

19
October
1998



Issue
1122

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

Death Knell for the NUS?

UMIST and Imperial College Students' Unions are to hold a conference on surviving outside the NUS later this month. It is thought that the event will be attended by Union officers from many of Britain's top universities.

The conference will take place on 30 October at UMIST, and has been unofficially titled 'CHESA: The Way of the Future', CHESA being the 'Coalition of Higher Education Student Associations'. It will take place in the afternoon and will be an informal affair, consisting of speeches and discussion. Speakers include David Hellard (ICU President), Sabih Behzad (UMIST Union President) and Nick Bibby (St Andrew's Student Association President).

UMIST is currently in the process of disaffiliating from the NUS, although

technically it is still a member. The decision to disaffiliate this academic year was made some months ago but, according to Sabih Behzad, the formal announcement will not be made until 4 November. The NUS has asked UMIST to hold a university-wide referendum on the issue before disaffiliating, which would be similar to the procedure followed when Imperial voted to leave the NUS almost twenty years ago.

The conference was initially a joint venture between UMIST's Students' Union and ICU. Help has since been received from Northern Services, a buying consortium which many non-NUS affiliated Scottish Universities use. Nick Bibby, who is a member of the Northern Services Executive, explained that the group could match the NUS on most

by Ed Sexton

prices, and sometimes improve on them. He also claimed that Northern Services offers "more flexibility", as universities can use other service providers as well (a scheme prohibited to NUS members). "One of the advantages is it [Northern Services] is quite small" explained Mr Bibby. He denied he was going to the conference simply to promote Northern Services. "I am keen to allow impartial decisions... I am not going down there to slag off another organisation" he responded. Sabih Behzad was also quick to deny the conference was an attempt to break up the NUS. "We are not forcing people to leave", he explained, "we are there to discuss what the benefits are of staying, and what the benefits are of leaving". He thoughtfully added "Universities have left... and not suffered. [Leaving] can

save an awful lot of money".

David Hellard, while still insisting that the conference was a forum for exchanging ideas, was more forceful in his criticism of the NUS. "UMIST leaving has got people thinking" he commented; "there is a growing discontent with the service they [the NUS] are providing". Dave Hellard explained that his role at the conference would be informing other universities of "how well we do outside the NUS". When asked which other universities would be attending the conference Dave Hellard was unwilling to specify names, but did say that a lot of people were going, and that all the institutions involved were "very, very good". A representative from the NUS thought it "strange that Imperial is talking to UMIST". Nick Bibby's final comment was "it's all looking quite fun".

Where Did Those Buses Go?

by Duncan Hill

After a successful freshers' fair, Wednesday afternoon arrived, and everyone involved with the clubs began to arrive at their various meeting points to commence with their first sessions of the year. Events like team trials were arranged in far and distant parts of London, and as befits any new year at Imperial college, the buses didn't arrive. In total five clubs were affected by this unfortunate oversight on the part of the bus company; Tenpin Bowling, IC Rugby, IC Football (Mens and Womens), IC Hockey, RSM Football and RSM Rugby. Of course none of them were pleased with the situation they faced, having to take public transport to Harlington, as well as the obvious losses in attendance; Men's Hockey lost up to fifty percent of

the turnout for the team trials.

While it was too late to arrange buses by the time the clubs had started, even though the Union were not at fault, it was the Clubs and Societies Administrator who remedied the situation with

the swift organisation of return buses. The bus company was apologetic and sliced £50 of the bill for hiring buses in future (which have risen from £105 to £180) but this will not stop them losing trade, as the Union is now in talks with

another company over the hiring of buses for these clubs. It is hoped this unfortunate incident has not set a precedent for the future.



A witty young man visibly demonstrates the lack of buses on Prince Consort Rd.

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Queen to Open New College Building

by Ed Lanyon

Her Majesty The Queen is to visit Imperial on Wednesday 21 October in order to officially open the new Sir Alexander Fleming Building. Designed by Sir Norman Foster & Partners, the £65m, 22,000 square metre building will house 2000 Bio-Medical Sciences (BMS) staff and students.

The visit comes as part of a royal tour of South Kensington including an exhibition at the Royal College of Art and the final unveiling of the refurbished Albert Memorial.

While in the building Her Majesty will be shown examples of current research including work on cancer, transplant immune responses, and biological rhythms.

The number of non-BMS students allowed into the building has been very limited, but there will be an opportunity for everyone to see Her Majesty as she arrives and departs along Imperial College Road at around 6.00p.m. and 7.00p.m. respectively. It will also be possible to attend the re-opening of the Albert Memorial (in Hyde Park) at 7.45p.m. which will close with *son-et-lumiere* celebrations.

Students and staff should note that a car-parking ban will be enforced along the entire Imperial College Road (including outside Civil Engineering and Chemistry) from 6pm on Tuesday until 11pm Wednesday. This ban includes motorcycles and bicycles - any found on Wednesday morning will be removed.



Charing Cross: Massive Loss

As reported in *Felix* 1120, Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School's farewell Summer Ball has ended with a massive financial loss, with estimates ranging from £40,000 to £55,000 now seeming conservative as the investigation into the somewhat suspect book-keeping continues.

A special committee was set up to organise the ball consisting of representatives from College, CXWMS Alumni committee, IC Alumni committee and the CXWMS student union, not just CXWMSU as was previously incorrectly reported. The ball cost in the region of £85,000, including £28,000 spent hiring the largest marquee in the country, £7,000 on champagne and £3,000 on fireworks (the resulting display being described as "bloody excellent").

The event, held at Cobham, was to be the final send-off before the complete merger with IC. The financial problems appear to have largely arisen from many of the tickets allocated to CXWMS alumni not being sold and the non-materialisation of promised sponsorship monies. Student tickets were at a sub-

By Andrew Brown

sidised £45, with non-students paying approximately £75.

However, few of the 400 tickets allocated to non-students were sold, and some of them were made available to students at the reduced price, further compounding the loss.

The situation worsened when, at the end of the evening after all of the medics had gone home, the event's bar takings were "unaccounted for". Cash of the order £10,000 - £14,000 was taken and is yet to be recovered, with the bar manager on the night seemingly the prime suspect. John Green, who was in charge of 'mopping up' the day's debris, said that the matter was "still under investigation" but refused to comment further while David Hellard, ICU president, said that he "cannot confirm or deny" these reports.

Several things remain unclear: What happened to the bar takings, what is the total amount lost (the sums are still being done) and, perhaps most importantly, who is going to pick up the bill?



Issue 1122

19 October 1998

Editor: Ed Sexton

Photographic Editor: William Lorenz

Music Editor: Jason Ramanathan

News Editors: Andy Ofori and Joel Lewis

Film Editor: David Roberts

Games Editor: Gary Smith

Arts Editor: Helena Cochemé

Sports Editor: Gus Paul

Queen's visit on the 21 October, the project goes ahead undeterred.

As funds from the college are ultimately intended to improve the college for the students and lectures alike, their opinions were sought. A small survey highlighted the fact that an overwhelming majority of the students thought that the idea was "pointless" and "a waste of money". "You only need to look along Imperial College Road to see that on this part of the campus more [trees] aren't necessary" was one response. The lecturers on the whole displayed a more cautious opinion saying that in principle the idea is a good one but questioning the justifiability of the expense. There may be some people that think that this venture is sensible but Felix was unable to find any.

Unable to find someone in the first survey who wholly believed that the idea was a good one, Felix approached as many random people as possible with the sole intention of finding a believer, but to no avail. Some judged the idea of planting more shrubbery around college as a good one but none thought that £110,000 was a reasonable figure for it. ICU and RCSU were consulted but neither were prepared to express an opinion. Undeterred, Felix pursued the investigation to the college's estates department where people are supposed to be able to financially justify any building projects undertaken by the college. They denied any knowledge of the exact price for the floral enhancement, and when asked hypothetically: "If the entire project did cost £110,000, would you consider it reasonable given the magnitude of shrubbery that is going to be planted?". The unanimous response was "no"...followed by the word "comment".

Caldwell, Caldwell, Why does your Garden Grow?

By Tony Ofori

For those of you who did not read the article last week about the intention to plant flowers at IC, here is a little background. The estates division is in the process of planting a large flower bed

adjacent to the Waterstone's bookshop on Imperial College Road, and in addition to this, several trees will be introduced at the front of the new BMS building. The total cost of this project has been esti-

mated at £110,000. This figure stands to grow by £50,000 per annum since the college will lose revenue from the parking spaces sacrificed. Amidst rumours that this expenditure is solely for the

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TORONTO
VIENNA
WARSAW
WASHINGTON, DC
ZURICH





Malaysian Mêleé

by Havaca Johnson

The devastation of the Malaysian Economic crisis is being felt by many of the 18,000 Malaysian students studying in the UK. Amongst their number are the four percent of Malaysian students at Imperial College.

Malaysian government funding for the exchange students is diminishing. The Malaysian Embassy stated fifteen members of the Malaysian Student Commission have already been sent back to Malaysia due to the lack of funds.

They went on to say, "Many students have been sent home. Some are in their second year of study and don't have anything to show for it".

According to recent newspaper reports, Malaysia is allowing students near graduation to finish their degrees. Some freshers are being forced to drop their current overseas programs to

return to Malaysia.

Many students, colleges and universities are taking action to make up for the lack of funds. Universities such as Cambridge and Oxford have already set up forms of scholarship funding for Malaysian students. Many of the scholarships are based on merit and academic achievements.

Other institutions such as UMIST and Bournemouth University, are setting up distant learning options and branch institutions in Malaysia, allowing the students to have a more cost-effective education.

According to the Malaysian Embassy, universities are also holding graduation ceremonies in Malaysia. By having the ceremonies in Malaysia families of the students can attend the event without having to pay for their transportation to Britain.

To find out more information about scholarships and educational options for Malaysians studying in the UK, <http://www.britcoun.org.my/> provides a wealth of information.

Hybrid Entry in Doubt

by David Roberts

This week's meetings of both University of London Union Council and IC Union Council were dominated once again by questions over medical students' eligibility for sports teams.

The topic, which had been a major bone of contention at colleges across London throughout last year, seemed to have been settled at the end of last term when the British Universities Sports Association accepted the concept of so-called 'hybrid entry'. Under the previous system, medical students could only play for their own side where one existed, but could play for their parent institution where one did not. In the case of Imperial, this meant that medical students played for ICSM teams in hockey, football and rugby competitions, but were otherwise represented in College wide teams.

A clarification of the ruling, however, was demanded by UCL students, leading to Monday's debate at ULU. The ULU Vice President (Sports), Nick Dunnett, put forward a proposal which would allow medical students to choose whether to play for their own sides or for their parent institutions. In other words, ICSM students would be able to opt to play for either ICSM Rugby or ICU Rugby. Despite an absence of representatives

from medical schools, this proposal, described by Mr Dunnett as "a minor clarification", was accepted by the meeting.

Importantly, however, the BUSA rules have not changed; only those for University of London Leagues. Consequently, the possibility of teams fielding completely different squads for different competitions now exists, although Mr Dunnett (who sits on the BUSA executive) believes that BUSA will accept this ruling nationally. Other senior figures seemed less sure.

The issue was raised again at Tuesday's IC Union Council meeting. Former ICU President Andy Heeps criticised the ICU delegation's support of the proposal, which he saw as "a massive breach of trust" which would "wipe out everything that was achieved last year". However, current ICU President Dave Hellard, countered that the new ruling "does not contradict what was passed by ICU last year, as hybrid entry was never very clearly defined". Mr Heeps voiced the concerns of all medical students present, fearing that this policy could lead to all medical teams being disqualified from competition. Deputy President Chris Ince countered that the ICU delegates (who included Messrs Ince and Hellard) only accepted the motion once "Nick Dunnett promised that all the problems raised [over BUSA and transfers between teams] would be overcome".

With no satisfactory conclusion reached, Mr Hellard accepted that there are clearly greater problems surrounding the issues than at first realised, and promised to rethink the ICU position on the issue.

In brief...

*Get on your bike -
If you can find it...*

Once again students are being asked to make sure their bikes are locked up whilst on campus. There have been approximately twenty bike thefts on the South Kensington campus since August, despite strong measures taken by security, including the use of plain-clothed officers on patrol. "We are doing everything we possibly can" explained Ken Weir, Deputy Security Manager at the college. He advised students to use D-locks rather than chains, and to attach bikes to recognised 'bike parks' and not to railings and signposts.

Cyclists are also reminded that there is no parking in Prince Consort Road during the Mount Batten Festival, which this year takes place between 6 and 8 November. Bicycles found after the evening of 5 November will be removed by the police.

