

Issue 1195 Monday 22nd January 2001

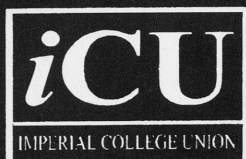
FELIX

Here's looking at you

On the rocks

Geology show lecturers the door

SOUTHSIDE REDEVELOPMENT OFF
IRAN: RESISTANCE IS FUTILE
CLINTON GOES ENVIRONMENTAL



Ents@ic.ac.uk

Tuesday 23rd

STA Bar Trivia - DaVinci's 8pm.

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Wednesday 24th

Cheesy Wotsits - ICU 8-1
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Thursday 25th

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STA TRAVEL

NEWS

Geology on the rocks

Fears over teaching quality as lecturers go to balance books

TOM ANDERSON

Last Tuesday lunchtime over 100 Geology students filled a lecture theatre in order to voice their concerns about the offer of early retirement to seven key academic staff and the resulting ramifications on the course and department. Speaking to them was first Stephanie Dawson (RSMU President), Emily Procter (Geology Dept Rep) and Eleanor Clifford (RSMU Vice President), and later Professor Beddington, head of the T.H. Huxley School, and other academic staff.

The seven staff were offered early retirement not only in an effort to cut costs but also to achieve a higher rating in an impending Research Assessment Exercise, which is critical to the amount of money that flows into the department. The exercise begins on the 1st of April, and not surprisingly the staff have to leave by 31st of March. A letter was sent to the seven lecturers at the end of last year with the leaking of the information to the student body soon after.

The students gathered voiced concerns regarding the course, especially with regard to the lack of continuity plans. The most concerning issue is that the staff involved are being coerced to leave by the 31st March 2001, particularly untimely, since it is in the middle of an academic year.

Students were unsure whether they would be able to get advice during the exam period or how exams would be adjudicated since the staff setting the exams and taking the courses may not be marking the papers.

There are several final year students with projects being supervised by one of the seven and these students have been particularly worried. Dr. Worthington, a former head of department for Geology (in pre-T.H. Huxley days), corrected Professor Beddington over his suggestion of new projects being initiated, to inform students that another supervisor would be found. An additional worry is the loss of fieldwork supervisors. The second year students have a seven-week mapping project during the Summer vacation and the reduction in staff will mean few possible areas will be covered.

It appears though that even if the lecturers do leave, students may still see some of them next term and next year. This is due to a 'buy back' scheme where the "retired" staff will return to teach for two days a week at greatly reduced salaries, a move which Professor Beddington admitted "was the oldest trick in the book." Apart from low student morale, staff also are being affected, with many unhappy about losing colleagues

and the resulting extra burden on their time. No replacements will be found for the seven and thus existing academic staff will have to be involved in teaching. Whether they want to or not, or, of greater concern to students, are capable seems to be of no importance.

T.H. Huxley School was formed during 1998 with the fusion of the departments of Geology and Earth Resource Engineering and the Centre for Environmental Technology. The two departments had over the years accumulated a deficit that was written off with the formation of the School, though since 1998, a £1.5 million loss has accumulated. Action to correct this has been forced by College's Management and Planning Group with the loss of academic staff (staff being the greatest expenditure of the College) in addition to the previous reductions in clerical and support staff and space saving measures.

Later in the day, Imperial College Union Council entered into a long debate about what was occurring in the School with one member describing the issue as "the most important paper in years." The debate was marked by concerns that this would happen to other loss-making departments, especially after the Medical School redundancies last year. It was questioned whether this would be a regular solution, as that a number of departments are in deficit.

Following this Council mandated its Sabbatical officers to explore all avenues to fight for the students

studying Geology to ensure their education is not damaged in any way.

The overall impression given to students is that their degrees are being jeopardised due to financial mismanagement, which is not in their control. The situation in Geology highlights discrepancies in the funding of universities by the Government. Essentially if a department receives a high grading in a Research Evaluation Assessment it receives a large financial reward. However the quality of teaching does not provide any extra financial rewards. Thus inactive research staff lower the grade of the research assessment which in turn affects the finances of the departments. Therefore "research inactive" lecturers, despite maybe being excellent teachers are the first to be sacrificed. This discrepancy highlights the situation in Universities across the country, where Government funding methods indisputably show that research has become a financial priority above undergraduate studies.

If you tolerate this then your department will be next



Felix 1195 Cover photograph: Jonas Lindsay

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Teaching cuts, beer research and Southside redevelopment cancelled again, plus news in brief

Need to know

The battle against Iran's hardliners

Editorial

Yours truly gets drunk, gets depressed and gets the attention of the Police. All in one night.

Pulse

Featuring depression and manic depression. Fun...

Science

Well, he's still got a cough, but our Science Editor is back to full capacity

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And in case you couldn't get any more miserable, Jon and Liz go scuba diving

Feedback

Correction, global warming and lots of rubbish letters that I'd usually throw out. Write to us!

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So much of it, I don't know where to start, really... Bout time too

Clubs + Socs

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Sports

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Cartoons

Introducing our new syndicated cartoon strip, User Friendly.



On the head

An Imperial researcher could soon have big news for the world's beer drinkers

RIK EDWARDS

The most important research to come out of Imperial since the pyramid teabag could be on its way if a Chemical Engineering PhD student's work is successful.

Neil Hepworth has received funding from Brewing Research International and the Biotechnology Research Council in order to look at the factors which determine how long it takes a pint of beer to settle. Beer can often appear cloudy when poured from a keg due to the formation of nitrogen microbubbles, a high proportion of which can be stable, meaning that the beer remains cloudy and unappealing. According to Mr Hepworth, the "gas liquid dispersion characteristics" are little understood, and his project involves "understanding why bubble haze is formed and predicting its presence or absence".

Pressurised gas is used to deliver some beers to the tap, and carbon dioxide was used in the past. However, for some ales, a CO₂ and

N₂ mixture is used.

Nitrogen is substantially less soluble than carbon dioxide, however, some still dissolves in the liquid, forming these microbubbles.

Mr Hepworth noted that the composition of the gas does not seem to affect the "haze duration" during which bubbles are formed. These appear to be determined by the liquid flow rate into the glass, and the use of a "sparkler", which is where the tap narrows in order to create more bubbles.

The work involves using a purpose-built laboratory scale beer tap, together with a synthetic beer which mimics the properties of commercially-available beer. Mr Hepworth is hoping to use this equipment to construct a comprehensive model of bubble haze, allowing its behav-



our to be predicted in "any given conditions".

The research is necessary because industry methods to determine the behaviour of bubbles are case-specific, due to the empirical nature of previous research. He added "I am trying to explain the phenomenon using the fundamental scientific principals behind it."

As Felix went to press, our own expert on beers was temporarily available for comment.

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Southside project off- again

Lack of money and worries over space forces freshers into crumbling halls for another year

WILLIAM FOSTER

Lack of money is unofficially being blamed for College's decision to keep the decrepit Southside Halls open for another year.

College House Committee, meeting last week, took the decision to put the proposed renovation back until "mid 2002", citing the possibility of a shortage of hall places if the building were to be closed in October as planned. With Willis Jackson Hall due to be closed as part of the rolling refurbishment in Evelyn Gardens, and Beit Hall due to reopen this Summer following its troubled refurbishment, there was a very real possibility that there would not be enough hall space next year to go round. The problem was only solved this year by keeping Willis Jackson open for another year and sharing the remaining first years between Wilson House in Notting Hill and Clayponds Village, Ealing (Felix 1182).

However, senior College sources privately admitted that the decision was also heavily influenced by lack of money for the project. The redevelopment's price, estimated as "tens of millions" is heavily increased by the fact that Southside is a grade 2 listed building, and any development would have to fit in with surrounding buildings. This ruled out complete demolition, as the College

would only get permission for a four-storey building in future, seriously limiting the number of rooms.

Union sources described the decision as "unfortunate but necessary", with President Hamish Common adding that College "had no



Southside Hall: Still fit for human habitation

other choice due to their financial situation". Stef Evans, Deputy President (Education & Welfare) agreed that Southside "does need extensive renovation, but they can't risk losing bedspaces."

The decision to refurbish Southside was first announced in January 2000 to start last October, at which time the hall was described by the then Deputy President Ian Clifford as "past its life

span." However, the development was put back to this October to allow "a greater planning time". College at the time denied rumours that that decision was down to a lack of funds.

Southside residents described as "nasty" and "falling apart" when contacted by Felix. College are rumoured to be having health and safety issues with some of the kitchens, and next year's residents are likely to be hoping that they are the last before the project. A substantial amount of maintenance work and network wiring has been delayed over the past year as the hall was due to close.

College Catering are also believed to be hoping to refurbish Southside Bar as a separate project from the refurbishment, although whether this will be allowed to go ahead depends on the position of the Bar in the new Southside, and whether it will be able to remain open during the main project..

College's long-term strategy is to sell off Garden Hall and all of Northside (excluding Weeks Hall). Past and present residents of Garden and the Union have expressed concerns that residences are being pushed by the Conference Office to concentrate on providing high-quality single rooms with en-suite bathrooms, while students looking for more affordable double rooms will be pushed further afield by the sales of Garden and Montpelier Halls.

In brief

STRATEGIC MOVE

Dr Christopher Towler has been named as College's new Director of Strategy Development, and will work directly under the Rector in controlling strategy in certain areas. Dr Towler is a graduate in Biochemistry at Aberdeen University, and until recently held a senior post in strategy co-ordination at Glaxo Wellcome.

on schedule in May, the plans to construct a new porch on the same side of the building on the scale of the other three porches have been set back. It comes after English Heritage were critical of samples supplied by the French manufacturers. English Heritage are anxious to avoid a repeat of the British Museum fiasco, where the stone used failed to match the Portland stone of the surrounding building.

are carrying out work on behalf of the Teacher Training Agency and the DfEE to investigate attitudes towards teaching as a career.

DOMES TROUBLE, PART 9,000

The £125m Legacy bid to turn the Millennium Dome into a business park appears to be in trouble after it accused the Government of not sticking by its original agreement. Imperial offers "intellectual support" to the bid, which has faced trouble under pressure from the media, particularly after it was revealed that Robert Bourne, the leader of the bid, donated £33,000 to the Labour Party shortly before Legacy were awarded "preferred bidder status".

HALL HELD UP BY STONES

The Albert Hall's South Porch redevelopment has been delayed by a year due to concerns over finding the right type of stone. Although the South Steps, which connect the hall to Prince Consort Road, are expected to reopen

MARK-IT

Students who are approached over the next few weeks by people claiming to be market researchers outside the Sherfield Dining Hall are advised not to contact Security- they have permission to be there. The researchers





NEED TO KNOW

Shock over Iranian prison sentences

MARIAM GHORBANNEJAD

On Saturday 13th of January, harsh sentences were handed out to seven prominent journalists and intellectuals in Iran. The ruling is a major set-back for the Iranian reformist movement and the liberal President, Mohammad Khatami. He is now reconsidering a decision he announced back in the summer to stand for re-election in the forthcoming June elections.

These pro-reformists, leading supporters of Khatami, travelled from Tehran to participate in the Berlin Conference last April, which was sponsored by a foundation connected with the German Green party. It was viewed as a chance to gauge the political and social situation in Iran; to discover whether there had been any significant changes since last February's general elections, which had seen wide-scale victory for Iranian reformists.

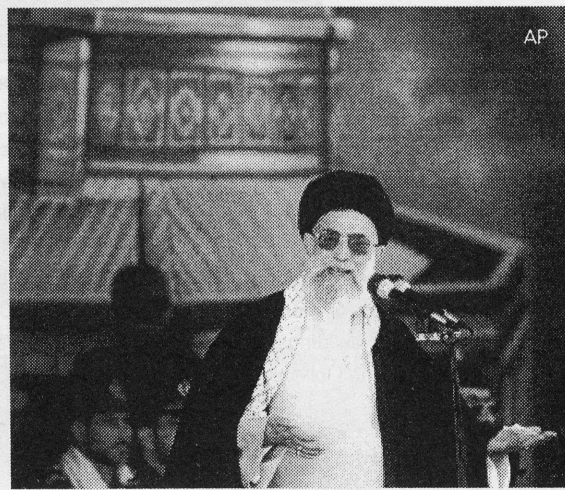
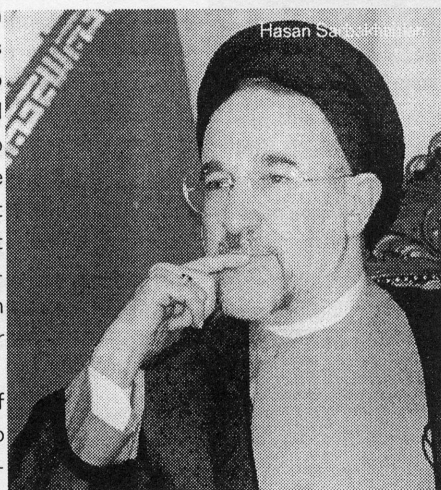
However a group of Iranian exiles, believed to be from a radical communist faction, interrupted the proceedings. They were allowed time to give their opinion but persisted in making a noise and causing general disruption, which led to the conference being broken up.

Two days later, Iranian state television broadcast the hecklers' speeches, which attacked the Islamic system. This caused outrage with more than 140 members of the Iranian parliament labelling the conference as 'counter-revolutionary' and insulting to the Iranian nation. They called on the Iranian judiciary to punish the Iranians who had attended the conference in Berlin. Right-wing newspapers were quick to add their own condemnation, saying they had committed treason by consorting with the enemies of the regime. Reformists too were angered by the broadcast, claiming the conservative run

state television were trying to create conditions making it impossible for the new parliament to do its work.

Campaigning journalist, Akbar Ganji, received the most severe sentence; 10 years imprisonment followed by five years internal exile at Bashargad, a remote desert area. During the course of his investigation, he uncovered high-level involvement in the murders of dissident Iranian intellectuals, going so far as to name some of the alleged culprits in court. So he had many powerful enemies in Iran. A similar sentence was dealt to Saeed Sadr, a translator at the German embassy in Tehran on charges of 'moharebeh'

treatment by the judiciary was wholly factional and politically motivated.' Germany's reaction was one of deep concern and the Iranian ambassador to Berlin was summoned to the German Foreign Ministry, a day after the sentences had been announced. Meanwhile Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hamid-Reza Asefi, disagreed. He said, 'any link between this trial of Iranian citizens and relations between Iran and Germany is unacceptable and unreasonable'. Some reports though are speculating that Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's planned visit to Tehran in the spring has been called off. The court's ruling may damage bilateral



President Khatami, left, and right, Ayatollah Khamenei

(making war against the Islamic system). Fellow translator, Khalil Rostamkhani, was given nine years, eight of which were on charges of 'moharebeh'. Also receiving a lengthy prison term was Ali Afshari, leader of the biggest student organization in Iran (the Unity Consolidation Bureau) who got five years. Just six of the seventeen people tried were acquitted, while those convicted have 20 days to appeal.

