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25
January
1999

FELIX

KEEP THE CAT FREE EST. 1949

Issue
1133

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

Medics In Motorway Madness

By David Roberts

A combination of chance coincidence, bad planning and ill-luck resulted in an inauspicious start to the inaugural IC Med School Union Rag Week, when seven students participating in the Rag Dash to Edinburgh were stopped by the police for attempting to hitch-hike on the M1.

News of the incident first filtered through on Friday evening, when the BBC contacted both the College and the Union in response to traffic reports, which claimed that protestors were causing a hold-up on the M1 just outside of Luton. These "protesters" turned out to be nothing of the kind, and were in fact a group of seven first year medics participating in the Rag Dash, which involved hitch-hiking to Not-

tingham and then catching a coach to Edinburgh. Furthermore, early BBC traffic reports suggesting that "pedestrians were stopping traffic...on all three lanes of the motorway" were dispelled by the first police officers to arrive on the scene, who found "seven IC students...who were on the hard shoulder about half a mile north of Junction 11". Unfortunately, the cause of those involved was further hindered by the fact that a cameraman from Anglia TV happened to be accompanying the police, filming a fly-on-the-wall documentary, and consequently the incident made its way onto Saturday's TV round-up, as well as several national

and regional radio stations.

With first-hand reports now available, however, the incident has taken on a more innocent tone, described as "stupid but not malicious" by College Tutor Anna Thomas-Betts. The medics left South Ken in full medical greens with instructions to hitch-hike to Nottingham. They were told that female students should not accept lifts on their own, but were apparently given "no further instructions...they did not advise us that hitch-hiking on the motorway was illegal". A passing lorry driver gave the seven students in question a lift to Luton, but when they were dropped off they had no idea where they were.

Having failed to find a lift on the main road leading away from the motorway, they "attempted to secure a lift along the slip road and eventually proceeded along the hard shoulder of the Motorway itself...we hoped that either there was a service station nearby, or else we would be able to obtain a lift by showing our rag signs".

In a statement given to College, the first years clearly pointed out that "none of us were aware at the time that we were doing anything illegal, and at no point did we enter any lane of the Motorway". Nonetheless, the police soon arrived, and temporarily stopped the Northbound traffic whilst they

Continued on Page 2

St Mary's Lead Battle Against CJD

By Gareth Morgan

The CJD Research Centre at St Mary's Hospital has developed a new method of diagnosing the new variant of Creutzfeldt Jakob's Disease. The researchers, led by ICSM's Prof John Collinge, tested samples from tonsils of patients suffering from suspected prion diseases.

Prion diseases, such as CJD, are caused by a build up of an abnormal form of a prion protein in the brain, causing severe neurological disorders, and eventually death. Until now, however, it has been impossible to diagnose the condition except by examining sections of brain tissue after death. nvCJD has been linked to the BSE epidemic in cattle, and 34 people in Britain have died in the past few years.

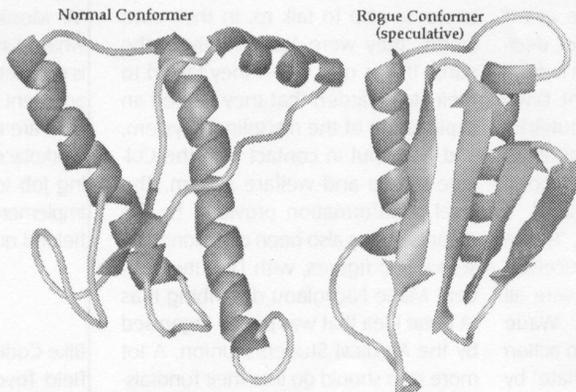
The research, published in *The Lancet* on 15 January, tested for the presence of the particular prion which causes nvCJD in immune system tissues such as tonsils. Due to the nature of the prion, the tests

were carried out in Level 3 Biohazard conditions; only one stage down from those used to handle pathogens such as the Ebola virus. Seven of the 68 tonsil

have since died, three of whom were confirmed as suffering from nvCJD. Other prion proteins were not detected. The success of the test opens the possibility for pre-death testing of suspected nvCJD cases. It could also be used in a screening programme to determine the extent of the disease, but since there is no cure, this is unlikely to go ahead.

One possible problem posed by the research is that the prion protein, which is resistant to normal sterilisation procedures, could contaminate surgical instruments during routine operations. It is possible that disposable surgical instruments could become standard in many procedures.

Prof Collinge has said that the next goal is to find a non-invasive test for the disease, ideally using a blood sample. Unfortunately, the question of whether Britain is poised on the brink of an epidemic of nvCJD remains unanswered.



A normal prion and the defective version

samples tested (including controls from routine tonsil operations), were shown to contain the prion. Of these patients, four

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Cornwall Eclipsed

By Sunil Rao

11 August 1999 promises to be an exciting day for stargazers and scientists alike. For the first time in over seventy years, Great Britain will be graced by the serenely staggering sight of a Total Solar Eclipse. For most Britons, this will probably be the last chance to witness the glorious spectacle of the appearance of the 'diamond ring' as the sun reappears from behind its shroud - the next solar eclipse to achieve totality across Great Britain will not occur before 2090.

The eclipse will be total over a path stretching from India up to the North Atlantic passing over the Isles of Scilly, Cornwall, south-west Devon and Guernsey before touching north-eastern France, Luxembourg, southern Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Romania - where the eclipse will be at its greatest before moving into Asia. It will occur shortly after 11 in the morn-

ing (summer time) in Cornwall, and about 20-25 minutes later in France and Germany. Totality will last for just over two minutes in Cornwall.

Eclipses occur when the Sun, the Earth and the Moon are all lined up. Solar Eclipses occur at New Moon when the Moon comes in between the Earth and the Sun. On average, a total solar eclipse occurs somewhere in the world every eighteen months. However, total eclipses occur at any given place only once every several hundred years on average. For instance, the last total eclipse visible in London occurred in 1715; the next will not occur till 2135! Solar Eclipses give scientists a valuable opportunity to study the corona of the sun, the changes that occur in the upper atmos-

phere and the consequent degradation in high-frequency communications and changes in wind patterns, and the generation of atmospheric waves, all of which will be studied by groups of British scientists.

Inevitably, most hotels and B&B accommodation in the path of totality have been booked up months in advance. However, accommodation will be available in homes as well as farms, which can be booked from a number of travel agents. For the more 'adventurous' and/or monetarily well-endowed, eclipse tours can also be booked to Bavaria and Turkey, among other destinations, as can cruises to the Black Sea. Wherever you plan to view the eclipse, do take care not to view the sun without adequate protection - carelessness, willful or otherwise, might result in serious eye damage or even blindness.

Oxford Fees Mean Business

By Ed Sexton

Oxford University is considering setting up a new undergraduate course, with fees that could amount to £15,000 every year. This goes against the government's decision that fees should not be larger than the £1,000 most universities are charging.

The course is a four year business degree, designed by Oxford's modern business school, and is discussed in detail in the 15 January issue of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*. In the article Professor Kay, director of the school, is quoted as saying "We would have to charge... the economics just do

not add up". Part of the reason for the extortionate fees is the prospect of staff at the new school being paid up to twice Oxford's standard salary of £40,500. National Union of Students sources were quoted as being "shocked and disappointed... we said that the £1,000 tuition fee would be the thin end of the wedge".

Meanwhile the four remaining Oxford students who have not paid their £1,000 tuition fee have had their uni-

versity library cards confiscated, according to some sources. It is unclear what will happen if the students refuse to pay, with the University Registrar, David Hulme, being quoted as saying "I will handle that situation as and when it arises".

A march against tuition fees took place last Friday (22 January) in Oxford City Centre. Although details were unavailable at the time of going to press, Tony Benn and Jeremy Corbyn were believed to be present at the march, which was hoped to attract in excess of 2,000 students.

M1 Mishap

Continued From Page 2

spoke to the students. They explained that it was illegal to walk on the hard shoulder and, according to PC Cambers (the officer on the scene) gave them "a very stern talking to". The medics caught a taxi to the nearest service station, where they were picked up by a Union minibus and sent home.

College is treating the event very seriously, and the investigation now lies in the hands of Dr Anna Thomas-Betts. She made it clear that action is necessary because the incident could have had grave consequences - but

she also noted that she will treat the students exactly as if they were from any other department, and the unfortunate media coverage of the event will not have an impact on her decision. Asked what he felt would form a suitable penalty, ICU President Dave Hellard suggested that "the publicity that has surrounded the students is almost punishment enough...I'd hope for, at most, a menial punishment".

More worrying, however, is the treatment that the students received from their own Union. They were all interrogated individually by Wade Gayed, President of ICSMSU - an action described as "wholly inappropriate" by several senior sources - and as a result returned to Halls in a state of extreme

panic. They had been led to believe that they faced very serious punishment, but were given no idea of what to do or who to talk to. In their own words, they were "completely in the dark". It was only when they talked to their Hall Warden that they gained an explanation of the disciplinary system, and were put in contact with the College advice and welfare system. The level of information provided by the organisers has also been questioned by senior ICU figures, with Deputy President Marie Nicholaou describing it as "A great idea that was poorly organised by the Medical Students Union. A lot more care should go into their fundraising events next year". Wade Gayed was unavailable for comment.

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Issue 1133

25 January 1999

Editor: Ed Sexton
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& Joel Lewis
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In brief...

Consoc Sieged

A slightly unusual site was to be seen by the audience for the latest Consoc event. John Gummer was harassed (for cash) by medics in surgical gowns in aid of Rag. John Gummer is the former secretary of state for the environment and is renowned for feeding his young daughter a burger at the height of the beef scare. Gummer emphasised the harmonisation of Europe's pollution levels and how this might be achieved. He stated that pollution from nearby countries had a greater effect than was perhaps realised, and no matter how much we cut pollution, we are still bombarded by those abroad.

TUC Visits Labsoc

John Monks, the general secretary of the TUC, paid LabSoc a visit last week. He was keen to point out the need for Unions despite a reduced manufacturing base and demographic changes. Mr Monks attempted to make clear what a Union stands for, emphasising it is not merely to cause trouble with management but is there to appeal to those who are insecure and uncertain in the workplace. He states that he is expecting job losses later this year with the implementation of minimum wages and fielded questions on this matter.

Bike Safety

Bike Coding will take place in the Sherfield foyer between 10am and 4pm from 26 to 28 January.



Medical Rag: Fired Up & Lairy

After an unpromising start (see Page 1), the inaugural IC Med School Rag Week took-off last week, combining traditional elements and events from the Charing Cross and St Mary's calendar.

Monday saw a series of 'Rag Games' at Charing Cross, designed to conclusively prove which campus is home to the superior students. In a quest to secure ultimate victory for their team, students from BMS, St Mary's and the Cross performed a variety of increasingly bizarre (and hugely entertaining games), largely based around the twin Rag themes of nudity and drinking.

A close-run contest thus saw Mary's victorious in the Tubthumping Challenge (downing vodka, lager, cider and whiskey) and downing a pint of God-knows what (which appeared to include an entire fish), whilst Charing Cross notched up full points in the Kebab contest (and thus retained the cup) and the nude yard downing. Not to be outdone, two talented first years from the BMS scored an impres-

By David Roberts

sive victory in the parsnip game (covering a parsnip with lipstick with your hands tied behind your back...you had to be there).

However, the toughest game of the evening - the egg race - produced a three-way draw, with none of the com-

petitors managing to circumnavigate the Reynolds' bar with their boiled eggs in tact. Whilst this might seem simple, the fact that the eggs are inserted in your boxer shorts and every girl in the room is under orders to break them makes this a very very dangerous event.

The final result saw Charing Cross come from behind to score a victory, and notch up a victory in the drinking contest whilst the scores were being counted.

Tuesday night saw Rag revues at both Charing Cross and St Mary's. Both were packed out and regarded as hilarious by all those present. Wednesday saw

the first big fundraising event, with the Invasion of London launched from every campus, and securing a big pile of cash for this year's charity, the British Heart Foundation.

The final two elements of Rag Week - the Circle Line Pub Crawl and the Rag Ball - took place after *Felix* went to press, so look out for a full report in next week's edition.



Photo: Dave Tuesday: Mary's Solree



Photo: Jonas Tuesday: Charing Cross Revue

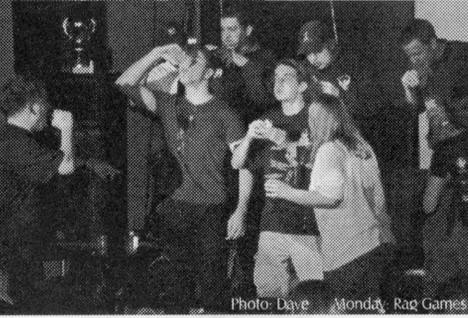


Photo: Dave Monday: Rag Games

Sedrick: Safe No Longer

By Ed Sexton

City and Guilds Union mascot, Sedrick Safe, has been stolen by the Royal College of Science Union. The mascot was taken sometime during the weekend of 16-17 January, and is currently being held securely at an undisclosed location.

C&GU declared the safe to be their violate mascot, meaning that it can be stolen without fear of prosecution, earlier on the term. The decision was allegedly taken in the hope that C&GU would rid itself of the safe, an aspiration which would seem to have been fulfilled. Apparently it would have cost C&GU around fifty

pounds to have the safe removed, as it weighs about half a tonne. Exactly how RCSU removed the safe is unknown, but it was raised up on blocks, making lifting it with a fork lift relatively easy.

At the time of writing RCSU had yet to open the safe door, meaning that according to C&GU sources "they have yet to get the whole mascot". With the decline of mascotry in recent years what will happen next is open to debate. C&GU could reclaim Sedrick by paying £50 to RAG, or they could decide to steal the safe back off the RCSU. Given their apparent desire to throw out the safe, they may simply forget about it, leaving RCSU with the task of picking the lock.



Last Tuesday saw the start of International Week, where societies make use of the opportunity to recruit new members and heighten the awareness of their region. Two countries were represented; the Greeks offered a selection of food whilst the Koreans distributed promotional CD ROMs.

Photo: Brett

International
Tamil Society

Ivory Dreams

Annual Dinner & Dance

19th February 1999

Doors: 9 pm
Venue: SCR

Buffet Meal £9
Gold Service £15



Words make prizes with Rough Guides



Been somewhere exotic? Exciting? Have you got stories of romance, intrigue, daring and deceit? Or did you travel to see what the world was "really like", working and living with the locals? Whatever your story, we want to hear from you. *Felix* is looking for travel stories and features from around the world - and thanks to *Rough Guide* we should be able to offer a Guide to every one whose work is published.

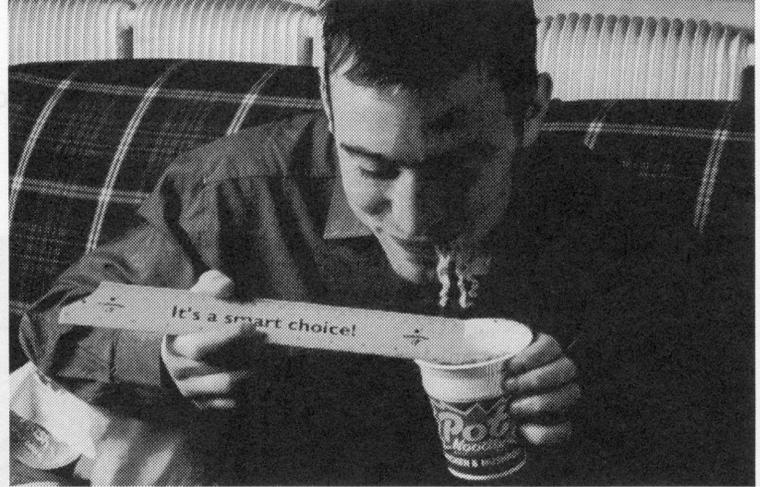
Rough Guides are the indispensable guide books for every traveller, covering the world from Antigua to Zimbabwe, via Bulgaria, Laos and Peru. As 1999 progresses, the *Rough Guide* list is set to reach 107 travel titles, 22 phrasebooks, 15 music guides

and 5 specials. New titles include Israel & the Palestinian Territories, Guatemala, Syria and Vietnam. Wherever you're planning on going, it's almost certain that there's a *Rough Guide* available. Virtually all of this material will be published not just in book form but also on the website, roughguides.com.

