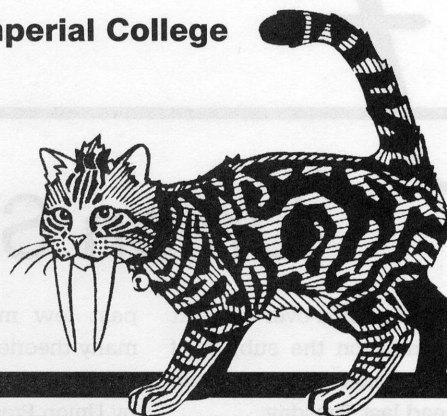


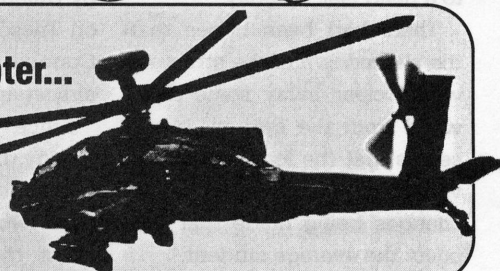
felix



**Tony Hawks Pro
Skater 3 Soundtrack.
Yum. (Page 14)**



**We like this helicopter...
Black Hawk
Down
reviewed (Page 23)**



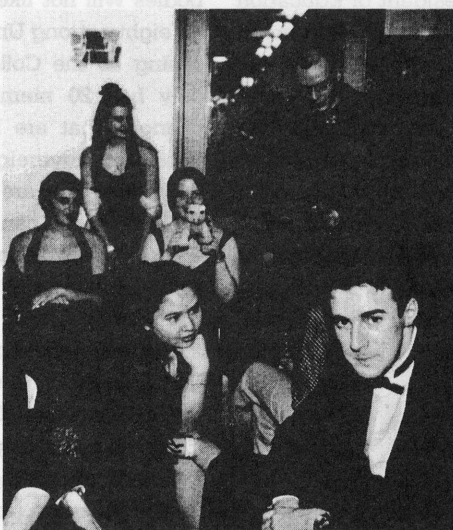
Summer Ball Axed

Council, the sovereign body of the Union, decided last Tuesday that this year's summer ball should be cancelled.

This decision was suggested by a 'working group' headed by Union President, Mr. Sen Ganesh, which also consisted of a number of others formerly involved with the Summer Ball, who have had prior experience with the problems associated with this event.

The main reasons cited for the decision were financial, and the meeting, which occurred last week, was finalised with the decision that if College were to announce unconditional sponsorship for the Union to have the Ball, then it would go ahead. However the deadline for College to show their support was before the council held on Tuesday evening (see page 2 for more detail on that event), and sadly it had not been forthcoming, therefore Mr. Ganesh was forced to suggest the cancellation of the project.

In the past, the Summer Ball has acted as a leaving party for the graduating year, as well as just being a general get togeth-



Happy revellers at last year's Ball

er for all students to have a good time. Previously it has been held off-campus, but last year it was held on the College grounds themselves, and this proved a success both as far as student enjoyment was concerned, as well as financially.

The reasons for its feasibility last year

are complex, however, and mostly involve many personal favours being called in by members of the Drama Society, DramSoc, who acted as technicians for the event. Many of DramSoc have external friends with equipment that was borrowed for the event, but it is impossible to repeat that again this year, and as such £25,000 is required in order to put on the event, whatever the venue.

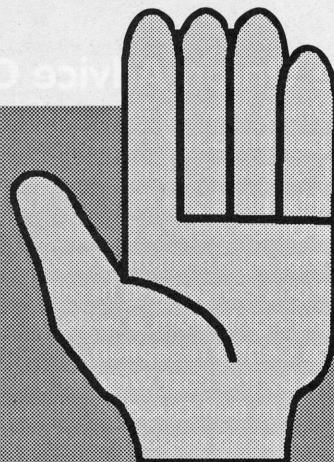
College had offered to underwrite the venture, but only using money that the Union insists is owed to them anyway, which would therefore count as a huge deficit in the Union budget, and has therefore been deemed unacceptable.

On top of this, not one student has volunteered to organise this event, meaning that everything would have to be done in the next four months. It has been suggested that plans for next year's Ball should start being drawn up now.

will

**"Believe me, few things in this life are
more depressing than the queue to
sign on of a Wednesday morning"**

Get volunteering, says Holly...



Union Shake-Up?

All the discussion over the past few months on the subject of the new Union structure came to a head last Tuesday.

There had been hopes that the shakedown of the structure would clear away some dead wood from the system, but it seems that the force of conservatism has won, with very few changes being made that will affect the average student.

To understand the changes made requires a strong understanding of Union policy, however the reasons for the change are much easier to explain. Since the rector, Sir Richard Sykes, announced the new move to a faculty system that College is undertaking at the moment, it has been obvious that the Union must change in some way so as to reflect this, in order to have any chance of representing the students within the various departments. The

past few months have seen many theories put forward, but the final options were laid out by Union President Sen Ganesh on Tuesday, during a five hour Council meeting that was almost entirely on this subject.

Since these changes will modify the Union constitution, a two thirds majority is required over two separate sessions to affect the changes, and each session is meant to have a 'quorate' number of Union officers present. The majority was easily reached, with David Francis (Deputy President of Education and Welfare), the only person who voted against the new changes being made. However, while there were more than the quorate amount of votes cast, this was due to many votes being proxied from non-present members, and therefore if someone had cared to say 'quorum', the meeting would have

to have been declared invalid. This practice, however, is usually considered a waste of time, due to the low turnout that Council generally has. It is interesting, therefore, to note that the new changes will add around an extra 40 members to Council, most of whom will be Departmental representatives.

However, since the Union is a part of College, all changes will have to go through the College's own governing bodies, and it has been noted that many of the members of these bodies will not like the idea of an eighty strong Union Council, seeing as the College Council only has 20 members. If the changes that are being made by this 'sovereign' student body, therefore, are not liked by College, they can return the suggested amendments to the Union, stating any of their own changes that they feel should

be considered. While they can not actually state what should be in the Union Constitution, they can make very strong suggestions, and in the mean time make life quite uncomfortable for the Union, both financially and politically. While this reporter is certainly not suggesting that these tactics would be undertaken, it is notable that if this were to occur then any external observers may see this as an infringement of student rights, and public knowledge of anything along these lines occurring could be heavily detrimental to both the image of Imperial College as a whole, as well as the view of the Union that other political student bodies may have. However, if College feels the changes the Union wants to make are foolish, they will have no choice but to step in, so it is a narrow path that must be trodden.

On a less global level, how-

f

Issue 1224

18th January 2002

Editor: will Dugdale
Deputy Editor: Ali Wren
News: Vacant
Music: Dave Edwards
Books: Jon Matthews
Arts: Jon Brenner
Film: Darius Nikbin
Sports: Vacant
Crossword: Dr. Hot Fudge

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The Union Advice Centre

The Union offers a free, confidential and impartial professional advice service for students and staff on legal, academic, financial, housing, immigration, and benefits questions through the full-time Advisor based in the Union Advice Centre.

Further information is also available on other questions concerning health, drugs, alcohol, tax and student rights from a wide range of leaflets in the Advice Centre reception.

Drop by the East Wing of the Union Building in Beit Quad, or phone directly for an appointment on: (020) 7594 8067.

imperial
college
union
ADVICE CENTRE

ever, the important changes that have passed this first draft of a new Constitution are mainly in name. No longer are there Constituent College Unions (CCUs), but are now Faculty Student Associations (FSAs), but these seem to have been mapped from the old to the new. In addition, there are now three Dep Reps (Departmental Representatives) for each department, one for Undergraduates, one for taught post-graduates, and one for Research students. Each of these will have a space on Council, giving much more power to all FSAs (with about 20 extra members each), apart from the Medics, who have gained less than 5 members.

