling crescendo and stark bleak snapping finish.

When Hugh returned to the stage for the curtain call it was disturbing to see a normal human being at the end of it, the audience temporarily frozen before tearing down the curtain of tension with

warm relieved applause. Only then did I realise that I had possibly not been breathing for the last two minutes and that I couldn't remember the first thing he had said for the last hour. No matter, it is the journey that is important here, the route taken is riveting but ultimately unimportant, taking you through pain, exultation, fear, compassion and hatred, drawing you ever closer. I recommend this play without reservation. I'm paying to see it again next week. If you think that you can take Mario Benzedrine's terrifying pace, I'll see you there.

Mr. Trout



AWAY WITH THE FAIRIES

VICTORIAN FAIRY PAINTING

Royal Academy of Arts

This small magical mystery exhibition invites the visitor to penetrate the realms of the enchanted kingdoms - or not always so...

The passion for fairies and specific interest in the supernatural, which took hold of and animated artists and writers from the early 19th century, is a specific British extension of the Romantic movement, which was surging through Europe.

This passion contributed to stimulate imaginative powers and celebrate the untouched kingdom of childhood, as well as to develop a fascination for the occult.

The translation into English of the Brothers Grimm's and Andersen's tales was of capital influence, as was the strong popularity of Shakespeare's dramas. Fairy tales were read by all ages. Dickens wrote in their defence that "in a utilitarian age, of all times, it is a matter of grave importance that fairy tales should be respected".

There was an unprecedented renewal of interest for fairy themes in the dramatic arts, especially ballet. However, this ardour to depict in the most credible ways these fantastic worlds reveals the nostal-

gia of a world which is rapidly disappearing and the fear associated with the unknown. These paintings are a protest against the defacing generated by industrialisation, as well as a way of refusing the square, scientific and rational view and interpretation of the world. They are an ultimate attempt at allowing the possible existence of an invisible world, at giving a little space to its fragile creatures.

The works presented are peopled with strange and surreal little beings, birds, butterflies, trolls, kobolds, nixies, pixies, wood sprites, sylphs... absorbed in their processions or ritual dances. There are many scenes of evening gatherings in the forest, of voluptuous dances in the skies. Their worlds are reproduced in minute details. From many canvasses escapes a magical glow, a unique luminescence.

Sometimes, fairies appear in the human meditation and dream, but explicit connection is also suggested between apparently drug-induced nightmares and this other world.

The most striking exhibition is probably Joseph Noel Patton's painting of "The Quarrel of Oberon and Titania", inspired from "A

Midsummer Night's Dream".

(A little revision of Shakespeare: Oberon, traditional King of Fairies, quarrels with his Queen Titania and resolves to torment her because she will not surrender to him a changeling he desires to raise. He gives her a dose of a magic aphrodisiac which enchants Titania with Bottom until she has surrendered what Oberon sought. However, at that point, he feels sorry for her, lifts his spell and reconciles with her - as shown in the 2nd of Patton's paintings on this theme).

The Scottish artists was associated with the Pre-Raphaelites, which indeed reflects in his meticulous attention to detail. The painting is fascinating in its intricacy. One can spend hours looking at it - discovering something new each minute. Rarely have you been given such an invitation to penetrate a painting.

There are numerous secondary scenes taking place around the main one, many of which are very erotic.

For the Victorian period, this canvass is indeed rather explicit. In many others, eroticism is present as an undercurrent, such as in Thomas Heatherley's "Golden Age", always trying to outsmart the moral and

religious interdicts of the age.

The nature of fairy painting changed after 1880, the representation of great Shakesperian characters gave way to more generic fairies, to the personification of seasons and stars.

However, not all displays are of pure light and angelic sweetness. There is a darker side to this world. Some of John Anster Fitzgerald's characters seem truly evil, and directly inspired from Jerome Bosch's monsters. There, fairies do die and carry grief. But it is through Richard Dadd that this representation is led to its climax. An atmosphere of threat and fear haunts such works as "The Fairy Feller's Master Stroke".

The enthusiasm for fairy painting was brutally and rather tragically ended with the beginning of World War One. The horrors that followed were such that they banished to childhood what had been deemed, for a time, suitable for the adult's world.

Danuta Pieter

Royal Academy of Arts,
Piccadilly.

Tube : Green Park

£3.80 students.

Open daily 10am - 6pm

until 8 February.

PAINTINGS MADE FROM PAINT

[PAINTING]

Brendon Lyons

I like being a quasi arts journalist. Even though few people actually read my stuff, it's worth it just for the perks of the job. One of these has to be cycling through the rain to Maida Vale, knowing that your carefully crafted hairstyle has been flattened and that your mascara is now on your cheeks, then arriving at the pristine, clinical whiteness of the Saatchi Gallery to be greeted by a bunch of immaculately dressed real arts journalists is always fun.

So it was a nice change to go into a terribly run down basement gallery, where the lights weren't working, and the pervading impression was of rising damp. This is the Basement Gallery, Boundary Road, Maida Vale. I was handed a flyer for this exhibition at random, and after embarrassing myself in front

of the massed art-people of London, I thought this would make a nice change. It was.

The exhibition is a hundred miles from the flat grace of Alex Katz's work, which is not to say that it is bad. It's not, it's just different. Brendon Lyons is a youngish artist from Liverpool, who graduated from Arts School eighteen months ago. His work is very solid, it's painting made from paint. Really paint. He constructs shapes from solid paint. Examples of his work includes paint hooks made from paint. These were positioned on the walls at the distance where you would expect to see paintings. But the hooks themselves are the paintings. They look as if they could support a painting, but they can't. Obviously. They're made of paint. His work is intended to fool the

brain, by showing something that the eyes reject. Another painting is a still life, a collection of objects on white stands. You can walk around the painting, look at it from many different angles, but it is still a still life. Again, this is made from solid paint. But it's a painting. Got that?