£500,000. The doctor, who cannot be named, stabbed her finger in 1992 on a used hypodermic needle, which had been left on a trolley at the Imperial teaching hospital.

She did not contract any disease, but her unease with needles following the incident developed into a phobia so severe, that in October 1994 she felt no longer able to practice medicine. She decided to press for compensation after reading a similar case, and was this month awarded £465,000 in damages, plus legal costs.

Although the gravity of phobia is not in question, there appears to be some doubt in the medical community as to whether the incident in question was the underlying cause. Claire Raynor, on behalf of the Patient's Association, said that the amount given was far too high and could have been better spent on operations.

Very, very, very briefly

Despite murmurs from LSE on supplementing their tuition fee income by the use of additional charges to students, the Imperial Rector Sir Ronald Oxburgh stated, and confirmed in writing, that IC was not considering implementing top up fees, and that this would not be affected by other institutions' actions.

*£500,000 for Doctor
Afraid of Needles*

A doctor who pricked her finger with a needle at Charing Cross Hospital has been awarded damages of nearly

Ever felt something could be done better?



What did you do about it?

Nothing? Or did you do something to get it done better? If you actually did something, and you're graduating in 1999, you could be exactly what we're looking for. We need students to apply for our Christmas courses this year. The kind of students who don't just study, but also get involved in things and really make a difference.

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Which brings us back to you. To succeed at P&G you'll need to have certain characteristics. Thinking skills. Creativity. The ability to work with others. And, most importantly, you'll be the kind of person who recognises ways to improve things, then has the drive and leadership to make those improvements real.

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Christmas Courses 1998





Important notice to all BIDS Users

BIDS to ATHENS Username change

Your BIDS username and password expired on the 31st of August. However, you should have received your ATHENS username and password by email, with the following subject heading: **ATHENS Personal Account created**

This may be used to access all BIDS and NISS services,

Eg: BIDS ISI Service, OVID Biomedical Service (Includes Medline and 80 Electronic Journals), OVID Embase, BIDS Compendex Service etc.

Your ATHENS username will normally be a variant of your Imperial College email login name. Eg: icljbloggs However, your password will NOT automatically be your email password. For security reasons you are advised to change your ATHENS password as soon as possible after receiving it by email. We recommend that you do not change it to your College email password. To change your password, go to <http://admin.athens.ac.uk/personal.athtml>. Please contact your Department/Campus Librarian if you need further assistance.

Please Note: New students will receive their ATHENS usernames and passwords soon after they receive their email usernames.

Wine Tasting

Wine tasting Society meets each week for a tutored tasting.
Our programme for this term is as follows:

13th Oct Introductory tasting
20th Oct New world vs. Old world
27th Oct Australian
3rd Nov Bordeaux
10th Nov Tuscany

All meetings take place in dB's and start
at 6.00pm each Tuesday evening.

ICU Colours

The following have been awarded ICU awards and honours.

Half Colours

Shanaka Katuwawala
Ali Campbell
Adam Cherrington
Despina Crassa
Reuben Connolly
Julia Harries
Simon Maycock
N'Diorel Ba
Robin Hill
Mandar Trivedi
William Smith
Ling Li
Tony Hickson
Nick Chapman
Andrew Swift
Wendy Russell
Sanela Hodzic
Paul Hopkinson
James Carter

Mike Gibbs
Caroline Gibbons
Nayane Perera
Phil Pearson
Natasha Newton
Catherine Sheehan
Simon Cooper
Michelle Cope

Hannah Pearson
Phil Miller
Rob Park

Outstanding Service Award

Anne Ovens
Andy Kershaw
Mark Sharman

Full Colours

Alex Tylee-Birdsall
Tanya Siraa
Claire Penketh
Brian Tucker
Darren Hubbard
Hamish Common
Karen Yates
Richard Marshall
Lloyd Kilford
Richard Edgington

Fellowship

David Roberts
Jon Lambert

Distinguished Fellowship

Chris Ince
Mark Baker

Leonardo Soc

Art classes start on Tuesday 20 October
at 6pm, Room 301 Civil Engineering.
Classes cost £2 per lesson.
Contact c.lindsay@ic.ac.uk

For Sale

A pair of Celestion DL8 speakers for sale. They are 150 Watt and come with speaker stands, they are all you can ask for in clarity and loudness.
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All of our graduate appointments are supported by our comprehensive development programme run in conjunction with the London Business School.

Closing date for Xmas Course and Summer Course applications is 30th October. For Graduate 1999 entry, closing date is 5th January 1999.

See our materials at the Careers Service and SIGN UP IN ROOM 310 SHERFIELD for our evening presentation at Lecture Theatre 1, Chemical Engineering (THIS IS A CHANGE OF VENUE FROM THAT PUBLISHED IN CAREER CHOICE) at 6.30 p.m. (prompt) on Tuesday 27th October 1998.



Reform the CCUs or
lose them

Dear Felix

By now I am sure that many will have heard how the RCSU has lost yet another officer. I refer to myself for I have just resigned from the post of VP(Education & Welfare).

My reasons for this are as follows;

1) I am fed up with the way in which my CCU was run - with no offence intended to the VPs but Will and Bob are two ICSF members with very little outside contact.

2) I need to get a good degree (as a disabled person it is harder for me to get work) and the Union takes too much of my time.

Now I am not saying that the CCUs should be abolished, just reformed a bit. All that CCUs should do is provide ents for students. All people 'care' about today is IC as a whole and their departments. I have had discussions with many

people about this and have the following plans.

All the leaders of the departmental societies should group together to provide events for students, such as nights out - paintball, etc. Welfare should be left to ICU and the new fifth sabbatical - under this should be a set of dep-reps and welfare officers who have had some welfare training and advice.

I leave the floor open to debate...

Douglas Graham
Physics UG II
ex RCSU VP(E&W)/Acting President

correspondent's dreadful cut-and-paste job in his first essay under your blossoming command. There are those of us with longer memories, filled not with trifles such as chemistry, who can place at least two paragraphs from the Freshers' piece that appeared verbatim in its equivalent last year. Perhaps it was not the work of the real Simon Baker? An inspired computer programme generating reams of self-indulgent dross without the worry of a decent PhD to distract it from its deadlines? Why of course not, no "AI-SB" could be perfect. But where is the real Simon Baker? I feel that we ought to be told.

The Voice of Reason
(repeat)

Dear Ed,

Do my tired old eyes deceive me? Can it be true that that leviathan of student journalism, Simon Baker, is recycling tired old columns? I refer, of course, to said

Yours with genuine concern,

Simon Baker's Number One Fan,
No Fixed Abode

The real Simon Baker has been spotted on several occasions this term, mostly in Southside Bar. As for the use of a computer, don't you think if I had written an 'AI-SB' program it would have cut and pasted with more subtlety? - Ed

Deadline for letters is
12noon Wednesday.

Letters may be edited
for length, but will not
be altered in any other
way. Letters need not
be signed, but a swipe
card must be shown
when submitting
anonymous letters.



The Week Ahead
Monday

- Games Meeting** 12:30pm
PC, Playstation and N64 gamers of the world unite.
- Music Meeting** 1:30pm
From Motorhead to Prodigy, via Placebo or Fat Boy Slim, Jason's got it all
- Film Meeting** 1:30pm
Wanna be the next Barry Norman? Or just fancy loads of freebies?

Tuesday

- News Meeting** 1:30pm
The mid-week update

Thursday

- Books Meeting** 1pm
For all the literary types out there
- Layout Meeting** 1:30pm
Budding graphic designers always ready

Friday

- Arts Meeting** 12pm
Does exactly what it says on the tin.
- News Meeting** 1:10pm
Come one, come all, come all aspiring journalists.
- Photography Meeting** 1:20pm
For all the photographers out there in IC land.

Freedom at last!

My friends, I have been saved. No longer must I fill a half-page editorial with my complaints and gripes about the world - a mere three columns is all that stands between me and a finished third issue! My thanks go out to all the Felix team who have made this week so much easier than the last few, especially David Roberts (for being editor of all-things-no-one-else-wants-to-touch), and Joel Lewis (for allowing me to get a quick pint or two in on Wednesday evening). Not only does this state of affairs allow me to grab back some of my limited social life, it also means that you hear less from me and more from normal (i.e. not graduated - ha ha!) students. Still, it's 5am and there's space to fill, so...

Does anyone care?

The answer is almost certainly no but, never one to be cynical, I'll persevere anyway. As Felix went to print, there were still no candidates for DP(C&S), and from what I hear some of the Council positions weren't exactly over subscribed either. I would be hypocritical if I said I was any different from most IC students - two years ago I didn't care about Union politics, and hardly noticed when elections came around. The biggest effect it had on me was the lack of Ents on hustings night in dB's. But surely some more mature (i.e. less socially active and/or CV developing) students want to get involved? I did, and now I get paid to sit here in the early morning... okay, I can see your point.

Sex sex sex!

Now I've got your attention... I honestly do want to talk about sex. It seems to be about this time, when the term settles down, that first years (no longer freshers) have to accept that Imperial is not a good place to find a partner. I say partner because I feel that this is just as true for women as men at IC, although I'm sure plenty of guys out there would disagree. There's not a lot of point sitting in your room/bar/etc complaining about it, though - Cameron Diaz is hardly likely to turn up in Linstead Hall one evening. My patronising bit of advice this week is for all those 'single and not liking it' people - get out and enjoy life or stop whining. As for me? Oh dear, I seem to have run out of space... Ed

ICU CINEMA PRESENTS:
The cult classic
WithNail & I

Wed 21st October 8:30pm

Concert Hall
Union Building 2nd Floor
Drinks available from Da Vinci's

Also Showing:
X-Files (6pm - 21st & 22nd)
Armageddon (8.30 - 22nd)



Flowers and a Federal Europe

Cowboys and Cabbages

Dahlias and paeonies. You can't beat 'em. Classic English look. A liberal sprinkling of potash in the spring and dead head carefully. I'm sorry, wrong column. It is a little known fact that I am the gardening correspondent for The Cleethorpes Evening Argus, and all this talk of flowerbeds is getting me confused. I shall say little more of it, since it has mostly been said by others. However, there is some scope for recouping the disgracefully large cost when Her Majesty has departed. The traffic in South Ken is, of course, dreadful, and it seems fair that the College should do its bit to alleviate the congestion. Season ticket loans are an excellent idea, but other forms of transport should be encouraged. I doubt I am the first to suggest it, but the flowerbed could be grassed, thus affording the perfect venue for tethering horses. It has already been suggested that IC employs a lot of cowboys, so the take up for such a scheme should be high. Environmentally sound - the Rector's roses would come on a treat - and forward thinking. The best traditions of Imperial. Alternatively, we could address another problem, while still maintaining a splash of colour. A vegetable patch. Carrots, cauliflowers and runner beans would look superb against the backdrop of the library, and the produce upon harvest could be used by Catering in order that their catastrophically bad losses be mitigated. A lovely idea, I hear you cry, but on quiet reflection it has a weakness. To make headway on the parlous state of Catering's finances would probably require the conversion of the Harlington sportsground into a market garden cum cattle ranch. Never mind.

Eurotrash

We, or rather the rest of Europe, have less than 90 days until the birth of EMU. Some may greet this with wide-eyed anticipation, miffed that the UK won't be at the christening. As regular readers will know, I am probably not in that group. From the days of the ill-fated ERM, which led to this country's severest recession since the 30s, the whole idea of a European dream founded on a single currency has filled me with unease. The two previous attempts to unify Europe, by Napoleon and Hitler, were not without their problems, but some feel that having a crack at the old idea by peaceful means may be more successful. The two obvious questions are: why do it and will it work? The first seems to have been dodged by many involved, which is wor-

rying since it is clearly linked to the second.

France and Germany do have an

answer to the first point. The problem is that they are not so much different as totally unrelated. The French have, since the 1960s, had a powerful desire to create a currency to rival the dollar, which would give them a greater say in world affairs while reducing the role of Uncle Sam. The proposal was never sul-

lied with anything so base as economic arguments as is the norm in Gallic politics. The Germans' motives are more altruistic. They believe that surrendering some of the sovereignty inherent in having the principal currency of Europe will further reinforce their desire to co-exist peacefully with their neighbours. While highly laudable, it is still predominantly political. So we have the two senior partners suggesting a complete overhaul of the European economy for reasons that have little to do with national economic wellbeing. Then we have the Italians. To the Bundesbank's credit, they have made no secret of their desire to admit Italy when, and only when, I tell freezes over. Only last week the Italian Prime Minister was forced to resign in a confidence debate after the Communists refused to accept an adherence to tight fiscal control post-1999. Once they're in the Euro club, they plan to get straight back to their old ways, which have been so thoroughly discredited.