The prison sentences were much worse than expected and have put the internal division present in Iran in the spotlight again. Deputy speaker of parliament, Mohammad Reza Khatami (brother of President Mohammad Khatami) commented, 'Those people... did not commit a crime, and their

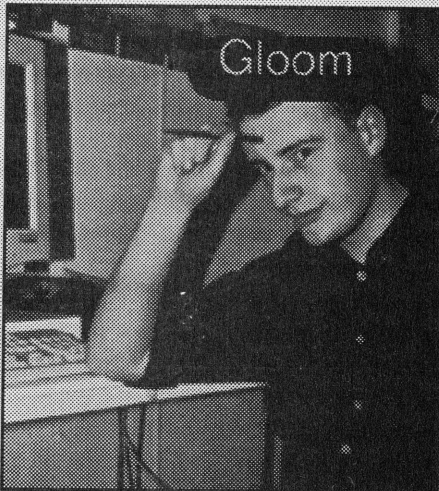
relations between Germany and Iran as well as compounding Iran's international isolation. Moderate President Mohammad Khatami had been trying to loosen the strict Islamic laws and social restrictions which have been imposed since

the Islamic revolution of 1979 which saw the Shiite clergy come to power. Although press freedom has been improved, some newspapers expressing opposition to hardliners have been shut down by conservative clerics. But the restrictive press law remains unchanged. The difficulty the President faces in his attempts to reform the country is that although the reformists hold a majority in the Iranian Parliament, the Supreme Leader Mohammad Khamenei has the power to veto any laws being passed. He is a conservative cleric who has already managed to minimize many hoped-for changes. It is feared that Khatami may not have the power to make his idea of a new, liberal Iran a reality.

Why do anything when you can forget everything?

As anyone who's come into contact with me today may have guessed, I'm unhappy. It's not that one thing is just hanging over me, like Felix failing to arrive, or the thought of going to Council tonight and talking to a large group of people. Or the thought of having a fairly huge overdraft with the promise of being absolutely flat broke for another eight days. Or the weather for that matter. It's just everything about this time of year is fundamentally unpleasant; and there's still ages to go until Easter...

Of course, it didn't help that last week's issue had, um, issues. Told the whole of College that it would arrive on Tuesday only for it to arrive on Wednesday. Lunchtime. Mope. Anyway, it's now 3am Thursday morning, and I've curled up in front of the computer with a huge bottle of vodka. As I can't face finishing the issue sober, I thought I'd see what happens if I drink large amounts first. Not helping so far. I think David Allman's article in Pulse is a little appropriate, as I'm sure I'm not the only person sitting under a huge black cloud at the minute (although I don't think I'm at the clinical phase just yet). It's just not a good time of year. I've also decided, after



hearing a few stories which were a little, um, depressing, we're going to have quite a few stories on mental health. Pulse contains a story by a pretty brave guy I've met - and I know I've met quite a few people like him. I think I used to go out with two as well. And it's not just depression and manic depression, there's a lot more disorders which are surprisingly common among our age group. They're not people locked up in some Victorian asylum or wondering up and down the walkway yelling at passers-by. They're ordinary people like you or me who have a problem or two. If you've got a cold, you'd have no problem going to see a doctor about it. So why the huge stigma about admitting you're depressed. It's not a sign of weakness, it's nothing to be ashamed of, it can be treated.

Pep talk aside, with the elections coming up, it's about now that you'll have to decide if you want to become an Imperial College Union sabbatical. Think of the perks: salary (in a manner of speaking), the opportunity to do lots of good for your fellow students (and to be genuinely hated for a mistake you couldn't do anything about). So, as every editor has said at this time of year, could you do my job? Qualifications: moody communist insomniac with lots of opinions, basic computer skills and aversion to your course and organised religion. You up for that? No, thought not - you'd have to be mildly insane or pretty naive to want to be me.

So, anyone out there aspiring to be the new Hamish, Stef, Sam, Etienne, Lorne, or, God help you, John? Well, today's the day to decide. Good luck to all of you, and I look

forward to interviewing you in a fortnight.

Just as a little ps to my ramblings, I just received proof that my world's gone insane. Just headed down to Lords to get some food at 4:30am and was struck by the number of Police vans about. I knew putting my hood up was a mistake, but it was incredibly cold. Promptly got stopped

on the way past Brompton Oratory, let go again, then stopped again. Apparently someone of my description just committed a robbery. That is, white male, 5-10, black jacket and blue jeans. It was the line "Can you put your hands against the side of the vehicle that had me a little stunned. And as my explanation for being out this time of night (I'm the Editor of the student newspaper, I'm cold, tired and hungry, and I don't finish till nine") was unusual, I was searched very thoroughly by a PC Wright with very cold hands. The strange thing was, he searched through all my pockets and ran a PNC check, leading to a few heart-stopping seconds before they radioed back (2 possibilities, no definites) before letting me go and following me for a while. And yet they didn't even look in my shopping...

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Winter blues

DAVID ALLMAN

It's winter and the weather is cold and wet. Christmas and New Year are over, and there's a lot of work to do in this long spring term. It's natural to sometimes feel downhearted under these circumstances. And it's understandable not to want to get out of bed some mornings! (Recognise yourself here?) Most people feel like this from time to time. However, if you've been feeling miserable for several weeks, if you don't seem to be able to enjoy anything and have lost interest in your course and your social life, and if this feeling doesn't seem to be shifting, it's possible that you might be depressed. Depression is common within the student population, as it is within the population in general. And it's possible - and important - to do something about it.

Some more questions. Are you eating much less or much more than usual? Do you feel tired for much of the time? Are you having difficulty getting off to sleep, or do you wake up several times during the night, or unusually early, feeling tired and worrying? Are you having difficulty concentrating in lectures, or when you're studying? Are you wanting to avoid contact with your friends? Are you feeling particularly critical of yourself? Is it a struggle to actually think, to work out what you have to do, or to make decisions?

If you're experiencing some of these difficulties, it's important to talk to someone about it: depression can be a downward spiral involving - for some - feeling that it's not worth carrying on with the course, or indeed (for a small proportion of people) with your life. Sometimes depressed people feel suicidal, and sometimes depressed people kill themselves. Clearly, it's vital to interrupt this pattern. Although the last thing you might want to do is to talk to someone about how you're feeling, it's important that you do. You might be imagining that you're the only person in the world feeling like this, and not coping, but there are certainly other students around who will be feeling the same way, yet

not wanting to let anyone know about it. College might not seem to be a place where it feels OK to admit to not coping.

It's useful to consider the broader context in order to understand some people's experience of depression. Life for some students has become significantly more stressful over the past few years; you might have to work to support yourself through College and the cost of accommodation is high. Hence this is the context within which you have to navigate the demanding workload. You might be feeling disappointed that your experience at College isn't turning out to be what you had hoped for and expected. You might also be feeling homesick; perhaps you're a long way from home which might be in a different country. If you're a mature student you might have to juggle the responsibilities of childcare and domestic tasks along with perhaps the academic challenge of returning to education after a period in employment. If you're slipping behind with course work and missing an increasing number of lectures, it's important to acknowledge this. Don't bury your head in the sand. Talk to your personal tutor, senior tutor, postgraduate tutor, or someone else you feel you can approach in your department. If you have slipped a long way behind, talk to someone anyway so that you can work out a course of action to attend to your situation.

Who else can you contact if you're feeling low? You could contact one of the College student counsellors, or a practice nurse or doctor in the Health Centre.

The College Counsellors are David Allman, Sarah Cooke and Vicky Jessup. David and Sarah are based on the South Kensington campus. To arrange an appointment, they can be contacted as follows:

David - 15 Prince's Gardens, telephone 020 7594 9430 (internal extension 49430), e-mail d.allman@ic.ac.uk - Monday to Friday.

Sarah - Room G30, Royal School of Mines,

Contacts

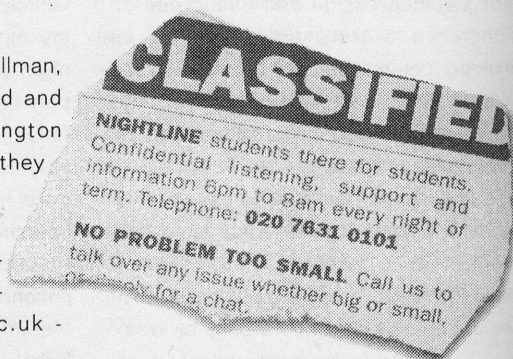
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Martin Thomson, Union Advisor 020 7594 8067 m.m.thomson@ic.ac.uk	Loretto O'Callaghan, IC Disabilities Officer 020 7594 8935
Nightline, Confidential listening and information service, 6pm to 8am during term time 020 7631 0101	National AIDS Helpline 0800 567 123
IC Health Centre 020 7584 6301	London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard 020 7837 7324

telephone 020 7594 9419 (internal extension 49419), e-mail sarah.cooke@ic.ac.uk - Mondays and Wednesdays all day, and Thursday mornings.

Vicky is based at Imperial College at Wye, telephone 020 7594 2715 (internal extension 42715), e-mail v.jessup@ic.ac.uk - Tuesdays and Thursdays.

There are also counsellors and psychotherapists in the Health Centre who can be consulted after referral via a doctor or practice nurse.

Nightline - the confidential listening and information service - is available 6pm to 8am during term time, telephone 020 7631 0101. You can now contact Nightline via e-mail as well as via the telephone on listening@london-nightline.org.uk.



Why me? Manic Depression

Losing my mind

You may not know how common it is, or how many people our age suffer from it, but Bipolar Disorder is damn serious and can take over every minute of your life, wreck your degree, friendships, relationships, and even kill you. I'm telling you my story in the hope some of you are going to recognise it and get help before it's too late.

I can't really say when it started, but I'd go for sometime around the age of 14. I was bright at school, and I suppose I still am, so I hardly noticed when I got "high". I'd just gradually get more and more energy and slowly work myself into a frenzy. It was usually during homework, or while doing some kind of exercise. I'd just fling myself into work and rush through it all like I was king of the world. Sometimes it was useful, but being that hyper meant I was prone to making some incredibly stupid mistakes. Running was a pretty good way of getting rid of all that surplus energy, but I also had a tendency to make stupid mistakes- not noticing loose paving stones and cars until the last possible moment- I'm pretty surprised I rarely got hurt.

I said bipolar, but I didn't call it that for years. Of course it had a downside, and it was deep down, and it was fast. I'd just be slowing from a high, when I'd think about something bad, and get hooked on it. It could be something I'd said, done, or even a shoelace undone (I'm not kidding). Suddenly this wave would just come over me, and just take over all my thoughts. It's pretty difficult to explain a serious depression to someone who hasn't had one, but you can't "pull yourself out of it", it's like quicksand. It takes you over; you suddenly feel the world's going to end, listen to depressing music, stay in your room with the curtains drawn- you're just paralysed by this horrible black wave. I didn't get suicidal, but I was always terrified I would, because I knew there was very little I could do about it. I went on like this until I got to university. It was one of those things I took for granted, like having a headache or something. Nothing I could do, just lie down, go for a walk and stay away from people until it passed. Long periods of time would pass without any-

thing happening, and I would assume it had gone away. I was always wrong. I just kept two tapes in my bag; "Happy album" and "Sad songs" and wallowed in a mood when necessary.

It was only when I got to university that things got more interesting. I had what's known as "mixed manias". Think of it this way; you've got two dials "mood" and "mood energy". You can have high mood and high energy (a high), low mood and low energy (depressed), low energy (mood ceases to exist- you get withdrawn, this is one mixed mania) and high energy and low mood. This is probably the most dangerous one and you can start doing and saying absolutely crazy things. With me I discovered a fondness for hurting myself. I'd either start punching or flinging myself at solid objects or people in clubs, or sit at home and dig sharp objects into my arm. It was only by cutting that I could really calm myself down and get some sleep, and I spent an eternity washing blood out of my sheets!

By the second year my mood swings were so frequent I was having serious trouble going about my daily life. I'd get obsessed with some idea- going running, going to the pub, cleaning out the fridge- but by the time I got ready to go I'd just suddenly crash again, and just sit in my room and cry. I don't even want to think about how my College work went down the pan.

I only really realised I needed help when I went out with some friends and had a serious attack of the crazies. Fuelled by (some) alcohol, I was alternating between crying, withdrawn, enthusiastic and headbutting walls every five minutes. It didn't help that it was exam time- God knows how I passed. Soon after the exams I went to see a psychiatrist at the Health Centre. I couldn't believe I was seeing a psychiatrist, but given what I'd been through in the past months I stopped caring. He told me to read a book called *An Unquiet Mind* by Kay Redfield Jamison. Although the timescales vary (they can be anything from 4 mood swings per year to four per day), it was just like a page out of my life. So there it was, in black and white; "Bipolar Affective Disorder type II with ultra-rapid cycling". He put me on a mood stabiliser, which made me really tired at

first, meant I couldn't drink and made me embarrassingly clumsy for a few weeks. I was on the verge of giving up when I first felt what should have been a horrible wave of depression on holiday, but somehow it was more gentle. After a few months of upping the dose I was still getting depressed, and eventually they put me on an antidepressant, which seems to be kicking in now. I still have to go for therapy every week, which is a bit embarrassing, but it's nice to be able to sound off about my stresses once a week.

Here's the facts; about 1% of the population are believed to suffer from manic depression (or bipolar disorder as doctors call it). It mostly affects the most talented and intelligent people, and has done throughout history. For example, I was at a Van Gogh exhibition recently, and it was fascinating to see his moods. We had his painting "manias" where he'd churn out a dozen bright yellow pictures in a month, and his depressions, where he'd produce one sad, brown and red introspective self portrait in a year. The tragedy is, it's relatively easy to treat- there was no need for his life to be destroyed by his bleak moods, self-harm and eventual death if he'd been alive today.