Brendon was very keen to point this out to me, time and again. It really is the most important part of the exhibition. His work is very good. Forget what I generally write about modern art, this is really good. Can we have this in the Ante Room Gallery, please?

Julia H

Brendon Lyons: [painting]
Basement Gallery
Boundary Road
Maida Vale
Free

ARTWORLD

When the new Chairman of the Royal Opera House can say "I don't want to sit next to somebody in a singlet, a pair of shorts and a smelly pair of trainers" then where the hell do we go from here? I don't go to the opera because at £180 a ticket, I frankly can't afford it. But I listen to it, which is perhaps the way to do it. Because that way you get the important bit, the music. Opera is all about emotions. It's about the emotions raised by an aria like "Un bel di..", it's about love, passion and death. Opera shouldn't be about image, it shouldn't be a place for City people to take their clients to have a nice sleep, where what people are wear is more important than the way they sing. It is, and it will continue to make huge losses.



Raising Demons

by Casper Von Wrede

The sun was shining but it was still cold enough to make their breath steam. It was in fact perfect weather for working in, as Marco pointed out; no rain, and you didn't get too hot.

"Look," said Zed, adjusting his glasses, "it must work. You tell me why it shouldn't."

"I don't know why," sighed Dan, "but I do know that it can't work. I've told you before—"

"Yes, but it must."

"Look, I really am sick of this. If you're so sure it works why don't you just make one, then sell it and you'll get loads of money...?"

Dan put down the spade he had been using and massaged his hand. "This is killing me, it's your turn now, Marco."

Marco reluctantly stood up and took the spade off Dan. "Explain it again, Zed," he said as he started to dig.

Zed brightened up immediately and adjusted his glasses again. "Look it's quite simple. You take a ball made of glass and then you coat the inside of it with the stuff they use to make one way mirrors. Then you—"

"How would you do that?" Asked Marco, looking across at Dan.

"I don't know, but I'll think of a way. Anyway, you coat it with this stuff entirely and that would mean that you'd be able to look into the ball but not out. Then, you take a torch and you shine it in."

"So what?"

"Well, the light would go into the ball, because of it being a one way mirror, but it wouldn't get back out. It would just be reflected, again and again and again."

"So?"

"Don't you understand? You would still be able to look into the ball, and you'd see the light, but the light would never get out. It would just carry on glowing and glowing."

"Look, Zed," said Dan, "I asked my father about it and he said it couldn't work. He should know."

"Oh God, it's Plug," interrupted Marco suddenly. Dan and Zed both turned round to look in the direction he was pointing. A young man was

coming towards them, looking at the ground in front of him with an expression of great concentration. He looked up at them and a foolish grin split his face. He waved. Reluctantly Marco, Zed, and Dan waved back.

"How the hell did he know we were here?" Hissed Dan. They all waited until the youth had reached them and then Marco greeted him, "Hi, Ron"

Zed said hello and Dan made a great effort to look pleased to see him.

"Hello Marco, hello Zed, hello Daniel. I want to help you build a house." He spoke very slowly and pronounced every word with great care. He had suffered from oxygen starvation at birth and was consequently heavily retarded. Dan's mother, who was a nurse, had told them that he had a mental age of five. All of their parent's had told them that if they ever made fun of him there would be severe trouble. Ron's physical age was 18 and he was heavily built. He was six feet five tall and had very broad shoulders. He could have looked quite intimidating if his mouth wasn't almost perpetually open revealing a line of very crooked teeth. His hair was scraped across his head from a parting that was barely an inch away from his right ear. "Daniel, your mother said where you are and said I could help you," he said hopefully.

"Oh," said Dan.

"Sure you can help," said Marco. "We need someone strong like you."

Ron grinned again and for a moment it seemed like he would clap his hands. He didn't but instead asked what they were doing.

Zed explained that they were digging four holes to put four posts into. The posts would become the corners of their hut. He showed Ron the one hole that had the big stone in it that they couldn't move. They were intending to get a crowbar to move it later. "Or maybe you could move it?" asked Dan.

Ron's face became very serious and it looked as if he was in deep thought. "I think I can move it," he said after a long while just as Dan was about to make a comment. He slowly and precisely rolled up both the sleeves of his

tracksuit top and then got onto his knees. Dan noticed that he had perfectly manicured fingernails and felt a twinge of shame. Almost automatically he clenched his own hands to hide his own fingernails, which were brutally short and ragged. He had bitten them from a very early age but had never in his life worried about it until this moment. He was surprised to find that he felt angry with himself.

Ron reached down into the small hollow underneath the rock and started to pull. They could almost hear the muscles tensing like ropes in the cliff that was his back. Zed clenched his fists. Marco looked on with a bemused expression. "Go on," breathed Zed.

Ron's face turned red and his whole body began to quiver. Then, quite suddenly, with a kind of ripping sound the rock came upwards taking a large chunk of the earth and grass with it.

"Awesome," exclaimed Dan, putting a lingering emphasis on the first syllable. For a moment he was again angry with himself for letting the admiration become so evident in his voice, but when he saw the expression on Ron's face he couldn't help but genuinely grin along with the rest of them. Ron had fallen flat on his face, and was wiping dirt from his clothes. He looked like he had single-handedly moved a mountain, which was not that far removed from the truth. "A crow bar would not have helped a lot there. That was bloody amazing, Ron," remarked Marco.

Ron looked like he was going to float away, but quite suddenly his face became contorted with a mixture of shock and pain. He yelped and grabbed violently at the back of his neck. Marco, Zed, and Dan simultaneously leapt backward in fright.

