

sr

7  
June  
1999

# FELIX

KEEP THE CAT FREE EST. 1949

Issue  
1148

The Students' Newspaper at Imperial College

## Ball Ticket Deadline Extended

By Ed Sexton

more up-beat, confidently predicting "we will certainly reach the numbers we had last year... I wouldn't be sur-

prised if we reached 1500".

The absolute final deadline for buying tickets is Tuesday 15 June. This



High Spirits at last year's ball - will this year's prove as successful?

Photo: Ed

date will not be changed, as Alexandra Palace require the final number attending the event soon after Tuesday. Alexandra Palace's original deadline was 8 June, but they agreed to put this back by a week after consulting with the summer ball team and ICU. Nick Griffith commented that the Palace had "been very reasonable with us".

It seems likely that many students intending to go to the ball have been putting off buying a ticket until the last minute, for financial or work reasons. Several students commented to Felix that they intended to go, but "hadn't got around to it". Both David Hellard and Nick Griffith urged these students to go along to the Union Office and buy a ticket as soon as possible, rather than waiting until the last minute next week. David Hellard summed up his view of many students' attitude; "as soon as the deadline hits people, they'll start moving".

## Biochem Theft Prevented

By Ed Sexton

Imperial's emergency number (x4444). Security responded quickly, confronting the man in the Biochemistry

building, which resulted in a chase and fight involving around six security guards. The man's behaviour was very aggressive, and he lashed out and punched the guards as they tried to restrain him.

The police were then contacted and arrived around 6.30pm. They searched the man and recovered the stolen purse, although it was unclear at the time of going to press whether any other stolen property was found on his person. He was arrested by the police and taken away for further questioning. Whether or not the incident will result in a successful prosecution remains to be seen.



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# Strike Pay Withheld from Students

By Ed Sexton

Imperial College has refused to donate the pay from members of the Association of University Teachers (AUT) who struck last month to the student hardship fund. The move was suggested by the AUT at the time of the strike, and has been taken up by many institutions in Britain who were affected by the strike.

Academic staff who took part in the strike are due to lose a day's worth of pay, although there has been some dispute as to whether this should be 1/365th or 1/260th of their annual pay. College responded to the request that the deducted pay be given to student hardship funds by stating that it will "remain in departments for its proper purpose - to pay for the salaries of

staff and other costs of providing education". Laura Barker, Imperial's AUT representative, said she was "very disappointed" with the decision. David Hellard thanked the AUT for trying to give the money to students, describing it as "a great sign... of their commitment to the students of the college". Responding to College's decision to withhold the pay, Mr Hellard remarked "it's a nice way to save a bit of money". He cynically continued "having known IC for a year, I don't think they would ever pass a chance to make some money."

Meanwhile further AUT action is

expected this month. According to a press release dated 31 May, AUT members will "boycott a range of bureaucratic procedures in universities", starting on 1 June. The press release promised, however, that "teaching and research will remain unhindered". Further action on exams, lasting up to four days, is also threatened. Exactly what action will be taken at Imperial remains to be seen, and was subject to an AUT meeting last Thursday after Felix went to press. David Triesman, general secretary of the AUT, was certain that academic staff were behind the AUT's proposals; "the determination of members to see this action through increases daily."

**FELIX**  
KEEP THE CAT FREE EST. 1949

**Issue 1148**

**7 June 1999**

Editor: Ed Sexton

Assistant Editor & Films: David Roberts

Music Editors: Dennis Patrickson

& Jason Ramanathan

Sports Editor: Gus Paul

Clubscene: Giles Morrison,

Gurminder Marwaha & Joel Lewis

Arts Editor: Helena Cochemé

This issue is brought to you by

Marlboro and the letter F.

Last Issue comes out on 23 June. If you have any ideas, now's the time...

## AGM Elections

ICU's Annual General Meeting took place on Friday 28 May in the Union Dining Hall. Although almost certainly not attended by the requisite 200 members, little attention was paid to the technical details of ICU regulations and the meeting was over in under forty minutes. Union officers for the 1999/2000 year were elected at the meeting; these officers sit on the relevant Union and College committees, and generally represent and promote students' interests in specific areas of university life.

### Accommodation Officer

Katie Gummow

[katie.gummow@ic.ac.uk](mailto:katie.gummow@ic.ac.uk)

Runs a committee of hall reps and helps with student accommodation.

### Community Action Group Chair

Nada Yousif

[nada.yousif@ic.ac.uk](mailto:nada.yousif@ic.ac.uk)

Oddly enough, runs the Community Action Group, organising the soup runs and suchlike.

### Council Chair

Leonardo Monzon

[leonardo.monzon@ic.ac.uk](mailto:leonardo.monzon@ic.ac.uk)

Chairs Council and the Executive, keeping unruly sabbaticals and others under control. If you want to bring up an issue at Council, it is a good idea to speak to the chair before hand.

### Equal Opportunities Officer

George Constantinidies

[g.constantinides@ic.ac.uk](mailto:g.constantinides@ic.ac.uk)

Responsible for enforcing the Union's Equal Opportunities Policy.

### Haldane Music Buyer

David Hellard

[d.hellard@ic.ac.uk](mailto:d.hellard@ic.ac.uk)

Has £750 to spend on CDs for the Haldane Library. Anyone with album suggestions should contact the Music Buyer.

### Postgraduate Committee Chair

Helen-Louise Windsor

[h.windsor@ic.ac.uk](mailto:h.windsor@ic.ac.uk)

Chairs the Postgraduate Committee, which co-ordinates postgraduate representation and social events.

### Rag Chair

Martin Lord & Farhad Cooper

[martin.lord@ic.ac.uk](mailto:martin.lord@ic.ac.uk)

[farhad.cooper@ic.ac.uk](mailto:farhad.cooper@ic.ac.uk)

Organises RAG events and in particular RAG week.

### Summer Ball Committee Chair

VACANT. Come along to Council tomorrow if you want to stand.

Responsible for getting together a committee, finding sponsorship and basically organising the entire thing.

### Transport Officer

James Watts

[j.l.watts@ic.ac.uk](mailto:j.l.watts@ic.ac.uk)

Looks after the Union minibuses, keeping them running and addressing any problems that arise.

### Welfare Officer

Douglas Graham

[douglas.graham@ic.ac.uk](mailto:douglas.graham@ic.ac.uk)

Runs the welfare committee, representing student welfare issues to college and other bodies.

### Women's Officer

Christine Grant

[christine.grant@ic.ac.uk](mailto:christine.grant@ic.ac.uk)

Responsible for highlighting and representing women's issues in the Union and College.

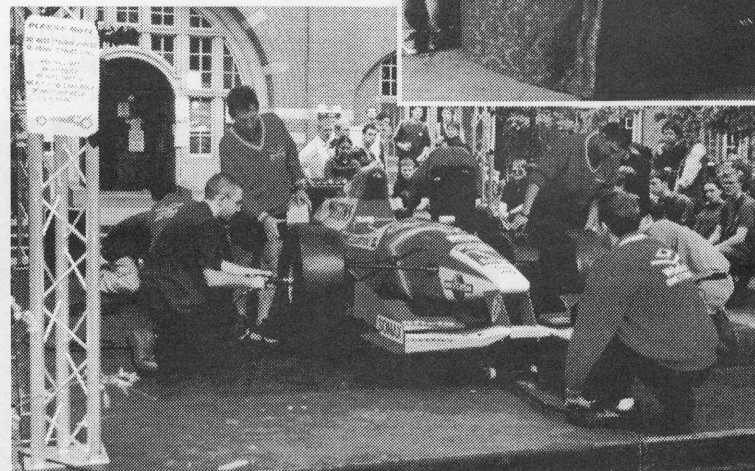
## Street Crime Increase

There has been a recent escalation in street crime around Imperial College. The increase in crime appears to be targeting men from ethnic minorities. According to Ken Weir, Head of Security at the College, young men of foreign origin are perceived to be more affluent than other groups, and are therefore being targeted by a small number of criminal gangs, intending to steal watches, wallets and suchlike. There seems to be no evidence

that there is an increase in violence associated with the crimes. All Imperial students, and in particular those most likely to be at risk from the thieves, are reminded to be careful when going to and from college, particularly at night and when travelling alone. Students are advised not to carry expensive personal items in an ostentatious manner, and if possible they should leave them at home altogether.

Anyone in Belt Quad on Friday 28 May couldn't fail to notice the Andersen Consulting Pit Stop Challenge. This admittedly entertaining recruitment event was won by Kings College, who beat Imperial by a fraction of a second, changing all four wheels in just over ten seconds. Meanwhile in dBs there were some smaller cars, which seemed to entertain David Hellard, among others.

Photos: Ed





**Tues 8th**

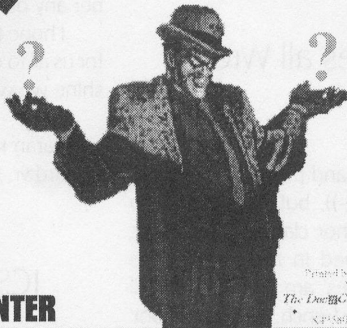
ICU presents....

# BAR TRIVIA

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CRATE OF  
LAGER



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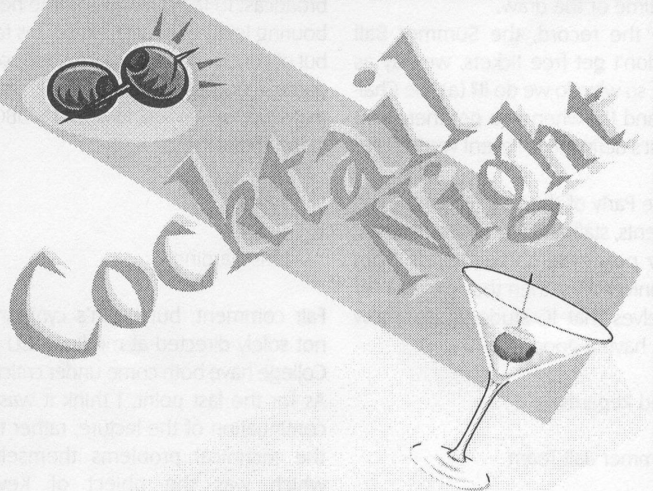
# XS

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## Not too Late for the Ball

It may not be too late to go to the Ball. We have, after many phone calls, persuaded Alexandra Palace to allow us to try and meet demand by releasing more tickets for the ICU Summer Ball, which will be held on Friday the 25th June. To be as fair as possible, this limited number of tickets will be issued over the Union front desk to the first people that come through the door.