Here at *Felix* we're looking for interesting or informative pieces, from 500 to 1000 words (preferably with some nice pictures, to show us all how lucky you were to be there). If you want an idea of what we're talking about, then just turn to page 14, where there's an account of last year's IC expedition to the Himalayas.



The Pot Noodle Survival Guide



- 1 Start the day right with a "spanking gorgeous" breakfast in bed - Pot Noodle
- 2 Avoid the "friend" you made in Fresher's Week by wearing a cunning disguise of your wig from the New Year's Eve fancy dress party.
- 3 Invest in at least seven different flavours of Pot Noodle - a quick and easy snack for every day of the week.
- 4 Un-join all ten of the university societies you became a member of in the first term.
- 5 Never leave your Pot Noodle in your kitchen - hide it under your bed away from thieving fingers.
- 6 Snog at least one different boy/girl each week - and make a note of their names.
- 7 Practice eating a Pot Noodle with a ruler - in preparation for when you haven't done the washing up for a week.
- 8 Save on heating - share a bed with your other three flatmates.
- 9 Grab a Pot Noodle to pack you with energy and sort out those munchies before or after a big night out.
- 10 Never go to bed before 3am.

Imperial College SummerBall '99

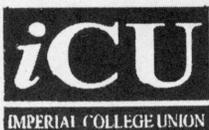
Friday 25th June 1999

Alexandra Palace

Tickets On Sale THIS Term

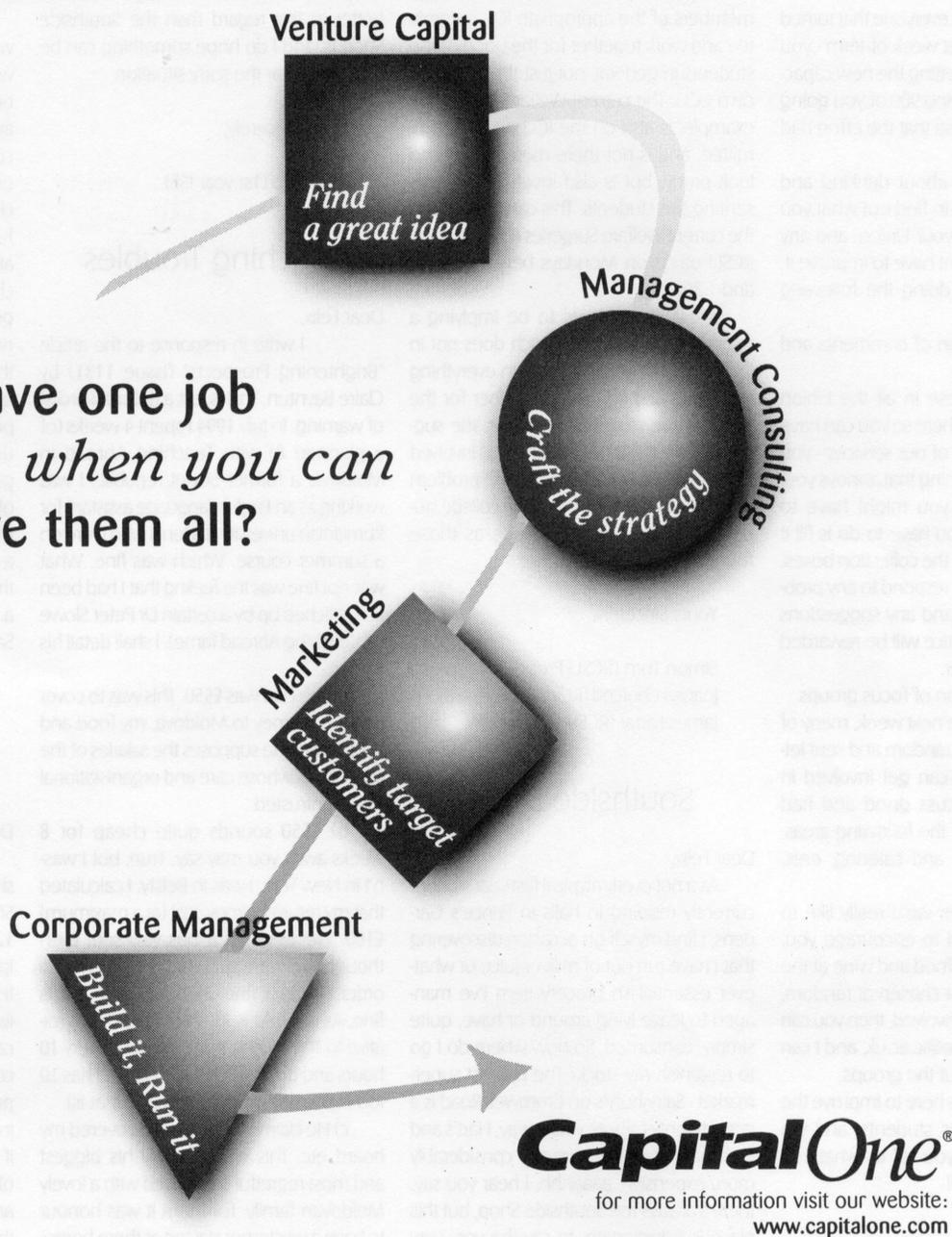
Register online NOW and receive up to date info. all year

www.su.ic.ac.uk/summerball/



Send photos of last years ball to summer.ball@ic.ac.uk
To be splattered all over the website.....anything goes.

Why have one job
when you can
have them all?



At first glance, we look like a top-10 credit card company with over \$15 Billion in assets. But our real business is using world class, information-based, direct marketing skills to crack a wide range of high growth, high profile, high profit industries. So far we think we've been rather successful, with the eighth highest share price gain on Business Week's survey of the world's 1,000 most valuable companies, and featuring in Forbes magazine as one of the 25 fastest growing companies in the US. With our commitment to growth, we need entrepreneurs to build businesses across Europe, and beyond. Please contact us to learn how you can enjoy endless opportunities in the only financial services company to feature on the Wall Street Journal's list of the 25 Best Companies For New Graduates, and on Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work For".

Our deadline for CVs has
been extended.

Vacancies - Business, Finance, and IT Analysts, Project Managers, Marketing Specialists and Statisticians

Applications from all Imperial degree disciplines are welcome

To Apply - Covering letter and CV including academic achievements to date to:

European Recruitment
18 Hanover Square
London W1R 9DA
Tel: 0800 952 5353
e-Mail: RecruitEurope@capitalone.com



Oi You! STOP! READ THIS!

Dear Felix,

Firstly, can I thank everyone that turned up at Shaft on the first week of term - you made the hassle of getting the new capacity totally worth it, seeing 900 of you going mental made us realise that the effort had been worth it.

But ICU isn't all about drinking and dancing, so we want to find out what you all really think about your Union, and any suggestions you might have to improve it. To do this, we'll be doing the following things:

i) The introduction of comments and suggestions leaflets.

You will find these in all the Union outlets, and they are there so you can have a direct input on any of our services - you can tell us about anything that annoys you, or any suggestions you might have to improve things. All you have to do is fill it in and put it in one of the collection boxes. The Union will try and respond to any problems within a week, and any suggestions that get put into practice will be rewarded with a £5 ICU voucher.

ii) The introduction of focus groups.

Basically, over the next week, many of you will be chosen at random and sent letters about how you can get involved in groups that will discuss good and bad things about each of the following areas: Union services, bars and catering, ents, and Union Retail.

If you are chosen we'd really like to hear your views, and to encourage you, we'll be offering free food and wine at the groups. If you are not chosen at random, but really want to get involved, then you can e-mail me on m.horne@ic.ac.uk, and I can send you details about the groups.

Remember ICU is here to improve the quality of your life as students, and we can't do that unless you tell us what you want, so get involved!

Cheers

Mark Horne (Events & Marketing Manager)

RCSU Retaliates

Dear Felix,

Firstly as members and secondly as officers of the RCSU, we would like to reply to the column in last week's issue by Simon Baker.

In the RCSU Presidency elections, the percentage of electorate that voted was about 5%. In the ICU Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) elections, last term, approximately the same percentage of the electorate recorded their votes, and in the elections for ICU President Dave Hellard about 9% of the electorate voted. Even in the elections for Felix Editor, only about 9% voted.

The question as to whether the CCU's

consider themselves in competition with ICU is to be found in the amount of input that the CCU's themselves have in the ICU. The majority of Officers in the CCU's are also members of the appropriate ICU committee and work together for the good of the students in general, not just those in their own CCU. The current Welfare Officer, for example, is also on the ICU welfare committee, and is not there merely to sit and look pretty, but is also involved in representing the students. This can be seen by the current Welfare Surgeries running in the RCSU office on Mondays between 12.30 and 1.30pm.

Mr Baker appears to be implying a them and us situation, which does not in fact exist. We would say that in everything the CCU's and ICU work together for the good of the students. However, the suggestion that this is not the aim of all involved shows that there is an underlying problem of the view of the CCU's that the college students are fed by such articles as those found in Mr Baker's column.

Yours Sincerely,

Simon Torn (RCSU President)
Joanna Churchill (RCSU Publicity Officer)
James Farrar (RCSU Publications Chair)

Southside Shop

Dear Felix,

As a not overly atypical first-year student currently residing in halls in Prince's Gardens, I find myself on occasion discovering that I have run out of milk or juice or whatever essential-ish grocery item I've managed to leave lying around or have, quite simply, consumed. So now where do I go to replenish my stock? The nearest supermarket - Sainsbury's on Cromwell Road is a good twenty-minute walk away, Hart's and Lord's are closer but usually considerably more expensive; aaaahhh, I hear you say, there's always the Southside Shop, but this place is extortionate, to say the very very least.

To me at least, it seems patently absurd that a shop run by a college, primarily for the benefit of its students who almost by definition are by and large in a state not far removed from poverty, should be at all "pricey". Apparently, "insistent" students receive a 10% discount, but the issue still remains - the prices are still high - and a further question crops up - why is it only "insistent" students who are thus privileged? Why not everybody else? It's about time something was done about this place - I mean, is this college meant to be a mere money-making machine, whose sole purpose of existence is the churning out of streams of fresh, bright-faced graduates clutching their degree certificates year after year? Surely not! The College bears the responsibility of providing us with services it is reasonable to expect, and this is one such service!

If it's not possible for the College to

reconsider its pricing scheme, I wonder if it would be possible for the Union to take over the running of the shop. The Union Shop and the Union Newsagents are far better in this regard than the Southside Shop is, and I do hope something can be done to repair the sorry situation.

Yours sincerely,

Sunil Rao (1st year ISE)

Teaching Troubles

Dear Felix,

I write in response to the article "Brightening Prospects" (Issue 1131) by Claire Bayntun. This is just a (lot of) word(s) of warning. In July 1994 I spent 4 weeks (of a planned 8) with Teaching Abroad in Moldova, a former Soviet republic. I was working as an English language assistant for Romanian university students who were on a summer course. Which was fine. What was not fine was the feeling that I had been truly stitched up by a certain Dr Peter Slowe (of Teaching Abroad fame). I shall detail his crimes:-

a) The cost was £550. This was to cover a return journey to Moldova, my food and board, and one supposes the salaries of the year-offites whose care and organisational skills I entrusted.

b) £550 sounds quite cheap for 8 weeks away you may say. True, but I wasn't in New York, I was in Belsty. I calculated that my return journey cost (at a maximum) £100. We went on a bus you see. Even though we were told that a flight was in order. A bus is fine. 24 hours on a bus is fine. As is 48. As is 72. Well 72 isn't, but relative to 100 on one that only stops every 10 hours and doesn't have a toilet, and has 10 too many people on it, it is (OK that is).

c) He claimed that my 550 covered my board etc. This was possibly his biggest and most regretful lie. I stayed with a lovely Moldovan family, for them it was honour to have a westerner staying at their home. I was treated like royalty, with the best hospitality they could offer. Had my £550 contributed in any way to this? Oh, no. Everything I received was from the pocket of a Moldovan lorry driver. How guilty did I feel? I left them 100 dollars saying it was for my one 3 minute phonecall to the UK.

Claire Bayntun is correct, working abroad within an entirely new and fascinating culture is worthwhile (and yes IC students, I'm sure it earns your ever-so-valuable CV points). But Dr Slowe is, from my experience, selling you a dream at a price. He is making money from the kind of ideas that Ms Bayntun's article espoused. If you want to work abroad it is not necessary to pay anyone anything to organise it for you, sort something out yourself. I believe that employers also value initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Chatterton

Lay Off The Pills!

Dear Felix,

I'm writing for a bit of a moan at last weeks "Agony or Ecstasy?" article. In no way do I encourage the use of drugs or recommend them, but if you are going to do an article about ecstasy, then you might consider getting somebody who has had experience with the drug to write the article. Yes, taken in extreme quantities pills can fuck you up, but this can also happen with alcohol, dope or even vast quantities of chocolate. Most people don't use pills as a general drug but more as a recreational drug for clubbing. The person who wrote this article has obviously had a bad experience with pills, and although this does happen to most people every so often, it is usually due to misuse of the drug and a general lack of common sense. The effects of pills described in the article are uncommon and it sounds as if she's been given a dodgy deal. Pills aren't good or bad but they are individual, so don't get caught in a Rutt and think they are the spawn of Satan, because they're not.

Anonymous

Get Your Kit Off!

Dear Felix,

As a former SNKP'er myself, I feel I should clear up this matter of gender for the SNKPJ. This week's Felix [Issue 1132 - Ed] (p 12) states that you must be male to participate in the SNKPJ. The Police are adamant that this is not really acceptable, and are liable to charge people this year. When I got caught in my first year, they said that they could quite easily have charged me with public indecency (£1000 fine and 14 days in jail), but would have no case against me if there were a female participant. The lack of females in previous years is not due to any rule or tradition, merely that none of them have the courage to get their kit off and run naked for charity. The reasoning behind the official viewpoint is that women are allowed to be offended if they see men's tackle, but not if there are a few fannies on show as well. This is mad, but there is a legal precedent, so that's what counts.

In fact, a few years ago, a female member of college volunteered for the SNKPJ. Unfortunately, she got sponsored more money _not_ to take her kit off, so stayed at home. Can I also add that the SNKPJ was one of the weirdest and proudest moments of my life, running past the screaming crowds, stopping traffic, and generally having a laugh. The victory lap round the Albert Hall singing 'Rule Britannia' should be reinstated this year, if people have the energy.

Cheers,

Mike



Stop Right There and Read This

Put down that pen/pint/reefer, stop flicking through these pages without reading them, and pay attention. It's time you got involved with your Union. Mark Horne's letter on page 6 outlines two ways you can influence what happens at this university. Read it. Elections are approaching, and all the sabbaticals are hoping that some of you will consider standing. If you can't be bothered to take up Mark Horne's offer and don't want to be a Sabb, then at least vote. The letter from the RCSU demonstrates how much a poor turnout at elections undermines the officer concerned when they are doing the job. These people really do affect your university life; everything from the contents of your aca-

demical courses to the price of beer in the Union, the funding for your club to the discounts you get on the high street.

Even if you don't have a social life and are here just to get a degree, remember that sabbaticals are highly influential in deciding which companies recruit from IC. If you don't care about any of these things then fine, don't participate - just don't complain that things aren't the way you'd like them. For example, consider Mr Rao's letter on Southside Shop's extortionate prices - something I'm sure most of us have experienced. If enough students complained loudly, wrote letters, attended meetings, then maybe we could do something about it. You have a voice, you have representatives, you have a vote - use them.

Apology to CX RAG 97-98

I would like to apologise for a slight inaccuracy in the article entitled 'College Behind Medical Union's Cash Chaos' which appeared on page 1 of Felix 1131. In the sentence which reads "...the money raised by last year's Charing Cross rag was credited to the reserve account, rather than given to the charities concerned...", Charing Cross should have been replaced by St Mary's. The Charing Cross rag was well organised and ran smoothly in 97-98. Furthermore, all the money was eventually given to all the charities concerned from all the Rags. I'm sorry this apology didn't go in last week and isn't on the news pages - other Rag news took over...