"What's wrong, Ron? Are you okay?"...

**Raising Demons will
conclude next week.**

Fri 23rd

BUST-A-GUT
comedy club

With Jason Freeman & Support. DBs. 8pm

HEDONIZM

Journey to the heart of the beat

Sun 25th

Standing Room Only

Man City v West Ham 1pm

Stevenage v Newcastle 4pm

Tues 27th

BAR TRIVIA

Win £50 cash or crate of lager dBs. 8pm

Weds 28th

XS

Two rooms of midweek mania. 9 - 1.

Free b4 11

Thurs 29th

COCKTAIL NIGHT

DaVinci's 5-11



DIVERSIONS FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

at home

in town

events

Bust-A-Gut Comedy Club
Comedy, with Jason Freeman & Support, 8pm in dB's.
Hedonizm
"Journey to the heart of the beat". 9pm-2am.
Free before 9 or with Entscard, £1 after.

club & soc events

RAG - Collectors needed
Collection around Westminster for Meningitis Research on 28th February. The collection is intended to be Fancy Dress, although this is entirely optional. Prizes for best collectors, plus free food, drink and an evening out. Meetings: Thursday, 1.10 in dB's

club & soc regulars

ICU Fitness Club
Advanced step classes, 5.30pm, Southside Gym.
Women's Minibus Service
Takes lone female students home in safety all over London. First Run - Midnight. Last Run - Closing Time. Also runs on Wednesdays.

radio & TV

The Simpsons
6pm, BBC2
TFI Friday
6pm, C4
Blackadder
9pm, BBC2
Friday Night Armistice
9.35pm, BBC2
Frasier
10pm, C4

music

Barry Manilow
Wembley Arena, 7pm, £32.50-£12.50
Travis + Ultrasound + The Hybirds + Unbelievable Truth
Astoria, 8pm, £8.50

fri 23

sat 24

sun 25

mon 26

tue 27

wed 28

thr 29

Standing Room Only
FA Cup fourth round double bill, in glorious technicolour:
-Man City v West Ham, KO 1pm.
-Stevenage v Newcastle, KO 4pm.
ICU Cinema
It's A Wonderful Life, 8pm.
Free to members.

STA Bar Trivia
Win £50 cash or a crate of lager. 8pm, dB's

ICU Cinema
The Full Monty, 6pm
Wilde, 8.30pm
XS
Two rooms of midweek mania, with pop & mainstream dance in dB's. 9pm-1am (midnight bar)
Free B4 11/50p after

ICU Cinema
Wilde, 6pm
The Full Monty, 8.30pm
Cocktail Night
The cheapest drinks around. DaVinci's, 5-11pm

ICU Finance Society
In association with Andersen Consulting, Finance Society present an Outsourcing Business Game. The game will be held at 6.30pm, in Andersen's Offices. For more information, contact l.toh@ic.ac.uk. Hurry, as places are limited

Rifle & Pistol Club
Join and shoot 11am-3pm
ICU Kung Fu Club
Training, 4.30-6.30pm, Southside Gym. Beginners Welcome.

ICU Kung Fu Club
Training, 4.30-6.30pm, Southside Gym. All Welcome.
ICU Fitness Club
Advanced Step, 2pm, Southside Gym

Dance Club
Beginners Latin lesson, 6pm, JCR
IC Chaplaincy
Discussion group 6pm, Chaplaincy, 10 Prince's Gardens.
Ski Club
Meeting, 12.30pm, Southside
Cathsoc
Mass, noon, Mech Eng

IQ
Meeting, 7.30pm, Brown Committee Room
Community Action Group
Soup run 8.15pm. Meet in basement kitchen, Weeks Hall
Bridge Club
Meeting, 6pm, Brown Committee Room
Canoe Club
Meeting, 7pm, Beit Quad

Rifle & Pistol Club
Join and shoot 1pm-6pm
IC Chaplaincy
College communion, 12 noon
Chaplaincy, Princes Gardens
Orienteering
Training, 6pm, Union Gym
Astrosoc
Meeting, 1.30pm, Physics Common Room, Level 2
Physics

Community Action Group
Soup run 8.15pm
Meet in basement kitchen, Weeks Hall
Fellwanderers
Meeting, 1pm, Southside Upper Lounge
Con Soc
Meeting, 1pm, Southside Upper Lounge

The Blue Parrot
7.05am, BBC1
Stand by Me
9pm, C5
Looking After Jo Jo
10.10pm, BBC2
St Elsewhere
1.50am, C4

Teletubbies
7.40am, BBC2
Simpsons Omnibus
12.15pm, BBC2
Natural World: Galapagos Dragons
6.10pm, BBC2
The Abyss
9pm, C4

Sesame Street
12pm, C4
Light Lunch
12.30pm, C4
Eastenders
8pm, BBC1
Ken Hom's Hot Wok
8.30pm, BBC2
Film '97 With Barry Norman
11.15pm, BBC1

Teletubbies
7.15am, BBC2
Blue Peter
8am, BBC2
Fresh Prince of Bel Air
6pm, BBC2
Eastenders
7.30pm, BBC1
Crash
9pm, C4

The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh
3.50pm, ITV
A Date with an Artist
7.30pm, BBC2
ER
9pm, C4
Friends
10.30pm, C4

Mouse and Mole
8.25am, BBC2
World of Survival
8pm, BBC2
Brookside
8.30pm, C4
Vicar of Dibley
8.30pm, BBC1

Finley Quaye + Red Snapper + A Guy Called Gerald
Astoria, 8pm, £8.50
Light Of The World
Jazz Cafe, 7-12pm, £12
George Clinton and the P Funk Allstars
Brixton Academy, 7pm, £17.50

