

15
March
1999

FELIX

KEEP THE CAT FREE EST. 1949

Issue
1140

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

Goldsmiths' Gain Tuition Victory

By Andrew Ofori

Student power has struck a mammoth blow in the ongoing campaign against tuition fees. Students at Goldsmiths' College were rewarded with college support on fees after staging a 175 hour occupation of their Whitehead Building, in a potent response to students being threatened with expulsion for failure to pay tuition fees.

Union negotiations with the college came to an abrupt end when eight students, who had not paid their fees, received letters terminating their registration. According to the Union "It became clear college were prepared to intimidate students", and a rally consisting of 250 students was the first manifestation of their discontent. The Union subsequently called an Emergency General Meeting where the occupation was decided upon. The Whitehead Building was taken over on 26 February, coincidentally the NUS 'Day of Action' against tuition fees. In what was described by one Union member as a "military operation", the protesters organised various administrative roles such as security and a food committee, and turned the academic and finance building into temporary accommodation with a dedicated sleeping area.

As the conflict escalated to occupation the college informed protestors it had no intention of withdrawing its letters of termination. But the campaign was fortified by support from a number of celebrities such as Labour's Ken Livingstone, comedians Jeremy Hardy and Mark Thomas, and Rob Newman, who went so far as to give a free show inside the building. ICU support came in a letter from Dave Hellard, in which he stated: "With the NUS currently dormant and the threat of differential fees ever real, it is down to the individual Student Unions to show how damaging tuition fees have been and that the Government not the students need to bridge the funding gap." Goldsmiths' Union were appreciative of the President's backing commenting, "When you've got support from Imperial you know you're doing well...it really was heart-warming".

The groundswell of support culmi-

nated in the submittal of an early-day motion in the Commons supporting the objective of the occupation, "Ultimately this was a confrontation with the Government" said Goldsmiths' Union General Secretary Sophie Bolt, as she highlighted the significance of the motion.

Protestors accepted a High court order to end the occupation last Friday, after the college backed down over the expulsions: "No student will be excluded from college because of his or her inability to pay fees, provided this can be shown to be the case." Ben Pimlott, Warden of the College stated: "The College frequently calls on the Government to increase funding for further and higher education."

"I therefore fully support calls to ensure that students, as well as the sector in general, receive an adequate share of the nation's resources, in line with the Government's education pledge to prioritise education at every level."

Members of the Union hierarchy at

Goldsmiths' are jubilant, and feel their actions were fully justified, although the campaign has had its detractors, with some students unhappy with the disruption to their courses; one psychology student commented "Many of us have tried talking to the student leaders and to those involved in the occupation, but we are ignored or shouted down". Sophie Bolt, however, feels the resentment stems from the actions of the College during occupation, referring to their complete withdrawal of lectures in the building when the protestors made every effort to facilitate them and the imposition of a blood-relatives only policy for visitors to Halls.

According to London Student (24 February) IC students could soon have their own tuition battle to fight, with the possible introduction of 'Top-up' fees in addition to the annual £1000 tuition fees. They are designed to cover the extra costs incurred by attending one of the country's elite universities. The claims were refuted by College Secretary Tony Mitcheson, who stated, "The College has no plans to introduce differential fees".

"Best Week Ever" For IC Sport

An amazing series of victories for IC's Football, Hockey, Rugby, Athletics and Fencing squads should see our trophy cabinet collapsing under the shear weight of cups, awards, league titles and shields which have been awarded in the last seven days alone. ICU President Dave Hellard simply described the results as "fantastic".

The most prestigious win came from IC's fencers, who regained the BUSA National Championship they last won two years ago. Fully justifying their reputation as the country's top student squad (thanks to a liberal dose of individual champions and national squad members), they rapidly saw off both Loughborough and Oxford. Despite a couple of brief scares, the final result was never really in doubt, especially when the total superiority of our foil team (Ed Rysdale, Dave Davidge and Henry Morton) became apparent. *For a full report see back page.*

Whilst the Fencers pick up championships on a regular basis, the same can-

By David Roberts

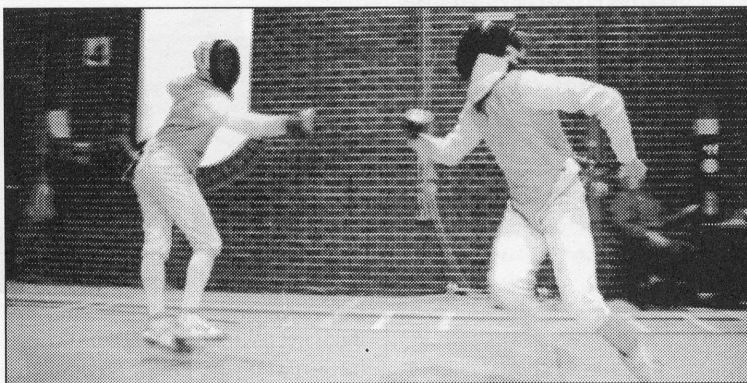


Photo: Dave

IC cruise home to claim the BUSA Fencing Championships

not be said of IC's Footballers - making their victory even more impressive. Ignoring a UL Cup drought dating back to 1983, they notched up a brilliant 5-1 win, to bring the London-wide UL Cup back to Imperial. Although the result suggests a landslide vic-

tory, it was in fact a very tight contest until the final fifteen minutes, when a hat-trick from Warren Brayn, a screaming top-corner shot from Amo Addo, and a morale sap-

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ICSM Elections

The sixth and final name was added to the list of sabbaticals who will see in the new millennium last week, after Becky England was elected as ICSM President.

Standing unopposed, Becky eventually eased home, with a comfortable 313 - 83 victory over the ever-present New Election. Miss England stood on a policy of increased integration between the old medical schools, whilst "fighting for a Medics identity to be maintained in 2001". She will take over from present incumbent Wade Gayed on 1 August, as the third (and, potentially, the last) sabbatical President of ICSM.

Elsewhere, a plethora of non-sabbatical officers were also elected. The

By David Roberts



Photo: Dave Becky (left) celebrates in traditional sabbatical style

three Vice-President positions were filled by; Jo Manson, who will become

VP for Mary's; Alia Fammy, who takes responsibility for the Charing Cross campus; and Lizzie Robinson, who is now VP (External) elect. All three secured easy victories against RON. In other key positions, Susy Bloch was elected Treasurer, Marissa See will take over as Secretary, and Shazia Munir claims responsibility for Medics Rag.

Further elections will take place next term, to fill uncontested posts (including the important Sports & Societies role), and to re-poll the position of Mary's Social Secretary, which Returning Officer Katie Sheehan was forced to declare a draw after the fifth recount.



Issue 1140

15 March 1999

Editor: Ed Sexton

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Games Editor: Gary Smith

Clubscene: Giles Morrison,

Gurminder Marwaha & Joel Lewis

Sports Editor: Gus Paul

Imperial Home To Best Sport In London: Official

Continued from Page 1

ping fifth from Dave Stewart secured the victory. More impressively still, the Premiership title should be secured within the next few days (IC only need three points from three games to be assured of victory), to ensure an historic double. For a full match report see back page.

The most impressive scoreline of the week, however, came at Teddington last Wednesday, when IC Rugby met ICSM for the semi-final of the Gutteridge Cup. Although IC are a fast improving team, no one at the match - including many of the players - ever believed that they had a chance against the Medics, who are rated amongst the top two or three student sides in the country.

However, within the first couple of minutes, IC broke from midfield and shot-off down the touchline to give Andy Mayes a try in the corner. The stunned sense of disbelief that fell over the pitch exploded into empassioned shouting minutes later when the ball squirmed loose on the try-line, to give Chris Dickinson an easy try. The Medics tried to raise their game, but a conversion and penalty from Dickinson moved the scoreline to 15-0, and even a break-away try from ICSM's Simon Rogers left them eight points behind, with the score 15-7 at half-time. After the break, the Medics rapidly closed the gap to just one point, and normal service seemed to be resumed. But that was as close as they got, and a magnificent try from Dave Gol, coupled with two penalties and a conversion from the boot of the ever reliable Dickinson left the final score at 28-14. The final

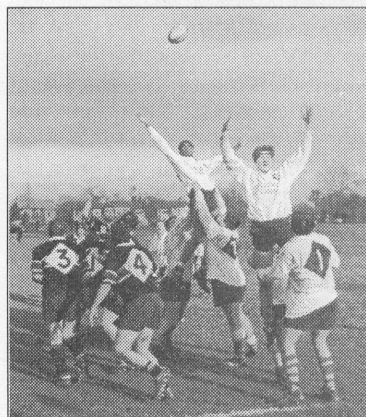


Photo: Dave ICSM (right) - big losers.

will be played this Wednesday; two coaches will be available for spectators who would like to attend this great day out - meet outside the Union at 12:30.

Elsewhere, there was League success for both IC Hockey and ICSM Football. The Hockey squad has now secured the UL Premiership title, and should (hopefully) have made that a double with high hopes for UL Cup victory last Saturday (after Felix went to press). Full report on back page. ICSM Football will join IC in the UL Premiership next season, after securing the First Division championship. They too had high hopes of a double, with the UH Cup played last Sunday. Full report next week.

Finally, IC Athletics stormed to victory in the ULU Championships. The IC squad won every relay to finish on a massive 414 points, to win by an emphatic 120 points over Royal Holloway in second place. For a full report see back page.

Congratulations to all those involved in this amazing display.

Parking Inferno

By Andrew Ofori



Photo: Andy Mmmmm. Hot.

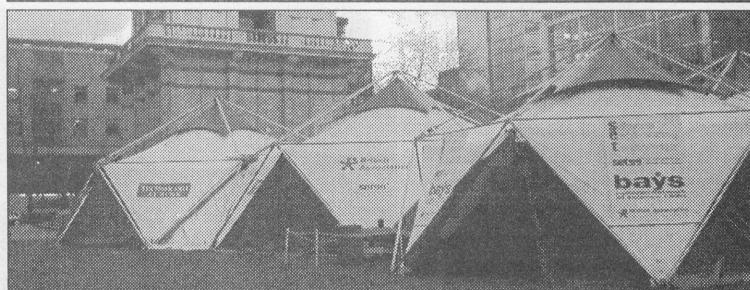
As the smoke cleared last Tuesday afternoon the forlorn skeleton of a car bonnet emerged as the culprit of a fire that had the local fire brigade in attendance.

As a visiting academic was reversing into a parking space next to the Queen's Lawn he noticed smoke emanating from

beneath the bonnet and ran into the BMS building to report it. According to eye witness accounts, the fire worsened despite the attempts of two students and a security officer. On their arrival, the Emergency Response Team tackled the blaze with extinguishers and a water hose, Kensington Fire Brigade arrived just after 5pm, opened the bonnet with a 4ft crowbar and had put out the flames five minutes later.

Having realised the situation and left the F-reg Peugeot, the owner actually returned to the vehicle to retrieve personal belongings, actions described as "a bit silly" by the College's Fire Risk Assessment Consultant. He went on to explain that with the bonnet down and only smoke being visible, "it probably looked safe".

The fire, which originated in the car's engine, melted the light cluster, burst both front tyres and blistered the paintwork on the adjacent vehicle. After giving his account of the incident the owner spoke to his insurance company and eventually attended the C&GCA General Committee meeting for which he had come.



Last Friday and Saturday, around five thousand people descended on College for BAYSDAY, the British Association's Youth Section, the opening event of National Science Week: Science, Engineering and Technology 99 (SET99). Demonstrations and workshops were

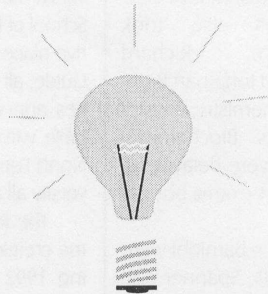
available on topics ranging from insects to the Internet. There are several events lined up across the country this week for SET99. The closest to home are at the Science Museum, which is running "Science After Dark" evenings throughout the week with live jazz.

WHERE WILL YOU BE LIVING IN 1999/2000?

YOUR ACCOMMODATION QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

Where to live

Where to look



Paying the Rent

Inventories

Deposits

Who to live with

Contracts

**A talk given by ULAO staff in association with the
Private Housing Office**

Date: Wednesday 17th March

Time: 5pm

Place: Room 220, Mechanical Engineering



RCS Elections Face Traditional Turnout Woe

The Royal College of Science Union elected a new President and two out of three Vice Presidents last Tuesday. The results were announced at a barnight, which also celebrated the birthday of their mascot, Theta.

Around a hundred and forty votes were cast in each election, representing around five percent of the electorate. This compares to a turnout of about fifteen percent in the recent Sabbatical elections. This did mean, however, that the counting took less than an hour to complete.

Will Bently, currently the RCSU's Vice President (Finance), was elected as President, collecting sixty-three votes after one reallocation and defeating James Farrar, the other candidate and Editor of Broadsheet. Mr Bently said that he was "happy to have won", and hoped to

By Gareth Morgan

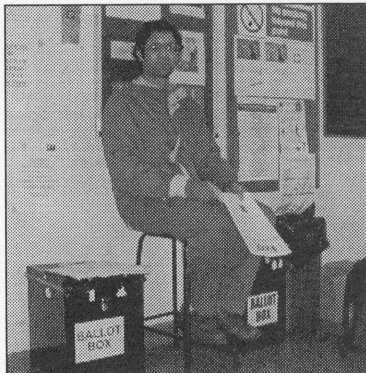


Photo: Rachael The Returning Officer hits rush-hour

help the RCSU improve next year.

Current Welfare officer Jason McKee and President Simon Torn both comfortably defeated RON to win the otherwise uncontested posts of Vice President (Clubs and Entertainments) and Vice President (Finance) respectively.

Departmental Representative elections also took place. Richard

Berridge, Peter Niell and Jonathan Brenner easily won in the Chemistry, Physics and Maths departments. Biochemistry and Biology elections were delayed by the departments' recent exams but will take place soon.

Surprise guests at the barnight were City and Guilds mascots, Spanner and Bolt, along for the occasion (and free beer). The highlight of the evening was the life-sized Theta cake, made for the occasion by Simon Torn and Jo Churchill.

New Unis In Doubt

Sir Ronald Oxburgh, Rector of Imperial College, has

declined an invitation from London First, the campaign group, to join 'Learning in London', a consortium of universities in the capital. Imperial however remains a member of the 'Russell group', an Ivy League of older universities, an elite set of institutions that pride themselves on the emphasis they place on research. As Sir Ronald Oxburgh explained in the Evening Standard, the universities in this group all share a belief in the importance of academic standards, in "quality not quantity". University College London, another member of this group, has similarly refused to join the consortium. While Imperial, University College London and the London School of Economics took three of the top five places in The Times Good University Guide, all of London's nine new universities appear in the bottom third of the table, with the Universities of East London, North London and London Guildhall University all appearing in the bottom ten.

The Rector expressed his belief that the creation of the new universities during 1992 in a bid to abolish what he described as the "binary divide" between polytechnics and universities was "largely driven financially", because the unit costs of education in the older universities were

By Sunil Rao

significantly greater than in the polytechnics. With a few

exceptions, many institutions that were once highly regarded polytechnics are now second-rate universities.

The refusal of Imperial to join "Learning in London" comes after Thames Valley University, famous for its courses in kite-flying, rock music and curry making, was publicly named as Britain's first failing University. The former Polytechnic of West London, originally the Ealing School of Art, was damned in a November report from the Quality Assurance Agency, the higher education watchdog, forcing the resignation of vice-chancellor, Dr Mike Fitzgerald. A report published by the Government-funded Higher Education Statistics Agency last August also revealed that over 15 per cent of students from Thames Valley remained unemployed six months after graduation, second only to Coventry.

According to Peter Williams, director of institutional review at the Quality Assurance Agency, the new universities should acknowledge that degrees must continue to be constructive, while balancing the desire to increase student numbers. "Higher education must stay higher. If students come out with a degree which nobody believes in, it is not going to do them any favours".