I think you could argue that I haven't been exactly *compos* for about the last four years. All I can remember about a lot of things that happened in my life involve loads of time spent going up and down all the time- I think I wrecked a lot of my teens because of it. I can't help but wonder what my life would be like if I'd got help years ago. I'm pretty certain of one thing though, if I hadn't got help when I did, I wouldn't be around to write this.

I'll leave you with this thought. If 1% of the country have this, that means 100 people are thinking very deeply right now. It's probably even more, because Imperial students are more intelligent and creative, so more prone to it. But you don't have to go through all this any more. You can get your life back.

Ed's note: All articles in this series are anonymous, but you can contact the author through Felix. If you wish to contribute contact me- all enquires will be treated in the strictest confidence. More information on psychiatric disorders can be found at www.mind.org

Tremor Terror No More

Earthquakes kill thousands every year and we continue onward from the devastation remorseful at the loss of life but maintain a sense that such things are out of our control. Certainly when my house fell to pieces during the Northridge California earthquake of 1994 I came away from the experience with a feeling of resigned acceptance. After all, we can't predict this wrath of god sort of stuff... can we? Well, physics researchers at Moscow State University are proposing that earthquakes do not have to be unpredictable any longer.

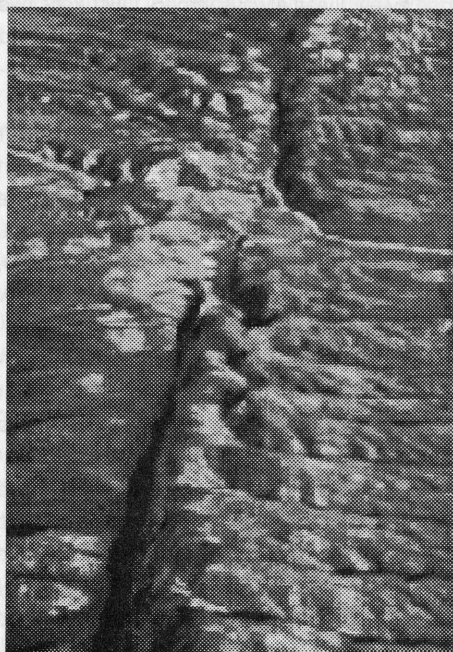
In the 19th century an astronomer named Domenic Arago identified the polarization of solar light reflecting off the surface of several planets in our solar system. An interesting find to be sure, but particularly fascinating was the discovery by scientists in Moscow that the polarization of solar light reflecting off our very own planet can tell us about the geo-electric field generated by the earth's plastic interior.



House Destroyed in 1994
Northridge, California
Earthquake.

The field fluctuates as movement within the planet occurs, particularly in areas where earthquakes are imminent, and scientists in Moscow believed further analysis of the geo-electric field would eventually allow earthquake prediction. The theory behind the

detection was rather simple. Some time before a quake occurs, redistribution of pressure takes place just below the Earth's crust. As a result, in the area where redistribution is happening surplus charges appear and the geo-electric field shifts.



The San Andreas Fault

Physics researchers started by suggesting that to predict earthquakes it was enough to place a number of monitors in quake prone areas which detect changes in the Earth's geo-electric field. In theory this would work, but

unfortunately it is technically difficult and costly. However, measuring changes in the geo-electric field can be done by measuring changes in the polarization of the solar light reflected from the surface of the Earth. The polarization always changes in the areas where intensity of the electric field increases. So, if you can monitor the changing polarization of the light reflected from different parts of the Earth and find the locations where it is shifting rapidly you can predict earthquakes.

Dense Stuff

Smashing gold atoms together and looking at the results is the activity which the scientists at the Brookhaven Heavy Ion Collider have been involved in lately. And the results? The creation of the highest density matter ever

made by man. Densities more than 2 times higher than those previously produced and temperatures of over 1 trillion degrees created as the gold atoms were blasted together.

Scientists believe that dense matter like that being formed in the collider existed a few millionths of a second after the Big Bang and are thus useful

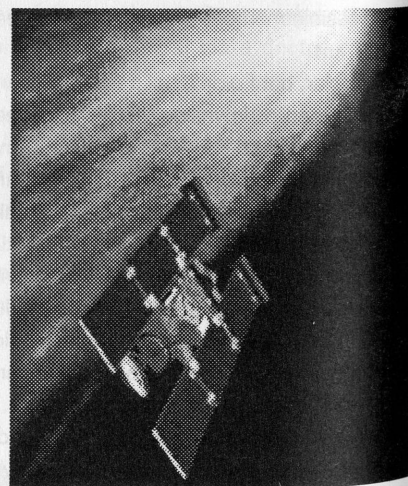
in developing an understanding of our universe's formation. They are also hopeful that the violent collisions will break protons and neutrons into their subcomponents, quarks and gluons, further revealing the mysterious internal structure of nuclei.

In Search of Stardust

Last Monday, soaring 3,700 miles above the southeastern coast of Africa, NASA's Stardust spacecraft took its closest flyby of Earth. The spacecraft "did it just near perfectly" said Stardust project manager Tom Duxbury,

"we're on our way past the moon right now."

If all goes well Stardust will round the sun again and reach comet Wild-2 in January of



2004. The spacecraft has the unusual mission of collecting comet dust. While seemingly unimportant, this dust is thought to be about 4.5 billion years old and its collection could tell scientists much about the early solar system. "We're going forward in space exploration to go backward in time" Duxbury said. Stardust's task is essentially to verify the theories that comets are thought to have brought most of

the water and chemical building blocks to the Earth.

Clinton's Eleventh Hour

Clinton's final days have come to a close, but they were hardly days that he spent twiddling his thumbs. In the period of the presidency termed "the eleventh hour" Clinton, much to the chagrin of his conservative rivals, blasted into environmental action. In his final week of office he created six new national monuments. While technically not the most heavily protected lands in the USA (national parks), national monuments are heavily covered by environmental safeguards and perhaps most importantly can be created through the simple process of presidential decree. It is for this reason that more than 1 million acres of federal land in the west has suddenly been thrown off limits to industry and developers.



These national monuments are only the final moves in a series of eleventh hour environmental decisions which Clinton has been making. He has created the U.S. Virgin Island Coral Reef National Monument, which includes more than 12,000 acres of submerged lands within a three-mile belt off St. John, including Hurricane Hole and areas north and south of St. John. The area contains all the elements of a Caribbean tropical marine ecosystem. Protected the Upper Missouri River Breaks, 377,000 acres along 149 miles of the river in north-central Montana, the only major portion of the Missouri River to be preserved in its natural, free-flowing state. It also is the premiere segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. And shielded nearly 67 million

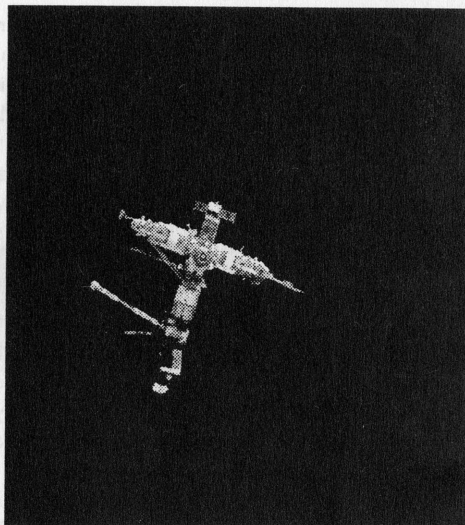
acres of forest from industry and development.

Republicans are very upset over what they consider an outright abuse of the executive office (my heart is breaking). However, Bush has remained silent. The only commentary from his camp on these issues has come from his spokesman Scott McClellan, "We are reviewing all eleventh-hour executive orders, rules and regulations and will make decisions after President-elect Bush is sworn into office. The president-elect believes in a balanced approach to our environment that is based on working closely with states and local communities."

A Mir six weeks

The Russian Government has set a date of March 6th for the destruction of the veteran Mir space station. It follows an eventful fifteen years, including a variety of fires, crashes and computer failures, and most recently all contact with the station was lost on Christmas Day. In recent years the Russians have come under increasing pressure from Nasa to scuttle the craft and concentrate their thin resources on the International Space Station, Alpha.

An unmanned supply ship is due to dock with the station today in order to refuel it, although Moscow are believed to have an emergency crew standing by in case the



automatic docking does not go as planned. In March, the station's thrusters will be fired in order to take it down into the thicker atmosphere, where it is expected to break up. Most of the pieces should burn up in the atmosphere, with the larger ones expected to splash down in the Pacific Ocean.

However, there are few guarantees that the operation will go as planned. Russian scientists say that they are confident it will go ahead without any faults, but the only comparable operation in Space history is the deorbiting of Skylab in the 1970s, which resulted in an exhilarating few hours for much of the Southern Hemisphere, before the Station finally hit part of the Australian outback. With the Christmas Day incident fresh in their minds, few people are dismissing the possibility that Mir has one or two surprises left for the world.



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Breathe deeply

Felix's travel writers recently left the bright lights of Hong Kong for the blue seas of the Philippines. Jon Enoch goes under.



We had arrived in the Philippines from Hong Kong knowing little about the 7000 or so islands that make up the archipelago. Having spent a few days in Manila, we headed for the closest beach in our inevitable culture vulture style, and thus arrived in Puerto Galera. We were amazed at how many clothes and shoe shops managed to survive in Hong Kong, but on arrival in Puerto Galera, it was the endless array of dive shops that beggared belief. For this many to make-ends-meet there had to be something to this scuba lark and lurking beneath those crystal waters there must have been some sights worth my scrutiny.

I eventually selected an instructor and dive shop for my open water course. I'm sure my

mother would have wanted me to rake up the past of every instructor, searching for long forgotten misdemeanours but at the end of the day, when it came to it, I trusted my gut instinct. I figured that if I was going to pay someone to watch me drown, I might as well like them!

The practical elements of scuba diving are taught to you during five confined water sessions that sometimes take place in a swimming pool, but in my case in the sea, where you are taught skills you would need in the unlikely event that anything went wrong.

Within minutes of starting my training, I found myself sitting on the sea floor, nervous as hell, trying to follow the skills my dive

“ If I was going to pay someone to watch me drown, I may as well like them ”

instructor Darren was demonstrating. The first breaths you take under water are quite

“ awesome and even though I

was just looking at my feet it was an experience I shall long remember.

In addition to the confined water lessons, I also had to complete four real dives during which you repeat the skills you have already learnt. The first dive was to a depth of



Jon Enoch and Liz Wigg

water, the surface within easy reach. The prospect of this reassuring comfort being taken away was worrying. I imagined all that could go wrong and played out endless disaster scenarios in my head.

My instructor and I did the classic backward roll off the dive boat into the crystal-clear South China Sea, and one more childhood ambition was completed. The previous nights worries were soon forgotten as we descended to the sea floor. All around me the coral reef teemed with life. Fish of fantastic colours swam next to me oblivious of my presence and as we drifted along on the current, I discovered a completely new breath-taking world. The Philippines has some of the best marine coral in Asia and I felt privileged to witness it. I saw things I had never imagined existed. I floated over blue coral shaped like vases and

“ the half an hour dive vanished in a seeming instant ”

twelve metres and the night before I spent the whole evening looking at our rented beach hut trying to figure out in my head how tall it was and thus how far down I was going to be! Until now all the practice sessions I had done had taken place in relatively shallow

swam over hundreds of sea worms that poked their heads up from the sea floor snapping their hungry mouths at passing objects. There was no time to worry about potential problems, as my mind was far too busy taking in what it saw.

The time flew by and the half an hour dive vanished in a seeming instant. As we ascended and broke the surface, I was already bursting to tell Liz all that I had seen.

Liz had decided not to learn to dive and boy did I let her know what she had missed!

After three more dives had been completed, I was handed my diving licence. The licence entitles me to dive anywhere in the world and lasts for life. The completion of my dive course signalled the end of our stay in Porto Galera. Constant packing and unpacking and days spent on buses gets warring, it was great to have stayed put in one place longer than a few days but with time flashing by we will have to make some tracks if we are to see a fraction of what this diverse country has to offer.



Coming up for air

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Sachs**

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Cultural Show
& After-Show Party

1st February 2001



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OSC Members: £12

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Venue: Sherfield Building

Tickets Available From Union Front Desk

Feedback

All complaints should be addressed to the Editor. If no satisfactory reply is received, contact ICU Exec via the Union President

OI, CINEMA, NO!

Dear Felix,

Just a quick correction on the cinema theft (Felix News, 17th Jan) - at the moment it looks as though the money that was in cinema's stolen safe will be covered by our insurance (though this has not yet been confirmed).

However, if the insurance policy hadn't covered thefts of money then the Union would not have refunded the loss - this is because the money should have been put in the bank the morning after the all-nighter, but was instead left in the safe over the entire Christmas vacation. This is a serious breach of financial procedures and is being dealt with accordingly.

Can I therefore take this opportunity to remind everyone who handles club & society money (whether it be membership subscriptions or other sorts of income) that all cash should be deposited in the bank as soon as

possible - the income form for the Finance Office can follow along later, but to save yourself the embarrassment of having all your club's membership subscriptions stolen (naming no names...) just get the cash out of your sock drawer and into the NatWest bank.

Thank you!

Etienne pollard

Deputy President
(Finance & Services)
Imperial College Union

Thanks, looks like I'd better bank that £12,000 I've got stashed away- Ed

DELUGE & SLIDING MUD

Dear Felix,

I would like to counter M. Ali Choudry's characterisation of climate change ("Praise be to Global Warming?", Felix 1192) as a problem not worth getting worked up over. In this he parts company with even BP and Shell, who now support carbon-reduction efforts. Though Mr. Choudry plays up uncertainties over whether or not warming has occurred in the past century, the important question is whether warming will occur in the next. Most evidence in fact suggests that warming should not yet be detectable, but will accelerate in the coming decades.

Mr. Choudry also contends that warming predictions have been declining with better models, implying that doubtless the problem will all go away when we know more. Unfortunately, warming is only one aspect -- for example, some models show less warming yet predict greater effects on another dimension such as rainfall, which might be equally catastrophic.

Most worrying, however, is Mr. Choudry's perverse equating of the positive effects of clubbing in Torquay with the negative effects of mass famine and flooding in Bangladesh. His rosy economic picture of lower housing and clothing bills also fails to include the costs of malaria, cholera, and tropical crop pests spreading through Europe, increases in severe storms (which caused 250 billion pounds of damage over the past decade), and heat waves and water shortages.