The whole project has become politicised. The French want a say in how the Central Bank operates, which makes a mockery of it, and bodes very ill for the stability of the currency. But even if the French don't upset the apple-cart, will it work? This is where we get to the heart of the matter. Barely a day goes by without a plea from Britain's manufacturers' to cut interest rates, yet the Bank of England have been reluctant to act until recently because of rising wages and strong consumer demand in the South. If we cannot set an interest rate that meets the needs of London and Man-

chester, how on earth can it work across the whole of continental Europe? The Irish, for example, will have to take 2.5%

off their rate, at a time when they should be raising rates to stop inflation. If they are not careful, the Irish economy will implode. Not only will governments lose the ability to set their interest rates, but their freedom to set taxes and expenditure will diminish. This is already happening.

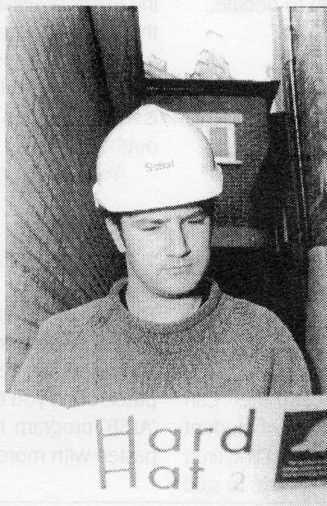
When Gordon Brown wished to repeal VAT on fuel, he was told that this was illegal under European law. The French have been getting twitchy for some years

about so-called 'fiscal dumping.' Some might prefer the term 'fiscal prudence', since they are terrified that their excessive tax regime will persuade French companies to move to lower tax countries in Euroland. Rather than put their house in order, they would prefer that this is banned. The problem in Britain is that the arguments have concentrated on political issues such as losing the pound. While extremely valid, there are more important factors. Taken together, we are best out of it.

A Good Word for Estates?

Newer, and some older, readers may think that my opinion of the Estates Division is not terribly high. While their capacity for mucking it up makes my life as a columnist far easier than it should be, they do occasionally get it right. I haven't seen the dB's extension yet, but I did stroll pass the JCR yesterday. I must say it is amazing what they have done with the shed that used to be the focal point for undergraduates on campus. Congratulations to all involved. If only this happened more often...

Simon Baker



Voice of Reason



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Medics Combine for Freshers' Week Frolics

My dear readers, how are? Survived freshers' week did we. I hope that you are feeling better than I am because this intrepid observer of the perfect microcosm of the world that is IC has a severe case of freshers flu brought on by a truly hectic social calendar.

The last week has been rather fun with starting for me with the debauchery that was the Mary's campus road show. The night started well when I was expelled from DB's where I was attending a friend's birthday. The second most upsetting thing about that was that I was not even close to being under the influence, even by IC stewards' puritanical standards. After deciding that I was too out numbered to fight the point I headed with some of the other expellees to Mary's to witness the aftermath of the road show. At this point I have to congratulate the so far anonymous freshers

who participated in the nightmare that was the egg race. In the end the night ended prematurely due to a slight miss calculation as to the amount that I had to drink. Incidentally, I would like to say to any of the people that I spoke to on Tuesday and have subsequently seen that it was nice talking to you.

Wednesday saw the start of the Charing Cross hosted events that kicked off with the pub-crawl. I was co-opted to lead some of the brave souls who had taken their life into their hands and headed out to enjoy the delights of the OSP, Distillers, Finnegan's and the William Morris. The ended well at the Rutland and Anchor and here I witnessed a classic example of how confusing the union between CXW and SMII can be. The night was ending on a boisterous note (the best

Nick Newton

sort) with two groups of would-be buskers politely explaining to the other group in voices that would make patrons of the Royal Opera House weep that Mary's was better than The Cross and vice-versa. Seasoned observers will at this point be clearing their collective throats in preparation to say something along the lines of "Well, what else is new" but the confusing thing was that the while the songs were partisan the groups were not!

Thursday saw the bop at Charing Cross, an event with the theme of togas and Tequila. Perhaps not the most obvious combination but an entertaining one if only for the boring people, among whom I include myself, who did not wear togas who got to have a laugh at the expense of those who did. Once again alcohol was consumed and the

less said the better.

Finally my attention was drawn to the delightful/sickening letter of praise to Andy Heeps that was published in the last issue of Felix. Opinions ranged from "what a lovely thought" to "what does this want off Andy?" I myself have mixed views. Admittedly the letter was perhaps a little too fawning in its praises but the thought appeared genuine. National papers have turned the art of knocking politicians into a full time occupation and on the occasions that people do a good job their achievements are often played down due to other factors. Regardless of whether or not you think that Andy did a good job overall it is pleasing to see that someone had the manners to say thank you and to show their appreciation. Perhaps, this will set a precedent for the future, one can only hope.

How to Make Americana

For the benefit of all those of you living out there in post Basics food hell or those of you who started the year with a crate of baked beans, I am here. Come forth from those dark corners of mouldy cheese and half eaten pies. Do not hesitate. Step into the kitchen and bond with your cooker.

Since it is nearly impossible to find a student who doesn't own a truckload of pasta and a tin of tomatoes, a good place to start our journey through cookery land is Italy (a country who's chefs seem to have students in mind). Americana is a popular pasta sauce (tomatoes and bacon) which with a little skill and inspiration is pure magic. My own personal additions to the dish are red pepper and tuna but this is not essential. For two people you will require:

- 1 red onion
- 1 red pepper
- ½ lb. Tomatoes
- some garlic
- a red chilli
- lots of bacon
- fresh herbs; parsley, chervil....
- A tin of tuna
- Juice of half a lemon
- 6 or 7 capers (if you include tuna)

Start by finely chopping all the ingredients. The easiest way to do this with the pepper is to chop off the top and bottom and slice open the cylinder. Once this has been done you can run a knife along the inside and remove the seeds and white gunk in one go.

Now to cook. On a moderate flame,

heat a good amount of olive oil in a pan and sauté off the red pepper, onion and bacon. Be generous with the oil because it will take on all the flavours you add to the pan and then coat the pasta.

When the bacon is beginning to crisp up add the garlic and chilli. Don't be too liberal, as the chilli is designed to act as a seasoning in this dish. It pulls together the other flavours

rather than dominates the end result so don't go overboard. After a minute add the chopped tomato (minus the seeds), capers and some black pepper. You may not need much salt because of the bacon, so it's best to add that at the end.

Cook on for just a minute, to avoid losing the fresh taste of the tomato and add the flakes of tuna and lemon juice. The lemon will lighten

the dish and clean the palette. Once the tuna is hot serve with the pasta of your choice.

In a restaurant I worked in over the summer we'd use fresh tuna steaks and set them on top of the pasta with a little tapenade (black olive purée). However, if that sounds a little too Masterchef for you, don't worry - either way it is delicious so enjoy eating like people in the real world for once.

If you have any dish you'd like me to cover or questions mail me on n.todd1@ic.ac.uk

Burning Water

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An Alternative to air strikes?

Jacob Stringer investigates the US bombing of Sudan and asks: Do the ends really justify the means?

In August of this year the US, with the full support of Mr Tony Blair and various other Western governments, launched air strikes against supposed terrorist targets in Afghanistan and Sudan. It appears that the attacks in Afghanistan may have been justified but the attack on Khartoum needs to be looked at more closely. At the time the only really vocal protesters against this attack were Sudan and Pakistan, who were summarily dismissed by the press as being too prejudiced for their opinions to be of any value.

Six weeks have passed since the bombings, and the situation can be looked at more objectively. The US launched an unprovoked attack on a weaker country, without even talking to the country first, without discussing it in the UN, without having any solid evidence to show that the supposed offenders were guilty of any crime. The attack was on a civilian target, where it was known that the majority of people were innocent and had no way of defending themselves. There is still no evidence to justify the attack.

I believe we generally call such an attack either a declaration of war or terrorism. It wasn't the first. Thank you Tony for showing your strength by supporting such heroes. Well done, we salute your noble stand against terrorism, rule Britannia and kiss Clinton's butt.

Now, these air strikes were in retaliation for the bombing of US embassies. Why would anyone want to do that? Surely America is the moral pillar of the western world, is our mentor and guide and wishes us no harm? Why would anyone want to bomb them? I have some

sad news for you. America does not have the good of the world at heart; the American government has only re-election concerns at heart (Yes, even in Northern Ireland, though they may have done some good) and it is time to stop pretending otherwise

The main reasons the US is so hated in the Middle East are the continued military presence in Saudi Arabia and the political, financial and military support of Israel. About the former I know little, but this summer I visited Israel and the West Bank. I was there for a matter of weeks only, but had time to reach some pretty strong conclusions. The Israeli governmental policies condone and allow human rights abuses to an extent which would be condemned universally if it were not for the support provided by the US. The institutionalised discrimination against Palestinians has been described by Rev. Desmond Tutu as 'worse than apartheid'.

The crimes of the Israeli government include theft of land and homes, demolition of inhabited houses, torture of prisoners, imprisonments without trial, settling of occupied territories, forbidding people to travel freely within their own country and, recently, lack of real interest in the peace process. These policies are not new and are not secret. The Israeli government, despite repeated condemnation by the UN and human rights organisations, have even intensified policies such as home demolition since the so-called peace process began. They have no

intention in the near future of being any more accommodating to the land's indigenous population. Israel is a country that should not be supported by any country that purports to protect freedom, democracy and human rights, instead it deserves the same treatment meted out to South Africa during the Apartheid years. There is no excuse for the US, Britain or anyone else to maintain friendships with it.

So the alternative to air strikes for the US? The condemnation of the state of Israel for its appalling and continuing record of human rights abuses. At this

point the best thing for the US to do would be to end all its activities in the Middle East and go home to try and sort out who they should be supporting and who they should not be. Britain too needs to take a very serious look at its policies in the Middle East, and think very carefully about what history will say about it, before it makes any further moves.

Just for the record, I do not support the activities of Palestinian terrorists, but after spending time with Palestinians in the West Bank I began to sympathise with them and began to understand why the terrorists do what they do.



'The crimes of the Israeli government include theft of land and homes...'

Phoenix

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Union reception, or contact David
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All candidates need at least ten seconders. Elections will take place at 6pm on Monday, October 26th in the Felix Office.

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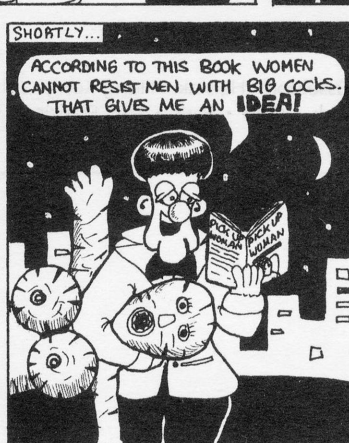
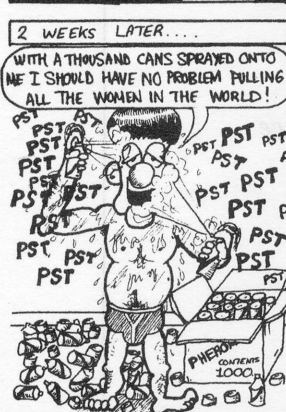
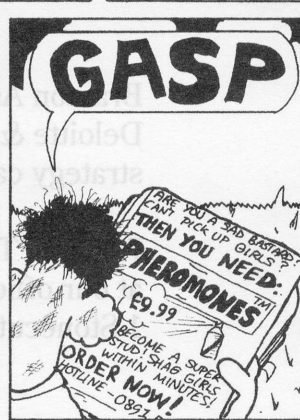
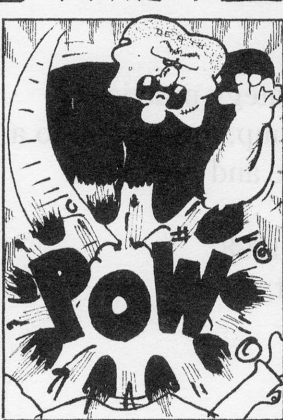
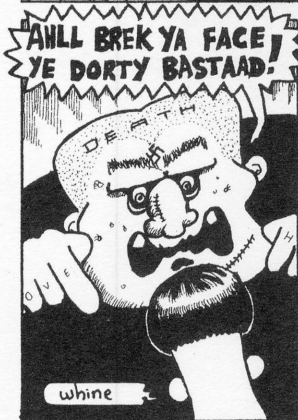
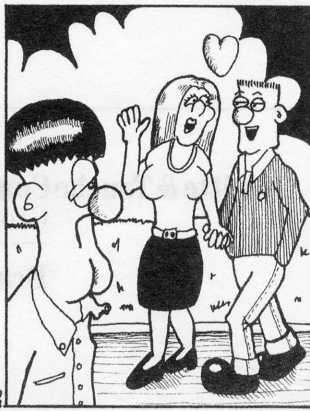
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OUTCAST BEN



INSIDE....