And on the Same Subject...

This week is ICU Rag week, traditionally a feeble attempt at fundraising when compared to the Medics' efforts. This is not the fault of the organisers - Sarah Coburn has done an excellent job. So why not show your appreciation and go along to at least one of the Rag events this week. There's also a Rag Mag available for a mere 70p (or half a pint). Gareth Morgan has been in my office toiling over its production for many a week, so perhaps you could pick up a copy next time you're near the Union Office? You never know, it might actually make you laugh... Oh, and finally, I do know how to run a bath Simon (sorry to have to cut down your letter...) - Ed



The Week Ahead

Monday

Games Meeting 12.30pm
Film Meeting 1.30pm
News & Photography Meeting 1.30pm

Tuesday

News Meeting 12pm
Clubscape 12pm

Wednesday

Late News Meeting 2pm

Friday

Arts Meeting 12pm
News Meeting 1.20pm
Music Meeting 1.30pm

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.

Do You Have Asthma?

If you are prepared to participate in clinical trials to evaluate new treatments for asthma, please call:

0171 351 8051

(Asthma Laboratory)

Expenses incurred whilst participating in clinical trials will be reimbursed

Ethics Committee Approved

Siv Jansson: Literature on

Film: Changes through
Time (illustrated talk).

Central Library, Level 2 Conference Room
Wednesday 3 February, 5.30 pm

Carpark space for rent

Located at the IC back gate at 169 Queensgate (at back of the library). Price and terms is negotiable. Please contact
Jonathan.jong@ic.ac.uk

Vacancy for a Female Student

Double Room in
Nutford House,
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Please contact the Hall

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for more info.

Variety Show

Tuesday 26 January

£2

Everyone gets a free goody bag comprising pens, blow-up mirror and funny glasses, and more!

Music from IC bands including *Mole Ticket* and *Cereal Killer*. Stand-up comedy and a range of weird and wonderful acts. Also 50p a ticket raffle with a return trip to Dublin for 2 and free Ents tickets to be won!

dB's, 8pm

Room to Rent in 3 Bedroom House: £315 per month + bills

Spacious furnished room available in Norbury (zone 3/4 boundary, 50 minutes to IC). Male or female student welcome to join 2 existing male residents. House has huge lounge, washing machine, dryer, TV, video, garden. Room vacant from 8th February.

Contact
0181 679 7219
or
stephen.webb@ic.ac.uk

Sinfonia 21 Resident at IC presents a concert

Friday 29 January 1999, 7.30pm in the Great Hall

Conductor - Stefan Asbury

Soprano - Rosemary Hardy

Britten - Prelude and Fugue
Jonathan Harvey - From Silence
Charles Ives - Three Places in New England

Julian Anderson - Poetry Nearing Silence
Shostakovich - Chamber Symphony
(arr. Barshai)

Booking and information line open from 29th December **0171 594 9359**
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Imperial College Student Price **£3** (Student number must be supplied)

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Merger to Kill Medics Sport?

Kash Akhtar, Clubs & Societies Officer, ICSM

On Wednesday 27 January the Imperial Medics Rugby team will play Newcastle in the English Students' Final at Banbury to see which team is the best in the country; not the best in London, not in the South, but in the whole of England. By reaching the final they are already deemed to be better than any other team in London, better than Loughborough, better than Brunel, and so on. Just reaching the final is a momentous achievement which should be acknowledged. The medics have also been given a bye to the quarter finals of BUSA, and have gained entry in the European competition by virtue of winning the Premier League South, where they overcame such teams as Bath, Bristol and the current national champions, Brunel.

I am a footballer and not a big fan of rugby, but I take immense pride in the achievements of the rugby boys as they are representing our medical school, no, my medical school. They are attracting lots of plaudits and positive attention and are raising the profile of ICSM. Of course, other clubs are doing so too, but the attention is focussed on the rugby at the moment. I intend to be at the match and hope as many people as possible will come along to offer their support, which should make for a brilliant day out. I especially hope the first years come along and join in, as this cup final will probably be the first time that they get a good idea of what ICSM and being a medic is all about. I feel sorry for them as they are a bit isolated from the rest of the Med school being down at South Ken. This, coupled with the fact that their new course is completely alien to everyone else, has resulted in the strange situation of unfamiliarity. I hope that this will slowly become resolved because the intimacy and camaraderie of the medical school is its best feature, and my overriding memory so far.

Along with the camaraderie comes a collective pride in the achievements of others, and the English Students' Cup could be the first major sporting triumph of ICSM this academic year. My biggest worry, however, is rather than any forthcoming successes paving the way for even more next year, that they may never be replicated again. This would only be due to a lack of funding and resources. Minibuses are very important to medical students, and can stir up passions

in a way few subjects can. Whereas minibuses were always subsidised before the merger with IC, this will not be the case as of Autumn 1999. Under the new guidelines transport for League matches will only be subsidised by up to 40%, whilst transport for training will not be subsidised at all. This would mean a charge of around

£60 for taking a minibus for training for a couple of hours. This charge would have to be borne by the clubs as funding will not be given to cover it. This would also apply to friendlies and tour matches, resulting in considerable charges being passed onto players, who already pay out for the 'privilege' of playing.



Transport subsidy for training is essential. It has been proposed by ICU that minibuses could be subsidised for sports such as rugby, where special training (such as scrummaging) is essential for safety. The rugby team, for example, train twice a week, every week, for about twenty weeks; about forty sessions in all. That is what it

takes to become national champions. will they be any good? They will still do well, due to the spirit of the individuals, but I cannot believe that we would ever compete as one of the best two teams in the country ever again. A similar degradation of all other teams will occur with people being forced to compete at levels beneath their talent. It is also entirely conceivable that certain clubs will no longer be able to afford to run due to financial problems, which would be a terrible waste.

It is a shame that College does not contribute more to student activities given the potential that lies within the student body. Imperial College could be renowned for its sporting achievements in a way that Oxford and Cambridge are, as well as com-

peting with them academically. There must be many good academics that pass over IC to go to Oxford or Cambridge because their sporting instincts cannot be satisfied. Why not hand out a bit more money and make IC the equal, and maybe better, of any university in the country. College deems it fit to blow over a hundred thousand pounds on pretty plants but only gives £716,000 for all student activities, both sporting and non-sporting. £716,000 for 10,000 students is £71.60 per student per year for all clubs and societies as well as for paying sabbaticals, staff costs, cleaning, security and so on. This is just not enough. To provide one football team with one kit and 3 footballs alone costs £43 per player, not taking into account affiliation, travel, referees, coaching, training pitches, bibs, pumps, compulsory teas for opposition and so on.

I have never been aware of major funding problems for clubs and societies before the merger with IC and when they arise they will cause much resentment. Dave Hellard said to me, "the problem is not that you're going to have it especially bad now, it's just that you've always had it good in the past". Be that as it may, everything is relative. To my mind merging with IC will result in medics' clubs and societies feeling hard done by and feeling resentment at the merger. Other IC students must realise that this resentment is not directed towards them in any way as they like us are just mere pawns. IC clubs have had a bum deal for a while and now it seems it is the turn of the medics.

The rugby team is attracting plaudits in the national press and from every university in the country. They are seen as Imperial first and medics second and are raising the profile of Imperial in a way that a million pyramidal tea bags (a product of IC research) could never do. Their success is in no small part due to their coach whose £9,000 fees are paid for by a group of consultants. If it were not for their generosity then such success might not be possible. It is brilliant for the students that they do this and at the same time a shame that the funding for this and for other sports does not come from more direct beneficiaries such as IC, and in turn ICU.

Please make sure you are there on 27 January to see the National Cup Final. You may never get another chance.

Welcome to the new Felix cooking column. My aim in these articles is to show that anyone can knock up great food, without it costing the earth or taking ages to make. In my opinion you can get a long way simply by having some idea of what ingredients go together, and roughly what to do with them.

I'm not a big fan of recipes. It seems to me that far more is achieved by getting off the beaten track and taking a few risks. Recipes are a good way of learning new techniques and good combinations of ingredients, but they can't list all the options. The important thing to remember is that for most everyday cooking, recipes should only be a guideline. Far too many things can vary between your kitchen and that of the recipe's creator for the exact quantities of ingredients to matter. Similarly, the suggested ingredients can often be substituted if you don't have the exact item mentioned.

To start off with, here are a couple of light dishes both of which can be whipped up in under half an hour. They're both great for lunch, or as a starter.

Broccoli Pesto, Serves 2

When you talk about pesto, most people think of the green stuff in supermarket jars. While the classic basil pesto is incredibly versatile, its only part of the pesto story. You can make a pesto out of pretty much anything. The only essential ingredients are olive oil, garlic, and either cheese or nuts. This recipe is one of my favorites. It's just fantastic served with a heap of fresh pasta.

1 medium head of broccoli, chopped
25g grated parmesan
2 cloves of garlic
2 tablespoons of olive oil

3 tablespoons of cream
juice of half a lemon
salt and pepper

The first stage is to cook the broccoli. Unfortunately broccoli is a very submissive vegetable, when simply boiled a good deal of the flavor is surrendered to the water. The ideal solution is to steam it. If you must boil, make sure the juices are saved for later. Either way, cook until pretty much all the bite is gone, about 10-15 minutes.

Cooks Corner

Chris Jackson

While the broccoli is cooking chop the garlic finely, then fry very gently in the olive oil for a minute or two. Be really careful not to let the garlic burn, frazzled garlic must rank as one of the most unpleasant of tastes.

When the broccoli is done add it to the garlic, and fry slowly for about 10 minutes, squashing any remaining big lumps. By this point the mixture in the pan should be really soft, and quite smooth. Turn off the hob, then mix in the cream, parmesan and lemon juice. Season

to taste (for me, this means loads of black pepper!). Finally add a little water (from the pan if you boiled the broccoli) to take the mixture to the consistency of single cream.

Add the pesto to a pan containing cooked and drained pasta, then stir well and serve.

Leek and Mangetout Soup, Serves 4

This soup is really warming but has a fantastically fresh flavor. It almost feels like spring has come early. Mangetout are available cheaply at markets, but the recipe is good with dwarf beans too. You really need access to one of those hand blenders to mush the whole thing at the end. If that is a problem, just chop up everything really finely.

2 medium leaks
200g of mangetout
30g ish of butter (preferably unsalted)
1.5 pints of vegetable stock
1 tablespoon of plain flour
a couple of tablespoons of double cream
salt and pepper

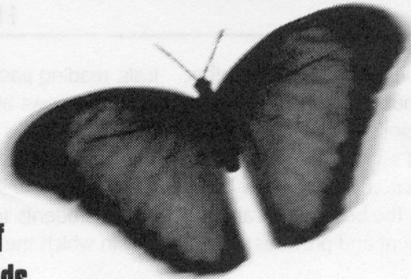
Top and tail the leaks and chop into fairly small slices. Heat the butter in a fair sized sauce-pan and saute the leaks gently for about 10 minutes until soft. Mix in the flour and cook for another minute, then add the stock, stirring all the time to avoid lumps. Throw in the mangetout and boil until they're ready to eat, about another 15 minutes.

Remove the pan from the heat, then whizz it with the hand blender. Add the cream and season.

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How To Win An Election

Hello and welcome to the Presidential Talk Back Election Special. It's that time of year again when for a month the College is plastered by posters and flyers, while crazy people try to tell you how good they are. So why should you care? The results of these elections will change the face and possibly the content of the Union over the next year. There are five positions up for grabs; if you're thinking of standing, here's what to do.

President

Job

- Responsible for the whole lot; if the Union gets sued you're in the dock.
- Deals with the College about general Union issues
- First point of contact for outsiders
 - Lots of public speaking
 - Signs lots of cheques

Perks

- Lots of expensive dinners
- Free Holidays
- Mixing with the powerful and great
- £8,000 + accommodation

DP (Clubs and Societies)

Job

- Overseeing the running of clubs and societies
- Student Development of clubs and societies
- Preparing Sports teams for medical merger
- External representation on sporting issues

Perks

- Mixing with the more social side of the Union
- Tickets to various sporting events throughout the year
- Can claim the glory for sporting successes
- £8,000 + accommodation

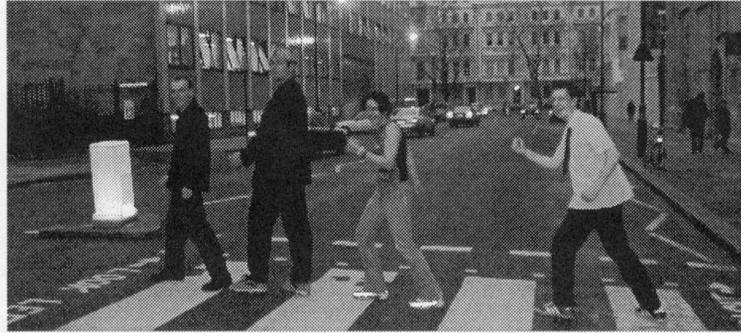
Felix Editor

Job

- Running Felix as a club
- Running Felix as a Newspaper
 - Students Handbook
 - Securing Advertising

Perks

- More negotiable office hours
- Fast-track to journalism
- Invites to press conferences
- Direct influence on students and the College
- £8,000 + accommodation



Current Sabbaticals, L to R: Ed Sexton, Chris Ince, Marie Nicholaou & David Hellard

Get a Proposer and Twenty Seconders

Your proposer will introduce you in your Hustings and sometimes help run your election campaign. Having a proposer who knows a lot of people, or is respected as someone who is knowl-

edgeable about the way the Union runs, is therefore helpful. It doesn't matter who the seconders are, as long as they're students, as no one ever finds out.

Write A Manifesto

This will be published in Felix and often is the starting point of your questioning in Hustings. In your manifesto you should outline what your policies and plans are for the next year. If you don't want to do

this or have no policies then you can just outline why you would be good at the job, and any Union experience and involvement you've had, however small (no experience is not always a bad thing.)

Handle Hustings

You will be questioned with the other candidates about your suitability for the job and other policies that you may not have stated. It's worth doing a bit of research so that you don't look like a complete idiot. The best sources are talking to the present and previous sabbat-

icals, reading past issues of Felix (especially the news and letters pages) and reading previous ICU Council minutes. This should give you some idea of what the current issues are, feelings of some of the students towards them and the way in which the Union works.

Run A Campaign

These tend to take the form of mass poster- ing of the campuses, varying from the funny to the 'these are my policies' to the 'look I'm sexy' type of posters, all finishing with a 'so vote for me'. There have been various other ways of seizing votes used in the past. Flyers are the most obvious, and adverts in Felix, on the

radio or the television station are common. If you haven't met people from other campuses yet get out to one of the bars and meet them; bring a large wallet, there's nothing that a free drink can't settle. You could even be outrageous and visit some Union meetings and look keen.

Get People Out To Vote

This is the hardest part. No matter how well you've done so far, unless you can get people out of bed and to the ballot box, there's no point. To vote students need an ICU card that can be obtained

through the Union Office. Taking the two days of voting off to get your face around is advisable. The golden number of votes to win seems to be around 700, but this year we're hoping for more.

DP (Education and Welfare)

Job

- Represent students to College on educational matters
- Organise welfare campaigns
- Deal with case studies

Perks

- First year of the position so can define its role
- Job satisfaction and thanks
- Not everybody hates you
- £8,000 + accommodation

DP (Finance and Services)

Job

- Responsible for the finances of all of the clubs and societies
- Sorts out the allocation of money to them
- Responsible for the commercial services
- Authorises lots of cheques
- Conventionally keeps the Union computer network running

Perks

- Large potential for bribery
- Job in the city guaranteed
- See President's list, as he often fills in
- £8,000 + accommodation

Hustings

£1.00 A PINT AT SOUTH KEN

➔ Monday 15 February

dB's, South Ken

➔ Tuesday 16 February

Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross

➔ Wednesday 17 February

Gladys', St. Mary's

Tremor in Malaysia as Holy Festival Looms

Nik B Hafiz

As Malaysians, who are predominantly Muslims, prepared for the Eid-ul-Fitr which marked the completion of the holy month of Ramadhan, the country was again stunned by rather shocking news.