Finally, limiting carbon emissions need not damage the economy. A U.S. Dept. of Energy study showed that simply encouraging greater energy efficiency could cut emissions by a third while also saving billions on energy expenses. The Economist agrees that action must be taken now as the cost will only increase later. And if

the bill is put off until later, guess who will be paying it? That's plenty enough reason for today's students to be concerned about climate change now.

Theodore Hong
Computing

CAN SOMEONE WRITE SOME
DECENT LETTERS?

Dear Felix,

Thanks very much to last week's correspondent who suggested the revolutionary idea of a revolving restaurant on top of the Queen's Tower. Here in the Estates division we are always on the lookout for new and original ideas for how to improve the College environment. In fact, I am pleased to announce that the development will now go ahead, after College secured a donation from Damien Hirst, the well known restaurateur, who is looking to open up another franchise of his "Pharmacy" restaurant. The College architects, Foster and Partners, assure us that the scheme is viable, and have insisted that there is no need to call in a structural engineer to check.

The restaurant, due for completion in 2010, will also house Basics during the Southside redevelopment. However, the architects have asked us to ensure that all queues for food in the area of development are formed in circles from now onwards, and that no swaying motions are allowed to occur.

Regards
Ian Cauldwell, Possibly

I MEAN, SERIOUSLY, THERE'S
10,000 OF YOU, I PREFER TO
CHUCK THESE OUT

Dear Felix,

Please remind your students of the variety of courses now available for free in the Humanities Department. Following the success of "English for scientists" and "Mathematics for medics", we are now pleased to announce the launch of "Sense of humour for Union hacks" and "Staying happy for Felix Editors".

Keep 'em peeled for next term's courses, "Accounting for Department heads" and "Writing your columns on time for sabbaticals".

Bueno asthente

Jane Bradfield, Humanities

I DON'T CARE IF YOU WANT MY
HEAD ON A PLATE, JUST SEND
SOMETHING!!

Dear Mr John Clifford,

I saw your picture on your page a few months ago and I have really wanted to talk to you ever since. I think you talk a lot of sense and I really like reading your editorials and your news stories. I am sorry to hear that you don't get to sleep much, and I would like to do your job for a night so you can go and sleep. Or if you are having problems sleeping I would sing you to sleep. I have decorated my room with lots of pictures of you. I wish I was that pen. You have a nice smile I bet you are dead clever. I sometimes see you passing with a trolley on a Monday and I noticed you like to buy spring rolls around 3am on Thursday. Dr Lamb tells me I am bad to watch you, but I really really really want to talk to you. Please call me, and please don't run away when I talk to you. It makes me sad.

I'm your biggest fan.

Eric Shepherd

The deadline for letters intended for publication is Wednesday 12 noon - drop into the office or email felix@ic.ac.uk. Letters may be edited for length but not grammar or spelling.

NOW LOOK 'ERE!

SUMMA WALKER

Firstly, I have two words to say to post graduates complaining about being financially impoverished - ah diddums. As undergraduates you had grants, didn't pay tuition fees and didn't graduate with an average of £10,000 debt. Yes, there are halls of residence for you, and you aren't forced to pay private sector London rents for two or three years if you couldn't get one of about twenty re-applicant positions. I am aware that not all PG courses are funded, but you are supposedly older and wiser than us. So then why did you chose to come to imperial fucking college. I wouldn't.

Secondly (and this is why I dislike post-graduates) my course syllabus lied. It claimed we have a variety of courses AND have options in the third and fourth year. Actually, what happens is that as we are a small year group (now numbering eleven), and the RSM (TH Huxley School) has sacked or is in the process of sacking most of its quality teaching staff we simply follow a group of MSc students around the building. Our 'varied' courses included the same chemistry course for the third year in a row because the MSc students haven't

TOWN V COUNTRY?

IAIN ANGUS

Animal rights people seem to be one of the few groups of people that I can honestly say that I have nothing in common with whatsoever. I seem to be in the extreme minority around here but I'm from a small village in the Yorkshire countryside, enjoy such hobbies as fishing and shooting and I feel obliged to stand up for the rights of the people that these city dwelling activists target.

(I don't know how the vote in parliament on fox hunting has gone yet but I would assume that MPs perceive that a majority of the voting population want rid of it and will vote in accordance with that, regardless of their own opinions and of their own judgment about what's right or wrong). The one main thing that I loathe about these animal rights, lets call them, extrem-

done it before. Our valuable time was wasted on coursework containing mass balances no harder than a junior logic puzzle because the MScs were confused. Our timetable is changed with less than twenty four hours notice so the MSc students can have preliminary lectures. I don't want to really start on the lack of staff, but lets just say we did not have a third year coordinator until the last day of term.

We do technically have an option. We are required to do (on top of a twenty-five hour lecture schedule and twenty hours minimum of assessed coursework a week) to do a humanities option. We can choose which humanities option. However we aren't given time to attend the course. Last term we chose our option and then found as we had five/six hours of timetable lectures at lunchtime each week our classes had to be on obscure days or times. The lectures we could attend were on Friday lunchtimes. Now after committing to the 'option', studying for the tests and agonising over the extra coursework, this term we have timetabled lectures on a Friday lunchtime. Still on the timetabling issue, I have a question for you all. Do you think that lectures from 9 to 5 (with no lunchbreak) is reasonable for first years let alone third years with big projects, 4-5 pieces of assessed coursework a week and

The Felix Rants

ists is that they place the welfare of animals above the welfare of people. To me, people should be intrinsically more important to other people than animals. Acts of violence against people or destroying their ways of life is a far more heinous offence than anything you could do to an animal. I'm not saying that unnecessary abuse of animals is right, its just a question of priority.

In trying to ban fox hunting, the extremists have picked an easy target. Fox hunting is a country sport, which it has long been perceived to be mainly done by "rich, upper class snobs". The never ending class war in this hierarchy-marred country means that it is an easy task to drum up public support in the apparently downtrodden, "holier than thou" urban population. Never mind the country cousins of these downtrodden peoples, the people who have seen their

9 to 5 lectures? This Tuesday we were supposed to have lectures 9 to 12, an exam (not test) 12 to 2 and lectures 2 to five. Our Thursday afternoon this week is actually free, but it doesn't fit in with what the MScs are doing.

Why rant to us you say. That is my third point. We have a staff student committee and dedicated year reps who attend meetings. Nothing comes of our contribution to these meetings. The only system that gave us notable responses from lectures was the old pink lecturer feedback forms. These now have been replaced with an unsuccessful internet version which does not include our department.

So that's why you're getting this.

Finally, on a different subject, what is the obsession with wearing shoes in the showers and around the swimming pool? You are about to swallow X amount of diluted beach which at least 10 people (at an underestimate) have pissed in. Is foot hygiene really that important?

PS I really like your editorials.

Thankyou Summa, flattery will get you everywhere. In future articles will only be printed if they contain at least one compliment -Ed

traditional sources of income evaporate, for one reason or another, and who depend in many areas on the lucrative country sports industry. Without this, they'd have nothing left and become a further burden on our bloated welfare system.

What worries me most of all, even more than the brutal attacks on people, is that these groups of violent nutcases won't stop. They won't stop until nobody in this country is allowed to eat meat. Their ideal society is one in which meat doesn't feature, they'll have a go at stag hunting, rough shooting, driven shooting, fishing (the most participated in sport in the country) and then finally meat.

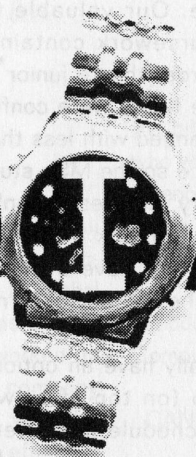
You may support these people over fox hunting, fair enough - its your decision, but be aware of what these people ultimately want and ask yourself if this is what you want too before you back them further.

Got something to rant about? Send it to felix@ic.ac.uk.

Rants must be a maximum of 700 words and are printed at the Editor's discretion.

FELIX

DIARY



PUT IT THERE

Monday

22.1.2001

5pm DaVinci's: Alternative Music Society

12-2 Civ Eng 301: Christian Identity: Jesus- fact or fiction

19:30-21:00 Southside Gym: Shotokan Karate BEGINNERS WELCOME

Tuesday

23.1.2001

12-2 Civ Eng 301: Christian Identity: What does God think about sex?

6-8pm Aiuchi Jiu Jitsu: Wilson House Rec Centre BEGINNERS WELCOME

8:15-11ish Community Action Group Soup Run: Weeks Hall Kitchen
No Commitment, just turn up

8pm Davinci's: Bar Trivia

Wednesday

24.1.2001

12-2 Civ Eng 301: Christian Identity: The Problem the Pain

5pm Reynolds Bar: Magnificent seven (drinking contest)

6-8 Wilson House: Shorinji Kempo

9-1 Union: Cheesy Wotsits. Total cheese in dBs

Thursday

25.1.2001

12:30pm Southside (Upper Lounge) Motorbike Club

12-2 Civ Eng 301: Christian Identity: The arrogance of Christianity

5:45 Wilson House Rec Centre Self Defence Class

6:45-8:45pm Wilson House Rec Centre Aiuchi Jiu Jitsu
BEGINNERS WELCOME

8:15-11ish Weeks Hall Kitchen Community Action Group Soup Run:
No Commitment, just turn up

18:30-22:30 Southside Gym: Shotokan Karate BEGINNERS WELCOME

5-11 Davincis: Cocktail Night

8pm dBs: Salsa Night

Friday

26.1.2001

1pm Southside (Upper Lounge) Photosoc

12-2 dBs: Christian Identity- Grill-a-Christian

8pm dBs: Common People

7pm UDH: So who's right?

College's religious societies battle it out to decide who has the one true religion by holding an illegal dogfight. Fighting dogs supplied by Wye Beagles.

Saturday

27.1.2001

10-12 Southside Gym: Shotokan Karate BEGINNERS WELCOME

Sunday

28.1.2001

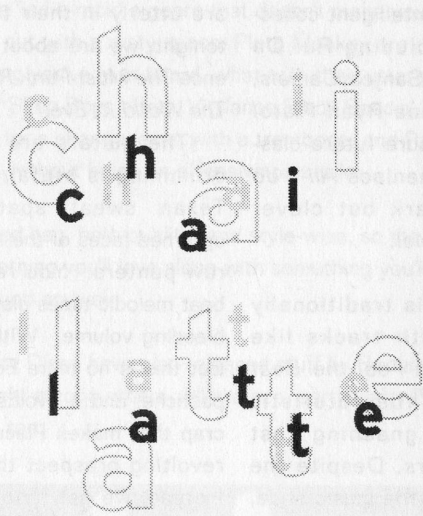
Interhall Football

2-4 UDH: Shorinji Kempo

3-5 Southside Gym: Shotokan Karate BEGINNERS WELCOME

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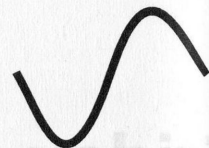


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Ministry of Sound

Clubbers Guide to

2001

(Ministry of Sound)

There aren't many dance compilation series that over the years are consistently innovative and up to date. Obvious examples however are the *Gatecrasher* albums and the *Global Underground Albums*. One of the most hotly awaited dance CDs this year has been the *Clubbers Guide to 2001* compilation and with a collection of successful older siblings (2000, '99, etc), the quality of mixing and range of tracks was always bound to be good. The theme remains the same with a look to the years up and coming tunes. Although several of the tracks will immediately be familiar to the regular clubber's ear, many of the tunes are as yet unreleased and suggest an interesting if a little predictable near future of the House music scene. The first CD contains a funky, intelligent collection of beats including Rui Da Silver *Touch me*, Santos *Camels*, the popular Joshua Ryan *Pistol Whip*, and some sure future classics like Cleptomaniacs *All I do* and the very dark but clever Schiller *Glockenspiel*.

The second CD is traditionally more upbeat with tracks like *Storm Animal* and *Feel the Beat* by Darude and the futuristic sounding, teeth gnashing *Lost Witness 7 colours*. Despite the stark variations in the music style, the tunes flow together seamlessly and provide another Must Buy for the year 2001.

Dom



And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead ... Live @ ULU

Four geeks dressed in black, with a dumb band name and song titles like *Children of the Hydra's Teeth*. Not exactly a recipe for musical cool, is it? Well, fuck your musical cool. From the moment these geeks walk out on stage, the audience are utterly in their thrall. For tonight, we are about to experience *The Most Punk Rock Gig In The World ... Ever!*

The guitars are loud, the drumming is brutal, and pure Texan sweat spatters the upturned faces of the lucky front-row punters. You really can't beat melodic tunes played at ear-bleeding volume. With shouting. But this is no mere Foo Fighters pastiche, and it avoids the whiny crap that makes Placebo such a revolting prospect these days. Instead, we get furious ranting, sarcastic put-downs and a dash of worldly wise nihilism.

As the monster riff of *Mistakes and Regrets* tears around the packed venue, lead

singer Jason Reese assures us that "there is nothing left to say / that has not been said". We grin stupidly, and pogo harder than before. Memories of Sonic Youth's *Daydream Nation* come flooding back. As the thudding *Sign Your Children* kicks in, we grin stupidly (again) and throw things at the band. They grin, and throw things back. First themselves, Jason surfing around the audience like David Yow (Jesus Lizard) at his most energetic. Then come the instruments, some torn and tangled. I have to wrestle a sweating behemoth of a man to grab a guitar strap. Is it just me, or is this turning into *Fight Club*? Finally, monitors and lighting rigs come tumbling into the pit of people, at which point the power is cut. The band leap into the audience, to be surrounded by people wanting to shake their hands, thank them for the best show of their lives, offer up their immortal souls ...

Norm

Competition Time!



By now your juices should be in full flow due to the anticipation caused by the coming of the NME Carling Awards Shows. Why should you care? Well for one week only, the NME invites down it's favourite bands and Carling brings down 12 trucks of lager. Together, they are the perfect match.

For the last week, JJ72, Amen, the stupidly good Alfie and Starsailor have been travelling round the country. Ending up at the penultimate night of the London Astoria shows. Other bands on display include...Trail of Dead (see left), Red Snapper and At The Drive-In. Each night between Jan 29th and Feb 5th, features 4 acts for a tenner. Tickets are selling quick, and some of the dates have sold out already. This is probably the most frantic and messy week of the year. Over the last two years fledgling acts likes Mogwai, Mercury Rev, The Beta Band and Muse turned supernova after playing these shows.