Obviously there are more changes, but this reporter only just understands these ones (and has probably made several errors), and this is only the first draft of a long process. Watch this space. will

**Friday
18th** union
djs:play

KANDY

The Sweet Taste of New Music

Progressive/Trance
House/Ibiza Tunes



£2 Union/£2.50 Guests

Friday Night Out
Supported by
dB & UP TimeOut

**Tuesday
22nd**

**UNION
QUIZ
NIGHT**

sponsored
by

STA TRAVEL

Prizes: £50 & beer

8:30pm/FREE@the union

Da Vinci's

**Wednesday
23rd**

**CHEESY
WOTSITS** union
djs:play

£1/pint Tetleys
or Carlsberg
while beer lasts
from 5pm (dBs only)

8pm-2am

£1 Union/£1.50 Guests

Chili & Fries
in the UDH

**Thursday
24th**

**SOUND
BAND NIGHT**

Good Fun
@ good prices

7:30pm-11pm
FREE@the union

Da Vinci's
— Café bar —

**Friday
25th**

indie/alternative dance,
guitar pop &
big bouncy beats

**Supa
Noize**

union
djs:play

8pm-2am

£2 Union/£2.50 Guests

Friday Night Out
Supported by
dB & UP TimeOut

**Tuesday
29th**

**UNION
QUIZ
NIGHT**

sponsored
by

STA TRAVEL

Prizes: £50 & beer

8:30pm/FREE@the union

Da Vinci's

**Wednesday
30th**

**CHEESY
WOTSITS** union
djs:play

£1/pint Tetleys
or Carlsberg
while beer lasts
from 5pm (dBs only)

8pm-2am

£1 Union/£1.50 Guests

Chili & Fries
in the UDH

**Thursday
31st**

**COMEDY
BUST-A-GUT
CLUB**

**Norman
Lovett**

"...makes Jack Dee
seem like Ken Dodd..."

Edinburgh Evening News

Purchase advance tickets
from the Union Reception
Doors 7:30pm

£3 Union/£3.50 Guests

dB & UP **W D** **The Daily Telegraph
OPEN MIC
AWARD**

Good Fun
@ good prices

**Union Building
Beit Quad** R.O.A.R.



Da Vinci's
— Café bar —



Open noon-11pm Saturdays and noon-10:30pm Sundays

**imperial
college
union**

Bag Bombs

Many U.S. experts fear a new round of domestic flight delays will begin today, as thousands of business commuters and holidaymakers flock back to the planes.

This Friday was named by Congress - with President Bush's support - as the date by which all airlines and airport security checkpoints must meet new, tougher, standards for pre-flight screening.

The new measures are aimed at thwarting and restricting the activities of terrorists; a major priority for the American people and their current (Republican) administration.

They include mandatory bag X-rays, sniffer dogs to search plane cabins and holds just prior to take-off and harsh penalties for carrying suspected terrorist items.

However, many senior airline



executives have criticised the schedule as "unworkable," grumbling that the laws, passed just before Congress recessed for Christmas, are "too rushed to fully implement."

Security teams, they say, are still understaffed. To check all travelers could cause long delays. Not to do so could be fatal.

Joe

Russian Row

A scuffle between Russian and American diplomats - over civil liberties, to boot - shows that while the Cold War is over, the two former enemies are still capable of behaving pretty icily when they feel like it.

The dispute, which started with two junior delegates from the U.S. Consulate in Vladivostok, rapidly spun out of all proportion this week, as the right-wing administrations of the two countries each sought to blame the other.

A demonstration in Vladivostok to free an imprisoned Russian journalist, one Grigory Pasko, set the stage. He was convicted last year of high treason for telling Japanese media about naval nuclear waste dumped at sea.

Eyebrows were raised in Moscow, however, when it



was learned the two Americans had attended the demonstration - an "unwise decision", according to one uncredited Kremlin source.

The U.S. State Department insisted their behaviour was not unusual, and "perfectly normal diplomatic practice."

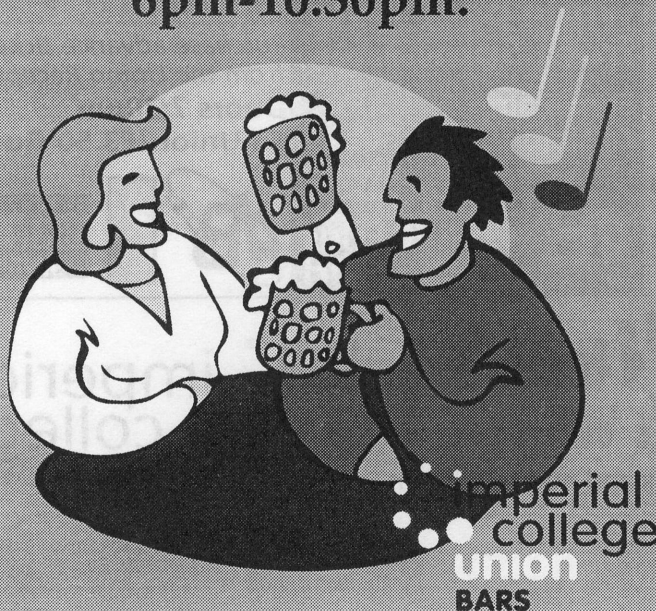
Presidents Bush and Putin are both said to be concerned.

Joe

THE UNION BAR

Drop by the Union Bar
for a quiet drink.

Open Sunday evenings
6pm-10:30pm.



Friday Night Out
Supported by
Time Out

Friday, January 25

Super Sonic

indie, alternative dance,
guitar pop and big bouncy beats
chili, fries and cocktails and
house/breakbeat in the UDH

Free before 9pm / After 9pm £2 & £2.50 GUESTS

ROAR

Imperial College Union
Prince Consort Road

imperial college union



"The future of Imperial College"

Hear the Rector speak
about the College's
plans for the future and
how they affects you

12 noon, Friday 18th January
Great Hall, Sheffield Building

All offers of employment

HOLLY BARNES

If there's one thing that I've learned this year, it's that being unemployed isn't all it's cracked up to be. Believe me, few things in this life are more depressing than the queue to sign on of a Wednesday morning - except perhaps the realisation that it's the most exciting part of the week. At university there's always something you could be doing and, more than likely something you should be doing - but there's simply bugger all to do if you're unemployed. And, of course, there's the fact that it's pretty hard to live on £42 per week. Basically, it may be a learning and growing experience, but it's certainly a lifestyle that I strongly recommend you avoid at all costs.

But I'm sure you know all that already - after all, it's fairly unlikely that any of you are genuinely considering unemployment as a lifestyle choice. The real question is, what's the solution? How do you avoid the dole queue and the exciting world of the Job Seekers Allowance? Well, a good degree, a wealth of knowledge, bucketloads of experience and a real desire to do whatever it is you want to do would certainly be a good starting point. And charm, good looks and a nice shiny suit can't hurt, either. But the real sticking point isn't what you know, or even who you know - it's how you talk about it. According to the latest research by the Association of Graduate Recruiters, 43% of leading graduate recruiters "reported skill shortages in three of the attributes ranked most important by employers - interpersonal skills, initiative/proactivity and oral communication" (and before you get carried away thinking that the other key skills they were looking for were technical or scientific, you may as well know that they were "for graduates to be good team players, motivated and enthusiastic, flexible and adaptable"). These findings are backed up by the results of an Industry In Education study of the nation's largest employers, which concludes that employers are "looking at personal skills more than degree content" when it comes to hiring recent graduates.

So what do we conclude from all this? Well, firstly, my Careers Advisor wasn't lying when she started wittering on about

the importance of 'Personal Transferable Skills'. Secondly, that a good degree does not automatically entitle you to a good job. And thirdly that it might, perhaps, be a good idea to get some practice at this communication, teamworking and leadership malarkey. And how do I do that, you ask? (OK, so you don't, but play along here). By getting involved in clubs and societies, charity work or local volunteer projects, I reply. Well, actually, I don't - the employers do. You see, yet another report (this time by TimeBank) indicates that three-quarters of the UK's top employers give preference to candidates with volunteering experience on their CV, whilst over half of the companies surveyed said that "voluntary work experience can actually be more valuable than experience gained in paid employment". And, whilst most of the figures I'm quoting here refer to 'traditional' graduate recruitment fields (banking, consultancy, engineering, management, IT etc), remember that they apply just as strongly (if not far more so) to less technical fields like media, law, the arts and teaching. Oh, and apparently they're pretty important for doctors too...

So, anyway, volunteering. It's a deceptively simple concept, which actually encompasses a massive range of possibilities - and almost certainly includes some of the work that you're already doing. At one extreme, it could mean making a huge commitment to changing the world, saving lives or raising tens of thousands of pounds for charity - but on the other hand it can mean much simpler things like getting involved in running your favourite society, working in your local school for a couple of hours a week, or just helping out with the next Rag event. And, if you do want to do something "worthy" (a tired and clichéd phrase I'll admit, but you get the idea), there are lots of opportunities for you to get involved on campus, with the Pimlico Connection (teaching in local schools - head to www.su.ic.ac.uk/pimlico to find out how to get involved) and the Community Action Group (who deliver food to the homeless, help out at local homes for the elderly and repair tools for Central African farmers - check out www.su.ic.ac.uk/cag to find out more) the two most obvious examples.