If the expulsion of Mr Anwar Ibrahim from the posts of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister last September can be likened to an earthquake, then the much delayed admission by the government that Anwar was brutally beaten while in police custody was more of a large tremor in nature. One subsequent result of this revelation was the resignation of the most senior police officer in the country, the Inspector-General of the Police, Rahim Noor, who took full responsibility on behalf of the police. The police force had been very much in the limelight ever since Anwar appeared in public sporting a black eye and over the months was severely scrutinised by the public over allegations of

underhanded methods, brainwashing prisoners and brutality.

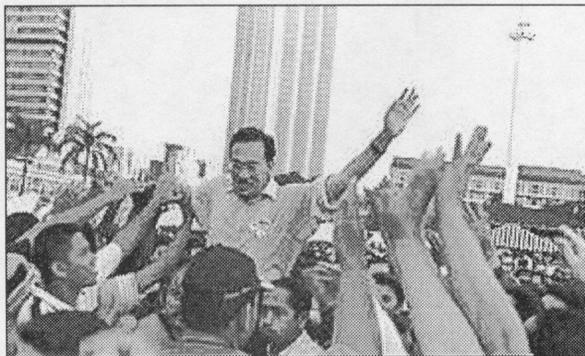
On the political front, the Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir, reshuffled the Cabinet earlier this month. One of the notable changes he made was he himself relinquished the posts of Home Minister and First Finance Minister. He passed the baton

to Abdullah Badawi, previously the Foreign Minister, who was also appointed Deputy Prime Minister, ending months of speculation as to who will succeed Dr Mahathir as Prime Minister.

In the courtroom Anwar was dealt another massive blow, as the presiding judge, Augustine Paul, ordered that all evidence involving alle-

gations of his sexual misconduct be struck out, citing them to be irrelevant following the state prosecutor's amendment of the corruption charges he is now facing.

This is considered very unfavourable for Anwar, for after weeks of media exposure of prosecution witnesses claiming he committed sodomy and had an affair with his former secretary's wife, his lawyers are now unable to counter the case presented by the prosecution as they could no longer refer to the sexual claims. However, it is Anwar's portrayal that matters; he has spent many months having his character assassinated without a platform to defend himself. The move also created even more complications for Anwar Ibrahim's defence team as the trial enters its second round, with the defence now calling their witnesses, who include the accused himself and possibly the Prime Minister as well.



Mr Ibrahim on his way to court

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Please contact Shanaka and Ben;
Thursday lunch times in the Felix office
or at
phoenix@ic.ac.uk

Give in to the art side

We realise that Thursday lunchtime is impossible for those who are not on the South Ken. campus, Please e mail us and we will come and see you.



Science Fiction ...



The paranormal, near death experiences, telepathy - science fiction or science fact? These are just some of the subjects being debated by the Scientific and Medical Network, an organisation whose membership boasts, not bare feet hippies, but some of the best names in science. Simone Macmillan investigates...

In 1973 a British civil servant, George Blaker, teamed up with GP Patrick Shackleton, and founded the Scientific and Medical Network. Their remit was to establish "a broader spiritually inspired understanding of the world." Blaker, who had held posts in numerous government departments, was concerned by the restrictions placed on scientific debate and funding. The founders thought that people would turn to doctors and scientists for "...credible explanations of why the world and conditions were as they were." So initially, membership was by invitation only, being directed at senior scientists and doctors. Today, anyone can join, but full membership is generally reserved for graduates. The Network now has 3000 members world wide, two thirds of which are from scientific backgrounds.

The Network sees itself mainly as a forum for discussion and the dissemination of information. It publishes its own journal, has local discussion groups, and organises conferences, two of which are open to the general public. It has Charitable Trust status, being largely funded by subscriptions.

Underpinning many of the members' interests is the challenge of establishing a science of consciousness, and a movement away from objective science to a science of the subjective. "Consciousness has been ripped out of science" according to Dr Peter Fenwick, Chairman of the SMN Council, and an eminent Consultant Neuropsychiatrist. Director David Lorimer concurs, saying science "cannot be treated from the first person objective point of view...we as human beings are looking

from the inside out."

There is a strong emphasis on the spiritual in SMN literature; both Lorimer and Fenwick share an interest in near death experiences. Fenwick is involved in a project studying this phenomenon based at two centres attached to UK hospitals. Although Fenwick won't be drawn on whether there's life after death, he says that near death experience, poetry and meditative states indicate that reality consists of "love, light and consciousness." Fenwick adds that he would believe in God, if the term could be broadened to encompass an intelligent conscious force. Lorimer has written a book on near death experiences; 'The Whole in One'. He describes himself as spiritual rather than religious, saying that "a lot of members have made that distinction, because people feel ham-

pered by the limitations of both orthodox science and orthodox theology." However, he does believe that consciousness survives physical death; "in a nutshell my thesis is that we are all connected and share one consciousness...what we are doing to others we are in a sense doing to ourselves...the golden rule is not just a precept, but actually the way things work given the oneness and connectedness of consciousness."

Is orthodox science still prejudiced against SMN views? Nobel Laureate (physics, 1973) Prof Brian Josephson, whose interests include psychokinesis or the influence of mind on matter, thinks that it is. Hence his web page on the internet where, amongst other things, he prints articles to counter the "negative propaganda...denouncing parapsychology." As a professor and

Nobel Laureate he acknowledges that he commands a "better attention factor" than young physicists expressing similar views; they, he says, would have to overcome the "laughter effect."

Galileo is frequently mentioned, so do the SMN scientists consider themselves modern day Galilees? In their case, paradoxically, they would be under siege by orthodox science and not the Church. The response is varied, with Lorimer seeing some similarity; "...a lot of scientists are not prepared, like the cardinals, to look down the telescope...to look at evidence which is going to undermine the way they understand the world." Prof Chris Clark, council member and physicist, feels that it is arguable that Galileo 'asked for it'; he points out that the SMN take a different approach, that they are not "...trying to launch a frontal attack on science but to extend it...realising that we are all trying to discover the truth."

How would the Network like to change the way science is run in the UK? By focussing on education, incorporating courses in the history and philosophy of science into science A level and undergraduate programmes. Prof

Josephson adds he'd like to tell those in charge that the present situation in science is "absurd", for as a physicist he has learnt "that there's an incredible range of possibilities in nature - in a complex situation, you

should not think that something is impossible."

For further information:

The Scientific and Medical Network, David Lorimer, Gibliston Mill, Collingburgh, Leven, Fife KY9 1JS, Scotland.

www.ds.plym.ac.uk/SciMedNet/home.htm

Prof Josephson's web page:
<http://www.tcm.phy.cam.ac.uk/~bdj10/>

...OR

Science Fact?

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Seven Weeks in Nepal

Last autumn, a six-strong group of IC students headed for the mighty Himalayas. With a little help from sherpas, cooks and porters they succeeded in trekking through the Rolwaling valley and climbing peaks in excess of six thousand meters. Jeremy Thomson reports on the success of the expedition.

It's half past five in the morning, ten degrees below zero and we're camped on rubble at 5700 meters above sea level. You try getting out of bed.

The thought of all the effort we've put in so far, coupled with several cups of warm tea, provide just enough

someone has left behind fixed ropes, we reach a little plateau and take a rest. Concerned about getting frost-bite I whip off the boots and begin massaging my toes. The sherpas join in and in no time they're pink and happy again (the toes, that is).

We traverse around into the sunshine and follow an elegant ridge line that swings around onto the horizon. The crest is narrow and fragile, so we follow some tracks a little below passing sparkling ice caves and snow formations straight out of a seismology textbook. Presently, the summit ridge looms into sight, a handsome broken snowline stretching away ahead. After negotiating a few steep sections the top is suddenly in reach. All fatigue drops away to be replaced by a silly and intoxicating sense of euphoria. We've done it! 6225m high in the middle of the most beautiful mountains in the world. The weather's perfect (as Pasang's Lama predicted), the air is ludicrously clear and the sky's so big it's black around the edges. I throw my arms around Tom, who has just arrived, and nearly break his nose with my helmet.

From our eyrie we can see a hundred miles each way and have a clear view of Mount Everest, Makalu (the fish-tail mountain), Amadablam and many more. In fact, our incredible panorama includes eight of the earth's fourteen 8000m peaks.

From Small Steps...

The climb starts by heading back to the pass we crossed the day before, which at 5700m is one of the highest regularly used in Nepal, and affords superlative views of both the Khumbu (Everest) valley ahead of us and the Rolwaling valley from where we came.

We rope together into two parties of four and our expedition leader, Alan, leads up the gentle snow slopes at a good steady pace. The lack of oxygen at this height makes everything feel twice as steep as it really is, and it's important not to fatigue yourself early on.

The sun has not yet reached us and it is deathly cold, especially on the feet. I'm climbing in leather boots rather than the warmer plastic ones and my toes are soon numb. Mercifully, after a steeper climb on which

it all started more than a year ago, when after a good day's climbing in Wales Alan turned to me and unceremoniously said "let's go on an expedition". At the time I wasn't keen, feeling the same way about mountaineering as drunk driving - great fun but unacceptably dangerous.

By last Christmas though the plans were starting to condense and we had five people interested, all of us IC students. We bought a map of Nepal, fashioned the 'trekking peaks' from blu-tac and stuck them on the map. (Trekking peaks are a set of apparently randomly selected medium size mountains with affordable peak fees). One area stood out - the Rolwaling valley - which includes three trekking peaks, gave sensible acclimatisation and a good varied trek.

The prospect of travelling half way across the globe to climb in the world's highest mountains still seemed more of a fan-



Twenty thousand feet up on top of Parchamo

tasy than an intention, that is until we wrote a detailed prospectus and applied to the IC Exploration Board for funding. They approved the plan and gave us £3000. We found a sixth climber, contacted an agency in Kathmandu and there was no going back.

Trekking in the Valley

We departed at the end of September, in order to trek in the dry post-monsoon season. A long and complicated journey took us to Nepal's capital Kathmandu, where there was so much to buy and organise that we forgot to suffer from culture shock, and even diarrhoea.

We bought enough food and equipment for an entire regiment of the Gurkha army, hired two sherpas, two cooks, eight porters and a bus and headed towards Tibet. At a little town called Barabise



Head sherpa Pasang checking the weight of one of the porter's baskets

we tipped everything out onto the road and watched helplessly as chaos ensued. Out of the maelstrom emerged thirteen porters with fully loaded carrying baskets attached by a rope around their foreheads, and we were off. The busy trail headed steeply upwards through green paddy fields and past little houses and villages. Already we had encountered three unexpected problems - intense heat, inaccurate maps and very irritating little children.

The next few weeks were spent gradually climbing through lush green valleys to reach the Rolwaling proper. The trail crossed dramatic suspension bridges, passed gigantic waterfalls and plunged up and down

slippery rock faces. The giant rolling hills were covered everywhere with little terraced fields and the tiny houses of the farmers. The locals were curious, but friendly and very helpful and our sherpas treated us like roy-



Kwangde seen from the Everest valley

alty until it became embarrassing.

As we ascended the steep-sided Rolwaling valley with its powerful river, the scenery began to change. We soon left the steamy sub-tropical jungles behind and progressed through deciduous woodland to scrubby rhododendrons and juniper. Few tourists visit here, and it is as authentic a sherpa settlement as you will find. The houses are small and simple and the locals cultivate potatoes and raise yaks. When we reach the highest village, Na, we are well above the tree line and the residents have deserted for the winter.

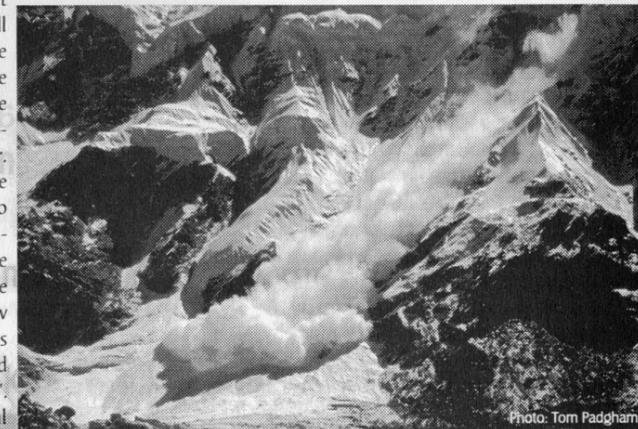
From this airy spot, we launched an excursion to climb two peaks - Yalung Ri and the unfortunately named Ramdung. While the first went well, our progress on the second was hampered by deep snow and misleading maps, and it was submitted only on the second attempt by the expedition 'B-team'.

Buoyed up by our successful attempts on our first real Himalayas, we started the gruelling trek to the top of the valley across broken and stony glaciers. Camping in precarious spots, we had to be wary of stone fall and were lucky enough to witness a dramatic avalanche just far enough away not to pose any danger. By the time we reached the high Tesi Labsta pass we were exhausted and confused from the altitude and sunlight, but had made it over the notorious crossing without incident.

After the Parchamo climb, we quickly dropped down into the Khumbu (Everest) valley which in contrast is teeming with mostly American trekkers armed with flailing ski poles. The Khumbu has done well from mountaineering (Everest attempts pass through here) and the houses are large and strong. Tea houses, shops, schools and even surgeries are plentiful on the well built trail and it was with a slight sense of disappointment that we re-entered civilisation with its cafes, electric lights and real toilets.

We still had one more peak to try, which lies high up on the west of the trail in a little-visited valley called Lumding Karka. An infuriating few days spent getting lost and hacking through rhododendron forest finally took us to our destination, towering above which was the triple mountain Kwangde. By now, winter was setting in and the nights were getting cold and the days shorter. After some debate, only two members wanted to attempt the climb which was the most difficult so far. They found the geography massively changed since the map was written, with a new lake blocking the way to two of the three peaks. Turning their attention to the third, Kwangde Nup, Alan and Tom set up an even-yet-still-higher camp and went for it.

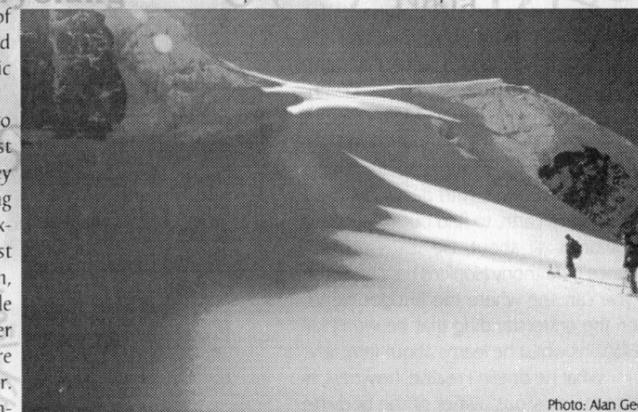
On the day of the climb, Alan was ill leaving just Tom and sherpa Pasang. They made a bold attempt, but found the glacier badly crevassed. After having negotiated several very steep ice steps, they were finally thwarted by a huge crevasse just a hundred vertical meters from the summit.



Avalanche on Bigphera Go Shar

Reflections

Flying back to Kathmandu from a minute airstrip in an aging Twin-Otter left us some spare time to reflect on the trip. It's difficult to imagine a country less similar to England than Nepal, socially, culturally and geographically. While climbing in the Himalayas was a wonderful experience, it's the friendly, uncomplicated attitude and infectious cheerfulness of the Nepalese that I'll remember. The respect and tolerance generated by Hindu and Buddhist worship, the happy attitude of locals who were poor but not worried about it and the truly different art and culture of Nepal - these are what set the experience apart. Will I return to Nepal? You can be sure of it!



Approaching the col near Ramdung

Find out more on our website: www.geocities.com/colosseum/park/7885
Thanks to the Imperial College Exploration Board for their generous support.



