

1
June
1999

FELIX

KEEP THE CAT FREE EST. 1949

Issue
1147

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

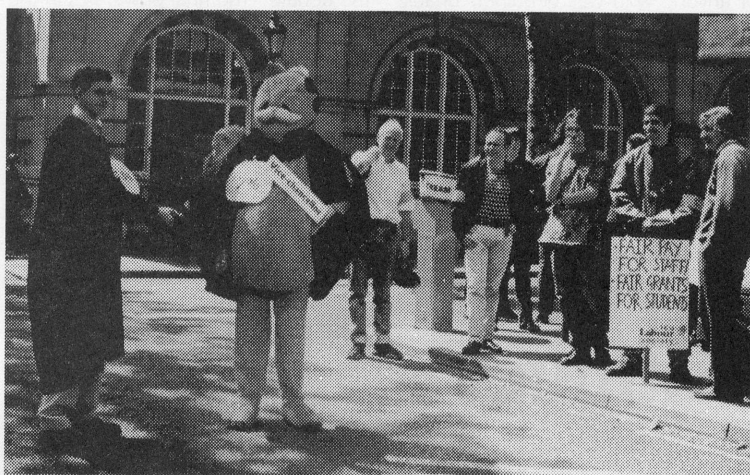
Students Show Little Interest in Strike

The Association of University Teachers' one-day strike, which took place at colleges across the country last Tuesday (25 May), has been described as a success by its organisers. The effectiveness of the strike here at Imperial is more questionable however, as is the overall outcome of the industrial action.

Services within college were undeniably affected, with the central library closing earlier than usual and many departments going without key academic personnel for the day. According to Ms Laura Barker, AUT representative at the college, the AUT "mounted an effective picket": On the ground, however, there was relatively little sign of the strike, and most campus entrances were left unpicketed throughout much of the day.

According to the Registry all examinations scheduled for last Tuesday went ahead as planned. As Felix went to press it was unclear whether any students had skipped exams, but it seems unlikely, suggesting widespread student apathy towards the strike. Ms Barker commented "students ranged from those fully supportive and joining us on the picket line to those who had little information

By Ed Sexton



The 'fat cat' Vice-Chancellor on show at Imperial last Tuesday

Photo: Ed

or interest in the issue." She described most students as "sympathetic but understandably concerned with their own affairs".

AUT action was more successful elsewhere in London, with pickets and rallies generating much press interest. Outside London a series of pickets and rallies ensured that the AUT got its message across. Although stu-

dent support was mostly confined to NUS representation, students at Aberdeen handed out stickers in examination halls and joined in AUT rallies. At most universities exams went ahead, using non-AUT staff to invigilate, but at many campuses it was far harder to organise them than at Imperial. According to AUT sources Liverpool University was practically closed.

Although there was strong support from the NUS, support from individual student unions was less forthcoming. Leeds Student Union did actively support the strike, but ICU was less than vocal on the subject. David Hellard, ICU President, hoped that students had taken his advice and come in to college if they had examinations, but vowed to fight college if any students had been penalised for missing them. Ms Barker stated "we avoided putting any pressure on students who reported that they were going in for exams".

All AUT members who were on strike are supposed to have pay deducted: The University and Colleges Employers Association issued instructions that the amount deducted should be 1/260th of the striker's pay. Most institutions, including Imperial, have accepted the AUT's proposal that the amount deducted be 1/365th of the striker's pay. Pay deducted from staff should be given to the university's hardship funds, but it was unclear at the time of going to print whether or not Imperial would take up this idea. Further industrial action may be in the pipeline for later this month and next year.

Clayponds Approved

Clayponds is at last to be built a 'village hall', after years of discussion and campaigning. The decision was finalised at the Rector's Committee on Student Residences, held last week, and should result in a new social area for the hall, which is situated in South Ealing, opening in about a year's time.

Details of the plans for building the social area were still vague as Felix went to press, with neither college nor ICU sources being able to confirm exactly how the project will be funded. It has been suggested that an upper limit of £120,000 is rea-

By Ed Sexton

sonable for the project, but it could cost considerably less. Some money will almost certainly be provided by the IC Trust, with the rest being generated from increased rents: It seems likely that residents of Clayponds will see their weekly bill increase by about £1.20 a week for the next five years. Although many have suggested it is a dangerous precedent to fund hall projects by increasing rents, a survey of Clayponds residents revealed that 80% of them would be

prepared to pay the extra rent in order to get the hall built.

If the project goes according to plan, the new building should be finished sometime next Spring Term, and possibly even by the end of 1999. David Hellard, ICU President, was very pleased with the decision, but added a cautionary warning on the subject of increased rents; "presumably the rents will drop back down after five years."

Dr Mark Tyrer, warden of Clayponds, was unfortunately unavailable for comment at the time of going to print.

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Tuition Fees: Where Are We Now?

The recent demonstrations by students at Leeds University (see last week's Felix) are the latest in a long line of campaigns against the imposition of tuition fees.

The most high-profile opposition to fees has been at Oxford, where several students refused to pay on principle. They eventually capitulated in January, after losing the use of University facilities and severe pressure from their Colleges.

Students at Sussex University stopped their occupation of the finance offices two weeks ago due to fears that it was preventing students from collecting their grant cheques.

After the demonstrations at University College London last term, meetings have been taking place between students and staff in an attempt to resolve the situation. UCL Union, whose failure to support the occupations drew criticism from both students and London Student, are involved in the negotiations. Communication Officer Ollie Burbage-Hall

By Gareth Morgan

said that the Union, although supporting the students' claims, felt that the demonstrations had been counter-productive. Meetings could have taken place sooner without the disruption, he said.

The only genuine success story so far has been at Goldsmith's College, as reported in Felix 1140. The High Court ruled in favour of the protesting students, and prevented the College authorities from interfering with the education of anyone who was genuinely unable to pay.

Meanwhile, there are increasing fears that the crisis in University funding could result in further fees and costs for students. Rumours of top-up fees, differential fees and even outright privatisation abound, although no institution has levied extra charges on Undergraduate degrees. Postgraduate courses are

not covered by law, though, and fees have been rising. There are also 'hidden extras', such as library or internet access - there have been proposals to charge Cambridge students for accessing web-sites based overseas.

Sir Ron Oxburgh, Imperial's Rector, has ruled out top up fees, which would have been added onto all students' tuition bills. Some leading universities have contemplated differential fees, in effect charging more for expensive courses such as sciences, but no institution has spoken out on either side of the debate. The final power lies in the hands of the Secretary of State for Education, David Blunkett, who can block any efforts by universities to charge additional fees.

Despite the fees, many universities will still suffer a drop in funding next year of up to two percent, prompting many people to wonder where the money has gone.

Drought Continues

The eyebrows of statisticians have been raised all over Imperial College this week, as once again the summer term proves to be devoid of any interesting news.

Although this perceived drought seems to be far less severe than it was last year, where space-wasting articles were given the glory of the front page, Felix is still struggling to find anything at all worth writing about. The editor of Felix, Mr Ed Sexton, was heard to comment: "There's no bloody news! Where's my lighter?"

Senior statistician Mr J Monkey commented: "We have been attempting to find a correlation between this seemingly perennial lack of news and some other factor or factors which is or are heavily prevalent in the summer term. One theory is that Felix staff are far too busy taking drugs to be bothered to find anything useful to do."

Felix does not discount this point of view, although Mr Sexton believed the constant and demeaning train of examinations to which students are subjected throughout the summer is more likely to be the root of the problem; indeed, two senior Felixers have been in psychotherapy after attempting particularly fiendish contour inte-

By Ali Campbell

grals. Once again Union staff were little help in providing inspiration, merely laughing hysterically when probed, but it seems likely that this is just sour grapes due to their incarceration in the Union building during such beautiful weather. Chris Ince, Deputy President (Finance & Services) was heard to comment "I hate Unions", although it was later revealed he had in fact said "Onions".

The situation seems so desperate that allegations of "news-fixing" are rife, with one intrepid amateur journalist allegedly considering staging his own death to help fill just one page. The occurrence of such questionable practices as these have been strenuously denied by all those involved in the Felix news team. One member refuted all allegations: "It wasn't me".

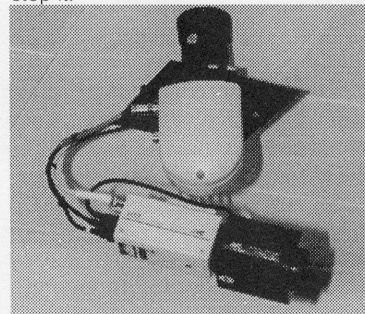
On a positive note, however, an old ping-pong ball was found underneath a table in Beit Hall. The ball was apparently left there some years ago by a then fresher, and only surfaced last week. The owner is believed to be in his mid-twenties, and could possibly play ping-pong. Felix hopes to bring you more on this shocking, enticing and really rather exciting discovery in next week's issue.

Big Tutor is Still Watching You

The cameras in the BMS building, allegedly used to catch out rowdy medics in lectures, have found their way into the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES). First discussed in 'Mish Mash', Felix issue 1144, an article appeared on page 2 of THES on 21 May.

The cameras and microphones in the building's lecture theatres are supposed to be there to aid communication, and allow remote lecturing. However, some students have claimed that the surveillance equipment could be used to "identify the trouble-makers", according to THES after speaking with Wade Gayed, ICSM President.

While all sides seem to be taking the entire affair as a bit of a joke, it has to be asked whether the cameras are indeed used for such Draconian purposes and, if so, what is being done to stop it.



FELIX
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Issue 1147

1 June 1999

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Assistant Editor & Films: David Roberts

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& Jason Ramanathan

Games Editor: Gary Smith

Sports Editor: Gus Paul

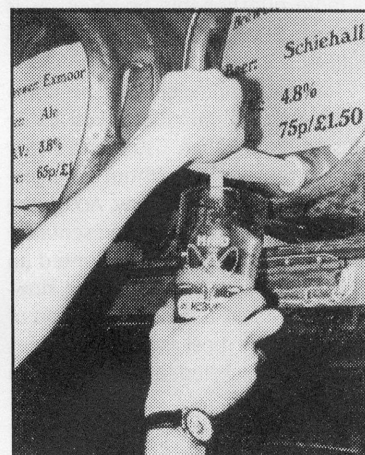
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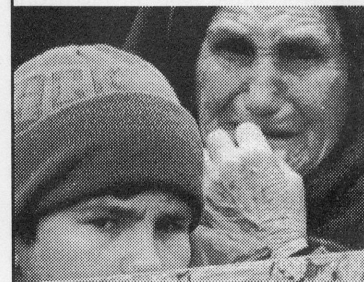


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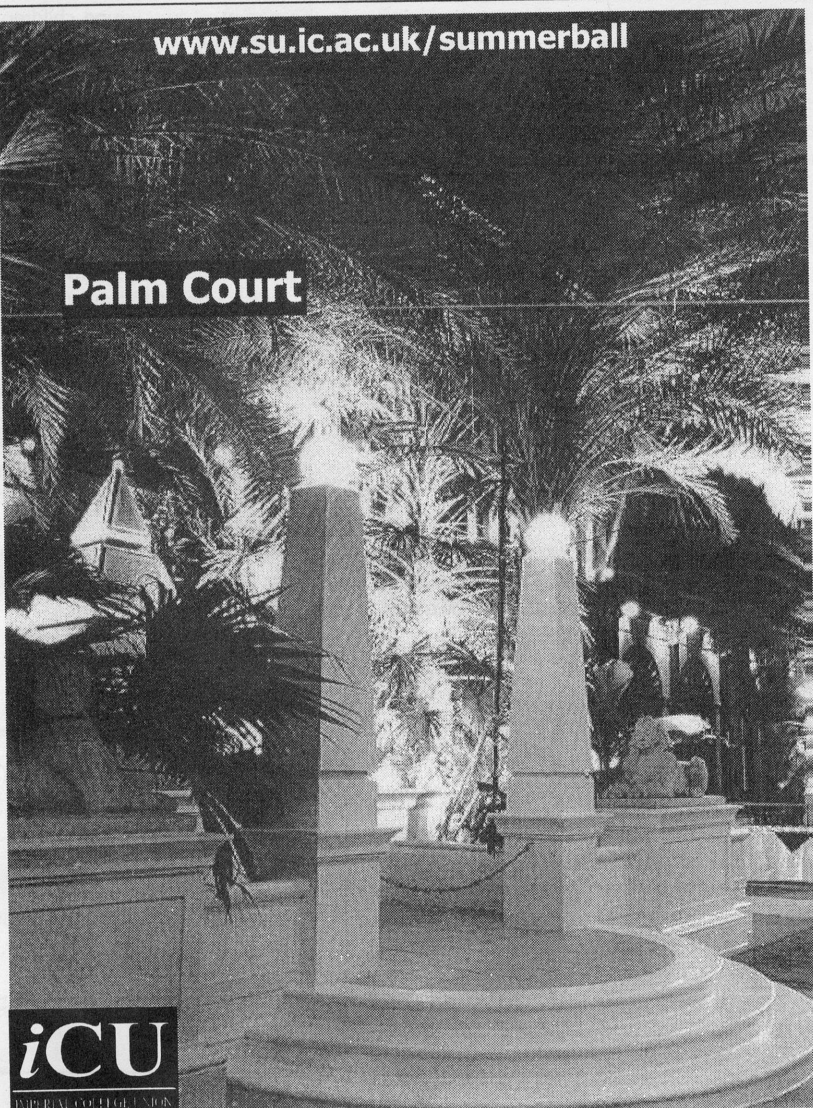
John Kennedy

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More Prize Draws next week



To Legalise or Not?

Dear Felix,

I am writing in response to the excellent article by Andrew Vivian in Felix this week. I found the article to be a real breath of fresh air. It was a pleasure to read an article written by someone who has clearly considered the effect of the legalisation (or decriminalisation) of cannabis on the entire population. I wholeheartedly agree that the medicinal benefits of the drug should be made available via prescription. I also feel that the point is missed by most people when considering the legalisation of the drug is the fact that the drug is illegal because the majority of the population do not wish the drug to be legalised. It would not be an advantage to the majority of the population to have the drug legalised.

There are a few extra points I'd like to make which support the law on cannabis as it stands.

It is impossible to test drivers to see if they are under the influence of cannabis. There was recently a trial for a test that turned out to be unreliable. Consider a young man or woman who has been "pulling bongs" for an evening can drive home knowing that they can not be prosecuted for driving under the influence unless they admit to doing it. I think we'd all rather this person could not get away with it so easily, for the sake of everyone's safety.

Cannabis users are shown to be more likely to suffer from psychosis than non users.

The fact that the decriminalisation would be impossible to reverse if implemented.

Current cannabis dealers are likely to move onto dealing harder drugs, especially those who deal drugs for members of the criminal fraternity only because they are in debt to them and those in the dealing cycle (those who "tick" drugs to help pay back debts).

Cannabis is currently "almost freely available" and can be used and enjoyed by people in their own home with virtually no chance of police interference and absolutely no chance of a custodial sentence unless they are criminally active in some other way.

Edd Dixon

Dear Felix,

There was one thing in particular that sprang to mind after reading Andrew Vivian's article on cannabis. The problem with illegal substances isn't supply or the police. It's the (fairly reasonable) attitude taken by most employers and say, universities, that people who take cannabis are criminals and should therefore be punished. The threats of unemployment, homelessness and expulsion are very real,

but would fade if cannabis were to be decriminalised. When was the last time you heard of anyone being kicked out of Halls for having a beer?

Oh yeah, before I forget: the Net doesn't create porn, terrorism or whatever, it just makes it a little easier to find. A copy of Razzle probably costs less than the time you'd spend downloading a couple of images, and all you need to make bombs is a small amount of chemical knowledge and a lot of care. Having said that, the Net will probably need some kind of regulation soon before it collapses from over-use anyway...

Let's see, if I sell my entire stash, I can almost afford a Summer Ball ticket.