Congratulations go out to Shermina Bhattacharyya (Medicine I) who has won a Meal for Two at Luigi Malone's, Alexander Yip (Doc PhD I) who has won a Two Person Tent and Amy Davis (Geology III) who has won a 14" Colour Television. It's still not too late for you to win, as the next prize draw will happen today at 5.00pm, where you could win one of three free dinner suit hires or a haircut - worth £40. All you have to do to enter is own a ticket by the time of the draw.

For the record, the Summer Ball Team don't get free tickets, we pay as you do, so why do we do it? (a) The Challenge and (b) when you get there you realise it's definitely an event worth fighting for.

'The Party of the Year' is open to all IC students, staff and any of their friends, so why not invite some friends from other universities, then they can see for themselves that IC students do know how to have a good time!

Kind Regards,

Summer Ball Team

## Mish-Mash Mess

Dear Felix,

I read Mr Mish-Mash's column with interest and not a little incredulity last week [Issue 1147]. I wish I was taking the stats exam that he described. It's reassuring to know that there is a help system available in the exam, but I assure our dear Kev that if he only had half an hour to complete the four stats tests required, he might feel just a little bit pressed for time. Perhaps the reason 'so many wannabe doctors failed' is the fact that they are selected to deal with people, rather than with machines like the majority of IC.

Most of the first year medics I know harbour no ill thoughts or prejudices towards other IC students. I find Kevin's column deeply upsetting and very negative. We (as first years) find ourselves in a very awkward position. On the one hand we have older medics telling us to stick to medic tradition, and on the other when we try to integrate with IC we are accused of being "arrogant" by snide dickheads such as our friend Kevin. If ICU

want medics to be fully integrated into their union (less "independent"), then I suggest that this outdated attitude is relegated to the scrap heap where it belongs in time for next years freshers!

A First Year Medic

Mr Dear Furry Friend,

Why did you devote half a page in the last issue to someone who by his own admission, knows nothing about nothing? I'm not taking issue with his views about the academic ability required to pass the first year medical statistics exam; I too, consider it somewhat farcical. He might have looked for a more original perspective on it though, don't you think, rather than implicitly putting the whole thing down to some sort of iniquitous treatment for those of us in the BMS. Not totally unrelated is the slight in the same article on the medical lecturer who was broadcast to the biologists in the neighbouring lecture theatre. Hardly his fault, but of course, he was a doctor and so fair game... or was he? Well, never mind, that's just factual accuracy and NOBODY cares about that...

Yours,

Idris Harding

**Fair comment, but Kevin's cynicism is not solely directed at medics - ICU and College have both come under criticism. As for the last point, I think it was his continuation of the lecture, rather than the technical problems themselves, which was the object of Kevin's slight dig.**

- Ed

## Fair Pay and Fair Grants

Dear Felix,

I wonder whether '2nd yr bio undergrad' (Felix 1147) has taken part in any activity to defend the student grant and oppose the introduction of fees. If s/he had, they would surely know that lecturers have shown great interest in the funding debate and have indeed 'showed solidarity to students over the tuition fees issue.'

When tuition fees were first floated as a possibility by LSE, IC AUT sent a letter of support to a student conference held to oppose their introduction. Nationally, AUT submitted a well thought out alternative to the current funding system which can be read on-line at <http://www.aut.org.uk>. I have been on every national student demonstration since 1993 and there are always local AUT and NATFHE banners flying. When ICU Labour Club organised a debate on tuition fees last year, IC AUT members attended and voiced their opposition to

fees, reminding us that AUT has lobbied parliament against them.

Please, please, stop trying to turn the issue into 'Lecturers v Students' and let's stand together: Fair Pay for Staff, Fair Grants for Students, as the placard displayed on the front page of last week's Felix stated clearly.

George Constantinides

PG Student and IC AUT member

## Rythmes all Wrong

Hello,

Sorry to be sad and pedantic (typical IC postgrad then ;-)), but I couldn't help noticing the minor clanger your music reviewer dropped in issue 1147. 'Les Rythmes Digitales' are (I thought) well known not to be french. 'Jaques Lu Cont' (work out what that translates as yourselves....) actually comes from that well known gallic metropolis of Reading. I take it someone wasn't doing their homework.

On an entirely sad and pedantic point (cribbed from last year's mud encrusted official Glastonbury guide), if they were French they would be called 'Les Rythmes Digitaux' instead.

Yours anorakly,

Rob Leah

(T.H. Huxley School PhD)

Can I be really anal and point out that the chap behind Les Rythmes Digitales is English not French? He comes from Reading, allegedly.

Please, such language...

Danny

**Interestingly enough, I saw them at Homelands ten days ago, and their lead resembled one of Felix's clubscene editors. Very good group, I thought. - Ed**

## No Butts, Please

Dear Felix,

Now that's summer is here I don't feel like sitting in an ashtray. The Queen's lawn is rapidly becoming one though. No longer a pleasant place to come sit and chat, or to enjoy a bottle of Evian, because of smokers. Before they take up there position on the crucifix as martyrs to liberty of the individual I'm not wanting a ban on smoking on the lawn, although it would make it even more enjoyable.

I hate the fact that this pack of puffing pillocks after dragging on their nico-

tine sticks drop their butt's on the grass. This makes the lawn a messy and ugly place to sit. There should be a fine, preferably £5 per butt per smoker on littering. The money could go towards free beverage for the next exhilarating Man Utd game, when they go on to dominate another season of football.

Before the smokers say, what about the people with their crisp packets and chewing gum, they also should be finned, but as yet the fag butt's out number any other rubbish 10 to 1.

I hope to see a cleaner Queens lawn for us all to enjoy, for the few days of sunshine we will get.

Karan Kapoor.

3rd yr. Medic

## ICSM's Cameras

I think you may find it interesting what the staff/student committee have to say on the matter. The minutes from their last meeting (22 March 1999) are attached, I know they are old minutes but it does clarify the situation on the cameras!!

See page 5, paragraph c for the relevant section.

Cheers!

Matt

**And here is page 5, paragraph c...**

*c) Behaviour during lectures*

It was reported that complaints have been received from lecturers regarding the behaviour of students during lectures... It was reported that the noise levels and the interruptions of people walking in and out of the lecture theatre made it difficult to both teach and concentrate. It was generally agreed that this sort of behaviour would not be tolerated particularly in the presence of patients...

*Action*

At the beginning of summer term TF will remind the year of the appropriate standards of behaviour. Technicians will be allowed to record and "show-up" on the screens any unacceptable behaviour.

**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.





### Does College Have a Heart?

Apparently not. It does, however, seem to have a tight and insatiable wallet. I have absolutely no idea how much money a day's pay for all academic staff who took part in the strike is, but I would guess it's a medium five figure number. A lot of money for students, not a lot of money for College (fairly similar to the Claypods Village Hall cost, as it happens).

OK, so I know the reply: The money will be ploughed back into our education. Does this mean that staff will see a surprise Christmas bonus? I doubt it. Will Biology suddenly see an influx of spectrophotometers? Unlikely. What will probably happen is the money will be absorbed into Imperial's millions and quietly forgotten about. Perhaps it will resurface one day as a flower bed...

### Bad Bouncers

I've been resisting the urge to say this all year, but the time has finally come. The Bouncers at the front of the Quad on Wednesday and Friday nights really piss me off. Not just because they keep you waiting for five minutes, won't listen to reason and refuse to recognise me on a weekly basis, but because they are per-

petually obnoxious and seem to think they are superior to anyone without a staff swipe card. The ICU stewards, on the other hand, I find only occasionally irritating, and generally very helpful. Has anyone else had a bad bouncer experience?

Oh, by the way, the last issue is approaching... if you've got any features etc for it, please drop by this week. *Ed*

### Railcard Competition

Firstly, may I apologise for choosing a highly ambiguous question. The first railway was opened to the public in 1803, but it didn't actually go anywhere useful. The first proper route was the Darlington line, opened in 1825. Anyway, many people entered and some of you got one or other of those dates, so we randomly chose some winners, and they are;

Yin Loong Chao  
Simon Brennan  
Jonathan Carter  
Stephen Harris  
Edward Coccon

Could you please email Felix your addresses asap, and the promoters will send the railcards directly to your homes in about two weeks. Cheers.

### Tutor Required

Undergraduate wanted to tutor Quantum Mechanics to Open University Student. Only a few hours a fortnight required, and generous pay on offer.

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### New Frontiers In Science

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6 Carlton House Terrace, SW1Y

### Editorial Assistant Required

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- able to compose concise factual text, and edit it tightly
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- a hard and diligent worker, able to stay calm and cheerful under pressure
- able to grasp new concepts quickly, and appreciate what our readers want

The job is full time, from 8 September for about 8 weeks; offices in Shoreditch

Contact Emma Bottomley, Editor, on 0171 972 0396

The Imperial College

# Summer Ball

Check out the new web-site for further details www.su.ic.ac.uk/summerball

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# Right Angles to the Rising Sun

Japanese Television

If you've got a minute maybe you'd help me out with a little survey that I'm conducting. Which of the following would you say, preys most heavily on your mind at this moment in time: a) The problem of burgeoning Third World debt with all the implications that it carries for peace and stability in sub-Saharan Africa b) The emergence of terrorist states with nuclear capabilities in the new world order resulting from the end of the Cold War and the collapse of Soviet communism c) The alarming increase in the number of bacterial strains that are resistant to all but "last line of defence" antibiotics such as Vancomycin d) The way Coke goes all fizzy and froths over the side of the glass when you pour it onto ice cubes. Bit of a tricky one isn't it?