Reviews

The Siege ★★☆☆

Starring : Denzel Washington, Annette Bening, Bruce Willis, Tony Shalhoub
 Director : Edward Zwick

As far as Hollywood is concerned, action-thriller is undoubtedly the genre to be in right now. Look at the likes of *Enemy of the State* - king of the high octane action movie Jerry Bruckheimer produces a film with plot and substance. It's even got good acting. Similarly, *Ronin* and even *Star Trek: Insurrection* eschewed explosions and bodycount in favour of tension, believability and plot. Sure, their were some (excellent) set pieces, but these are driven more by the needs of the high-tech, high-danger storyline than the producer's demand that you blow something up every three minutes.

So it is with *The Siege*. It's got Bruce Willis in it. It's got a hell of a lot of terrorists in it. It's even got the US Army patrolling the streets of Brooklyn. Yet what initially sounds like a blood coated no-brainer quickly shows itself to be far more politically aware, far more tense and far more surprising than you might at first imagine.

Washington is an FBI agent who, by tracking down one set of arab terrorists uncovers a massive web of Islamic extremists prepared to destroy New York.



That's two deep-pan pererroni and mushroom. To go.

He takes assistance from a CIA spook (Bening) who happens to cross his path, but to no avail, and soon the army is called in to defend the city - under the leadership of Willis. Suddenly the movie shifts into gear, as the systematic backstabbing (which the movies would have

us believe is endemic in the US undercover security system) sets in. Willis clearly doesn't trust Bening, thanks to her dubious role in the Gulf War. Washington doesn't trust Willis, believing that bringing tanks onto the streets can only result in violence. And Washington's long-suf-

fering partner (Shalhoub) doesn't trust anyone when the army start setting up internment camps. Basically, it's paranoia city.

But if all that sounds typically Hollywood - cheering on America as it flattens the rest of the world - then think again. The senator who suggests "bombing the shit" out of Libya, Iran or Iraq in retaliation is instantly shouted down, and the final half-hour resolutely sets out to prove that terrorism is a state of mind, not a nationality. The only problem is that you know you've seen each scene done better somewhere else. The surveillance in *Enemy of the State* was light years ahead, the negotiation hung on a sharper knife-edge in *The Negotiator*, and the cameo from Bill Clinton was far more entertaining in *Contact*

The real problem with *The Siege*, however, is that it's deeply seated in the American psyche. In Europe, where we're far more used to terrorist atrocities, and didn't demand that the troops marched into London when the Canary Wharf bomb exploded, it just seems like overkill. **F**

Dave

Meet Joe Black ★★☆☆

Starring : Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins, Claire Forlani
 Director : Martin Brest

An early candidate for most bizarre plot concept of 1999, *Meet Joe Black* is nothing if not original. For starters, at \$100 million its far and away the most expensive romance ever filmed - with not an effect in sight. Secondly, it stars Brad Pitt as Death. One of the world's most idolised men, playing the grim reaper. Interesting.

As ideas for a romance go, this is pretty off the wall, with death deciding to come to Earth, to find out what being human is all about. He takes up residence in Anthony Hopkins palatial home (you can see where the budget went), on the understanding that he won't kill Hopkins whilst he learns about mortality.

What he doesn't realise, however, is that the previous owner of the body he has taken has met Hopkins' daughter, Forlani. That very morning, they met in a diner, and Forlani began to fall in love with the *real* Pitt. (Watch out for what happens in the final seconds of the scene, as its worth the price of admission alone.) Suffice to say, she is very con-



Death clearly knows all the best holidayspots.

fused when Pitt turns up at her father's house that evening...

Admittedly, on paper this probably sounds like pretty cheesy, entirely predictable stuff. However, thanks to brilliant performances from all three leads, what

results is unashamedly romantic. Add to that the fact that the ending is far from predictable, and the whole thing looks absolutely gorgeous, and you've got a top film. Chick flick? Yeah - so what? **F**

Dave

Film Competition

Last week's film competition proved far harder than I had first imagined, with only a handful of entrants correctly identifying the *four* actors who have so far played Annakin Skywalker in the *Star Wars* movies. The correct answer was, of course:

David Prowse (*Body of Darth Vader*)
 James Earl Jones (*Voice of darth Vader*)
 Sebastian Shaw (*Return of the Jedi*)
 Jake Lloyd (*The Phantom Menace*)

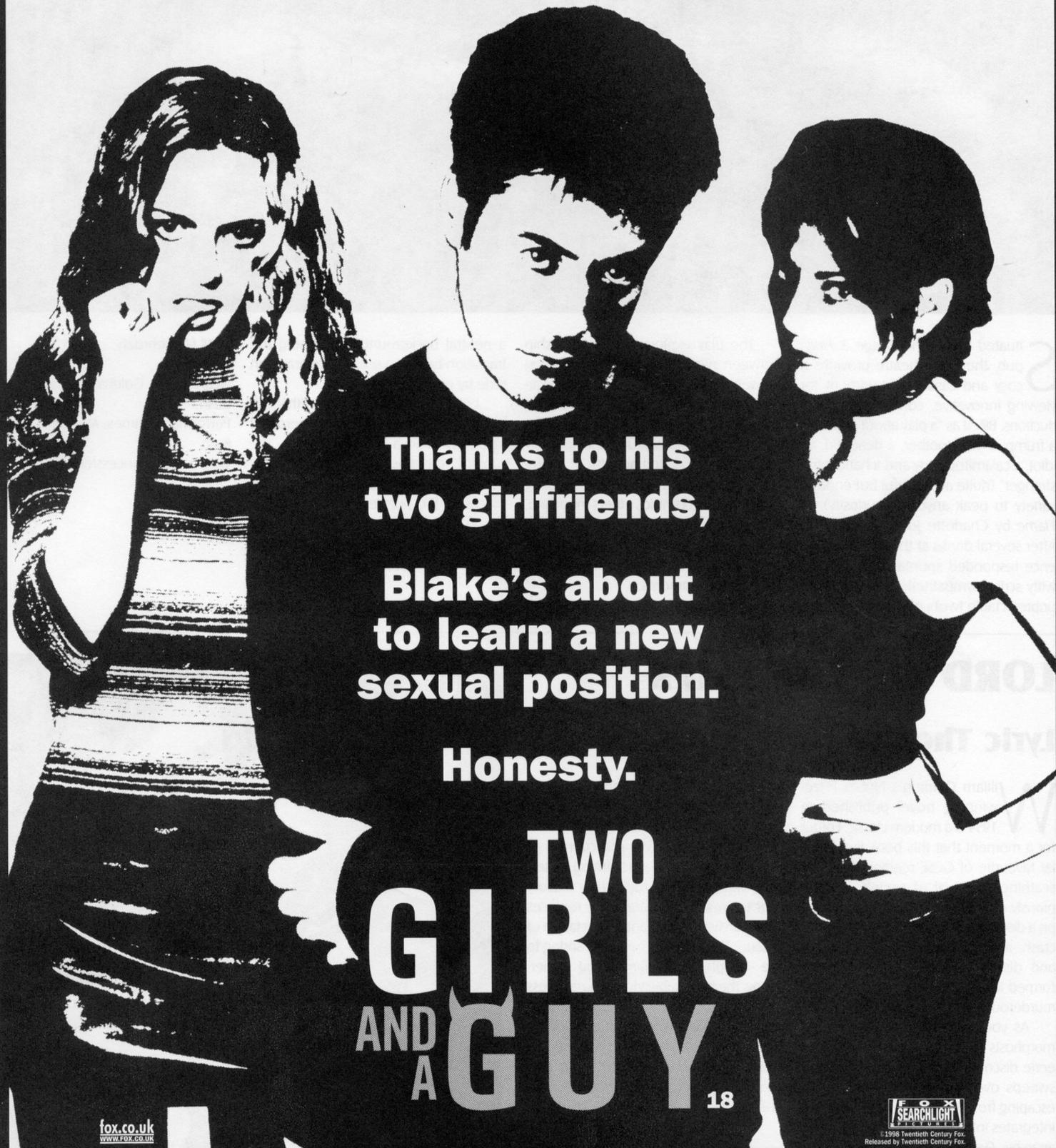
The first five correct entries out of the hat this week were from:

Vicky Hudson
 Steve Roberts
 Anne Lyndon
 Jamie Clydesdale
 Adam Scoot

Could all prizewinners please drop into the *Felix* office (in the south-east corner of Beit Quad) sometime this week to collect their prizes. Thanks.

**"...consistently intelligent,
illuminating and engrossing."**

geoff andrew - time out



**Thanks to his
two girlfriends,**

**Blake's about
to learn a new
sexual position.**

Honesty.

**TWO
GIRLS
AND
A
GUY**

18

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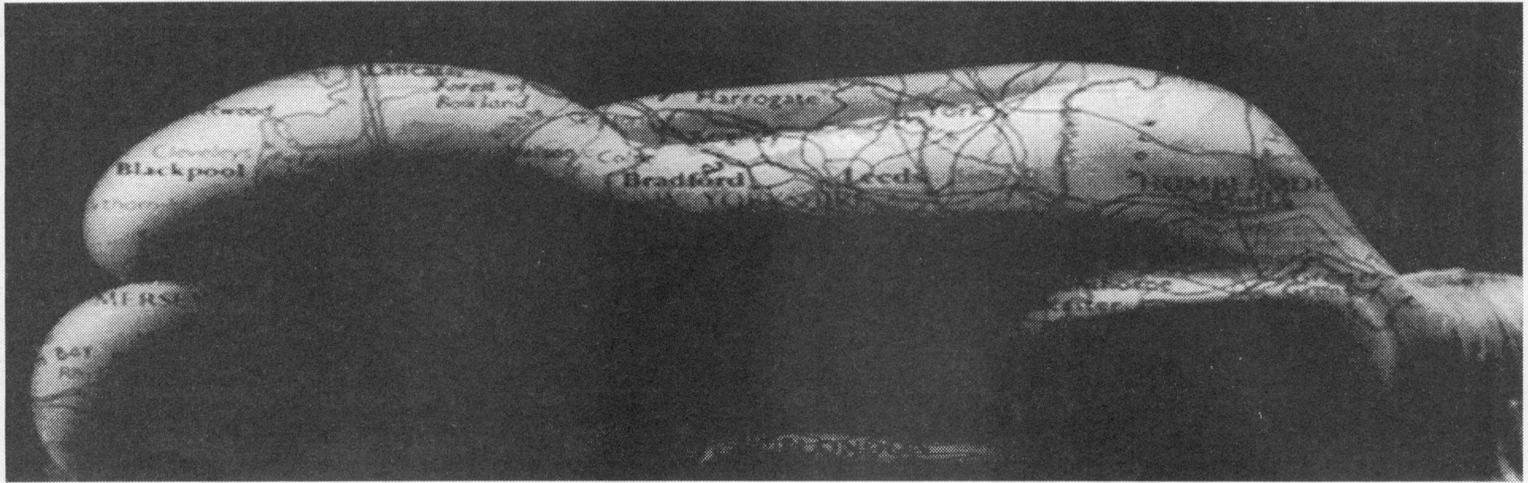
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AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS



IN FLAME

Bush Theatre



Situated above the *Fringe & Firkin* pub, the Bush theatre provides a cosy and casual environment for viewing innovative, contemporary productions. Billed as "a play about a beauty, a frump, a mad mother, a dead girl, an idiot, a calamitous boy and a handsome stranger" (quite a mouthful but enough variety to peak anyone's curiosity), *In Flame* by Charlotte Jones is fantastic. After several drinks at the bar, the audience responded spontaneously to the witty script, sympathetic characters and unpredictable twists of the plot.

The play explores the relationship between past and present, alternating between modern day London and Edwardian Yorkshire. The parallel story lines linked by family ties, often involving the same actors, are skilfully and logically intertwined, avoiding any risk of confusion. As the play unfolds, the contrasting parts - some eccentric, others mundane, but all recognisably human - interact. The result is an enchanting concoction of convincing drama, interspersed with genuine comic moments.

The simplistic, abstract set serves as

a neutral background, smoothing the transition between scenes, separated in time by ninety years.

Public sympathy wavers with each thrilling revelation, bringing personal involvement to a new dimension. The captivating denouement induced gasps of surprise from the audience, as the final pieces of the puzzle fell into place. *In Flame* is elegantly crafted and flows at a natural pace, maintaining your interest until the very last breath.

Helena

Until 6th February

Nearest tube: Goldhawk Road/Shepherds Bush

Performance times: Monday - Saturday, 8pm

Tickets: £10, concessions £7

LORD OF THE FLIES

Lyric Theatre Hammersmith

William Golding's Nobel Prize-winning novel published in 1954 is a modern classic. Forget for a moment that this book is a familiar favourite of GCSE reading lists. This scathing portrayal of society is ingeniously disguised as a fable. Marooned on a deserted, exotic island after a plane crash, a group of seemingly innocent and disciplined schoolboys is transformed into a tribe of bloodthirsty and murderous savages.

As you witness the horrific metamorphosis of human nature, a feeling of eerie discomfort and profound disgust sweeps over you. The excitement of escaping from the grasp of authority disintegrates into bloodcurdling terror and anarchy. Even during the interval, the audience is haunted by the shrill buzzing of insects resounding from a loudspeaker (enough to put anyone off their ice-cream).

A handful of scantily clad adult actors prancing around the stage playing snotty children might seem ridiculous, yet the performance is thoroughly convincing,

largely due to the cast's often exaggerated interpretation of boyish mannerisms, facial expressions and postures.

The concept of masculinity is degraded by the overwhelming obsession with hunting, fuelled by illusory nightmares, which gradually replaces their survival instinct and expectation of rescue. The leading characters spring to life - Ralph, the well-meaning leader, Piggy, the vulnerable victim of merciless teasing and Merridew, the threatening tormentor. The brutal destruction of the metaphoric microcosm is shocking and thought-provoking. The energetic production is extremely powerful, basically spelling doom and gloom for mankind.

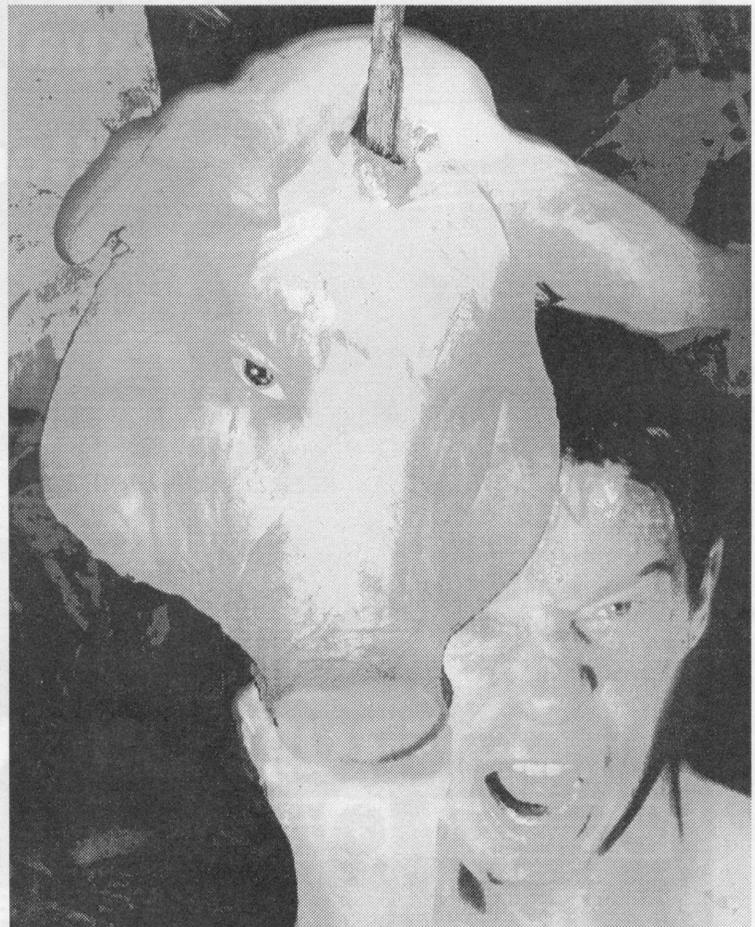
Helena

Until 6th February

Nearest tube: Hammersmith

Performance times: daily (except Sunday) 7.30pm

Tickets: £5 - £16 (Mondays all seats £5)



VASSA

Albery Theatre



The Almeida Theatre Company continues its exciting season with this staging of *Vassa* by Maxim Gorky, a piece rarely seen in Britain. The play is set in a provincial Russian town house, owned by a typical family belonging to the new commercial class, where the "houses are made of stone - and the people of iron". The central character of the story is Vassa, the mother of the family. She is the head of the household, since her husband is bed-ridden, and runs their 30-year-old business. She orders everyone around like a tyrant: her two sons are both afflicted by handicaps. Pavel, the youngest is a cripple that everyone, including his beautiful wife Lyudmilla, mocks. Semyon, the eldest can't express himself properly because he is so scared of his mother. His wife, Natalya, is a brilliant creation - a woman who believes in her values so blindly that it is funny. A few other characters live in the house too - Vassa's brother-in-law Prokhor, Lyudmilla's father and a few servants who spend all their time eavesdropping.