Stereophonics
Astoria, 8pm, £8.50
Armstrong+Bionic+Walther + Ecologist
Dingwalls, 12noon

Paradise Lost + Novocaine
Shepherds Bush Empire, 7pm, £10
Thunder
HMV Oxford Circus, 5pm, free

Delicatessen
Falcon, 8pm, £5
Young Offenders
Camden Palace, 10pm-2am, £5
Riser
Mean Fiddler, 8pm, £5



film

Titanic

Odeon Leicester Square
11.55, 3.50, 7.50
Virgin Fulham Road
12.15, 4.15, 8.15
Odeon Kensington
11.25, 3.25, 7.25, 11.25

arts

Insignificance

DramSoc, UCH
£5/£3 (students) 7.30pm

Brendon Lyons: [painting]

Basement Gallery, Maida Vale
Free

Alex Katz

Saatchi Gallery

clubbing

The Gallery @ Tummills

House and Garage: Danny Rampling, Seb Fontaine et al. 10pm-7.30am £8 b4 11pm/£10 63 Clerkenwell Rd, Farringdon tube
Escape From Samsara @ The Fridge Techno/Trance: Blu Peter, Cybernaut PA, et al. 10pm-6am £7 b4 11pm/£12 Town Hall Parade, Brixton

The Wings of a Dove

Odeon Kensington
2.00, 4.30, 7.00
Virgin Fulham Road
1.10, 3.40, 6.10, 8.40
Minema Knightsbridge
3.00, 7.00, 9.00

Insignificance

DramSoc, UCH
£5/£3 (students) 7.30pm

Amy's View

Aldwych Theatre
£10-£27.50

Chicago

Adelphi Theatre, £12.50-£30

Boogie Nights

Odeon Kensington
1.40, 5.05, 8.30, 11.55
Virgin Chelsea
2.05, 5.15, 8.30
UCI Whiteleys
2.15, 5.30, 8.45

FITZROVIA OPEN

Major art exhibition

Submit an exhibit yourself
See Julia in the Felix office for more details

Sunnyside Up @ SW1

House: Darren Pearce, Martin Sharp, et al. 11am-9.30pm £8 b4 6.30pm/£5 191 Victoria Street, Victoria tube

Devil's Advocate

Odeon Kensington
2.35, 5.45, 9.00
Virgin Trocadero
1.00, 5.00, 8.20
Virgin Hammersmith
3.00, 6.00, 9.05

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare

(Abridged)
Criterion Theatre
£5.50-£20

Circumnatnce number one,
by Carol Robertson.
Ante-Room Gallery, IC

Club Tropicana @ The Gardening Club

House/Trance & Garage:
Phil Brill & Alice. 9pm-3am
£3 All drinks £1 b4 1am

Starship Troopers

Odeon West End
12.15, 3.05, 6.00, 8.50
Odeon Marble Arch
5.55
ABC Tottenham Court Road
9.10

The Right Size in

Do You Come Here Often?
Vaudeville Theatre
£12.99

Cymbeline

RSC at the Barbican

Terms of Abuse

Hampstead Theatre
£4.50

I Went Down

Odeon Kensington
2.10, 4.40, 7.10, 9.45
Virgin Fulham Road
1.15, 3.30, 6.20, 8.50
Warner West End
2.10, 4.40, 7.10, 9.40

Ballad of the Young Man's Own

White Bear, Kennington

£6, £4.50

Scriptease

Tristan Bates Studio
1a Tower St
£5, £4

Spice World - The Movie

UCI Empire Leicester Square
1.50, 4.05, 6.40, 9.05
Virgin Trocadero
12.10, 2.20, 4.30
Virgin Chelsea
12.20, 2.30, 4.40

The Art of the Harley
Barbican Art Gallery

Hyaenas in Petticoats
National Portrait Gallery

Cyberrealism

Photology
24 Litchfield St,
Nr Covent Garden

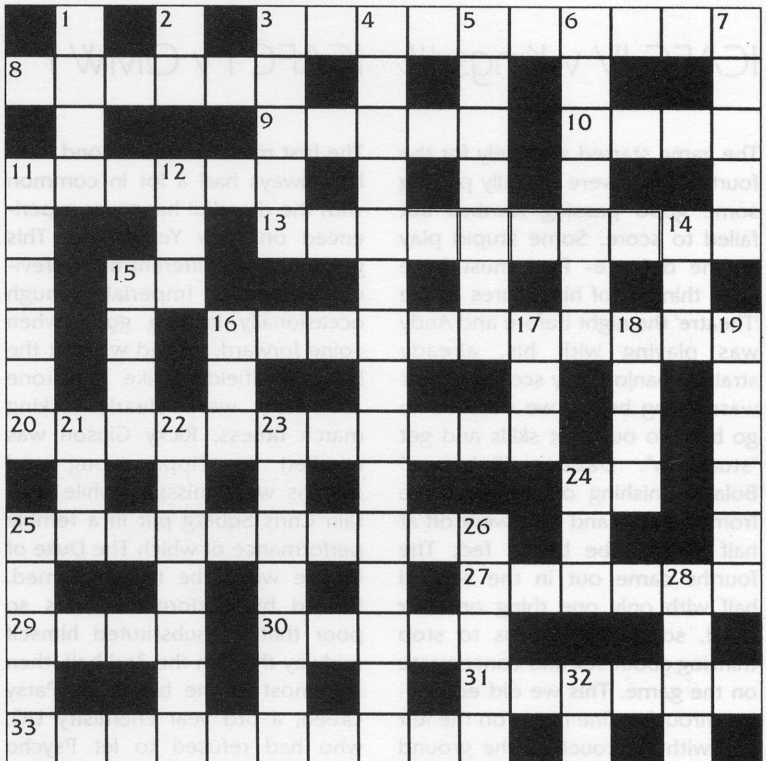
Lavish @ Tummills

House 'n' Garage, Norris Windross, Timmi Magic, Mickey Simms, etc. 10pm-4am. £5 b4 11.30. £7 after
Ultimate B.A.S.E @ Velvet Rooms
Charing Cross Rd. WC2
Hard House 'n' Funky
Techno £6 10pm-2am Info: 0171 734 4687