I'LL HAVE THE BIG MUTHAFUKKA MAMMOTH COCK PLEASE.

THAT'LL COST £70000.

COCK SUITS: OR BONSAI COCK GO WEE WILLY WINKEE

THE SIX INCHER PORN SIZE

WOTHS

GULP

THAT'S MY ENTIRE LIFE SAVINGS

PROCEED WITH THE SEXUAL SEDUCTION SALES TECHNIQUE

HI YOU SEXY STUD. WANNA BECOME A BETTER STUD. THEN YOU NEED A BIGGER TOOL, WITH MORE MEAT!

SOAPY TIT WANK, BONDAGE WHIPS N' CHAINS, PVC SUITS. YOU NEED A BIG MAMMOTH COCK

I'LL TAKE IT I'LL TAKE IT

TUG TUG TUG

AFTERWARDS....

IN ORDER TO IMPRESS BIRDS WITH MY GROSSLY OVERSIZED DONG I HAVE DECIDED TO BECOME A FLASHER. I ALSO HAVE THESE VIAGRAS TO KEEP MY MANHOOD UP.

THIS WOMEN'S CLOTHES SHOP WILL PROVIDE AN IDEAL LOCATION TO FLASH.

Monsieur

HERE IT CUMS!

BULGE

SCREEN

DOING

EXCUSE ME MISTER, CAN YOU PUT THAT ERM... MONSTER AWAY.

I CAN'T I'M ON VIAGRA, ME.

NO FLASHING IN PUBLIC

WANK

Alieeeeeeeee

NEXT MORNING

GOOD MORNING MR. BOLLOCKS.

HUH, WHERE AM I?

WE FOUND YOUR PENIS IN A SEVERELY BRUISED STATE SO WE HAD TO AMPUTATE YOUR GENITALS THE NHS WILL PROVIDE YOU THESE CYANIDE PILLS FOR SUICIDAL PURPOSES AS YOU ARE NOT WORTHY OF FURTHER TREATMENT.

Sob... MY DONG HAS BEEN REDUCED TO A STUMP AND I'M PENNILESS(gob). I'M GOING TO TAKE THESE DEATH PILLS AND END MY LIFE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

GOODBYE CRUEL WORLD

DON'T KILL YOURSELF YET!

HUH?

I'M A LAWYER FROM THE KONN & STEEL LAW FIRM AND THIS IS A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO SUE THE NHS AND THE METROPOLITAN POLICE FOR EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT. WE'LL BRING CHARGES ON HURT FEELINGS, RACISM, BODILY HARM, GROSS MISCONDUCT, RAPE, SEXUAL HARASSMENT etc. IF WE WIN I GET 90%, YOU GET 10%. OK?

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

CONTRACT TO SUE SUE

AND THE VERDICT....

THE COURT FINDS THE NHS AND THE METROPOLITAN POLICE GUILTY ON ALL CHARGES, HENCE ONE HUNDRED BILLION POUNDS OF TAXPAYERS MONEY WILL BE REWARDED TO THIS GREEDY BASTARD AND AS OF TODAY THE POLICE AND THE NHS WILL CEASE TO EXIST. CASE CLOSED.

JUDGE DREDDFUL

SEVERAL MONTHS LATER

WITH ALL THAT MONEY I NOW LIVE A LIFE OF LUXURY IN THE CARIBBEAN. BUT BEST OF ALL, LOADS OF SEXY WOMEN ARE ATTRACTED TO ME BECAUSE OF MY EXCESSIVELY HUGE BANK BALANCE

SO TOMORROW I AM GOING TO MARRY THIS GORGEOUS ITALIAN PORN-STAR.

NIGHT OF THE HONEYMOON

EEZ DA SEXY STALLIONE READY TO SHAGGA LOLA NOW?

ERM...

ERM...ME SCROTUMS... ERM...COLD AND I ERM... NEED TO KEEP MY PANTS ON...ERM...ERM...ERM

GULP

YOU LIKE DA FELLATIO.

WHAT DA HELL EEZ DAT? YOU HAVE SEX CHANGE, YES? YOU ARE DEEZGUSTING BEAST. I WANTA DEEVORGE!

whine

SOB

SEVERAL YEARS LATER

GOT ANY SPARE CHANGE BUY?

WANK

PAPER POTATO

OY! YA SEXY CUNT. AHLL GIZ YE THIS WANK MAG IF YEEZ LET ME SUCK ON THEM KNOCKAZ.

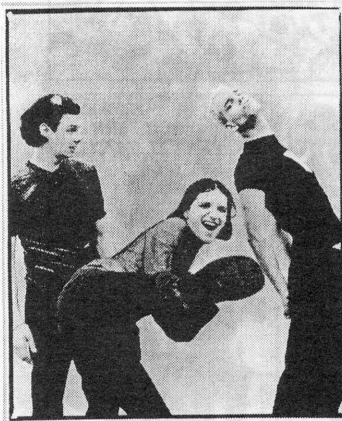
KINGS GRO

THE END

ALBUM

PLACEBO

Without You I'm Nothing ★★★½



Placebo let rip with their second album

Placebo are pretty much a household name now, you know the whole deal, black eyeliner and Brian Molko's sexual nature. They've made the front cover of nearly all the music press since they broke into the nation's consciousness after the release of the re-vamped single version of *Nancy Boy*. Their debut *Placebo* (why do bands never think of imaginative titles anymore?) wasn't exactly shifting shed loads of units beforehand but then soon everyone wanted to get their hands on it. *Placebo* was thrashy, trashy and definitely full-on, so have they managed to live up to their own and other people's expectations with this second helping?

The two singles from *Without You...* will certainly be comforting to fans who want more of where *Placebo* was coming from. The version of *Pure Morning* on the album is much more toned down than the single but this doesn't mean that it has lost any of its edge. One of the most classic lines of any song

released this summer has to be: 'A friend in need's, a friend indeed / A friend with weed is better'. Last week's 'Essential Choon', *You Don't Care About Us*, and it is certainly worthy of this esteemed position, is probably the best track on the entire album. Here Placebo appear to have driven down the road heading towards 'jangly pop' which they detoured well clear of on their previous LP, happier with grating thrash outs instead.

The energy rush of the singles is only mirrored in a couple of other songs, *Brick Shithouse* and *Allergic (to Thoughts of Mother Nature)*, while the rest of the album is an exercise in self indulgence on the part of Brian Molko and friends. These atmospheric moody ballads sound at times as though they would be better heard as a backdrop to some 'film noir'. Placebo performing ballads is admittedly not as appreciated as Placebo racing along on grinding guitar mosh alongs, but if you allow them to grow on you, then you soon see through to their soothing beauty.

Placebo haven't rehashed their first album and tried to feed us more of the same; instead they have opted for a more introspective sounding album which incidentally casts an air of maturity to their new songs. There isn't any sense of togetherness which is what you'd expect when half the album is a manic mosh out, and the other half contains a few sublime ballads and a couple of album fillers. This may be due to the dreaded 'difficult' second album syndrome that affects many bands' careers, and although Placebo haven't quite managed to emerge from it with a pristine and shiny A+, they have passed pretty comfortably. **M**

Jason

WHALE

All Disco Dance Must End In Broken Bones ★★★★★

Stockholm's Whale have certainly toned down the 'quirkiness' factor since their debut album, despite the cover closely resembling a scene from an early X-Files episode.

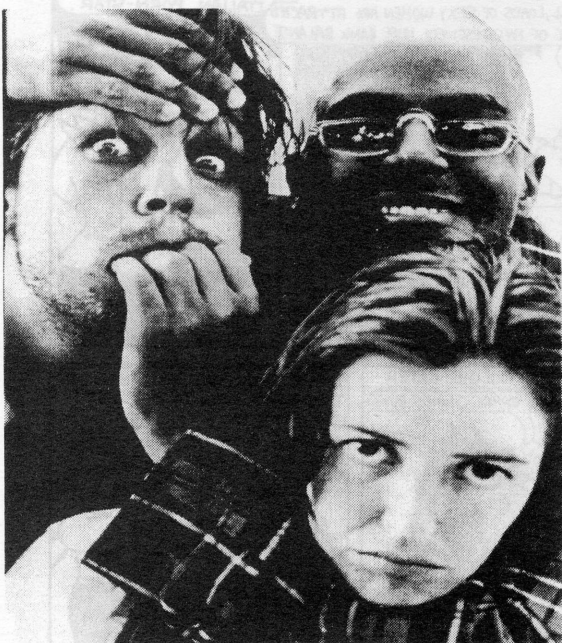
There are no tracks which show the 'in your face' anthemic quality of their debut single (and MTV favourite) *Hobo I Lumpin' Sloba Babe* but this doesn't mean that Whale have become boring - far from it.

The single that has been released from this album is *Four Big Speakers*, which can be best described as trip-hop. Although a good track, it's not really an accurate representation of what can be found on the album, which shows quite a diverse range of styles. If you can imagine a slowed version of Sleeper's *Lie Detector* from *The It Girl* album coupled with a Faith No More mosh-along chorus and some solid guitar riffs, then you have *Losing Girl*. In my opinion, one of the best tracks on the album. For some lighter listening and sheer hummability *So Where You're Feeling Free* and *No Better* are to be recommended. The tune *Puma Gym* is especially catchy - a built-in Batman-esque backdrop to the tune is an added bonus. The only poor track is the last tune, entitled *2 Cord Song* which lengthens the album up to nearly an hour and is too *Dire Straits* for my liking. Fifty minutes would have sufficed nicely.

Altogether, this album is one hour of diverse music, which is much easier on the ear than the debut album. OK, it took several listens to get into it, but it was worth it.

If what I have written hasn't convinced you to buy this - at least nip down to your nearest music store and ask to listen to it, you will be pleasantly surprised. **M**

Katherine



And All IC Degrees End In Student Loans

SILVER SUN

Neo Wave ★

Please let this not be the new wave. Silver Sun's singles have suggested a sugary feel good tinge. Sixteen tracks of this and it's about time the sweet shop on the corner closed. Opener *Cheerleader* is a strange beast and a complete red herring. It's all out 80s heavy rock and one must assume that they are actually taking the piss. Either that or too many drugs were taken and this track was voted in as a good idea. Rather appropriately it starts the album with the line, 'I tried and I tried and I tried and I tried and I tried.' In case you were wondering, I tired. Easily.

There are other smatterings of appropriate lyrical genius splattered across the album. There's the cheesier than cheesily cheesy cheese puffs stupid rock of *Would've If I Could've*, 'Well I would've if I could've but I couldn't so I didn't so I should have, if I could have.' Fuck off! There's the poignantly titled, from a critic's perspective, *Dead End*, 'Take me to nowhere. I fit in there.' And not forgetting the 'Oh oh pixie pixie, do, do, doing what they do,' of *Pixie, Pixie*. Granted, a lot of lyrics look inane when put into cold black and white but if you listen to this album, you'll understand from where the irritation arises. Too much, too little, too late? Too much, methinks, too much. **M**

Dennis

Albums

THE JON SPENCER BLUES EXPLOSION

Acme ★★★★★



The 'Blues Explosion demonstrate their excitement in obtaining a four-star review

Unsurprisingly, The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion make blues music. With the standard three-piece guitar band set up and a plentiful amount of soul, the 'Blues Explosion have always managed to impress. Their unique style involves the marriage of classic blues and modern style with the aggression of a rabid dog thrown in for good measure. Their new album, *Acme*, is no exception to this as the 'Blues Explosion stay right on form, and the production from Steve Albini of

Nevermind fame ensures that the JSBX don't pull any punches either.

The music featured on *Acme* is classic JSBX with powerful vocals and perfectly timed breaks and beats. Track titles also follow the standard blues formula. There's *Lovin' Machine*, *Do You Wanna Get Heavy?* and, of course, a blues mentioning track called *Talk about The Blues*. Each title cannot, however, manage to sum up the feeling and originality that has obviously gone into each song.

As for the overall quality of the album, *Acme* never falters. The aforementioned *Lovin' Machine* is a classic, and the uniquely titled *Blue Green Olga* is a full-on no holds barred affair. The free flowing style of crescendo and diminuendo the Blues Explosion impressively employ and the production from Albini ensures the listener is always given an engaging listen.

In conclusion, *Acme* is a wonderful album which provides more style and feeling than ten of your average indie bands could muster. Sit back and let Jon Spencer explode the blues through your stereo. **M**

James

JAZZ & ROCK GIG

Union Concert Hall

During Freshers week some of you just might have chanced upon the Concert hall. It seemed that quite a number of you somehow did drag yourself and your beer to the top floor of the Union on the first Thursday of term and had the good fortune to watch three of the Union's premiere bands in action.