Sports Hall Delay

The plans for the new sports hall, refurbished tennis

courts and redevelopment of Beit Quad may all be in jeopardy this week. The applications for the redevelopments, currently going through Westminster and Chelsea County Council, have hit set backs caused by the actions of a few students. David Hellard, President of Imperial College Union explained "all major developments in South Kensington have to go through the local council. For an application to be approved it has to have the backing of the local residents. Normally this is not a problem, but when our students continually terrorise them, they are hardly likely to back proposals that will bring more students into the area."

The cause of the problem appears to be two incidences in the last two weeks in Southside halls, where students have reportedly been throwing bottles, marmite jars and various other glass objects off the hall balconies causing damage, distress and extreme danger to nearby residences. One Senior College Official stated that

By the Newsteam

pounds just putting right the physical damage caused by reckless students, not to mention the money and time spent on reconciling local residences and the council."

In one of the incidences a peanut butter jar smashed through a garage window, damaging an antique Ferrari. Hellard added, "for some reason students find this funny. The individuals involved happened to be from other universities and we are currently trying to track them down. Under the terms of the Southside license, though, students are responsible for their guests' actions and from now on College will discipline on this basis. College are not happy and will come down on any similar incidents like a ton of bricks, whatever they give as punishment, I'll make sure they double it."

He finished by saying "the actions of these students could have ended all hopes of a new sports centre, something that is desperately needed and would improve the day to day life of hundreds of students."

"every year we have to spend tens of thousands of

Bust - A - Gut

On Friday 5 March, the Bust-a-gut comedy club in dB's was

filled to capacity with many people being turned away at the door. As usual, Mark Horne (Union Ents Manager), introduced the night announcing the unfortunate news that the scheduled headline act, Steve Best, had stood us up! No one minded as he was to be replaced by the award-winning comedian Chris Addison. The highlight of Mark's introduction was a brilliant put-down to the heckles from Dave Hellard "The best thing you've said all year!" - for once Dave was speechless.

The evening then continued with the first of the scheduled acts of the night, Lee Canterbury. Within moments of him rising onto the stage, it became apparent that, in a word, he was a complete Brummie nutter! He involved the audience right from the start, by unusually heckling them, before they had much of a chance to start on him. As a result, he enticed the crowd into an above average number of heckles. At first he handled these with great skill, but then seemed to lose heart, as he just couldn't keep up! Despite this, his material was

By Oliver & Greg

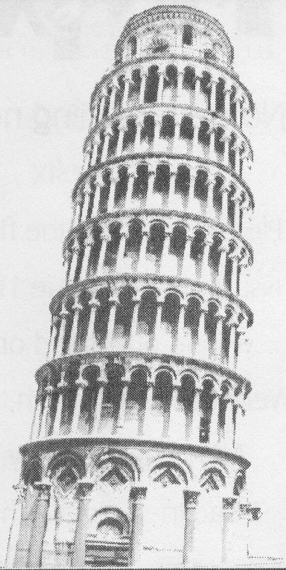
of a high standard, and kept the crowd entertained.

After the interval, with another no-show from the Open Mic contestant, the evening moved onto the headline act Chris Addison. Those of us who remember his performance from last year were more than pleasantly surprised that his routine had improved significantly! He began with a popular display of hatred towards lesser Universities than our own, and also referring (somewhat controversially) to medics as being arrogant! He handled all of the heckles he received superbly well, although mid way through, his act became baffled by a student's taste in hats, which was quickly confiscated by Chris. After his act concluded, the shouts of "encore" and enthusiastic applause convinced him to return to the stage with a few more minutes of humour. And just for you Chris - he was escorted from the stage by 80 strippers! (I guess you had to be there).

The next comedy night will take place on 19 March, with headline act Dave Gorman, and support from Robin Ince. We hope this will be as enjoyable as all the others have been this term.

CENTENARY LECTURE SERIES: MAKING PIGS FLY

Great Engineering Achievements of the Last 100 Years



The Leaning Tower of Pisa

Professor John Burland

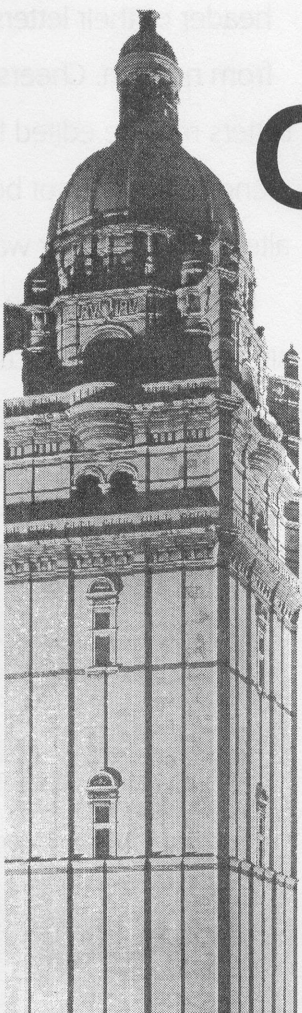
Deputy Head, Civil Engineering

Mech Eng Lecture Theatre 342, 5-6pm Thursday 18th March 1999



City & Guilds College Union Centenary

1898 - 1998



City & Guilds College Union proudly presents:

GREAT EGG RACE

Construct a flying contraption to carry a single Egg
from The Queen's Tower to the safety of *terra firma*.

Enter as a Party of 5

Wednesday 17th March 1999, 2pm

Lecture Theatre 220

Mechanical Engineering Building

Imperial College

Entry £5 per Team

Free Food & Drink

Tools & Materials Supplied

For more details, contact:

thomas.watson@ic.ac.uk



Fellwanderers' Coverage

Dear Felix,

I would like to complement you on your most excellent allocation of space in the 1st March issue. In his letter in issue 1139, Mr. Cockayne, the RSM-RFC captain, says he was 'shocked to see that Fellwalking had a whole half page' in that issue. But I think it's good for non-sporting clubs to have a bit of publicity once in a while. A lot of effort went into that article, and I think it makes an interesting change from the inane rubbish that the sports teams churn out every week - their reports are just scrawled down in a half-drunken haze on Wednesday nights, whereas our's are scrawled down in a half-drunken haze on Sunday nights.

Cheers,

James Clarke (Phys. 4)
President, ICU Fellwanderers

PS. Please note the correct name of our club - get it right lads!

Ince Ignores RAG Rules

Dear Felix,

Chris Ince, our fine DP(F+S), has most disappointingly failed to live up to promises made to, and accepted in good faith by, the esteemed members of the Dramatic Society technical crew. On a fair day in early 1999 a traditional auction of indentured personnel was held within the grounds of this noble establishment that we know as Imperial College Union. At the said auction Mr Ince was purchased for the substantial sum of twenty pounds sterling (approximately 32 euro); an amount raised jointly by Messrs Paul Hickman, Iain Campbell, Jonathan Dixon and Nicholas Towers.

To their grave disappointment Mr Ince never put in an appearance to carry out the services thus purchased. No small degree of distress was experienced by his temporary masters as a result of this failure. We would like to hereby request that the said gentleman, Mr Chris Ince, be requested to contribute an amount of money to the organisation known as Imperial College Union RAG, as a penalty for his disgraceful oversight. The said amount is to be determined by Imperial College Union RAG, but should be no less than the sum paid in the original transaction.

Mr Ince initially agreed to perform the service which was to take place after International Night - but later

changed his mind, stating that he had never consented to the sale of his services. Does he add duplicity to his other sins? Or was someone else responsible for this outrage?

We would like the upstanding citizens of Imperial College to be aware of the terrible situation. The parties concerned would like to emphasise that they have no wish for the moneys paid by them to RAG to be returned, merely that Mr Ince admit that he has failed to live up to the spirit of the game and take some action to rectify this.

Yours sincerely,
Barrett, Tucker and Sharman
soliciting services on behalf of Imperial College Union Dramatic Society Technical Crew

Newton's "Immaturity"

Dear Editor

I am writing a quick letter to express my great irritation about an event that occurred at the St Mary's Hustings for ICSM posts relating to St Mary's, just last week. At this meet the traditional process of questioning the candidates for the various posts was been carried out cordially, up to the point that our ICU President Elect, Natasha Newton, opened her mouth. She asked a candidate about the contents of a private conversation they had with her, where the candidate was asking her in confidence various questions concerning their candidacy. Ms Newton was asking whether this did not weaken the candidate's position.

OK so what's so wrong with this? Well the audience immediately sensed the wrong in the nature of the question, Ms Newton had deliberately scraped up the contents of a private conversation that the candidate (also a friend of mine) had stupidly assumed was to be held in confidence. To their credit both the crowd and the chair made their feelings known.

At worst our new President Elect was playing cheap politics for cheap gain, at best her immaturity was showing. Giving her the benefit of the doubt, I'd advise her to grow up, maybe an adviser would be useful. Standing for candidacy in Hustings is not easy at the best of times and our President, of all people, should support candidates with good advice and not undermine them thereafter.

yours sincerely

Deepak Ray
5th yr. medic

Day Off for Star Wars?

Dear Felix,

One of the few policies to emerge from the ICU hustings was president elect Natasha Newton's aim to "get everyone the day off to go and see the new Star Wars movie". I'm obviously in favour of a day off, and I would like to know how she's done in achieving this.

Yours,

Gareth Klose
Comp II

Well, how about it Tasha? Actually, Isn't the new Star Wars film coming out during the summer holidays... could be a close escape for our President Elect. - Ed

SingSoc Spectacular

Dear IC,

I write to congratulate the Singaporean Society on their production "Oi! Made in Singapore", held in the Great Hall on the 6th. It was superbly run, entertaining, informative and an absolute bargain at £3!

The evening included a Lion dance, acappella, martial arts, and even a musical depicting the history of Singapore! Star of the show IMHO was my friend Alethea with a beautifully sung rendition from City of Angels, supported by her band Lae Kudos. The creativity and effort that has gone into preparing the scripts, costumes, props and rehearsals for this evening spectacular is a great a tribute to the Society's members, all of whom have coursework and revision looming ahead.

For those of you who have never been to a 'SingSoc' event, I would strongly urge you to go! I'm not a member, but as non members we have the most to gain! Not only will you be impressed by the SAS timing and precision, but their events are always a feast of uplifting sound, colour and imagination. The pride and patriotism that holds these students together so tightly for love of their country and people really has to be admired, and I thank them for sharing a piece of their little island with me on this night.

Yours,

Kai Wing Shiu
Maths and Computing 3



Notice regarding next week's Felix

Please note that the final issue of term, Issue 1141, will be published on **Wednesday 24 March**, and **NOT next Monday**. Deadlines remain the same as usual.

Deadline for letters is 12noon Wednesday.

Please would readers include the words 'Letter for Publication' in the header of their letters from now on. Cheers.

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.

Contributions for next term

As the exam season approaches, many of Felix's regular contributors find themselves unable to spend much time on the newspaper. If you do have any free time next term, please consider writing for Felix. The deadline for articles for the first issue of next term is **Tuesday 20 April**.





The Great Education Debate

You're probably paying a lot for your education, but are you getting your money's worth? Is your degree course preparing you to go out into the great wide world of work? Will you have the skills that employers want? Do you even know what those skills are? Hilary Cadman looks into why current teaching methods aren't the best way forward...

The workplace today is constantly changing and employers, in science and in other fields, value adaptable people with a wide range of skills, like initiative, problem-solving, communication, creativity, self-confidence, flexibility and teamwork. Unfortunately, schools and universities have done little to respond to these needs, particularly in science.

Traditional science education generally concentrates on single answer questions and on facts, which must be learnt and regurgitated when exams come round (and can then be forgotten). Lectures are still the main method of teaching at university level, but what do you learn from them - are you expected to participate, to engage your brain, to contribute? More likely it is just a matter of attempting to stay awake and note down everything the lecturer says or writes on the board.

A final year project may well provide the only opportunity for a science student to use initiative and be creative. Overall, the system encourages students to become more like walking textbooks than useful scientists.

"the system encourages students to become more like walking textbooks than useful scientists"

Can science be taught in a way that develops the skills employers want? A quick look at the Internet suggests that it can and surely over a million web sites can't be wrong. Okay, not many of them are about science, but most do imply that particular education methods, applied to any topic, will encourage the type of skills needed in the modern work environment. In true scientific manner, I was sceptical of these claims. For example, the suggestion that creating an 'accepting atmosphere' in the classroom leads students to be more creative sounds fine in theory, but how is it achieved in practice? Would students

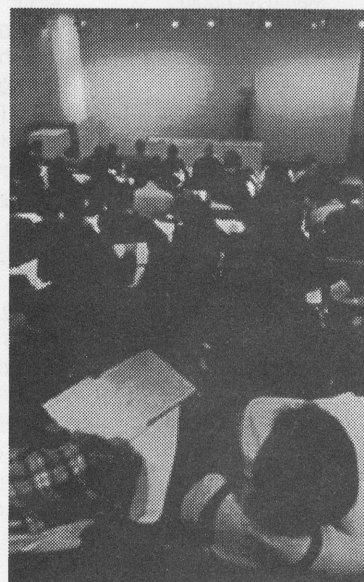
actually notice if their lecturer suddenly slipped from 'critical' to 'accepting' mode - somehow I doubt it. Since the Web could offer no concrete solutions, I decided to look elsewhere for ideas on how to improve science teaching.

Last year, news coverage of the 'Young Engineers of Britain' caught my eye, when a couple of 14 year olds from my home town won the award for their age group. Impressed by their achievement and thinking they must have acquired some useful skills in devising their entry, I went along to Bancrofts school to meet the girls, Gemma Hancock and Kobika Sritharan, and their teacher, Steven Woolley. Gemma and Kobika won the award for a small device they named 'Cloudburst', which is pegged on the washing line to detect rain and indicate when clothes are dry. Impressively articulate, the girls explained how their idea originated from an introductory course in electronics, when they were asked to think of an application for a circuit completed by water.

Challenged to make the device they had suggested, the girls did so, working mainly in their spare time in the school's Engineering club. Steven Woolley emphasised how the students had worked independently on the project, bringing their own ideas and enthusiasm to solving problems. With no prompting the girls formulated a questionnaire and asked people to test the device, produced a booklet explaining how the idea developed and estimated the cost. Steven Woolley acted more as facilitator than teacher - offering encouragement, giving guidance on computer software and sourcing materials, rather than imparting knowledge.

This type of project, where students devise and solve a problem themselves, appears to be conducive to learning. Now on their fifth prototype and bursting with ideas for further improvements, the girls have acquired various skills in producing and presenting their invention, including practical expertise, design, computing, teamwork, problem-solving, self-confidence and communication.

Awards filling a table in the school's Engineering club room testify to the fact



Hello, anyone awake at the back?

that Gemma and Kobika's success is not an isolated event. In the lower sixth, pupils are encouraged to enter a scheme which links teams of four students with an engineering company. Assisted by a mentor from industry the team works over a period of 5 months on solving a real problem identified by the company. Participation in the project provides students with valuable skills, and gives them an advantage when competing for bursaries and scholarships at university level.

As a selective, fee-paying school Bancrofts obviously has excellent facilities, but Steven Woolley believes that students at less well-endowed institutions could benefit equally from this sort of activity. Currently he is encouraging pupils from state schools in Essex to

compete in the 'Micromouse' competitions, where contestants produce a small device able to follow a white line, or negotiate a maze. The downside is that these schemes are not part of the general curriculum, students undertake them in their free time, if they have an enthusiastic teacher and sufficient motivation.

Surely such activities, which equip students with a multitude of sought-after skills, could be incorporated into science education in schools and universities to produce a more relevant teaching programme.



Kobika Sritharan (left) and Gemma Hancock (right) with the 'Cloudburst' device.
Picture by kind permission of the Ilford Recorder newspaper

"an 'accepting atmosphere' in the classroom leads students to be more creative"

ICU IRANIAN SOCIETY

presents....

THE IRANIAN NEW YEAR PARTY

"NOROOZ"



A CELEBRATION OF SPRING AND
THE BEGINNING OF LIFE

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- Venue: Main Dining Hall, Sherfield building
- Time: 7:30pm until 1:30am

Poetry, Speech on Persian literature and Norooz, Traditional Iranian music, 'Alvand' and his band performing live!, Dance, Iranian style sandwiches available, Late night bar, . . .