PUZZLES

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

By Ed (not-Jeremy-oh-no) Sexton



ACROSS

- 3 Surrounded by warm liquid, bringing trouble (2,3,5)
8 We fifty are half joined - other half sound deceased! (6)
9 Fisherman loses right to a point of view (5)
10 Pole in mat makes pole? (4)
11 Hard up? Confused? Keep women out of view! (6)
13 Willing to consider nothing, fold and end mid blend (4-6)
15 Two vowels and a satellite (2)
16 Flames get away from stairs (4,7)
20 Lousy girl that is put together in a careful way (11)
24 I object! (2)
25 Happen to mop cases' mess (4,2,4)
27 Round container in Gary's initial pipes (6)
29 Pound terrorist group after fifty (4)
30 If Ed yells initially, jumble to improve! (5)
31 Strong desire concerning brightness (6)
33 A strange power tenses his ten fuses (5,5)

DOWN

- 1 Europe rules, hiding country (4)
2 Part of the mind's credentials (2)
3 Oh, aid mixed-up for state? (5)
4 More advanced teaching? (6,9)
5 Ros and them make up flask (7)
6 Morning aim: No muddled gas! (7)
7 Valued right at Ed? (5)
11 Flat arrangement with a right... (6)
12 ...to do without 21 couples! (3)
14 You sound like a sheep! (3)
15 I do like hiding an image (4)
16 Tiring work? Light up! (3)
17 Call loudly in acrylic?! (3)
18 Spear fish (4)
19 Groans, messing up skirt (6)
21 For example, nothing is my opinion (3)
22 Tax nice - confusing - but not quite correct (7)
23 Is morse coded configurations... (7)
24 ...a crowd, or a criminal group? (3)
25 Left in morning, within car's ends, and quietens (5)
26 Infection and the French fashion (5)
28 Informant sounds dark! (4)
32 The seventh note is back (2)

£10 Blockbusters Video Token to be Won

First correct entry drawn out of the box on Tuesday morning wins this great prize. Drop entries into Felix or send them in internal mail. Last week's winner was John Douglas of Maths 3. Your prize awaits.



Footie News

ICAFC IV v Kings III ICAFC I v QMW I

The game started strangely for the fourths- they were actually playing some good passing football but failed to score. Some stupid play by the defence- Paul must have been thinking of his failures at the 'Theatre' the night before and Andy was playing with his, already strained banjo. They scored, but it wasn't long before we decided to go back to our best skills and get "stuck in". Dazzler "Babyface" Boland finishing off a shit move from 25 yards and then went off at half time to be breast fed. The fourths came out in the second half with only one thing on their mind, so Swifty told us to stop thinking about sex and concentrate on the game. This we did equalising through a fine move on the left and with the touch of the ground hog Phaeton scored a great goal. The midfield all battled well and in the last two minutes the fourths got the lucky break they deserved, dazzler scoring with a clinical finish from just inside the box. Special mention must go to S-T-U who played an excellent second half and Morgan Roy Hill who has come out of the desert and admitted his homosexuality. Finally cheers to the second team for their support at the end of a great match.

ICAFC IV 2- 1 Kings III

Results

Hockey

ICHC I 13 -0 UCH

ICWHC II 5 - 0

Football

ICFC I 4 - 1 Kings I

ICFC II 2 - 3 LSE III

ICFC IV 3 - 2 SOAS

ICFC V 1 - 2 UMDS II

ICFC VI 0 - 6 St Mary's II

Rugby

ICRFC I 7 - 10 QMW (ref a wanker)

Other results

ICBSC 9-5 LCD

ICSMC 37 - 43 HCPC

ICTDA 3 - 39 SCDDH

The first match of the second term has always had a lot in common with the dreadful hangover experienced on New Year's Day. This game was no different from previous years as Imperial, though occasionally looking good when going forward, looked weak at the back. Midfielders like Foulstone and Pratt were clearly lacking match fitness. Ricky Gibson was recalled as Tipayawong and Marcos were missing, while captain Chris Soberg put in a terrible performance of which The Duke of Prague would be truly ashamed. Indeed his performance was so poor that he substituted himself midway through the 2nd half, then laid most of the blame on Patsy Green, a 3rd year chemistry UG, who had refused to let Psycho drink champagne out of her shoe on the night prior to the game.

QMW, the League leaders, shocked the hosts as they took the lead in the first minute of the game. Imperial showed character, however, and equalised when Stewart rose to meet Brayn's left wing cross. IC then took the lead when Brayn coolly slotted the ball into the top left hand corner.

QMW were given a lifeline after Foulstone's fowl gave them a penalty, then went 3-2 up just before half-time after 'keeper Keane misjudged a corner. Hopes of a come-back were dashed when QMW got a fourth at the start of the half, even though Pratt pulled one back. Italian whizz-kid Roberto replaced Gibson, and was given a harsh introduction to the English game as he was brutally brought down twice. Eventually Amo pulled one back. Towards the end, German Shanidze was sent off for the most blatant foul ever seen at Harlington.