Anon

GM Food Lacks Research

Dear Felix,

I read with interest the views of one SW Cooper in his recent letter to Felix (24th May 1999). I am glad he was disturbed by the laminated sign on which the guarantee of GM free food was not possible. Unfortunately he then went on to heap praise on it because IC is a 'veritable centre for genetic research'. This is precisely the reason why so many people in Britain are not too keen on the idea of transgenic food - lack of research. Much of the research done on the effects of GM food is done by the companies who patented the novel plant in the first place. In a largely unregulated industry, most guidelines are voluntary, and it seems to many that research is kept to a minimum so that the company can recoup its outlay as soon as possible. Many claims made by companies such as Monsanto are along the lines of "feeding the world," "lowering costs," and "lowering herbicide use". Yet we currently overproduce food to the tune of one third, and it is due to unfair economic distribution that there are starving people in the world.

Pharmaceuticals are subject to very rigorous testing before they are released onto the market, delaying the release for an average of about 12 years. This is to prevent disasters such as the thalidomide case recurring. Drugs, in any case, can always be recalled should any effect prove undesirable. However, a rogue gene can never be 'recalled' and instead will proliferate very quickly once in the environment, so effects not seen now could appear in the future, with nothing we could do to stop it. There are also other ethical issues - to what extent is it acceptable to patent the food chain, effectively giving monopolies to those patent holders, and does the continued desire to make agriculture as monocultural as possible have any positive effects on biodiversity, and wildlife in general? Do consumers have the right to choose not to eat GM food?

The scientific community is by no means united in its views on the technol-

ogy, as can be seen by the recent press release by the BMA and while I can see that biotechnology could have many positive effects in the fields of medicine and pharmacology, it seems to me that the lunatic release of GM organisms into the environment is possibly one of the biggest errors we could make. I would like to finish with a quote from the report the BMA published (probably not 'sound scientific minds' here but never mind):

'...We recommend a moratorium on the commercial planting of GM crops in the UK. The moratorium should continue until there is scientific consensus (or as close agreement as reasonably achievable) about the potential long-term environmental effects'.

Thomas N.D. Tibbits

Lecturers v Students

Dear Felix

Contrary to the advice in Felix, I did not elect to show solidarity for my lecturers on Tuesday. Several friends who took the occasion as an opportunity to have a lie in asked me why not:

1) I do not know of one lecturer who showed any solidarity to their students over the tuition fees issue.

2) Several of my lecturers have made it crystal clear that teaching undergrads is a chore and that we are an annoying hindrance to their research work.

3) Having sat in a pub and overheard mech eng lecturers deride the (perceived?) personal and academic inadequacies of their students, I wondered exactly why I should bother supporting people who feel so much contempt for me and my fellow students.

4) Exactly how much do lecturers earn from consultancies?

The phrase 'Give and gifts will be given to you, for whatever measure you deal out to others will be dealt to you in return' (Luke 6:38 & The Beach) comes to mind...

2nd yr bio undergrad

The phrase 'Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?' (Luke 6:41) comes to mind...

Summer Ball Update

Dear fellow students,

Three times more rides, including an indoor Big Wheel, Classic Horse Carousel and Dodgems. Twenty-four coaches instead of eight to get you there and back. £15,000 spent on production, compared with only £5,000 These are just three improvements the 1999 Summer Ball has on last year's ball.

Tickets were selling at 25/hour last week and are only on sale for another 5

days. Monday the 7th June is the closing date, but don't be the one to leave it to the last minute only to miss out, buy your ticket today. Congratulations to Nalini Balakumaran (Biochemistry III) and Josh Lawson (Physics I) who have both not only won their money back from having got their tickets early, but will also enter this week's and every subsequent week's draw for more prizes. This week, all ticket holders at 5pm today will have the chance to win a meal for two at Luigi Malone's, a two-person tent, and even a 14" Colour Television.

Anyone who wants to join an existing group can collect their tickets at anytime, just use the booking name or number of your friends at the Union Office. If there's more than 10 of you, we can give you tables next to each other at the ball.

We all look forward to seeing you on the 25th June, for what's being called 'The Party of the Year'.

Kind Regards,

Summer Ball Team

PS Please bring a valid cheque guarantee card with you when you pay by cheque.

Regulating the Internet III

Dear Felix,

As the parent of two young children I believe that I have the right and responsibility to protect them from unsuitable content. In all countries the state also asserts this right. In the UK the most obvious manifestation of this is the classification of film and video content U, U, PG etc.

Content labelling has been extended to the internet and products such as Internet Explorer support it. See www.rsac.org/ and www.w3.org/PICS/ for details. These sites are useful resources for anyone interested in this issue.

For content labelling to be effective it is essential that publishers label their content. It is particularly important that offensive content is labelled as such else children may be blocked from reading it. Many readers will have the opportunity to influence this in their professional lives and I urge them to do so.

James Bayley
(Web Solutions Manager)

Deadline for letters for is 12noon Wednesday.

Letters may be edited for length, but will not be altered in any other way.

Letters need not be signed, but a swipe card must be shown when submitting anonymous letters.



Biblical References

Sorry, Mr or Ms '2nd yr bio undergrad', but I couldn't resist it. Hopefully this won't offend any fundamentalist Christians, but I really don't like Bible quotes being used to sum up or defend a position. Why? Because you can find a verse in the Bible to defend pretty much anything. If anyone has a good argument against this, which won't lead to a protracted exchange of biblical references, my ears are open.

And while I'm at it, I have to disagree with your portrayal of my former department's staff. Granted, there are a few grumpy types, but I always found most of the lecturers interesting and likable, and very patient with my inability to make lectures that started before 10am.

Contains words that may offend

Prepare for some pedantry. Earlier on this year, as I'm sure many of you remember, I was forced to apologise in tail-between-the-legs Sun-like style for printing the infamous comic strip. Well, last Thursday I discovered a copy of the C&GU Song-sheet for the 1997 Fresher's Barnight in the Felix Office. It had the usual Guilds' songs, including 'The Engineers Song', which contains such beautiful lyrics as "she was split from arse to tit, and the whole fucking issue was covered in shit" and the (in?)famous 'Mayor of Bayswater's Daughter'; "She went to Glamorgan, her cunt like

a barrel organ".

If some individual paid for the photocopying etc then I can't really complain. If, however, it came out of C&GU funds... well, I'd be surprised if every Guildsman, and particularly Guildswoman, thinks that is a good way to spend public money. This little pedantic ramble doesn't really have a conclusion, but I would be interested to hear any opinions on the subject. Can language be as offensive as visual portrayals? Suppose 50% of C&GU members attended and enjoyed that barnight - does that justify the songsheet? What if it was 20%? 10%? Comments, as ever, are welcome...

An Apology

OK, so most of this term's issues have been somewhat below par - but that is to be expected at this time of year. This issue, I realise, is at the bottom of the chest freezer. Its pages don't so much sizzle as simmer. This week, however, I have an extra excuse. The viral/bacterial/buggy thing (technical biological term) that's been limping slowly around the Union has finally got me, despite my daily intake of 10xRDA Vitamin tablets.

Hopefully I was better by the weekend, as I was going to the Home-lands Dance Festival. I'm sure some of you lot went, and I hope you had a good one. Maybe I bumped into you... *Ed*

Student Pugwash

Regular meetings of this new society take place every Thursday at 1pm in the Brown Committee Room (on the top floor of the Union).

Check out the newly created web-pages at www.su.ic.ac.uk/pugwash

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Yes Magazine is looking for positive stories or achievements regarding disabled people.

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Like every God-fearing Englishman, I appreciate a nice bit of horticulture. You will remember, dear reader, my running commentaries on the legendary flowerbed, but if you think that's the only planting feature that has caught my attention, you would be wrong. From that frosty day last winter when the enormous crane arrived, I have, along with many others, been watching the progress of the two huge trees that were planted outside the BMS. Granite aficionados everywhere shed a tear when thousands of pounds of the infamous paving were ripped up to make two holes four foot square to accommodate the new greenery, and when the articulated lorries arrived, I assumed that College had completely lost the plot by ordering two christmas trees designed to give Trafalgar Square a run for its money. Thankfully disproven, it soon became clear that Imperial was now the proud owner of two very large twigs, bereft of life, ex-trees. Showing uncharacteristic disloyalty to the cause, I was gleefully counting down the days until I could confidently announce that the trees had gone to the great arboretum in the sky. Then a leaf appeared. I was shocked. Immediately I suspected foul play and began to look for signs of a bit of handiwork with some foliage and Araldite. Now the bloody things are covered in leaves and this really hurts - are starting to look like proper trees. Damn you, Ian Caldwell! In the words of old man Jennings, the fairground owner, I'd have gotten away with it if it wasn't for those pesky Estates senior managers.

The Battle of Orgreave it wasn't. The AUT strike was a bit of a damp squib, with precious little evidence of any real disruption, at least as far as I could tell. As you know, I'm not usually the first one on the barricades hoisting the red flag aloft, but I have some sympathy with this cause, if not the actions taken. Calling a strike during an exam period is questionable, but for the Imperial AUT president, Laura Barker, to say that 'she will stand behind students who skip exams' is grossly irresponsible. I suspect that using secondary industrial action as an excuse for not attending an exam would get short shrift from both the College and Senate House. Additionally, you are on shaky ground saying that 3.5% is derisory at a time when inflation is less than 2% and many people in industry are settling for the same or less. But that is not to say lecturers do not deserve more. They

do, but any such pay rise should be as a consequence of root and branch reform of their working conditions, bringing them into the 20th century. To achieve this, the AUT should start behaving like a representative body for professional people, lobbying the university authorities and government, emphasising the double difficulty that low pay causes, namely a brain drain and the problem of attracting overseas academics. There is already evidence from Oxford and Cambridge that this is being addressed, which only goes to make the strike seem more unnecessary.

The first important change should

only, the last vestiges of tenure should be swept away. The idea of a job for life is unacceptable these days, serving only as an almost insurmountable barrier to sacking incompetent academics. If people are good, they have nothing to fear from such a measure as their abilities will secure their long term prospects. That is not to say that one should fear as instrument of personnel policy. Short-term contracts are less than helpful,

rarely succeed in quantifying the contribution of a lecturer, since many do more than their fair share of teaching, and do it extremely well. Taking both together, the setting of bonuses could be achieved simply, cheaply and, most importantly, fairly. I have always believed that it is deeply unfair that lecturers are paid so little given their qualifications and the time taken to achieve them. They should receive more, but I fear that this petulant, outmoded approach will win them few concessions. Despite their assurances, students are bound to be affected by strike action. If they wanted to focus the attack on the university authorities, they should direct their members to refuse to comply with their non-academic, administrative duties. Come to think of it, if you managed to bring Sheffield to a halt, after a week the College would have saved enough money to quadruple your salaries. This strike was not helpful, but not as unhelpful as a pledge of support from the NUS president. Frankly, with friends like Andrew 'ooh Tony, you're such a wonderful man, please will you give me a safe seat when I've finished destroying the reputation of the NUS' Pakes, who needs enemies?

I was going to give my two 'pen-neth on the Ericsson PFI bid to run the phones and suchlike, but space has beaten me again. More about that next time probably, but now for something completely different. I'm going to say something nice about College Catering. Honestly, not a wind-up, I assure you. A couple of weeks ago, I attended a combined '22/Links/Chaps Clubs dinner in the SCR. For those of you not familiar, these are the three elective social clubs of Imperial, dismissed by certain senior College members as little more than a collection of pissed up louts, despite counting the Deputy Rector among their number, which provide the backbone of alumni relations. Anyway, the point is that the food was good. No that's not right - it was excellent, the best meal I have ever eaten at IC. Normally in such situations, there is tendency for the beef to be overcooked, but this was knocking on the door of perfection. All in all, a superb three courses, served and presented very well. My old sparring partner John Foster, Head of Catering, should congratulate all his staff for performing at their very best to deliver a brilliant evening. Christ, if you can please me, the sky's the limit, John.

"...this strike was not helpful, but not as unhelpful as a pledge of support from the NUS president..."

Simon Baker



Voice of Reason

"...in the words of old man Jennings, I'd have gotten away with it if it wasn't for those pesky Estates senior managers..."

be to scrap national pay scales. A relic from the sixties and seventies, it is patently ridiculous that academics at Imperial and De Montfort on the same grade are paid the same wage, excluding the London allowance, when it is obvious to everyone that they are not of the same calibre. Universities should be free to set their own salaries, rewarding people commensurate with their standing. Sec-

but have appeared in part as a consequence of the risk of giving tenure, just in case the person concerned turns out to be a disappointment. If we had the same employment regime as the real world, good people would stay and prosper, while the wasters would be shown the door. Finally, performance-related pay should be introduced. It is painfully simple to assess the performance of academics by a combination of publication records and existing appraisal methods. If somebody hasn't published in years and is universally perceived to be a crap lecturer, why should they be entitled to an automatic pay rise? Publications on their own



Mmmm. Statistics

Kevin was pleasantly surprised when he learnt of the real-life nature of the statistics exams taken by first year medical students at Imperial. The exams, which are taken whilst sitting in front of a computer involve being given a set of experimental data, choosing an appropriate test, and instructing the computer to carry the test out. This process is made idiot-proof by the inclusion in the program of a very useful and easy to use 'help system', which explains the circumstances in which each statistical test should be used, and contains instructions on how to interpret the results. Perhaps the fact that that no one had specifically told the medics about the 'help' features incorporated into the program explains the fact that not all the wannabe doctors passed the exam.

Carry on regardless

For reasons best known to themselves, medics are an arrogant and indepen-

dent bunch all over the world and those lecturing here at IC's medical school are no exception. Recently a malfunction in the BMS technics resulted in a medical lecture being broadcast to both the medical and biology lecture theatres. Whilst the lecturing doctors voice was booming out of the loudspeakers, a poor biology lecturer was left helpless and unable to continue her lecture over the ethereal voice of the doctor. The doctor lecturing the medics was made aware of the problem; however, as the fault was not directly affecting him he decided to continue regardless. Eventually technicians disconnected the doctor from the biology speakers. However the biology microphones were now not working. Frustrated with the disruption to her lecture, the biologist, Dr Maggie Dallman announced: "I'll just shout.

It's all too complex for its own good."

MIT here we come

Imperial College's status as the MIT of Europe in terms of its academic standing is unquestionable. However, Imperial's students have a lot to do before we can compete on the world stage with those at MIT. Students at MIT are revered worldwide for their 'hacks', the most recent of which was to transform a huge classical dome on one of the Institute's buildings into the Star Wars robot R2D2. On seeing the the benefits of



A Mostly Harmless Column by Kevin, a random entity who knows nothing about nothing

the positive publicity generated by this stunt, the MIT authorities have agreed to leave the structure intact for the time being. Anyone with technical or artistic abilities interested in participating in a simple experiment to find

out how Sheffield would react to the conversion of the Queen's Tower into Darth Vader should contact Kevin.

Biologists confused by the dark

Kevin had the misfortune to be in the BMS during the recent electrical surge. The windowless medical, and biology lecture theatres were plunged into complete darkness for a few minutes. The whole building had 'died'; the whirr of the building, the background hiss caused by the air conditioning and microphone systems in the lecture theatres all went silent... a few minutes later the lecturer in the biology lecture theatre made the observation: "Well the emergency lights have come on now...but we don't seem to have a powered up OHP." Kevin wonders just what this peptidoglycan specialist was expecting: an 'Emergency OHP' to pop up out of the floor perhaps?