Tickets: £6 (Students)/ £8 (Other)

For tickets please contact:

peyrouz.modarres@ic.ac.uk; mrc1@ic.ac.uk



Clayponds' Village Hall

Clayponds has, over the years, been good to me. Not because I have lived there - I've only visited a couple of times - but rather for the fact that it has given me many a column on account of its propensity to produce bizarre statements and actions from College. Those of you who have been here longer than is healthy will recall the spate of burglaries, caused in part by locks less secure than a chocolate chastity belt, and the wholly unnecessary recarpeting exercise, which cost a fortune and was opposed by almost all the residents. Now the long-running saga of the Village Hall has resurfaced. It would seem that this is now a possibility, but only with an enormous condition - a rent rise. This, as you might imagine, has gone down like a lead balloon, and raises a number of important issues.

First and foremost, this would establish a precedent for accommodation improvements to be funded by increases in rent. This could have very damaging implications, particularly for the South Ken estate, where considerable work is needed. If this move is allowed to succeed, it would give the College the ability to block all expenditure on upgrades to hall social facilities. It seems a fair bet that people in residences such as Garden Hall would never stand for higher rents given the current standards they are 'enjoying.' Many would consider that the College is failing to deliver the level of service that its residents (i.e. customers) could reasonably expect. Upping the not inconsiderable rent would simply add insult to injury. In this case, it may only be 90p per week, but what if it were to reach £2, £5, £10 in other cases? Then there is the question of limiting the rise to Clayponds. The College may claim that only the boys and girls in Ealing will benefit from the building, but is this their usual policy? Was the Evelyn Gardens refurbishment funded entirely by its residents? I don't know, but since they are not each paying £500 per week, I suspect not. Did Catering fund the entire cost of the JCR/QT redevelopment? No, the Union's income from the STA rent was slashed in order to meet some of the cost. You could, at a squeeze, justify the JCR bit of the project, but their money has effectively been used to fund a rival catering out-

let, which is supposed to be an independent, self-financing enterprise. Methinks that IC is being less than

even-handed in their dealings. If you assume the role of Devil's advocate to accept for a minute that residents should pay for such improvements, it is surely right that the costs are borne College-wide. As the housing stock is upgraded, this would mean that most people would eventually benefit from any rent increases, paying for other people's benefits one year, only to be the recipient in subsequent years. Though seemingly practical, this is not without

Simon Baker



Voice of Reason

difficulty; if students gave the impression that they were prepared to tolerate rent rises that were ring-fenced for improvements, I fear that that trust would soon be abused, the projects becoming more tenuously linked to the stated aim.

Then we come to the cost. As our dear old friend Ian Caldwell suggests, it should not cost more than £75,000. Many residents think this is a tad high, which may be explained by a couple of factors. It may be due to a slightly over-ambitious vision for the facility; as I have said before, Ian and his design team did a cracking job with the JCR. This, on the other hand, probably requires a slightly more spartan design. The cost may also be due in part to the anticipated use of College Approved Cowboys, highly skilled in taking the public sector for a ride. Such problems tend to be manifested more acutely in the small works rather than BMS-size undertak-

ings. Price aside, it's not a king's ransom, amounting to roughly the Rector's accommodation, hospitality and car

hire budget last year. Moreover, it would not need to be found in one year's budget. The money would be borrowed, requiring only interest, repayment and maintenance to be charge in any one year. Given that Residences spend over £18,000 annually on the Clayponds' gardens, a few extra thousand for the

village hall seems perfectly possible. In fact, if you plonked the building on a flowerbed, you might break even...

Seriously, this is, in the grand scheme of things, a trivial matter. It has tied up committees for ages, wasted the time of highly salaried members of College staff, the total cost of which probably starts to approach the project cost. Seventy-five grand won't even buy you a flowerbed these days, and since the provision of student social facilities sits at the core of the College's responsibilities, it is time that the damn thing was built and people got on with more important issues, such as how the Hell is the enormous Beit Hall redevelopment going to pay for itself...

"...it is time that the damn thing was built and people got on with more important issues, such as how the enormous Beit Hall redevelopment is going to pay for itself..."

"...New Labour would not allow their media image to be sullied by such tawdry matters as economics..."

one, I shall be re-donning the old hard hat to avoid the fallout.

Budget and Beer

The budget dust has settled and, despite outward appearances to the contrary, Gordon Brown has done a smash and grab raid, albeit with unprecedented subtlety. As a homeowner with a penchant for the odd Marlboro Light, I feel decidedly miffed, but looking beyond the trauma inflicted on my own wallet, the initial feeling that we were in for a bonanza has now completely subsided. The new 10p tax band sounds good in principle, but is little more than a gimmick. Moreover it replaces the 20p rate on a band that was twice as wide. The proposed cut off the basic rate next year, by which time many of you will be earning, is to be welcomed. However, if Brown was serious about helping the lost paid workers, he would have increased allowances by a significant percentage, thereby taking more people out of the tax system altogether. The problem is that this doesn't give such snappy headlines, and since New Labour would not allow their media image to be sullied by such tawdry matters as economics, it had to bite the dust. The opportunity to reform the unacceptable Child Benefit system was not taken, which is unfortunate. Such

a universal benefit, indeed any universal handout, is indefensible. It is high time that it should be means tested or replaced with a more suitable payment.

However, Gordon Brown deserves much praise for one of his actions, namely the freezing of alcohol excise duty. In the best traditions of Pebble Mill, that links nicely to my next subject. Southside Bar, about which I have been unforgettably quiet of late, is currently staging the annual Hog's Breath Beer Festival. For those of you who insist on confining yourselves to wishy-washy lager, now is the time to repent for your sins. As always, the range is superb, though there are probably more of the unusual beers down there at the moment. If you want to try something very out of the ordinary, get yourself a pint of Air over Tongham, marvellous taste but a tad strong at 9%. The posters suggest half-pints only, but you decide. I would mention however, that when I supped said bitter, I left my laptop on a train at East Croydon. Tread carefully, my children.

Presidential Talk-Back

This week I'm here to inform you about some awards and other exciting goodies and actually praise part of the College.

One of the goals I set myself to do by the end of the year was set up training for students in key skills, especially in training with a emphasis on interview skills, CV writing, how to give presentations, the list goes on. What I didn't realise at the time was that the College Careers Service already has an extensive programme that deals with almost everything I had in mind, how refreshing. If you haven't used it yet, please do; it could substantially improve your chances of getting through every stage of the application process. (I'm not just writing all of this because they've promised the Union £2000 a year for the Jobshop.)

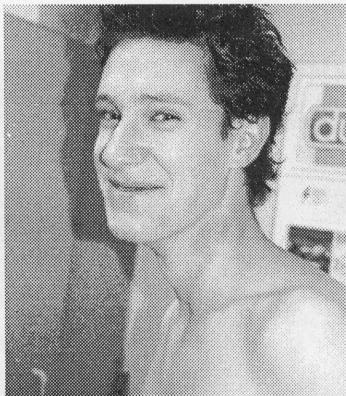
This nicely brings me onto my next subject (seamless link.) I am currently drawing up a business plan for a Jobshop to be housed in the east wing basement of Beit Quad when it reopens in October 2000. The idea has been knocking around for a few years,

but never acted upon, now that the space is available though, there's nothing in our way and we've already received £2000 from the careers service every year for the project. The idea is to provide a Union run facility where you can register and receive information on part time/ temporary jobs throughout London. Our current plan will

allow you to register through the internet or the office and when a job comes in that fits your specifications you will be emailed about the details and various information will be displayed about the College. Any comments on what else you would want such a service to provide, as ever president@ic.ac.uk.

Dillons, the people who brought

David Hellard, ICU President



us the hardship fund to buy books with are back with a vengeance. Nominations for the Dillons Excellence and Achievement

Awards are now open. The top prize of 'London Student of the Year' has a prize of £600 so is well worth going for, not to mention the CV points. The awards recognise the extraordinary determination and

fortitude displayed by students who have persued their studies successfully despite difficult or adverse circumstance. So if you know of anyone who has gone through hell due to financial, physical or personal reasons and has still come out shining, please nominate them. All you have to do is write a typewritten resume of why you think they should receive the award in

no more than 750 words, include their name, address, daytime contact number if possible, college course and year of study and submit it to Matt Hyde, University of London, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HY. If you could also include their personal tutor or supervisors contact number if relevant as well, this would improve their chances. I think it's only right that the 'London Student of the Year' is from Imperial.

Finally the greatest Imperial musicians since Brian May are set for a three gig tour, with yours truly on the tambourine for one of the songs. Calamari are starting off at the Bull & Gate on Tuesday 16th March (10.45), 389 Kentish Town, moving onto the Rock Garden on the 24th and finishing off in our own dBs on the 25th. If you haven't seen them yet, they're something not to be missed, managing to headline the Rock Garden (Covent Garden) on the back of just one demo tape. You can find out more about them at <http://listen.to/calamari/> on the Internet or ask for Alex Wright behind the Union bar.





Reviews

The Thin Red Line ★★★

Starring : Sean Penn, Adrien Brody, James Caviezel, Ben Chaplin, John Cusack, Woody Harrelson
Director : Terrence Malick

Despite being one of the most acclaimed directors of his generation, director Terrence Malick hasn't made a movie in the last twenty years. And, to be honest, it shows. What he presents us with here reeks of seventies anti-Nam anger, coupled with the kind of long-drawn-out, meandering style that was popular when the entire audience was out of their head on psychedelic drugs.

On paper, it might sound dangerously close to *Saving Private Ryan* territory - a 'realistic' (yet all-star) vision of what it was really like for the average squaddie in the Second World War, delivered from a very American perspective. However, whilst *Ryan* still displayed certain elements of your bog-standard Sunday afternoon war movie, *The Thin Red Line* has far more in common with *Platoon*, *Full Metal Jacket* and *Apocalypse Now* - this, of course, is no bad thing. Yet whilst the latter were fired by their directors personal visions (and indeed experience), to create a truly seminal, life-altering picture of war, *The Thin Red Line* is devoid of any driving



He's behind you. BANG. Oh, he was on your side. Sorry.

passion. It bumbles along, without plot or motivation, and finally reaches a point where it simply stops. For no apparent reason. Apart from the fact that, having meandered along for three hours, any more would seem excessive.

Like *Private Ryan*, it provides non-

stop streams of grisly images (although none to match the Omaha landings in Spielberg's movie), and resolutely refuses to let you pick out the good guys and the bad guys - and from that point of view it succeeds. You're forced to understand (once again) that this isn't a battle

between good and evil (or at least not when viewed from this level). But we've been there before. Other directors have made the same point, and made it far better. Moreover, they've made it without the need to throw in a megastar every few minutes to wake the audience up (there's no other reason for the sudden appearances of Travolta, Cusack and Clooney). They've also done it without resorting to the kind of "meaningful" voice-overs that sound like they've been written by a bunch of stoned English students.

Harsh all this may sound, but the point is that if a great director (*Badlands* and *Days of Heaven* attest to that) keeps us waiting for twenty years, and then his movie is hailed as "the most important film of the nineties", you're going to have very high expectations. As it stands, it's a decent movie, fuelled with some cracking performances and brilliant cinematography - but by refusing to justify its running time or provide us with anything new, it must ultimately be judged a disappointment. **F**

Dave

PUBLICATIONS BOARD

Want to edit your own magazine?
Want to be responsible for a £50 000 budget?
Want to change the way the Union works?
Want to tell the rest of the country what IC's like?
Or just want something good to put on your CV?

Election papers for next year's Publications Board Committee are now up on the Union notice board (on the first floor of Beit Quad) for the following positions:

Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Phoenix Editor, Alternative Prospectus Editor & Web Editor.
Voting will take place at the Pub Board AGM in the Felix Office at 6pm on Thursday.
So, sign-up if you're interested, or email d.j.roberts@ic.ac.uk for more info.

Reviews

Festen ★ ★ ★

Starring : Ulrich Thomsen, Henning Moritzen, Thomas Bo Larsen
Director : Thomas Vinterberg

Some people really try to make life difficult for themselves. You know the type - the ones who can't write down the right answer just because it's right; the ones who insist on arguing their political or religious beliefs at three in the morning; the ones who do Aero. Well, *Festen* is a brilliant example of what this outlook can do to you.

Four years ago, a bunch of young Danish directors (including Vinterberg) got together and drew up a set of film-making rules, which they called Dogme 95. Under these rules, they may only use natural lighting, and must film exclusively on camcorders. They called these rules a "vow of chastity" and insisted that only thus could they ensure that their art remained pure and true. Of course, everyone else thought they were completely barmy.

So does it work? Well, sort of. Because, despite all their talk of purity, it still comes across like a series of gimicky (and sea-sick) camera positions. On the other hand, it adds an impressively realistic slant (through faux-documentary



Danish cinema. All in the best possible taste.

graininess and fly-on-the-wall camera-work), and gives the movie an injection of pace and urgency into a subject area which intrinsically lacks these two elements - Mike Leigh-esque family drama.

You see, *Festen* translates as *The Celebration*, and it's this party - the 60th birthday of an aristocrat - which provides the focus for the movie. We meet the guests as they prepare for dinner, and watch by as, over the course of the next few hours,

they run the gamut of human emotion, via frantic sex, massive arguments and even suicide. A happy tale it certainly isn't, but by leaving his movie free of any moralising or sentiment, Vinterberg has constructed a hard-hitting and vibrant drama. Dogme remains a strange concept which I certainly wouldn't recommend to aspiring film-makers, but it has, at least, proved that it *can* work. **F**

Dave

A Civil Action

Described as "a new fast paced legal thriller starring John Travolta and Robert Duvall", *A Civil Action* is based on a true story and hits the screens in the UK this month. The original motion picture score for Touchstone Pictures is written by Danny Elfman, and is scheduled for release on the 15th.

Elfman has an impressive list of credits, with scores for 'Batman', 'Batman Returns', 'Dick Tracy', 'Midnight Run' and 'Mission Impossible' to name but a few. This list can now boast the soundtrack to 'A Civil Action'. As you'd expect from a legal thriller the songs are all ominous sounding as Elfman uses the orchestra to full, and you can just imagine Travolta as the big legal hot-shot. There are twenty two tracks on the CD, including the start and ending credits, but remember that this is a soundtrack so all the songs last a couple of minutes at the most. **F**

Gurminder

Winners & solutions for last week's competition will appear next week.

Sports League Co-ordinator

GRADUATE PLACEMENT

Full-time position on a 1 year contract from 1 August 1999 to 31 July 2000

The University of London Union organises one of the largest student sporting leagues in the country. We co-ordinate sport for over 250 teams in ten different sports, catering for approximately 3000 students in over twenty colleges of the University of London.

The candidate we are looking for should have a general interest in sport. You will be working in a busy students' union when the ability to set and meet deadlines will be all-important. You will be expected to organise fixture schedules, referee allocation, facility hire and you will be responsible for event management. The ideal candidate should be a University of London graduate, with a sound knowledge of MS Word, e-mail and the internet, with an aptitude to quickly learn Windows 95 based generic software packages.

Salary £13,428 inclusive of £2,134 London Weighting Allowance

It is intended that this post is a one year only "graduate placement" to gain experience in sports administration and development.

If you would like an informal chat about this post please ring Neil Walker, Sports Development Officer, on 0171 664 2006, or contact Samantha Forde, Administration Manager, ULU Malet Street, London WC1E 7HY or telephone our 24 hr answerphone on 0171 664 2075 for an application pack.

Closing date for applications is 10.00am, Wednesday, 31 March 1999 with interviews being held early in the summer term.

We are striving to be an Equal Opportunities Employer



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CENTRE FOR COMPUTING SERVICES

UG Employment in 1999

The Centre has a number of vacancies for undergraduates to work for the Centre this summer. There are several areas of work, involving PCs and Year 2000 compliance (across all the College campuses). Two of the posts will be located at the Royal Horticultural Society (located in Victoria).

A reasonable knowledge of PC hardware and systems is needed, with knowledge of Windows NT an advantage. Training in the Year 2000 compliance testing will be given.

Payment is in the range £150 to £180 per week. No student will be allowed to work more than 10 weeks. Please send your applications by e-mail to: m.duane@ic.ac.uk

You should give your department, year and course of study. Also the name of your personal tutor. Interviews will be arranged early in the summer term.