Following this set-back it is better to read the League table upside down as far as Imperial are concerned. Indeed it's a bit like Prague's situation under German terror during WW II. But, just as the Allies turned the tide and carpet-bombed Dresden there are positive signs, too. Next month the Firsts play UMDS in the Cup semi-final as well as taking on UEA in BUSA. Like the Germans, they shall be begging for mercy.

ICAFC I 4-6 QMW I

Sports Editorial

Hullo everyone.

I would like to thank all those who expressed dismay at the death of Simon "the people's sports editor". It warms my heart to see how the nation has united in a display of the grief over this tragic loss.

Across the country, thousands are queueing to sign books of condolence and leave flowers and cheap trinkets at the many Simon Shrines. To commemorate his remarkable life, the band Black Lace (close friends of Simon) are releasing Agadoo '98 featuring the modified chorus:

Simon D. D. D.

He was wounded fatally.

Simon D. D. D.

Now he's in the cemetery.

All profits go to the Simon fund

(proprietor J. Thorne), order yours now!

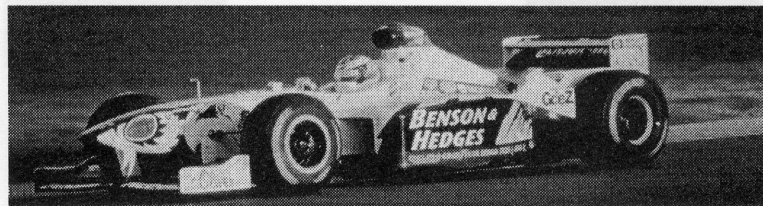
As for my tribute to him, Simon worked ceaselessly to dig up stories for the Felix sports page. He truly was our Prince of Spades.

The fascinating story of Simon's life is documented in my book *Simon - His True Story* (unlike all the other Simon books which are complete fabrications and not worth the paper they're written on).

Jacob.

PS It is my pleasure to introduce my new collaborator Niall Darwin. I tried to pass on my extensive knowledge to him but it seems he is already well versed in the art of tea making.

New Formula 1 contender revealed.



Schumacher whizzes about in the new Jordan.

Having gawped & gasped at the feats performed by two "Cirque de Soleil" contortionists I was now being amazed at the timing & acrobatic skills of their many trampolinists. Performing on an "X" shaped trampoline sunk into the Albert Hall's stage they somersaulted & flick-flacked around, over & under each other at ridiculous speed.

Come the end of the performance I am suddenly reminded what I came here for as a huge screen drops down out of the ceiling & a video of yellow racing cars screaming around a circuit starts playing. I'm here to see the launch of Jordan's attack on the 1998 Formula 1 World Championship. Following a short animation introducing their dramatic new wasp logo, the new car is dropped out of the rafters & stage hands go to work removing its supporting chains. Damon Hill & Ralf Schumacher (Michael's younger brother) then appear & start posing with the car for the paparazzi, smiling broadly.

Later, in the press conference,

the driver's smiles are still present as they answer questions about the new car & their chances of winning in it. They appear fairly confident of bringing the team its first ever F1 win this season.

The car they hope will bring them these race wins outwardly seems little different to last year's design despite rule changes resulting in less effective wings & tyres. The most obvious difference is their new logo replacing the snake of last year. Under the skin they have an entirely different engine, a Mugen-Honda, changed from last year's Peugeot. This could prove a mixed blessing, the deciding factor being whether the engine is mostly Mugen or mostly Honda.

If championships were decided by launch parties then Jordan would have this year's sewn up, with bonus points for omitting the Spice Girls. Unfortunately they aren't, but with the help of Damon's experience look out for Jordan winning a couple of races this year.

Niall.

ICU Welfare Committee Newsletter

Spring Edition

een St.
ter 6pm.

ine floors,
inc. pcm.

ngle room, four
throom. Close,
k. Tel. 0973

autifull double-
kitten, sunny &
pw incl. 0181 926

or, bright, newly deco-
street, near Simon

in friendly
area. 0171 435 4408
water.

• **GAY EX RIVER**, seeks for
All mod cons. L...
...Phil 0181 767 1713.

• **STUDENTS' FLAT 3 BEDS** Poor condition,
sleeps 27 students, 4 mice, 2985000 cockroaches.
Farm-and-a-leg pcm.

• **FREE ROOM** for
single people, in return for a little domestic help. Very secure,
clean and pleasant area. Ring now for details. 0930 719 013.

• **DOUBLE ROOM AVAILABLE** for professional girl in
fab funky flat. £55 p/w including bills (except telephone).
Bexleyheath. Near to A2. 01322 553450

• **SINGLE ROOM**, workroom/study, own phone line,
Bexleyheath. Good transport links. Garden.
...woman. 01714769619

BR Dun-
69019.

• **KEYTONSTONE E.**
...Muj i style house, sh
den/pine floor/mod cons, s
0611.

• **SW11**. Large, one br
rated, Victorian conversi
Clapham Common/Jun
01716421609.

• **BRIXTON**. Room
from 1st December f
other. £45.00pw + d

• **LESBIAN/FE**
Fields. Near heath
rooms, £65-75 in
- **WALTHAM**

Moving out of hall for the first time?
Want to improve on last year's disaster?
Fear not, help is at hand! To compli-
ment the **House of Horror** competition,
here is a friendly guide on how to avoid
the pitfalls of flat hunting and a quick
advert for the places you can get help.
The essential tip has to be **don't panic!**
Mistakes are only really made when
people jump into arrangements they
later regret or sign contracts they can't
get out of.

Here are a few pointers:

If you want to start looking early, that's
OK, but be aware that prices will go up
for the summer and back down in the
autumn. Start by getting a general idea
of which estate agents are dealing with
your price range. Ask them what they
normally have to offer for students. An
IC list of agents will be available after
Accommodation Week, try to stick to
this.