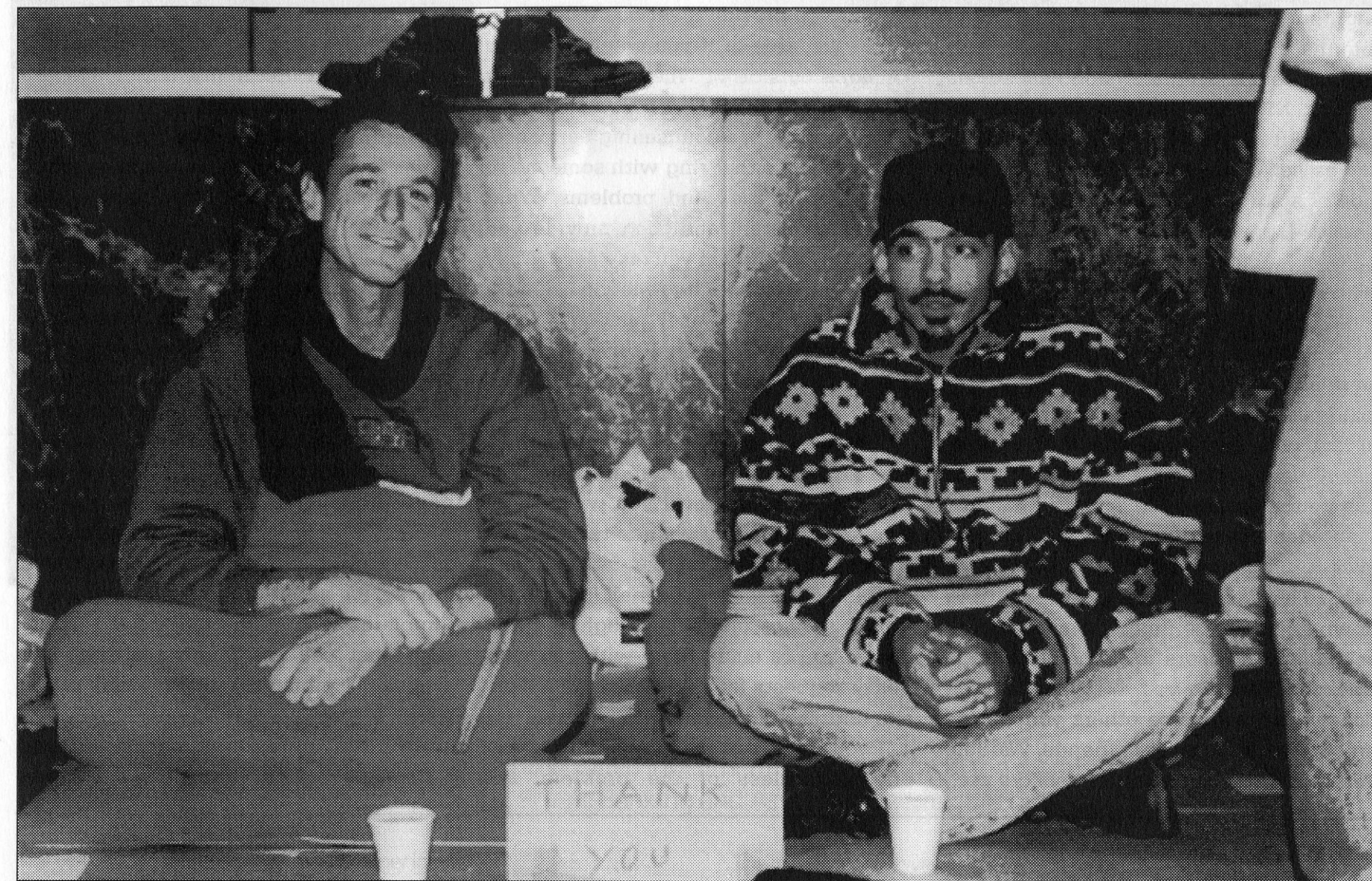
Aside from these clearcut examples,

however, volunteering also includes all sorts of other activities. Responsible for running publicity or arranging fixtures for your society? Year Rep in your department? Help out with collections, work in the Union or get involved with organising events? That all counts. And so does caring for elderly relatives, looking after small relatives or your friends' children, and a million more things besides. To be honest, it's almost certain that you're already doing (or have done) some kind of voluntary work (and, indeed, part of the point of this article is just to make you realise its value) but it's also fairly unlikely that any one activity could possibly have taught you every one of those key skills. Fortunately, though, there are lots of opportunities available on campus - head over to the Union to find out more, get in contact with a new society or just think about getting more involved in what you're doing already.

Hopefully, however, you'll know all that already, too. Two schemes that you might not know about, however, are Millennium Volunteers and Insight Plus. The first is a major government initiative to increase the number of young people volunteering in their local community. Anyone aged between 16 and 24 can register online (at www.millenniumvolunteers.gov.uk) to "use what you're in to to help yourself and others", and whilst the scheme does include plenty of opportunities to work at your local shelter or home, there's also the potential to get involved in anything from sports coaching to the environment to youth groups to music to journalism. Moreover, the scheme is backed by a host of big employers, there's support and mentoring every step of the way, and you'll receive a recognised award after contributing 100 hours.

Insight Plus (www.insightplus.co.uk) approaches the problem from a slightly different direction. Like I said before, lots of us already do a lot of voluntary work, so instead of encouraging you to get involved with new projects, it's designed to help you to make the most of your current commitments. Basically, you look at what you're doing (be it voluntary work, involvement in a society, a part-time job or family commitments) and analyse what skills you've gained as a result - thus turn-

gratefully received...



ing you into a much hotter prospect at interview. The scheme also includes a series of tutorials and workshops, plus the promise of official accreditation on completion of the course. Sadly, however, Insight Plus is currently only available to students at participating universities, which (at present) doesn't include Imperial. Sorry.

Anyway, if all this isn't enough for you, the final option is to head to your local Volunteer Bureau - for example, the Kensington & Chelsea Volunteer Bureau (check out www.voluntarywork.org.uk); the Hammersmith & Fulham Volunteer Development Agency (www.hfvda.co.uk) or Wandsworth Council Volunteer Bureau (check out www.wvb.co.uk) - who should have lots of information on local schemes and volunteering in general. For a complete list of centres, check out the National Volunteer Bureau's central website (at www.navb.org.uk), where you'll find details of pretty much every voluntary group in the country - so wherever you live in London, there should be a support group for you.

The only negative thing to say about these initiatives is to contrast what Imperial's doing with the investment and involvement with that made by other universities and student unions. The current Insight Plus roll-out is unlikely to include Imperial (although that may have something to do with the fact that the NUS was a founding partner in the scheme), whilst the Union has not chosen to get involved in Millennium Volunteers (unlike several other student unions - such as Leicester, Birmingham and Brunel - who both back the scheme and provide their own volunteering opportunities). Fortunately, the situation is likely to improve in the near future, as the College, the government and the funding councils all seem to have recognised the importance of volunteering and student development in the modern job market, and are thus making a major investment (including dedicated staff) in this field over the next few years. In the meantime, however, there are still plenty of opportunities all around you (we are in the centre of London, after all), so stop making excuses, get off your backside and

do something with your life.

So, yeah, that's about it. Volunteering is good, basically. Good for lots of reasons - and, quite frankly, I'd like to think that enhancing your employability is the least of them. It's (mostly) fun. It's a diversion from lectures, lab and revision. It makes you feel better about yourself. And, by and large, it makes the world a better place. But you know all that - it's just that, faced with a hundred other things that you should be doing, "doing some good" tends to fall to the bottom of the pile. Which is perfectly understandable. But hopefully, all you need is that one extra reason that'll get you to make that first step towards getting involved - and I honestly hope that the prospect of joining me in the queue at the Job Centre every other Wednesday is it.

Holly Barnes is currently unemployed. All offers of employment, freelance work, a regular income, unbridled gratitude, free love or one way tickets to Acapulco should be addressed to not@ic.ac.uk.

Nightline

Nightline is a confidential listening and information service provided by student volunteers for students from all across London. Nightline, as it is now in London, can find its roots here at Imperial where it was set up in 1971 following the suicide of a student the previous year. Over time it expanded from Imperial to many parts of London and is currently associated with about 50 different institutions including Imperial. There are even Nightlines in America, Canada and Germany.