Send ideas and contributions to kevin_mishmash@hotmail.com

Presidential Talk-Back

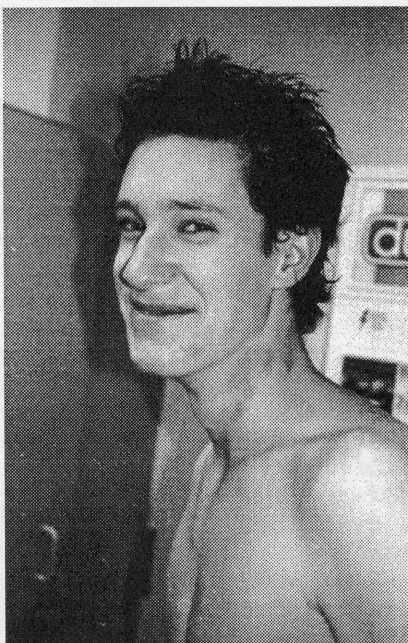
Summer Ball

By the time you read this there will only be five days left to buy your summer ball ticket. Holding such a large event is always a risk for the Union, the potential loss is huge; around £100 000. The styles of balls across London (no rude comments please) are very different and it is hard to judge which one is best suited to your students. Royal Holloway are throwing a mini Glastonbury, with bands ranging from the Bootleg Beatles to Republica, no food or drink and you party in a marquee, where as QMW are having steps, hot dog stands and not much else. Whether or not we have the right balance, at least we can guarantee a good time, if not a ticket; only five days left.

Nightline concert

Tonight is the band concert in aid of Nightline. It's cheap, it's in ULU and the cause is great, I'll be going. When talking about the event recently, in my usual 'ICU is great' way I boasted how Nightline was started in ICU and moved onto ULU to promote itself to a larger number of people. What I didn't know though, that they kindly told was that ICU actually kicked Nightline out for lack of payment; I

David Hellard, ICU President



couldn't imagine that happening in such a socialist and understanding institution.

Pandora's Box

Imperial is full of strange traditions and conventions, but by far the strangest is Pandora's Box. Pan-

dora's Box is a black box that is kept in the murky depths of the Presidents Office. I don't know who started the tradition or why, but the theory is that each president puts in the box three items that helped them get through the year and that they found exceptionally useful. When I first saw the box, I imagined that it would be full of blackmail books, confidential infor-

mation and facts and I was right. One of the most interesting documents is a confidential briefing on direct action and how to occupy central administration and the laws relating to it; watch out Vernon.

There are also details of the circumstances surrounding the resignation of the Honourable secretary in 1983. As the end of my term grows nearer, I have to try and match the previous entries with something as enlightening from my year. Although there are many things that I have found useful, it is very hard to fit the Union Bar or speaking bullshit in the box, so I thought I'd give you guys an opportunity to be part of this unique and strange tradition. If you know of anything that has helped me through my year or something interesting about the Union that could go in the box, please email me with the idea president@ic.ac.uk, you have my permission to be as creative as possible

ICU Summer Ball

Tickets only available for FIVE more days

Cost £55 students, £65 staff



A Cure For Quacks?

Can spiritual healing cure warts? Can acupuncture help you stop smoking? Can herbal remedies cure depression? According to the WHO, 80% of the world's population would say yes, and use alternative medicine as a primary source of healthcare. Joanna Marchant investigates...



growing belief that alternative approaches to healthcare are safer, healthier and more environmentally friendly than so-called 'Western' medicines.

It is easy to see the attraction. Many alternative therapists regard most if not all diseases as potentially curable. They offer a comprehensive and simple message, with answers to many of the problems that have been ignored or handled badly in the conventional healthcare system. Practitioners spend time talking to patients, listening to their problems and encouraging them to relax - an undoubtedly beneficial approach which is scarce in the NHS.

But do these alternative treatments work, other than as a placebo effect? In most cases we just don't know, and that is precisely the problem. Several pharmaceuticals were originally discovered in natural products, from digitalis and aspirin, to yohimbine (for impotence).

Many herbs contain active ingredients in unknown and variable amounts, which can cause side effects (for example Ephedra, a "natural" slimming drug, which causes dizziness and palpitations). They can also interact unpredictably with prescribed medications - an estimated 70% of patients using alternative medicines do not mention them to their doctors. Some alternative procedures can also be dangerous, for example acupuncture, which has been associated with several life-threatening conditions, including hepatitis B and HIV infections, spinal cord injury, septicaemia and acute asthma.

Other therapies and herbal remedies do not have any effect, and a particularly worrying scenario occurs when people use alternative therapies as a replacement to conventional medical treatment. There are often no regulations controlling practitioners. Through ignorance, or an eagerness to identify the mental and emotional components of an illness, some therapists may overlook significant physical problems. As one medical student at IC describes, it's a very real problem. "I examined a Korean lady with breast cancer", she says. "For months she'd simply been using a herbal paste given to her by an alternative medicine practitioner. By the time she came to the doctor she was in the very late stages. She's probably dead now". The NHS is now moving to integrate many alternative therapies into the service, but the basic problem remains - that most of these treatments are not clinically proven. There is no reasonable evidence that they work, or that they are safe.

This situation is starting to change, however. The Department of Complementary Medicine at the University of Exeter was established five years ago, the first of its kind in the world and still the only Complementary Medicine Department in Britain. The department aims to conduct rigorous interdisciplinary research into the efficacy, safety and costs of complementary medicine. Clare Stevinson, a research fellow in the department, is organising a clinical trial into the effectiveness of Hypericum (a small weed) into the treatment of PMT.

"Any practitioners who advocate the use of untested medicines are playing with patients' lives", Clare said. "Here at Exeter we carry out scientific, randomised, controlled trials to see how effective these therapies really are. Safety is a primary concern." Clare's work is going well. Hypericum has already been shown to be at least as effective in treating depression as conventional medicines, and with far fewer side effects. Other trials being conducted by the department include acupuncture for headaches and for smoking cessation, spiritual healing for warts, and homeopathy. There have been many negative results, but also positive

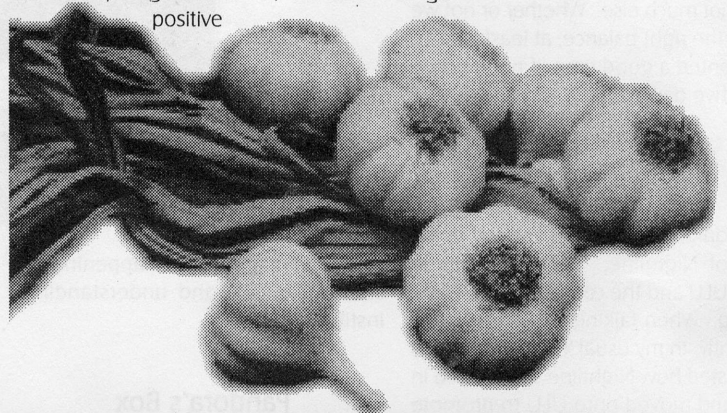
ones, including acupuncture for treating postoperative nausea, and for dental pain, and garlic for lowering blood pressure. But there are problems. "One of the main difficulties", explains Clare, "is getting the practitioners to take part in our trials. It is irrelevant to them what the scientific results are - either way they will still have people queuing for their therapies."

People in society today are becoming more and more disillusioned with an orthodox medicine that can't provide all the answers, that uses drugs which are seen as artificial and which cause side effects. Many are now turning to the idea of a natural cure. It is important for us all to realise the danger of ignoring the benefits of some

herbal medicines and traditional treatments, but also the dangers of turning our backs on conventional medicine in favour of untested, anecdotal treatments. The best way forward for Western medicine is undoubtedly an integrated approach, but only if the alternative therapies are first subjected to the same rigorous scientific testing as conventional drugs.

"It is irrelevant to [the Practitioners] what the scientific results are - either way they will still have people queuing for their therapies"

"Some alternative procedures can also be dangerous, for example acupuncture"



What would Legalisation Lead to?

In the second of our two part exploration of the attitudes surrounding the legalisation of drugs, Felix looks at the arguments in favour of de-regulation. Danny Kushlick, a spokesman for Transform - a pressure group which believes that current British drug laws should be re-examined - answers questions on the benefits and problems of legalisation.

Q: Will direct action such as the may-day march help legalise cannabis?

A: I don't know whether rallies like this actually change anything in themselves and we are deluding ourselves if we think that they do. However, as part of a larger plan, it plays its part.

Cannabis will be legalised when the crisis caused by its prohibition combined becomes too great for Government to bear - financially and in terms of public opinion. And also when the government feels safe enough to put it properly on the political agenda.

Our job as drug law reformers is to raise the issue on that agenda. Our activities range from standing in elections on the single issue of legalisation, speaking to local and national policy makers, direct action like smokey bears picnics, producing policy documents, getting media coverage, starting student groups etc.

Transform is part of a larger alliance to change policy and legislation in the UK. Our work falls into three main areas: Policy, Membership and Media. We are involved in policy making forums at a local and national level. We have an active membership who involve themselves in activities from writing to their MP to putting on debates and parties. We have three active student groups one of which is an official student society affiliated to the NUS.

Q: How do events such as the may-day march fit in with Transform's policy of re-examining the legal status of all illegal drugs?

A: Cannabis prohibition is one part of the problem. It is an important fight to repeal this bullshit law. I received a letter this morning from a 50 year old guy who's serving 9 months in a Welsh prison for growing his own to alleviate back pain. Eric Mann is also serving a year for growing his own for arthritis. He's 50 odd too. It's positively barbaric.

However, the consequences of the prohibition of heroin and crack are far

worse. At least half of all property crime is related to fundraising to support a habit. It is purely because of the prohibition of these drugs that the price is so high and consequently addicts have to steal to support it. Most of the Mafia's profits accrue from illegal drug sales. The market belongs to them. It costs the UK 6 billion pounds a year dealing with the fall-out from prohibition. The illegal trade in the UK is worth 19 billion a year. Many of our inner city areas are being decimated by street dealers and violence, dirty needles and acquisitive crime. Intra-venous drug users themselves are scapegoated and suffer the health consequences of prohibition. Increased HIV and Hepatitis transmission, death from pure heroin (ten in Bristol in the last 2 months, six in Norfolk) etc etc. As far as we are concerned it is anti-prohibitionism which is the important issue rather than the specific issue of cannabis. And by addressing drug policy as a whole we can begin to see the underlying issues involved in creating progressive change.

Q: What is your response to the often heard criticism 'it's all very well to legalise some relatively harmless drugs, such as cannabis, but these inevitably lead on to harder and more addictive drugs, which have serious and undesirable social problems associated with them'?

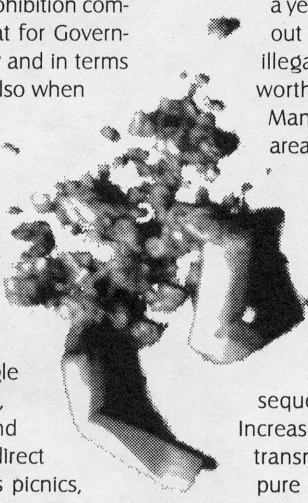
A: We are absolutely clear that it is so-called dangerous drugs which need to be legalised. It is absolutely madness to leave the dangerous drugs in the hands of an unregulated uncontrolled marketplace. We have a choice here: We have four methods of distributing drugs - 1 Over the counter eg. aspirin, 2 Licensed outlets eg. alcohol 3 Prescriptions eg. prozac, or 4 The criminal market. The choice is ours. We know that there are 200-300 thousand heroin addicts in the UK. Do we want them to buy their drugs from international cartels or from doctors. Would

we want alcohol and tobacco sold exclusively through the criminal market? If we were to ban them we'd increase the price massively, lower the quality and have a massive increase in property crime associated with feeding a tobacco habit. And let's not be deluded by the language of the government. Alcohol and tobacco are very dangerous drugs. How come we're so concerned about the gateway myth of cannabis leading to 'harder' drugs, when the gateway drugs that we all start using first are the very dangerous ones of alcohol and tobacco. Tobacco kills 300 each every day, alcohol 100 each and every day, heroin 3 each and every day. Interestingly most of the heroin deaths are to do

with ignorance of the strength of what they were using. A problem that would be solved by legalising. Heroin is a relatively safe drug compared with alcohol and tobacco. And let's not for-

get that cannabis is not harmless. It is generally smoked and smoking causes disease. Remember Bob Marley died of lung cancer.

The serious and undesirable social problems associated with heroin, crack and speed are in the main created and definitely exacerbated by their illegality. The issue is to create a policy around drug use and misuse that first and foremost reduces harm and reduces costs. Prohibition does not do that and legalisation does. It's that simple. Legalisation is not a cure-all however. People will still get ill and die as they do with alcohol and tobacco. But we could reduce the crime associated with misuse, raise revenue, stop stigmatising addicts, give out better information, restore civil rights, empty our prisons and ultimately begin to address the underlying problems drug misuse, namely poverty and lack of opportunity.





The Arts Appreciation Society wishes to thank all of its 283 members for their continued support over the last year.


Some of the shows for which we intend to arrange tickets during the coming year include:

Chicago * The Lion King
West Side Story * Rent
Saturday Night Fever * Cats
...plus loads more, including other musicals, opera, ballet and art exhibitions

ARTSOC
Imperial College Union Arts Appreciation Society
For further information, please e-mail artsoc@ic.ac.uk


PHANTOM


CARMEN


LES MIS



An Oasis in West Africa

Working and living in Ghana is not only personally satisfying, but carries valuable CV points as well...

Claire Bayntun shares her experience of living and working in this vast African nation, and the benefits of voluntary work in general.

Amid a swirl of unstable, corrupt and often internally violent francophone countries, Ghana sits comfortably, as wide and grand as its women sat on the packed 'tro-tro' minibuses.

Where is Ghana? Despite my love of the world and an insatiable desire to be on 'speaking terms' with as much of it as possible, I did not know where in the dark continent this country held court. I was going to live and work there, so I had better know its coordinates. I always feel that it is a traveller's duty to be able to find his own way to his destination, just in case the pilot loses his sense of direction. You never know.

Dramatic realignment was needed on leaving that special aircraft-cabin climate. Heat and humidity hits like a wall. That warm tropical smell was familiar to me from other equatorial lands that I had travelled in. Excited anticipation. Removal of the fleece.

The roads were roads. The houses, houses. And then... the shanty shacks, the pot hole crevasses, the smells, the sounds... Africa. But each ensuing day there was a developing story.

Ghana is much more than a part of Africa: It reserves the right to be rather different from what one might expect. African countries are always going to have an intriguing attraction; the warmth of their 'developing' status, a fascination with the peoples' 'almost' contentment in living with so little, and a jealous delight in the discovery of the freedom and closeness of their communities. I feel that these sentiments are felt by most foreigners visiting Africa. And, of course, being white-skinned in a continent of black, you get the honour of being 'a guest in their land', every moment of the day.