When you start looking:

Do not believe agents who say they'll
phone you back - keep phoning them!
Never visit a property by yourself, with or
without the agent. Remember, within

reason you can look for as long as you
like and ask anything you like.

Do not sign anything unless you are
really sure you know what and why you
are signing, how long will you be
committed to it? e.t.c.

When you decide you've found the right place:

You can put down a **holding deposit** to
the agent which stops him/her giving the
flat to anyone else. **But**, although the
good news is that this will be part of your
overall deposit not an extra payment,
the **bad** news is that you **can't change**
your mind without losing the deposit.
When **signing**, ideally you should have
at least one parent or someone who
knows what they're doing with you.

True or False favourites:

1. "I have to pay agents money before
they'll check if they have any lets avail-
able" **FALSE**
2. "The inventory is normally signed at
the agent's office without checking the
flat" **FALSE**
3. "The agent may not let me sign the

letting agreement if I don't sign the
inventory" **TRUE**

4. "There is nothing I can do about sign-
ing a contract I don't fully agree with"
FALSE - limited changes can be made,
see below.

5. "There is basically only one tenancy
agreement in use" **TRUE**
It's the 1988 version but it should say
Feb. 1996 amendments somewhere
on the front, your agent should supply
an up-to-date copy.

6. "My landlord can let himself in and
out of my flat as he chooses" **FALSE**

If you need any more help with
any of the above contact your
Accommodation Officer or the
Union Advisor - see the back
page of this newsletter for
details.

House of Horror Competition

Enter details of how things have gone kaputski for you since coming to College. Share details of broken windows, dodgy landlords, fights with flat (so called) mates, broken promises and collapsing ceilings. You could win **fifty quid!**

Jot down the details, however vague, along with your name, and place we can contact you, and hand them in to the Union Office Reception Desk, addressed to Welfare Committee, before Friday 6th February. The best entry wins **£50**. That'll buy quite a lot of pints, or you could get something useful like a CO detector.



Some entries so far.....

"I knew things were going bad when my flat mate threatened my parents with the police..."

"My landlord thinks that having a key to my flat is an invite to let himself in as he chooses!"

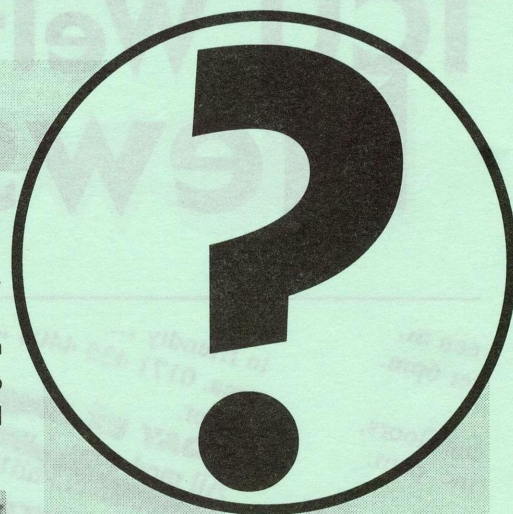
"...so we called him Mickey, Mickey-Mouse..."

"The hard way to learn that hall doors lock behind you, is to dash out in the buff to the bathroom and lock yourself out, may I recommend a shower curtain to cover your... embarrassment!"

"I started to be worried when a large man tried to batter down the front door, looking for my landlord."

"There was a flood in the flat above, and the next day, big chunks of plaster started falling from the ceiling."

"The landlady told us that the gas boiler had been checked recently, then our Carbon Monoxide detector went off, and the emergency gas man that we called out said that the flue was illegal!"



Did you know?

- That the red buttons on the walls in the ladies' toilets (1st floor above the Union Bar) are Rape Alarms. If you find yourself in trouble, push one, and help will quickly arrive.

- That Personal Attack Alarms are available free from the Union Office Reception Desk.

- That the post of Accommodation Officer is currently vacant – elections will take place at the next Council meeting. If you're interested, and think you could do the job, please come and talk to Andy Heeps (ICU President), currently acting Accommodation Officer.



- That ICU run a free Womens' Minibus Service on Bar Extension nights (Wednesdays and Fridays – Autumn and Spring terms, Friday nights – Summer term) to take lone female students home in safety.

- That the post of RSM Welfare Officer is also vacant – if you're a Miner, and think you could do the job.

Welfare (Accommodation) Week 1998

Big Brother is watching out for you.

Whether you want to find out who can help in times of crisis, win £50 in the **House of Horror** competition, or find out about free condoms, Welfare (Accommodation) Week has something for you.

Welfare (Accommodation) Week will include exhibits across 4 campuses, bring a Welfare theme to Da Vinci's Tuesday night quiz, examples of entries in the **House of Horror** competition, it will start with a sponsored No-Sleep-In in dBs, in aid of Shelter, and end with IC's "Check-Your-Bits" Day!

Calling all Insomniacs

Fancy spending the night with 49 other people?

We are holding a Sponsored No-Sleep-In in aid of **Shelter** (the National Campaign for Homeless People) in dBs, on **Saturday 7th February 1998**.

If you want to join in, sign up in the ICU Clubs and Societies Resource Centre (or alternatively, see your Constituent College Welfare Officer). Collect your sponsorship form, and get all your friends, lecturers or parents to sponsor you to stay awake all night for a good cause – only sleeping bags and blankets for comfort, and no Pro-Plus allowed!

Talking Bollocks

Yes. I am, quite literally, talking bollocks – yours in particular.

How are they feeling?

Did you realise that men of your age (16 to 35 years old) are in the group at highest risk of Testicular Cancer? It's a killer.