It is essential for those students in difficulty, with emotional problems or worries to have someone they can talk to. To ensure that someone is always available for students to talk to, Nightline operates every night during term time from 6pm to 8am. Thus when offices are shutting down and it is the normal time for counsellors and advisors to go home there is someone there for you to talk to. Thus it doesn't act to replace others you can go and talk to (such as your friends, Warden, Personal Tutor, College Counsellors etc.)

but aims to provide a service when they are unavailable or if you want to talk to someone outside of where you study or live.

Nightline isn't a counselling service. It provides those that ring with someone to hear their worries and problems. What they do is listen, and then provide you with any information you may need. They can supply you with information on agencies and organisations, which you can then contact in your own time, or phone lines, which can provide advice. The phone number is 020 7631 0101.

They also have a website from where you can find out more about Nightline and how to volunteer if you wish to get involved. Also if you wish to talk to them by "email listening" you can find out more details on the website. Email listening is a new service offered by Nightline and allows you to email them with your worries or requests for information. The website address is www.nightline.org.uk

If you think you want to talk to someone, regardless of the problem, the

Nightline website is a very good place to start. It contains the links to many of the nations most frequently used welfare related websites, ranging from those concerning Finances, through to Travel, Crime & Safety as well as the more "obvious" ones on sexuality, sexual health, and the law.

It should also be noted here the benefits that could be obtained by helping to run a service such as this. To volunteer, in a manner such as this, in a truly unselfish way can bring personal rewards that will stay with you forever. Helping on a phonenumber like this one is an excellent way to give something back to the community, whilst making friends. It's not about CV points, or job applications, or first/second/third interviews or theses or money; it's about doing something good. Simple as that. If you think you'd like to help, just call the number or visit the website. I promise you you won't regret it.

David

Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

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NIGHTLINE students there for students.
Confidential listening, support and
information 6pm to 8am every night of
term. Telephone: **020 7631 0101**

NOT JUST LISTENING Nightline has a
wide range of information from student
funding and welfare to clubs and cinemas

Students there for students. Confidential listening, support and information 6pm to 8am every night of term

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Summer opportunities in Investment Banking

UBS aims to be the most successful integrated investment services group in the world. Our organisation encompasses Investment Banking, Private Banking and Asset Management all operating on a global scale.

UBS Warburg is offering summer internship positions across international locations in the following areas: Corporate Finance, Equities, Credit Fixed Income, Interest Rates and Foreign Exchange, Information Technology, Operations and Human Resources.

To find out more about trading at UBS, please join us at the event below.

Event	Women s Trading Game & Presentation
Date	28 January
Venue	UBS Warburg, 1 Finsbury Avenue, EC2
Time	4.30pm

Aimed at penultimate year and first year undergraduates, this event is designed to give an overview of Investment Banking with an emphasis on Trading. The event will be followed by a trading game, which will give you an insight into the pace of the trading environment. The game, hosted by traders, will educate you on some of the products we work with.

The reception will give you the opportunity to talk one on one to female traders from Equities, Credit Fixed Income and Interest Rates and Foreign Exchange.

To attend this event please sign up via the events calendar on our website: www.ubswarburg.com. Please note that places are limited.

To learn more about the unlimited summer opportunities at UBS, please visit the graduate careers section on our websites:

www.ubswarburg.com

www.ubs.com/graduates

The closing date for summer internship applications is 15 February 2002.

UBS will only achieve its global business objectives if we respect and promote differences in background, perspectives and expertise. This in turn will promote creativity and innovation, and create business opportunities. Building diversity at work is critical to the success of the business.



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Financial Services Group



Morgan Stanley invites you

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Unilever Summer Placements



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When

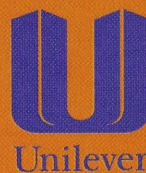
Placements run from Monday 1st July to Friday 23rd August, with a skills training event on the 28th/29th June 2002.

Eligibility

To apply you need to be in the penultimate year of your studies and have the permanent right to work in the UK.

To Apply

Apply online at www.ucmds.com or get hold of the Unilever Application Form by calling our hotline 0870 154 3550. Closing date for applications is 15 March 2002.



be yourself - be part of it

Rag Ramble

With just four weeks to go until the start of Rag Week 2002, the final elements of this year's line-up are now falling into place - check out the Rag website at www.su.ic.ac.uk/rag for more details.

This week, however, rather than telling you what we're doing, it's time to find out where all the money's going, and what it's going to buy. This year's nominated charity is the Shooting Star Trust, a charity set up in 1995 to help children in our area who are not expected to live beyond early adulthood. They're currently trying to pull together the funding to build and kit out the first specialist children's hospice serving West London. Rather than focusing on one particular disease or illness, they want to provide help to local children with all sorts of life-threatening conditions - everything from cancer to muscular dystrophy to cystic fibrosis to cerebral palsy. The new hospice will give them somewhere to live safely and comfortably, away from the sterile, depressing environment of hospital. Obviously, this kind of care is particularly important to chil-

dren who have no chance of recovery and no medical treatment left to try, but it's also incredibly valuable to their parents, who would otherwise be left to tend for them and the rest of the family alone.

So for the charity have bought a site in Hounslow, and are bringing together the last of the funding to put up some walls (and perhaps the odd ceiling) this summer. However, they still need more money to kit out the hospice - and that's where we come in. They need everything from beds to kitchens to PCs with special controls, and we're looking to provide enough funding to make real progress. Indeed one of the best things about working with the Shooting Star Appeal is that our efforts can make a really big difference - potentially helping to make the project a reality by the end of the year. So, in true Blue Peter style, we've made up a wish-list of the kind of things that we want to buy...

- For £1000, we can provide a fully-equipped music room.

- £2000 would fund an electric bed for a child's room.
- For £5000, we can supply a children's play area (complete with paddling pool).
- Next, £7000 will fit out an entire child's room, including a state-of-the-art bed.
- £10 000 will provide a complete multi-media room.
- For £15 000, we can fit out a video and book library and a family lounge.
- £20 000 provides four bedrooms to house families visiting sick children.
- Finally, £25 000 will fund and run a new minibus, complete with wheelchair lift

So that's what Rag Week is for, and that's why we want you to come along to events, get out on the streets and raise money for the Shooting Star Appeal. The most cunning part of the equation is that it'll happen while you're out doing mad stuff, maybe getting drunk and definitely having a laff with your mates. Nice, huh?

See you in Rag Week!

helen & dave

IC Radio

IC Radio goes drinking!

For those that missed the fun and frolics yesterday, IC Radio had a huge relaunch party, involving drinking, silliness and all those things we're good at. It was a chance to meet some of the ex-members from yesteryear and find out what things were like in days of old. Or at least, that's how I imagine it will have been, but due to print deadlines, I'm actually writing this Monday night and none of it's occurred yet. But be assured we'll let you know the full story next week, when we'll have a special full page feature all about IC Radio, some of the history, and photos of the new studios, and the carnage at the relaunch party. So if you were there, be afraid, you may have been caught...

Happy Birthday

A little known fact, but IC Radio reached the grand old age of 27 this Monday (14th). Back then we were operating off a reel to reel tape deck and a microphone, in a room in Linstead, so we've moved on

quite well, and from such humble beginnings, we've grown to be London's premier student station.

Learn to mix

That's right, the famous IC Radio mix masterclass is back. We've not finalised when it will be yet, but we'll advertise the date and time here and with posters around college. For the uninitiated, the basic premise is that some of our DJs give some tips and tricks for those who'd like to be the next Judge Jules, and then give one-on-one tuition to people in turn. It's a great way to get started if you've always wanted to have a go, but have never had the opportunity to, so watch this space for more details.

The Breakfast show

As some of you may know, this academic year we've started producing breakfast shows every weekday morning from 8 till 10am. The idea is to you tune your alarm clock to 999am (in Southside and

Linstead) or switch on your PC when you wake up, and we'll ease you into the day and make sure you're up and about in time for your lectures.

Requests

Of course, as your radio station, we're more than happy to play your requests. Let us know what you want to hear and any dedication you want to make, on phone extensions 58085 and 58100, or e-mail requests@icradio.com.

Listen!

As ever, we're broadcasting quality radio programmes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can listen on **999AM** in Southside and Linstead halls, and on the internet at www.icradio.com anywhere.