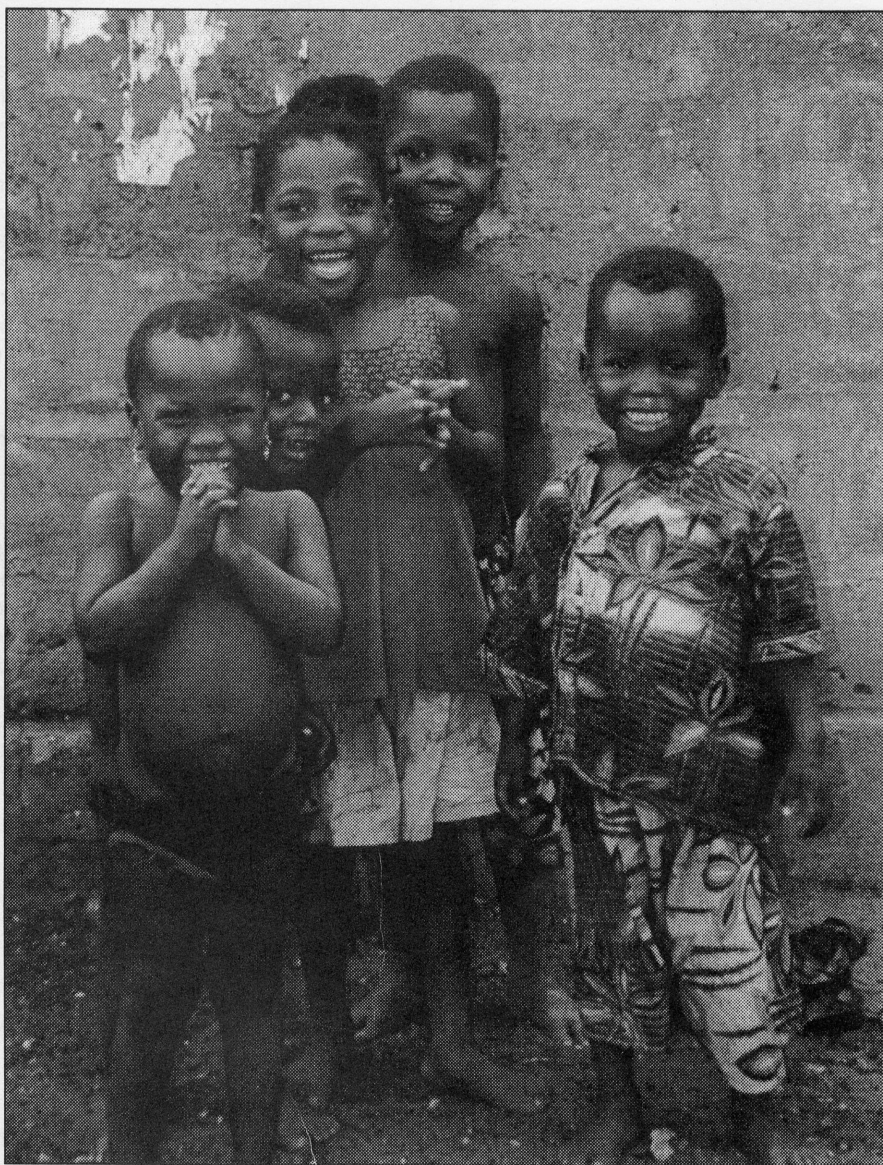
Usually these features bring many added disadvantages and difficulties in moving and living within these countries. This is where Ghana becomes so special.

Ghana is an oasis in West Africa, or indeed, the African Continent. It is remarkably safe, unswervingly hospitable, and can offer those Western comforts around the clock, throughout the year. And the people? My new way of describing the most friendly of personalities is to refer to them as 'Ghanaian'.

There are sand, palm-fringed beaches, body-boarding waves, bars, clubs, restaurants, cinemas, jet-skiing, go-karting; a place of plenty for anyone.

You can also teach in the schools, help with conservation projects in the tropical rainforests, do your Medical Elective in the hospitals and rural clinics, practice law in a firm, accountancy, IT, marketing, or complete your dissertation there.

These are just some of the opportunities available to you. I was there for four months, living, breathing and working in Ghana with the organisation Teaching and Projects Abroad. Volunteers were doing a full range of work, and an equally rigorous



programme of social activities. Volunteers are the crème de la crème, guaranteeing good company, firm friends and excellent contacts for life. It can seem a bit odd to pay for the honour of 'volunteering' yourself, but when you are there you do realise what you are achieving; real personal satisfaction is yours on an immediate basis. And the long term advantages are also substantial in this present day scramble for graduate jobs.

Ghana is a superb destination for this programme. It is 'Third World', but with all the mod-cons if you need them. You can get a position in almost any area of work through the organisation. Both yourself and the people that you are assisting gain enormously from the cultural exchange.

If you fancy the idea, but not in Ghana, or want to use the opportunity to brush up on a language at the same time, the organisation also operates in Mexico (Spanish), Brazil (Portuguese), Togo (French),

India, Nepal, Russia And a few others! Wherever you chose to work it is a great way to take a break from studying, whilst giving yourself something that will help you in the long term; prospective employers look at volunteers who have worked in developing countries as resourceful and dynamic individuals who can cope with challenges, have an international breadth of experience, and are, after all, a bit of a saint. Perfect.

For me, Ghana did offer something outstanding. It has found itself clearly defined on my map; the emphasis is on having as much fun and madness as possible in a beautiful part of the African continent, full of culture and tribal groups, and where you can live 'a life of Riley' for a few pounds. Try it - wedge yourself in next to a large Ghanaian lady, and feel the amplexness this country has to offer.

You can contact Teaching and Projects Abroad on 01903 859911, or e-mail: Info@teaching-abroad.co.uk

Win Young Persons Railcards!

As any conscientious traveller knows, rail is the way to go. Coach may be slightly cheaper, but trains have a tendency towards speed and comfort, and, whatever bad comedians may say, are a damn sight more reliable. What could be more useful to the average student, therefore, than a Young Persons Railcard?

Not only does the Young Persons Railcard offer one third off all standard rail fares in Great Britain, but it also offers savings on the other essentials of a student lifestyle. Current offers include 3 pints for the price of 2 at Firkin pubs, reductions at McDonalds, discounts off Sony CDs and a load of gadgets.

To buy a Young Persons Railcard and take advantage of all these amazing offers, all you need to do is go down to your local Student Travel Office or BR station with a passport photo, an application form and proof that you are aged under 26 or a full time student. Oh, and the trifling sum of £18, which will entitle you to a full twelve months of discounted travel.



I'm not entirely sure why we were sent a picture of a stuffed sheep, but I believe it is meant to imply that one gets out more when one has a railcard. Yours pretentiously - Ed

Competition

Somewhere above I seem to remember asking the question "what could possibly be better than a Young Person's Railcard?". And, of course, the answer is simple: a free one. Thanks to Powerhouse PR, there is no need to

pay your £18, as they have kindly offered up five railcards for us to give away to Felix readers. However, we're not just going to hand these things out to the first five random punters who walk in off the street. Oh no - that would be too easy. No, we're going to force you to exercise that thing you keep between your ears. And I don't

mean your nose. No, you're going to have to exercise your grey matter, and answer the following question:

When was the first railway opened for public use in Britain?

Send answers to felix@lc.ac.uk with the subject header 'Railcard Comp' before Wednesday evening, along with contact details.

The first five names out of the virtual hat, as our esteemed film editor calls it, will win themselves a railcard, and the love and adoration of all. As ever, the competition is open to all staff and students of the College (although, of course, in this case you'll need to be under 24 to be able to accept the prize). Felix staff, their families and significant others are not eligible. No cash alternative will be offered. Correspondence will not be entered into. The Editor's decision is final.

Could you coordinate local research at your university for a major nationwide student survey?

We are looking to appoint a part-time University Manager to co-ordinate local fieldwork for national student market research projects for *The Times* and *Channel Four*.

The post will be paid, part-time work during term time between October 1999 and April 2000 and would be an ideal job for a finalist, a postgraduate student or a recent graduate still living near the university.

Previous experience of market research is not required, but to be successful you must have plenty of free time and will need to be:

- very knowledgeable about the university and final-year students in 1999-2000, with lots of contacts within student societies & clubs
- keen, enthusiastic and not afraid of meeting new people
- extremely well-organised and efficient to meet demanding deadlines

If successful, you can look forward to excellent work experience, a generous pay scheme, and references to help with your future job applications.

For more information, please contact Carla Holmes at High Fliers Research on 0171 428 9200.

HIGH FLIERS 



Albums

LES RHYTHMES DIGITALES

Darkdancer ★★★★★



And will an A# work here? Lovely.

With all the hype that followed France winning the World Cup last summer you might have thought that the people of Britain would have had enough of their closest neighbours. However, as well, as French managers and players still doing well in the English premiership, it seems as if 1999 is going to be another successful year for French music in our music charts.

The French music explosion began in 1997 with the emergence of Daft Punk's wondrous *Homework* album, which was heralded by many as the album of the year. This was followed in 1998 with a similar feat by Air with *Moon Safari*. Then in summer 1998, as if the football wasn't enough, the British public choose the French *Music Sounds Better With You* by Stardust for their main summer anthem. When 1999 came along, one might have thought it was time for the Brit-boys to hit back, but the French dominance has continued with Cassius's fabulous *1999*, and now we've got the equally excellent *Darkdancer* by Les Rythmes Digitales.

With *Darkdancer*, Les Rythmes Digitales follow the pattern set by their fellow countrymen and the style is thus a blend of pop, cheese, electro-80s and

the crucial touch of Frenchness. However, the similarity by no way takes the edge or originality away from the music. The sounds are different enough to be refreshing, but similar enough to retain that *je ne sais quoi*.

It starts off as it means to go on with instant head-bobbing funk, and simple vocals that will have the listener singing along almost as quickly. The tunes follow similar patterns and the non-complex structure only adds to the appeal. There's also a number of guest vocalists present on the album. Perhaps the most interesting being Nik Kershaw, who gave us the unforgettable *Wouldn't It Be Good* in the 1980s. Kershaw's vocals are present on *Sometimes*, which although not as bad as the song with the same name by Erasure, is not the best track on the album. Nevertheless, guesting on a track by a credible dance act is more forgivable for an '80s rock star than trying to revive your flagging career by landing a part in *Eastenders*.

So all in all those French boys have done it again. *Darkdancer* is cheesy at times, and it doesn't break any barriers when it comes to music making, but it's funky, it's groovy and I suppose above all it's got that Frenchness. **M** James

MEDAL

Drop Your Weapon ★★★★★

Loosely described as new wave hippy rock, these kids are so relaxed and laid back you'll be scared that they'll hurt themselves. Like The Verve, they're sullen and deep. Like Pink Floyd, they're weird and have an amazing ability to bring darkness where light once was. By this I mean that the psychedelic style drift through *Drop Your Weapon* will leave you feeling ever so slightly more calm than when you first sat down to listen to it.

On a par with Ultrasound, they build up from the quiet to the earth-shatteringly mind blowing in almost every song. *Monkey Man* was obviously written in a more jovial frame of mind with Richard Brinklows bouncy organ mood creating an altogether mad track. The organ is always used to full effect and stands apart from the rest of the noise in all the songs. *Visit Your Local Taxidermist* opens with sounds not dissimilar to Beck's *Where It's At*, but as noise levels rise you realise your dealing with something completely different here. No vocals ever kick in on this track, which leaves you feeling a bit cheated. If instrumentals are your thing then you'll love it, but who loves instrumentals? Yes, the 'crushing organ swells' are urrrrrrr...crushing, but basically, you have to be in the right frame of mind for this sort of thing.

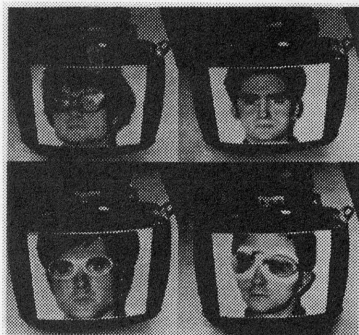
Is your soul in your head? is a bit repetitive in that the vocals are hung around three notes with each line sung being a question. But hey, it's not bad. It's just that, on a scale of songs that'll pick you up, shake you about and leave you feeling deeply moved it doesn't begin to compare to *Possibility* because this song, despite being ever so slightly depressing, is just brilliant. With its precise and intricate guitars backed up by haunting vocals, this is the type of song that'll make you want to reminisce about more emotional times of your life like when you got dumped by your boyfriend or girlfriend and never really got over it. Just when you're beginning to feel all relaxed, thoughtful and deep, the next track, *Poncenby Smythe*, scares the hell out of you with its startling opening samples of laser guns and strange noises.

Overall, *Drop Your Weapon* is good. The build up of dull moans to majestic roars creates a massive sound impact, which is both effective and moving. Yet despite this, I still think there's something missing. What Medal have created here will be loved by many and hated by few. In the words of an old school-teacher, I'd say they're good but could do better. **M**

Ingrid

MAN OR ASTROMAN

Eeviac ★★



Kill your television?

What can I say? This is weird, seriously weird. Obsessed with all that is vaguely futuristic and scientific, Man or Astroman have endeavoured to create the mother of all 'space rock' albums and failed miserably. This is so bad, so unbelievably boring that I am lost for words.

So here's the background; They are a trio from Alabama who go by the names of Birdstuff, Coco and Star Crunch and I would describe their 'astrostyle' of guitar playing as being not dissimilar to your average 'boy along the corridor' desperately attempting the opening chords of *Beetlebum* for the 5th time at maximum volume and still getting it wrong.

The album is childishly simple in its structure. Each track opens with some random sample from a sci-fi film, the guitars play fast and hard and sometimes, if you're lucky, you might hear someone sing. All in all, the appalling guitar playing and screamed lyrics interjected with samples of old men talking about futuristic type things make for a pretty unique listening experience which I'm sure

some people could learn to appreciate. The surf and skate kids love 'em because they're so crazy. They have been known to set fire to their heads on stage..How cool is that?! Having slagged them off so ruthlessly I feel I must send at least one fairly positive comment their way; The aforementioned samples scattered throughout the album are quite funny and provide a much needed source of entertainment that makes the guitar playing just about bearable. Overall, the most noticeable thing that hits you about this album is aptly put in the very first words you hear on pressing the play button. 'It's the same old series of signals over and over again' says the distinctively futuristic sounding man in the opening sample of *Interstellar Hardrive*.

Put over some wacky surfing film or as the music for a computer game, these 13 tracks would sound brilliant. But without the pictures that should accompany the sound, listening to this is like torture.

In conclusion all I can say is give me sci-fi geeks, give me futuristic lingo that I don't understand, give me anything but this. **M**

Ingrid



Albums

BASEMENT JAXX

Remedy ★★★★★½



Hmmm. Methinks I have found the sound of the summer here. But first of all, who are the Jaxx? Simon Ratcliffe and Felix Buxton take responsibility for this album. They hail from Camberwell and hold degrees in engineering and languages. So they aren't just a pair of brainless monkeys who fluked out a wicked album by random button pressing.

The best thing about this album is that it doesn't take itself too seriously. There has been a worrying trend recently of a lot of tunes that may have some great technical features, and are very nice to listen too but don't get you dancing. Which is what dance music is all about after all. It's practically impossible to listen to this album and not at least

swing some body part in time to the music (ooh-err missus). Seriously though this maybe the best dance album of the year - until the Chemicals present their effort at least - and it's going to be pretty hard to beat this one.

The first single off the album is the rather funky *Red Alert*, it's the one with the great quote 'ain't nothin' goin' on but history' that is being relentlessly overplayed on Radio 1 right now. The really great thing about this tune is that it blends so many different styles and voices that it always surprises you with a little something that you hadn't noticed before.

Another bunch which will be sure to get you grooving are *Bingo Bango*, *Yo-Yo* and *Jump n' Shout*. How can a track

called *Bingo Bango* possibly not be fantastic? I'm not sure about that, but this one certainly hits the spot. It goes crazy with relentless Latin rhythms, calms it down with a nice bit of plinky plonky and then brings it all home with that whole carnival atmosphere - I defy you not to samba. *Yo-yo* has what I would describe as a crunching bass line. Listen and you will understand. Drugged out lyrics also feature heavily - 'You were a prophet from above, then you came and sucked my butt, my pain became my strength, I am reborn and deaf not dumb, the street forget' - meanings on a postcard please. *Jump n' Shout* brings in a bit of dancehall sound that has recently been enjoying mainstream success such with artists such as Glimmer Kid. Anyway this tune has all the classic dancehall qualifications - a thumping beat, almost indecipherable lyrics and that indefinable swing that causes uncontrollable body movement when heard. Nicesh.

This album isn't house, garage, pop, acid jazz or funk. Basement Jaxx only have one style - if you ain't dancing, change it. It works to superb effect on *Remedy*. Get the Jaxx, get funky, get happy - what a great remedy for the classic British summer. **M** Joel

AFRO CELT
SOUND SYSTEM

Volume 2: Release ★★★★★

If you were to think that Afro Celt Sound System made music that was a strange crossover between tribal African music and the sort of Irish music that makes you cringe, you'd be just about right. You'd also probably think that it's a blend that's about as advisable as tipping custard in your beer, but on that count you be most certainly wrong.