The story begins to unfold completely when Vassa's daughter Anna appears. She had been thrown out of the house about 10 years before and, on her arrival, receives a very warm welcome. Everyone starts dancing around the house. Anna and Vassa decide to become allies and discover all the family's deepest secrets and plans. We find out that Prokhor wants to withdraw his investment in the business and leave. Every single person in the family is unhappy and Anna's presence serves as

a catalyst to the whole situation. They all feel encouraged to leave Vassa. The father finally dies and the household breaks down when they realise that Vassa inherits all the business. Her sons' dreams of going to Moscow with their own money collapse.

The story is a fascinating attack on materialistic values and their influence on families. Gorky takes pleasure in showing the worst in human beings. Vassa has absolutely no sympathy for her children. She is an extremely strong woman, helped by her daughter. Vassa's tragedy is that she is fighting for her family, but at the same time against them. Whatever she does, she comes across as a heartless matriarch who is obsessed only with personal interests.

The play is very well staged with only one décor throughout the three acts. The actors are perfect. Sheila Hancock makes an intense Vassa, David Tennant's Pavel is profoundly determined and the others artists play their parts splendidly. Vassa and Anna create a wonderful duo, carrying most of the performance on their shoulders. Howard Davies does a great job of directing the energy of these two women. This is theatre at its most entertaining.

D.

Until 27th March

Nearest tube: Leicester Square
 Tickets: Standby for concessions £10
 Performance times: Monday - Saturday, 7.30pm

LOVE'S LABOURS LOST

Etcetera Theatre

Love's Labours Lost is by no means the greatest of Shakespeare's plays. Some of the characters are almost dress rehearsals for future couples in his later works. The acting is certainly good. This is rather fortunate, as there is very little else for the performance to rely on. The set consists of a few strategically placed pieces of green-painted cardboard, and the costumes and lighting are definitely minimalist. The cast is rather small, and there are more characters than actors; if you can get over the fact that some of the actors appear to be schizophrenic (because they occasionally come on in different costumes with different accents), you should be just fine.

The action takes place in 1920s Bloomsbury society (a modernisation that works moderately well), with misguided noblemen dedicated to intellectual pursuits abstaining from womankind only to have their plans thwarted by resourceful females.

There are the usual benefits of fringe theatre productions situated above a pub in that you can take your drinks into the auditorium; only the very cramped seating conditions mean that you will probably end up sitting on top of your neighbour and spilling your glass (to some of you, this may sound like an ideal night out!). Most comic moments lie with the obscure Spaniard who wanders on and off stage, and can do amazing things with his left eyebrow. This spirited comedy is worth a visit, but this isn't going to change your life.

Anna

Until 31st January

Nearest tube: Camden Town
 Tickets: £7, concessions £5
 Performance times: Tuesday - Saturday 7pm, Sunday 6pm





Thief - The Dark Project (PC)

Eidos

★★★★★

Like a thief in the night, you stole my heart. Well, if it wasn't bolted down and housed in a lead-lined box outside Euston station this game would do just that. But enough of my personal life; Thief: The Dark Project (to give it its rather long and not all that helpful subtitle) is a complete steal of a game. Keep your mass murdering Quake series, forget the subtle interaction of Half-life characters just remember above all to keep to the shadows and above all keep stealthy in this original first-person action-adventure.

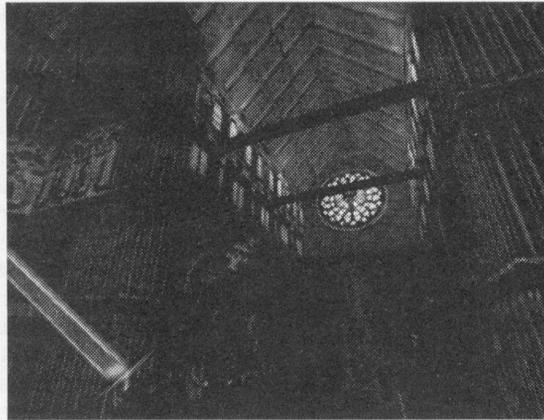
So how original is original? The main character Garrett was once a petty cut-purse, who after doing a bit of training with the local hooded mystics who call themselves the watchers (or something equally mystic), has become a master of evasion, weapons and has the unnerving ability to nick anything not nailed down. Apart from the kleptomaniac element it

smells awfully like a certain Ninja game called Tenchu on the Playstation. Smell, yes; taste, no. Perhaps

there is a certain need to use stealth and intelligence. A game where running in with a pair of size eleven pixie boots gives the wrong impression but sneaking up from the shadows and smacking them over the head with a bit of lead in a leather bag cuts out the need for all those nasty embarrassing first night

conversations. But why should intelligent game play be limited to any one game? Anyway, killing people in this game is generally frowned upon (though take heed of the generally bit).

Set in one of those thousands of alternate worlds where swords and magic exist, though never in a state of



perfect harmony, Garrett has been employed to do a few jobs for a mysterious character called Constantine. These jobs involve getting in

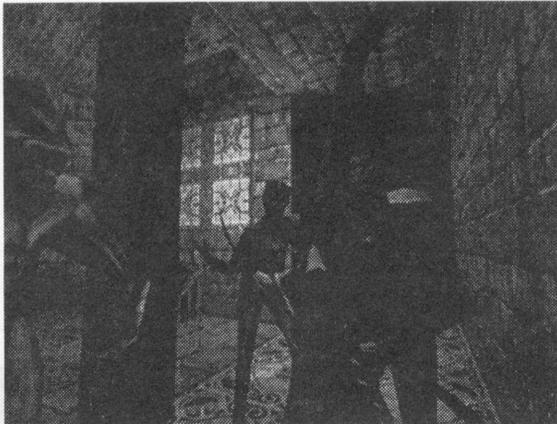
and out of buildings without attracting too much attention from the guards either plodding the beat round town or actually guarding the house. The best way to do this is to hide from them. Extinguishing candles and lamps with your water arrows and you create your own shadows to skulk in. Place moss on

the floor to deaden your footsteps. If you really have to take them out it is possible and a good deal safer to do it at range. The bow becomes the sniper weapon of choice and a nice clean arrow in the neck will silence the most annoying of guards (if you miss, the guard is

a bit miffed and attempts to show you the colour of your stomach lining).

The levels are very large, and with the dynamic lighting effects and polygons making up the surroundings they are graphically impressive. Good as the graphics are, it is the use of sound that is really original. Throw a bottle onto the floor and if the guard hears it, they will investigate the bangs and clatters (an ideal opportunity to send a guard the wrong way for a few minutes). Voices grow louder as they approach, and can be used to time your attacks. For the first time, it makes more sense to listen for enemies rather than pop round corners to look for them. Thief has managed to steal the title of intelligent action adventurer from both the busomed Lara and the fully kitted Ninja. Whether Metal Gear Solid will just leapfrog them all will be a competition worth watching.

Gary S.

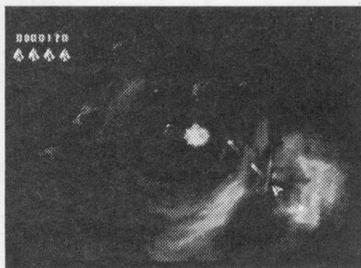


Competition News

Activision Christmas Combos

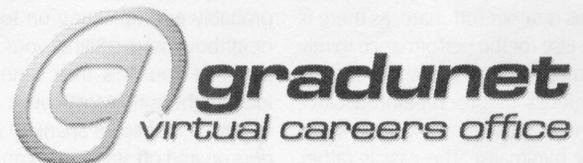
Thanks to Beatwax

For those lucky, lucky folks that decided to risk all by coming into the Felix office and telling all about their Xmas logs your prizes are finally here. You know who you all are - well hopefully you remember the brown paper list. Just come to the office and show me your student card and those little packages of delight will be yours. And finally but not definitely not least, thanks to Guy at Beatwax for sorting us out with the prizes, and Anna for the Heretic2 event at the Shoot 'n' Surf just off Oxford St. So for all those who didn't win, here's what you could have won if you had only bothered to come into the office..heh heh.



Gradunet Competition

(Not quite dead)



Those guys from Gradunet haven't closed the competition for those 5 playstations. So entering it might well be a chance to win a late Christmas present.

Entry details:

To enter the competition, join free on the FriendFactory website (www.friendfactory.co.uk) then fill in the competition entry card on Gradunet (www.gradunet.co.uk).

Once registered on FriendFactory you will have a new FriendFactory email address. Simply enter this address into the competition card on Gradunet and name three game titles for the playstation. Competition closes in Early Feb 1999

Only one entry per person. Terms and conditions apply.

Gadget Watch - Gameboy Color (Nintendo)

The Gameboy has been about forever-or so it seems. First there was the brick shaped, battery hungry, fuzzy screened Gameboy. The bane of family get togethers everywhere, where little ten year olds would bleep and beep their way to an early bedtime. Then there was the pocket gameboy. The new sleek, clear screened toy for all those who had grown up with the bricks, but had now all realised that form was above function. These little pieces became the professional nerd's favourite travel companion. Then came the multicoloured pocket versions, where silver cases were replaced with colours of the rainbow as well as the odd transparent version.

But for all these improvements - weight, battery life, clearer screens - the games themselves were black and white - surely not a worthy product to sell in the next millennium. Nintendo though had a problem. The problem was in many ways a problem of its own success. So many games (over 1000) had been brought out for the black and white sys-

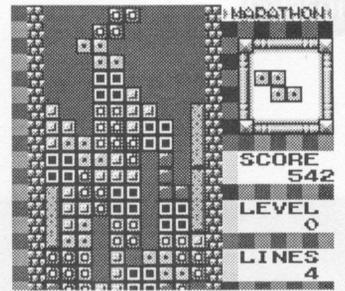
tem that if they designed a completely new system they would have to develop a whole new software library. So Nintendo instead have released the Gameboy Color. Essentially it looks and performs like a gameboy pocket after a large dose of steroids (check that battery bulge at the back and disagree). It plays most of the old roms as well as doing a good colour job.

One of the obvious improvements is the new screen, made by Sharp. Gone are those annoying contrast controls that meant that tilting the screen changed it from nuclear blast bright to nuclear winter black. The screen also displays the colours perfectly sharply and believe it or not the colours do make a difference.



The sound doesn't seem to have been messed about with - though my version seemed to be set at a much more civilized quiet volume when compared to the old gameboy pocket. The data link

has been speeded up and they have added an infra-red data control port so that you can play linked games without looking like a character from a techno-bondage party. (but expect the universal remote control cartridge and car alarm decoder stories to appear in the technophobic parts of the press). Finally there is a more powerful processor (so all of the steroids haven't gone straight to the screen or to its rear), though it is able to use a slow mode to prevent the older games being too fast.



No honest - it looks good in colour

So worth buying? For the gameboy freaks and cultists a definite yes - though some of these guys probably own a Gameboy light (even smaller than the pocket). For those who get bored on the long journeys, another yes (you might even get to wind up the annoying mobile users). For everyone else? Well as gadgets go it is neat, below seventy pounds and will keep you occupied through the long dark hours. Its great for insomniacs as well as kids. (though the insomniacs will need a torch - the screen isn't backlit) Gary S.

Preview Ville 2

Bullfrog and Codemasters attempt to float our boats

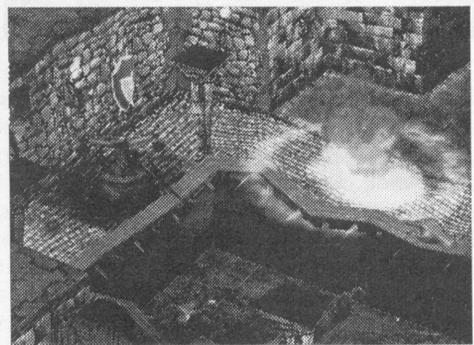
Bullfrog - Dungeon Keeper 2

In the old days, before the days of 3D video cards, games had to be good using things called sprites. A game without a sense of humour was a game to be played late in the evening, usually by yourself. Fortunately games with a sense of humour were about in number and groups could be seen gathered round games like Sam



and Max, and Dungeon Keeper. Dungeon keeper appealed to the same amateur sadists that would tear wings from flies and attempt to fry ants with magnifying glasses. In Dungeon Keeper you created your own dungeon, filled it with evil abominations and dark mistresses in black leather, and then let them do rather nasty and evil things to heroes and adventurers that wandered in. Rumours

abounded that there were versions deep at bullfrog towers filled with true polygon creatures rather than the disappointing blocky sprites that possessed our PC's. Well Bullfrog have decided to recreate that rumour, and the beautiful polygons are everywhere. Now you can also take control of your characters and stuff the dwarf by your own bile demon's foul

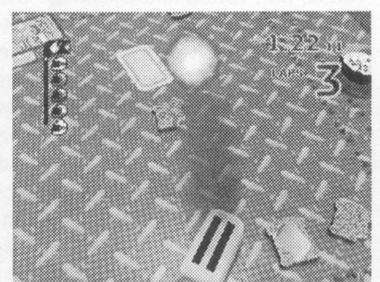
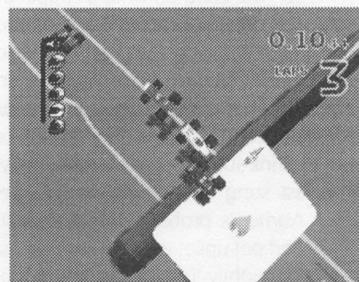


claw. The magic element has also been improved with new spells and better effects. Bullfrog has also announced the launch of a Dungeon Keeper 2 battle server, just so you and twelve friends can chase each other around a virtual dark place with horned devils and bondage girls. Nice eh Jeff?

Codemasters - Micromachines 64 Turbo

The Nintendo 64 is unfortunately dead in the water. In the classic case of too little quality, and too late, Codemasters have announced that Micromachines 64 Turbo will finally make it out in time for the Easter holidays. Micromachines, that rather classic 2D game on the old Megadrive, managed to spawn an incredibly playable

and enjoyable Playstation 3-D version last year. The N64's 3D capabilities will not have been particularly stretched but with up to 8 people able to play expect it to be another of those Goldeneye style, gather round the TV, everyone having fun games (just prevent those bad loser Capricorns from taking it too seriously).

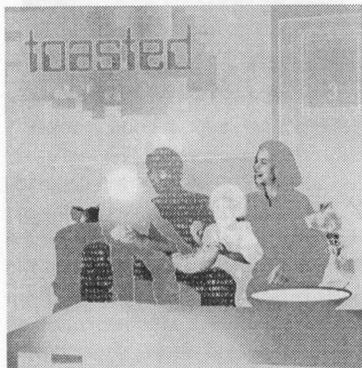




Albums

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Toasted



Toasted.
Excellent.
Full stop.