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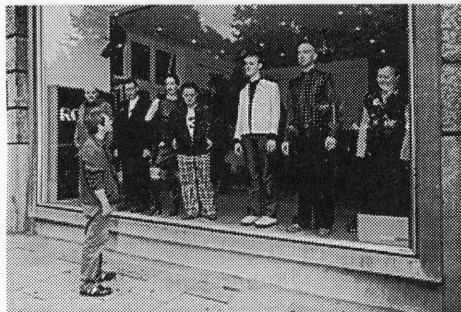
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This Week		Friday		Weekend	
Union Events		Kandy MMMMmm, sweet sweet sound of new music. Hard House. Bangin' Beats. Hooj Choons! Well I flew over Ibiza once, if that counts. Union, 'till late		Jam Eating Get down to Beit Quad and indulge in some conserve consumption like you've never chowed before. Orange and Strawberry heats. Beit Quad, 2:00pm	
Student Activities		People Going Away Away away, leave town and go away. Yay yay yay, we're all going to go away. Perhaps climb a mountain. Or go up a tree. Whooppee!!! The country, all weekend		People Still Away They're still away, yay yay yay. Perhaps in some hay, or in Torquay. I don't know, but they're still away. So let's say wahey!!! The country, still	
At The Movies		Mulholland Drive Some fun for all as cheerful people have a cheerful time being cheerful with lots of cheery types. Then turn into multiple mass-murders. Take your girlfriend.		LOTR I've been told that this is how the cognoscenti refer to this Tolkien classic. Maybe go with your girlfriend, and if you don't have one, pretend you're a ring-wraith.	
Television & Radio		Baguss Furry pussy surrounded by vermin, and Professor Yaffe. Possibly the best kiddie show of all time. How good does it need to be. Not much better. Nick Jnr, 9-10am		Dangermouse And Penfold. How cool. Also very useful when you've smoked a bit too much. Whose pig is this? Whose pig is this? No colour, for budget. Cartoon Network, 00:05	
Gigs & Concerts		Dave Gilmour Ex-Pink Floyd frontman Gilmour plays a semi-acoustic set in low-key, grown-up style, with the help of a cellist, pianist and gospel choir. South Bank, 8pm, £25		Biorn Again Just one question: Are you feeling cheesy? If the answer's yes then there's only one place to be this Saturday night. Expect a lot of Aussies... G.A.Y., 10.30pm, £8	
Theatre & Galleries		Cinderella Catch the English National Ballet's acclaimed production of Cinders for the bargain price of £6... if you're really, really lucky. Coliseum, 7.30pm, £6+		Age of Consent Having won critical acclaim when it premiered at Edinburgh last August, this promises controversy and acclaim in equal measure. Bush Theatre, 8pm, £10	

$$f_{13}$$



Station 17 Hitparade

Out now on Mute records

There is a fantastic, bizarre story behind this album. Station 17 originated in a Hamburg mental institute in 1988. Social worker Kay Bosen thought that a number of his patients could benefit from being allowed to express themselves musically, however they liked. 13 years and four albums later, the band has prospered, and I am a satisfied listener.

Hitparade is their fifth album, and is a collection of their most famous tunes remixed by some of Germany's better dance DJs in a variety of styles. And it is odd. Having not heard the band before, my initial expectations were for something typically German - perhaps industrial metal worthy of a nuclear war, or gabba techno worthy of a thousand nosebleeds. But this is miles away from either - unusual, chilled techno electronica, with more than a few nods to hip-hop and trip-hop.

For me, the glorious moment on this album is the very understated *Der Weg Nach Nirgendwo*. It's slow and brooding, but pleasant too, like a ray of sunshine falling on Tricky's dark musical world. The vocals on this track, as on most of the others, are supplied by simple speech - we hear old men and young children smoothly rounding off the electronic rhythms, and it matters little if you can't understand the German.

There are some unfortunately cheesy moments too, with a significant minority of tracks sounding like sub-standard Daft Punk grooves. But don't worry too much about that - in general, the tracks on *Hitparade* are usually fine and sometimes excellent.



Various Tony Hawk's...

Out now on Maverick records

[The full title is *Music From And Inspired By Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 3*].

So this is a first - a soundtrack album for a computer game. Not surprising really, since music is being used more and more in computer games now. I confess though that when I played *Tony Hawk's* (the game, that is), I didn't really pay much attention to the music 'cause I was too busy grinding.

Listening to this album, you can tell that the songs are in the game. It's got the skateboardy nu-metal and hip-hop feel. It's got a few well known popular artists too, like Sum 41 (pic above), Alien Ant Farm, Outkast and Papa Roach.

This is quite a good compilation, with only one or two songs (out of 13 in total) which weren't worth another listen. One track that stood out was the NOFX song *What's The Matter With Parents Today?*, which has a classic line: "Mum and Dad, I think you oughta stop smoking so much pot".

The Sum 41 track is just like their previous songs, with its upbeat theme, and Outkast's *Bombs Over Baghdad* has a cool beat.

The album also comes with an interactive CD, which has some clips of Tony Hawk talking about his various battle scars and some skateboarding stunts. The menus would have looked a lot more impressive played on something better than a dying laptop.

So, to round up, this is not a bad compilation if you like your nu-metal/hip-hop thing, although I think only the biggest Tony Hawk fan would contemplate buying it. Go on, prove me wrong.

OUT THIS WEEK

Due out on Monday 21 January:

SINGLES

ALKALINE TRIO - Private Eye
BLACK REBEL M'C' CLUB - Love Burns
STELLA BROWNE - Never Knew Love

ALBUMS

CHECK ENGINE - On Top

Fugu Fugu 1

Out Monday 4 February on Ici d'ailleurs

From the cover - a '50s beach picnic scene - and the song titles - *Ondulations*, *Angel Fair With Golden Hair* - we can make a good guess as to what this is going to sound like. French orchestral lounge music. Not that it sounds anything like Air - the production and arrangements give it more of a Beatles feel, circa *Abbey Road*.

The tracks with floaty female vocals sound incredibly like similar efforts from Stereolab, though much less contrived. On the flip side, the tracks with male vocals sound very much like Olivia Tremor Control. In fact, most of the album sounds infuriatingly similar to some indeterminate one or another, almost as if it were a compilation of tracks by like-minded '60s-inspired combos.

Of course, *Fugu 1* flows along better than any compilation would. The tracks are so short (18 in 45 minutes) that the listener drifts along, barely aware of the shifting tracks and the variety of instruments tickling and teasing the ears.

The album is loosely split into two parts and, although the interlude is barely noticeable, the subsequent track *Au Départ* indicates that something has changed.

This is an exotic delicacy that can lead to disaster if incorrectly prepared. Perhaps I should give you a sardonic warning of: "don't try this in your bedroom". Fugu's efforts haven't led to a cloying muzak disaster, because they're not trying to be too clever. The end product is not quite a delicacy, but an aural connoisseur would have little to complain about.



Derek



Oscar



Robert



LIVE: King Adora @ Electric Ballroom

Teenage drama queens in feather boas and glittery fairy wings crammed inside the Electric Ballroom (home of the highly recommended *Full Tilt* night) to see the much-revered all-singing, all-dancing King Adora. The impression I got was not of a band who were some kind of "glam revivalists" just because they wear eyeliner and sing impolitely about sex, but of a pretty wicked pop band.

The sparkly butterflies were in for a shock when their pop idols inflicted us with not one but two relatively mediocre support bands. One could have been led to think that the Candies and their fellow minion posse were strategically positioned to make even a lacklustre King Adora seem excellent in comparison, but was this the case? Definitely not, for King Adora blew the Ballroom apart. This was one of Maxi Browne's "glory gigs"!

From the moment they took to the stage with a rousing rendition of live favourite *Bionic*, moshing was taken to stratospheric levels, with people flung to the far corners of the room by the brute force with which we were musically moved. With the crowd whipped into a frenzy, the band experimented with some material from their forthcoming album, the Suede-esque *Tokyo Honey*. Even Maxi's facial expressions and poses would have done Brett Anderson proud, for imitation is the finest form of flattery. This track, which wasn't extremely stunning for such a talented bunch, was greeted with so much favour that it seemed like the crowd would have lapped up a performance of the Yellow Pages.

Highlights included the excellent *Law*, the intense *Smoulder*, the distinctive *Suffocate* and the Pixies-influenced *Big Isn't Beautiful*. Suffice to say, these were the singles, and the pure energy put into them by both the band and the moshers made them memorable. However, the "album-fillers" weren't done justice live as the band simply churned them out one by one.

The set being short but sweet, I conclude that King Adora have the talent for writing instantly likable and infinitely moshable songs, all of which sound just different enough from the others to be interesting.