So the competition; we have one first prize of a NME Carling Awards **Leather jacket**, which i've been informed is very nice. Then five runners up will recieve a **CD wallets and a bag**. The question: **Who was the NMEs album of the year 2000:**

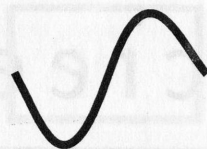
- a) Queens of the Stone Age
- b) Slipknot
- c) Super Furry Animals

Email answers to music.felix@ic.ac.uk
Entries by Friday, usual rules apply, the Editor's decision is final.

Singles

by Dave Edwards and Andy

Album

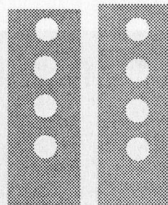


Jason Morpew

**Badass With a Heart
of Gold**

(Shifty Disco)

Shifty Disco are better known for discovering what is best about the Oxford music scene, or the alt rock scene in the US. Yet this is their voyage into Southern flavoured US country. The basic idea is Hank Williams with a small dash of Beck. It sounds strange, is chirpy and uplifting, yet is exceeding uncool. What the hell, listen to this in secret, no one will know.



Ash

**Shining Light
(Infectious)**

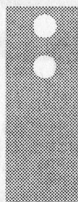
Ash are back on form, after the grown up nonsense of *Nu-Clear Sounds*. In the intervening two years since the last material, Tim Wheeler has grown a Billy Corgan esque snarl. The subject is standard Ash fair, you know the sort of the things, chemical reactions caused by lovely ladies. Ash are having a second adolescence and long may it last.

St Etienne

Boy Is Crying

(Mantra)

Having been around for nine years now, St Etienne return once again, this time with the relaxed, contemplative style of *Boy Is Crying*. Taking elements from several genres, this falls somewhere between pop and garage. It's fairly pleasant and easy to listen to, but unremarkable.



Fatboy Slim Macy

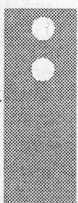
**Gray - Demons
(Skint)**

Demons represents a significant change in style for Fatboy Slim. It's far more laid-back than usual, with a distinctive piano sample. Also, rather than using sampled vocals from other people's material, this track has a completely original vocal line, performed by Macy Gray. A bit different, but still sure to be successful.

Liquido

**Play Some Rock
(Virgin)**

This starts off well enough as guitar, bass, drums and piano combine to produce a decent rock introduction. Our lead singer then tells a story for a bit, which is all perfectly agreeable. And then, just as I'm preparing to give it 3/5, in comes the chorus, sung by... a load of kids. This does seem to lower the standard considerably, but apart from that this is OK.



**Semisonic
Chemistry
(MCA)**

This is the latest release from the band who brought us beautiful *Secret Smile* and the anthemic *Closing Time* two years ago. Though not as instantly memorable as either of those, *Chemistry* contains many of the hallmarks found in other Semisonic releases, and so it should do well. A new album follows.

Various Artists

**It's A Shifty Disco Thing...Volume 4
(Shifty Disco)**

You've got to love grassroots record labels. Where the hell else are you going to find music that challenges your ingrained preconceptions of what music can be? Who's going to move you to tears with a single plucked G-string (ahem)?

Of course, I am being a muso twat. If you are going to sound like a set of stairs falling down a set of stairs just for the sake of it, then you aren't going to impress anyone. Some of the bands on this compilation have that special something that will always set them apart, whilst the rest have just added bibbling noises over the top.

Some history first. Initially aimed at documenting the surprisingly fertile Oxford indie scene, Shifty Disco soon cast a wider net once the local reserves of pop-punk and over-earnest indie had been exhausted, by attracting bands from above the M25 and in the US to their roster and monthly Singles Club. This album compiles the twelve A-sides from that club's fourth year, and like most compilations, there is some gack to wade through before you unearth the gems.

I guess I just have a problem with indie-schmindie songs with stupid titles and bad singing. But Locomotiv's "Next Time 'Round" is essentially a man and his acoustic, which would have been perfectly pleasant if he hadn't let someone dribble over some decks in the back-ground. The Burt Lump Orchestra are about as inspiring as their name, and others drag and meander without planting a decent tune in your cranium. After a few tracks like that, Black Moses appear like a life-saving breath of fresh air simply by being a bit loud.

But there are highlights. Formula 1 step out of Stereolab's shadow and make "indie-rock" a genre that doesn't make you want to gouge your eye out with a rusty spoon. Pluto Monkey are either the best or worst thing you've ever heard, what with their utterly deranged cut-price Pet Shop Boys effort. Vigilance Black Special sound genuinely heartfelt for a change, even with a trombone, and Panda Gang are faux-soul without being an offensive piss-take.

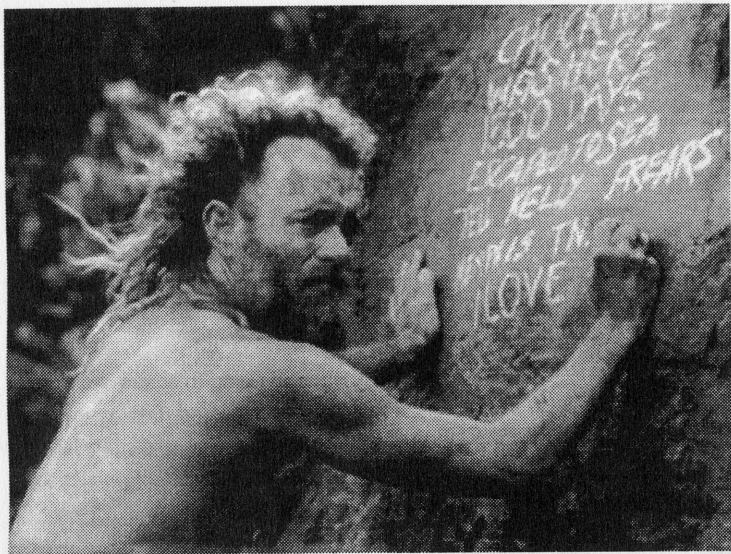
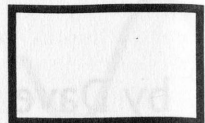
It's a mixed bag, both quality- and style-wise, so the chances are you'll find something you'll love along with something you'll detest. That's what I found anyway.

PS - Shifty Disco have also released stuff by Beulah, Creeper Lagoon and Nought among others. All are ace, particularly Beulah. Check them out too.

Kunal



Music that has arrived in the office this week includes the new album by Stephen Malkmus, ex of Pavement fame. And lo and behold, it is a disc of rare beauty (out early Feb). Along with an LP by the unknown Americans Elf Power (out March), it looks like the US is doing all the early running in 2001. Elf Power being this years answer to Mercury Rev, Grandaddy or the Flaming Lips.



Cast Away

Director: Robert Zemeckis
Starring: Tom Hanks and Helen Hunt

Chuck Noland (Tom Hanks) is a FedEx systems engineer who takes his job very seriously - much to the chagrin of his girlfriend Kelly (Helen Hunt). On one of his trips his plane crashes, killing everyone else on board and stranding him on a remote island. Alone and stripped of all everyday conveniences he must first survive, and then find a way to get back home.

Obviously much of the success of the film lies on Tom Hanks shoulders. Here he confirms that he can effortlessly carry a film. He gives a very subtle performance, never giving the audience the impression that he is trying too hard. While on the island he manages to sustain interest over long periods where very little happens. He also shows a light comic touch reminiscent of his earlier films (e.g. Big)

The big question though is whether he'll win the best actor Oscar. He has achieved the weight loss/gain, which is always a good sign and seems to be an academy favourite. However, I don't think his performance is showy enough

to stand out to the academy.

The direction is very workmanlike and unemotional. This is surprising, given that the man at the helm is Robert Zemeckis, responsible for such warm and imaginative classics as *Back to the Future* and *Forest Gump*. It seems that in splitting his attention between this and *What Lies Beneath* (which he shot while Tom Hanks was losing weight for the second half of the film). Subsequently hasn't put his heart into either.

The plot and character development is also poor. The relationship between Hanks and Helen Hunt is introduced too quickly and in a heavy-handed way. There is no effort by the writer (William Broyles Jr.) to develop any character other than Hanks. This is surprising given that he also penned the excellent *Apollo 13* in which all the main characters were three-dimensional. If not for Hanks' endearing performance *Cast Away* would be average at best. If only the whole film packed his emotional punch, then it would have been very special.

Castaway is in cinemas now.

Aamar



Vertical Limit

Director: Martin Campbell
Starring: Chris O'Donnell, Bill Paxton and Robin Tunney

This is a film truly for the lowest common denominator; a film that the stupidest people in the world will enjoy whilst those with an ounce of intelligence will dismiss within ten seconds of the opening credits ending.

The storyline is based on a group of climbers who become stranded whilst scaling the mountain K2. The team is led by a businessman who is doing it as a publicity stunt for his company. You know they are going to fail before they put their big furry socks on. Anyway, the brother of one of the stranded decides to launch a rescue mission "for the sake of my sister and my dad". Yes, it really is that clichéd. But get this, they decide to use some superduper form of nitroglycerine to blow them out of the cavern they are trapped in! For God's sake, it doesn't take a chemist (which I am) to realise this isn't a good idea. But the film continues plodding along, sincerely believing it could pull the wool over the audience's eyes with this, possibly the most ridiculous proposition in movie history.

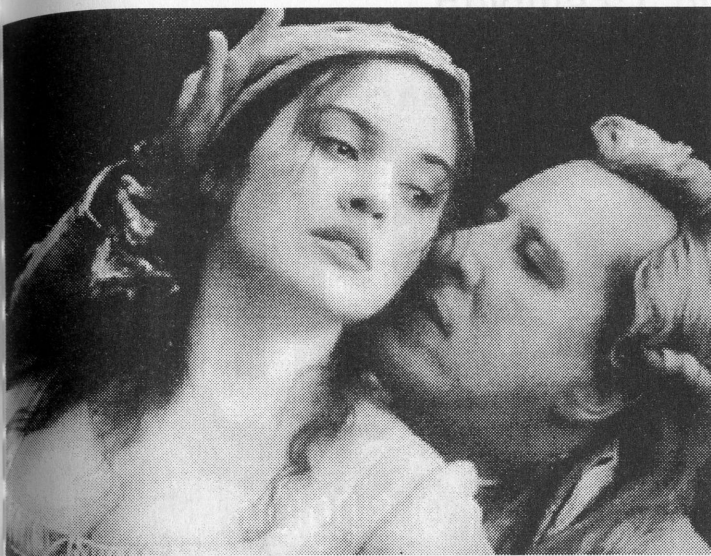
Vertical Limit has every cliché imaginable, and takes banality on to a whole new plane. If that wasn't enough, it smacks of American chauvinism, possibly the most infuriating characteristic of big modern Hollywood films.

In addition, there are astonishing errors. The climbers are at 26,000 feet yet their breath doesn't condense. The nitroglycerine explosive is luminous green! Not forgetting it reacts with light whilst in its metal container. This film, in parts, is embarrassingly laughable.

Granted, the locations on the film are unbelievably beautiful and constitute its only redeeming quality. The cast are no better than mediocre, whilst Martin Campbell the director, has lost the plot (pun intended) since his previous offerings of *Golden Eye* and *Mask of Zorro*. By the end of the film, however, when the characters are all coming down with pulmonary oedema, you would be forgiven for thinking that your in the local ear nose and throat hospital, a visit to which would probably be more fun than watching *Vertical Limit*.

Vertical Limit is in cinemas now.

Drew



Quills

Director: Philip Kaufmann

Starring: Geoffrey Rush, Michael Caine and Kate Winslet

As soon as I heard about *Quills*, I knew I was going to be in for a treat. It takes no further than the cast list to see this film must be something slightly special. Firstly, we have Geoffrey Rush, one of the most acclaimed actors of current. His depiction of Sir Francis Walsingham in *Elizabeth* was masterful, whilst we must not forget *Shine*, the story of a piano player, which earned him an Academy Award. Then we have Joaquin Phoenix, Kate Winslet, and finally, Michael Caine. Need I say more?

Rush plays the Marquis de Sade, who is detained in a mental asylum in post revolution France. Using a maid (Winslet) he manages to smuggle out his titillating stories to the general public, unbeknownst to the head of the institute, Coulmier (Phoenix). However, on the orders of Napoleon, Dr. Royel-Collard (Caine) is ordered into the institute to stop the Marquis from producing his novels, by any means necessary.

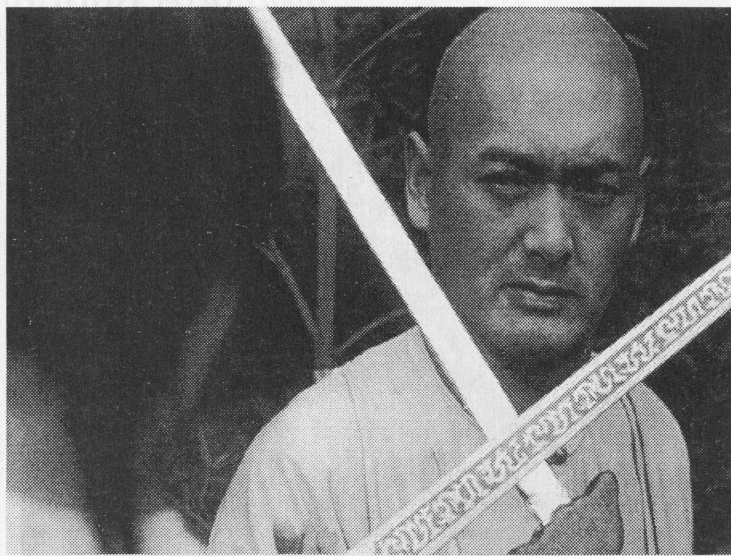
Quills, for the most part, is immensely enjoyable. The entire film

revolves around Rush and his portrayal of the Marquis. His overblown and exuberant interpretation is deliciously extrovert but never over-the-top. The vivaciousness and raucousness he gives the part, essentially turns every other character into a bit part. Caine also plays his role superbly; his cold, calculated bad guy perfectly complimenting Rush's volatile flawed genius. Nonetheless, Phoenix and Winslet do not become totally overshadowed by these two characters, but allow them to shine without rendering themselves totally insignificant.

Unfortunately, the film falls short solely because of its ending. Until then, the film's nature is based on its bawdiness and sexual overtones. This element of fun is taken unexpectedly from the film in the last half hour and it becomes much darker. However, the ending is rather too long winded and ultimately all the little parts of the film that made it so intricate are tried to tie up in a way that is not necessary and essentially makes a silly, disappointing ending. Otherwise, this would have been a five out of five film.