It's a hard life being a fan of guitar music nowadays. When you meet people and the talk turns to music, you realise that when you say you like to listen to music that rocks with attitude and guitars that resonate with exhilaration, people just think, 'Oh right, you mean, boring indie shite.' On dark and lonely nights in Linstead, I've lain awake and contemplated a change in my music lifestyle - I could listen to dance music instead. It's fresh. It's innovative. It (sometimes) isn't repetitively boring and uninspiring and if I listened to it long enough I might even find myself actually dancing in the Union next to the lovely women of Imperial instead of wandering round and occasionally spilling my drink. Dance music. It's the way forward. I'm gonna go for it!

Yeah, right. And I guess the Pope smokes dope at Lent! *Toasted* is a collection of unknown artists from Beatwax telling the public that the guitar scene can be inspiring and uplifting. It's thirteen tracks of which ten or eleven are really quite perfect pop songs - songs about love, cigarettes, break-ups and fuck-ups. Self-pity hasn't felt this good in ages. My faith has been restored.

It's an absolute tragedy that I can't mention every single band on this compilation. Multiscreen's *Big City Loser* continually threatens to burst into a great big

orgy of distortion but pulls away from the brink every time, resisting the urge and heightening the tension - brilliant. Sketty's *Call Me In* short circuits and breaks into an utterly unforgettable chorus - essential listening. Lance Riley's *Genevieve* bobs along with a jovial, funky, druggy Hammond riff - very cool. Veer's *Another Astronaut* melds intelligent guitar pop sensibilities with rising vocal deliveries - superb. Freeboy's *Down With You* throws us a mix of Beach Boys' harmonies and runalong rush-inducing rhythms - excellent.

So get yourself an indie pie before some fat bastard scoffs what's left. Get it while it's got attitude. Get it while it's hot. Get it while it's exciting. Get it before you get fed up. Get it while you can. Come on kids, treat yourselves. Get *Toasted!* **M**

Dennis.

GOOBER PATROL

The Unbearable Lightness Of Being Drunk ★★★

These guys are signed to the Fat Wreck label which means that those who actually care about west coast punk will already have an idea of what this will be like. Everyone else probably won't have a clue and probably won't be that interested either. As is usual for virtually every band on Fat Wreck, Goober Patrol have taken more than a slight influence from NOFX - which isn't that surprising considering that Fat Mike both runs the label and plays in NOFX. He even manages to turn up in the liner notes.

Anyway, on to the album itself. As I said, this is west coast punk. Forget about Green Day, Rancid and Offspring - this isn't one of your over poppy attempts. This is punk the way it's meant to be played, kind of. You see the album starts off less than stupendously. The songs themselves are good. However, the speed of the music at first is a tad annoying - the rhythm isn't right for dancing nor is it fast enough for moshing. It manages to fall between the two with a disturbing tendency for the first

half of the album. The main cause of this is bad production. Punk is meant to be sloppily produced but when the album reaches the song *High Times*, the bass winds up in the right place in the mix and you realise that this is what was wrong. For the rest of the album all is well - the band manage to alternate well between fast and slower sections. However, the first half of this album appears worse in this light, although this may well be solved in a live situation which is always the best place to experience this style of music.

The songs themselves tend to have a political slant most of the time. Although the band do write a couple of songs on drinking: *1000th Beer* and the title track. The odd thing about these songs is that for once a band has written about alcohol and managed to appear without strong views on the to drink or not to drink subject - quite a rarity really. The last song on the album, *I Forget Your Name*, is probably the strongest. The band get upset with 'trendy' bands, which is slightly ironic considering that

they are a generic band on a label that caters for almost exclusively one sound.

All in all this would be a good album if it wasn't for a dodgy production job. The band do deserve congratulations on a good title though. **M**

Jamie

Singles

Muse - *Muscle Museum EP*

After a great introduction of classical guitars playing Godfather music, the distortion kicks in and a protégé of Thom Yorke enters creating the sound of Radiohead 5 years ago. Still good, though.

Desert Eagle Discs - *The Lovers*

This is a hip-hop song full of the exciting new sounds coming from this side of the Atlantic. The relaxed Bristolian



beats mix effortlessly with the yearning plea of 'Why can't we be lovers?' but the inevitable rap finds its way in, between the choruses.

Serum - *Know How*

This band is basically a load of annoying American college kids doing their best to rip-off Green Day. You're left with the feeling that this is what Hanson will sound like when that little drummer's plums drop.

FatBoy Slim - *Praise You*

Well, you probably know this song, given that it's been at number 1 recently. 'Broken record' is not a term that you'd want applied to your song, but *Praise You* with its repetitive sampling of the



end of the word 'should', sounds just like one. Of course, those of you who have been raving about FatBoy Slim this past year will think it's a piece of inspired genius.

Little Mothers - *Your Twisted Sister*

Fusing the stoned trip-hop of Massive Attack, the psychedelic drippy beats of Primal Scream and some down-to-earth vocals from the Jeff Buckley school of singing, Little Mothers have both the talent and bandname to take them to great things in 1999. **M**

Ed J

British R&B Rules OK!

What's Up People! Another year has rolled on by and we're all left wondering where the hell it went, in fact I'm still trying to figure out where the nineties went. Everything is happening so fast, I'm stood still while the world whizzes by all around me, or at least that's the way it seems. Record companies just add to my confusion with the number of records that are appearing, every week there are more releases. Now don't get me wrong I love to see more tunes but the problem is they're not all tunes, about a quarter are a waste of vinyl. The problem seems to stem from the massive output coming out of the States, not only is the R&B market flooded with records but the quality just isn't there. To me more important than just the sheer number of releases is the fact that these releases are holding back British artists and good quality tunes. My case in point is Another Level, a fantastic group that just couldn't get a record deal over here, they were passed over again and again, they eventually got their deal from the States. Surely though someone on this side should have picked them up, but no! British R&B has not been getting nearly enough props and we gotta correct that, British R&B and hip-hop is on a high and we've got to keep it there. There is more than enough talent out there and it amazes me how people refuse to acknowledge it. Groups like Another Level, Damage, Nine Yards, Kle'shay and solo artists like Shola Ama, Kele Le Roc and Lyden David Hall are representing British style and we gotta represent for them and all the others trying to make it.

Quick piece of news coming out of the States, the Grammy nominations were announced and Lauryn Hill picked up a record ten nominations for her solo album *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*. The album was hailed as one of the best hip-hop albums of the year, if not

in the history of hip hop and now the establishment have acknowledged Ms Hill.

Kle'shay are the latest all girl group to hit the streets. I know what you're thinking, there are already way too many all girl groups out there, most of them are shit, so why do we need another one? Well we don't need no more, at least no more Spice Girls or Bewitched types whose sheer existence I struggle to justify, all I think is that there are far too many stupid little shits with money out there buying that crap. Kleshay are different - they make quality music. As I tried to point out earlier Kleshay are a British group who make tunes that are easily as good as anything coming from the States. Their first single *Reasons* dropped in the autumn; it didn't cause much excitement even though it was a solid tune showing off the vocals of the girls over a wicked back beat. Now they're back with their second single an up-tempo number called *Rush*, this is a fine tune that deserves to do well - so represent and check it out.

Timbaland is doing it! This year has started off with Timbaland bangin' out two A class tunes that quite simply do it. First up there is the Destiny's Child tune *Get On The Bus* which started to surface at the end of the year on promo copy. This is so good that with most still unable to get hold of it the *Why Do Fools Fall In Love* soundtrack has been selling like hot-cakes just so peeps can check this wicked tune. About the same time Sony released a lead up single for the second set from Ginuwine, the absolutely stomping *What's So Different*, Timbaland pulls out all the stops and goddamn if this isn't a tune that everyone needs to check and check fast cause this is so hot its burning up.

Milen

TLC are back!

A long time ago in a recording studio far far away, a group called TLC recorded their one and only hit in the UK to date, *Waterfalls*. Then they disappeared off the face of the earth!

Well now TLC are back, and have had a complete image change...gone are the attitudes and the bad girl images, and in is the new, modern image of TLC. Alright, so they've changed their image, so what? Well they've also got a new album coming out in February, and having heard the first few tracks, it is safe to say the album is fucking superb. The album is called *Fan Mail* and the spectrum of tracks is large, there are drum and bass tracks with hard hitting vocals, ballads, thumping bass lines and some superb R&B tunes. TLC have pulled out all the stops on this album, and this is reflected by the huge range of top producers working on the album, including Babyface and Jermaine Dupri to name a couple.

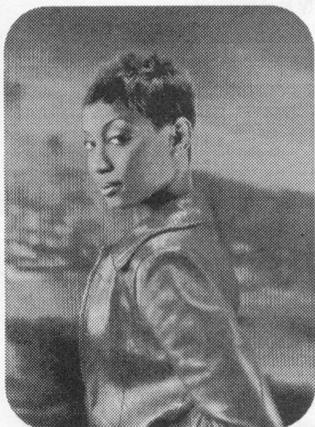
The album is out in February on the 22nd in the UK and the 23rd in the US! More news soon...

Gurm



BEVERLEY KNIGHT

'PRODIGAL SISTA'



In 1993 Wolverhampton born singer Beverley Knight had just started college and never sung outside of church, which had been a vital training ground and an influence that still remains with her now. Two years later Bev burst on to the scene at the raw age

of 21 with her debut album, *B-Funk*, containing hits such as *Flavour of the Old Skool* and *Movin on Up*. The success of *B-Funk* saw Bev receive her first award from the Black Music Awards for Britain's best Female R&B act. Instead of exploding and continuing from this success, she went underground as she tried to extricate herself from DOME, the label that launched her, for EMI records. Now, aged 24, Beverley is a little older and wiser has made it back after her recent success at the MOBO's with her brilliant sophomore *Prodigal Sista*.

On this entirely co-written album she has been reunited with producers 2B3 as well as collaborations with the leading lights of the UK R&B scene Carl Macintosh, Dodge and Don-E. The album kicks off with the classic tune *Made it Back* featuring the renowned US hip-hop artist Redman reflecting the difficulties of the past few years. The rough and smooth experiences of the past is where Beverley draws most of her lyrics. The album includes the recent summer track *Rewind*, which has the same kind of message as *Made it Back* and her recent release *Sista, Sista*. There are also some other classic tracks such as the laid back *AWOL* and the meaningful *Strong Hand*. The album finishes with a tune *The Need of You* which has a blues feel and really shows the raw talent Beverley has. You better recognise!

She has definitely lived up to her first album showing she really has got what it takes to succeed. BK is definitely the most talented female UK R&B act now and watch for her live band performances which are absolutely mind blowing. BK is currently on tour supporting Morcheeba. Forget all this US cheese music for now and recognise the raw UK talent of Beverley Knight.

★★★★

Nim

What I Been Checking

Get On The Bus by Destiny's Child
Timbaland production is on point,
the girls kick it on vocals

What's So Different by Ginuwine
Goddamn this is good
'My Love Is Your Love' by Whitney Houston -
I'm loving it

Doc's Da Name by Redman
This pisses all over RZA's & even Meth's albums,
the best Wu album yet

Rush by Kle'shay
Excellent up tempo number from
this first class British trio

Too Old For Me by Jerome
Latest tune from Bad Boy camp has little Jerome
showing of his vocal talents to the max

Gimme Me Some More by Busta Rhymes
Busta is one bad ass mutha who's
giving all you can take

Do You Feel Me by Men Of Vision
Darkchild on production and you will
feel this phat tune



CLUBSCENE

Singles

SINGLE OF THE WEEK

Lucid

'Crazy'

Following their top 7 smash "I Can't Help Myself", Lucid return with what will be one of the biggest tunes of the year. The track is called Crazy, and is currently riding high in the club charts. Released next month, Crazy is more of a mix of indie and club genres with a background beat similar to their first single, and the result is a great tune.

★★★★★

Bounty Killer

'It's a Party'

Oh dear! If you like very, very, very slow R&B, then this is a track for you. Produced by Wycliff Jean, it samples the line "Ain't nobody, loves me better...". The CD single comes with 6 remixes which all sound the same. Becoming commercial next month, it will probably be a big hit, but it's too slow by far. Released 8/2/99

Blu Peter

'Blue Air'

Deep and epic house track - a sublime mixture of techno and trance. It makes a refreshing change to the nu-energy stuff Blu Peter normally produces. This is more of a Sasha/Digweed track. It comes with a couple of mixes on the 12" which sound pretty much the same but are both good.

★★★

The Songstress

'See Line Woman'

A rather classy interpretation of Nina Simone's "See Line Woman" which comes with some superb mixes from Todd Edwards and Full Intention. It's more of a chill out track than anything, but well worth checking out, especially if you liked the original version.

★★★★

Vengaboys

'We Like to Party'

This track is not too dissimilar from "Up and Down" and will be just as big. It's a bit faster than "Up and Down" with Wigfield sounding vocals - remember "Saturday Night"? It's a fast and fun tune with the trademark fast euro house beat. Watch out for the Vengaboys in '99.

★★★★

Bizarre Inc.

'Playing with Knives'

Tall Paul does the business on this great old favourite. Full of pianos, breakdowns and "hands in the air" vocals, it's a track doing very well in the clubs at the moment. Comes with plenty of remixes, but we like the Tall Paul mix the best. House music at its best.

★★★★

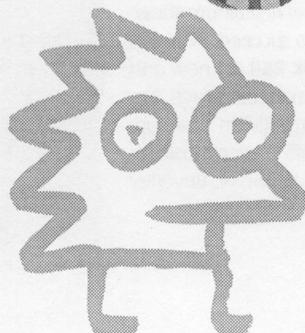
amestown feat. Jocelyn Brown

'I Believe'

Any track which has this diva on vocals is a must buy and this track is no exception. A soulful, garage tune with plenty of pianos and Brown's distinctive vocals make this a great tune. Comes with loads of remixes which give the track a more house/ speed garage sound, but the full-on club mix is the best. Excellent!

★★★★

Above reviews by **Gurm**



Specimen A@ IC

Following their success at the end of term bash last term, the Prodigy sounding Specimen A return to play at our union on the 29th of January. Their album, Pulse, will be released soon, as will the first single. Watch this space for some great CD giveaways in the next few weeks!

5 Club Compilation

CDs to win!

To celebrate the launch of the great new album Licensed to Thrill, mixed live by John '00' Fleming, Clubscene have got 5 of these mix albums to give away. The album features top artists such as Jon the Dentist and Paul van Dyk. To win a copy of this mix album compilation all you have to do is answer this question.

Where is John '00' Fleming's current London club residency?

(a) Parklife @ Cloud

(b) Wildlife @ Heaven

(c) Sexlife @ Angels

Answers on a postcard with your name,

dept, and home address (as the record company will post out the CDs direct to you!), and hand them in to Gurm at Felix - I'm there every lunchtime, and I'll need to see your swipe card. Winners will be chosen this Friday lunch time at about 1pm, so come down to see if you've won. Many thanks to Mark and Jodie at Phuture Trax for supplying the CDs.

Gurm

B.O.P. feat. The Soulistics

"After The Love Is Gone"

(Fatt Boy Records)

Fatt Boy usually come out with some underground garage classics, but this isn't one of their better efforts. It just doesn't stand out from the glut of garage tunes that exist at the moment. Come on boys you can do better than this.

★★★

Brasstooth feat. Pa-Melle

"Celebrate Life"

(Well Built)

With "Celebrate Life" we have the exact opposite. This is high quality garage - good enough to be caned at some of London's premier underground nights, such as Twice as Nice, Cookies & Cream, and Pure Silk. All the mixes are bursting with the same quality. Most funky.

★★★★

Brick Nation feat. Craig Travis

"I Like It"

(Velocity Recordings)

Average garage tune from Brick Nation gets the remix treatment for the festive season. The remixes are standard stuff and don't really elevate this tune from its non-descript beginnings. Not brilliant, but not awful either.

★★★

Marley Wills

"Rugged & Tuff"

(Mecca Recordings)

Standard garage twiddling - nice vocals but doesn't really go anywhere special. Apparently it's been a big hit with lots of underground garage DJs (so it can't be all bad), but for me it's a definite miss. In fact, the B-side, "How Long" by Samantha, shits all over the lead track.