If, like me, your nocturnal hours are assailed by terrifying visions of barbeques and cocktail parties laid waste by uncontrollable outbreaks of carbonated beverage supereffervescence, worry no longer - help is at hand. Because incredible though it may seem, it was this very topic which was the subject of a 20-minute special report on TV Osaka just the other day. A whole parade of experts, from a group of female office workers - whose professional lives are apparently made hell by this problem when preparing their superiors' elevenses - to a professor of Fluid Dynamics at the highly prestigious Tokyo Institute of Technology, were wheeled out to give their opinions on this 20th century scourge

of mankind. The secret of the perfect froth-free Pepsi-on-the-rocks apparently lies in washing the ice cubes briefly prior to pouring on the drink. This procedure, proved live on the programme by the examination of high-magnification before-and-after photographs of the ice surface, leads to the elimination of all the little jagged bits on the outside of the cube, which normally act as nucleation sites for bubble formation. The last time I saw a subject treated with such seriousness and reference to cutting-edge technology was when Jules Bergman was trying to explain the difficulties that would be encountered by the crew of Apollo 11 on their forthcoming Lunar Orbit Insertion manoeuvre.

By the time this item was over I had developed a mild headache due to

prolonged raising of the eyebrows à la Roger Moore in "You Only Live Twice", but worse (in the sense of really bizarre) was still to come. Flicking through the channels I chanced upon, in turn; a Chinese cookery programme which was making use of scanning electron micrographs to explain the best way to fry beansprouts; a programme enticingly advertised in the Japan Times as "variety show with couples", which consisted of a Swiss bloke telling the watching public about the first time he had sex with his Japanese girlfriend (who was sitting giggling at his side gripping his hand like someone drowning) whilst her parents slept in the room above; and a music show, the grand finale of which was a half-hearted rendition of "The World is Waiting for the Sunshine" performed by a five-piece ukulele orchestra complete with Aloha shirts and ties.

At this point I could stand no more and was forced to pull the plug on the magic eye and gulp down a handful of Ibuprofen to ease what had now turned into a migraine, before hurrying off to the bathroom to try and drag my poor eyebrows, which by this time were on the verge of disappearing into my hairline, back into their original position.

By now some of you might have got the idea that I don't have the highest opinion of Japanese TV that there ever was. Others might be mumbly that I'm skating on decidedly thin ice on this one, coming as I do from the country which forced such televisual narcolepsy as "Ready, Steady, Cook", "Vanessa" and "Noël's Houseparty" on a largely undeserving public. The former charge is wide of the mark whilst the latter comes dangerously close to piercing a major organ. Please don't run away with the idea that everything on Japanese TV is intellectual candy-floss, it's just that when they make banal programmes over here, they don't leave anything to chance. The truth of the matter is that there is actually a lot of really good viewing to be had. News programmes and documentaries in particular abound, fronted by presenters who obviously know their onions and frequently interview overseas contributors using a range of well-known foreign languages such as

Matt Salter

English, Russian and Chinese. Especially welcome from the point of view of the ex-pat is the practice of broadcasting news from foreign stations in the original language to which you can listen providing, that you've had the foresight to purchase a TV set with a stereo option that allows between main and "sub" channels. In this way one can watch ABC (America), CNN, KBS (Korea), ZDF (Germany), TVE (Spain), RTR (Russia), CTV (China) and just about any other station with a three letter mnemonic, including the good old BBC, whilst one is struggling with one's breakfast noodles. This can of course work against you. It can be quite disconcerting to wake from your slumbers in a Japanese-style room, turn on the box and come face-to-face with Sir Leon Brittan sporting a 5 o'clock shadow and banging on about trade quotas when you're still a bit groggy. Food for the brain is continued on NHK Kyoiku Terebi (education TV) which bristles with enlightening programmes on every conceivable subject from foreign language learning to Japanese sake appreciation, taking in watercolour painting, sign language tuition, physical fitness instruction and lessons on "shogi" (a kind of Chinese chess) en route. In addition to this there exists a plethora of "how to" programmes full of people, who judging by the looks of pained seriousness on their faces, are suffering from acute appendicitis, studiously trying to relax and enjoy a variety of leisure pursuits - golf, fishing and rock climbing being amongst the favourites. Quite how much use these shows are to someone living slap bang in the centre of Tokyo where golf courses, lakes and mountains are conspicuous by their absence, is not at all clear.

But unlike Labour's 1997 Election Manifesto, it's not all "education, education, education". My particular favourite amongst the less cerebral options are historical dramas called "jidai geki" - a sort of Japanese "Upstairs Downstairs" if you will. Not only do these programmes provide a unique insight to the social mores and customs of the Japan of yesteryear and present a spectacle in terms of gorgeous costumes and breathtaking views, but they always feature a fair number of

ludicrously unrealistic fight scenes between groups of thoroughly pissed-off men wielding huge samurai swords and barking incoherent insults at each other. My kind of show. In fact, the only thing that would increase my viewing pleasure still further would be if I could understand a blind word that the characters were saying. Economic reports, desperately dull morning soaps whose storylines seem to revolve around housewives struggling to repay large sums of money which they borrowed from loan sharks for their daughter's tango lessons, sumo commentary and even the dubbed version of "Little House on the Prairie" present few problems, but when it comes to understanding 'Great Expectations'-style early 19th century Japanese, I have a Dickens of a job making out what's going on. It's almost as difficult as explaining the LBW rule to an American.

On which topic, it's somewhat comforting to note that for all their cultural richness the Japanese have also failed to resist the US invasion. I still surprise myself occasionally by tuning in in the hope of catching a riveting documentary about the historical role of eels in Japanese cuisine or "Burmese for beginners", and find myself confronted with an episode of "Ally McBeal". Of course all foreign programmes have either subtitles or Japanese dubbing, which can often provide an additional and unintentional source of amusement. Believe me, you've never seen "ER", "Beverly Hills 90210" or "Wallace and Gromit" till you've watched them in translation.

Anyway, listen to me rabbiting on. All this and we still haven't mentioned Japanese sit-coms (there aren't any), stand-up comedy (the closest you get to it is "Rakugo" where the performers kneel rather than stand) or sport (baseball, baseball, sumo, motor racing and baseball again). Discussion of such weighty topics will, I fear, have to wait for another day as time's getting on and there's something on the box I want to see. I've been having a lot of trouble with my Haagen-Das take-aways melting on me on the way home recently, and I've a feeling that this programme just might have the solution I've been looking for.

"...a Chinese cookery programme which was making use of scanning electron micrographs to explain the best way to fry beansprouts..."

"...when it comes to understanding 'Great Expectations'-style early 19th century Japanese, I have a Dickens of a job making out what's going on..."





Here are a couple of ideas which come together nicely for a summer dinner. The whole thing is fairly easy, and should take an hour to prepare. Served with a little salad the whole thing looks stunning, and tastes pretty good too. If you're careful in choosing the cheese, it should satisfy even the most particular vegetarian.

Roast new potatoes are unusual, but fast becoming a firm favourite of mine. In traditional cooking, onion and thyme make a great gravy. The combination complements roast potato surprisingly well.

The choice of Dolcelatte on the peppers is important. Its creaminess complements mushrooms perfectly. A non-creamy blue cheese would destroy the effect.

#### Peppers Stuffed with Mushroom and Dolcelatte

Serves 4

4 red peppers  
12 medium sized mushrooms  
200g dolcelatte  
butter  
double cream  
black pepper

Heat the oven to 200 degrees/gas mark 6. Divide the mushrooms into segments of about a centimetre. Melt enough butter in a fairly small pan to coat the mushrooms.

Leave the mushrooms to sweat over a gentle heat for a couple of minutes, until the butter has soaked through, and a juice starts to accumulate in the bottom of the pan. Add a tablespoon of double cream, and loads of ground black pepper.

Use a large sharp knife to slice the peppers in half. I like to cut right through the stalk, leaving half on each shell.

## Cooks Corner

### Chris Jackson

Remove only the bulk of the core, by making a single cut under the stalk then pulling gently.

Spoon the mushroom mixture into the peppers, then place on a greased baking sheet. Slice the dolcelatte thinly then lay on top. Cook the peppers for 20 minutes, until the skin starts to turn black.

#### Roast New Potatoes with Onion and Thyme

Serves 4

750g waxy potatoes (such as Jersey Royals or Charlotte)  
3 medium onions  
thyme (a handful of fresh leaves, or 1 tbsp dried)  
butter & olive oil

Preheat the oven to 230 degrees/gas mark 8. Place a high sided, thick based baking tin over a medium heat, and melt a generous knob of butter (40g ish) with a tablespoon of olive oil. Skin, then half the onions between the ends. Cut each half into eight, leaving small segments. Add the onion and thyme to the pan then cook (stirring regularly) until the onion starts to brown. Transfer the pan to the oven, and cook for another 20 minutes. After this time, they be caramelised and wonderfully sticky.

Cut the potatoes so that all the pieces are bite-sized, then add to a pan of boiling, salted water. Bring the water back to the boil and simmer for five minutes.

When the onion is ready, add the potato to the baking tray and stir. Lower the heat to 200 degrees/gas mark 6. Cook (stirring every 10 minutes) until the potato skins are brown and shrivelled. This will take about half an hour.

Simmer for an hour, then season and serve with rice or a baked potato.

**Next week:** Death to diets, and perfect mushrooms.



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

#### ICU Annual General Meeting

Kevin attended the recent ICU Annual General Meeting where predictably, there was a good showing of medics. It is at this meeting that some of next year's Union Officers are elected. One highlight was the wannabe doctor who stood for Equal Opportunities Officer, with the aim of eliminating discrimination between students because they are from

different Constituent Colleges. In other words non-medics should be welcome at medic events and vice-versa. Unfortunately, the other medics in the room were not too happy with this proposal and he was not elected. Kevin hopes he will not have been put off by his defeat. The Union needs people like him, to ensure that they are providing a service for, and representing all members of our university, and not just the fraction of students based in South Ken. Another interesting event was the election of next year's Haldane Music Buyer, who promised to purchase all albums that were requested by Union members.