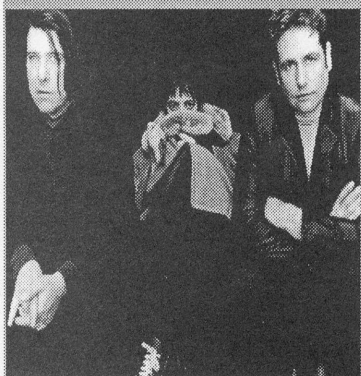
Singles

Layla Kayli - *Shakespear In Love* (sic)

This is the kind of Torn-esque lame-ness that I know I will never really hate but never really like. In fact, I prefer the acoustic version - removing one layer of mix from this very boring, formulaic song. It'll probably get played on a couple of adverts for its sheer inoffensiveness and inoffensive sums it up nicely.

Technique - *Sun Is Shining*

Very 80's, very Human League. Quite a nice catchy tune. Uplifting - will be on in the background of Grandstand football roundups very soon if I am not very much mistaken. The mixes are where this single comes into its own - luckily the mixmasters stay well away from most of the lyrics and concentrate on a couple of samples and then inject a little of their magic - with the funkforce ramraid dub mix coming out on top. Sure to be popular in clubland soon.

Echo & The Bunnymen - *What are you going to do with your life?*

Another simple, elegant tune from EATB. The only problem is that the pace needs to be upped just a little. But that's just me - I like a little more speed from my tunes. B-sides continue the themes, with *History Chimes* on top of the pile. Perfect for a sunny day, or curling up with a book on a Sunday afternoon. EATB continue their come back with a solid (if slow) single.

MaSe presents - *Harlem World - The Movement*

I don't know what it is with this new crop of rap "crews" but all they even seem to sing about is how dangerous/rich/talented they are. While this is all very well in short samples it seems that this has gone to MaSe's head, at least in the first track of this EP (album sampler). Thankfully, the rest is much better. The heartfelt *You Made Me* stands out. The track is Carl Thomas and Nas's tribute to their mothers, ahhhhhh! What a nice bunch of boys and girls.

[Singles continued on Page 16]

Albums

THE AFGHAN WHIGS

1965 ★★★★★



The 'Whigs - don't mess with them or their mother'll 'ave ya.

This band have been going for 11 years now and have released numerous albums. They were the first non-northwestern band signed to the Sub-pop label - the label that would first launch Nirvana into the limelight. Times change and the band are now with Columbia, this being their debut for the label. So it seems strange that a label of Columbia's size only thinks about pushing the record now, considering it was released in October of last year. Apparently this has something to do with the band touring here soon or something along these lines.

The album has been touted as being the Whigs' most mature record yet, and whilst I'm not familiar enough with their earlier material to comment on this, it is fair to say that there is a maturity to the sound. Perhaps some of this is due to the fact that the band have enlisted the support of The Royal Orleans Revue. This means that the sound is supplemented to the point of sounding full, but never to the point of being overwhelming. This record is a lot more than your basic rock album - strings, pianos and female backing vocals are all used in ways that have impact and yet remain subtle. The songs themselves are well written, managing to appear as songs

rather than a nice collection of phrases, something many bands are guilty of.

Greg Dulli, the lead singer, has stated that 'guilt takes a back seat to lust on this album.' He should know, as after all he has sole credit for almost all the songs. Although he may be slightly misstating things as on the song *Neglected*, he states 'You can fuck my body, baby. But pleeze (sic), don't fuck my mind'. Otherwise it's true, lust completely dominates things. Not a surprise when you read interviews with Dulli. The tone of the record is on the whole mellow, but there are times when the music and vocals decide to soar.

The album never really goes at things full pace. Some times the pace is picked up a little, as on the track *John The Baptist* which manages to sound like a theme from a seventies cop movie. The album isn't perfect. For a start it's a little short - there's eleven tracks, of which one is an instrumental and another is twenty seconds of some woman supposedly in the act with Dulli. Otherwise the only other complaint is that the style of most songs is not that varied. Other than these complaints there's nothing majorly wrong - and the packaging's quite good as well. **M**

Jamie

LIZ HORSMAN

Heavy High ★★



Liz Horsman - not quite got round to chucking out all her old Felixes.

At the grand old age of Forty odd, pop/rock music is a polymesmeric beast, diverse and eclectic as ever, but simultaneously repetitive and self-indulgent. What goes around does indeed come around: Janis Joplin; singing, guitars, bass, drums, very good indeed. Liz Horsman; singing, guitars, bass, drums, not much cop really. Same structure, different product. Consider an American GI casting an impressive gaze: filmed by Spielberg, crass and laboured; filmed by Malick, subtle emotion of immeasurable depth. Same structure, different product.

Books and covers, books and covers, I fall for it every time. Great case and layout, not so great contents. When will I learn? Mind you, as a German answering Fred once said, 'If existence isn't an aesthetic phenomenon then what else is it?' And Liz, you would of got away with it, if it wasn't for those pesky kids telling you to open your mouth and play your guitar.

That's not to say the entire album is drivel. The upbeat numbers may sound like a poor Sheryl Crow (yes, that bad) but the slower numbers do attract your attention, but in the words of George Lucas, 'Emotionally involving the audience is easy. Anybody can do it blindfolded, get a kitten and have some guy wring its neck.' Viz. pop-rock music; mournful singing, piano and a splash of strings may engage on a superficial level, but they don't necessarily effect a deep-rooted emotional response; on the surface all is well, but deep down obvious and empty semantics prevail. **M**

Chris

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Weds 17th

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DAVE GORMAN

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Fri 19th dBs 8pm £2.50/£2

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Your Union - Run for You



Singles

[Singles continued from page 14]

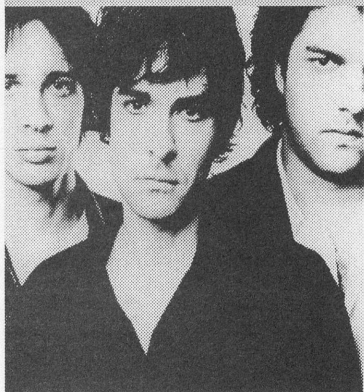
TLC - *No Scrub*

TLC look to set to continue their hit-making run with this track, the first from their new album *Fan Mail*. TLC have moved further and further away from their original 'pure' rap roots, this tune is much more soulful than previous offerings. Slickly produced with lurvely vocals from the threesome and the almost ubiquitous Spanish guitar. Watch it race up the R&B charts.

THE ESSENTIAL CHOON

Manic Street Preachers - *You Stole the Sun From My Heart*

YES. I love the Manics I really do. Big guitars, big voice and intelligent lyrics. Lovely. And to top it all off, they are Welsh. So lets rock out. Fantastic B-sides, *Socialist Serenade* and my live favourite - *Train In Vain*. Buy this and all their songs ever. Nicesh.

The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion - *Talk About the Blues*

Choppy funky rock. A little bit too choppy at times. The JSBE know how to rock out, but they need to learn to rein themselves in a bit, to make it all a bit more listenable. At the moment they sound like a band playing in one of their dad's garages with a fourth hand four track. While very nice and raw, bleeding edge is painful on the eardrums.

Kinnie Starr - *Mending (five song advance)*

The first thing that hits you about this ep/'advance' is Kinnie Starr's incredibly throaty voice, she must have a sponsorship deal with B&H. Haunting violins are very much in evidence, as well as scratchy drum loops. It's all very chilled out and relaxing at the start and the end. Soon she gets very angry and rants for a track or two - interesting - but ultimately dull. **M**

Joel

Albums

PIST.ON

Sell Out ★★½



Pist.On - pumping Iron.

Rah! Turn the amps up to eleven. Put a scary black T-shirt on. Lace your DMs all the way to the top. Do a bit of head banging. Let's RAWK! Or not as the case may be.

Once upon a time I would have unreservedly given this full marks but times change. Alas, Pist.on haven't cottoned on to this and whilst it's a decent album it'll never win any prizes in the originality stakes. If you've ever listened to any of the Metal Hammer free CDs you don't need to buy *Sell Out* because you'll have heard it all before.

It's sooooo formulaic: chugging power chords on the fast songs, monstrosous strumming on the slow ones and all this is kept in line by thunderous drums and a bass you can't quite hear. Don't get me wrong, the way the album is put together is without fault and the songs aren't necessarily bad, it's just that they're not memorable. Every song runs into every other one and if you're not careful you can lose track of where you are; I missed two tracks while listening to this because I wasn't paying enough attention.

One thing I did notice though was that *Rest* sounds disturbingly like those pre-pubescent Antipodean rockers Silverchair and the rest of the album is

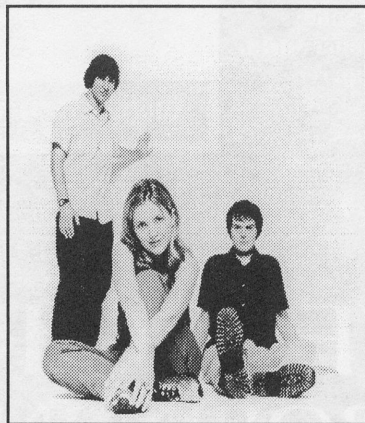
watered-down Metallica. I hate Metallica: James Hetfield reminds me of that long-time Sooty sufferer Matthew Corbett. But it's a bit harsh to say I hated *Sell Out*, I still have a soft spot for all this soft Hard Rock (to coin a musical phrase). I'm rather pleased that it's not all 'Kill your dog/ Burn your settee/ Rah, chugga, chugga' and more of a pleasant 'Let's have tea/ Go for cake/ Hoover the living room, yeah' vibe which is in part due to those non-threatening vocals.

The most disappointing aspect of the whole album is the nagging suspicion that Pist.on just aren't trying. I listened to a track of theirs that I had lying around called *Down And Out* and it's exactly the same. It's three years old. You'd have thought that in that amount of time their music would have found a little direction, but it seems to have just stagnated and they're quite happy to leave it that way. Perhaps if I'd taken time to listen to the lyrics I'd have got more out of it but I really wasn't that interested. And I didn't mention the immense hilarity of their name once. Aren't I a good boy? **M**

Christian

THE PETER SOUND ORCHESTER & REMIXERS

Warp Back To Earth 66/99 ★★★★★



Saint Etienne - pop-tastic angels in footie boots.

After the rant about mediocre electronic and dance music compilations a couple of weeks ago, it wouldn't be unreasonable to expect a similar amount of raving this week. However, as dance music compilations go, *Warp Back to Earth* has much more to offer than your average offering. For a start, there's two CDs, each with its own style and each with its own merits.

As a package the album, consists of work by the Peter-Thomas-Sound-Orchestrator. The first CD contains remixes of PTSO tracks by a whole host of artists, including a number of wonderful moments courtesy of mix maestros Coldcut, pop-pioneers Saint Etienne and the super-chilled Stereolab. The second CD is pure PTSO, and there is no overlap of tracks between the discs.

The sound of PTSO is quite unique. I suppose the most appropriate description would be one of a mix between ambient and classical. Many of the PTSO tunes lack a beat, and this does on occasion sound odd, but the PTSO disc does make a perfect CD to put on if you want

to go to sleep.

The first CD containing the remixes is lends itself to a much more interactive listening session. The sounds are atmospheric, sometimes eerie and always involving. The piano part on the Coldcut remix of *Peter in Space* is a beautiful sound that works effectively alongside loud, bellowing electronic effects. This tune also includes a strings part that is brought into the tune every so often and adds even more to warp the listener to worlds uncharted. Another album highlight comes from the Japanese Yoshinori Sunahara who brings a high quality sound to the album with *PTVsYS*.

Definitely not an album to bring you down to earth. More one to beam you to space and beyond. Brilliant. **M**

James

CLUBSCENE

Fallen Angels @ Hanover Grand

Hanover Street, W1. Fridays, £5/£12, 10pm-3.30am. Capacity = 1,200. Dress code = none.

Last Friday Joel, Stephen (my mate from the IC IVs football team) and I met up to review what we thought would just be an ordinary night of clubbing at the Hanover Grand. Naturally, we had to have a few drinks before the club and decided to try the 'lovely' bars of Soho. This was a bad move as we had to keep restraining Joel from entering various 'establishments' - after all we had to review a club and he could always come back later. . So on to the club.

The theme of the night in the Hanover was 'High Noon' and it was no surprise that many of the people in there were dressed in various cowboy outfits. The club itself was quite packed, many from IC - since if you had a flyer you could

have got in for free before 11:30pm or for only a fiver after, and I had given away two hundred of them.

Within minutes of getting on the dancefloor, I was grabbed by a woman who kept telling me her name was Louise. I thought "Result"! Having only been in the club ten minutes I was being pulled - things were looking up. It was only after the 'Louise' in question dragged me away to a quiet spot and said her name was not Louise and that she was, in fact, after some contraband narcotics. (I'm sure you can work out which ones rhyme with Louise) that I knew that I hadn't pulled. On top of that I clearly looked like a drug dealer. Perhaps I should have sold her a couple of Strepsils (I had a sore throat that night).

The music was great, a range of house music varying from cheesy to the harder side all expertly mixed by Frankie

Foncett, DJ Marble and Justin Ballard. Also the packed dancefloor and décor all added to the atmosphere. There were two rooms running, the main floor with all the house music and the downstairs room with old classics and more funky sounds.

This night, as a few others, including Propaganda (voted London's best club night out in 'Timeout'), are run by John and Krista (their company is called Enigma). When I asked John why he charged so little for entry into club when everyone else charged a fortune, he told me that he didn't believe that people should pay silly prices to get into a club, especially students. Of course, they make their money at the bar (£3.50 starting prices) but then it's up to you if you buy a drink. It's an attitude that should be applauded - when so many promoters are charging a fortune this

guy charges sweet fuck all and you still have a great night. Fallen Angels was good - not mind blowing, but very impressive nonetheless. The music is great, and there is a good, warm friendly atmosphere in the club (it's a mixed night). It's not going to cost an arm and a leg to get in, and you don't have to drink. Indeed, for the entry price it's a fantastic night out. Enigma will be playing at HG again soon and I'll have more tickets for free entry, so if you're interested then pop into Felix for details on this and other Enigma nights.



Gurm

Singles

Single of the Week

Flashback

'Start Da Move'

Superb euro-house track coming out of Italy on the Slamm label. the 12" has three mixes, with the A side giving you a very uplifting, progressive euro-track. Full of pianos, strings and breakdowns. The other side has a couple of house mixes. It's a great dance track with a very catchy tune.

★★★★★

T-Power

'Who Gives a Funk'

Funky single, but too boring and far too bland. There are two different singles on the 12" and the second is simply a funk track with a hard bass line. Both tunes go on forever and you get bored waiting for the track to kick in - sadly, it never does.

★

Weed

'If Only U Could See'

Excellent single with a host of remixes giving lots of variety. A couple of mixes give a very vocal, uplifting and chilled ver-

sion which is great for easy listening. There is also a dub mix which gives a superb progressive angle and the album version gives a D&B interpretation.

★★★★★

Brooke Russell

'So Sweet'

A great R&B track. This features additional vocals from Mr Gentleman and is a funky uplifting track. The radio mix is the best, but for something more slow and a bit deep check out the Headrush mix. Wonderful vocals, great tune, top single.

★★★★★

Freestylers

'B-Boy Stance'

Not a bad hip-hop/funk track but too boring and all the mixes sound the same. The vocals are clear and the tune is really catchy. But there are seven mixes, and once you've heard the first track, you've heard the CD. If there was more variety there it would be great.

★★★★★

Aphex Twin

'Windowlicker'

More superb muscial madness from the

Twin. There are a few mixes on this great single. The first is a chilled out, slow beat version - a slow melodic song that makes great listening. The other two mixes are simply weird. They have weird names (one is a maths formula!!) and are a collection of random sounds. Not as good as some of his earlier work, it's still a good single. Check out the sleeve of the 12".