Quills is in cinemas now.

Drew



Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

Director: Ang Lee

Starring: Yun-Fat Chow, Michelle Yeoh and Ziyi Zhang

I'm tempted to just fill this review with the following line repeated over and over again: "Go watch this movie right now!" But somehow I don't think that constitutes a review. But maybe that's just the way to see this movie, without knowing anything about it, so that it creeps up on you and slowly takes hold over your senses. In fact, stop reading this review and "Go watch this movie right now!"

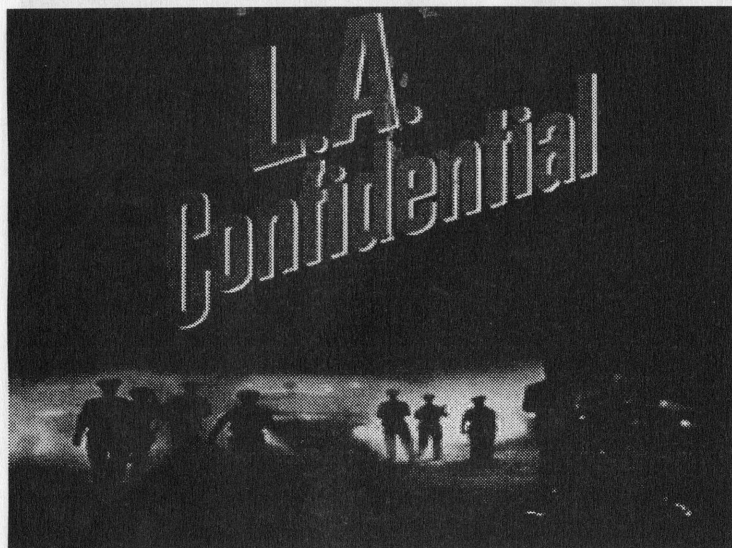
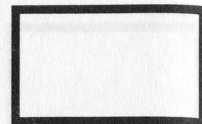
The plot is simple; it involves the theft of an ancient sword, the Green Destiny, and the interactions between two couples; Li Mu Bai (Chow Yun Fat), the legendary warrior and the previous owner of the sword, and Yu Shu Lien (Michelle Yeoh), the woman whom he secretly loves. The other couple are played by Jen Yu (Zhang Ziyi), the headstrong daughter of a minister, and the desert bandit Lo (Chen Chang). Essentially the story revolves around the repressed feelings between Li Mu Bai and Shu Lien, and the illicit love affair between Jen and Lo. Oh, and did I mention the martial arts?

The first screening that I attended played to a full house of hardened film fans at the recent London Film Festival, and after a rooftop chase sequence ten minutes into the movie, every person literally got up and applauded for half a minute, so thrilled were they by this extraordinary sequence. And that's just one of the sequences!

The acting is spot on, but 19-year-old Zhang Ziyi steals all her scenes as the feisty and stubborn Jen Yu. Not only is she beautiful, but she also conveys this aura of haughtiness about her, that makes her even more understandably attractive to Lo. Praise has to duly be showered on director Ang Lee. Yuen Wo Ping's (*The Matrix*) fight choreography has raised the standard for fight sequences and married with Ang Lee's direction, is nothing short of breathtaking.

There is so much more to say about this film that cannot be stated in just a few words. For anyone wary of subtitles, don't be. This film is a certainty for Best Foreign Language Picture, but in reality the accolade it truly deserves is Best Picture.

CT, HD is in cinemas now. Imran



BFI IMAX ticket giveaway

Screen has managed to pull a few strings and has got hold of a **pair of tickets to go and see LA Confidential at the BFI IMAX cinema in Waterloo on Saturday 27th January.**

LA Confidential is being shown as part of the After Dark series, a collection of some modern classic films Screen reviewed last year. As you probably remember, it got a big thumbs up although the films themselves are not IMAX.

For those of you who need their

memory refreshing, LA Confidential stars Kim Basinger, Russell Crowe and James Spacey. The plot surrounds a shooting at an all night diner and the ensuing investigation by three LA policemen.

The film when it was released was critically acclaimed, so here is your chance to see it on the largest screen in Britain. Just answer the following question:

Which Ex-Neighbour appears in LA Confidential?

ODEON

Kensington

Competitions!!

So now you've read the reviews, now it's time to win the chance to go and see one of the films we've cast our beady eyes over this week. Is it Cast Away you're pinning to watch. Or perhaps you want to get hot under the collar with Quills?

Regardless, our friends at the Odeon, High Street Kensington have kindly given us **2 pairs of tickets for one of these two films.** You and a friend could be rushing down to see one of the most widely acclaimed films of the New

Year. by answering this question:

Geoffrey Rush played Philip Henslowe in which 1998 romantic comedy?

The Kensington Odeon is located just on the corner of Earls Court Road and High Street Kensington. Remember the special student rates they offer Imperial College students.

As usual send answers to all questions on these pages to **film.felix@ic.ac.uk** by noon Wednesday.

iCU CINEMA

For those of you who haven't realised, Imperial College has its own cinema located in the Union Concert Hall on the second floor

of the union building. This week two films are showing at the following times:

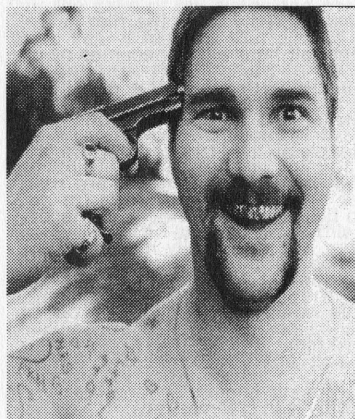
Tuesday 23rd

18:00 Wonder Boys
20:45 What Lies Beneath

The price is pittance and therefore an absolute bargain to see any films you missed the first time around in the cinemas.

Wonderboys stars Michael Douglas, while What Lies Beneath, surely you know by now!

More Chopper!



Screen has managed to get hold of some bits and pieces from the highly acclaimed film *Chopper* and being such a kind hearted person I'm going to give them all away! For your chance to get a poster and CD soundtrack just answer this simple question:

What is Chopper's real name?

Oh, now come on, it can't get any easier than this! Get your hands on a copy of issue 1189 and simply read the review or article.

Reviews

Aaron E. Walsh

Aaron E. Walsh

INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER!

If you get only one Java book,
it should be *Teach Yourself
Java in 21 Days*.

—*PC Magazine*

SECOND EDITION

Covers
SOK 1.2

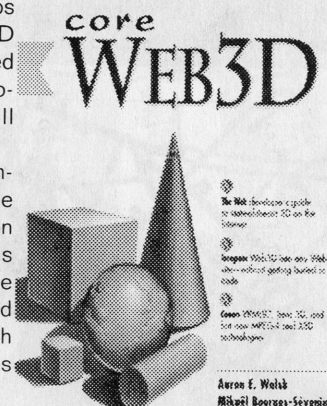
SAMS
Teach Yourself

Java 2

in 21 Days

SAMS

© 2000 Blackwell Science Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 247: 399–404

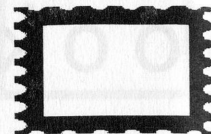


***** OF OUR SACRED, 1994, Architecture for World Wide Web
Connections: 1994, 1995, and 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000, and
History of the World Wide Web.



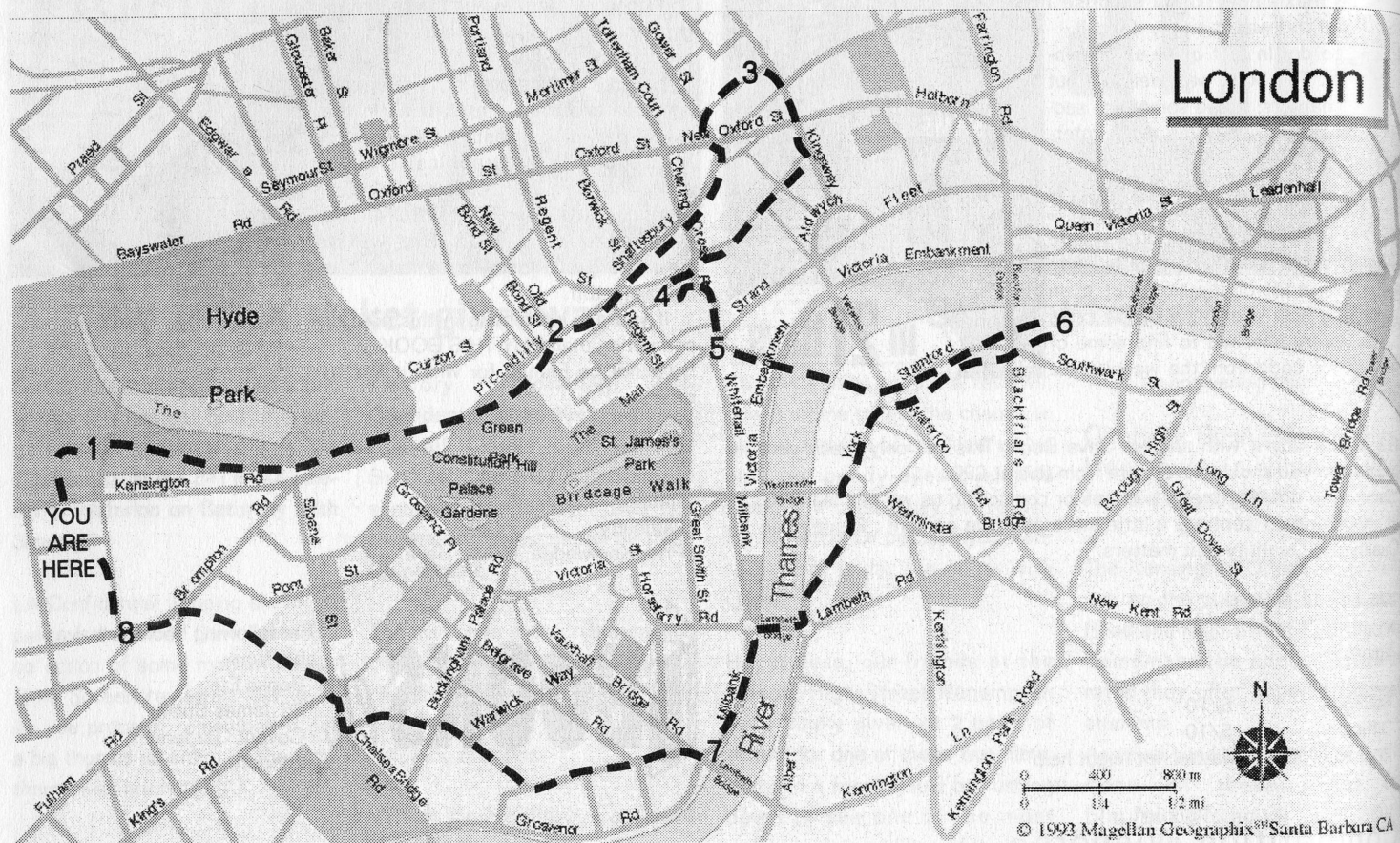
HUNTER S. THOMPSON **YEAR & LEARNING IN AMERICA**
The Ordeal Begins of an
Beloved Journalist 1960 - 1976
 Edited by David Shields, Foreword by Robert J. Rusk

and Samuel Johnson, whose quote stands of course as the epigram makes a beast of himself gets rid of the pain of being a man'. I'd say Thompson is more man than most.



Arts goes Gallery Crawling

This week's Arts is something of a departure from the norm. We spend our time going to see a range of things, some at home (the moving and shaking taking place in the college performance societies) and many further afield (at the galleries and museums of our glorious capital). And so should like to take this opportunity of the first Arts of the new year to reintroduce you to some old friends - a by-no-means comprehensive selection of art galleries, in, around, or of particular interest to, the students of IC - and consider where they are, what they have, and are there any good?



1: Serpentine Gallery

Originally built as a tearoom, the Serpentine has also acted as a gallery since the 60's. It has no permanent collection of its own, but serves an exhibition centre for modern and contemporary stuff. It also acts as an overflow for the Hayward on occasion.

The Serpentine is free, and just up the road from college in Hyde Park; making it more than suitable for a Wednesday afternoon excursion in the summer (or any time of year, given that).

I'm also informed that they do a very good series of talks, if that's your cup of tea.

www.serpentinegallery.org/

2: The Royal Academy

Set in Burlington House in Piccadilly, the RA does have a small permanent collection - mainly comprising of the works of its original students, eg Turner and Constable - but it is not for this that people go here.

The RA plays host to a series of exhibitions, albeit of often fluctuating quality - the recent years have both seen some very good exhibitions (eg the oh-so-popular Monet and Sensation) and some very bad ones (last year's Apocalypse springs to mind). The usual standard however is very strong.

The RA has a certain cheerfully pretentious charm, and adds a certain ceremony to going to an art gallery; with the grandiose courtyard, marble staircase and light, airy galleries.

In terms of going to see it however, the RA is only ever as good as its present exhibition - and to see if it'll float your boat or wilt your flowers, read the arts pages of your trusty mag, *Felix*.

<http://www.royalacademy.org.uk>

3: The British Museum

Excusing perhaps that thing in Greenwich, the British Museum is said to be Britain's most popular tourist attraction (second to Blackpool Beach) with some six million visitors a year. It houses over four million exhibits and the world's greatest collection of antiquities. It has a colourful history - in the days of Empire, all the colonial stuff that was looted

and pillaged had to go somewhere, and it all got put in here. Its inclusion in a piece on galleries might be questionable, but there is much here of artistic, rather than strictly historical, value; a gallery of drawings and prints, the contents of which rotate regularly; and also many of the antiquities, such as any number of friezes and columns). You couldn't visit everywhere here in a day if you jogged. Casual visitors might be put off by its scale but within its looming galleries are more art than you could shake a tree at, and if all this crumbles your biscuit then there is a good series of regular tours which serve to make the whole thing even more approachable.

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/



4: National Portrait Gallery

Of all the galleries listed here, the National Portrait Gallery has perhaps the most instant appeal; lying as it does, not with the actual works or painters themselves, but rather the subject matter.

The appeal of the place is essentially that it is like a 2D Madame Tussaud's, with every famous historical figure you'd care to name staring down at you from across the centuries. If this scratches your itch then it is well worth a visit, to see all the famous figures in their varied historical settings.