Obviously with this reckless attitude the budget will not last for long, so Kevin suggests getting your requests in early to [president@ic.ac.uk](mailto:president@ic.ac.uk)

#### Why Wye?

At the Chelsea flower show, there was a stand from Wye College. A prominent sign on the stand advertised the prospective 'merger' with Imperial College. On being questioned by Kevin as to why the word 'merger' did not read 'takeover' staff manning the stand shied away from comment.

#### Library News Service

Town Criers, with their loud voices and clamorous hand bells drawing attention to themselves as they bellowed out the news stories of the day to captivated audiences used to be a common sight in towns and cities across the land. These relics from the days before newspapers and televisions have all but disappeared from the rest of the country. However their methods have been resurrected by IC security in the central library. It is now common for security to bring library users the news "faster than Felix".

Recently Kevin has noticed announcements have started to incorporate 'and finally' style quips, as well as more serious information.

#### And Finally

Last Sunday evening, Kevin heard of a rather exclusive event. I assume that somewhere in this issue of Felix, I will be able to find a review of: "Episode 1: The Phantom Menace", written by our president. Kevin guesses that the review will read along the lines of: "FANTASTIC!".

## Presidential Talk-Back

Like Felix, I really don't have much to harp

**David Hellard, ICU President**

ner to meet Chris Ince because...

b) or write the

best caption to these two pictures

Answers to [president@ic.ac.uk](mailto:president@ic.ac.uk) - the ruder, the better.



on about this week, so I thought I'd spice up my column a bit and go competition crazy. The hard bit about this is being able to offer any decent prizes, but as I look around my office, there are a number of random goods that could be on offer, ranging from an Isostar drinks container to winning a pair of tickets as special guest to the President's dinner.

Last week the best answer to what should go into Pandora's Box was sent in by Geoff Clifford, the wonder boy. Who would of thought that Geoff would be willing to entomb himself in the box, in an effort to become part of the History of Imperial College Union. Your prize will be awaiting you in the Union Offices Geoff.

Now to win one of the numerous aforementioned prizes all you have to do is either:

a) Be the person with the most original end to this sentence:

'I want to go to the president's din-

#### Website Superiority

Imperial college has to have the coolest phonetically pronounceable web / e-mail address of any university. Perhaps it should be used in the prospectus: "come to IC and become <yourname> at ick ack uck." I'm sure everyone reading this would agree that it sounds much better than [mit.edu](http://mit.edu) or [ox.ac.uk](http://ox.ac.uk) however you say it. Kevin also noticed that <http://www.mit.edu> gets you to MIT's students website and the non-intuitive <http://www.web.mit.edu> is the location of the official website. Perhaps IC students should lobby for: <http://www.ic.ac.uk> to be handed to the students.

**Send ideas and contributions to [kevin\\_mishmash@hotmail.com](mailto:kevin_mishmash@hotmail.com)**





# Fly American!

Neil Mothew describes the start of his trip across America at the controls of a light aircraft

Car rental companies don't like under-25 year olds. Many won't even serve them. If they do, they charge ridiculous amounts for insurance. They just don't trust us. So, what does a 21-year-old with a passion for travelling do to get around the US?

Hitchhiking? That's dangerous. Greyhound buses? They're slow and uncomfortable. Trains? They're infrequent and expensive. Solution: rent a plane. There is no such age discrimination with light aircraft rental. All you need is a pilot's licence and about four weeks of holiday job wages to pay for it. No check-in means you can wake up when you like and go when and wherever you want. You get a great view of the country when cruising below 10,000 feet, and it's quite quick as well.

We hired a Cessna 182 from Meacham Field, an airport just West of Fort Worth. This is a single engine, four seater aircraft which cruises at around 155 mph. I shared the flying with Russ, a pilot I met at flying school. This meant we could split the costs, making the trip slightly more affordable. Plus, being American, he had lots of family and friends who we visited along the way, thereby avoiding the cost of hotels as much as possible. We were on a tight budget after all.

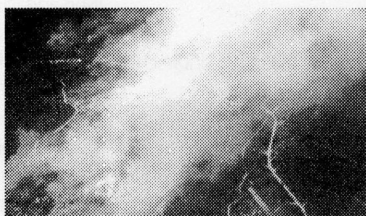
## Dallas - Fort Worth

Dallas has two claims to fame - one being J R Ewing and the other the JFK assassination. It was also to be the place we would start our journey.

The schoolbook repository - the famous building from where Lee Harvey Oswald supposedly assassinated JFK in 1963 has been preserved as a museum. The book storage books are stacked as they were on the day. The window is open and Lee Harvey Oswald isn't there. You can't go near the window - it is glassed off. If you could, then you would wonder how on earth L. H. O. fired that shot with such accuracy. He must have been quite a gifted contortionist.

Other places of interest include the Fort Worth Stockyards. This used to be the centre of trade for cattle, but now is more a hangout for wanna-be cowboys (and girls) and country music lovers. It is also where Walker Texas Ranger is filmed. I was lucky enough to catch Tanya Tucker performing at Billy Bob's Honky Tonk; famed as being the World's largest 'Honky Tonk' (whatever that is!) In the summer, the average temperature is around 100F (37C) which may be a bit

of a shock to the system. Everything is very spaced out and public transport is virtually non-existent, so a car with air conditioning is an absolute necessity. Whilst there, I asked what it took to get a Texas drivers' license... the response was that you had to "be a good shot and a bad driver". Watch out for the pick-up trucks with shot-gun racks in the back window!



Refuelling Stop - Tyler, Texas

Normally I wouldn't mention a routine stop to fill up with fuel, but this one sticks in my memory. On landing we were intercepted by not one, but two golf carts from different companies with 'FOLLOW ME' signs on the back. Each cart was driven by a beautiful girl in a cheerleader outfit - one wearing Texaco colours and the other Exxon colours. So, on choosing Ms Exxon, we followed and parked. She rolled a red carpet up to the plane and asked us how many gallons we wanted. With the fuel tanks in the wings, I'm glad we had a high-wing airplane! That's what I call service.

## New Orleans, Louisiana

Arriving at night, I can't say I saw much of New Orleans from the air. We flew into Lakefront airport - a mere three miles from the centre of town. Our hippie taxi driver (he had just left a commune) took us to the Longpré guesthouse. Planted firmly in the lovely Garden District, this hostel is within easy travelling distance of the French Quarter via the streetcar.

With an average of four murders a day, New Orleans is one of the most dangerous US cities. Unless you have a death wish, the area to walk around is the French Quarter. Certain areas of the city are particularly dangerous and it is extremely easy to wander from the seemingly safe tourist areas into dodgy areas. As we discovered, many street people make a good living preying on tourists who might stray. One of these people approached us rather forcefully, demanding a dollar to let us live. I only had 75c in my pocket, so I negotiated and seemed to avoid any trouble. Even the

muggers are cheap in New Orleans.

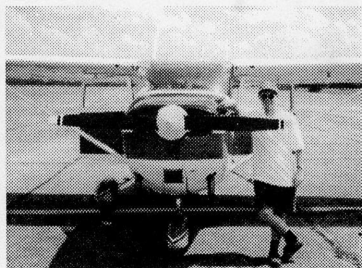
New Orleans is an amazing, unsleeping party town. Numerous bars, jazz clubs, oyster restaurants, strip joints and the occasional voodoo shop make for lively trade on Canal Street. Vendors dispense lethal cocktails, going by the name of "The Hurricane", in pint cups. After imbibing two of these "extra loaded" beverages, I discovered where this drink got its name from - it wipes you out like a hurricane! Yes, this was the first (and hopefully last) place I had a blackout. I don't know which higher power guided me back to the hostel, but I couldn't eat for three days.

Lacking a sense of smell whilst walking along Canal Street is a definite advantage - it is quite nauseating unless you enjoy an aroma of fresh vomit. Roaming among drunk tourists and students, you will soon relinquish control of your legs and let the flow of pedestrian traffic take you to the next worthy establishment. Moonlighting cops serve at bars, so as long as you don't stray from the crowds, things are reasonably safe; you are unlikely to come to much bodily harm. After a thorough recovery from alcohol poisoning, it was time to file the flight plan and move on.

## El Paso, Texas

I was immediately struck by the urban desolation of El Paso - and that was in the city's downtown business district. Many people opt to run for the border in search of action, as the schmaltzy Mexican town of Juarez is only a mile away. We spent a night there eating Tacos and then flew north to Albuquerque.

This part of the desert requires very careful navigation. Restricted and military operation areas are no-fly zones and aircraft are restricted to flying in designated narrow corridors. This is the place where the supposedly top-secret Lockheed Skunkworks and Area 47 are located. Stray and you might be intercepted and escorted out by military jet. If you don't get shot down, you will certainly get a stiff talking to once on terra firma if you get the map reading wrong.



## Albuquerque, New Mexico

The staff at Albuquerque airport were extremely helpful and friendly. Before we even asked, they told us where to stay, where the happening nightlife was (there wasn't) and even where the \$5 hookers worked.



There is plenty to do downtown and on trendy Nob Hill nearby. We were told the historic old town was also worth a visit, but we didn't make it there.

We got our kicks on Route 66. The famous highway passes through Albuquerque. Here, you can spend an evening just watching boy racers in their turbocharged drag cars cruising Main Street and rewing their engines in the hope of instigating a race. Occasionally, when they met similarly-minded individuals, they get their way.

We woke up the next morning at 6am to beat the desert heat and thermal waves, which give unbearable turbulence in the afternoon. One plane check, one flight plan, and one weather report later, we were airborne and on our way to cross the barren desert.