First up were **THE MEN ON THE GRASSY KNOLL**, a supergroup of kinds drawing on the remarkable vocals of a certain Mark Elliott (ex of POG fact fans), the shade wearing, guitar playing Mat and the tight playing of regulars Jon on bass (who seems to be becoming somewhat of a sex symbol these days, or so I'm told) and James on drums. The lights went up, and off they went running through an impressively tight set of crowd pleasers starting with *Let me Entertain you* and ending with a particularly kickin' rendition of *Killing in the Name* of giving Mark an excuse to say 'Fuck' lots of times....definitely lots of enthusiasm and fun in the music

Next up, the mighty **Cereal Killer** were unleashed upon the unsuspecting freshers! For those who still haven't heard them then why not? Possibly the second best band ever to come out of college, they've still got plenty of time to catch up with Queen in album sales.....and on the evidence of this gig who would bet against them? The summer break has obviously been fruitful with their set being perfected and,

refreshingly, also experimented with. Paul on drums pounded away as if there was no tomorrow, the guitarists Simon and Shaz played almost as one and Gavin's singing was the best I've heard from him. From the entrance music to the soulful playing by all four of them, their brand of rock is always a treat. Most of all though it is the sense of fun that pervades their music which draws in the crowds - this is the standard all the freshers out there starting bands have to beat.

Fold were on next and looked quite nervous about following Cereal Killer. They played a particularly tight and polished set as we might expect after a long sabbatical, with a pleasantly Garbage-esque produced sheen to it. Professionally turned out with custom made drapes bearing their bastardised BBC logo, no one could fault their performance yet it lacked the atmosphere of fun that had been built up earlier - dare I say it was soulless? Certainly they didn't have the charisma that's required to bring in and keep the crowds. A shame as their use of samples is a good example of what can be achieved here at Imperial.

All in all a good evening and I hope more of you will make it to future Jazz and Rock club events or even be part of one of the bands on stage. Come to the next gig before the bands become too big to play for free - you'll be pleasantly surprised. **M**

Martin

Singles

Candyskins - *Somewhere Under London*

Put together well but it just doesn't appeal. Although the tune bounces due to the fancy guitars, the guy's vocals are bit dull ('somewhere under London' sounds very much like 'summer under London' - okay!). A little bit more enthusiasm would have done it for this track, but it was not to be, I'm afraid.

Jon Spencer Blues Explosion - *ACME*

Starts off very mellow with deep, soothing vocals. Great bass on this and lovely guitar-strings, and did I also get a hint of organ? Blues fans will love this to bits. The three songs on the B-side are as good, with additional influences of jazz and pop.

Stetsasonic - *Talkin' All That Jazz*

The vibrant saxophone intro is quickly followed by decent (slow) rapping. The sax player really is the star of this 'hip-hop' band (as they like to call themselves); unmistakably fresh, funky jazz. The promo version that I got contains five mixes, totaling over 35 minutes, but don't expect more than 20 minutes of this due to the crappy rule imposed on singles.

Sugarglider - *Love In Vain*

Strangely enough, this pop-ish tune kicks off with deep and funky beats and then the sweet female vocals of

the lead singer does damage. I picture this tune being played at high volume while driving well over the limit in an open-top Lotus Elise (under the influence of alcohol and drugs of course). I guess that makes it a tune to buy then?

THE ESSENTIAL CHOOON

Dem 2 - *Destiny*

Been waiting a long time for this to surface. Absolutely super-cool, silky r'n'b with wicked beats. The beats rock you immediately and the vocals are full of soul (the female vocals on the male also works). The only bad thing about this tune is that it might be just a bit repetitive, but switching between the Radio Edit and the Rhythm Masters' remix (with heavier beats, fewer vocals and clever sequencing) should take care of that. Go out and buy this on the 18th, no questions asked. Locked On do it once again - baad bwoyz, coming through!

Stony Sleep - *Lady Lazarus*

I just hate songs that start off dead boring with depressingly slow vocals and then suddenly abuse the fuck out of your ear-drums with a blur of drums and shouting. The lyrics aren't all that interesting anyway, and why he needs to shout at the top of his voice beats me - the boring vocals were just as audible.

Adamski's Thing - *Intravenous Venus*

Funky beats and fresh keyboards with catchy lyrics from the crisp vocals of Gerideau. 'Old-timer' Adamski's thought and production all come together naturally. A mix with minimal vocals and slightly heavier bass would definitely fill any dance-floor, and the synthesized vocals on MARKI's Twisted Soul Vocal remix are interesting.

Jack - *Steamin'*

One of those rare singles that has the words on the sleeve. This one really does grow on you. Excellent keyboard intro and then sharp vocals. Its musical direction seems to be indecisive though; we hear the e-bow and saxophones on this too but ask why. Nevertheless, it holds together and you're waiting for the chorus to repeat endlessly.

EVE 6 - *Inside Out*

The chorus is moving, literally, but the verses only just have enough rhythm to maintain it. Still, it's loud, hard and vicious. What more do you want to jump around and smash bottles to? *Showerhead* on the B-side is just as good and a little softer. Groups like Green Day would probably consider this chart-hit material. **M**

Abu

Tha Bomb!

LAURYN HILL

The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill ★★★★★



L oads of albums get hyped up before release only to die when they actually hit; perfect example being the *Jagged Edge* album that didn't live up to expectations, not even close. After months of hype the Lauryn Hill album *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* dropped and quite simply blew the hype away, it took the world by storm. Many people have claimed this to be the best album of the year, well people were right. Lauryn has become one of the most famous young black women in the world today and this album will probably elevate her to the same standing as Aretha Franklin; Lauryn of course masterminded the re-launch of Aretha, recreating the Aretha sound for the hip hop style nineties, as shown with *A Rose Is Still A Rose*. The even more surprising thing to note is the lack of any assistance from her Fugees mates Wyclef and Pras, who were off somewhere making some wack shit. The reason for their absence is unclear, although rumours about a Fugees split have been going around. Even without the boys, many tracks sound like they may have been taken direct from a Fugees album with *Everything is*

Everything and *Lost Ones* being the best in regard. Wyclef and Pras might be missing but two other stars have given their sultry tones to Lauryn, D'Angelo kicks it on the slow groove *Nothing Even Matters*, while Mary J Blige sings on *I Used To Love Him*. Other tracks of real quality are *Ex-Factor*, *Dop Wop* and the title track *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*. The album is devoid of any really poor tracks and it may, in years to come, be considered a turning point in hip-hop, only time will tell. (Check *Lost Ones* it's a killer). **M**

Milen

Albums

ERIC B & RAKIM

Paid in Full ★★★★★

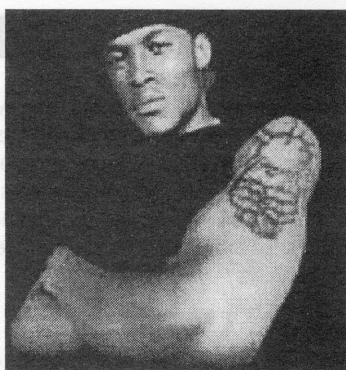
H ere we go, as you all may have realised Old Skool Hip Hop is fashionable again. With the influence of certain remixers, groups like Run DMC and the Jungle Brothers have reinvented themselves for the late 90s.

And so *Paid in Full*, Eric B and Rakim's first album, which was originally released in 1987 is set to be re-released. This time however it is re-mastered and with the addition of some remixes. So it looks like *Paid in Full: The Platinum Edition* is looking to cash in on the hype.

That having been said, Eric B and Rakim were highly influential hip hop pioneers from the middle of the 80s. Rakim, whose own solo album was released earlier this year, was hailed by many as the best MC ever. Dubious perhaps but there is no doubt of the quality of these two. With the inclusion of these rare remixes especially, Coldcut's version of *Paid in Full* and Richie Rich's *I Know You Got Soul*, it is definitely worth buying. This is especially true if you don't have any of Eric B and Rakim's back catalogue or you are a die hard fan. A classic no doubt. **M**

Ramzi

Lauryn Hill Where You At! Canibus Where You At! Right Here!



The start of another week in the hellhole we all know as Imperial College, but at least this week you have me and my incoherent ravings about the state of the R&B world. This week I'm bringin' ya a special review of the finest album of the year, the much hyped Lauryn Hill album and a look at a killer rhyme from the illest rapper Canibus.

As far as news goes - there isn't any! The MOBO awards are the only thing I can think of and they take place today (Wednesday), so by the time you're reading this the awards would have been given out, the fights would have been fought and you'll be wondering what the fuck I'm chatting about; so I'm just gonna skip over to the singles and albums.

Canibus is considered by most to be the most

skilled rapper out there, his hard hitting lyrics actually mean something. After his lyrical battle with LL he needed to come with the skills and with his debut album *Can-I-BuS* he comes correct. Canibus brings hard lyrics over beats laid down by Wyclef (his manager), Clark Kent and others. You gotta check *Buckingham Palace* where Canibus name checks Brixton and Clapham (no mention of Ealing).

R Kelly is dropping his latest offering the long player simply titled *R*. After hearing the first single from it, *I Half on a Baby*, I wondered whether Robert was gonna bring anything new to the table. He has a great talent for the slow grooves, but they get a bit same same after a while and I really didn't want to listen to an album full of ballads. So you can imagine my surprise when I actually checked it out only to discover it was only half full of ballads and the rest were mid tempo grooves. It holds your attention and is definitely worth a listen.

Last year I started plugging this track after hearing it on the radio, I even called it the single of the year, only problem was they never fucking released it. Now a year later they have got round to releasing it and it's still as bangin' as last year. What's it called? *Love Like This* from Faith Evans, it's quite simply stunning, vocals are brilliant and Puffy comes through with the production. Buy this!

Milen

Phat Selection

The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill (LP) - Lauryn Hill

Singing, rapping, writing, producing.....is there anything this girl can't do?

Love Like This - Faith Evans

Tune of the year?.....YES

How Deep Is Your Love - Dru Hill feat. Redman

The boys come with the skills

Sweetheart - JD feat. Mariah

Sweet soul sounds from Mariah, only draw back is JD

Dance Music

the electric café

Hello and welcome to another year of the Electric Cafe. If you've just joined IC then welcome! The Electric Cafe is a joint project incorporating a weekly radio show on the Student Radio Network (National Student radio), this column in Felix and two club projects.

All these projects began about three years ago. Dance music and electronica is often viewed as faceless, cold computer music. As with many underground art forms this is a huge misconception. The term techno was actually first coined by Detroit musicians who had created music inspired by their jazz heroes such as Miles Davis and Herbie Hancock. Many other influences are apparent in early Detroit techno, such as Motown, the Blues Disco... The list goes on. Trance, acid, rave and gabber all came later.

I wanted to try and communicate the hidden aspects of techno to both people who might not feel they were into club culture and hardcore partygoers and DJs alike. Much of the best electronic music is just that, music that was created for dancefloors and home listening pleasure. So I started a radio show called the Electric Cafe.

Each show isn't an easy listening experience in the sense that you won't find seamless endless mixes of one style of music throughout. We believe in diversity and the only criteria for a track to land on our playlist is that it must be electronically created in some sense of the word and trying to push forward in some way.

So I play all styles from club-techno to breakbeats, tech-funk to deep house, drum'n'bass to electro, jazz-fusion to experimental beats, dub and ambient.

If you would like to listen, then the show goes out on the Student Radio Network to over thirty universities every week for two hours. You can catch us on IC Radio(999 AM) every Sunday night/Monday morning between 1 and 3am.

The column that appears in Felix each week will run hand-in-hand with the radio show. Each guest that appears in the show will make an appearance in these pages. For example we featured exclusive interviews with Colin Dale (Kiss 100FM) and Jeff Mills from Detroit last term. This term you will be able to read news from Ritchie Hawtin (The Plastikman) and many others. I will also talk about albums and singles and artists that I particularly recommend. Look out for CD and club ticket competitions too!

As well as all the excellent union events that have started up this year (Pop Tarts, Hedonizm, etc) The Electric Cafe has also started its own monthly club project. Situated at The Union, we kicked off on Saturday 10th October. Many thanks to everyone who came to the first night. We are looking to make this event bigger and better represented. As with the philosophies of the radio show, we will play a variety of music, from house to techno to drum'n'bass. Look out for some experienced, well-known DJs who will be making appearances at this event. The most important thing is that the venue is brand new and state-of-the art and the entrance is completely free. How many Saturday night clubs can boast that?!