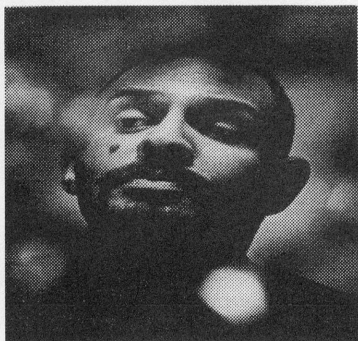
Surprisingly the crazy pipes of the Irish and the banging tribal drums of Africa fit together like hand in glove, and further, the blend of Gaelic and African vocals doesn't turn out to be such a bad idea either. The album features guests such as Sinead O'Connor and ex-Pogues James McNally, and although at times the album turns out to be more Irish than African, the cheesyness of Riverdance is thankfully avoided.

Volume 2: Release therefore turns out to be not as bad as expected and should give the Afro Celt Sound System a much longer life expectancy than their satanic half-sisters Bewitched. **M**

James

BARRY ADAMSON

The Murky World Of... ★★★★★



Jesus, there's me thinking Portishead's music was seedy and dank. They've got nothing on former Magazine and The Bad Seeds member Barry Adamson, and this album amply highlights the fact. Kicking off with a reworking of Bernstein's title-track from the Sinatra Smack-flick *The Man with the Golden Arm* we're plunged neck-deep into the mire. Horns squeal as they slowly asphyxiate and Ol' Blue Eyes chases that one last fix. *Jesus Devil* swings and slides with impeccable grace as Barry eulogises about untimely death -

mmmmmm, nice! *Mitch and Andy* describes the grisly end of a small-time hood who gets off on pulling jobs whilst wearing his dead wife's panties - no really, if I'm lying, I'm flying, hepcat. This music would be perfect accompaniment to a James Ellroy novel or Hubert Selby Jr.'s 'Last Exit to Brooklyn'. You can just imagine a world of petty crims on the make, drag queens wired off their tits and chewing the roach of a recently toked joint. *The Vibes Ain't Nothin' But The Vibes* is lounge-room music of the most gorgeous sepia-toned hue; John Barry xylophone and oh-so-cool piano. *007, A Fantasy Bond Theme* sees reggae beats and a tune I'm sure you all know intertwine in Kingston, Jamaica. Taking tracks from the albums *Moss Side Story*, 'oul Murder, *Oedipus Schmoedipus*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes* and *As Above So Below* the collection presents us with a real smorgasbord of eclectic beats, vibes and tunes. **M**

Chris

FURSLIDE

Adventure ★★★★★

Adventure is the debut album of the New-York based indie band Furslide. The album starts off well with *Over My Head* a rousing tune with some great throaty vocals. Jennifer Turner (lead vocals) is plainly the boss of this band - belting out tuneful harmonies and growling along with the best of them for the ranty bits. Of which there are few. I am really glad that Furslide haven't taken the route of most female fronted indie bands and just whined about how crap it is being a girl in the '90s. Jennifer knows what she wants and by all accounts has got it - she's not afraid to sing about it either.

Over My Head is a great first track with some tasty distorted guitars and an evil catchy chorus that is sure to get loads of air time on indie radio and TV shows. Jennifer seems to be singing about how scared she is of some new-found responsibilities and how oddly happy she is with the situation.

My favourite tune of the album is the hard rocking, organ-tastic *Today Forever*. The tune comes complete with a wicked chorus containing some very

nicesh harmonizing from the rest of the band. This track grabs you by the ear hole and won't let you go until you are well and truly awake and wide-eyed.

My Friend's Gallery is a coy, kooky little grower of a track. It's full of some almost Sergeant Pepper-esque moments of echo boxes and drums crescendoing. It doesn't seem like much on first listening but it definitely plants some seeds, which blossom on further listenings.

The rest of the album, apart from at most 3 other tracks, ultimately just lives up to the high expectations set up by the first track. But only just. Furslide are extremely technically proficient - they just need to take a little more time on the more creative aspects of the next album, and perhaps explore more of the electronic aspects of their sound which emerge towards the end of the album. It should be a corker. **M**

Joel



Singles Round-up

A - Old Folks

The lead singer looks like he should be in 911 but that aside this is pure adrenaline power-pop. The chorus is incredibly



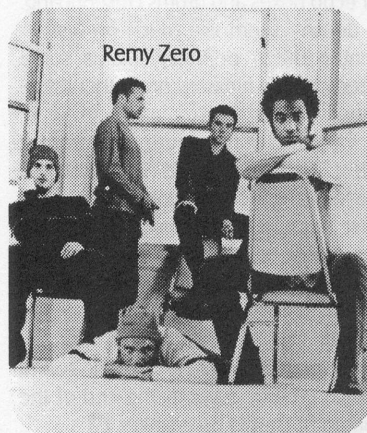
catchy, irritatingly so (in a good way) and there are some smashing harmonies. All this is backed up with a breezy riff and thumping beats. Get up and dance!

Gay Dad - Joy!

It's difficult to pin down what's so good about these lot because there are so many faces to the music. They've got that 70s Glam thing going on but with such a contemporary 90s sound. *Joy!* has a dark, mysterious verse and a totally juxtaposed chorus that work well together. All Gay Dad need now is a real break into the mainstream.

I Am Seven - Welcome

A lot of the offerings this week sound quite similar, like these, Trashmonk and Liberty 37. I Am Seven do have a little more to offer than Liberty 37 in that the single's a smidgen more poppy and will most definitely appeal to a wider audience. There's a hint of Ash (God forbid) in the vocals and a punk style riff that, all in all make for an enjoyable track. The other tracks on this are of a high standard too.



Liberty 37 - Oh River

A British version of the Deftones? Not quite. Liberty 37 are certainly loud and have their hearts set on being the

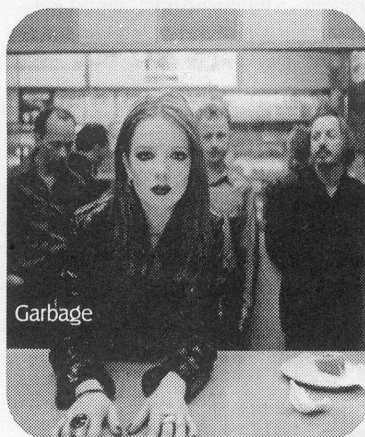
Deftones but with those lyrics and vocals the note they hit is more along the lines of Silverchair. The b-sides were in the same vein too. They can have a point for making me giggle at the line '... mice have eaten all the strings.'

The Moffatts - Until You Love Me

If ever there was a reason microwaves were invented, this is it. Full power for a couple of seconds was all it needed to kill the offending kids' noise and create pretty blue lightning to bring happiness to all. Just think Hanson but with less originality and the inability to write their own songs. Spare us.

Ruby Cruiser - (Wow, How Cool Is) Joe's New Car

And Crap Song Title Of The Week goes to Ruby Cruiser. It's not a bad song but the whole sound is that of a bunch of mates messing about in a garage and not being too bothered about who's listening. Having cars (and explaining them



in minute detail), buying drugs and ageing hippies do not a good song make.

Remy Zero - Gramarye

This is a bit of an arty one, this. *Gramarye* gets a touch dreary in places but the overall feel is a melancholy one. I got the image of an 80s rock star from the singer's voice but maybe that's just something wrong with me. The second track's less mental hospital and more a walk in the park. Talented.

Trashmonk - Polygamy

Do you remember Terence Trent D'Arby? Well, the lead singer has a sound of old Terence about him, which is unfortunate. Apart from this sad fact *Polygamy* isn't that bad, in fact I rather like it. It's one of those songs that makes you feel like you're being watched: it's creepy. I got pissed off by the third version, though. **M**

Christian

Beastie Boys - Remote Control / 3 MCs and 1 DJ

Ahh, the boys at their best. Missing the usual superb lyrics and some insane DJ skills from Mix Master Mike. There are two versions of this single - try to get the second with the added bonus of a live video rendition of *3MCs and One DJ*. Another classic from the Grand Royal vault.

Fridge - Kinsoshita Terasaka

If you like lyrics don't buy this single, cos it ain't got any. They would get in the way anyway. This is a lovely piece of chilled out beats and keyboard. Ahhhh.

Lovecraft - Fun With Flashlights

This indie-ish slow number ambles along pleasantly enough. The B-sides rock out a bit more - sounding more and more Radiohead-like as they progress. The singer starts to sound worryingly Bowie-ish at some points. He wants to watch that.

Super Collider - It Can't Be Long

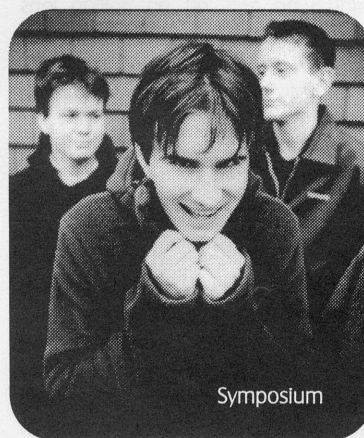
Sounds a bit ketamine influence, this one. Very drugged out and as a result it feels like the tune is dragging its feet at times. The midfield general remix is much more correctly paced and the big beats really help it along.

One Lady Owner - Police Car Sex

Predicable, punkish pointlessly distorted pap which tries to seal a couple more copies by putting a sexy nurse on the cover of the single. Works for me.

Garbage - You Look So Fine

Is it me or do all of the Garbage tracks have exactly the same beat in the background? It'll doubtless be very successful - it's just not much of a change from pre-



vious efforts. The Fun Loving Criminals remix on the other hand is just so much better. Lovely and twisted and dark. Buy it for the remix alone.

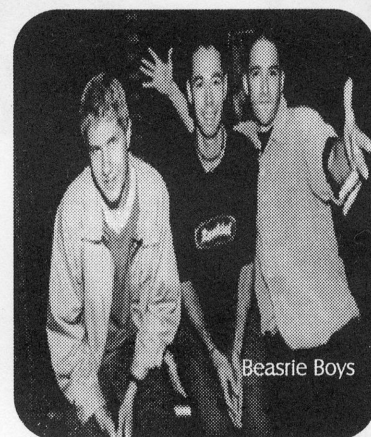
Erassy - Bonus Beats EP

Very college rock with a bit of breakbeats thrown into the mix. They rock out impressively on one of the b-sides while

the final track provides a bit of free beatage for all you budding Fatboy Slims out there. Like a chimp with a 303 on bad acid. Nope, I don't understand that last sentence either.

System of a Down - Sugar

Thrash metal punk from some tediously weird looking guys. Not very good at all. And the 'uncut' version doesn't have nearly enough swear words in it.



Toploader - Achilles Heel

Just a really good song. Takes elements of Robbie Williams, Neil Young and Soun-garden - but much, much bigger than the sum of its parts. It's just epic on the scale of the Phantom Menace. Will be huge if there is any justice.

Stroke - Internal Call

Very Spiritualized. Very, very Spiritualized. First track sounds similar to a Sneaker Pimps (remember them?) song that I can't quite remember the name of. Pleasant enough to the eardrums but accompanied by an almost permanent sense of deja-vu.

Six by Seven - Two and a Half Days In Love With You

Both the title track and B-sides get quite epic at times. They can talk the talk but I am not quite sure if they can walk the walk. Have a listen first.

Nojahoda - Teach Me How to Fly

Annoyingly catchy. With the emphasis on annoying. I swear there is a casio keyboard bossa nova beat in the background. Suddenly goes from bossa nova, to sheer ROCK. Should have been rock all the way through in my opinion. Features a mental video on the cd too - great.

Symposium - Killing Position

Nrggggh. This is very much a balls out song. Wicked riffs very much in evidence. Still not sure about the singer when he isn't belting it out at full volume. Otherwise no complaints. **M**

Joel

Tues 1st

ICU presents....

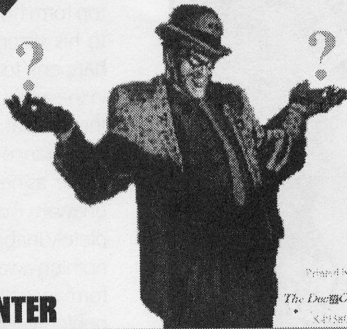
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Reviews

Notting Hill ★★★★★

Starring : Hugh Grant, Julia Roberts, Emma Chambers, James Dreyfus, Rhys Ifans, Tim McInnerny, Gina McKee
Director : Roger Michell

By now you must know what *Notting Hill* is all about; the long awaited follow-up to second-most-successful-British-movie-of-all-time *Four Weddings & A Funeral*, it starts with almost exactly the same set-up, is driven by the same calibre of script, and produces an equally brilliant end product. Unless something very strange happens, this will be the most successful British movie of 1999. No question.

Considering how many trailers, reviews and clips there have been on TV and in magazines over the last few weeks, you've probably got a fairly thorough grasp of the plot too - and again, it owes a lot to its predecessor. Hugh Grant returns, repleat with comedy hair, upper-class stutter and winning style, and once again he's trying to win over the American girl who keeps disappearing back to the states at inopportune moments. This time, however, there's an even bigger challenge blocking the path to true love, as this time the object of his affection just happens to be the biggest movie star in the world... oh, and the Greek-chorus support characters are back - the dippy girl, the disabled loved-one, the life-long



Interesting trivia: his salary - \$1 million; her salary - \$15 million.

looser, the weird flatmate - and once again they get all the best gags.

So haven't we seen this all before? Well, no. Sure, it doesn't have the same brilliantly fresh feel of *Four Weddings* (whilst the jokes are all new, their style and delivery is familiar) and, like its predecessor, you can see the end coming from a mile away - yet the quality of the writing lifts it head and shoulders above its com-

petitors. The characters come alive (OK, so they're all characters, but so what); the plot twists and turns its way towards its inevitable conclusion to a satisfying degree; and Roberts and Grant make a fun (if unlikely) romantic pairing.

It's the support cast, however, who provide the real turns of brilliance - indeed Roberts has so few lines that she's mostly left to smile and react to those around her,

whilst Grant makes the most of the lion's share of the dialogue. BBC stalwarts McKee, McInnerny and Chambers are on top form (the scene where Grant turns up to his sister's party with a date that just happens to be the most famous actress in the world is simply superb comedy), but the real star of the show is Ifans. His every appearance on screen is a moment of brilliance, as he slides through life completely unaware that he's saying and doing completely inappropriate things - and, to take nothing away from his movie-stealing performance, it's the quality of writing that's behind it all.

Like all sequels, however, it's going to suffer in comparison to its predecessor (OK, let's ignore *The Godfather Part Two* for a moment). It's not as original (for obvious reasons); Hugh Grant's stuttering shtick is slightly more predictable, and disbelief just begins to creep in. Yet, it's just as funny, Roberts is clearly superior to Andie MacDowell and, if anything, it's even more upbeat - I defy you to leave the cinema in anything less than an incredibly happy mood. Stress relief par excellence. **F**

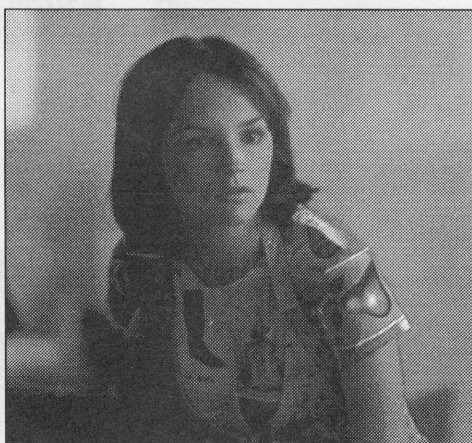
Dave

She's All That ★★★★★

Starring : Freddie Prinze Jr, Rachael Leigh Cook, Matthew Lillard, Paul Walker, Anna Paquin, Jodi Lyn O'Keefe
Director : Robert Iscove

OK, before I begin I feel it's only fair to warn you that I'm a sucker for really cheesy romantic comedies. More to the point, you'd better be one too, otherwise you're going to absolutely hate *She's All That*. Filled with every cliché, predictable turn and time-honoured teen caricature in the book, it's like an episode of *Dawson's Creek* with the intelligence surgically removed... yet I loved it. It's brilliantly uplifting, unbearably cute and (surprisingly) genuinely funny. The only downside is that, like all the best teen flicks, it's completely and utterly detached from reality.