## Truth or Consequences, New Mexico

One town we noticed en route was called 'Truth or Consequences'. The name was so interesting that we decided to take a refuelling stop, and investigate why on earth it was called that. The town, formerly named Hot Springs, changed its name in 1950 to that of a popular radio show. The deal was that the radio show would broadcast to its thousands of listeners from the town, thus attracting the attention of an unlimited tourist base. Just remember this was in an era before selling out was considered unfashionable. 'T or C' also has some interesting ghost towns, cliff dwellings and mountain outposts surrounding it, which are well worth exploration.

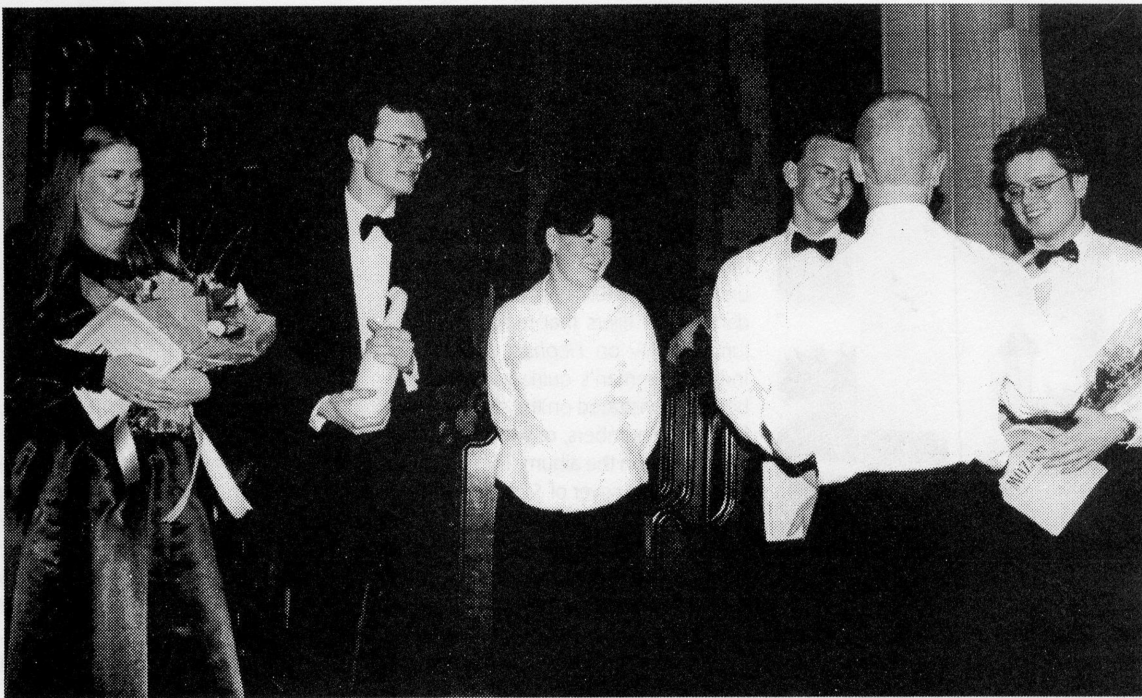
And so, we fired up the six cylinders and took off for the West Coast to San Diego...





# IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION CHOIR CONCERT

## Holy Trinity Church



Bouquets and bubbly - Soloist Miranda Keys, organist Andrew Earls and choir performers Alex Cope, Stuart McDermott and Phillip Angell graciously receive the accolades of success and appreciation

The venue for the choir's performance on Friday 28 May was the Holy Trinity Church on Prince Consort Road - a contrast to The Great Hall in the Sheffield building, where last term's Verdi *Requiem* was so vigorously performed. The small church was very quickly filled with friends and family of choir members and once the benches had been shuffled about to create the required legroom, everyone settled back to enjoy the concert.

The performance began with Benjamin Britten's *Te Deum in C* - immediately the church filled with the sound of the organ and with the breathtaking harmony of the well-balanced four-part choir. The acoustics inside the church ensured that the listener was at once surrounded by music. Soloist Miranda Keys required little effort in order to lift her voice above the organ and choir.

There were captivating solo performances from members of the choir during Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*. The words to this piece are based on extracts from an eighteenth century poem by Christopher Smart about a person subject to bizarre visions. We were assured twice that "the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour". And this particularly feisty animal obviously was, as it was prepared to engage a cat (no doubt in order to teach it a lesson) which had just attacked its missus! The conflict was given added flair by the organist, Andrew Earls, who characterised the cat and mouse in his playing.

Next the Chamber Choir performed *Agnus Dei* by Barber. This is the choral arrangement of Adagio for Strings. Here the sopranos managed superbly and the church filled with a continuous flow of notes that touched even the deepest of emotions (and periodically put the stained glass in serious danger).

An assortment of strings joined the choir for Monteverdi's *Beatus Vir*, which added warmth and depth to the performance and formed a bass continuo essential to the music, which varied from solo phrases to those for the whole ensemble.

Immediately after the interval, it was apparent that the choir had become

somewhat depleted and fearful of the audience as they were huddled together at the back of the choir stand. Once the piece *A Hymn to the Mother of God* by Tavener began, we realised that the rest of the choir was located at the back of the church with the audience sitting in-between. As you may imagine, this posed a bit of a problem for conductor Therees Tkach Hibbard who turned sideways to face the west wall. This enabled her to direct the group at the front with her right hand and the group at the back with her left hand. Many in the audience followed her example, swivelling in their seats for the best position to listen. But this hardly mattered as the chords rolled over the walls and across the high ceiling to produce a wonderful 'surround sound' effect - a characteristic of the whole evening.

The concert ended with Mozart's *Vespers*, composed in 1780 before he moved to Vienna. The choir sang the Psalms beautifully (with characteristic diminishing seventh in *Laudate pueri* that I had been instructed to look out for). There were notable performances from the ICUC soloists who deservedly received gifts and great applause from the audience at the end. It was obvious to all present that the choir had relished performing these pieces and the evening was a great success. Thank you to all involved.

Rachel



Conductor Therees Tkach Hibbard, with musicians and choristers accepting the audience's applause





## Albums

## INDIAN ROPEMAN

Elephant Sound ★★★



Indian Ropeman. Same label as Norman, you know.

Well this is a rather quiet release from the same stable, Skint, that brings you all of your cherished and much hyped FatBoy Slim releases. However, it is obvious from the first that Indian Ropeman is without the constraints that the Fat one's seeming Adidas sponsorship brings. *Elephant Sound*, although I am still trying to find one on the album, instantly comes racing out at you like a champion stallion. The first track, *Chairman of the Board*, is a booming, dark tune with the excellent, pre-requisite vocal sample, full of self-belief and adulation.

And as not to disappoint, with a moniker like Indian Ropeman, the tune is laced with an eerie Asian vocal melody. In fact, the whole album has as ethnic a feel as a Big Beat album can have.

Now as far as I am concerned Big Beat is solely a preserve of the dance floor. Alright, I admit it, it is good for those preparatory early Friday nights, getting you in the mood for a hard night's clubbing, but more than that? Oh yeah, I almost forgot, as Fat Boy Slim and now Bentley Rhythm Ace have found, it is also excellent advert music!

For me, Big Beat is throwaway music. The Fast Food of dance, instantly accessible, rarely memorable and often accompanied with a whole load of limp lettuce and nasty gherkins to bulk it up!

Unfortunately, it is close to this territory that Indian Ropeman's *Elephant Sound* lies. The tracks have all the Skint hallmarks: phat, pharty bass lines and naturally that big drum beat. But it is not the dance floor fillers that make your ears jump for joy on *Elephant Sound*. No, Indian Ropeman's quirky excellence is best demonstrated on the slower, more funky little numbers, of which there are quite a few on the album. These include an interesting cover of *Sunshine Of Your Love*; so deep and dark it's almost at the point of being drum n' bass, *Do Not Deviate From Your Course* and the excellently live sounding *Your Own Enemy*, which could be a Ninja Tune release.

Indian Ropeman's album is not bad at all, although nothing astounds you enough to call for the rewind. This breed of Big Beat is a little older and more complex than that employed by others. The ethnic sounds and darker melodies contribute an added dimension to a genre that can be so featureless. Getting back to the Fast Food analogy *Elephant Sound* is more like a decent take-away curry than a nasty commercial burger. Not too bad, that is if you don't mind what it does to your bowels the next morning! **M**

Ramzi

## REMY ZERO

Villa Elaine ★★★



For a band hailing from Alabama, where it's not unusual to be married to your horse and be having an affair with your sister at the same time, Remy Zero sound remarkably British. I'm not bad-mouthing the States but the current crop of talent is British and American artists are either well established or nothing special. While *Villa Elaine* is an exception to that rule, it's still not incredibly different.

Even though the emphasis is on overdriven guitars and subtle effects such as flangers, choruses and (my personal favourite) vibrato, Remy Zero aren't afraid to show their softer side on tracks like *Life In Rain* with some delicate vocal harmonies. The lyrics and indeed the vocals on *Holloware* are reminiscent of the late Shannon Hoon from Blind Melon, with hints of (gasp) Brian Molko, while the rest of the song has a huge feel to it. The effects are taken into industrial/ experimental territory by the inclusion on many tracks of what I can only call noise. You know when someone holds a mic too close to an amp and you get a banshee screech? Well, it's like that, and there's just no need unless the sound of squealing brakes is on your agenda. The single *Gramarye*, however, is one of the top tracks on *Villa Elaine*. It's intensely dark and pretty scary (or is there just something wrong with me?) but it has a slight 60s retro-ness to it, as do all the tracks on the album. From the whole feel of the album although not typically American, it's not hard to hear the influence of Adam Duritz of Counting Crows in those guitars and the sometimes-wistful lyrics. But perhaps the most enjoyable track is the closing *Goodbye Small World* that smacks of an early Lou Reed and the Velvet Underground at their deceptively upbeat best.