★★★★★

Hollis P Munroe

'I'm Lonely'

An excellent slow, deep house tune which was completed in 3 hours and was co-written by Terence Trent D'Arby (remember him? No, didn't think so), sampling his "And I need to be with someone tonight". There are a few mixes on the CD version. The first two sound exactly the same, whilst the last is a very fast, progressive version. Out this month.

★★★★★



Gurm





Escape From Samsara @ The Fridge

Brixton, SW2. Fridays, £12, 10pm-6am.
Capacity - 1,000. Dress code - wear whatever you want.

Last week Clubscene ventured south of the river once again on your behalf. The venue was the stunning Fridge and the night the fantastic, or should I say legendary, Escape From Samsara. Firstly, let's get one little thing out of the way. Where exactly is Samsara, and, on this showing, why on earth would you want to escape from it? Well, in the interest of your general education I picked up my old copy of the Oxford Children's Atlas, and had a look. But no luck - apparently the place doesn't exist, apart from in the vivid imaginations of the funkiest of London's clubbers. And if it did exist then it would be the most wonderful place to escape from.

I won't mince my words on this one. This is quite simply the best night in the country's capital. Monumental is the only way to describe this trancey-tribal fest.

Quite a good start to any review, I'd say. And now I'm afraid that I'm going to be unable to describe exactly what it was like (especially considering my meagre writing talents!). But there is a reason for my apprehension. You see to really appreciate what Escape From Samsara is all about you have to go along yourself and see what all the fuss is about.

And seeing is part of the believing with Escape From Samsara. This is just as much a visual and spiritual experience as it is an aural one. The night is the whole



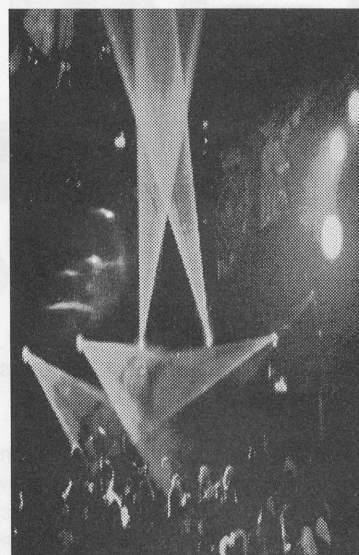
package, but with a difference. Yes, the familiar list of features spring to mind: brilliant UV decorations, weird dancers on stilts, fabulous venue, jugglers, happy beautiful people, no attitude, funky music, top DJs, balloon drops, freebies at the end (bananas in this place), nice promoters, etc. But Escape From Samsara has that little bit extra, that something you can't quite put your finger on. I think it has got to do with the vibe of the night, but don't quote me on this one. See, they've got me talking all New Age now - that's how good the night is. Go and try it yourself.

Once again, I'll say it - this is the best night you can go to in London. There is absolutely no contest. Escape from your everyday student worries by escaping to Samsara. I know I will (every Friday if possible).

Magical, Mythical, Monumental



Roobarb



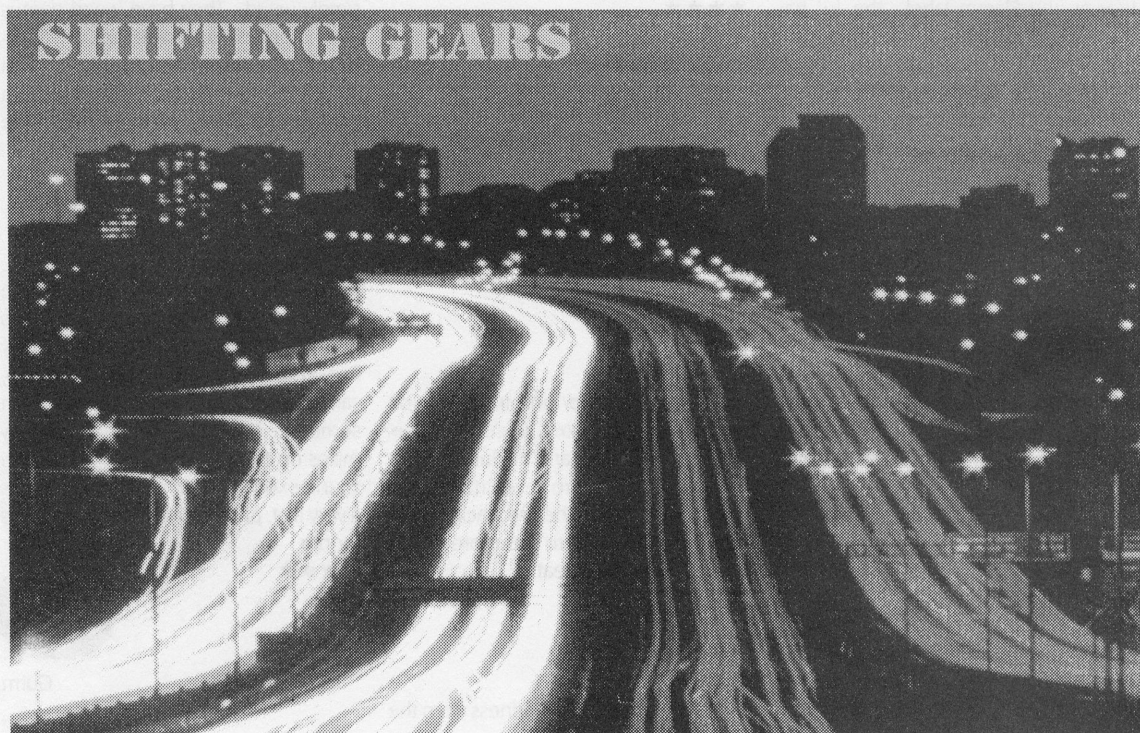
Shifting Gears Competition

Thanks to the lovely little people at Hard Hands label, we have the chance to give away 2 tickets to their wonderful **Shifting Gears** night at the spectacular Mass nightclub in Brixton. The tickets are worth £12 each and are for the Friday 19th of March outing. All you have to do is to answer this fairly easy question:

What way the name of the collaboration between Leftfield and John Lyden of the Sex Pistols?

A bit of a blast from the past I know, but to get your hands on this prize just e-mail me, Giles Morrison, with the right answer of course, on either:

Gmorr25993@aol.com
giles.morrison@ic.ac.uk



Albums

Album of the Week

Blu Peter
'Widescreen & Digital'
(React)

Brilliant hardbag/Nu-nrg sounds from the fantastic pioneering DJ/producer Blu Peter. This is a great album which shows off Blu Peter's skills at their very best. Including the club smash "Blue Air" all the tracks are great, and don't actually sound the same, giving you that 'value for money feeling'. If you like the fast beats and sounds that are Nu-nrg, then check out this album.

Out on React Records very soon

★★★★★

Botchit Breaks 2
'The Urban Funk Philosophies'
(Botchit & Scarper)

Good double-CD compilation featuring a mixture of funk/ jazz/ nu-skoool/hip-hop and all other genres in the 5th album from the Botchit & Scarper label. The CD features Freq Nasty, Orange Krush and Raw Deal. There is a bit of variety in the album, but then towards the end of the album you get a feeling of déjà vu. Not bad, and certainly worth checking out.

★★★

Mrs Wood/Blu Peter
'Bitter and Twisted'
(React)

'Bitter and Twisted' is a fast pumping double CD mixed by Mrs Wood and Blu Peter. Over two hours long, it is a mix of the very best hard house and pumping Nu-nrg tunes including many of the classics from a couple of years ago.

★★★★★

Deep House

(Millennium)

A mis-leading title for a good album. Deep house is a great mix of good house tunes, but they are certainly not deep house tunes. Coming out soon on Millennium records, this 16 track compilation features a very impressive track-listing, including tunes by Studio 45, soulsearcher, Cassio, Plastic Avengers and an impressive piano track "Never" from John Aquaviva. It's not deep house, nor is it anything new, but the tracks are all great (rare for a mix album) and is definitely worth checking out.

★★★★★

The Flava of the Underground
(Inventive)

A compilation album from the fledgling Inventive label bringing together some of the better tunes from the UK soulful garage scene. I got this album on tape so the quality was crap but it does sound like a decent album, and it's good to know that someone is out there getting people to notice the soul-garage genre which is slowly becoming very popular. The track-listing is good, with tracks ranging from slow and funky, to the faster garage sound. Tracks include "Feeling Fine", "Groove in Me", "Ultimate Love" and "Body" to name a few. I'm sure the whole thing sounds better on CD.

★★★

Weed
'Hard to Kill'

Cracking debut album from the duet known as Weed. This is an album which assimilates 80's electronic pop, jazz noir and Detroit and European techno as well as taking inspiration from Portishead and Massive Attack. The CD features ten tracks which vary from progressive, to D&B through to chilled-out - similar to the music you might hear in Ibiza, or Digweed and

Sasha playing one of their sets. Lots of variety, great album.

★★★★★

Various
'ClusterFuck'
(Stay Up Forever)

Underground techno of the finest quality - the only way to describe this collection of tracks from some of the artists on the ever-reliable Stay Up Forever/Cluster labels. Although you may not recognise some of the artist's names, when looked at more closely all the big names that you'd associate with the label have a hand in writing or producing most of the tracks. The drum-based influence of artists such as D.A.V.E. the Drummer, Chris Liberator, and DDR, is evident throughout the album. So are the ultra-layered melodies that always come with a Stay Up Forever release.

There is a nice mix of songs within the album, reflecting the wide range of sounds that fall within this genre of dance music. People often think of techno as being highly one-dimensional and stereotypical. But, as usual, they are sadly mistaken, and this is most definitely shown up on this record. ClusterFuck explores techno's landscape in detail, from the happy, almost chilled-out 'Frontier' by Dig-

ital Destroyer, to the dark, brooding monster that is Cyborg X's 'Cryogenic State.' There really aren't any album-fillers in this package, although some tracks do stand clear from the rest, which can occasionally begin to sound a tad repetitive. And the best of these is easily Creeper II's 'Spoke,' a bouncy, confident piece of softish techno that would get any crowd going to the limit.

Some of these tracks were played by the DJs at Escape From Samsara recently, and if that isn't a compliment then I don't know what is. Although ClusterFuck is not even half as trancey as what you'd expect from the Escape From Samsara people, it is still packed full of enough twists and turns to keep any lover of dance music interested in listening, or dancing, to it all night long.

This is for those of you who love a bit of British techno, but also it's one in the eye of those who think techno is dull, mindless, and going nowhere. Listen up and realise how wrong you are.

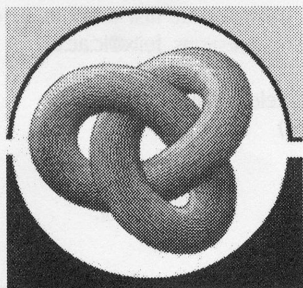
Out Now

★★★★★



Roobarb and Gurm

Preview - Swallow



£8 NUS / £10

London's most exciting night gets its regular slot as of the 19th March. Swallow is going to be a fantastic night, it's run for students and young people; people who want to go out and have fun.

It costs less than a tenner and the night runs from 10pm - 6am. The music policy is techno, drum and bass and house - strictly no cheese!! There's a whole host of DJs on the night including Colin Dale, Nicky Blackmarket and Darren Pearce to name a few. Swallow takes place at Arch 5 (on the corner of Crucifix Lane and Shand Street), London Bridge, SE1. For more details, ask in Felix.



Gurm

ICU Jazz & Rock presents

CALAMARI



16/3 The Bull & Gate
24/3 The Rock Garden
25/3 Imperial College

info : <http://listen.to/calamari>

flyers available at union office



Metal Gear Solid (PSX)

Konami

★★★★★



From the opening cinematic sequence Metal Gear Solid oozes the quality and sophistication very few console games ever approach. If ever they wanted to turn this into a film, the screenplay and the storyboard have already been written. Just find a director, a cast and a couple of million for special effects and even I could get it commissioned. As Solid Snake you

as possible, there are a lot more of them than there are of you. As experience has shown me - if you are getting into a fight either have superiority or be able to run and hide well.

It is also at this point in the game that the detail smacks you firmly in the face and refuses to release your gaze. The characters actually breathe, and being in



This game is good, very very good. In fact this game is so good that within a few days of playing this game the flat, in one of its few moments of clarity, went out and replaced the small portable TV with a rather larger twenty-eight inch behemoth. This game is so good that there were even discussions on equipping the flat with a living room stereo. Believe it or not this game can seriously damage your overdraft.

are an ex-member of an elite genetically modified fighting squad called FOX-HOUND. Most of them have turned bad, captured an Alaskan nuclear weapons storage facility and threatened to launch a nuclear missile at the Pentagon. Coming out of retirement you have twenty four hours to find out if they have the capability to launch a weapon and if so to disable it before they do. Things are not that simple and there is a whiff of an ulterior plot behind it all.

You arrive at the sub base with no weapons. At this point you realise that this game is not a slaughter tens of soldiers and get out with only a scratch game. This game is all about evading the terrorists as much

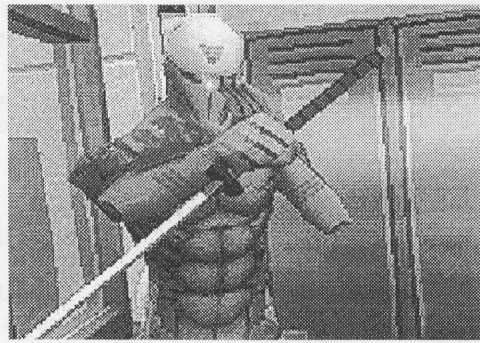
the Arctic clouds of mist billow out. Guards hear when you run through pools of water and actually come to have a look at what made the noise. They can also follow the tracks you leave in the snow. The graphics themselves hardly differ in detail from those used in the cut scenes - everything combines to form the illusion that you are in an interactive movie.

If there could be a complaint about this game it would be the translations from Japanese. If you wanted to create an image of a fearless killer and interrogator who had a fetish for colt pistols one of the least frightening names you could choose would be Revolver Ocelot. So the guy who likes rocket

launchers is called Bazooka Bunny - I don't think so.

This game has been called the last great Playstation game before the Playstation 2 arrives, and as much as I would hate to believe it this might be true. Gran Turismo 2 might try to challenge it but here ladies and gentlemen is what may well prove to be the console game of the millenium.

Gary S.



Competition Corner

Gremlin Giveaway - Answers and Winners

Its time to dish out the prizes and put some poor mad Liverpool supporters out of their misery, as if Liverpool was the first BRITISH european cup winner.

Anyway the answers and winners were:-

Pool:shark

The Hustler and the colour of money were the two pool films featuring Paul Newman.

Winner : Jan Evetts (Chemistry)

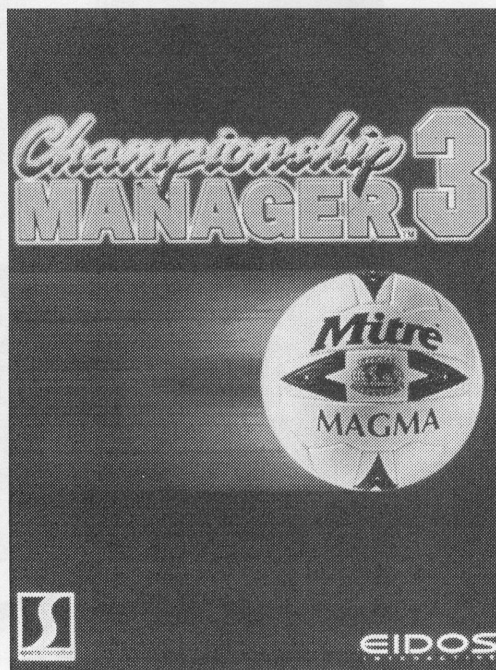
Premier Manager 99

Celtic won the European Cup in 1967, thus beating Liverpool by a good few years.

Winner : Adam Uttley (Physics)

Cheers to the guys and gals at Gremlin; winners can pick their prizes up from the Felix office - if they find me.

Champion : nuff said



It's finally time. After hyping it up last week Championship Manager 3 is on its way to destroy lives and make white faced zombies to all those whose fanatical following of football fails to end at 4:45 every saturday.