If you fancy yourself as a DJ then we would love to hear you spin at another event organised by the Electric Cafe. Designed as a chillout event, it takes place every second Thursday in the backroom of the Southside bar (an extremely chilled location). Last year this

proved to be a popular event and we are expecting no less from this season. The music policy is completely freestyle and eclectic. You can come and have a drink or spin some records or CDs. The next event is on Thursday 22nd October. If you would like to come down then make your way to the backroom of the Southside bar between 7 and 11pm this Thursday. If you would like to spin then contact me by email (a.sethi@ic.ac.uk).

OK enough plugging for now! Onto the main business for this week. I have been playing a great new album called *Soulspective* (Offshoot Records) to death on the radio show lately. It is out now on CD and vinyl and well-worth checking out.

The album was put together by Dave Mothersole, a well-respected London DJ who plays many open-minded styles of music; techno, house and electro to name but a few. Dave also writes about electronic music. You can read his columns in Musik, Magic Feet and Jockey Slut.

Many DJs release mix albums to showcase their mixing talents. The market is flooded with so many big-name mixes that many people don't know where to start listening. Dave has very cleverly put a twist onto his debut into the field of personalised DJ albums. This album consists of 10 tracks (8 on the vinyl) that are totally exclusive. You won't find these tracks anywhere else!



Dave's concept was to approach some of his personal favourite artists, whose tracks he has played down through the years, and ask them to record tracks for this compilation. The result is an entertaining album that appeals to both the dancefloor and the bedroom usage.

The collection kicks off with a track from Ian O'Brien who has made a name for himself following excellent releases on Pacific, Ferox, Clear and Compost Records. His musical style is soaked in jazz and tinged with subtle rhythms and melodies. The unpredictable nature of his music means that you will never know whether a future track will be harder and pumping or light and breezy. His contribution to this album is called *Tireless Devotion*, and is a slower effort with a very full sound and contains a good mix of synthetic and organic components.

Swayzak who have already released on the Pagan

and Medicine labels have contributed a piece of music called *Sandwich Man*. It follows their normal style of music that lies somewhere between house, techno and dub. A more minimal track with plenty of rhythm and funk!

Next up we have Paul Mac with *Rhythm Subject*. This is slab of delicious jazz with an rhythm section. The track as a whole is excellent, mixing stuttering jazz breakbeats with smooth deep melodies. Unmissable!

Gerd is Gert-Jan Bijl. He has produced a track for this album called *Arquasium*. A really quirky little piece, this takes some very cool rhythm patterns which continually build-up and break down, an infectious bassline and some lovely light keyboards. The result is a really well put together piece of music.

Matthew B. records as Bushwacka. He is widely acknowledged as the king of breakbeats and a highly talented producer and DJ. His own label Plank is consistently regarded as being an outlet of electronic music of the highest calibre. The track on this album is called *Demolition*. It takes no prisoners and is definitely not music to be put on in the background. Infectious, danceable and full of feeling, this is one of the highlights of *Soulspective*!

Pure Science's contribution here is *Ooohhh*. This track works well in all environments. I have played it on a chill-out section of my radio show and seen it move people at The End nightclub! This is house meets techno at its sexiest and most alluring. So often this kind of tech-house can feel unsure of itself, or not merge well. Not *Ooohhh* at all!

Stefan Robbers is probably one of techno's most respected producers. He has been making music for years and under a variety of pseudonyms. *Sunset Boulevard* is an excellent piece of reminiscent drum'n'bass that incorporates many aspects of Stefan's normal techno over the rhythm. I am sure that this track will cross over and find its way into the record boxes of many d'n'b DJs.

The pairing of Sterac (Steve Rachmad) and Jerome have appeared most notably on 100% Pure Records from Amsterdam. Both artists have been responsible for some beautiful excursions into deep melodic techno; music with expression. The track on this album (*Somersault*) is no exception. It contains all the usual trademarks, a lovely string section, melody and variety. Not your average so-called four to the floor boredom at all.

My personal favourite track here is called *Boxed* from Starpeace (Charles Webster). This is deep house at its best. I have nothing to really say about this track except listen to it for yourself, it is unbelievably good!

Finally the Future Beat Alliance put a wrap on things with *New Path*. This is slower and very melodic. Echoing and bursting with life, this is music to dream to!

All in all, an excellent and versatile EP. I am sure this will find its way into many DJ boxes, but if played in the right environment will be the perfect comedown after a hard night's clubbing. It also acts as an excellent way for the uninitiated to get to know a variety of artists on one CD. If only more music was like this...

Soulspective is out now on Offshoot Records. Look out for Dave Mothersole who appears frequently at many top London nights.

allick sethi



ADDRESSING THE CENTURY: 100 YEARS OF ART AND FASHION

Hayward Gallery, South Bank

Hot on the heels of London Fashion Week comes this exhibition exploring the relationship between the intermingling worlds of art and fashion during the course of the twentieth century. Including over 250 works ranging from actual costumes to films, photographs and illustrations, the collection emphasises the aesthetic component of fashion.

The five galleries are arranged in chronological order: 1/ Decoration - The New Century; 2/ Function - The Post-war Years; 3/ Fantasy - Dreams in Hard Times; 4/ Performance - The Years of Re-invention and 5/ Convergence - Post-modern Times. As with most social phenomena, the milestones of fashion often coin-

cide with cultural movements and surges of political upheaval. During the feminist explosion at the turn of the century for instance, the French couturier Paul Poiret revolutionised the style of emancipated females by discarding the dreaded corset.

Over the years, the accent in fashion has shifted dramatically from the elegant and decorative to the functional, from the practical to the original yet blatantly unwearable. Nowadays, modern artists relish the "shock factor" their clothes inspire. In order to stand out from the crowd, designers are continually searching for innovative materials from which to mould their obscure and extravagant creations. Honeycomb shoes,

porcelain waistcoats, stainless steel evening gowns, rubber-band dresses, plastic-wrapping raincoats and human hair necklaces are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the weird and wonderful objects on display.

In an effort to encourage visitor participation, the organisers have set up an interactive Dressing Room. The public is given a rare opportunity to try on specially commissioned garments and accessories conceived by talented students on the fashion scene. Signs proudly announcing "Touching allowed!" certainly make for a welcome and refreshing alternative to the traditional attitude of museums.

The exhibition does not pretend or even attempt to portray an exhaustive history of these twin industries, focussing instead on the highlights of the collaboration between artists and designers. So, if you secretly consider yourself a budding John Galiano, feel like following in the footsteps of Vivienne Westwood or simply show an interest in fashion, then the Hayward Gallery is well-worth a visit.

Helena

Until 11th January

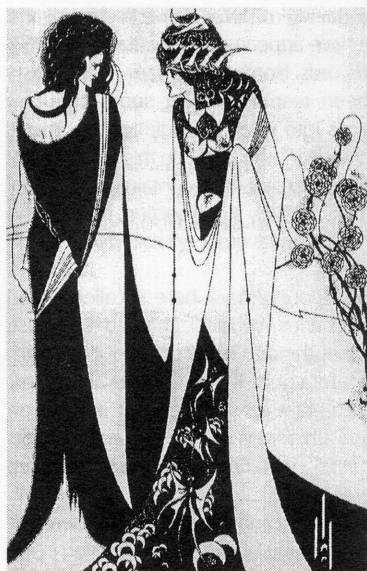
Nearest tube:
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Admission: £6, concessions £3.50
Opening hours: daily 10am - 6pm
(8pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays)



AUBREY BEARDSLEY

Victoria and Albert Museum



The first few prints and caricatures featured in this exhibition reveal that Aubrey Beardsley was an elegant man with a definitively artistic hair-style. His brief period of creative precedence began in 1892 when Beardsley was just 20 years old. Over five years,

he generated an urbane style which was so inspirational that it was re-awakened as 1960's chic. The exhibition charts the life of Beardsley following the progression of his work and relating the influence imposed on him by current affairs.

As a newcomer to London, Beardsley had to balance an office job alongside his real passion and as a result worked late into the night, sketching and hatching by the light of a candle. The absence of colourful stimulus is reflected in his pieces that are generally neutral; black ink on white paper. However, the intricacy of the fine lines which assemble many of the exhibits are far from bland. The vibrancy of the flowers in *Siegfried Act 2* and his ability to fill a scene with tiny details allow you to absorb more than the depicted situation from his work. It is likely that it was this capacity which induced many publishers such as L.J.M. Dent to call on him to illustrate their magazines, books and posters.

Beardsley, on the other hand, liked to view situations from an unusual perspective. One of his earlier works, *The Entombment*, depicts the body of Christ

being taken down from the cross, an event that is rarely considered by other modern artists. His appreciation of traditional Japanese art is also shown and the flowing lines of oriental elegance appear as a natural evolution for his style.

Beardsley became restless with his mythical subjects and in an attempt to pacify him, Dent brought out the *Bon-Mot* series, small books of illustrations and anecdotes. Yet this only served to fuel Beardsley's desire to unravel the society of his time. He found similar aspirations in the intellect of Oscar Wilde and they struck up a friendship when Beardsley illustrated Wilde's book *Salome*. Later, by means of a more daring publisher, they worked together on a magazine called *The Yellow Book* whose contents sparked outrage amongst the upper classes due to their suggestions of society's decadence. This satire seems quite harmless now, in the present climate of free expression and, in fact, protests were not heard when, in one issue, Beardsley submitted work under an assumed name. Perhaps some

of the scandal surrounding these designs was caused by reputation rather than content.

When Wilde was sent to prison, Beardsley experienced a time of extreme hardship, amplified by the progression of the consumption, which finally ended his life. After several other projects Beardsley began a period in which his work took on a gentler tone, using washes to offset the harsh ink lines. He also completed some ornate baroque studies. These are remarkably detailed considering the state of his health at the time. The final exhibits prove that right up until his very last days, Beardsley was generating fresh ideas and this makes his premature death at 25 years of age such a tragedy.

Demelza

Until 10th January

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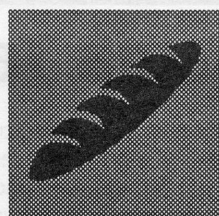
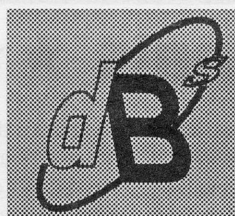
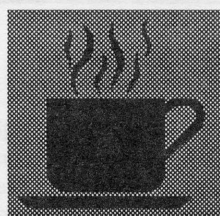
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Reviews

Elizabeth ★★ ★ 1/2

Starring : Cate Blanchett, Christopher Ecclestone, Geoffrey Rush,
Director : Shekhar Kapur

Oddly, for a film which has seen its entire marketing drive focused on a "revolutionary" re-working of history, *Elizabeth* comes across as surprisingly cliché. Watch Richard Attenborough as the Lord Chamberlain: short, dumpy, red faced and permanently confused. Joseph Fiennes, our romantic lead is the classical Elizabethan effeminate fop. And Christopher Ecclestone is pointy bearded evil incarnate. Indeed, Elizabeth herself is straight out of my school text book. OK, so she may not have been the virgin queen that history remembers, but, to be honest, that's only going to shock the odd half-dead Oxford don.

Nonetheless, it's still a well, if unadventurous, piece of movie-making, largely due to some fine performances from its stars. Ecclestone turns in another sterling performance, oozing devious charm (albeit with a slight hint of Dick Dastardly) as he plots to overthrow the young queen and restore Catholicism to England, whilst Rush lurks in shadows with the kind of looming intensity that any royal protector worth his salt requires.



Lord Robert Dudley, renowned historically for being subtle as a brick

However, it's Blanchett's central performance that stops *Elizabeth* slipping off into utter parody. She perfectly captures the image of a young, innocent girl, thrown unexpectedly into power. Constantly battling against the suppressing will of her advisors, she is forced to rapidly mature, to decide her own life, and, above all, find out who she can

really trust.

Director Kapur, working outside his native India for the first time, holds the whole thing together very well, and hints at a promising future career. Some nice touches of cinematography (filming through drapes, mirrors and so forth) help to make what might otherwise be very predictable scenes come alive. Plus,

his avoidance of the obvious directorial traps - lots of swashbuckling, bodice ripping and the like - makes a refreshing change. Instead, he chooses to centre the film on Blanchett's loss of innocence, and her progression from confused child to the stern, aloof leader that history remembers.

Eventually, however, it's the script and plot that lets *Elizabeth* down. It's simply too obvious, too text-book to be believable - think Jane Austen with Elizabethan costumes. Which would be OK if that's what you were expecting and if that's what the makers were trying to achieve - but they seemed to be aiming for so much more. The genuine feel of what life was like at the turn of the seventeenth century is missing, and consequently there's no sense of wonder, no sense of believability in what appears on the screen. And as a result we're left with a nice story, but nothing more.