★★★

The rest of the reviews by **Roobarb**



ENTERTAINMENT

Tues 26th

ICU presents...

BAR TRIVIA

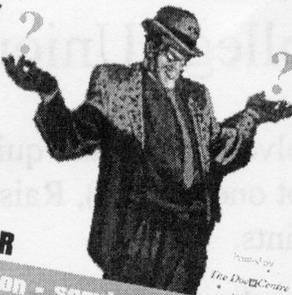
EVERY TUESDAY 8PM

Da Vinci's Café-bar

WIN £50 OR A CRATE OF LAGER

FREE TO ENTER

ICU Your union - serving your needs



Weds 27th

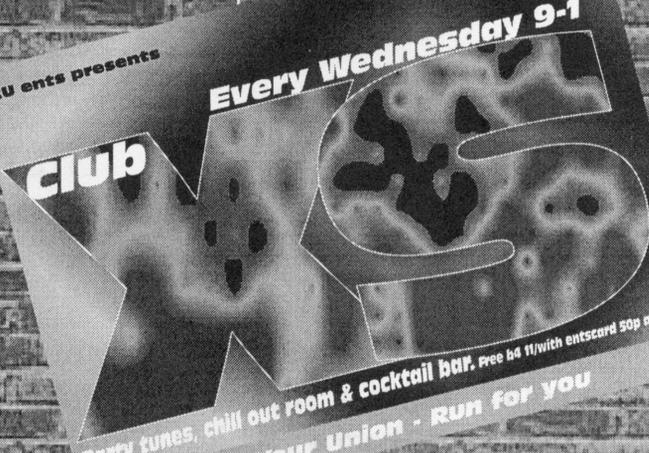
ICU ents presents

Club KISS

Every Wednesday 9-1

Party tunes, chill out room & cocktail bar. Free b4 11/with entscard 50p after

ICU Your Union - Run for you



Thurs 28th

Glamour, sophistication, Da Vinci's and Cocktails after date

Cocktail Night

Every Thursday from 5pm

In Da Vinci's Bar

Printed by The iCU Centre X49580

Another service from your Union

ICU



Fri 29th

Big & Bouncy Beats
Chill-out Room
Cocktail Bar

£1/Free b4 9 or entscard

FRI 29th 9-2

hedonizn

PLUS BANGING LIVE TUNES FROM SPECIMEN A

ICU YOUR UNION - RUN FOR YOU



Sat 30th

Lubrication

Breaks, beats and scratching

dBs. 9-12. FREE

Field Cup '99

Saturday 30th January

Start: 12:00pm

dB's, Imperial College Union

A pub crawl in the name of Charity and Fun. Solve puzzles and quizzes in each pub for points. Enter in Fancy Dress, carry a Mascot (not one of ours), Raise Money en route or give your Team a Comical Name to win more points.

Points earn prizes, awarded at the finish in iCU.

Further details and entry forms from CCU Offices or Phil Mitchell, p hm@ic.ac.uk

ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO RAG



Rag Week '99 23rd Jan - 1st Feb

City & Guilds College Union 1898 - 1998



SLAVE AUCTION

BUY A SABBATICAL!

Monday 1st February, 12:00pm

ICU Concert Hall

2nd Floor, Imperial College Union

The finest selection of slaves available to all. No room too dirty, no toilet too smelly. Bid with anything from a used Biro to the entire contents of your wallet. Turn up on the day to bid or sell.

ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO RAG

RUGBY

CCU's do battle

C & G 29 - 19 RCS

The long awaited showdown between then CCUs had been given extra meaning by the verbal activities of Dave "it's a forgone conclusion" Hogg.

Wednesday afternoon saw the assembling of a strong C&GU team teaming with talent and expertise. C&G were forced to deplete our reserves bench with the loss of C&G's Adrian "Flying hooker" Jacobs to the RCS wing. This error of judgement was paid for in the first few minutes when small patch of wind assisted RCS pressure concluded with the flying hooker crossing over the line to make it a 0-7 nightmare start.

The sturdy men at C&G responded by blasting up the pitch for Dave "Energizer bunny" Pearce to dive over. A reluctance to soil their new shirt by tackling was cruelly exploited by Andy Little who took a light jog through their defence.

Our boy Sven scored another converted try and half-time brought the wind to our backs with the score 17-7. The second half started with a mighty RCS push into our steely defence. C&G took everything and wanted more, repulsing attacks with crunching tackles from Nippy, Sven, John and everyone. Mistakes were punished, the Sublime Chicmutter ran half the length of the pitch to score shortly followed by a scything run from Sven.

RCS pulled themselves out of the mud and started to show us how it should done scoring 2 late tries giving C&G a nervous last 5 minutes. The margin between the teams was measured in brutal tackling everywhere and some hard running from Will and Sven. Another day, another ref., things could have been different, but as the sun set over Harlington it was the C&G boys signing in the circle.

Sam Hignett is a first year Materials student at Imperial. But he also spends a third of his year doing something marginally more interesting - driving racing cars. He was interviewed about his passion:

Tell us about your racing?

I reckon that all told, I will spend about 100 days in a racing car this year.

The Formula Vauxhall is your major championship this year. Tell us about it.

Well in '99 I am driving for John Vilage Automotive in the British Formula Vauxhall Championship, racing a 100cc TKM kart and doing a couple of Formula Ford races. That's all at the moment.

That's all. How much time does that take up?

It is 16 races all around the country on the TOCA package, so I am one of the support races for the British Touring Car Championship. There is full satellite and some terrestrial television coverage and plenty of press coverage, so it is a really good championship for young up and coming drivers.

And the car?

It's a single seater, so the wheels stick out like a F1 car, but it has no wings or other downforce aids. I am told that off the line, if you get it right, it will go from 0 - 100mph in under 5 seconds so it is pretty quick. All the cars are identical and so it is just up to the driver and the engineer to set the car up and make it competitive at each circuit. At somewhere short like Brands indy circuit there is less than a second between pole and 20th on the grid so it is close hard racing.

INTERVIEW

You said about your engineer - what does he do?

He looks after my car basically. He makes any adjustments that need to be made, prepares the car before I drive it and rebuilds it when I crash it. The relationship that you have with your engineer is really important and can be the difference between winning and losing. It is the same for all the guys that I work with. I have a manager, a guy who does the PR work for me, the team manager and my engineer. If you work hard for them and show enthusiasm they will work hard for you, and you will be competitive.

How does all this affect your life as a student?

Well at times I am testing twice a week and racing all weekend, that means I am doing up to 800 racing miles and 600 travelling miles a week, so it can be quite a strain. Work hard, play hard.

And what about your social life?

No, that doesn't suffer. I am really lucky in that all my friends are really supportive of what I do and so help me out a lot. I don't really drink, that's a fitness thing, but I still have a real laugh and make an arse of myself as much as any drunk person. Actually I am quite good at that.

So you have to be fit to race?

Yes, reasonably. It is as much about being able to concentrate in extreme environments. It isn't that hard physically to drive the car, it is coping with the G-loadings and keeping a clear head. Also the fitter you are the less likely you are to injure yourself when you stick the car in a wall, and so the sooner you can get

back into the car.

Accidents I suppose are part of the job?

Well most of us will try to avoid having accidents, but they happen simply because you are so close to the edge. I think that I am quite good and generally don't crash race cars, but the formula Vauxhall championship is pretty aggressive and there is a fair amount of contact, so there are quite a few moments.

How do your family view your racing with the risks involved?

They are great and were the ones who got me into it in the first place and so are well aware that the highs are high and the lows are low. No, they are all really supportive as is my girlfriend, and I think she gets the worst of it sometimes.

It all sounds quite serious, is it?

It wasn't, but it is beginning to dawn on me how serious it is all getting. Contracts have six digits in them and my girlfriend met some random bloke in France who, much to her surprise, mentioned my name when talking about motor racing. I signed a contract the other day that stated that I wasn't allowed to ski, rock climb, parachute or partake in any other dangerous activities for the rest of the year.

What about the future, what do you hope to do?

One season at a time. Let's see how we go this year.

But do you have any exciting plans or opportunities?

I am doing a publicity photo shoot with one of the girls who models these wonder bra things.

You have a girlfriend?

Yeah.

Originally published elsewhere

Around IC & Beyond

Mon 25	Tues 26	Wed 27	Thurs 28	Fri 29	Sat 30	Sun 31
CAG: Tools for Self Reliance, Basement of Beit Quad 6pm	STA Bar Trivia DaVinci's 8pm	RAG Street Collection - meet at 12.30pm, Beit Quad	LabSoc - Frank Dobson 1pm	Hedonizm, ICU, £1 9pm-2am	RAG The Field Cup - meet at 11.45am, Beit Quad	
Environmental Soc - Tim Foxon, Physics Lecture Theatre 2 6.30pm	CAG: Soup Run, Basement Kitchen, Weeks Hall 8pm	ConSoc - Sir Teddy Taylor 1pm	Environmental Soc - Jeremy Leggett, Mech Eng 542 6pm		Lubrication, dBs, FREE 9pm-12am	
	RAG Variety Show, dBs, £2 8pm	Club XS, ICU, FREE 9pm-1am	CAG: Soup Run, Basement Kitchen, Weeks Hall 8pm			
	Caving Club Meeting, Southside Upper Lounge 9pm		Idiot Son @ Twelve Bar Club, £5 8pm			
	Clayponds Ice Skating at Bayswater - contact ian.doyle@ic.ac.uk		RAG Hypnotist, dB's, £3 8pm			
			Cocktail Night, DaVinci's 5-11pm			



HOCKEY/GTK lose out to Imperial

IC I 3 - 2 GTK I

The only team to beat us this year, revenge was expected – and revenge we got.

Eventually. Things didn't go to plan as we went 2-0 down and a severe bashing was on the cards. Up stepped Fluffy producing one of the fiercest shots of all season, duly tipped in by Spag bol.

2-1 at half time and a comeback looked imminent. A game of 2 halves, we actually kept up the pressure and became the dominating team.

Several scary moments in our goal-mouth came and went but the eventual score of 3-2 was deserved.

IC Ladies I 6 - 0 GTK Ladies I

The girls were warmed up and raring to go in good time. But where was our opposition? When they finally turned up, the match that followed was nothing short of a stormer. Bagpuss and Kinky Boots were on top form, and Purple Helmet got her oar in as usual (!).

The opposition used every dirty trick in the book, even bringing in an older male substitute, who was ugly (w**ker). But the girls were in "fighting" form and finally "walked away" with a 6-0 win, subject to appeal.

Roz had an early birthday bath whilst GTK went home sulking.

YET MORE HOCKEY

Medic's get the best of IC III

IC III 2 - 4 ICSM

Wednesday started with the shabby runts that call themselves ICSM managing to turn up on time. With a mixture of poor players and maybe some 1st team ringers (?). ICSM were forced straight onto the back foot. Voracious winger Chris Bull and flexible Ree Haque set up a continuous flow of near misses and really-should-have-beens. Stunned by the ferocity of this attack, ICSM scarcely knew what to do with the ball when they managed to get it. Frequent ICSM blunders and kak-handedness put the ball firmly back in their D, and really the question should be asked "What are these guys doing in the same league as us?" With Tommy Cantle clenching his buttocks for once and skinning the defence throughout the match and Cheeseman the 2nd team groupie spooning his shot at freedom but played like a legend for us. We felt raped at the result, the brave three's missing lethal weapons Ben Jervis and Jim Taylor were outrageously pipped 4-2.

(Do you think the above may have been written by the IC team?)

SCOREBOARD

HOCKEY

IC I 3 - 2 GTK

IC III 2 - 4 ICSM

Ladies I 6 - 0 GTK Ladies I

Ladies II 0 - 3 King's Ladies II

FOOTBALL

("Friendly") RSM I 3 - 5 IC IV/V

IC VI 2 - 7 Silwood Park XI

RUGBY

C&G 29 - 19 RCS

FOOTBALL

Silwood stomp on IC 6ths

IC 6ths 2 - 7 Silwood Park XI

The newly established Silwood Park 1st XI played in their first competitive match on Wednesday 9th December against Imperial's London based 6th team. There was an air of apprehension and yet joviality in the team minibus, as Silwood began the expectant journey towards Heathrow. Irregular training was all that the Silwoodians had in preparation as time is at a premium at the ground breaking research facility.

Upon arrival at the Harlington sports ground the more youthful IC team seemed disconcerted with the prospect of playing the more mature members of Imperial College. As the whistle blew to begin the game, pre-match nerves were quickly quelled when the first goal went in from Justin Travis for the Silwoodians. This enhanced the close-knit team spirit which has been the essence of the Silwood team, and it wasn't long before the second glorious Silwood goal went in, scored by Konrad Dolphin.

At thirty-five minutes into the game Silwood had scored 4, 2 more coming from Milton Mendonca and again from Justin. Late pressure in the first half meant that after Dave French saved the ball off the line twice, the 6ths managed to pull one back. However,

Howard Wilson managed to score a fifth before half time.

After a relaxed half time by the Silwoodians, replenished by succulent oranges and bananas, it wasn't long before another goal was scored, this time by the home team, pulling the score back to 2 - 5. The Silwood team hadn't finished at the goal mouth however, and Milton scored another to bring the score line to 2 - 6. The only hope for the South Ken team at this stage, was to try and score on the break, but they couldn't break through the cast iron defence maintained by the two fullbacks, Richie Hetherington and Neil Holmes. Later in the second half Steve Edgington scored a blistering goal, which flew past the keeper, and Thomas Pope hoped to finish off the opposition, but unfortunately Justin was seen to have fouled the 6ths and caused the goal to be disallowed.

With light fading the final whistle was blown with a score of 7 - 2 in Silwoods favour, and the after match drink went down smoother than manna from heaven. Many thanks to Rob and the 6ths at South Ken and Richy at Silwood for organising the match, and we look forward to meeting again later in the season.

Inter Bar Darts League

Team	Won	Lost	For	Against	Points
Southside	3	1	29	31	6
Holland Club	2	2	37	23	4
ICU	1	3	24	36	2

The first half of the darts league has now been completed. Most matches were very close with the exception of the first two victories by the Holland Club over ICU and Southside. The highest score of 140 was achieved by Jeff from ICU, Andy and Gareth from Southside and Pete from the Holland Club. The best check out was again tied with Jeff from ICU (again) and Sue from the Holland Club, both with 66.

The second half of the league starts today (Monday 25 January) with the Holland Club at ICU. The full fixtures are listed below. The presentation will take place after the final match on 8 March.

There will also be a knockout tournament for all members of the three sides on 15 March. Any student or staff member of Imperial College interested in entering should leave their name at the Union Bar. Priority will be given to team members.

25 January	ICU	v	Holland Club
1 February	Southside	v	ICU
8 February	Holland Club	v	Southside
22 February	Southside	v	Holland Club
1 March	Holland Club	v	ICU
8 March	ICU	v	Southside

Having nearly missed the train because Underdown had forgotten her shorts, we arrived in time to have our first proper pre-match warm-up of the season. Impressive or what? With our new shirts as well, we looked damn fine and played brilliantly. During the first half Chunderbird and Keyhole did a great job of cheering us on – so much so that we only conceded two goals. The first one was a really fluky deflection off the post and the second one was a lucky hit through the goalie's legs. Apart from this Alice had a storming game saving some really impressive shots on goal. One awesome save involved Alice scooping the ball off the ground and over the backline. The umpire wasn't too impressed by this tactic, but it wasn't until Alice actually grabbed the ball with her hands in another save that he awarded a penalty flick. Alice took it all in her stride and her intimidating stance caused the opposition to miss by miles. King's came back strongly, and as they approached our goal, our defence moved aside like Moses parting the Red Sea, giving the opposition a clear sight of goal. Fortunately, Vannessa came to the rescue at the last minute and saved what would otherwise have been a certain goal. We countered this with an amazing break, which we very nearly scored from.

In the 2nd half we started in high spirits and played even better, putting several passes together. We made several more good breaks with Chloe playing like a demon. Kings got one more goal, but apart from this minor lapse we were fantastic. Having come up a league this year we are doing really well and at this rate maybe we'll even win a game soon?