For all those who fail to heed the warning Eidos have supplied a single hit of this highly addictive game for the first victim to send in the correct answers to the following questions. felix@ic.ac.uk

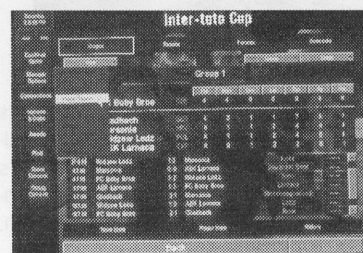
**Which Clubs do the following celebs claim to support?
(a big hint is the four divisions)**

Premier League
1. Eddie Jordan
2. Nigel Kennedy
3. Zoe Ball

Division 1
4. Jasper Carrott

Division 2
5. Hugh Grant
6. Jo Whaley

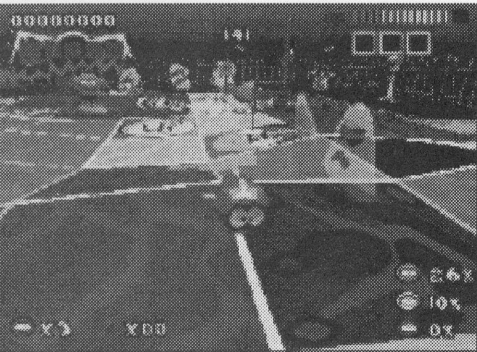
Division 3
7. John Motson



LiveWire (PSX)

Sci

★★★★



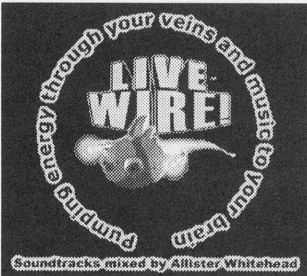
A long time ago, in an arcade a long way away there was a game called Amidar. In other arcades it was known as painter but the idea was the same. Move your little character round a series of connected squares and rectangles colouring in the path as you run. As soon as you coloured all four sides of a rectangle it became yours, but as in life things were slightly more complex and chasing you round the grid were little nasties who harassed

you and generally prevented you from colouring the whole grid in. Well time and technology has moved on, but with games like Asteroids being updated, and the retro game scene growing stronger, it is time to dust off a few of those ideas and tinker with them for the millennium. LiveWire is the reanimated and tweaked Amidar. It has

its mother's chin you see.

LiveWire is played over a series of different zones, ranging from Oceanic, Wild West, Fun Fair, Spooky and Space, but the idea is the pretty much the same. Follow the lines, complete the squares and claim the

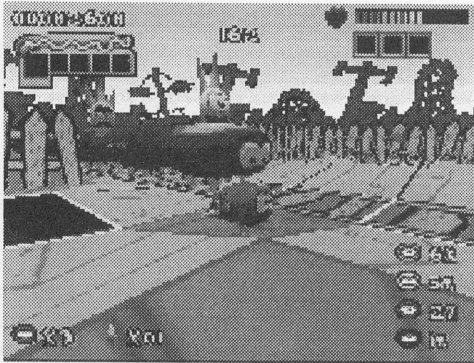
boxes. The graphics are excellent and the animation cartoon-like, but good. Aurally Sci have managed to get in a professional DJ in to mix ten or so tracks - Allister Whitehead no less - and so the music completely dumps on bland puzzle game style sound. Back to the game. This time you are not just hin-



dered by a series of nasties making life short and brutal but also a gaggle of competing wire painters all trying to grab more of the grid than you. This might seem harsh but as always there are always ways to grab special items by colouring in certain squares. These might be weapons to hunt down and stop the other wire painters in their tracks or they might set off a tusami of

square colouring. They might even set up a nice booby trap that will teach your opponents not to mess with your blocks. Whatever they are just make sure you get there before they do. It might be a puzzle

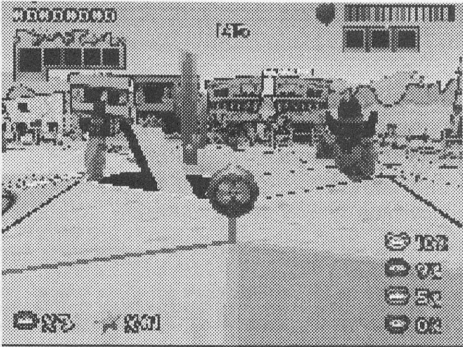
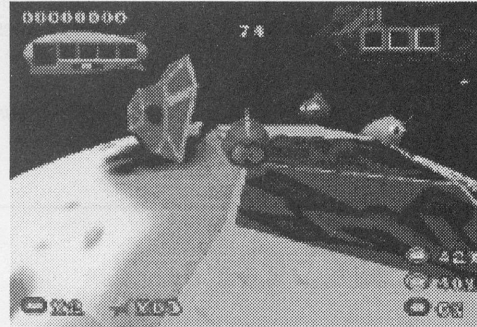
game but standing still and thinking too long will reward you with defeat, although rushing about like a headless chicken produces the same result as well. Think fast and think on the move; defeat dealt by the computer is one thing, defeat is even more galling when it happens to come from your Scottish flatmate to whom you only explained half the



rules in order to keep him losing for another day or so.

It's the return of the multiplay puzzle game; while one may well be fun according to Delia, two is definitely much more enjoyable. If you are Tetris-ed out, and feeling listless, take LiveWire twice a day; it's just what the doctor ordered.

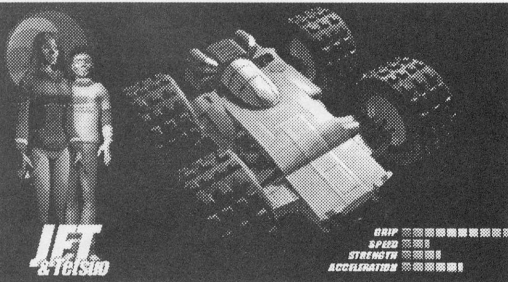
Gary S.



Rollcage

Psygnosis

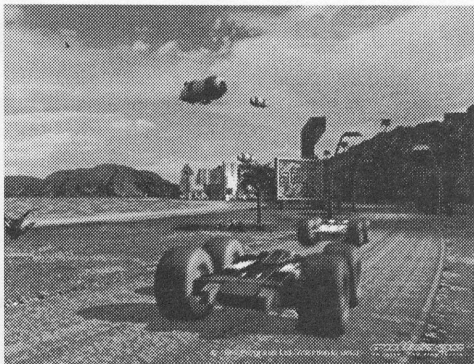
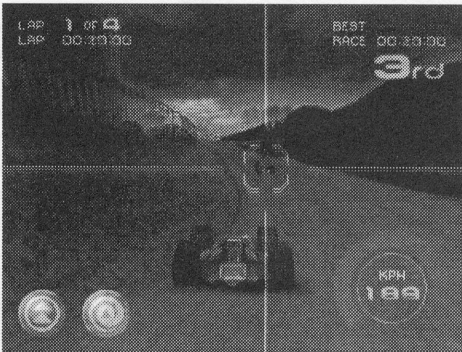
★★★★



After Wipeout and Wipeout 2097 Psygnosis had time to think about things. They had just produced two of the best race games on any console - ever. Even better was that the vehicles didn't have wheels and carried enough firepower to simplify parking in central London. The problem now was what to do next. They might produce nice sensible racing games like Formula 1, but how could they produce a weird and wacky race game that could be original and compare favourably against the hoverbrowsers from the Wipeout series. In Wipeout you didn't touch the ground; if you did it was the scraping

sound of the nose of the fast angular anti-gravity craft - one way to go from first to last fairly quickly. Rollcage instead takes a much more wheels-on-the-ground approach. In fact they make the wheels much bigger than the car is tall, and so if you flip it can keep on going...even if you are upside down. The tyres also have the ability to stick like dried cornflakes to the last cereal bowl, enabling some quite impressive stunts involving the sides and tops of tunnels - why go round your opponent when you can go over? The racing is fast and fran-

tic; following the track is just one way of finishing the race (the big bouncy tyres love offroading). They have also kept the weapon and speedups parts from Wipeout. The weapons are less intelligent and less powerful (no 'contender eliminated' delight from this game), but are no less fun - the ice-sheet (now honestly do not write in asking what this does), and the leader missile which follows, catches up and finally goes head to head with the leader are both humour laden. In fact the Wipeout theme runs through the whole game. The graphics have been heavily

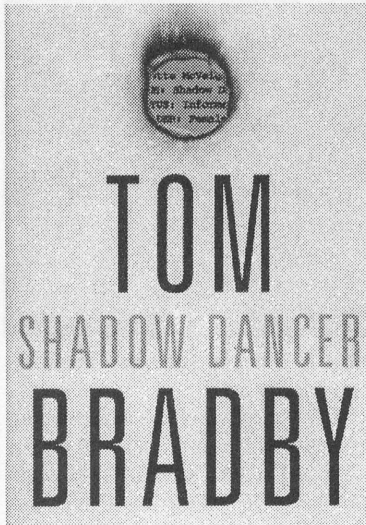


improved, the angular hovercrafts that served Wipeout so well are replaced by much more complex and curved vehicles, without losing any of the flowing motion that Wipeout had. In fact this games looks even more arcade than the arcade Wipeout XL ride - with very little pop-up, the now expected lens flare effects and brilliant backgrounds. The soundtrack is also impressive, with music tracks from Fat Boy Slim and Receiver. The package has quality stamped all through it. For all those Wipeout fans, the future has great big knobby tyres. Gary S.



SHADOW DANCER

by Tom Bradby



I don't read many airport thrillers. I hadn't read one for quite some time when I was offered the chance to review this one, and now I remember why - they are unsatisfying. This genre is great for avoiding eye contact with other passengers on long tube journeys, but to expect more than several days of ridiculous violence and gratuitous sex is optimistic. Character development and natural plot progression

go out of the window, make a dirty mess on the pavement and disappear out of sight down the gutter to make way for shocks and sensationalism. One constantly feels like one is reading an adaptation of a very poor Channel Five TV movie, wanton nudity and all.

Characters are thinned down to easily recognised stereotypes so the writer doesn't have to bother describing them fully. These protagonists have hunky names like 'Jack Ryan' or 'Bruce Wayne'. They are put in an 'exciting' situation. A chain of events inevitably leads to some spectacular end-piece where the forces of righteousness overcome the evil-doers by a hair's breadth - not the kind of plot lines discussed on *The Late Show*. Action is king, art is nothing.

Oh yes, the book. It lives up to all the above, but has some redeeming features. Colette is the attractive sister of Gerry McVeigh, leader of the IRA Belfast brigade and total nutter. Her other brother, imaginatively named Paddy, is also a high ranking Republican. They hang around with a crowd of Seans, Kierans, Murphys and other stereotypical Irish types planting bombs and kneecapping shopkeepers. Unlucky

Colette gets caught one day trying to bomb Waterloo station and becomes a 'tout' in return for not being jailed. Her MI5 controller, the hunky David Ryan (no relation of Tom Clancy's Jack) falls for her and she falls for him. They foil a series of plots as the book draws to its ridiculous denouement.

Bradby deserves credit for his easy reading style. He is clear and informative, as befits his job, ITN Northern Ireland correspondent. His journalistic pedigree also shows in his ability to give a sense of context. The action takes place in London and Belfast. He clearly owns an A to Z of both cities, judging by the way that he describes every detail of even the most trivial wanderings of his characters. He captures the mood of the province well and highlights the incredible disparity between life in Ulster and life in England. The detail shows he has done good research - pity he hasn't done so well when thinking up plots and characters.

The whole book has a sense of déjà vu. All the policemen act like Tosh Lyons from *The Bill* and all the terrorists are thuggish maniacs. The ubiquitous

gripping emotional dilemma is 'will Colette take responsibility for her two kids or die fighting for the cause?' To be honest, I didn't really mind either way, and as I read the last page before I started the book, I already knew the answer.

The main problem with the narrative is that one can spot where the fiction ends and the facts begin. The street names are real but the people walking along them are false. The methods of execution are genuine but the victims seem unreal. Still, one wouldn't want to be disturbed by such superficial entertaining tat.

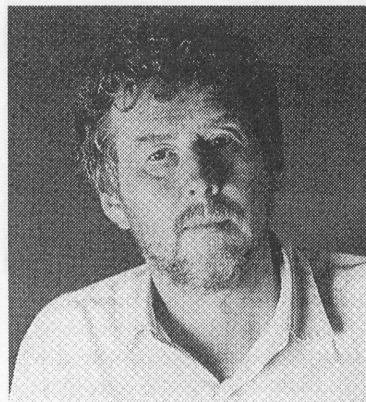
I have to admit that I did want to know what happened next at almost every stage of the book. It had a gripping roller coaster plot, which had me engrossed. However, as soon as I finished the book I didn't feel in any way moved by the tragedy. In fact, the book had no deeper effect on me than acquainting me with some street names in Belfast.

Iain

Published by Corgi, £5.99

NASH ENSEMBLE - FOCUS ON THE MUSIC OF HARRISON BIRTWISTLE

Purcell Room, South Bank Centre



The composer Harrison Birtwistle came to major public attention with the performance of his piece *Panic*, for saxophone, drummer and orchestra, at the Last Night of the 1995 BBC Proms. Aside from the inevitable outcry (some people complained before they'd even heard the piece), this event established him as a kind of British Patron Saint of Contemporary Music, a deserved position for a composer who has been a

leading musical figure for over 30 years.

The Nash Ensemble's concert programme opened with a performance of Birtwistle's 1969 arrangements of motets by two medieval composers: Ockeghem's *Ut Heremita Solus* and *Hoquetus David* by Guillaume de Machaut. The combination of medieval melodic lines and modern orchestration was striking. The clashes of instrumental colour and transposition of octave ranges created a quirky and original sound world, without ever obscuring the original musical material.

This was followed by Debussy's *Trois poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé*, settings of poems by the writer better known as the inspiration behind the composer's *Prélude de l'Après-midi d'un faune*. The original music (for voice and piano) was arranged by composer Colin Matthews for an ensemble of two flutes, two clarinets, piano and string quartet - the same instrumentation used by Ravel. The result, sung by soprano Claron McFadden, was delightful.

The first half concluded with another Birtwistle piece from 1969, his *Cantata*, incorporating fragments of Ancient Greek texts translated into English. The musicians' parts comprise a number of options from which they pick-and-choose what to play at any given moment. The result is a spontaneous and exciting atmosphere that is maintained through a musical landscape, ranging from the mysterious and delicate to the furious and overwhelming. Claron McFadden's performance was once again astonishing.

The second half opened with *The Soldier's Tale Suite* - five extracts from Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*, arranged by the composer for violin, clarinet and piano (the original is for narrator, actors, dancer and seven musicians). It tells the story of a soldier who makes a deal with the devil, selling his violin for great riches - but he turns out to have sold his happiness with his violin. The piece received a passionate performance by violinist Leo Phillips, clarinettist Richard Hosford

and pianist Ian Brown. It was followed by Birtwistle's *Duets for Storab*, a set of six flute duets inspired by Scottish folk music (more in form than in style); the music proved interesting, but in the end, left me a little cold.

The concert finished with one of Birtwistle's most recent works, *The Woman and the Hare* for reciter, soprano and ensemble. The libretto is by Birtwistle's friend, the poet David Harsent, who was asked by the composer to provide a text that was "both delicate and yet violent", for a woman's voice. The same description could be applied to the music, which is by turns gentle, intriguing, terrifying and ultimately quite chilling - a truly amazing aural experience, which only served to confirm something I've believed ever since seeing his opera *Punch and Judy* over the Summer; that Harrison Birtwistle is quite simply one of the most brilliant and compelling composers writing today.