A solid cast, good direction and the words "Channel Four Films Present" could (and should) have combined to produce so much more. A real missed opportunity. **F**

Dave

Games

Actua Tennis ★★ ★ ★

Tennis, hmm strawberries, cream, warm sunny afternoons. Computer tennis: tinnies of beer, ice cream and cold, wet, autumnal afternoons. Fortunately I didn't mind the weather outside, as I was too involved in trying to win a tournament on the clay courts. Actua - the UK's answer to the EA sport game empire have managed to produce a complete smash of a game. They've lobbed the opposition into the sidelines and (game-set-and) matched the best sports games out there (ok I'll stop the tennis puns here).

So what makes it such a good game? Is it the simplicity of the controls? Controls that allow the beginner to put a serve in after a few attempts and return the ball after a few more, yet allow you to perform point winning strokes when you sort out the positioning and timing of the stroke. Is it the ability to customise your player from being a 6' 1" heavily built female 120+ mph serve machine (well almost) to a 5' lightly built nymph, wearing shades and black shorts? Is it the fact that a British player can make the final of what is obviously Wimbledon

and have a decent chance of winning? Actually it's all these. If you just add on the motion captured players, the eye candy of the scoreboards in the background that change even if they are only visible for a fraction of a second and you have an almost complete tennis game.

Notice the almost bit. I realise this sounds like I'm slagging off consoles again but the little voice bits always seemed staccato, and generally made the umpire sound like a 6 year old. "Player One"...wait wait wait... "won"...wait wait... "by". Ok you've got the idea. I hopefully the PC version coupled with a decent 3D card will have an umpire with an adult reading age, and ball boys and girls slightly wider than a piece of paper. But I'm protesting too much about the eye and ear candy. If you've got a hankering to give pistol Pete a damn good whipping, watch Anna smash a few balls or generally like tennis or sport games then go and buy it, rent it, just do it (I lied about the puns). **G**

Magpie

Buggy ★★ ★

Everyone's complaint, about Playstation games these days seem to be with the quality, and unfortunately *Buggy* falls into the category of nice idea, poor implementation. *Buggy* is based on that favourite adolescent pastime - remote control car racing. The game play is centred on racing against other cars or against the clock; unlocking hidden tracks; and mix'n'matching powers in the right sequence to obtain special driving modes. Such power-ups as 'speed up' and 'meanie mode', which enables you to barge you way through the pack, also help to win races.

In the beginning *Buggy* is not very challenging, but with each progression you start to see how mixing and matching the power ups gives you the edge over your opponents. There is a slight incentive to find these enhancements, as some combinations have some interesting consequences, but concentrating on this usually means coming in at last place. The tracks are well thought out, with the plenty of power ups, in the form of coloured gates, allowing a certain degree of flexibility in the game

play. However the game engine suffers greatly when racing against other buggies. It often slows down to an intolerable frame rate when a pile up occurs and then your buggy seems to take a life of its own with the handling.

Buggy is definitely a wanna-be N64 *Mario* racing - it even copies the head over heels flip when you are hit by another car, but does it at the expense of the game frame rate. Analogue control is available in this game, but with the steering done with the right thumb and the acceleration with the left, it's counter intuitive. Those of you who can remember racing a remote control car will probably feel right at home with this odd configuration.

There are enough hidden tracks and new cars to discover for those who persevere at this game, but with the sluggish graphics it lets the games down and makes it uncomfortable to play. After the fluidity of both *Wipeouts*, any racing game that does not conform to that standard simply isn't really worth playing. **G**

Magpie

Reviews & Competitions

Mulan ★★☆☆

Starring : Ming-Na Wen, Eddie Murphy, Donny Osmond

Director : Tony Bancroft, Barry Cook

For the last few years, Disney's animated output has basically fallen into two primary camps. Firstly, there are the epics - *Pocohontas* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* spring to mind - historical stories, sanitised for the kiddie audience. Secondly, there are the classic Disney films, like *Hercules* and *Aladdin*, full of larger-than-life characters, idiotic songs and big comedy.

Largely, this is due to two competing teams within the Disney set-up, producing different types of movies. Consequently, the two conflicting styles very rarely overlap - *The Lion King* standing as a recent notable exception, when genuine comedy and a sense of plot combine. *Mulan* therefore comes as a pleasant surprise, as, despite coming from the *Pocohontas* camp (which is very clear from the style of character animation), it still contains genuine comedy.

Admittedly, this will probably come as less of a surprise once I tell you that celebrity vocals are provided by Eddie Murphy. The resurgent comedian stars as the voice of Mushu, the helpful dragon - providing a vein of comedy suitable for



Would you pick a fight with that horse?

adults and children alike.

The plot is a sanitised version of an ancient Chinese legend and is, in itself, fairly weak (but then what Disney plot wasn't). We follow the adventures of Mulan after she enters the army to stop her frail father from being forced to serve. To stop her enlisting, her ancestors conjure up Murphy's dragon, but he

fails, and Mulan sets off to fight the invading Hun army.

The rest is, for the large part, utterly predictable, but that's hardly the point. *Mulan* is fun. It's pure Disney entertainment, the way Walt intended. And, at the end of the day, you can't ask for more than that. **D**

Dave

Win tickets to Halloween courtesy of

ODEON

KENSINGTON

Twenty years on, Michael Myers is back to his old ways. Which basically means frightening the hell out of Jamie Lee Curtis, and generally being extremely unpleasant and scary. Oh, and hacking up lots of young girls in tight tops. You remember.

Tried and trusted as the formula may be, *Halloween H20* has received both critical acclaim and a hefty box office from the States. Above all, this latest reincarnation has been acclaimed as the scariest movie released in years, tipping a knowing nod to the horror classics, and even including a cameo from Vivian Leigh.

To win a pair of tickets to see *Halloween H20*, simply answer the following question:



How many outings has Halloween had in the last twenty years?

Email your answer to film.felix@ic.ac.uk before 6pm on Tuesday to be in with a chance. The first five correct entries drawn from the virtual postbag will win a pair of tickets courtesy of the lovely people at the Odeon Kensington. Winners' names will be printed here next week.

We also have ten pairs of tickets to a special preview of new John Travolta starrer *Primary Colours*.

To win, simply be one of the first people through the office door after 1pm today, and ask (nicely) for your free tickets to next Sunday's preview.

VIDEO UPDATE

Titanic

The world's most successful movie hits the retail and rental shelves today, and is sadly bound to become one of the highest selling videos of all time by Christmas. I'm sure that the majority of you have seen it already, so I'm sure there's no need for a plot synopsis.

Opinion continues to be split over the merits of Jim Cameron's epic, but one thing is certain - it simply doesn't deserve to be the highest grossing film ever. OK, so it's not a bad film, but it's a long way from being a classic (good acting, direction, plot and script would help). Even technically, it's no masterpiece, with the little figures running around on the back of the boat are hardly state-of-the-art CGI. Buy it if you must, but see if you enjoy it half as much on TV.

Wild Things

Wild Things clearly demonstrates that film appreciation is entirely based on what you're looking for. If you're looking for high production values, top notch directing and all the rest, then you'll be disappointed. If, however, you want a hot, funny thriller, packed full of plot twists and starring two of the sexiest stars in Hollywood, then *Wild Things* is the movie for you.

Neve Campbell and Denise Richards star alongside Kevin Bacon in this Hitchcockian tale of cross, double-cross, triple-cross and more. It's hardly a classic, but the style of execution turns *Wild things* into a great piece of entertainment.

[Note: *Wild Things* isn't released until next Monday...but it's film of the week anyway.]

A Life Less Ordinary

After *Shallow Grave* and *Trainspotting*, we all expected another dark, off-beat thriller. Boy were we wrong. Off-beat though it most certainly is, the only connection to *A Life Less Ordinary* is star Ewan McGregor.

This sense of surprise and disappointment led to a very lukewarm response to *A Life...* first time around. With the benefit of hindsight, however, it's a very original story, deliberately sentimental whilst at the same time refreshingly off-beat. Very, very strange.

The Future's Bright, the Future's Pink?

No-one at Imperial will need the stats from a college census to work out that Imperial isn't exactly brimming with girls. And why should it be - it's a college of science, technology and medicine - the solid territory of gangly bearded types who wear rock T-shirts to interviews. But before the more touchy of Imperial's males start moaning, spare a thought for the rarer sex. With the obstacles that exist, it's no wonder there are so few women in science and engineering. Next week, on Imperial College Radio, I'll be looking at what is being done to redress the balance. That's in the News Show, from 7-8pm on 99.9kHz AM.

When it comes to working in academia, success is all about papers published and funding won. Yet according to research published last year in top science journal, Nature, women have to be far more productive than men to stand any chance of reaching the top. The study, which looked at the success of grant applications to the Swedish Medical Research Council, found that women had to be 2.5 times better, in terms of citations and numbers of papers published, to have the same chance of winning a grant as their male colleagues.

The reasons for such a horrendous disparity are open to speculation, but undoubtedly plain sexism plays a role. Professor Susan Greefield, who holds a Chair at Oxford University and has recently been appointed as the first woman Director of the Royal Institution, was championing the cause of women in science at the recent Labour Party conference. "What I found perhaps

encapsulated the mood of the times," she said, "was not only the enthusiasm the people on the floor had for women in science, but afterwards I was sitting next to a delegate, who'll remain nameless, over dinner and he said, 'The problem with you clever women is you scare me.' And I think that, more than anything sums up the nebulous problem."

Sexism aside, there are inherent aspects of academic life that have traditionally hindered women in their careers. Anyone who takes time off to start a family will find themselves severely disadvantaged when they return, says Professor Greenfield. "Science research is one of the very few careers, unlike med-

icine or spot-welding or whatever, where if you don't work for two years it's very hard to return at a senior level because if you don't publish you're dead." The result is that more and more young women are leaving science altogether as soon as they finish their degrees, and more end up in teaching than in any other single profession.

The huge imbalance of sexes in science and engineering has been ringing alarm bells for some time and earlier this month, AWISE, the Association for Women in Science and Engineering, launched a website to provide information for women interested in academic or industrial careers in science and

related fields. President of the London branch of AWISE is Imperial's own Professor Julia Higgins. "There's an AWISE branch at Imperial and it's a friendly way of getting to know other people in the college, other women at various levels and it works as a good network. I would suggest, at the very least, getting in touch on email."

The AWISE website can be found at www.awise.org and at Imperial, Dr Alison Payne, Chair of the London branch can be contacted at a.j.payne@ic.ac.uk. To subscribe to AWISE, email domo@doc.ic.ac.uk, leaving the subject field blank and the words 'subscribe awise' in the message field.



ICU CINEMA PRESENTS:

LOST IN SPACE

With NEW *super comfy chairs*

Sunday 25th October 5:15 & 8:00pm

Concert Hall
Union Building 2nd Floor
Drinks available from Da Vinci's

Also Showing:
WithNail & I (8:30 - 21st)
X-Files (6pm - 21st & 22nd)
Armageddon (8.30 - 22nd)

Diversions

Around IC & ICU

Mon 19	Tues 20	Wed 21	Thurs 22	Fri 23	Sat 24	Sun 25
ICU Ents - Standing Room Only 7pm	Leonardo Soc art class, Rm 301 Civ Eng. 6pm	ICU Con Soc - Nigel Evans MP 1pm	Sorrel Quartet, Read Theatre, Sheffield 1pm	DP(C&S) Nomination Papers Down 5pm	ICU Ents - Bubble 'n' Squeak 8pm-12am	ICU Ents - Standing Room Only 4pm
	ICU Ents - STA Bar Trivia 8pm	ICU Ents - XS 9pm-1am	ICU Ents - Cocktail Night 5-11pm	ICU Ents - Common People 9pm-2am		

Music - Gigs & Clubs

Mon 19	Tues 20	Wed 21	Thurs 22	Fri 23	Sat 24	Sun 25
That's How It Is @ Bar Rumba, 36 Shaftesbury Avenue. £3, 10pm-3am. Jazz, drum 'n' bass and such like	Feet First 12th Birthday @ Camden Palace, Camden High Street. £5, 10pm-2am. £2 a pint, indie and alternative with Electrasy live	Swerve @ The Velvet Room, 143 Charing Cross Road. £4, 9pm-2.30am. Drum 'n' bass with Fabio	Cohesion @ club 414, 414 Coldharbour Lane (Brixton). £3, 10pm-6am. Techno, trance and possibly magic plants.	The Blue Note, Parkfield St (Islington). £8, 9.30pm-5am. Hip hop, trip hop and drum 'n' bass on three or more floors. Cool.	Rulin @ Ministry of Sound, 103 Gaunt Street (Elephant & Castle). £15, 12-9am. House, garage, sweaty and packed.	Sunnyside Up @ SW1, 191 Victoria Street, £6, 12pm-8.30pm. Hard house, techno and trance.