With this album Remy Zero have managed to imitate a hell of a lot of musicians, all the while keeping an identity of their own. And even if it's not terribly ground breaking, there's fun to be had guessing who they'll sound like next. **M**

Christian

## TRINA &amp; TAMARA

Trina &amp; Tamara ★★★★★

We all know very well that chart-successful boy-bands sing nothing but love songs and their success is likely to be attributed to this, along with their compulsory boyish looks of course. In the same respect, you could say that r&b bands sing mainly about sex and steamy foreplay and that it's of black origin. This is all true with Trina & Tamara.

T&T draw a fine line between gospel and r&b, so although they do go all out with saying things like 'Joanne, Joanne, stop trying to fuck my man' on *Joanne*, they also sing *Almost* acapella and slow, which sounds like something that Eternal would sing. Speaking of Eternal, I preferred their debut material much more than the gospel they became so passionate about with their later albums. Luckily, T&T features little of this and con-

tains some fine r&b.

The opening track, *What'd You Came Here For*, sets the standard: stylish and good fun. Judging by the vocals T&T sound quite young - not quite as young as Madonna's sign-up Cleopatra, but also not quite as mature as Mary J. Blige. Nevertheless, they produce a harmonious sound and the beats are always there to show it off. At times though, the music needs to project the vocals rather than being left for us to pick out.

The melody in *Nothin' New*, and many other tracks, is so fresh. The sexy keyboard loop is brilliant and the vocals are inevitably smooth.

Given that r&b is slowly getting more and more chart-attention, due to artists like Missy Elliott and TLC, T&T have a good chance of getting some recognition and the material on this album cer-

tainly has potential to break into the public limelight. If you're an r&b fan you should definitely try and give this a listen; it will not disappoint. If you're an r&b virgin then this is a great album to indulge in. It displays everything that goes into making the sound that is r&b. There's fast and slow tracks, hard and soft beats, sharp and smooth vocals, and of course, no shortage of dirty talk. **M**

Asad





## Albums

## HOMELIFE

Cho Cho ★★★★★



This is the first release from Homelife, a collection of musos from different backgrounds who all decided to have a jam together and record the result. You would think that this could make it unstructured and tedious, but the whole thing remains very tight. The first thing you notice on listening to the album is the astonishing array of instruments - everything from cello and violin to stylophone and saw.

There are vocals, but these are kept

to a minimum, and the album is mainly instrumental. A whole mix of styles live happily together, with elements of jazz, latin, funk and reggae. The overall theme is definitely chilled. Summer-time-is-here-again kind of tunes. Homelife has some absolutely gorgeous melodies, that you just want to chew on and swallow in the hope that a part of that soul will be integrated into your own.

I love the way they strip down a melody to its bare essentials and show it off to the world in all its naked beauty.

They then set it against a flowing background of upbeat rhythms and beautiful noises that complement in a way rarely heard.

There's very little to complain about here, but if I have one complaint, it's that it sometimes gets a bit surreal. Towards the middle of the album, random instruments pop up all over the place. Coupled with the occasional distorted, trippy vocal, I did start to feel a bit disorientated. It's not long, however, before they get back on track and it seems like the whole thing actually does fit in, and it's just part of a bigger plan. There is definitely more concern with the feel of the album as a whole, rather than for each individual track.

In places, it sounds like some of the instrumental tracks on Beastie Boys' *Ill Communication*, especially Track 11 with its scratching. But my favourite track has to be *Haddows Gizz*, with its catchy guitar riff and shuffly rhythm. This will make a fine single one day.

If exam stress is getting to you, just put on this CD, lie back and let the melodies flow around you. **M**

Tom

## KHAN

1-900-Get-Khan ★★

The album cover has to be seen to be believed. Those of you choosing to buy this album must unfortunately suffer the indignity of doing so in public. It'll be one of those moments when you think no-one is around but as you pick it up, you'll find a small crowd of people looking at you as if you're some kind of sick weirdo. I thankfully procured the album in the confines of the Felix Office (once I'd pulled it away from the sweaty palms of an aroused Joel).

*1-900-Get-Khan* is a collection of minimalist-chilled-out beats and bleeps, perfectly suited to a Swedish-furniture-emporium concourse or a nouvelle-cuisine eatery. Precise, exact, anatomically correct and oh so lifeless and insubstantial. Palpable cleanliness, alabaster veneers, no grit, no grim, no soul. Sounding like a poor-man's Lil Louis, it's the perfect music for doing something to when you're so involved in your task you're oblivious to aural sensations. In fact, word has just reached me of Roche's intention to market the album as a replacement for Rohypnol. **M**

Chris

## Singles

The Frames - *Pavement Tune*

Track 1 is the trashy one, track 2 the medium-paced one and track 3 the slow burning acoustic number. Earnest, workman-like rock. Dull, insipid, hackneyed. Delete as appropriate.

No Doubt - *New*

The major players in the unforgettable ska-revival of 1997 that lasted all of one weekend on MTV are back. This time around the word is SKIFFLE! Yes, all herald the great skiffle renaissance! Only joking, or am I?

Muse - *Uno*

A voracious guitar and cymbals ago-go intro gives way to an aching vocal track with bouncy bass, tremulous guitar and shimmering drums. Very good indeed, shame about the B-sides.

Corduroy - *Moshi Moshi*

Plinky, plonky, all aboard the toy-town train. Enough said, really.

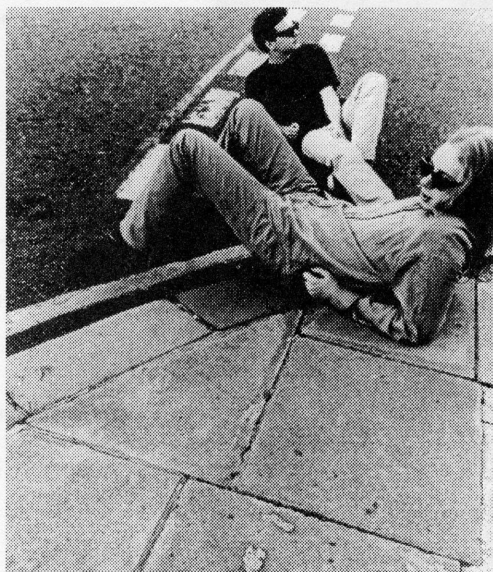
CTD - *Keep A Lid On Things*

Whispered baritone and falsetto vocals call and respond over smooth synthetic drums with a hint of tabla. I haven't a clue what they're on about but it sure sounds good.

Barker - *Fireside Conversation*

Vocal, guitar, bass and drums. A tried and tested formula, yet still it astounds and often amazes. It also fails and bores, this being a case in point.

## THE ESSENTIAL CHOON

Chemical Brothers - *Hey Boy, Hey Girl*

'Hey boy! Hey girl! Superstar DJs! Here we go!' opines the vox over a refrain not too dissimilar to a KLF tune. And the heaving masses of disco-dwellers from Clacton to Kavos shake their bits all summer long. A fine tune indeed.

Cooler - *Disco Sucks*

Funky basslines, rhythmic beats and soulful keyboards - rather like a disco track. Oh it's a joke, right I see....

Boom-Boom Mancini - *Super Model Human*

A very fine, infectious poppy number with a singer who doesn't sound too dissimilar to the one out of Magoo (if that means anything to you).

Simon Fisher Turner - *Oh Venus*

The bass reverberation of the first track resonates at a frequency similar to that of my ear drums. Hence the blood, hence the pain and hence my inability to hear the remainder of the tracks. Which is a good thing if the face of my cat is anything to go by.

Dark Star - *About 3am*

Another great song from Dark Star whereby a tale of inconsequential existence is enveloped within guitars that chime and also guitars that roar.

Fridge - *EPH*

At 8 tracks long this is hardly a single and a bit of a mixed bag, alternating between John Barry compositions for the third millennium and discordant tosh that gets played at Plastic People every Saturday.

The Miracle Mile - *Heroes and Misfits EP*

God this is painful, will this stack of substandard CDs ever be exhausted? I feel like Sisyphus, will my task ever end or bring reward?

Witness - *Audition*

Hey, what do you know, a decent song. Witness, may you join the Gods on Olympus and leave these pitiful mortals in whose presence you are found. **M**

Chris





# CLUBSCENE

## Loop da Loop



Loop da Loop  
'Miracle Maker'  
(Manifesto)

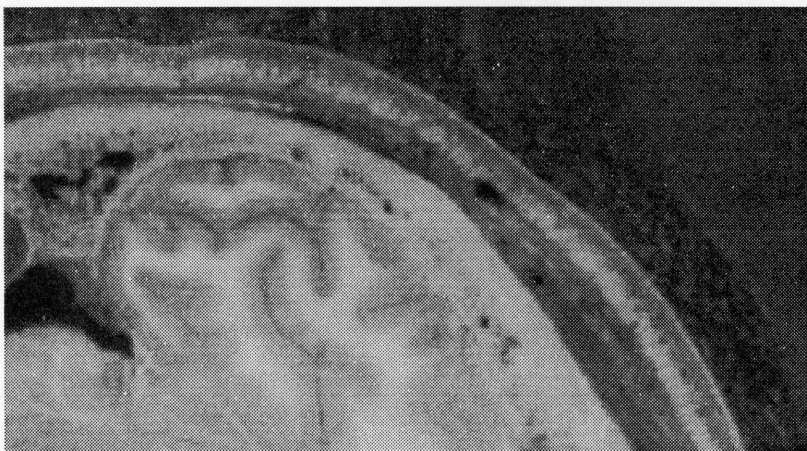
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Nice enough follow-up to the Top 20 success of 'Hazel', this single sees Loop da Loop stick to what he knows best - breakbeat driven house music with infectious lyrics. It also sees him re-establish his links with MC Duke, who featured on Loop da Loop's debut 'Go With Tha Flow' back in '97. Funny I should mention that single, 'cos that really was a corker, and showed all the qualities that this one tends to lack.