INTERVIEW with King Adora

Before their recent gig at the Electric Ballroom (see review, left), Felix spoke to Maxi and Nelsta from King Adora.

FELIX: Can you please tell us what King Adora are all about?

MAXI: Our band is about decadence, rock and roll, having fun, decent tunes, live music, debauchery and glamour. Things a lot of bands out there don't have.

So how would you describe your music to the untrained ear?

MAXI: Sleaze-rock!

How did you guys get together then, and why "King Adora"?

MAXI: I was making music when I saw Nelsta performing with another band, and I thought "right, I'm poaching him for my band". Nelsta knew the other two, and so we started jamming together. As for the band name, we were out shopping one day and we saw this huge six-foot vibrator in a shop window. Its name was King Adora, advertised for "maximum, heightened sensation". And that's what we're all about.

What's your favourite part of being in a band?

MAXI: There's lots of things I like doing. Touring, both playing live and having fun on the tour bus.

Explain "fun" to me. I hear your band is notorious with the groupies...?

MAXI: Groupies?! Let's just say we're young and we like to enjoy ourselves. We have a laugh on the bus, you know, playing a show, partying, getting wrecked. It's quite like the stereotyped notion of the tourbus, in films and all.

I understand that you took part in various prestigious tours.

Which was your favourite and why?

MAXI: My favourite was the Mansun tour. We're quite similar to them, as we dress up and like to have a good time. The crowd found us easy to relate to; we were poaching their fans.

NELSTA: We learnt a lot from them as people, about the business and touring - they've gone so far and done so well.

What was the highpoint of being in King Adora for you?

MAXI: Touring in Japan. We learnt lots about the culture in the six days we were over there.

You have a new album coming out soon...

MAXI: Yes, we're going in to record it next week.

NELSTA: We've just finished doing a demo actually.

Is it a massive change of direction for you? How is it different to *Vibrate You*, the last album?

MAXI: It's a lot darker and heavier, less feel-good. We're technically more tight on it; it's the album we've always wanted to make but never had time. The last one was done in such a rush.

NELSTA: We've used different producers on it too.

If a fan asked you for your socks, what would you do?

MAXI: I'd give them away.

Can I have your socks then?

MAXI: Yeah, sure.

If the fans could give you a Christmas gift, what would it be?

MAXI: Just to keep supporting us and coming out to our gigs.

NELSTA: Fags, booze, socks... but what I'd really like is a Hohner Professional L90 Goldtop guitar! So if anybody's got the money, please give me one!

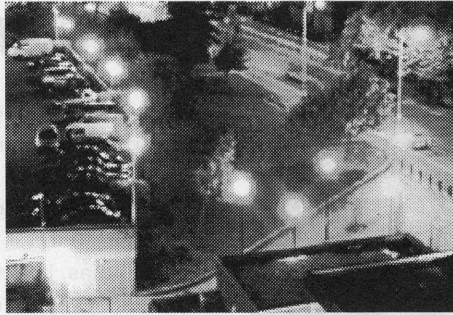


Dekefex @ Mass

The touring club collective that is Dekefex brought their awesome sounds to one of the most down places to be in South London. As ever Dekefex had put together a night that took in guest artists such as the established - but not establishment - alt hip-hop DJ Vadim, and banging sounds of Bad Company. Always one to promote upcoming artists, less well-known but soon to be heard in good clubs everywhere, collectives such as Moorish Delta 7 were a welcome inclusion in the night.

The residents, DJ Skeletrix and DJ NU, laid down a scratchy stylee mix of old skool, new skool, and any skool. I have not heard such a flow of poetry for a while. And, mercifully, emcees seem to be getting a lot more intelligent (or the true ones always were) than in the dubious days of the birth of jungle and 'intelligent' D n' B. One favorite lyric (on a free sampler CD given away on the night) was 'I'll strap a Nokia to your head and ring you till your brain fries'. Nice. The main emceeing acts of the night were Moorish Delta 7 and Phi Life Cipher. Both of these gave amazing performances. Beats ranging from funky to dark rap cuts to pure and simple hip hop gave the backdrop to tales of urban strife and everyday life.

Then it was down to some *serious* beats that demanded *serious* dancing from DJ Vadim (with Demolition Man), and the occasional b-boy breakdancing making us all feel temporarily inadequate. Anyone who has heard DJ Vadim does not need me to explain the maestro's fusion of beats, breaks, and found sounds. Never heard of DJ Vadim? Why not? Get yo' ass on the dance floor boy!



Moorish Delta 7: Interview

Moorish Delta 7 are a three-piece hip-hop outfit from Birmingham. The trio - Cipher JEWELS, 'The Captain'; Malik, 'The Street Poet'; and, Jawar, 'The Bull' - grew up together on grimy council estates. In addition to putting out their own tunes, they also have an agenda to promote local underground artists. The latter includes their 7 Entertainment project and the compilation 'Experiment 1'. I had a chat with them at Mass, ...

Jawar, I read an interview where you described Cipher as 'serious' yet 'chilled', and said that there was a kind of 'yin/yang' thing about his character. Also, you're the 'Life of the Party' but also the 'livewire'... There's a lot of duality here?

Malik: Exactly.

Cipher: You get that in the songs anyway, you can feel it in the expression. Take 'Art of Survival' that's there in the feeling, it's experience. But again, some of our sounds are more simple love of hip-hop.

Jawar: It's the voice of the people ...

That's something I wanted to ask you. You grew up on council estates in Birmingham... On your website you talk about 'Silent Screams' being the voice, but whose voice? Is it yours? The people you grew up with? Yours and their collective experience?

Jawar: It's the voice of the people. We have no-one to answer to but the people on the streets. We don't need to answer to the record companies saying 'play like this' or the media. The people on the streets is the only people we have to answer to.

Malik: How we represent, it's our generation. All of our past experiences are in it. *Like you said before, your music falls into*



two broad categories: the urban tales, and the hip-hop for the sake of hip-hop. I'd like to ask about the former. You describe 'Art of Survival' as a futuristic urban song. In what way do you mean futuristic? Is it prophetic? Apocalyptic? A vision? An inevitability? Or is it a warning?

Malik: Every day people are getting hungrier and hungrier. It's just the way it is. It's the feeling on the streets and in the cities.

Jawar: It's at the level of the streets, those are the sounds in every tune.

Malik: It's not a prediction, it's just that that's how the vibes is going right now.

One final question: what's your favourite sound, each of you? I don't mean like a genre like 'soul' or whatever I mean a single sound like this [snaps fingers] or this [drums on wall].

Cipher: A drum.

More specific?

Cipher: Oh, I like all drums. A snare drum.

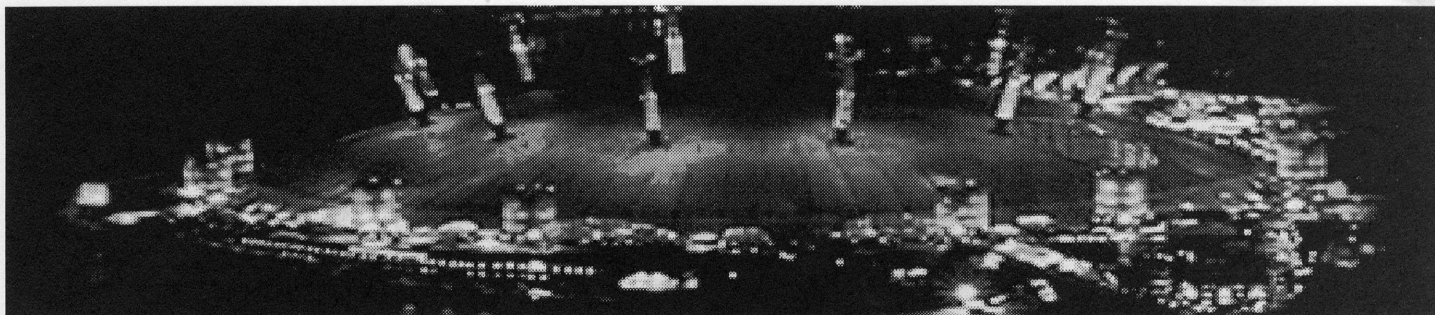
Malik: Piano.

Jawar: A woman.

Cipher: You know, there's a duality. We argue, of course we argue, but we will always back each other up. This is three in one. It's more than music. This is what keeps us going, it's what we depend on. We give each other counsel and support. Even if it's not music, whatever it is. That's why it doesn't sound manufactured. If any one of us left, it wouldn't be Moorish Delta 7. MD7 is the three.

Malik: We've had so many tunes over the years. And certain vibes happen. We don't look to the next man.