The premise is simple. Prinze is the Student President, the coolest guy in school, and a cert for Prom King. Yet with only a few weeks to go before that legendary event, he gets dumped by megabitch O'Keefe. Cue rash promise to best friend Walker that he can make any girl into Prom Queen. [If that sounds strangely familiar, then you're probably thinking of



So let's get this dear - she's the geeky, ugly one? Hmm.

George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* (or the musical incarnation, *My Fair Lady*), which the writers of *She's All That* seem to have borrowed heavily from.] Anyhow, empowered with the ability to pick any girl in the entire school, Walker picks introverted geek Leigh Cook as the girl Prinze can't

possibly turn into Prom Queen. Er, hello? I realise it's a plot requirement, but surely unless you're phenomenally shallow, you can't help but realise that this girl is incredibly pretty? Oh well, at least it gives Prinze the opportunity to launch into his winning (albeit formulaic) chat-up technique -

which, as we're all perfectly aware, can't help but succeed in a movie like this.

The point of all this is that, yes, the movie is very predictable, and no, it doesn't have a Kevin Williamson style ironic twist at the end. The movie is formulaic, but the fact that the makers have actually spent some time putting some effort into the dialogue, sub-plots and, most importantly, the material around the edges, brings it to life. Consequently, whilst you can't help but root for Cook and Prinze, and yearn for O'Keefe to meet her comeuppance, it's *Scream*'s Lillard who steals the show, overacts like a man possessed whilst remaining thoroughly obnoxious. Oh, and his dancing is a sight to behold.

In truth though, it's the dream-like state of this world that I love (complete with my all time favourite - the comedy syncopated dance routine). After all, who wouldn't want to live in a world where even the short, fat geeky kid gets a girl? **F**

Dave

Reviews & Competition

My Favourite Martian ★★

Starring : Christopher Lloyd, Jeff Daniels, Elizabeth Hurley, Daryl Hannah
Director : Donald Petrie

Oh my God, not another sixties TV series that's been made into a movie? Sadly, the answer is yea - and this time we haven't even heard of the original (which is a good thing, as by all accounts it's no better than the movie). Apparently, *My Favourite Martian* was a sitcom wherein an alien wreaked havoc on his human companion, based around fairly generic plots wherein some authority figure, on the verge of discovering the secret, was driven mad by the alien's weird behaviour. So, nothing like *I Dream Of Jeannie* or *Mork & Mindy* then.

Consequently, the movie follows the now traditional TV to celluloid conversion process - throw out the spirit and most of the humour, and paste over the cracks with a massive special effects budget. Yeah, sure it's a kids movie, but that surely doesn't mean that producers and directors don't need to try? Anyway, even the lame gags mostly fall flat, largely because this is clearly a movie which thinks it stars Jim Carrey, despite the fact that it actually has *Back to the Future's* Christopher Lloyd in



Help! Retro-futuristic style is back. Noooooooooooooo.

the title role. Director Petrie thus attempts to fill the movie with the same kind of manic energy that brought Carrey flicks like *The Mask* and *Ace Ventura* to life, and would probably have much rather made the movie as a cartoon.

Anyhow, if loud, crude and obvious is your thing, or if you've got some kids to look after and don't care much about their mental health then I guess you represent the target audience. Enjoy. **D**
Dave

VIDEO RENTAL RELEASES UPDATE

The Cube

Low budget sci-fi? With no-one you ever heard of in it? And it's not even based on a sixties TV series? Oh dear. But, no - *The Cube* is actually a damn fine movie, basing itself on (dare I say it) genuine suspense, intrigue and slow, confusing revelation (good sci-fi should be at least a little confusing - if your average punter can understand it then why doesn't it exist now?) The characters may be ridden with stereotype, and the dialogue doesn't flow very well, but you shouldn't let that get in the way of a clever and inventive concept and some very scary statistics. Oh, and it's pretty gory into the bargain (the slicing and dicing of the first victim is frighteningly engrossing).

Home Fries

Since her return from rehab, Drew Barrymore's work-rate has been impressive - with half-a-dozen (by-and-large successful) movies a year, she's clearly trying to make up for lost time. This particular effort may have gone straight to video, but it's surprisingly likeable nonetheless. Pitting waitress Barrymore against the sons of the married man who she has become pregnant by, it's a bizarre mix of black and romantic comedy (the boys are intent on scaring their father back into the arms of their mother, and whilst one son wants her dead, the other falls in love) which never quite works out which of the two it wants to be. Nonetheless, Barrymore's engaging as ever, and the movie ends up as easygoing fun in spite of itself.

Children of the Corn IV

Yep, it's time for yet another Stephen King adaptation - I mean, just how many books has the man written? More to the point, how much has he earned? Oh well, ignore such petty squabbling and get down to the review...well, this latest installment of *Children of the Corn* is adequate if not exciting; it's weird, it's gory and it's got psycho Pagan American kids. In other words, it's exactly what you'd expect from any horror franchise where individual movies can only be discerned by their accompanying roman numeral. Very eighties.

Dave

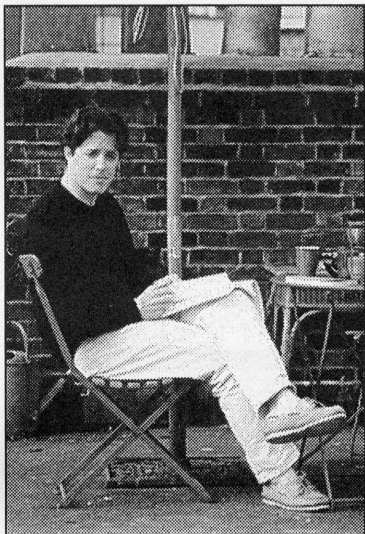
Win tickets to Notting Hill with the ODEON KENSINGTON

As you'll see from the review above, *Notting Hill* is the great new film from the makers of *Four Weddings & A Funeral*. Starring Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts, and written by Richard Curtis, its got box office smash written all over it.

Thanks to the Odeon Kensington, however, you can see it for free. To be in with a chance of winning, all you have to do is correctly answer the following question:

Both Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant have starred opposite Alan Rickman - but in what movies?

Email your answer to film.felix@ic.ac.uk before Wednesday evening. The first five names out of the virtual hat will win a pair of tickets.



A record number of entries - 180 in all - poured in last week - clearly a sign that the standard of questions is slipping, as it seems that everyone is aware that Sarah Michelle Gellar appears in both *Scream 2* and *She's All That*. Anyway, the winners were:

- Bob Henhouse
- Ben Hedley
- Syariza Kamsan
- Dominic Guppy
- Jennifer Penk
- Dave Grey
- Jason Ramanathan
- Mark Jelinek
- Clive Owen
- Phillipe Dauville

Please collect tickets from the Felix office.



CLUBSCENE

Omnipotence @The Imperial Gardens

Camberwell, SE5. Monthly Fridays, 10pm - 6 am, £12/£15. Capacity - 1,000. Dress code - funky clubwear.

It was the first birthday of this ever-popular South London night about two months ago, and they characteristically celebrated it in style. The night had all the ingredients necessary for everyone concerned to have a top night out. As I go through the review the list will seem pretty familiar but, after all, that's what makes a night out great, and nowadays all too often club promoters in the capital lose sight of formula for successful nights.

Firstly the venue was nice. The layout of small rooms and confusingly winding corridors make the Imperial Gardens intimate, but never too small in capacity. This place can soak up a surprisingly large amount of clubbers within its fake-flower decor, although it may have been better off having one really large main dancefloor, as there was a tendency for that old 'bar-

near-dancefloor problem' to niggle a bit. But that's only a minor point. Overall the club itself is a great little venue, despite not being very well known.

As for the music. Well, they only went and got John "00" Fleming to come in and headline. He's perhaps one of the best around at the moment, and his blend of uplifting hard house and soft techno kept everyone going until the very end. He was ably assisted by Rachel Auburn (of Candy Girls fame), and with this combination there really were no losers on the night. Happy music - that's the only way of describing this sort of stuff. Just try and dance to it without a smile on your face. The way all dance music should be, in my opinion.

The promoters also did a fine job, which is quite an uncommon thing in this era of packaged super-clubs and lack of attention to detail. Everything was there on the night, from the important aspects mentioned above

to the tiny little things that you notice that make your night one to remember. I am, of course, referring to the freebies that they handed out throughout the night - sweets, mix tapes, and even Omnipotence sticks of rock. They also laid on piss-take games for people to play when they were relaxing away from the music. The Rubix cubes, chess, checkers, and colouring-in books with crayons were very much appreciated.

And finally, and probably most importantly Omnipotence appears to attract a very friendly crowd. Slightly dressed up, but not pretentious, the crowd were revisiting the more approachable days of clubbing a few years back. Little attitude infiltrated this night, and seeing as how this was the 1st birthday party, I guess it was full of regulars. All in all a great place to go and meet some wonderful people. Enjoy.

Powerful clubbing

Escape From Samsara @The Fridge

Brixton. Fridays, 10.30pm - 6am, £3/£10/£12. Capacity - 1,000. Dress code - none.

Well, what more can we say about this night? Not much really. If you are a regular reader of Clubscene then you'll have read my review on it a few months back, and if I was to write

another it would just be a carbon copy. You see, EFS never really changes, and this is most definitely a very good thing. Every week it delivers, and this is why it is ranked as one of the best clubnights in London. If you've been you'll know what I mean, and you know you'll keep on going again and again. And if you haven't

made it there yet, then put it right at the top of your must-go places. You know you won't regret it.

Wonderful escapism

Albums

Album of the Week
VARIOUS
'Necessary Pieces'
(Nordic Trax)

Canada's premier record label Nordic Trax release their first mix album - and what an album it is too. Mixed by Tyler 'T-Bone' Stadius the album is full of tracks with deep beats, fresh melodies and subtle jazz/ groove influences. Opening the proceedings is Sea to Sky's 'Up Jumped the Boogie' with its cool beats and gentle melody sets the scene for the rest of the album. Sounding very much like American and UK house fused together, you would be forgiven that Laurent Garnier had produced it.

Out In June.

★★★★★

Plaid
'Rest Proof Clockwork'
(Warp)

On impulse, you think is just a collection of random noises, but when you listen carefully to it you discover it has many influences be it rare groove, funk, techno and even house. The music is very electronic but flows smoothly from track to track giving it elegance. A highly complex album, but Plaid - arguably the finest act of the experimental genre - have created a masterpiece.

★★★★★

VARIOUS
'Glasgow Underground Volume 2'
(Glasgow Underground)

Kicking off with the deep yet jazz influenced 'Winter Sadness', this double CD album takes you through a spell-binding journey of excellent house music. The album is a representation of a scene that is now massive in Scotland - that of the Glasgow underground. Some of the tunes featured on this 22 track album include Idjut Boys' 'Quakerman's Frog's Arrse' with its thumping bass, Romanthony's 'Clap Ya Handz' with its fresh guitar licks and gentle start lead to a breakdown that is simply awesome. Excellent follow up album to the massive first volume.

Out In July.

★★★★★

Club Reviews by Giles

Spacetime Continuum
'Double Fine Zone'
(Virgin)

Refreshingly fresh album, bringing the very best electronic music from Astralwerks. With influences from Herbie Hancock, Carl Craig and early 70's movie soundtracks the album pushes back the boundaries of modern electronic music. There's soul, techno, jazz and all sorts thrown in together, mixed and then structured carefully to produce tracks that leave you in anticipation of what the next track is like. Wonderfully balanced album, made even more impressive by how all the influences fit together.
Out 31st May.
★★★★★

Progression Sessions by LTJ Bukem
(Good Looking)

The fourth volume of this massive, massive series brings the very best D&B tracks currently kickin' mixed by LTJ Bukem. Featuring ten studio mixed tracks and linked together with the lyrical mastery of MC Conrad, the fourth volume continues to cover the groundbreaking sounds being released by Good Looking. Comes as mixed CD with vocals and also a limited edition second CD with a mixed instrumental version of the first CD.
Out soon.
★★★★★

Cutmaster Swift Presents....
'The Breaks II'
(Harmless)

The first volume was one of the most influential albums of 1998 and this second volume will be one of the most influential of 1999. Sampling tracks from all genres of dance music, the album contains many underground tracks and features artists such as Kool & The Gang, King Curtis, Bob James. This follow-up is presents by DMC World Mixing Champion 'Cutmaster Swift' and features another trailorload of classic sample sources alongside the rare gems. A non-stop funky journey for both the dancefloor and home listening.
Out In June.
★★★★★

Singles

Single Of The Week
JR
'Lay With Me'
(Global 1)

Brilliant R&B track. The Album mix is very vocal with a filtered beat allowing the sensual vocals to come straight at you. The Club Mix introduces extra vocals and a slightly different beat but is just as smooth. The flip side has a couple of excellent garage mixes.
Out In June.
★★★★★

FYZA
'Mad Cool'
(Global 1)

Quality fresh vocals, a subtle beat and filtered back vocals all add up to a serene R&B track. Oozing with funky grooves the Album mix is smooth and silky, the Club mix is slightly harder retaining the vocals but loosing the richness. The flip side has a couple of speed garage mixes that will work wonders on the dancefloor.
Out In June.
★★★★★

Jackson & His Computer Band
Gourmet EP
(Sound of Barclay)

Excellent EP with the first single 'My kind of...' fusing Chicago house and seventies funk. With its thumping bass lines and groovy vocals this is a top floor-filler. Following on from this is 'Moon Run' - the worst tune on the EP. On the flip side is 'Moon Kick', a seriously good track with a jazz groove and a great beat. Finally, there is 'Wonderlove' - a very soulful cut with plenty of deep bass and dulcet vocals.
Out In June.
★★★★★

Classen Collective
'Close To Greatness'
(JCR)

Slow groovy sounds with a mixture of funk and jazz. It's a sweet sound - very French house style. The Original mix puts a beat to the track but retains the fresh guitar licks, the husky vocals and the funky jazz groove. The flip side mixes retain the jazz and groove, but the beat is gentler.
Out In June.
★★★★★

Freska Allstars
'Keeping Our Hands In'
(Freskanova)

A random collection of good hip hop, soul, seventies and Babylon Zoo fused groove cuts from the Freska Allstars. The first single is 'Get Fresh' and is a good house track utilising the above influences. The second single 'Keep The Faith' is an epic track with deep beats and some random noises - very experimental. The flip side has 'Watch This Sound' which is hip-hop vs house and the final track is an indie tune. Strange EP but worth checking out.
Out In June.
★★★★★

PHD
'Haze/ Contrast'
(Good Looking)

Good double A-side from Good Looking. The first track, 'Haze' is a minimalist track with subtle percussive effects, the gentlest of melodies and a just audible bass line. Very Mike Oldfield. The flip side is called 'Contrast' and is a techno-tinged epic. The melody is high pitched, the bass rumbles and the beats add the perfect touch.
Out next week.
★★★★★

Wisdom
'Innocent World'
(Evenova)

A melodic, uplifting trance track with huge breakdowns. The Club mix is very epic and will impress the Renaissance followers whilst the Alternative mix adds more bite with thumping basslines and more synths. The Radio edit isn't as good as the other two mixes.
Out next month.
★★★★★

Shane Morris
'Bang The Box'
(Phoenix Uprising)

This track, in collaboration with Jon the Dentist is a thumping hard house track. The Original mix is an underground trance tune but with plenty of fast beats and phat bass. The flip side has a JTD mix that is more epic and trancey but still keeps the chunky bass and the trademark JTD makeover.
Out next month.
★★★★★

Gouryella
'Gouryella'
(Codeblue)

A trance tune which mixes together the melodic charms of Chicane and the simplicity of DJ Sakin. The Original mix kicks off with a thumping bassline before slowing down to the melodic synths and then picking up again. The Gigolo remix is exactly the same. The Gorella mix is a faster track with a harder bass line and the Armix version is very Euro-house with a long build up before releasing the dazzling synths.
Out In June.
★★★★★