'Miracle Maker' never quite makes it off the ground, falling in between the sound of 'Go With Tha Flow' and a more purely big beat influenced track. It may be getting caned by Fatboy Slim and some other cheesier exponents of big beat, but that isn't necessarily a good sign, now is it? To be honest pogoing around just isn't for me, and that's the only thing you could do to this record.

Out now

## Cross Section



The Cross Section  
'The First Album'  
(Cross Section)

# 4

The first mix album from this independent record label, it is a combination of very daring and experimental slow techno and deep house. These aren't the kind of mainstream tracks that everyone talks about, but the kind that will send the dancefloor wild whilst still remaining anonymous. The album includes the filtered disco anthem 'I Know' from Tim Deluxe before moving onto the tech-house killer 'Daylight'. And this is really the story of the album - lots of variation and plenty of new ideas and with each track being something completely different you are left in anticipation of what's coming up next.

## Tranceformer



Tranceformer  
'VARIOUS'  
(Virgin)

# 4

Double CD album bursting to the seams with over two hours of the very best trance music. The CDs are mixed and featured artists include BBE, Tilt, ATB, Paul Van Dyk, DJ Sakin and Binary Finery. With over sixteen tunes on each CD this is a must for trance fans.

Out Now.



# Donnatella



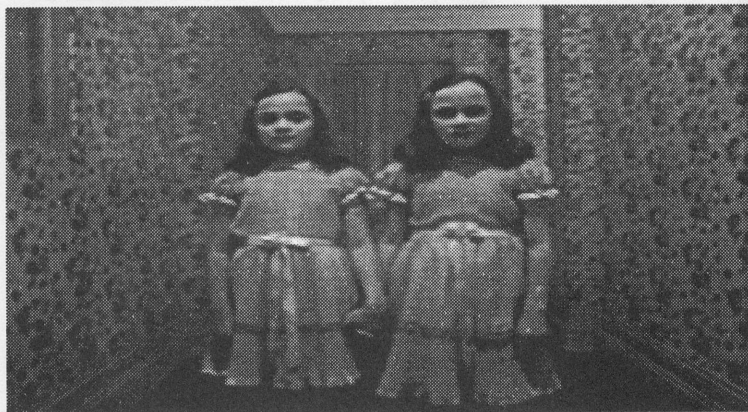
Donnatella  
'The Journey'  
(Distinctive)

4

Very catchy summer tune and yet another strong release from the Distinctive team. The Radio edit and the Original Mix both play around effectively with a great little piano score, and some cheesy, but not too grating, vocals. These are the mixes that will deservedly propel this happy hark back to '95/96 straight into the charts and the minds of clubbers all summer. But beware of the Mirrorball Vocal 12" Mix. This slightly more underground version is disturbingly easy to listen to, despite its main pieces sounding like a retake of some horrible '80s Depeche Mode-style effort. Very worrying. The adoption of '80s musical influence by the dance community would be a very bad thing. Please don't let it happen.

Out 21st June

# Nab Twins



Nab Twins  
'The March (Nab Twins Remix)'

0

Nab Twin 1: "Hey, Nab, I've got a great idea for a wicked tune!"  
Nab Twin 2: "Yeah, what's that bro?"  
Nab Twin 1: "Well, y'see, what you do is you get a really annoying bass drum. You know, one of those really harsh ones that penetrates your skull and gives you the biggest migraine you've ever had. And then you just stick lots of stupid sound effects over the top. I mean you could have anything...like electric guitars, like played by Van Halen or another set of shitty soft-rock weirdos. Doesn't matter who. And some shitty little tweekin' noises like the sort aliens would probably make. And what you do to cap it all off is have a horn section from an Italian football crowd playing some gimpy little tune. Great! So what do you think, Nab? The dog's bollocks or what?"  
Nab Twin 2: "Yeah, I'm with you! Fantastic! We're gonna be famous!"  
Someone with a brain: "Oh dear, I don't think so."

# Pierre De Terre



Pierre De Terre  
'DJ Spin'  
(Disques Bleu)

1

Following on from the ultra-fabulous Pipi Le Oui, this can only be described as a totally disappointing effort from the normally funky French disco-house label. Apparently 'DJ Spin' is a nineties take on Blondie's 'Rapture', but personally I can't see it. The press release also claims that this tune has enough flare to keep John Travolta happy. Hmmm! The only way this tedious number could possibly keep Mr. Travolta happy would be as a sedative should he ever happen to suffer from a little insomnia. 1 star  
Out late June

Blank & Jones  
'Cream'  
(Deviant)

Huge monster tune inspired by the Scouse superclub. With its filtered beats, deep bass and obligatory synths this track is a massive favourite with Oakenfold, Sasha and Digweed. The best mix is the Paul Van Dyk remix, which comes with his trademark kick-drum and signature breakdowns. Out 14th June.

Moogwai  
'Night Out'  
(Platipus)

Excellent epic tune - with its deep, dark melody and filtered, rich beats this makes for a great track in the mould of 'Northern Exposure'. Already being hammered by Sasha and Digweed, 'Night Out' is everything you could wish for in an epic house tune. The flip side is a completely different track, 'Moogwai' but isn't as good as 'Night Out'. Out at the end of July.





## Reviews

# Citizen Kane ★★★★★

**Starring :** Orson Welles, Joseph Cotten, Dorothy Comingore  
**Director :** Orson Welles

If you haven't seen this film already, then let's face it you should have.

However, its recent re-release will help rectify any tragic mistake you might have made. Of course, finding a cinema cool enough to let you indulge in this classic may prove difficult at first, but as you will soon discover, the reward is worth the search.

This is a film best seen on the big screen if you wish to discover why it has so often been credited with the title of 'best movie ever made'. As far as Hollywood is concerned, *Citizen Kane* epitomises all that a great film should be. The story flows well, holding your interest from start to finish. Beautifully photographed, it is one of the first films to make use of deep focus, allowing the viewer a new kind of realism that helped set the mould in which most modern movies are made. Having said that, most people watch modern movies and so this offering will come as nothing new to them. Only boring, film fanatics would truly want to appreciate it for its revolutionary style.



*Classic cinema. Mmmm.*

The majority of folk will enjoy for what it really is; a well made film of moral telling.

Allegedly based on the real life

story of media monster, William Randolph Hearst, it is still as relevant today as it always was. Kane himself represents anyone you care to satirise, while

the remaining screen time is devoted to the usual love interests and gripping dialogue you will have come to expect when you hear the word 'classic'. Shot from low angles and with similarly low lighting, there is much to be recognised in the recent revival of Film Noir found in contemporary cinema. Its re-release serves as a strong reminder of where so many films got their ideas.

Definitely worth a look if you haven't seen it already, if only to make you a more cultured individual. Don't expect this film to blow your head off, that's not what it's intended to do. What it does is establish itself as the template for nearly all modern Hollywood pictures, making it one of the most important films you are ever likely to see as opposed to the most exciting. While not the roller coaster ride it is often painted out to be, it is a good film, undeniably so, and at least worthy of the mere two hours it will take from your free time. **F**

*James*

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# The King & I ★★

**Starring :** Miranda Richardson, Christiane Noll, Martin Vidnovic, Ian Richardson  
**Director :** Richard Rich

It makes perfect sense to animate Broadway musicals. The songs are already market-tested, the titles are pre-sold and there's only one hitch: Their stories appeal mostly to adults, while most feature-length cartoons are aimed at children. It need not be so. In Japan, adults buy more tickets to animation than children do – and as a result feature cartoons, with their glorious freedom over space and logic, represent up to a fourth of ticket sales.

But here animation is mostly linked with bold heroes, cute little animals and colourful sidekicks. And one of the problems with *The King and I*, which has been animated by Richard Rich for Warner Bros., is that the story is not intrinsically interesting to kids. The Rodgers and Hammerstein classic is concerned with a romance between a British schoolteacher and the king of Siam; a parallel romance takes place between the prince and a servant girl. Both romances involve defiance of class and convention, and kids aren't much tuned into that.

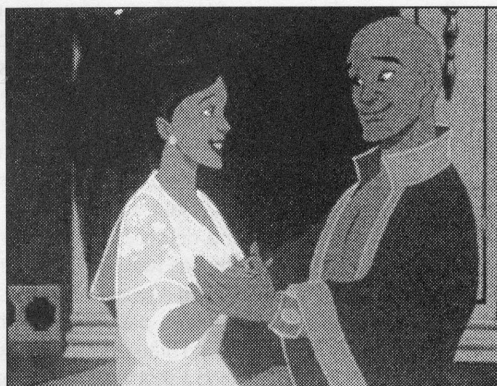
This animated *The King and I* does add

some characters designed for children. There's the roly-poly Master Little, assistant to the evil prime minister. He's flossing his teeth the first time we see him, and then it's a running gag that he keeps getting them knocked out. Alas, he has so many teeth that the gag runs out before the teeth do. The movie also has a fire-breathing dragon, a hot-air balloon adventure, fireworks, a black panther and a lot of royal children. But still it lacks energy, and

the story's barriers to romance aren't that interesting to younger viewers.

Yet I applaud the experiment. The challenge is to make adaptations that are intended for adults, and then attract adults to the theatres. Go into any video store and you will find long shelves of Japanese animation aimed at grownups. The tapes rent like crazy. Now to find a way of porting that audience over to the movies. **F**

Janine



Yul Brinner meets Jimmy Hill. Kinda.

## VIDEO RENTAL RELEASES UPDATE

### Dead Man's Curve

On recent evidence, when it comes to hamming it up, Mathew Lillard is clearly Hollywood's overactor of choice. In *She's Like That* he steals every scene he appears in, thanks to comic timing, appalling dancing and being thoroughly obnoxious; in *Scream* he hammed his way to the big time in prime psycho mode; and here, in Dan Rosen's low budget thriller, he's finally offered full reign to throw his weight about in a movie entirely based around his ability to draw every last thread of emotion out of a scene. Sadly, it's let down by being too clever for its own good, but it's worth renting for the finale alone.