Cipher: We do something different if it feels right. That's why it's genuine.



New Year's Eve with Ministry Of Sound @ The Millennium Dome

There are two sides to every story, or so the cliché says, and Ministry of Sound's New Year's Eve event at the Millennium Dome is no exception. People's expectations for the event were as extreme as those for Episode I, and when you build something up like that, all you can really expect to be... is disappointed.

I have heard people complain that they spent an hour in the queue to get in, and another hour to get bar tokens. They bitch about the state of the toilets after midnight; they moan about Brandon Block being completely mashed. For me, these were no problem: I saw this as a festival and anticipated such things as eventualities. History has shown that the organisation of an event of this magnitude is guaranteed to be less than perfect. And sure, this wasn't the best night of my life, but it was a great, messy way to see in the New Year.

I arrived at 7pm (when there was no queue), and went straight in to find myself in the belly of a monster: five arenas, fifty DJs and only fourteen hours to do it all in. As the Dome slowly became populated, there was an opportunity to explore the site as the sounds of MoS resident Gareth Cooke gradually warmed up the crowd. Everything about the place - the fairground, the food stalls, the stupid hats, the hooters - said that this was a summer dance festival in mid-winter. The only difference being that there was to be no mud, no sunstroke and *definitely* no rain.

For me, the party began with Frenzic in the World Dance tent. When this tent opened its doors at 8pm there was a deluge of people eager to get some of its deep, high-energy vibrations. Within half-an-hour this place was boiling over.

Back at the main stage, Ferry Corsten got the crowd on their feet with a sizzling set of uplifting trance. By now, the god-like sound system was thoroughly shaking the foundations (I stood near to the left speaker stack and boy, do my ears know it). Thousands of people of all denominations were united by the desire to party, and Ferry Corsten was giving it to them.

Looking over the event from the balcony of the Rulin arena, the whole thing was put into glorious perspective. The rippling audience of the main stage, the distant fairground, the lasers cutting across the diameter of the dome. It was awesome.

Dick Clark duties for the night were taken by Dave Pearce. For some, the thought of a "Dangerous" Dave Pearce set is as appealing as the Paul Daniels Magic Show. Whilst there was a minor, yet noticeable, tempo drop from Ferry Corsten's set to Pearce's (some people behind me actually sat down and started rolling at this point), it was actually comprised of some creditable records bolted together in a pleasing fashion.

At 11.50pm a giant countdown began in the main arena, and as the iron tongue of midnight tolled twelve they cracked open the visuals and a shitload of spectacular pyrotechnics exploded in and around the main stage. But once we had hit the climax of midnight, I felt spent and in desperate need of a tiger nap. However, a belated Anne Savage set put a spell on the crowd like a voodoo incantation, summoning us to dance like zombies to her frenetic sound. By the end of it I had used up that very last drop of serotonin. No amount of energy drinks could save me now.

It was three in the morning and the

floor of the dome was awash with empty plastic bottles and beer cans - which made it a complete fucker to dance on. Around about this time, Siamese twins Alex P and Brandon Block appeared. It seemed that legendary caner Brandon Block had gone a little too far in his celebrations - his awkward mixing stopped me in my tracks every time. This aside, his shambolic DJing still entertained, and his calling card "Oi! Oi!" was not left out. Thankfully, Alex P stylishly finished off their set with some tight, thumping house.

The pristine toilets of the Millennium Dome had by now descended into full faecal chaos - inch-deep brown water greeted anyone unlucky enough to need any kind of number. This was when I realised that the festival experience was finally complete.

When Tiesto eventually arrived, I was hoping he would revive my flagging spirits. Like his Gouryella co-producer, Ferry Corsten, he specialises in uplifting trance, and so I was hoping a little bit of that might be just what the doctor ordered. Alas, he just didn't get my fire burning.

The dawn set was taken by Judge Jules, who turned in a diamond-edged performance, pleasing the crowd without feeling the need to go anthemic. But I was aching for bed, and no DJ in the world would have got me to dance.

Sunrise: brilliant lemon-coloured light cut through the glass of the east side of the dome, gilding the interior, and dissolving the distant silhouettes of people. That, and the clarifying morning chill, gave me a moment of lucidity, and for the first time I felt like I was in 2002.



The Thief of Tears Etcetera Theatre, Camden

The Oxford Arms Pub on Camden High Street is an ideal place to get some shelter on a winter day after wandering through the Camden Market all the afternoon. The pub looks old and worn out, but what's special with the place is that upstairs it hides a cosy connoisseurs' venue: the Etcetera Theatre.

The current production is Jeffrey Hatcher's "The Thief of Tears", a monologue from the trilogy "Three Viewings", awarded in 1993 with the Rosenthal New Play Prize. Natalie Bromley graduated last summer in English at Cambridge, and she has already shown her skills as an actress at the Edinburgh Festival. Her first appearance on the London theatre scenery sees her in the challenging double role of producer and actress.

The show lasts for half an hour and the stage is as static as a stage can be: the only object on it is a bench that at some point the character turns into a coffin, but through her convincing acting only. The thief of tears is a young American woman, of granny's funeral. She's a thief of tears because she hangs around the funerals of unknown wealthy people and as she kneels down on the coffin to moan she tries and steals jewelry from the dead body. She's content with her way of living until she tries to steal the ring that she has dreamt about during her childhood that her past starts to pour out through the leaks of her conscience.

The dynamism of this play is terrific, you can say anything, except that it is boring. The mood switches so many times between comic, dramatic, and tragic tones. The skilled light-work transforms the scenery accordingly but is on Natalie the most of the burden. Hatcher has managed to write a monologue fit to challenge the actress and to strip bare her skills and short-ages, but I must say that Natalie comes out very well from this trial, showing a confidence worth that of an experienced actor and proving herself able to act in both dramatic genders. Concluding, the theatre is a bit far away and a trip to Camden for a very short play could seem wasted but if you happen to be in the right place at the right time, then it's value for money at £5-9. For those with thespian ambitions instead it is a must: take it as a technical challenge. Could you do that?

Sergio



Rent Prince of Wales Theatre

The nation was consoled at Adam Rickett's departure from Coronation Street only by the steamy launch of his scantily clad pop career. So imagine the delight of his latest project, promising a bubbly fusion both his soap acting talent with his boyband-esque dulcet tones. After torturing the rest of the country for the past months, Rent is now back in London for a disappointing 8 weeks only (disappointing in its longevity, not brevity).

Ominous from the start, the show begins with Rickett setting the scene. Playing Mark, as an amateur arty-film-type, he annoys most of the characters as he introduces them, poking his cine-camera in peoples' faces. This introduction, and most of Adam's performance is startlingly confusing. His Peewee Herman-ised American accent stutters and vomits its way through the show, tearing into his songs. The set, around which the characters bounce, is faultless. Graffiti scarred brickwork, misted in steam as it drifts from sewers provides a convincing backdrop of a rundown New York side street. The said street gives rise to the characters squat in which most of the characters live (legally thanks to the generosity of Benny, an evil-type).

The basic plot (and it is basic) follows Adam and his band of squatters as they are faced with eviction from the squat. But there's a twist <gasp>. Benny's ultimatum is for the squatters to help him stop a "homelessness demonstration" or face eviction. Confusing HIV/AIDS subplot emerges which seems to affect all the characters, but which unsurprisingly the publicity material makes no reference to.

The emotional tumult of friendships, romances, arguments and deaths should engage you, even at a musical, but so plucked from thin air, and so quickly do they surface and disappear, that it's hard to feel anything but pity for people as they writhe around the stage in pretend agony.