Rugby

1st XV

No Score Given

A poor start by IC saw Brunel score an extremely lucky try within three minutes. Imperial came back with two tries due to the skill of Jamie "Superman" Duggin. While Jamie waited for his well deserved hat-trick, Telfor "the French Welshman" Beynon squeezed in another try.

Imperial should have capitalised on the favourable slope in the second half, but instead Brunel closed the gap. This only fired up the IC machine and helped Telfor run in his second try while Dan 'Pharaoh' Higazi used his hydraulic rams to push a couple over. There was some great bashing from Chucko, which was extremely entertaining and deserves a mention.

Overall, open play and tackling was good, whilst set plays need working on. IC played skilful rugby, especially considering it was the beginning of the season, although some scrappy play let Brunel keep the scoreline respectable.

2nd XV

IC 34 - 14 BRUNEL

After an aggressive start which saw John Stevenson crash over the line for his first big try for IC within five minutes, the scene was set. Constant forward domination saw the scrum half, Yuen Lewis, sneak in under the defence for the second try. Before the completion of twenty minutes, J.Fenner displayed superior pace down the line to score.

Committed defending frustrated the early Brunel attacks, and the first half was wrapped up with Jimbo speeding down the line to score and then converting.

The second half saw a poor start for IC with Brunel scoring an easy try straight after kick off. Imperial soon woke up and came straight back with Jimbo scoring just as easily. Poor discipline let Brunel score again, and they converted it easily. Strong forward play and pace saw John Stevenson score his second, finishing off as he had begun. The final whistle gave IC their first victory and a promising start to the BUSA season.

Football

2nd XI

LSE 3 - 5 IC

For many 1st years this was a debut for IC and for the rest it was a long awaited return to the new football season.

The match started in the worst possible fashion with LSE scoring twice in the first 10 minutes. The first goal came from the penalty spot, from a decision that seemed to confuse even the LSE team. After that setback, IC fought back well. G.I.Joules took a free kick from just outside the box, which he blasted past the wall and into the top corner. LSE dominated the rest of the half, but only led 2-1 at half time.

The second half started in the best possible fashion, with another awful refereeing decision giving us a penalty for a foul outside the box (who's complaining?). Once again G.I.Joules was there to put away the spot kick, but the best was still to come. The superb G.I.Joules (guess who's the captain?) picked up the ball 25 yards out and with his weaker left foot, he drove the ball into the top corner, hitting the bar on its way in. IC was now well in control and from a giant kick from IC's very impressive keeper, Dave headed a "Wimble-

don style" goal past the opposition keeper. The next goal came from a flowing move down the right and ended with a superb header from "Tiny" Martin - the smallest man on the pitch.

LSE got a goal back, but a convincing win to start the season should give us confidence for a very successful season.

Report by C.Batley

Hockey

IC 1 4 - 2 ROYAL FREE I

The tentative start was put down to the day being a big day for England. IC were also in need of a good win to get the season off in style. IC were 1-0 down at half time. Noddy's storming run and swan dive led to a penalty, which was duly buried by Big Titties for the first goal of season. A fantastic second half performance followed, with the whole team firing on all cylinders, most having played together last season.

IC's second goal was crucial as it broke the will of Royal Free. A good final result was achieved after Fluffy Cherub managed to bundle two flukey balls over the line. Many thanks to the umpires, a sterling job, well done.

Imperial athlete goes to World Championships

Tarik Djeddour of the cycling and running clubs represented Great Britain this summer on the World Short Course Duathlon Championships, in St. Wendel, South Germany. The event attracted a thousand athletes from as far afield as Australia and the USA. The event comprised a 10km run followed by a 40km bike ride and finished with a further 5km run. The course was very hilly and wet, and Tarik's time of 2hrs11minutes saw him finishing 21st out of 60 in his age group of 20-24 (3rd placed Briton).

Both Tarik and Hadley Skelton (19) competed in the National Duathlon Championships in June and finished 4th and 2nd respectively in their age groups. This gave them automatic selection for the World Championships. Unfortunately Hedley could not compete at the Worlds due to lack of finances.

Tarik has already been pre-selected to compete in the World Middle Distance Duathlon Championships in Switzerland in 1999 and is aiming to get a top 5 position. Hedley is looking forward to qualifying again and competing in his first World Championships in 1999.

Boat Club

T'was the crack of dawn and all through the land not a creature was stirring.... but for a megaphone, some launches and a few IC top squad boats fighting up the river. 6.30am and those hardy men and women of the college were on the first morning session of the year. Last year's season was capped off in true ICBC style, with three boats qualifying for the Henley Royal Regatta. IC won the Temple Challenge cup (the international student VIIIs event), were finalists in the Visitors' Cup (the top international student IVs event), narrowly losing to Oxford's top IV, while the "bottom" IC crew pushed the University of London's top boat all the way to the line, also in the Visitors' Cup. The Henley performances reflected IC's yearlong dominance, in both the men's and women's squads heading the University league tables and becoming BUSA champions. The current £1.7 million redecoration of the boat house will be completed in several months time and should house the huge intake in novice and experienced oarsmen and women who have recently started this season's training. The new boathouse has been designated a "centre of excellence" by the amateur rowing association - one of only three in Britain and the only one in London, which should help maintain the club's results.

I.C. Sports Centre



Tennis
Et



Squash Courses

(Standard - Beginner / improver)

Squash:

4 Wednesdays - 2.40 - 4pm Student fee £24

(coach Dean Horridge) Start date - 28th october

6 Fridays - 4.30 - 6pm Student fee £35

(coach Michael Phillips) start date - 30th october

6 Saturdays - 3 - 4.30pm student fee £35

(coach Michael Phillips) start date - 31st october

tennis:

4 Wednesdays - 12.30 - 2pm student fee £24

(coach Dean Horridge) Start date - 28th October

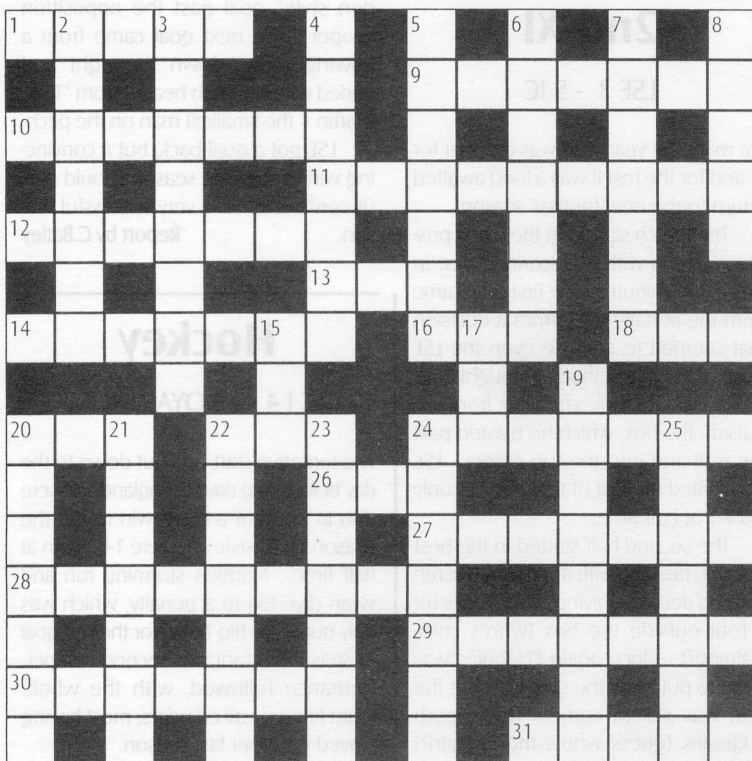
8 places per course

Registration at sports centre reception

0171-594-8964

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

by Gnat Chum



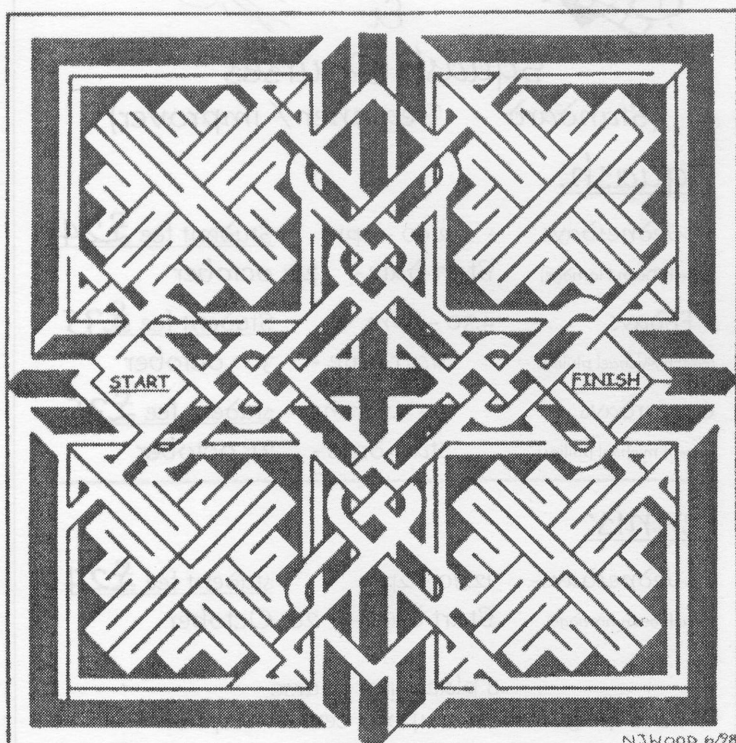
Answers to 1121

Across: 1. Hi there 5. Apaches 9. Show him the ropes 10. Acid 11. Index 12. Amyl 15. Signals 16. Ecstasy 17. Warrior 19. Addict 21. Roar 22. Stoat 23. Ha ha 26. How do they do that? 27. Payment 28. Eve's guy

Down: 1. Hussars 2. Tooting Broadway 3. Echo 4. Ermines 5. Athlete 6. Acre 7. Hi Pam, fancy a shag 8. So silly 13. Panic 14. Aside 17. Worship 18. Ratchet 19. Analyse 20. Smartly 24. Hole 25. Fore!

Maze of the week

by Natalie Wood



Across

Down

- 1 Mow this first getting round donkey. (5)
- 9 Sean, I'm a muddle, forgetting things. (7)
- 10 Poorly Imperial College computer industry is dodgy. (7)
- 11 Bash thy ponies to put them into a trance. (9)
- 12 This concoction is a cocktail of rum. Way out! (7)
- 13 Receiving intense pain starts tear. (3)
- 14 Ingenious, not in volcanic formations. (7)
- 16 End of forceps turn to make music? (3)
- 18 Do this backwards to find gold in your sleep. (3)
- 20 Comes out of pipes, found in tea shops. (3)
- 22 Regular army way of sending out patrol first? (3)
- 24 Britain, England, relax! Time soothes. (7)
- 26 Name is nothing to the French (3)
- 27 Mad gin nerd smiled maniacally. (7)
- 28 Rationality is her company previously mixing up American city and European Community. (9)
- 29 It's good for rheumatism to take dirt to West country town. (3-4)
- 30 Number smell, for example. If you don't get it, it makes this. (2,5)
- 31 Found company and sat around at racecourse. (5)
- 2 Spinning about on grill. (7)
- 3 Tilt desk rigorously to get bowled over. (8)
- 4 American fish swallow article and groups. (7)
- 5 Old woman on tube drones on? (7)
- 6 South to North squeezes out, takes a rest. (7)
- 7 Pill for snake in infra-red array. (7)
- 8 See 17.
- 15 Mysterious craft back from tales of unexpected? (3)
- 17,8 Tubby chap off a ripe tee? (3-5)
- 19 Container overturned boycott with one second blow. (8)
- 20 First four alphabetically get my lad to go AWOL. (7)
- 21 Has his hydrogen, uses it to get high (7)
- 22 Making a groove and a run? (7)
- 23 Factory editor put in earth. (7)
- 24 Marsh has several - mucked up evil fellow. (4-3)
- 25 Graduate is French or back to being chap in charge. (7)

Felix

Caption Competition

And the winner is ...



After carefully examining all the entries, we decided that there were precisely no witty entries. Consequently we've been reduced to this feeble attempt at innuendo. Oh well. Congratulations to Master Christopher Ince, our esteemed Deputy President for reminding us that Oscar Wilde is definitely deceased. In return he pockets a 187 video. Sometimes we're just toooooo generous...