### The Negotiator

Despite being a perfectly adequate movie, *The Negotiator* feels like a real let-down simply because you're constantly calculating what it could have been. After all, the combination of Kevin Spacey and Samuel L Jackson should be an award winning one – particularly when combined with some taut direction in the shape of F Gary Grey. Looked at from the opposite point of view, however, it's lifted from utter mediocrity by two of Hollywood's finest throwing lines at each other with an incredibly intense fury. So, what are you left with? Two damn fine performances and a fairly silly plot, that's what.

### Saving Private Ryan

The Spielberg-ster's back, and he's trying harder than ever to make everyone love him, mixing *Schindler's List* depth and attention to detail with *Jaws* set-pieces and *Jurassic Park* effects. He even throws in a few hundred buckets of blood for good measure. Yet whilst what remains is undoubtedly a quality piece of celluloid – the first twenty minutes are the work of a master film-maker – you never connect with the characters, and thus never really care what happens to them. In a way that's Spielberg's aim (soldiers are just a bunch of ordinary guys etc etc), yet it defeats the point of his movie. Which is a shame.

Dave

## Win tickets to The Matrix with the

# ODEON

## KENSINGTON

If you ever read any of the leading film and reviews magazines then you're certain to have noticed the massive buzz surrounding the impending release of *The Matrix*. It's an utterly astounding movie, replete with brilliant action sequences, fantastic effects and mind-warping plot – so see it any way you can. However, there's only one way to win a free pair of tickets, and that's by answering the following question:

**What links The Matrix with  
Sylvester Stallone?**

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



Well done as ever to all those people who correctly identified the answer to last week's competition. As you all spotted, Julia Roberts starred alongside Alan Rickman in *Michael Collins*, whilst Hugh Grant shared billing with Mr Rickman on both *Sense & Sensibility* and *An Awfully Big Adventure*. The first five correct entries to be drawn at random were:

Helmy Rahman  
Edward Bray  
Tim Grant  
Sylarza Kamsan  
David Moriarty

They each win a pair of tickets to see *Notting Hill*. Please drop into the *Felix* office to collect your prize.





## Predictions count for nothing

Hmmm. Last time I make predictions. Some of you may remember that earlier this term I predicted that Manchester United would fail to win the treble. Ahem. I also predicted that Zimbabwe had absolutely no chance of getting out of the group stages of the Cricket World Cup. Oh dear.

First off, many congratulations to Manchester United on a tremendous season that will hopefully put English football firmly back on the map, and give the national team the impetus it needs to qualify for the European Championship finals. Watch out for Tottenham next season as they emulate Man U's achievements (Well I can hope can't I?). The second prediction that I made also failed miserably. Unfortunately it had far worse consequences for English cricket. By beating South Africa, Zimbabwe not only qualified for the second round with a maximum 4 points, and a good chance of making it to the semi-finals, but they also eliminated an England team who could not beat India at Edgbaston. What makes the whole thing much sadder was that this was the perfect chance for

England, at home, to put English cricket back on the map. But they failed, and I am afraid the blame can only be attributed to the fact that England does not produce cricketers of a high enough standard, somewhat perversely because they play too much cricket. English cricket must now look for new, stronger, classier players if they hope to try again in South Africa in 4 years.

The other sides in the world cup still give the tournament an exciting look, and now no team has an unbeaten record. India have the best batsmen in the tournament, South Africa the best bowlers and Pakistan the best all round team, plus the comedy that is Inzamam-ul-Haq's running between the wickets. I will push the boat out and say the semi-finalists will be Pakistan, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Australia, and Pakistan will win the cup.

**Closer to home**, Imperial's 1st XI ULU cup semi final was postponed last Wednesday and rescheduled for yesterday. The result was unknown as Felix went to press. If IC won, then the final will be on Wednesday. Full reports next week.

## Clayponds give Brabazon a beating

23 May saw Clayponds prepared to take on the might of Brabazon house in what promised to be a meeting of epic proportions. The advantage however was slightly with Clayponds since they were playing on home soil and had a squad of Manchester United proportions without any less skill (I sense bias here)

The game started briskly with Clayponds seeking to make their home advantage tell. This proved to be difficult against a solid Brabazon defence who held out for some time. Then the incessant attacking paid dividends as the defence paused momentarily and the ball was slipped to Kilroy who hammered it past the helpless keeper. Ten minutes passed and a beautiful ball found Brabazon's star striker Paraq who fired a shot which would have screamed into the top corner had it been a proper set of goalposts and not just MOT cones, expertly "borrowed" by Wilma. Fuzzy was then presented with a golden opportunity in front of goal but managed to slot it neatly passed the keeper. A further goal for Clayponds from Kilroy made it 2-2. With a minute of the half to go,

the ball got fed through as Kurt and Benny managed to tackle each other rather than Chris who was left to blast a shot past the keeper into the top corner of the goal; 3-2 at half time.

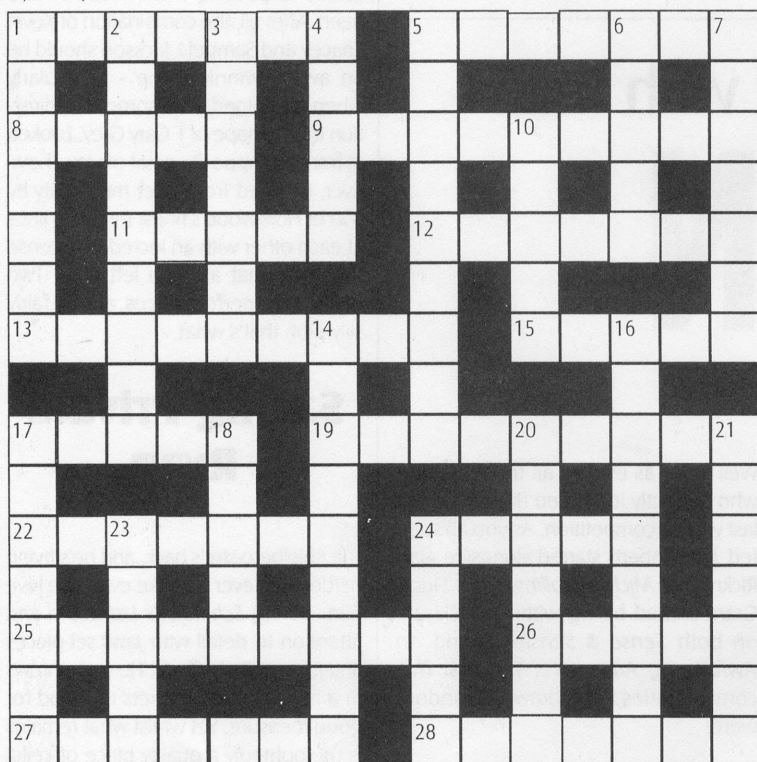
Brabazon showed their true colours in the second half. When they won a free kick on the edge of the area it was down to the midfield maestro Fuzzy to show what he could do. A solid defensive wall was in front of him, but with this man it didn't matter as with David Beckham-like precision, he drifted the ball over the wall past the keeper. However, Clayponds then began to show their dominance, scoring 3 more goals to make it 6-3 to Clayponds. Tony "I think I'm Pavarotti" scored the day's final goal. Final score 7-3.

The game was played in fantastic spirit in front of a capacity crowd (well almost). Despite the result the game was fairly close for most of the match and only Brabazon's lack of fit blokes let them down at the end. Afterwards Brabazon were treated to cheers and booze in Clayponds' communal garage - any chance of getting a village hall?

Last week's crossword was won by *Robert Chatley*. Please drop by the Felix Office to claim your prize.

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

by Sheep



Answers to 1147

**Across:** 1 Bigamously, 6 Wall, 10 Azimuth, 11 Agendum, 12 Notations, 13 Out-go, 14 Mardi, 15 Seduction, 17 Goddesses, 20 Laser, 21 Infer, 23 Iterative, 25 Endings, 26 Spiraea, 27 Sash, 28 Transgress.

**Down:** 1 Brain, 2 Glittered, 3 Mountaineering, 4 Unhooks, 5 Liaised, 7 Audit, 8 Lampooner, 9 Reconciliating, 14 Mugginess, 16 Instigate, 18 Scissor, 19 Stepson, 22 Fades, 24 Exams.

### Across

- 1 A hairy ceramic is productive. (7)
- 5 See Alps go past. (7)
- 8 Advertisements about Imperial have abundant free protons. (5)
- 9 *The union is in the middle, Of a confusing riddle, And someone has taken the piddle.* (7)
- 11 Trust George Michael to have it. (5)
- 12 A tercel young lady killed mother. (7)
- 13 Plants need drainage point. (9)
- 15 Capri's may hide and can split light. (5)
- 17 Wait! We are in five hundred and fifty twice. (5)
- 19 This spicy man should know about laws of motion. (9)
- 22 Soft leather is macho? (7)
- 24 Three steps in single file, followed by a kick can go badly wrong. (5)
- 25 In weights, to go French. That is they exhibit. (9)
- 26 An acoustic vibration is one. (5)
- 27 Rear a broken net. You are twice intermingled. (7)
- 28 Basic characteristic seen in excess encephalopathy. (7)

### Down

- 1 Mist engulfs mother, back in making froth. (5)
- 2 Harness ram to strengthen. (9)
- 3 Give enthusiasm in steeple. (7)
- 4 Soil planet (5)
- 5 Send yells forever. (9)
- 6 Crack fifty in saliva. (9)
- 7 Misread a small weapon. (9)
- 10 Tacky pile by the sea. (5)
- 14 Stolid donkey chases elf for I heard Beethoven's second. (9)
- 16 Copy a million mutations after one and a thousand and one. (9)
- 17 Dog. Cane has ten corners. (7)
- 18 Toilet with points at large. (5)
- 20 Sinning when you bat. (7)
- 21 Elute no solvent. (7)
- 23 Mishaped bra contains the French for more skill to do something. (5)
- 24 A sect or status. (5)

Entries for this week's crossword should be received by Wednesday 5pm.

**Felix**