Joe

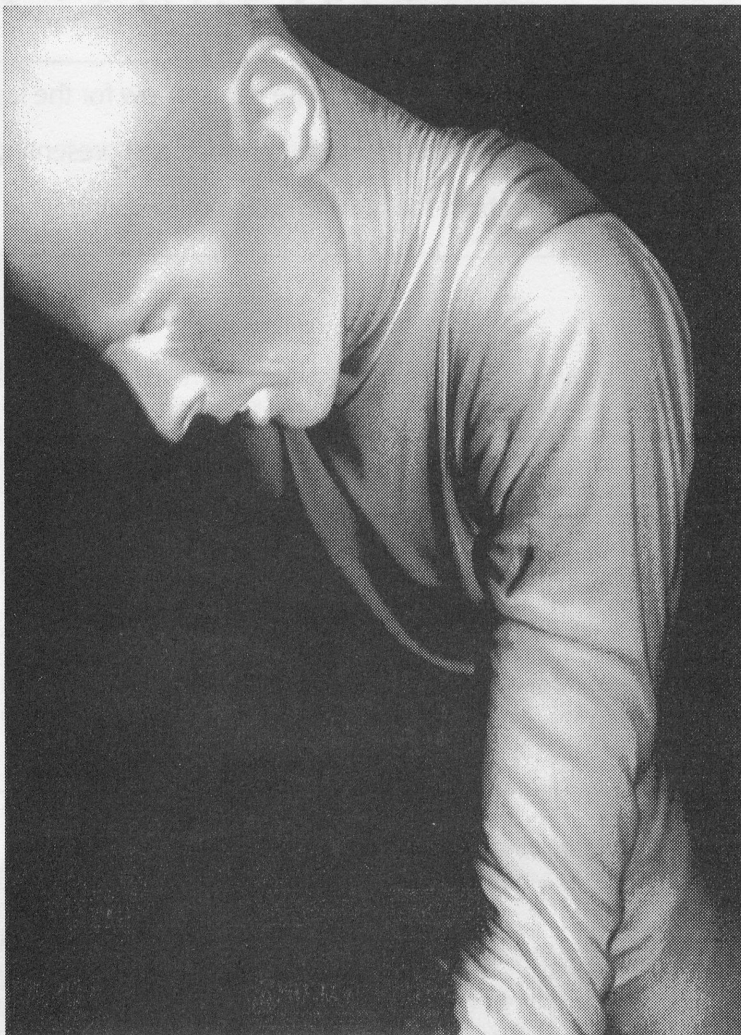


SULPHUR 16 - RANDOM DANCE COMPANY

Queen Elizabeth Hall

The Random Dance Company has been part of the contemporary dance scene for quite a while, creating some of the most exciting and daring works around. They combine traditional modern moves with electronically animated images. The artistic director and choreographer, Wayne McGregor, has assembled a company of 8 dancers including himself. Apart from being on the cutting edge of dance, he is also a respected choreographer in theatre and film - he has worked on *A Little Night Music*, *Anthony and Cleopatra* at the National, *Cleansed* at the Royal Court and the film version of the play *Bent*. His latest piece is a 70-minute long mix of his usual ingredients; tremendously innovative dance moves blended with computer-animated images, which tend to be projected on the back of the stage while the dancers are performing.

At the beginning, the artists come on dressed entirely in red (one of the dancers is also the costume designer). Most of the moves are done lying on the floor. The electronic music that opens the show is very intense and becomes quite difficult to bear after a short while. But this is part of McGregor's world. The dancing is very slow at first, but gradually as the piece unfolds, the show gets more interesting. The music develops variety, alternating between ambient, more frantic sounds and classical string music. The computer animations appear later on. At first, the artists simply play with the elec-



tronic screens, then they project animated dancers on the performers, creating an inspired duo between reality and virtuality. At this point, the show really strikes the audience. The various ideas include a dancer covered in black with others in white with flashing neon lights. The end sequence is beautiful with all of the elements of the show effectively coming to their natural heights.

By the time the dancers have finished performing, you get the feeling of having experienced something extraordinary. This is definitely groundbreaking art, incorporating the more established aspects of dance with the ultra-modern techniques of computers. This does raise the questions of how well these kinds of crossovers actually work and whether they can still be considered as art. I think the answers are to be found in works like *Sulphur 16*. The mixture of different media is perfect and the result is awesome. The energy that comes across from the close collaboration between these artists is inspiring for people who are looking for new directions in art. These are 'in your face' ways of stating that anything is possible as long as the initial ideas and actual work are good. *Sulphur 16* is without a doubt brilliant stuff. The company will be back in London later this month (28th March), so don't miss them.

D.

ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

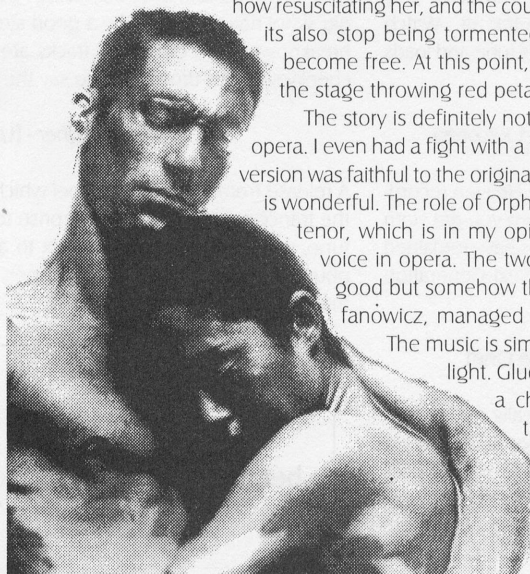
English National Opera, London Coliseum

Recently, I reviewed the stunning production of *Parsifal* at the ENO. *Orpheus and Eurydice* is another opera running there simultaneously. It was written in the 18th century by the composer Gluck. The show is a revival of a very successful 1997 production. The original director, Martha Clarke has revamped it slightly with the help of another director, but overall she has stayed faithful to her first staging. The story of *Orpheus and Eurydice* is very famous - an old myth that is always being retold. The opera begins with Orpheus in hell. The spirits dance around him and he feels that he has lost his wife Eurydice forever. Amor appears, in the form of a woman, and tries to comfort Orpheus. He is then cursed; if he wishes to keep his wife, he must never look at Eurydice straight in the eyes. Of course, Orpheus does so and

she dies instantly. Amor returns to save the situation, somehow resuscitating her, and the couple lives happily. The spirits also stop being tormented in hell and apparently become free. At this point, a little girl walks around the stage throwing red petals everywhere.

The story is definitely not the reason to go to this opera. I even had a fight with a friend about whether this version was faithful to the original myth or not. The singing is wonderful. The role of Orpheus is sung by a counter-tenor, which is in my opinion the most beautiful voice in opera. The two women were also very good but somehow the Polish artist, Artur Stefanowicz, managed to outshine his co-stars.

The music is simply delicious, poetic and light. Gluck's ideas are lovely, with a choir singing throughout the opera, sometimes backing up Stefanowicz in the most beautiful way. The spirits are played by eight dancers. The choreography is very



modern with no particular style. In fact, the dancing was more about movement and giving the opera a physical touch. It was very effective and the use of the set was quite amazing. The décor represented hell with lots of rocks scattered all over the stage in no obvious layout. The dancers used these rocks to show the different moods of the hero. At one point, they were naked, adding a strong dimension of bareness and sadness to the second act. The directing and design are both in tune with the performers. This is light entertainment, very brief (only one and a half hours without an interval) and accessible to music-lovers and newcomers alike. The ENO has once more shown its ability to put on brilliant productions that draw crowds. This is definitely worth seeing.

D.



ic radio



DJ's Sianide & Desire have been presenting a hardcore and hard house dance show for the last 18 months. Over this period, they have developed a reputation for being on the cutting edge of dance music and presenting an excellent quality show. This week they tell us about the new releases on the scene . . .

DJ Desire

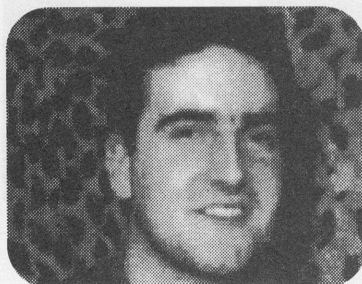
At present, the hardcore scene seems to be coming on very nicely, with plenty of new tunes and remixes from the likes of Ham, Storm, BANG!, Hixxy, et cetera. Sony's support of many of the finest producers led to the release of the 'Nuffin But Noise' compilation, opening up this style of music to a wider audience. With the quality of tunes going from strength to strength, hardcore should survive for years to come. Also, thanks to Kaos and Energy for coming down last Thursday evening for the interview.

Cover Up - Case 1

A stupidly catchy tune by an artist whose name cannot be mentioned. Absolutely brilliant breakdowns but is a little on the slow side compared to some of the other tunes being released at the moment. This has to be my tune of the week as it has been produced beautifully and just flows from beginning to end. Top marks to the geezer who made this one.

Dreadland (Sy + Unknown Remix) [Quosh Records]

Builds even further on the remix of Tiny Tot's Discoland by adding a wicked drum & bass section with a seriously deep bass line, perfect for scratchattacks. The original vocals have been kept but the majority of the instrumentation has been changed. All in all a top remix.



DJ Sy



DJ Seduction

DJ Sianide

Hard house is still a very prominent style of music on the scene, being played out at a large amount of clubs around London. A few labels are producing some excellent quality material currently, almost to the point where you can buy a record off the label without even hearing it! Below are some reviews of my favourite tracks this week . . .

Tekno Kings - The Spirit [Shock Records]

A typical Shock Records release: good bass line, pumping beats and excellent breakdowns. The flip side remix is quite a bit faster, with harsher synths and a more intense feel about it. It seems as if Shock is going from strength to strength at the moment with releases being on an almost fortnightly basis.

Digital Masters - Terminator [Shock Records]

Yet another release from Shock Records, this really is a quality tune. Samples are dropped in from the film 'Terminator' at such a rate not to go over the top. The Schwarzenegger mix is the best of the two, but it's a tough decision to make, as both of them are wicked tunes. The dark bass line and the +150bpm beat makes this track yet another classic.

Becks - Dynamite (The remix) [Stage One]

This is one of my favourite tunes at the moment, probably due to the excellent vocals, cleverly panned melody and the general energy which it seems to possess. This one is guaranteed to get people moving and get those hands in the air. Watch out for the Stage One album "WOW! What a Rush" which features this tune and loads of other great remixes by artists such as Triple J.

DJ Seduction - Leaving the world behind (Ham remix) [Impact Records]

I considered the original version of this tune released on Hardcore Heaven recordings (Seductions sub-label) to be as good as Sedders gets, but when you get Ham doing a remix, you know it is going to be good. The lush breakdowns have remained similar to the original but the rest of the tune has had a proper Next Generation workout and the result is brilliant. Another Impact classic.

Ham, Demo + Justin Time - Here I Am (Ham remix) [Stage One]

When I first heard this song I was pretty critical as DJ Brisk did a really good remix a couple of years ago. Once the vocals kicked in I thought to myself "This really is different". The whole thing has been reworked and the vocals have been subtly vocoded, which really makes this tune stand out from the previous remixes. Ham seems to be the man for remixes at the moment, let's hope we hear even more like this in the future.

Hard Beat 5 EP - Various artists [Nucleuz]

Three excellent cuts here from a label that you can rely on. My personal favourite is by The 49ers and is a track called *I got the music*. The sounds used are of a very old skool nature backed by a good strong beat with nice, flowing vocals over the breakdown. The other two tracks are of a slightly down tempo style with some cheeky samples dropped in to say the least! My advice - buy it. Now.

Code 42 Higher - [United Ravers Recordings]

A release from Europe on a label which has now got an unbeatable reputation on the trance scene. It was no surprise to find that this was an excellently produced tune, with a slightly slower remix to accompany the main track. Wicked vocals, pounding beats and deep acid b-lines, need I say any more. At over 150bpm, this music is not for the light-hearted.

Lock on to Sianide and Desire every Thursday night
between 10 and 11 p.m. on IC Radio - 999 am. Spin UK!

LADIES HOCKEY

HOCKEY - DISCO SQUAD VICTORIOUS AGAIN

1sts happy with win; 2nds with defeat

IC Ladies I.....	3
UCL.....	0

We came, we conquered. Big style. We expected to win of course, but not thanks to such quality goals by the Hummingbird. Throughout the first half we kicked ass and were never out of their half. The passing was fluent, the co-ordination was fine, and we were obviously the superior side. The first goal came after a serious amount of pressure. Hummingbird captured the ball and after fiddling around a bit eventually decided to flick the ball into the corner in that cool collected manner. Hurrah! The second goal came thick and fast when Hummingbird decided again to score after giving the keeper the ball. Unfortunately the goalie couldn't keep her legs closed and she was well and truly nutmegged. Half time came and went - copious amounts of oranges were consumed and the warriors continued to teach UCL a tough lesson. As the warriors tired, the game became more open, but Hummingbird thought she would finish matters by scoring

another 'quality' goal. She meant to bobble it in really. Throughout the match everyone played superbly (because we're fab) and we were most pleased to come away with such an emphatic victory. They were pissed off, but we didn't care. So what if we weighed more than them!

IC Ladies II.....	1
UCL.....	7

The ladies 2nd team finished the season in style, with Warwick scoring our second goal of the season. Admittedly, the opposition scored seven, but we don't let these minor details disturb us. We had the largest turnout ever, with 16 women (none of whom could play hockey). But to the resounding cheers of the men's 1sts, we surpassed all previous games by getting the ball out of our half. The forward line finally shone and gave their goalie some grief - we were unlucky not to score more. UC? IC. I see. We're all right.

Disco Squad.....	6
St. Georges II.....	0

With the final of the ULU Cup looming, this match was never going be more than a warm-up for the big day. It was played out on the same pitch that will see us crush the St Mary's scum into dust, scattering them in Filtrum's ring-wind. Only fate knows where this torrid breeze of final judgement will take our vanquished foes, but such is the destiny awaiting those foolish enough to challenge the Disco Squad. Onto the match. Cocky pre-match banter involved score lines well into double figures, and although our domination of the match did not quite reach those heights, we still kicked ass grandioso-style. The first half saw five strikes hit the back of the St George's net, a hat-trick and two goals coming from The Sundance Kid and Fabio respectively. This midway score line was even more remarkable considering that Fulltum defected to St George's for the entire half. Our first goal was scored by The Sundance Kid. Slipping round the opposition like some trout on speed, he skinned four defenders before sliding the ball from a tight angle inside the near post, past

the sprawling St George's keeper. The fourth goal was Fabio's second, and it was a beaut. He flicked the ball with a reverse-stick from the top of the D, over the keeper and into the top left hand corner of the George's goal. It was inspired. The second half was a pretty relaxed affair, what with the 5-0 score and all. Viagra the keeper kindly got a brew going, and our defence settled down for a nice cuppa. Meanwhile, Fabio got carded for dismembering one of the opposition, and Indian Carpet Catalogue scored. Fabio's pleas that he didn't realise that such behaviour has been illegal since '97 fell on deaf ears. Joker gave him a big grin and sent him off. The goal was a cushy little number, finished with a reverse stick flick over the keeper's legs into the back of the net. Nice. And so the Disco Boys continue their triumphant run. Although some of us may be starting to feel some nerves about the up-coming showdown, we know in our heart-of-hearts that there is only going to be one winner on Saturday. The one and only, the disco boys! We're going all the way! Nice...

'A Touch of Class'



www.su.ic.ac.uk/summerball

Lonsborough Room, Alexandra Palace

**RIFLE CLUB**

University of London v The World

At 6.30am on Saturday ULU should have left for Sutton Coldfield, but unfortunately one member of the team didn't get up in time (Sorry!). Arriving late to the sight of snowflakes the size of dinner plates, the team quickly established themselves and, fighting their Friday night excesses, got down to some serious shooting.

With so many IC members on the team (6 out of 10) the outcome was almost inevitable, with London beating Edinburgh by a comfortable 1 point (1158 to 1157), with no other teams coming close. Notable performances came from London Captain Rachael Ambrose (193) and Gareth Hillier (195). Philip Golds (192) and Dan Booker (191) were the other notable IC scores. Rachael and Gareth both went on to the friendly England-Scotland international with Rachael getting a maximum 100 in one of her shoots.

Other notable events include beating Southampton at a Mini-Bus rocking competition and a declaration of shenanigans against Edinburgh who engraved themselves as the 1997 winners even though London won that year.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Brunel Falcons.....15
IC.....9

This was IC's first away match of the south-east outdoor league. After winning our first 3 matches fairly convincingly we were confident of delivering another ass-kicking. Things started going a bit pear-shaped when our 4 most experienced players were forced to miss the match due to illness or work load (or perhaps back problems and laziness).