Andy Alder
'Mad Kebab'
(Fluff Records)

Definitely no clichés in this strong Fluff release, where one half of the awesome D-Bop duo, Andy Alder, brings us another record much in the same vein. This track is full of the best things about house music, except for its rather curious name.
The A-side is a stunning track, with a bit of everything. Nice chunky technoish synths kick it off, there's a great breakdown in the middle, and after the build up we are treated to a classic piano-based track. All very 1995/6, which is very good news indeed.
Out 14th June
★★★★★

Barabas & OD1
'Feel the Beat (Check This Out)'
(Phoenix Uprising)

Look past the clichés that appear to be everywhere in this 12", and you'll find a couple of quite useful tracks. It really is about time that dance music artists moved away from using such cheesy, throwaway lyrics as 'feel the beat' and 'throw your hands in the air'.
What saves this record from being another run-of-the-mill release is the music. Both tracks are nice up-beat house builders, full of reversed beats, crowd noises, and interesting breakdowns. However, the music isn't that great, and when put together with the mindless lyrics, you can't really get away from the feeling that you are dealing with a couple of set-fillers that wouldn't be the highlight of any crowd's night out.
Out June 14th
★★★★★

Albums by Gurminder

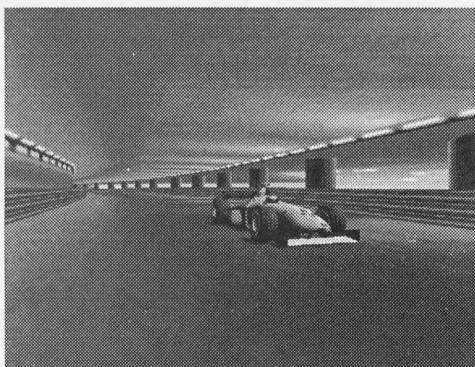
Singles by Giles and Gurminder



Official Formula 1 Racing (PC)

Eidos

★★★★



I've never quite seen why people get so excited about F1 racing - after all, if you compare it to driving up the M1 on a wet November Friday at about 7.30pm in a rusty Renault 4 which catches the wind side-on as you come over the hill just south of Sheffield, F1 definitely comes a poor second in terms of danger, excitement and general adrenaline rush. I think the attraction's more to do with glamour - the shiny cars, the film-star-esque drivers, the pitstop blondes and the vast wadges of cash that are put into squeezing a couple fewer inches per gallon out of each engine. And Murray Walker of course, who is admittedly good value-for-money.

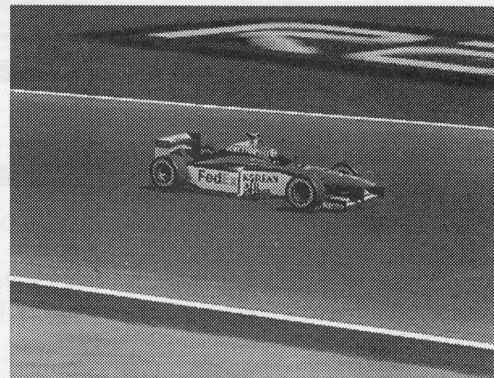
This is a very different racing game from Tank Racer. As suggested by the title, it is a simulation of Formula 1 Racing, except without the pitstop blondes and, in my case anyway, the film-star-esque drivers. Murray Walker's also lack-

ing, but more of that later. The game has been produced with the blessing of the Formula 1 Association, so can be expected to be fairly close to the real thing. It contains all the stuff you'd expect - accurate (presumably - I haven't measured them) models of all the F1 tracks, all the current teams and drivers, the ability to tweak your car's set-up, multiple camera views of all your favourite crashes, black flags and so on.

The graphics are very nice, with the cars being modelled particularly nicely, and the circuits too are neatly represented. That having been said there are one or two corners which have clearly been cut, particularly with the spectators, who are represented by a flat panel of blobs, the sort of thing Jackson Pollock

would have knocked out as a Christmas card to a friend he didn't particularly like. The sound is also a bit of a disappointment, particularly the narration. I've already mentioned the lack of Murray Walker (who's been replaced by someone who sounds Australian), but more importantly there has been little attempt to embed the narration into the game, being limited to a few stock phrases which are slotted in almost at random. Equally the environmental sounds (engines, crowds, etc) are all there, but seem curiously remote. These might seem like funny things to pick up on, but this is meant to be a simulation, not an arcade game, and the difference between a good sim and a bad sim often comes down to the details.

The driving is nightmarishly hard; even on the easiest of settings with all the cheats I could find switched on (useful things like no damage, automatic braking and gear changing) I still found myself unable to go round the simplest of circuits without spinning out several times. If this is as accurate a representation of the cars handling characteristics as is



being claimed, then Schumacher (x2), Hill, Irvine et al may deserve more respect than I've been willing to give them so far. I couldn't keep on the road when all I had to do was point the car in the right direction - I hate to think how they manage it while worrying about changing gears and doing pitstops.

All-in-all? Well, it's not bad, but the lack of attention to the peripheral details has damaged the game overall. I also can't help feeling that they need to look at their car models - they are very sensitive, which might be fine for F1 drivers and fans, but is off-putting for someone who's less interested. If you're looking for an F1 sim which is bang up-to-date and accurate, then this is the one to buy. If you're looking for something a bit more fun and a bit less anal, go for something like Microprose's venerable but still playable F1GP - at least you'll stand a chance of winning a race or two.

And for those of you looking for this weeks reference to our Beloved Games Editor - I couldn't work it in. Sorry.

Danny

Marvel Super Heroes vs Streetfighter (PSX)

Virgin Interactive

★★★



Summary :

Spidey and mates pick a fight with the Street Fighter guys and gals.

Whats It all about :

Another beat-em-up arcade conversion of a very special Capcom arcade game. Basically a product of an overactive imagination when some marvel comic fan complained that the street fighter blokes and lasses wouldn't last 30 seconds in a fight against some real heroes. Someone from Capcom overheard and spiderman

and wolverine get to kick cammy's electronic butt all the way across the screen.

Good Graphics :

Arcade quality graphics once again. Almost certainly the same engine as last week's Darkstalkers 3 beat-em-up but with characters you will instantly recognise - well anyone brought up on kids cartoons or marvel comics in the last twenty years will. Supposedly sixty frames a second - they were a little too quick to count myself so I'll believe them for once.

Seraphim

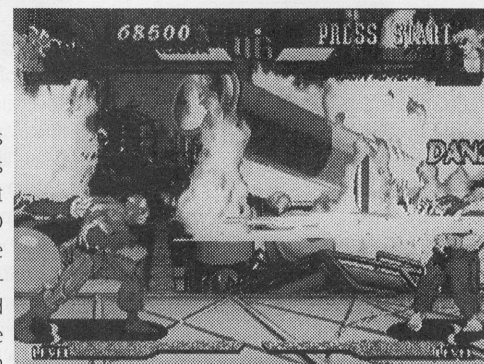
Sounds :
Standard Neo-geo unit bleats and beeps. Very retro but not all that good really.

Great Gameplay :

Being recognisable characters with moves that match takes the sting out of the fact that otherwise it is standard 2D beat-em-up. It has all of the usual bits and pieces, individual fights, team fights and team tag fights. Then there are the special moves, both documented and undocumented, but once again we run-up against the 2D beat-em-up wall again. Pretty much everything that has been done is being done again - it is like expecting the next

racing game to look like a high detailed pole position rather than the polygon packed Gran Turismo 2.

Sex and Violence :
Violence is present, though of the cartoon and no blood variety -



nothing that your granny would complain about - though people dressing up in tight lycra and hitting each other hard is a little suspect if you ask me, and definitely something for the home rather than the streets, and only with a consenting partner.

Who will buy it :

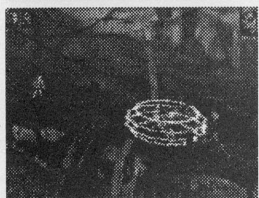
OK, of all the 2D beat-em-ups out at the moment this has to be one of the better. If you really want one and you can't wait for Street Fighter Alpha 3 - reviewed next week - this would be the one. Good for Spiderman fans who want to see cammy get beat badly (Kylie minogue take that - You should be so lucky, blat, locomate on this smash). Gary S.



Silver (PC)

Infogrames

★ ★ ★ ★



Role playing games are suddenly gaining a bit of popularity. Even as far back as the old 8-bit prehistory days there were a few hardened souls playing the temple trilogy on the creaky commodore 64, but things have moved on. The worlds are no longer flat 2D plans and the characters and games are much less repetitive than they were. Could Silver be another in the line of FFVII and Zelda64 to encourage the average Quake head to take up the sword and bow rather than the rocket launcher?

The story, above all, the story! They all come with a story and Silver is no exception to the rule. In a galaxy a long way away, or something like that, a despotic and magical ruler (Silver) and his cronies rule the land in a way that would lead Amnesty International to have a small cattery of kittens. His wife's trapped in a rather loveless marriage and, realising that Silver is not really the 'let's be friends' kind, kills herself. Silver then goes about the task of finding a new wife by taking all of the women in his kingdom off to his castle. A few of the mensfolk

bring back the women - and hopefully before tea time.

You start as David. His wife's been abducted, and his grandfather is chopped up by Silver's son pretty early in the story - reason enough to join the resistance and hunt down Silver and have a chat about police state brutality. Throughout the many worlds, and despite taking control of others as your party grows, he is your main fighter character. He's pretty nifty with the sword and quite neat with the shield, which is handy for supporting any argument with creatures from other demonic worlds. The control method is pretty simple to grasp - the point and click movement and a slightly more complex

take offence and start to form small camps in the forest

intending to bring down Silver and

point, click and hold down a button to direct the sword and missile targeting

doesn't really require many hours of practice to master. Selecting items is also simplicity itself, though as you are rummaging through the backpack the enemies do a good job of turning you into a David kebab.

It would not be a fantasy game without the liberal sprinkling of magic items and spells. David soon gets a magical sword which fires small painful doses of magic at his enemies, and while Davy boy isn't a true magic user, other members of your team are much more adept at throwing more powerful magic across the room. The puzzles, though, are fairly basic; the brainpower here is in organising the troops and fighting the enemy in the correct

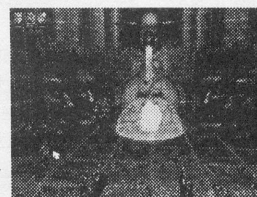
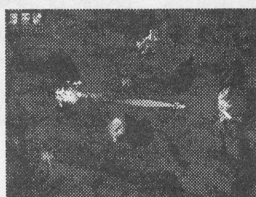
order rather than working out which lever opens which door. For once I'm not complain-

ing - this is a game which you can enjoy rather than lose your hair over.

The graphics are impressive for this type of game, the main characters wander about the detailed pseudo 3D backgrounds, and are well animated even if they move a little bit too mechanically - perhaps the arnie swinging shoulder look is back in for the beefed out hero types. The sounds are also better than expected, swords and shields clank and bang, magic fizzles magically and machinery make industrial clanging noises.

Overall the game will keep you entertained for a very long time - longer than it takes for NATO to win a war against a european state with one army tied behind their back. And yes even the odd Quake head might be able to put aside his rocket launcher and move over to the fantasy side. Just make sure that they don't realise that they are playing a fantasy game for the first five minutes and by then it will be too late - the addiction will have been firmly planted.

Gary S.



Dream + Broadcast = Dreamcast

Sega's new 128bit baby prepares for a September birth.

Fresh from the UK post E3 press event for Sega's new big boy in the console market, the UK and ace reporter G has gone from knowing nothing to knowing pretty much everything about the new machine.

Sega are promising a September launch, and for your £199 you get not only the fastest console on the market, but instant access to the internet, e-mail and a www browser - try all that with a PC for the price. Sega have managed to team up with BT and ICL to create the first Europe wide local call cost ISP portal for the Dreamy one. BT will handle the dial up and ICL the online service design.

The problem with these new shiny consoles is the scarcity of available software. Whereas the Sony 2 machine promises to be able to play old games, Sega have not gone down this route and will instead have ten fresh spanking A-titles available in September, with another twenty to be released for the Christmas rush.

Aside from the e-mail and web browser bits the internal modem does have a gaming use. One of the first will be for Take the bullet.

Take the bullet is set against a presidential campaign in the late 60's. Playing a bodyguard to a threatened candidate you can defend the main man in either first or third person view. Though it sounds a little bit like Goldeneye it gives the option of using either the controller or, for the realist, the Dreamcast lightgun. Once again rooms about the country will ring out with the cry "He's armed, take him down"

But where's the modem come in? we all cry. Well there's a fancy deathmatch mode where four players on a single machine can attempt to drill lead holes in each other. There is the similar option to play the same deathmatch over the phone line against fifteen others - see, the modem is used.

Rather than use simple boring bits of plastic in order to store game info Sega

have created the Visual Memory system. These are bits of plastic with a lcd display that plug into a hole in the handset. The VMS unit not only stores game info and scores. It can be used to change options without them popping up on the screen, so if you really wanted you could tell your virtual Beckham to be impetuous and kick out without anyone realising or actually noticing. It can be used as a clock and a calendar (though a watch seems to do a similar job in my book), it can also be used as a hand held games machine and can even connect to another VMS unit to play 2 player games.

For all those who want to know what games are on their way, while looking a little heavy on the arcade side there's a bit of delight for everyone.

Airforce Delta : KONAMI
Blue Stinger : SEGA
Cool Boarders DCS : EGA
Jimmy White's 2 - Cue Ball : VIRGIN
Expendable : INFOGRAMES
F1:World Grand Prix : VIDEO SYSTEMS

House Of The Dead 2 : SEGA
Hydro Thunder : MIDWAY
Marvel VS Capcom : CAPCOM
Monaco GP : UBISOFT
Mortal Kombat Gold : MIDWAY
M-SR (Metropolis) : SEGA
NBA 2000 : SEGA
Powerstone : CAPCOM
NFL Quarterback Club 2000 : ACCLAIM
Rayman 2 : The Great Escape : UBISOFT
Ready To Rumble : MIDWAY
Red Dog : SEGA
Redline Racer : UBISOFT
SEGA Rally 2 : SEGA
Sega Soccer : SEGA
Sonic Adventure : SEGA
Soul Caliber : NAMCO
Speed Devils : UBISOFT
Supreme Snowboarding : INFOGRAMES
Take The Bullet : SEGA
Toy Commander : SEGA
Trick Style : ACCLAIM
UEFA Striker : INFOGRAMES
Virtua Fighter 3TB : SEGA
Wild Metal Country : INFOGRAMES



SELF TAUGHT - DAVID BLAMEY

Sherfield Gallery

How many elastic bands does Imperial College use every day? Just speculating... I should think that the offices, labs and hospitals use hundreds, if not thousands.

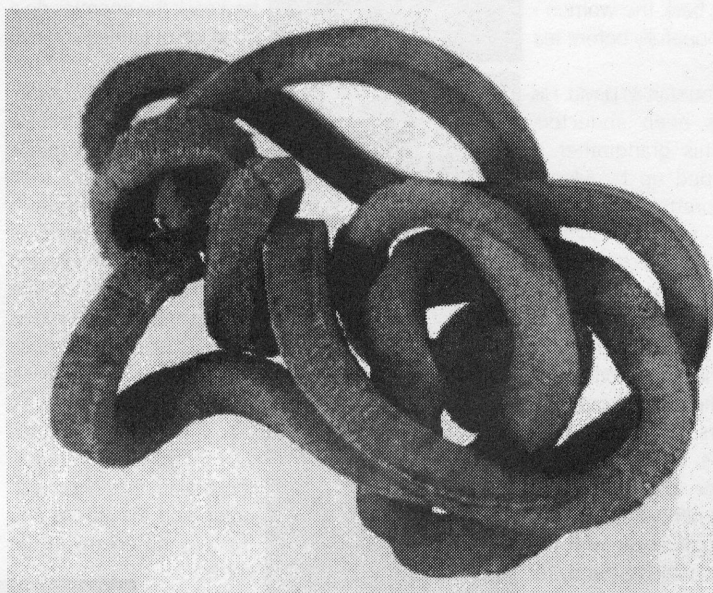
David Blamey, the artist behind the recent exhibition at the Sherfield Gallery, is deeply interested in elastic bands, just like all you people who actually considered the question opening this article. David Blamey is probably not much interested in numbers, however. He is more interested in how elastic bands fit into the 'paraphernalia of an educational institution'.