A good site to check out prior to going is the Unusual Facts and Figures site on the website, so as you don't miss the gallery's more esoteric paintings - such as one the size of your thumbnail, a portrait of 400 people and a wide, squat painting designed to be viewed as you walk towards it up a corridor - very clever.

The 20th century is also well represented, although in recent times the focus has shifted less from great thinkers and politicians and shifted more toward pop and film stars.

www.npg.org.uk

5: National Gallery

A visit to the National involves braving the tourists of Trafalgar Square and flocks of those bloody pigeons - but it is always steams up my windows. A big big big gallery that has arguably the best collection in Britain, with a very good permanent exhibition and a variety of temporary ones in the Sainsbury wing.

Practically no great master you could name is unrepresented, and the collection reads like a Who's-Who in art. Consequently the National does extremely well for "Ooo, I've seen that before" kinda pieces.

The National is also a fine example

of a gallery of the 21st century. The personal audio guides, which are of a very high standard, and don't just repeat what it says by the paintings (like in the Tate Modern and other places I could mention).

A fine piece of innovation is also the Sainsbury Wing, which features a unique "micro gallery". Here you can locate your favourite pieces, and even plan and print out your own personal tour - by no means necessary on a first visit, but a nice feature nonetheless.

<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk>

6: Tate Modern

This art behemoth on the South Bank, in the shadow of St Paul's and opposite That Bridge, opened relatively recently to great public acclaim. Converted from an old power station, it houses a massive collection of modern art by artists such as Dalí, Picasso, Matisse, and Warhol, has a wide range of people coming to see it and the added distinction of being free.

You don't have to be into art (whatever that means) to enjoy the Tate Modern, as it does, and probably has been designed to, appeal to everyone on some level. Those with a keen interest in art, and those who just enjoy being continually surprised and shocked by the pieces on display will be both leave happy.

Having been greeted by the "Half-Life Spider" in the Great Hall, make your way upstairs to the galleries where to paraphrase slightly, there is great art you do know and great art you don't.

I'm told the cafe is quite good too.

www.tate.org.uk/modern/default

7: Tate Britain

The Tate Britain in Pimlico seems to get forgotten these days with all the buzz around the Tate Modern, but

it's older sister is still worth a visit.

The Tate Britain is the national gallery of British art from 1500 to the present day, "the Tudors to the Turner Prize" - its collection passing through such heavyweights as Blake, Constable, Gainsborough and Turner (the Blake, Hogarth and Turner areas being especially worth visiting - see, for free, most of the works from two of last year's most popular exhibitions, aha).

The Tate Modern houses the Tate's modern art collection, but the Tate Britain still plays home to the annual Turner prize - a competition of British artists, and a another good reason to come here. It allows one to see what is currently going on in the world of art; and whether you like it or not.

www.tate.org.uk/britain/default

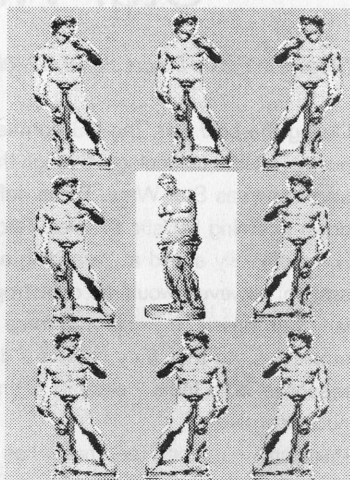
8: The V&A

The world's largest museum of "decorative art", the V&A is a museum-cum-gallery featuring 145 galleries packed full of paintings, sculptures, tapestries and all manner of decorative titbits and objets d'art. The exhibits from all across the world in the seven miles and four floors of galleries make for several repeat visits, and being just up the road from college it is suitable for both taking it all in, or just wandering around.

The V&A is very pleasant and unchallenging, compared to the classical pomp and circumstance one is more likely to find in say, the British Museum.

One to watch is the Canon Photography Gallery. The museum has always had a large collection of photos, and this gallery should make for some interesting exhibitions in time to come - it is certainly a better venue than the previous, in-the-basement-outside-the-café anyway.

www.vam.ac.uk



Alternatively...

There are many more places out there that for reasons of space couldn't be included. Check out a listings magazine such as Time Out for details.

The Last Word...

For whatever reason, you decided to come and study here, in bonny London. Now, this decision has brought with it certain negative points... the expense of such basic commodities as accommodation and beer, the general dirt and grime, and the feeling of alienation that comes of living in a big city.

But there are also certain compensations. London also has so many things out there worth seeing and doing, and many of them will not cost a penny piece to visit for a student such as yourself - including all but one of the places here.

And so forget science and do something arty with your Wednesday afternoons and weekends. You know it makes sense.

Andrew

Coming soon...

The Arts Museum Crawl

Star Wars: Reviving the nuclear arms race

(Pugwash Public Discussion 8/12/00) - Summarised by Maurice Pigaht

During the cold war, the US horrified the world with its dabbling in anti-nuclear missile technology, through the infamous SDI programme also known as Star Wars. These defence systems were designed to shoot down incoming ballistic missiles. Recently the US has revived these ambitions, officially aimed at defending against so-called 'rogue states'. Such a system, however, would be catastrophic for international relations, particularly with Russia. It would also force China to increase its nuclear weapons stockpiles, so that they remain a deterrent. This in turn would trigger a response from India - wary of China - to respond by increasing its own nuclear arsenal.

Pakistan would then feel that it has no choice but to follow suit. Although the US has temporarily put its current National Missile Defence (NMD) project on hold due to technological difficulties, it is far from being abandoned.

There was a fear in the 1970s that an American NMD system would render Russia's nuclear deterrent useless. This would spell out catastrophe for the dogma of nuclear deterrence (I don't destroy you because otherwise you'll destroy me). The only option for Russia under these circumstances would appear to have been to attack the United States before this defence system was completed. This is why the ABM treaty, signed in 1972 and a cornerstone of nuclear relations, limits NMD systems on both sides.

Of course, as usual there is a loophole. Both sides were permitted to cancel the treaty, giving 6 months notice. The US has not done this yet and does not even seem convinced of the necessity to do so before violating its treaty commitments, although it would seriously threaten US-Russian relations.

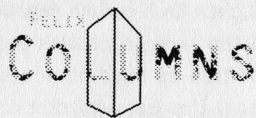
On the 8th December British Pugwash (Conferences on Science and World Affairs) held a Public Discussion Meeting on American NMD plans. At this

meeting, Dr. Alexander Konovalov (President of the Institute for Strategic Assessments, Moscow) pointed out that the real threats to the United States are not addressed by NMD. These are nuclear but also (and probably more likely) biological weapons being delivered by: Smuggling a warhead, short-range cruise missiles, civilian aircraft, small ships and finally Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles. Only the last of these could be intercepted by the suggested NMD system. Clearly this is a major draw-back if it is to be used against 'rogue' or terrorist attacks. Even Air Marshall Sir Timothy Garden, also speaking at the meeting, considered the project 'pouring

money down the drain', pointing out the potential of far more effective projects in furtherance of international security through diplomacy. He also stated that, as NMD would be ineffective against Russia's huge arsenal or 'rogue' and terrorist attacks, it can only be seen as targeted against China. This, he pointed out, was far from helpful to international relations and security, or indeed to the regional situation between China, India and Pakistan. The ineffectiveness of NMD was further underlined by Richard Garwin (Formerly Prof of Public Policy, Harvard University). He described simple countermeasures, such as deploying recoils (a simple balloon will do) and/or multiple warheads would undermine the system. Furthermore, NMD would not be useful against biological weapons as they can be delivered in small bomb droplets.

The consequences of NMD are clearly far from trivial. The dangers of Nuclear Weapons, although part of a topic going out of fashion, entail the death of millions of innocent people, and environmental contamination on an unrivalled scale.

For more information or to be kept informed about future Student Pugwash (Science, Ethics & World Affairs) events contact Student-Pugwash@ic.ac.uk or Maurice.Pigaht@ic.ac.uk



<http://www.download.com>:

You will find everything you need to download from utilities to games, whether for a Mac or a PC (and yes, you can download winzip in case a modern institution such as IC does not provide your computer with powerzip).

<http://yourwallpaper.com/index.html>:

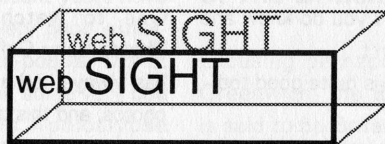
A nice website featuring a good selection of wallpapers (movies, pop culture, sport...). Yet, the best about this site is their link section - be sure not to miss it. So PLEASE, get rid of this awful greenish-bluish desktop of yours!

<http://www.monpa.com>:

Ever fancied dancing with cats, wandered why cats paint or admired bird art? Check this out: the museum of non-primate art. Why not sending a "splat!" to your best friend (see bird art, and click on splat!)? Oh by the way... no need to send me one.

<http://people.ne.mediaone.net/speter1/worldnewspapers.html>:

A more intellectual site (yes, there are intellectuals among us - no offence), yet it can be highly useful. This is a major site where you can find something like 250 different newspapers online from all over the world. Especially recommended to all of you international students to keep you informed about your country. Also, it is a good way to save money (you can read The Times, Independent, The Guardian...).



http://www.digimask.com/sp_fset.html:

Get 2 pretty pictures of you (that is the hardest bit), and the Digimask system creates a 360 degree model of a person's head, which will allow a fully animatable 3D replica of the your face to be displayed on a computer or TV-screen. For ego centric, narcissi or passionate lovers willing to have their girl/boyfriend's face on their screen!

You know a cool web site? Feel free to email me the address (angelie.baraal@ic.ac.uk)

The bird sings with its fingers

Sinfonia 21 jazz up Imperial College

You might have seen one of the posters or even been to their concerts before, but some of you will be wondering exactly who Sinfonia 21 are, and what kind of freaked-out genetically modified bird are they on about?

Sinfonia 21 are Imperial's orchestra in residence. This means that you, the average culturally starved IC student, can watch some of the best contemporary music played by one of the country's leading orchestras **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

The first concert this Friday features music by Claude Vivier, a Canadian influenced by Middle Eastern and Asian cultures, and the Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen. Richard Causton has taken work by the fourteenth century Guillaume de Machaut and written two new arrangements in an artistic collaboration spanning 600 years.

The second concert is on Friday 9th February. Sinfonia 21 will give the world première of Julian Anderson's *The Bird Sings With It's Fingers*, inspired by a line from the Jean Cocteau film *Orphée*. Keith Johnson's *Honesty* is joined by the more familiar *Symphony No 8* by Beethoven and Copland's energetic *Short Symphony*.

And there's more... together with the Union's Art and Entertainment board, S21 are putting on a **FREE Jazz Workshop** for you beautiful people. This will take place in the Great Hall on Thursday 8th Feb between 6.15 - 8.15pm and will be followed by a performance on Friday 9th Feb in the JCR between 12 - 2. If you're thinking "but I've never played jazz before", just stop right there, cowboy! This here workshop is for anyone who's got an open mind and dancin' feet. So book your **FREE** place right now by emailing info@sinfonia21.co.uk, or phone James on 7584 2759.

There's something old, something new, and something a little bit different in what Sinfonia 21 are doing, and it's all right on the doorstep of your department for you to experience...

**26th January 2001, 7.30
Great Hall, Sherfield Building**

Conductor: Martyn Brabbins

Soloist: Eileen Hulse

Claude Vivier

Trois Airs pour un Opera Imaginaire

Machaut arr. Causton

Kyrie from 'Messe de Notre Dame'

Hans Abrahamsen

Märchenbilder

Hans Abrahamsen

Winternacht

Machaut arr. Causton

Sanctus from 'Messe de Notre Dame'

Claude Vivier

Et Je Reverai cette Ville Étrange

**9th February 2001, 7.30
Great Hall, Sherfield Building**

Conductor: Martyn Brabbins

Julian Anderson

Beethoven

Keith Johnson

Copland

The Bird Sings with it's fingers

Symphony No.8

Honesty

Short Symphony

Tickets £10 / £5 Free with student ID

E-mail Tom@Sinfonia21.co.uk or ring 020 7589 8316 to reserve tickets, or just turn up on the night.

Jazz Workshop

Thursday 8th February, 6.15 - 8.15, Great Hall

Open to everyone, talent not necessary.

E-mail James on info@sinfonia21.co.uk to join the Jazz Workshop.

Workshop Performance

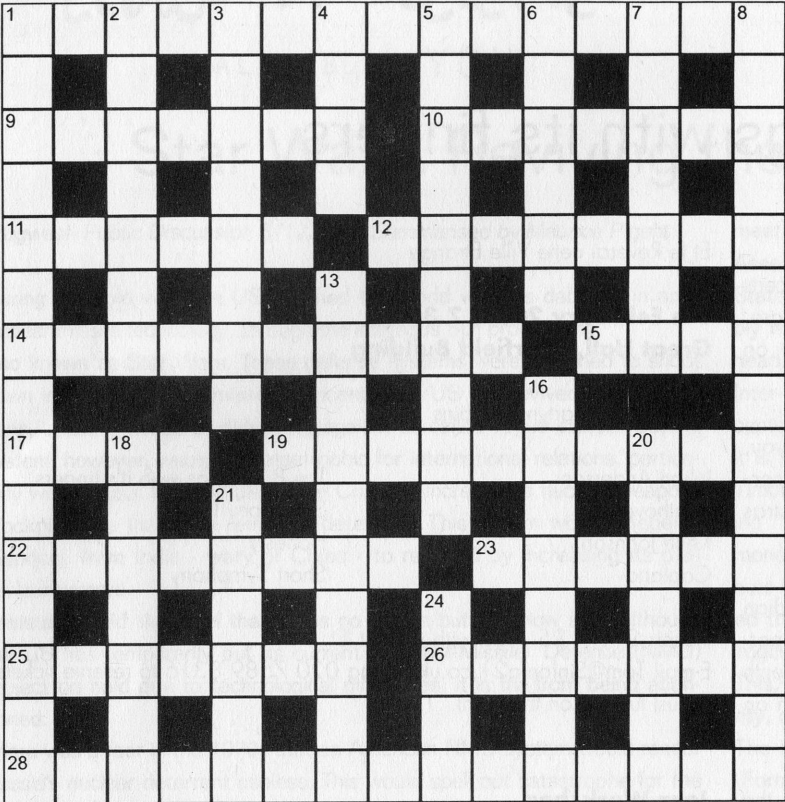
Friday 9th February, 12-2pm, Junior Common Room

Jazz up your lunchtime!