So, if you haven't been in the habit of checking your testicles for early warning signs of tumours, may I suggest you start now – it might save your life.

Cysterly Love?

It's not just the lads who are at risk of sexual cancers – when was the last time you checked your breasts? Have you ever? Did you realise you should also organise cervical smear tests for yourselves? Everyone knows they're not fun, but surely it's better than dying of a potentially curable disease.

**ICU's "Check Your Bits Day" is
Saturday 14th February 1998**

If you don't know how to check yours, find out. Don't wait until it's too late. Delaying could kill you. Get in touch with the Health Centre or your GP.

**check
your
bits!**

ICU Welfare Committee

All the members of the Welfare Committee are contactable via the IC Student Union Office in the Union Building, or via the relevant Constituent College Union.

We are :

ICU Welfare Officer:

ICU Equal Op's Officer:

ICU Women's Officer:

ICU Accommodation Officer:

C&G Welfare Officer:

RSM Welfare Officer:

RCS Welfare Officers:

St. Mary's Welfare Officers:

St. Mary's Accommodation Officer:

Charing Cross Welfare Officers:

RPMS Welfare Officer:

Anne Ovens

Hannah Pearson

Lucy Jane Davis

To Be Elected

Selina Vinayaga-Pavan

To Be Elected

Bob Walker

Douglas Graham

Tamsin Robinson

Oliver Warren

Tasha Newton

Ruth Enskat

Caroline Peel

Joe Jacob

Lucy Jane Davis

Useful Addresses & Contact Numbers

Martin Thomson – Imperial College Union Advice Service. Telephone ext. 48067 or 48060 to make an appointment.
email: m.m.thomson@ic.ac.uk

Housing

Problems with Private Housing should be discussed initially with Martin. If you are facing illegal eviction on harassment outside of office hours then you should contact your local police station or try the Shelter Londonline on **0800 446 441** (which is open 24 hours)

Gas safety Line

Advice and information on Gas safety and carbon monoxide issues.
0800 300 363

Looking for accommodation:

College Accommodation Office: ext.49444
University of London Database on the WWW: <http://195.194.143.24/accom/>

(Ignore the password request)

Loot on the Web: <http://www.loot.com>

Health

Imperial College Health Centre: Enquiries ext. **49375**. Emergencies **0171 594444**

Family Planning

Brook Advisory Centre – family planning, suspected pregnancy **0171 617 8000** (24 hour helpline)
0171 713 9000 (for details

of your nearest centre)
Family Planning Association – family planning, suspected pregnancy
0171 837 5432 (for details of local clinics and services)

Sexual Health

Genito-Urinary Clinics – sexually transmitted diseases.

Charing Cross Hospital GUM, Fulham Palace Road, W6. **0181 846 1567**.

No appointment needed. Free confidential advice, condoms.

St. Stephen's Clinic, 5th Floor, 369 Fulham Road, next to Chelsea & Westminster Hospital. **0181 846 6181**.

No appointment needed. Full confidentiality assured.

Terence Higgins Trust – Advice, support and information relating to H.I.V. and A.I.D.S.
Helpline on **0171 242 1010** Legal Line on **0171 405 2381**. Website: <http://www.tht.org.uk>

Meningitis

Meningitis Association
01454 493344 (24 hour support and information line)

Rape and sexual assault

Rape Crisis Centre
0171 837 1600

Women Against Rape
0171 837 7509

Both of the above organisations can help women who have been raped.

Please remember that Personal Attack alarms are available from the Union Reception in Beit Quad.

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual

'Acceptance' Helpline and Support Group for Parents of Lesbians and Gay Men.
01795 661463.

Gay Legal Advice Service, 2 Greycoat Place, London SW1 1SB. **0171 976 0480** (Mon-Friday 7pm-10pm)

Imperial Queers – Imperial College Union Society for gay, lesbian and bisexual students and staff providing support, a safe space and an excellent social scene.
Contact: Kevin Butcher, k.butcher@ic.ac.uk, Telephone **0171 5945314**. Website: <http://pink.ic.ac.uk/IQ>

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard
0171 253 2043

PACE **0171 263 6200**
– counselling for lesbian, gay and bisexual people

Drugs – Alcohol

Alcohol Concern
0171 928 7377

Alcoholics Anonymous
0171 352 3001

Drinkline: **0345 320202**

Drugs – Smoking/Tobacco

QUIT – The charity that helps people stop smoking
0171 487 3000
(Telephone helpline 9.30am-5.30pm)

Drugs – Other substances

Release – provides information on drugs, including legal advice. **0171 603 8654**

Hungerford Project – Information and drop in centre, 32a Wardour Street, W1V 3HJ

Women

Rights of Women – free legal advice. 52- 54 Featherstone Street, EC1Y 8RT.

0171 251 6577

Women against Sexual Harassment, 312 The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7QY.
0171 721 7593

Women's health
0171 251 6580

Helpline, Mon, Weds-Fri 10am-4pm

Independent information and resource centre for all issues involving women's health.

Women's Therapy Centre – provides low-cost psychotherapy for women.
0171 263 6200
(10.00am-12.00pm and 2.00pm-4.00pm Mon-Fri)

People with Disabilities

Dyslexia Institute Ltd, 133 Gresham Road, Staines, Middx TW18 2AJ. **01784 463851**

Imperial College Disabilities officer. Loretto O'Callaghan. 324 Sherfield. Telephone ext. **48935**

SKILL: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities. 336 Brixton Road, SW9 7AA.
0171 274 0565

Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) – Offers a student support service. 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA. Tel: **0171 388 1266**

Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID), 19-23 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8SL.
Tel: **0171 296 8000**.
Minicom: **0171 296 8001**
The RSI Association, Chapel