But how does he stretch our perceptions of the elastic band? You sit down and watch a continuous loop of slides, each depicting an elastic band. Some elastic bands are new, clean, starkly photographed. These would not be out of place on the Ikea desk of an up and coming graphic designer. Other slides show elastic bands as grimy, screwed up tangles of rubber. If you looked hard enough, you might spot these sprawled over the floor in the dusty office of an ageing Cambridge don. All contorted, twisted, like spaghetti. The creations of an anguished pasta chef tripping on acid, perhaps?

The elastic bands are microsculptures, devoid of scale and projected onto the wall at enormous size. You can see every fine structural detail. Initially you might think: 'Oh, how boring, let me get back to

beauty of these everyday objects. This is surely an exercise in Zen.

Every so often, the elastic bands are interspersed with travel brochure photos - an alpine forest, a mountain



my fluid mechanics revision.' But stay a little longer and relaxation will set in. Now you will concentrate on the detail and, if you're lucky or drunk, begin to appreciate the

valley, an orchid, a tropical fish, a beach at sunset. As these slides fade into their elastic band counterparts, they produce some interesting, even soothing,

effects. The elastic bands are one installation. The other is an empty slide projector struggling to focus its light beam onto a wall. A square of white light changing size - in and out, blurring and focusing. And all the time the projector frantically whirring and clicking. Once you have seen the elastic bands, this all seems to follow quite naturally. Is this Zen again?

Maybe this exhibition annoyed some of you ("this isn't art, dammit!"), but if you responded in this way, I think that you are missing the point entirely. Challenging our perception of art has been tried many times before, not least by the great Marcel Duchamps, who at the beginning of the century either made a good living passing off toilet bowls as sculpture, or challenged the accepted norms of his age. Which viewpoint you chose depends entirely on your conception of art, of course!

I don't believe David Blamey is trying to create phoney controversy. He is clearly too sophisticated an operator to simply be repeating the old clichés of art versus non-art. Whatever it means (and it may mean nothing!), I liked it anyway.

William Burns

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES - ICSO CONCERT

Great Hall

The theme of the Imperial College Symphony Orchestra's latest concert held on Friday 21 May was distinctive. Entitled *A Night at the Movies*, it featured popular music from past films. According to a member of the orchestra, the feeling was that with the end of term a few weeks away, they may as well have some fun with the music they played. The concert itself was conducted, as always, by IC's Musician-in-Residence Richard Dickins with assistance from Andrew Zolinsky and Alex Cominos on the piano and violin respectively. An inspired and passionate rendition of Tchaikovsky's great work, the *Swan Lake Suite*, opened the evening. Everyone has probably heard the piece at one point or another but may not know who wrote it. The performance had to be paused though due to a couple of late arrivals with very loud boots. A technically accomplished performance of *Rhapsody In Blue* by George Gershwin (a popular composer at IC) was played next.

After the interval, the chairman of the orchestra, Euan Barr was thanked for his hard work and commitment



through the past years. He was presented with a bottle of champagne and proceeded to lead off with *Jurassic Park*,

the first of the John Williams compositions to be played. Next came *Schindler's List* which Mr Dickins introduced as an

"absolutely wonderful" piece of music that he was conducting for the first time. Music from *Indiana Jones*, the last performance according to the programme, followed. Once the piece had ended, a few unsuspecting members of the audience left somewhat prematurely as we were then treated to a sensational and topical encore of *Star Wars*.

Audience reaction was generally favourable although some complained that the trumpets were too loud during several sections and there were too many dodgy notes for their liking. As to their favourite piece, most people I spoke to believed the Gershwin was the best, although I personally favoured *Schindler's List*. The soloists, in particular, delivered sensational performances. While as professional as the orchestra's previous efforts, this concert was probably not as accomplished as the last one (featuring Mahler among others).

Mansoor Choudhury & Tank Miller

Union women win battle of the bars

The atmosphere was buzzing with Southside and ICU supporters separated only by the holy turf on which we now stood – ready for Southside to kick off. Yes this was the tie of the season between the two biggest rival clubs in the College, if not Britain. They met at Hyde Park, the home of South Kensington Football.

Judging from the line-ups, we appeared stronger and the fans were the more confident and boisterous, whereas the Southside lot were notably quiet. Southside had most of the play in the first minutes. Some frantic passing from took them into the ICUUnited defensive territory. ICUUnited got the ball into the last third of the park when Mel cleared from defence after tackling a Southside player. The ball ended up at the feet of Marie who defeated two Southside defenders to fire home – scoring her first Imperial goal ever. Southside kicked off again, Amy and Anna kept up the defence well, and it wasn't long before Marie got the ball again, whacked the Southside defence, spared them no

mercy and ICUUnited were 2-0 up.

For the third time, Southside kicked off but made progress into the United half. The kick came to nothing, goalie Florence whacked the ball upfield and it came to a goal kick for Southside. Marie completed her hattrick just before half time when a long kick from Florence placed the ball on the left wing. Cutting inside and turning goalwards, the captain ran across goal, turned and placed the ball neatly between two defenders and passed the reach of the goalie. "Sit down, if you're three nil up!" screamed the ICU supporters. Captain Marie dropped back to defend with Amy taking her place as striker and within 3 minutes Flo had passed clear to Amy who took a few touches before firing in a fantastic shot. ICUUnited 4, Southside 0. So far so good, and the whistle blew for half-time.

Super-sub Jess replaced Amy at half time and ICUUnited kicked off to find that the referee had dropped the second half to 15 minutes at the request of the

Southside players. He also seemed to have taken pity on them when they started receiving free kicks and throws for no apparent reason. The game went on regardless and it all changed as United conceded a free kick near their goal area. A mish mash of ICUUnited players formed half hearted wall which parted to let the free kick through. Florence went mad as Marie tried to explain that if the Berlin wall could fall, we had a valid excuse for this one crumbling to pieces.

Southside started off with "You're not singing any more" and chants of "We're going to win 5-4" when Marie took the kick-off, charged into the Southside defence and put another one in the back of the net to take her tally to 4 and the score back to a respectable 5-1. At that point United fans went mad and Southside went quiet once more. The last remaining minutes saw Marie take a free kick from 30 yards out which the keeper saved. The final whistle blew and it ended 5-1 to ICUUnited



The two ICUUnited football teams. I'd hope you can identify which is the men's team and which is the women's yourself....

SCOREBOARD	
IC	
*I Khan c Ashburn b Case.....	14
Murali c Turnney b Case.....	34
J Rasheed rtd hurt.....	69
J Ainsworth run out.....	17
†J Williams c Thomas b Yu.....	48
N Holt not out.....	24
Y Lewis lbw b Yu.....	0
M Jiwanji st Naurla b Yu.....	0
N Patel b Osborne.....	4
N Terry not out.....	5
Extras 4lb 9w 1nb	14
TOTAL (for 7wks from 40 overs) 229	
FOW: 36, 66, 110, 194, 195, 195, 222	
A Uttley did not bat	
Osborne 8-0-53-1; Case 8-0-44-2; Mur-	
phy 8-3-19-0; Yu 8-0-52-3; Arshen 3-0-21-	
0; Nixon 3-0-22-0; Turnney 2-0-14-0.	
LSE	
Case c Terry b Murali.....	12
†Naurla lbw b Murali.....	8
Yu b Rasheed.....	21
Turnney c Terry b Rasheed.....	13
Ashburn c Khan b Patel.....	20
Arshed b Uttley.....	2
Osborne c Jiwanji b Rasheed.....	2
*Thomas b Uttley.....	2
Murphy c Rasheed b Patel.....	0
Slight not out.....	2
Nixon c Holt b Terry.....	4
Extras 3b 1lb 11w	15
TOTAL (36.1 overs) 101	
FOW: 22, 35, 61, 66, 74, 77, 86, 94, 95,	
101	
Holt 5-2-10-0; Murali 8-1-20-2; Khan 5-0-	
26-0; Rasheed 6-0-19-3; Uttley 5-2-7-2;	
Patel 3-2-5-2; Jiwanji 2-0-4-0; Terry 1.1-0-	
4-1; Ainsworth 1-0-2-0.	

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CRICKET - 1st XI

Imperial cruise into Semis

by Gus Paul

The IC 1st XI cruised into the semi finals of the ULU Cup with a crushing 128 run victory over LSE last Wednesday. On a sunny afternoon at Harlington, IC, put into bat by LSE, racked up an impressive 229 for 7.

Top scores from Jawwad Rasheed (69), who again dominated the bowling before being forced to retire with a knee injury, and keeper John Williams (48) gave IC a good total to bowl at. LSE didn't help themselves by dropping 5 catches, and IC scored 80 runs in the last 10 overs, Nick Holt with a particularly aggressive 24 off 13 balls, despite one of the LSE bowlers taking 3 wickets in 4 balls.

LSE had trouble with the Imperial opening attack and both openers scratched around before Murali (2-20) got them out. The middle order were kept tied down to 3 runs an over, but Adam Uttley (2-7) and Jawwad (3-19), capping a great all round performance, rushed the rest of the team out cheaply

and LSE were all out for 101. IC looked quite comfortable against some bowling that, with a couple of exceptions, was fairly ordinary, and some athletic fielding, particularly by Jon Ainsworth on the boundary, underlined IC's superiority.

The firsts can now look forward to an away semi-final against either last year's finalists Royal Holloway, or a rematch from the group stages against Bait's.

The seconds, meanwhile completed their season a couple of weeks ago with a victory over Kings 1st XI. The depth of the squad is shown by the fact that they have last year's first team captain amongst their ranks. The win, believed to be the first time the IC 2nds has beaten a firsts team, was enough to knock a powerful King's team out of the competition.

IC 229/7 (Rasheed 69) v
LSE 101 (Rasheed 3-19)
IC won by 128 runs
Scorecard inside on page 23

FOOTBALL

Southside thump Union in football

On a sunny afternoon of Sunday 23rd May, Southside and Union armies met at Hyde Park ready for this mouth-watering battle.

A slightly less serious girls match kicked off first, which was pretty much dominated by the Union and their star player Marie. The Union won 5-1, but Helen grabbed a consolation for Southside, blasting home a free-kick from all of about twenty yards which would surely have broken the net had there been one. This was a great spectacle, rounded off by the players exchanging shirts after the final whistle.

Next came the main event, the men took to the field. Early indications were that this was going to be a rough and tough affair, as Southside's Craig had to retire from the game after just one minute with a knock on the nose - I thought you were from the North East son? Also, seconds after this a soft Union geezer went down after receiving a knee to the testicles, much to the Southside supporters delight. 'Ref' had to blow his whistle for fouls many more times.

The deadlock was broken when South-

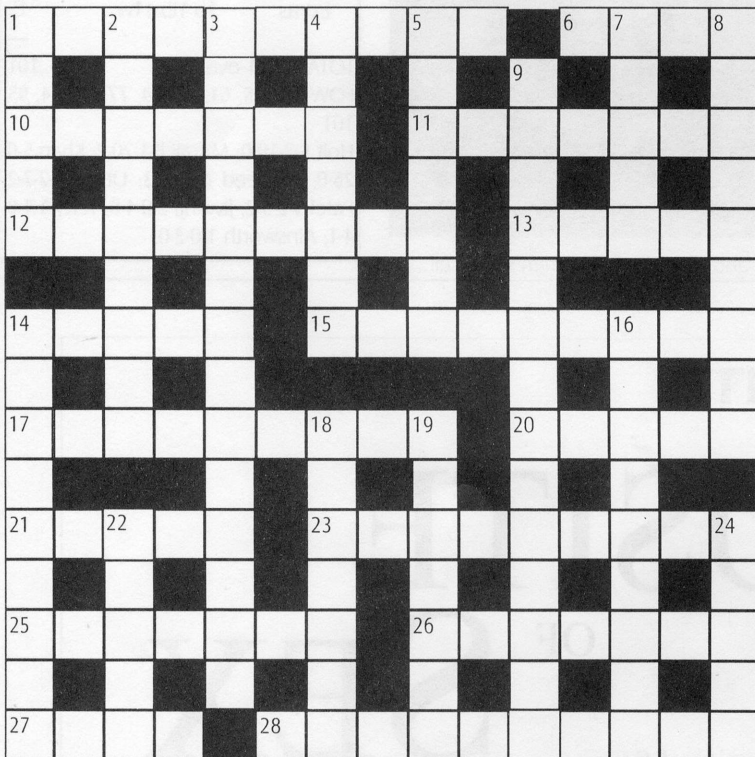
side gained a free-kick about thirty yards out. Super Nick ran up and curled a fine shot into the top left corner, sending players and fans alike wild. Despite Southside defending like lions, one instance of slack marking allowed the Union to equalise. However, they bounced back superbly when Warren rose to head in - this was the man who had won the League this season with the IC 1st team finishing as top scorer and who scored a hat-trick in the famous cup final victory.

So at half time Southside were leading 2-1. The second was similar to the first - fast, furious and dirty. The union squandered opportunities to score and so did Warren who played poorly. However, the match was wrapped up well and truly when Southside's sweeper Soso added a third with only a few minutes remaining. When 'Ref' blew his whistle for full-time it was sheer carnage, and the celebration were to continue well into the evening back at THE bar - that's Southside Bar. The Union won a boat race drinking contest but I'm sure they must have cheated somehow!

Last week's crossword was won by *Will Dugdale*. Entries for this week's crossword should be received by Wednesday 5pm.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

by Sheep



Answers to 1146

Across: 1 Cryptic, 3 Albania, 7 Formality, 9 Untarnished, 12 Samoa, 13 Analogous, 15 Pyrolysis, 16 Duets, 18 Troglodytes, 20 Axiomatic, 21 Thought, 22 Stabbed.

Down: 1 Cherubs, 2 Cardigans, 4 Blindfolded, 5 Arouses, 6 Outsmarts, 8 Ash, 10 Reallotting, 11 Projector, 14 Absolutes, 15 Pungent, 17 Suspend, 29 Ohm.

Across

- 1 Oily bum-gas has two partners. (10)
- 6 Waterfall lost after barrier. (4)
- 10 A lazy heart, I much prefer tea to see horizontal angle. (7)
- 11 A nude mag is something to be done. (7)
- 12 Representations by characters onto satin. (9)
- 13 Exceed. Exit. Leave. (3-2)
- 14 Am rid of tuesday in Paris. (5)
- 15 "Temptation" is a disco tune. (9)
- 17 By God Des! Sessions with gorgeous birds. (9)
- 20 A beam of light mostly glares. (5)
- 21 Work it out from start of finish confused with queen. (5)
- 23 A white rat I've disguised again and again. (9)
- 25 Pretendings aren't ready in French conclusions. (7)
- 26 Praise a flower of Rosacea. (7)
- 27 South African quiet band. Over one shoulder. (4)
- 28 Stern grass violates a command. (10)

Down

- 1 Lets you think in bar. (5)
- 2 Gee! Rubbish goes crimson and sparkled. (9)
- 3 Climbing in morgue, innate. (14)
- 4 Removes from curved device and slices, perhaps? (7)
- 5 Ideal is to have worked together. (7)
- 7 A formal examination of gold, it is after five hundred. (5)
- 8 He ridicules in a penal room. (9)
- 9 Becoming friendly again in certain logic. (14)
- 14 Being warm and damp is displaying cup-like qualities. (9)
- 16 Provoke in it's back before a fence door. (9)
- 19 Spouse's pest son. (7)
- 22 Fashion and E's loses strength. (5)
- 24 Tests central flexion before beams finish. (5)