We were ready to clock up another momentous IC victory. That was until the threatening black skies chose this point to piss all over us. It was quite evident when Brunel started to score in to the wind, as well as with the wind, that this was not going to be another 'easy' win.

We came up with the novel idea of tactics, or even possibly a strategy, as a way of overcoming our 3 point deficit. We returned to the battle ground with a feeling that we could win. How careless, Brunel rapidly knocked up a 5 point lead, to which IC had no reply. The last point of the match went to Brunel as well. There was little chance for a flowing team performance, but 'Short Bald Guy' did score over half our points. We were out played in harsh conditions, but there will be revenge.

NETBALL

IC.....9
King's.....48

At the start of the match we were all in a positive mood, hoping that playing at home would give us a badly needed advantage over a team that had already beaten us twice this season.

The 1st quarter was promising with good defence from Alex, Kirstie and Dorothy keeping the ball out of the IC goal third. Vikki and Paula worked with much determination in the centre third to feed the ball to the shooters. The return of Sarah after a wrist injury to partner Sally meant that we had our first full team in a long time.

Some dynamic changes to the IC team in the last quarter caused a dramatic increase in pace; with 5 minutes left to go, the shooters finally managed to find the net, doubling IC's goal tally.

However, we are pleased to report that since the last King's match, Abbie has sorted herself out, putting in a decent performance without any blatant dissent to the umpire. Previously she managed to piss off the King's captain (who umpired) over her failure to return to her line in an acceptable time.

Never mind girls - an easy three points for us against ICSM next week (yeah, right!)

HOCKEY

IC II.....3
Royal Holloway II.....3

In this UL league 6-pointer the points ended up shared. After a tense 15 minutes we found ourselves 2 - 0 down to 2 soft goals. The 2nd goal, though, gave our team impetus to play like a team inspired with smooth one-touch hockey and great movement off the ball. Our first goal came when Geography Teacher negotiated a pass through the terrain, taking the play up a level to Multi-Storey who slotted the ball into the bottom right corner. Comments from the goalscorer are reported as containing phrases such as "the greatest goal at Harlington" but this has not been confirmed.

We went in at half-time 2-1 down and with an inspiring speech by Jean-Claude, we went out to win. Holloway quickly found themselves tango'd, although not very efficiently. Holloway then, against the run of play, scored an illegal goal, which was blatantly lifted in the D. With 15 minutes to go, a successful navigation from Geography Teacher found the back of the goal. Many opportunities were present during the match for IC and several times the ball was cleared off their goal line. Game summary? Our brilliance versus their luck.



FOOTBALL - WINNEY, WINNEY, WIN, WIN - CAN NOTHING STOP IC?

UCL I.....2
IC I.....4

Well, the cup was won on Saturday and on Wednesday we put ourselves top of the league needing one more win from three games to do the double.

The game was won in the first half thanks to goals from Amo, Till and Jamie. Amo's goal came from an excellent move involving Warren, Till and Alex. Unlike previous games, we got stronger after we scored proving to UCL that we are the best in London. It was another class move that led to the second, Warren and Jamie created a half chance for Till who smashed it into the top corner. "Dirty" Warren made the third goal. He received the ball inside the box within seconds he was on the deck and a penalty was awarded. Jamie tried his hardest to miss but the keeper was fooled by the "slow" ball.

The second half was a scrappy affair as UCL finally made a game of it with some forward surges, but in spells we still produced some class football. It was during one of these spells when Marcos-Walker-ka-ka scored a nice goal after a slick move.

IC II.....9
IC III.....1

This was a difficult match for both sides as the II's were battling to hold onto the top of the league, whereas the III's were fighting to stay out of the relegation zone.

It was immediately clear why IC II's are on top of the league when the ill skipper curled in one of his free-kicks (1-0).

This was followed by a sweet free-kick from John Donovan which was finished by "mighty maestro" Martin Archibald (2-0). A chip from Julian sent Amah on his way, who finished brilliantly (3-0). A John Donovan free-kick set up No.4 which was headed in by 10 ft Tony (4-0). The 1st half was rounded off by the man in form when Amah held off 3 players, turned and scored from the edge of the 18 yard box (5-0).

A replica of the 3rd goal saw 10ft Tony head-in another well executed John D free-kick (6-0). The 2nd half was going the same way as the first when defender Peter Campbell had the ball in his sights and DUCKED 6-1, what a disgrace. This insult enraged the II's and Jules ripped another swinging free-kick (7-1).

Whilst Pete Campbell picked himself up from the floor, Amah scored his hat-trick after he beautifully controlled a high ball and left the third team's defence behind (8-1).

This one-sided game was finished by Darren "how many chances" Carpenter when he finally stopped kicking mud and fumbled the ball into the net (9-1).

This was an awkward match, played in a good spirit with very little foul play. A final mention goes to Lee Jackson who had a blinding game for the third team.

LSE IV.....1
IC IV.....2

Wednesday's game was important for two reasons. Firstly we needed to continue our quality winning streak, and secondly we needed to prove we were the best fourth team in London.

Dave "the Suit" Wishart turned up

drunk as a lord, and Stu "Arrested" Cook and Adam "Five in his belly" Gibson both had 5 pints before kick off.

LSE IV's are the only team who can match us for spirit, but even that wasn't enough today. Nima "the man" Jalali was superb and Stephen "should've scored" Dewar pulled through. Although we were one-nil down at half time, we knew we could turn it around. In the 2nd half we were quite simply first class. Ricki equalised with a goal he lashed into the back of the net, and from then on we showed the true passion of the fourths. The back four played exceptionally well, Nick "Rollerblades" Chapman, Richard "Skinny" Taylor and Elliot "Warren" New-some all playing out of their skins, leaving Stu with nothing to do in the 2nd half. It was left to Gurm to score the winner and what a goal it was!

What a game, what a performance, what a result. We truly are the best fourth team in London. Jurassic Park!

IC VI.....14
Heythrop College.....1

The sixth's team last home game of the season resulted in our record win, a 14-1 thrashing of Division Six's so-called "God squad", who had themselves picked up a shock point against pace-setters RSM II only last Wednesday.

The first goal came early, with a confident piece of finishing from midfield general Alex, followed by a further three on the half, punctuated by a lone reply from the visitors. And we hadn't even started playing yet.

After the skipper's inspiring half-time talk, we just about shaded the second

half 10-0, man-of-the-match Mike encouraging us to go with the flow! After stern resistance from the Heythrop defence, the first goal eventually came, and it caused an avalanche. With memories of '98 undiminished, the French partnership in midfield took hold of the game. Super-sub Raby came on to his customary good effect, scoring one of the three hat-tricks of the day, the others from top-scorer "the Doc" and stressed out "Stan." Even "Wild Thing" grabbed a brace! The game was also notable for the comeback of the "Polish Pillar" in defence, and the discovery of the captain-to-be Nikolich as a dead-ball specialist.

This result assures the sixths of a top-half finish, above arch rivals Kings VI and is the culmination of a great term, including recent victories 5-0 over Goldsmiths, 8-1 against Georges and a 4-2 humdinger over the aforementioned Berrylands boys. All together now, "From the pubs of South Kensington..."

NEXT WEEK : SEASON REVIEWS

OK guys, next week is the last issue of the term and marks the end of the season for rugby, hockey, football and some of the other sports. If you want a season review, I need them by Wednesday. It will be a great help if you could type them up and e-mail to felix@ic.ac.uk.

Sorry for the people that didn't get in this week (Roller Hockey, RSM Hockey, Fencing), but I ran out of space. Cheers also to Melvin for helping type reports up. See you lot in 10 days!

Gus

Around IC

Mon 15	Tues 16	Wed 17	Thurs 18	Fri 19	Sat 20	Sun 21
CGCU Elections - voting Today and Tuesday 10am-5pm CAG: Tools for Self Reliance, Basement of Beit Quad 6pm	Wine Tasting, dBS 6pm STA Bar Trivia Quiz Night - DaVinci's 8pm CAG: Soup Run, Base- ment Kitchen, Weeks Hall 8pm Caving Club Meeting Southside Upper Lounge 9pm	Talk by Patrick Bolger of LEPRA, UDH 12pm Contact rag@ic.ac.uk Club XS, ICU, FREE 9pm-1am	LP Record Sale, Central Library Level 1 at entrance to Haldane 12-2pm CAG: Soup Run, Base- ment Kitchen, Weeks Hall 8pm Cocktail Night, DaVinci's 5-11pm	LP Record Sale, Central Library Level 1 at entrance to Haldane 12-2pm Bust-A-Gut Comedy club - dB's £2.50/£2.00 8pm Clayponds Cocktails Night - contact ian.doyle@ic.ac.uk Fiesta Greco-Latina, pizza, sangria, live music, bar extension, £4/£5, JCR 8.30pm-1.30am The Common People - ICU £1 9pm-2am	Clayponds International Food Evening - contact ian.doyle@ic.ac.uk	Malaysian Nite - ICU Malaysian Society, Great Hall 4pm



Imperial kick arse!

FOOTBALL

IC turn on style as ULU cup comes to South Ken

QMW.....1
IC I.....5

After sixteen years in the wilderness, the mighty IC 1st team has won some silverware. We had made it to the final last year only to lose to LSE by a slender four goal margin, so as you can imagine passions were running high. Credit must go to QMW whose fans turned up with drums, trumpets and even played Take That as their players entered the arena. However, they did lack a certain something - talent!

People should not be fooled by the hefty scoreline; this was a close game at 1 - 1 until about fifteen minutes to go when Amo broke the hearts of QMW with a wonder strike.

Despite taking an early lead Imperial looked very nervous in the first half. This may have something to do with the abuse each player received from Chris Soberg in the player profiles in the program. I would like to take this opportunity to return the favour, you fat Norwegian turd!

The first goal came from Dirty War-

ren who latched on to a perfect through ball from Jamie and slotted it home. However, after we scored, our play seemed to deteriorate and ten mins before the break QMW was level.

We came into the changing room with our heads down but thanks to a stern talking to by Jamie, everyone's attitudes changed in the second half and things started to click. Our defense tightened up to its usual "crab's arse" self. QMW's main striker was kept under control by Chris and so-so who played on despite having his face mauled earlier in the game. They had no more play down the left either as this was religiously guarded by Brother Phil.

Our sexy midfield started playing some sexy football but despite efforts from Alex, Till and Dave we couldn't break through.

Then came the turning of the point of the game, with about fifteen minutes to go and a couple of minutes after Eric had brilliantly saved a long distance shot, Amo picked up the ball on the right, cut inside and tried his luck from

thirty yards.

The instant the ball left his foot screaming for mercy, everyone knew it would end up in the top corner.

The only word that can be used to describe the celebration is carnage. Fans broke through the stewards and streamed onto the pitch, Yellow Submarine could be heard in all neighboring countries and Magic downed a bottle of whisky to earn the "Fan of the match" award.

QMW had no reply to this and every time we had the ball we looked like scoring. Dirty Warren finished off a squeaky clean performance with two more excellent goals to get his hat-trick, and big Dave silenced the crowd with the fifth.

A huge thankyou must go to all of you that came to support us. You spurred us on and I hope we did you proud.

FENCING

IC regain BUSA trophy

We arrived bright and early on Saturday morning, and immediately drew Loughborough in the semis. Fencing epee were Rob Neurnberg, Ed Rysdale and Karaoke Dave Davidge. Rob fenced very well winning all his fights, with Dave and Ed won two out of three each. Sabre came next, with Thorsten destroying all his opponents and our captain, Dave Hughes, winning two out of three, and making up for a lacklustre performance from Mo Mansoori. So Karaoke Dave, Ed and Henry Morton had to fence and win two fights to make sure we were through - they did and we were. After lunch we lined up against Oxford (1998 champions). Epee (their strongest weapon) was first again and Rob was unfortunate not to win all three. Both Ed and Karaoke Dave did well to get a fight each. So to the sabre, and again we won 4 out of 9 (Mo taking two fights and Dave and Thorsten winning one each), which took us into the final weapon (foil) needing to win six. There was probably hope in the hearts of Oxford, but this was soon vanquished by wonderful fighting from our foilists. They all won without problems to take the BUSA team trophy back into IC possession after a one year absence.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

Wednesday 10th March

ULU League

UCL I	2 - 4	IC I
IC II	9 - 1	IC III
IC IV	2 - 1	UCL III
Royal Hol.	15 - 0	IC Ladies
LSE IV	1 - 2	IC IV
ICSM	6 - 0	RHUL

(ICSM promoted to ULU Premier Ige)

IC VI	14 - 1	Heythrop
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Saturday 6th March

ULU Cup Final

IC	5 - 1	QMW
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RUGBY

IC I	28 - 14	ICSM I
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(The report never turned up. Sorry)

HOCKEY

IC II	3 - 3	Royal Hol
Disco Sqd.	6 - 0	St. Georges
RSM	2 - 0	UCL III

MISCELLANEOUS

Brunel	15 - 9	Ultimate Frisbee
IC Netball	9 - 48	King's

Note for anyone wanting to go to Gutteridge Cup Final (Rugby); coaches leave from Union 12.30 Wednesday. All welcome!

ATHLETICS

Imperial whitewash

On Saturday 6th March the athletes of ULU descended on Tooting Bec track to contest the intercollegiate championships and book their places in the ULU squad for BUSA.

Only four colleges entered full teams for the team competition and the result was rarely in doubt after the first half-hour. Imperial entered every event with two or three (always willing) athletes in most.

Marie, Mike and Dave contested the Pole Vault and Michele and Anne completed IC's first 1-2 in the women's hammer. Khaled and Marie won the individual high jumps with Khaled eventually clearing 1.95m for his first victory of the day.

On the track Angus set a P.B. in a surprise 5K win, while Julia took the 100 and Katherine the 400 in 60.2. Imperial were now well ahead of their nearest rivals. James and Julia won the 400m hurdles events in 59.1 and 77.1 respectively. Souhad finished 2nd and 3rd in the triple and long jumps, while Nadia came 2nd in the 800m. Marvin and Hedley finally turned up with Marv collecting precious points in the 110 hurdles, long and triple jump.

Vicki Frew completed her IC adoption and in the absence of serious competition won the 1500 and 3000m. The only

remaining sprint final was the men's 200m but hopes of the day's first 1-2-3 had to wait, as Ed Johnson, competing in his fourth event, came second, clocking the same time as the winner.

The steeplechase saw a tactical battle as the Imperial pack hung back and let the early leader get wet. The team coped well to finish as the first four runners.

The day finished with Imperial winning all four relays after Holloway dropped their baton in the rush for revenge in the 4 x 100m.

The final table was;

1. Imperial	414
2. Holloway	294
3. Queen Mary / Westfield	117
4. St Georges	66

Khaled and Marie finished as the days most successful individuals. Khaled clocked three wins, a 4th and a 5th, while Marie won three events and finished second in three others. There were many other unsung heroes including Boaz, Andreas, Ed Lee, Anna and Giles who threw, jumped, hurdled and ran whenever asked. The trophy was collected and everyone retired for some well earned drinks. With the majority of team here next year, Mike and Khaled shouldn't have to try too hard to retain the trophy.

HOCKEY

League Champions!

IC Firsts rose from a quiet decade and stormed to UL Cup victory last year.

This time around, the team's experience and maturity showed, and outright domination was quickly achieved in the BUSA qualifiers. Then, came Xmas, down to business: the London League and Cup. Outstanding performances include the 9-2 trouncing of UC LMS, 7-1 at St. Barts and 6-1 to finish off QMW. After 6 of the 7 games in the league, we had done enough. Imperial are League Champions for the first time in many, many years!

With a solid defence featuring the greatest skipper since the war, Mr T; a legendary midfield, including one of the greatest players IC has ever seen; and a forward line that has scored in excess of 72 goals thus far, (excluding those by the midfield and defence), the IC band wagon has once more moved on its way to the UL Cup Final.

Reaching the Final was achieved with three convincing wins over St. Georges, QMW and UCL scoring 16 goals along the way. This display of champagne hockey has meant that we play Royal Holloway in the final, again. We'll report next week with news of the IC 1st teams double... without a doubt.