Free performance featuring the funky workshopppers.



The Felix Crossword 1195, by Wailer Ned.



Solutions:

Crossword 1193: Across: Squeamish, Speed, Anagram, Neatest, Flimsy, Eyeliner, Commonroom, Blue, Nerd, Lamb hotpot, Lamp post, Storms, Diabolo, Polenta, Deter, Disparage. Down: Scarf, Uranium, Abrasion, lamb, Honeycomb, Stable, Eternal, Deterrent, Broadsword, Concluded, Tortilla, Rampant, Piranha, Uproar, Slate, Apes

Crossword 1194: Across: Podium, Intrigue, Backdoor, Undone, Folded, Premiere, Lemming, Bullock, Stiletto, Superb, Review, Perturbs, Rehearse, Icarus. Down: Comatose, Picked, Embolden, Disrupt, Attune, Windmill, Runner, Milliner, Unstrain, Cerebrum, Topples, Teeter, Tawdry, Plural.

Elimination 1194: The word pairs for the clues in order were: "Electricity supply", "Shadow boxing", "Table tennis", "Dirty laundry", "Writing paper", "Masked ball", "Electoral college", "Sandwich board", "Gutter press", "Mint Imperial", "Minor royal", "White Christmas", "Football club", "Morris dancing", "Filing cabinet". This should have left "Snow" as the remaining word.

Across:

1. A witch, perhaps, throws insults in bad rap session. (5, 10)
9. Sounds like I stitched tardily to exclude. (7)
10. Percy? No question but ten hundredths! (7)
11. Eskimo toilets. (6)
12. A mail car crashes into squid jewellery. (8)
14. Half days are bad on seafront. (10)
15. Hunk of ice, perhaps, in slumber, gets missed. (4)
17. Your favourite mixed-up headless Guru is weedy! (4)
19. Halve visor vigorously to be too extravagant. (10)
22. Chopin, extra quiet, hit G by hacking. (8)
23. Small boats hold Union drinks without danger. (6)
25. Advertisement referee to make decision. (7)
26. Double-pointed big one can only get bigger! (7)
28. Emollient Phoebe mixes can ring everywhere. (6, 9)

Down:

1. Serious praise comes to good shows. (8, 7)
2. Blemish ignited to be highlighted. (7)
3. Sounds like the ocean's uninterested at the coast (8)
4. Short cheesy pop group helps you get along. (4)
5. Tutors sound like erstwhile pilots! (10)
6. Point ointment to yell. (6)
7. Impress or weave badly. (7)
8. Explaining situation to make your surroundings wake you up on time. (7, 3, 5)
13. A German backs into nursery - how useful! (10)
16. Gymnastic manoeuvre turns over your spine! (8)
18. Nice employment and a task well performed! (4, 3)
20. Disco blaze. (7)
21. Do a lap dance footless! (6)
24. He has two fifties and will end up in a bad place! (4)

Ladies, gentlemen and any androgenous creatures the Biotechnology department produced in the past few days, here is a new crossword for you to complete. I have modelled the colour scheme this week on a motor-racing finishing flag for all you sports enthusiasts.

In my infinite generosity, I have also placed a bumper set of answers on the left for your reference, for your enjoyment and for your use as emergency toilet paper.

Unfortunately 1193 was a bit of a farce, but my lesson has been learned: I shall no longer rely on technology to transmit my crosswords lest they are garbled into the mess you saw before you a couple of weeks ago. Instead, I shall in future use a quill and parchment. I've got somebody chasing after a peacock as we speak. However, despite the total disregard for accuracy and literacy that 1193 represented, many still managed to decipher the puzzle. Of those people, very few actually submitted their answers, so an item from the Editor's Christmas stocking goes to Simon Coulson and Jan Patchett, who have to fight over some posters. I know who'll win.

The prize for this week is again something from the Felix goodie bag which I know will excite you all immensely. If it doesn't, then I suppose your time would be better spent darning socks, or solving fourteenth order differential equations, whichever you find the harder. Of course, you could also consult Guru Gingagal for guidance on how to use your spare time, or indeed a copy of the Radio Times which is bound to provide better film reviews, if perhaps a solution for your boredom that isn't altogether good for your eyesight. I am the weakest link. Goodbye. Wailer Ned

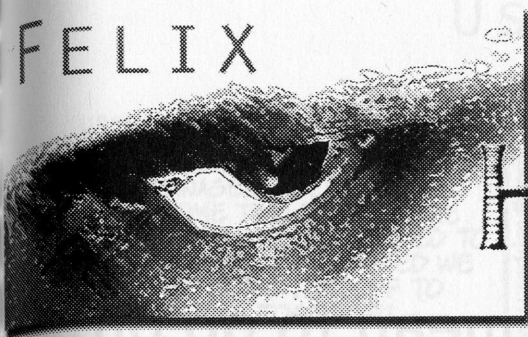
say

hello.to/doinggood



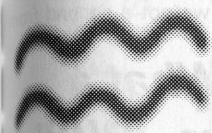
We meet Tuesdays & Thursdays
at 8:15pm in the basement kitchen
of Weeks Hall. We then travel to
the Strand where we hand out food
and hot drinks to the homeless
(just turn up, there's no commitment)

iccag@ic.ac.uk



HOROSCOPES

by Guru Gingagal



Aquarius

21st January-19th February

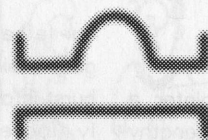
Enlightenment brings its own danger this week when your flat is invaded by flesh eating glow-worms intent on devastation...



Gemini

22nd May-21st June

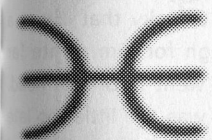
This week you could find yourself taking part in a channel four reality programme if you're not careful, so just take care when applying for your summer internship....



Libra

24th September-23rd October

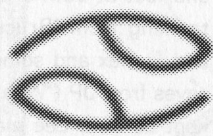
Beware... this week may bring a chance meeting with the twin you never knew.... and they may not be happy to see you....



Pisces

20th February-20th March

Spooky figures in the hallway are seen this week, but in the middle of the night, past the witching hour, with your friends all fast asleep, will you venture out to turn off the forgotten oven?



Cancer

22nd June-21st July

Living with alien parents has never been easy, but you can't help but find yourself a little uneasy about the imminent family reunion...



Scorpio

24th October-22nd November

Amazingly low rent on the side of quite a large hill with a funny shaped dip at the summit with a lil' bit of steam coming out...should have aroused your suspicions...



Aries

21st March-20th April

Mouldy fingertips should be the final warning that somehow washing has been left out of your daily ritual...



Leo

24th July-23rd August

This week you finally realise how powerful eye-brows actually are...how powerless you would be without them...



Sagittarius

23rd November-21st December

Caution is required this week when searching down the back of the sofa for money, all that has been abandoned there may form the ingredients of life...



Taurus

21st April-21st May

Your habit of sweeping things under the carpet may result in life being slightly lumpy underfoot this week....



Virgo

24th August-23rd September

Although most of the public are perfectly innocent, you do have a right to run away, quite fast, from balaclava wearing men in shadowy graveyards....



Capricorn

22nd December-20th January

Life might seem bad now, but it'll pass... and when it does... you may regret the hermit lifestyle...

FELIX SPORTS SECTION

2nds Football - Start as we mean to go on

IC II 2 - 1 UCL II

A crunch match, six pointer, a match to test us. After a lengthy break and only a friendly with the firsts, from which it was difficult to draw conclusions, to whip us into shape, this was a solid and reassuring victory.

University College had the upper hand in the early exchanges, a fast centre forward and a well drilled midfield had a lot of the play as we found it difficult to gel as a unit. For all their early pressure, UCL had nothing to show for it as the IC seconds began to realise that they had a game on and got into gear. We started a few promising attacks, using the wings to bypass their strong centre but couldn't string a scoring move together.

The first goal was a tonic for

our lethargy. (A somewhat hungover) Iain saw a gap and made a burst into the box but was cynically floored by the opposition's defense. Controversially, the referee adjudged that the original foul had been committed on the edge of the area and awarded us a free kick rather than the blatant penalty (even though I landed far beyond the penalty spot!). This was all academic however as

"...curled the ball into the far bottom corner."

Magic took the kick and curled the ball into the far bottom corner and under the flailing keeper's body.

One - nil it stayed until half time, neither side doing anything of significance in a close and tetchy period of play with only a couple of half chances at each end. Brad came off for Dave and Mark came on to bolster the midfield.

Things continued the way they had left off for the early part of the second half but as UCL became more and more desperate, they pushed forward increasingly and chances came in hard and fast at both ends. Last ditch tackling from "Bruce" Lee Barry and Fumex and some sensational saves from JP ("What a save JP!!") kept us in it. Lee made sure that people as far afield as Cornwall knew that it was his ball.

At the other end, Dave and Eniola really should have done better with a couple of chances

but at least we got a second from

"What a save JP!!!"

a corner. It went long but Dave headed it back into the danger area and the ball was bundled in by J.

After this, we had everything thrown at us but they only managed to score deep into injury time, direct from a free kick. Magic was unlucky that it was a little too high for him at the post and it went in off his head. However, it was too little too late and the IC boys had the hard fought for win.

- Iain

Ladies Basketball & Rugby

Women's Basketball

Imperial - 36 QMW - 29

We won! We won! We won! Victory is so sweet. The Dream Team of Lucina, Judit, Christina, Aspa, Joy, Sandrine, Inga, Xana, Ada and of course our legendary coach Christos, beat QMW into submission. Eventually it all came together - right to the end. Aspa started it all with three smashing baskets in a row, Lucina was zooming in shots from outside the key and from there on nothing was stopping us. We fought well and although our defense was perhaps not as secure as usual, we held in until the final whistle. Let's hope we carry on this winning streak throughout the New Year.

ICVirgins 70 St Georges Medical School 15

There had been a frost over Saturday night and it really was cold. We assembled at Harlington at an obscene time in the morning and with the added bonus of only 11 players. We were a little worried whether we would be able to play with only 11 players. Georges turned up with 13, had they turned up with 15 players, things could have been a little tricky!

The tries came thick and fast. Blondish Claire was our top try scorer with 4 tries, which is 20 points, no less. Our other try scorers were Kerriane, 3; Kryzi, 2; Anne-Laure, 2; Jessamy, 1; Hui-

Ling, 1; Kate, 1.

The opposition were very inexperienced, apparently they only have two players from last year, and they are two leagues below us. The ref let them get away with a lot. It was good practice for us, however, the back line was working well and they managed to pull off some set moves - a miracle! The forwards held the scrums, even though there were 5 people in the scrum, and put in a generally good performance.

So we have won our first match of the season, and are now in the BUSA cup and ULU league. Hopefully, this is the morale booster that we've been looking for!

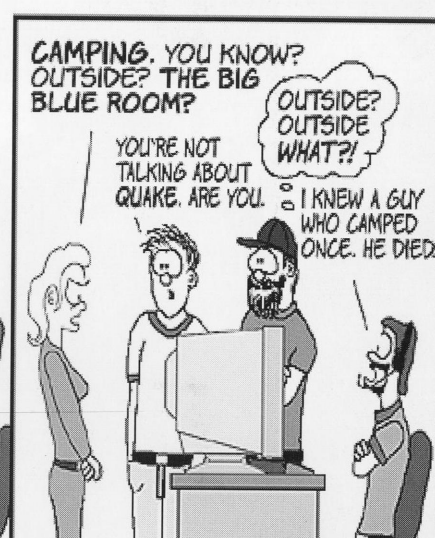
Job offer:

"Assistant Sports Editor", if you have an interest in sport and fancy seeing your work reaching thousands of people then email iain.angus@ic.ac.uk

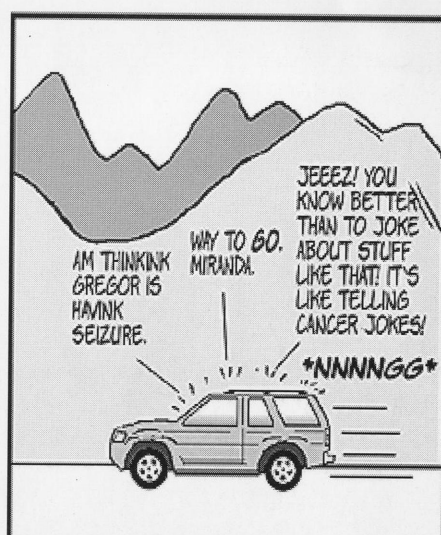
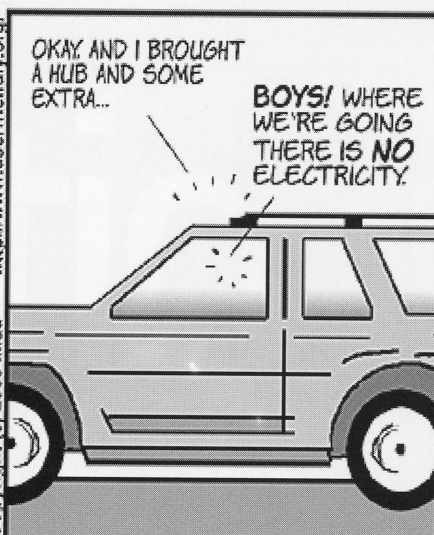
All candidates must be sober for at least twenty minutes per week and must be able to, at least, speak English.

User Friendly

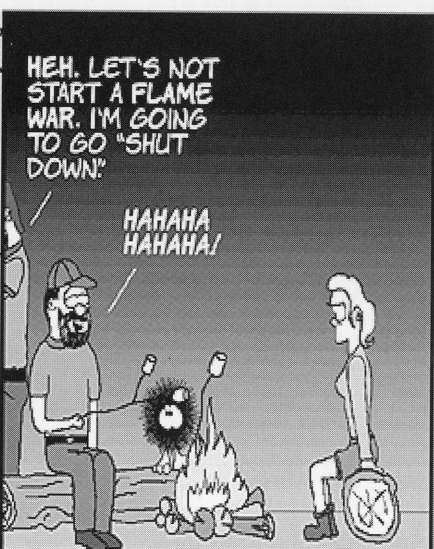
USER FRIENDLY by Illiad



USER FRIENDLY by Illiad



USER FRIENDLY by Illiad



User Friendly is a popular cartoon on the internet about the lives of a group of people who work in the computer industry. It appears in Felix courtesy of www.userfriendly.org

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