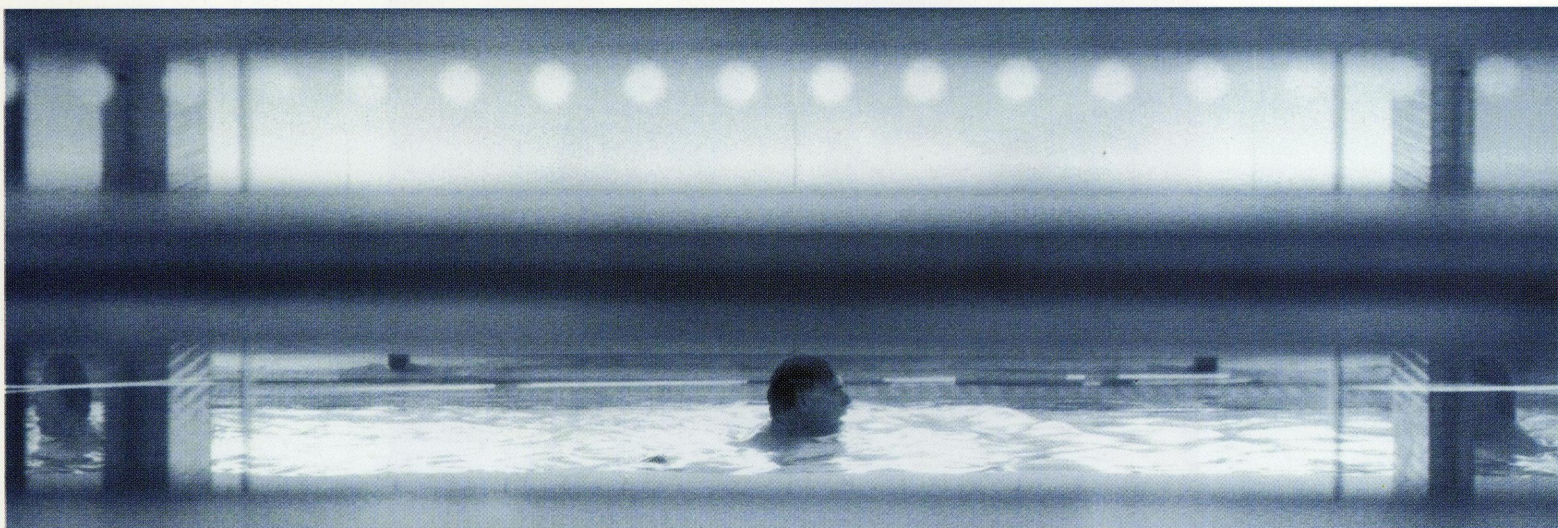
There have to be more entertaining ways of spending three hours (and £15), than seeing Rent. The pure energy from the cast, and sterling singing performances from several, are not enough to demystify poor acting, unemotional situations, and a flat, confusing plot. Did they lose it or did I?

Wayne

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Dress Code: Smart/International



(NOT FANCY DRESS!)

International Night

Thursday 7th February 2002

Dinner – Cultural Show – After Show Party

Venue: Great hall/MDH

OSC Members: £10

Non Members: £12

Tickets available from Union





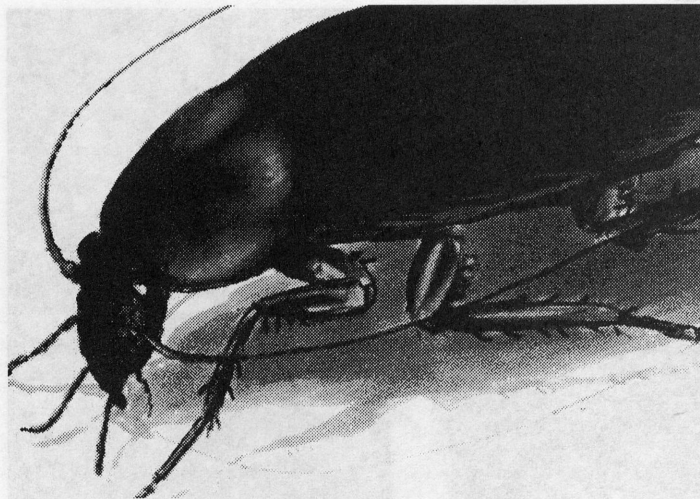
The Third Policeman Flann O'Brien, £4.99

The Third Policeman is a truly unique novel with obvious Irish origins, a tale set in a reality where the basic rules of our world no longer apply. It surrounds an individual who is forced from one strange situation to another, the fact that you will never know the name of the main character is an indication of the style of this novel.

He is brought up in circumstances that are a little strange. An only child whose parents both die when he is very young, he is sent to an expensive boarding school. Meantime somebody else is left to look after the family farm, namely John Divney. At boarding school he starts to develop an interest in de Selby, an eccentric physicist/ philosopher from the end of the nineteenth century. By the time he leaves boarding school and returns to the farm he intends to devote his time to cataloguing all of de Selby's works and the work of all his commentators. However, once this is complete he needs money to publish it. The farm is not doing well, however. At John Divney's suggestion the decision is eventually made to murder old Mathers who keeps his money in a black metal cash box. John Divney hides the box until it is 'safe' to use the money but does not reveal the hiding place for three years, during which time a rather strained relationship builds up between them. Once the hiding place is revealed our protagonist goes to collect it. What follows is a tale of his attempts to get hold of this box.

This tale moves from strange to bizarre to completely obscene, an army of three legged men and bicycles with personalities are just two examples from the world created by O'Brien. The aura of surreal abnormality within this novel makes it a wonderful book to escape into and I warn you, you will probably want to read it twice. What starts out as a murder becomes a black comedy, eventually reaching a dark conclusion, do not be fooled by the appearance that this is a comedy of circumstance, there is a very grave moral underlying.

The Third Policeman by Flann O'Brien is published by Flamingo priced at £4.99.



Pest Control Bill Fitzhugh, £5.99

One of the most humorous books published in 2000 was Dave Barry's Big Trouble and was reviewed in *Felix* in the autumn of that year. Although nothing this year came close to the hilarity of this story I did happen to read over Christmas a very amusing and well-written debut novel by Bill Fitzhugh called Pest Control. Bob Dillon (you can see where some of the jokes comes from straight away) is an unhappy exterminator in New York City. Bob is trying to find a better way of dealing with the city's dirtiest and most unwelcome creatures. You see, Bob is an environmentally friendly bug exterminator and decides to quit his job in the hope that he can breed "super" bugs that will kill your common household pests without the need for pesticides and poisonous sprays.

Bob places his advertisement for his new extermination service in the local papers and the ad falls into the hands of a middle man for a world-wide assassination service who believes that Bob and his title of "The Assassin" is a veiled reference to his status as a hit-man. Getting an idea of the trouble in store, Bob begs off the lucrative job he's offered. But when the victim is accidentally killed anyway, the middleman, assuming Bob's managed the job with unusual finesse, duly sends him his fee. Every thing sounds status quo until the UPS package with the money gets held on the way to Bob; his wife and daughter, impatient with his approach to pest control, walk out on him; and the brother and murderer of a Bolivian drug-lord who wants to cover up his own crime informs the world that it was the work of the Exterminator and offers a \$10 million bounty to whoever kills Bob, attracting all the top exterminators in the field.

Pest Control is a very well written and humorous novel. The characters stand out as very real people and Bob is the your typical "man in wrong place at the wrong time." The two main stars of this novel without a doubt are Bob's young daughter and the bugs themselves who finally come to Bob's assistance towards the end of this very light but highly entertaining read.

Pest Control is the first of four books by Bill Fitzhugh and is published by Arrow, priced £5.99.



Lord Of The Rings: Fellowship Of The Ring

As one of the most hyped and eagerly awaited releases of last year, many of you may have already seen *Lord Of The Rings*. For those who haven't, it is a truly excellent film. It may not live up to its hype as the new *Star Wars* or the best move ever made, but it's still definitely worth seeing.

The film opens with a brief run-down of the story of the ring that immediately draws the viewer into Tolkien's fantasy world. The special effects in this scene - and, indeed, though out the film - are among the most realistic I have ever seen. Director Peter Jackson follows in the epic footsteps of Ridley Scott (in the likes of *Blade Runner* and *Gladiator*), creating a real yet alternative world, full of rich textural detail that aids the suspension of disbelief. Moreover, the film as a whole is very atmospheric, fuelled throughout by a dark, brooding sense of dread. Foreboding runs throughout, especially in the scenes with the ring wraiths.

After this opening, the pace slows as we are shown Hobiton on the eve of Bilbo Baggins' birthday. Again the special effects are excellent, with the three and a half foot hobbits played by digitally reduced actors. The film could quite easily have fallen into farce and high camp without the naturalistic, solid performances by Elijah Wood and the other hobbit actors.

One of the most memorable scenes of the film is the fight between Gandalf and Saruman in Orthanc (the tower of Isengrad). Christopher Lee and Ian McKellen are perfect for the roles of warring sorcerers and are truly realistic and frightening. However, there is a glaring continuity error: Saruman takes Gandalf's staff from him, yet it turns up later (with no explanation as to how it was returned).

Another major flaw with the film is the ending. Despite remaining true to the book, it comes across flat, offering no sense of completion or finality - and consequently the film works far less well as a movie in its own right than *Star Wars*. It is this ending that stops *Lord Of The Rings* being as outstanding as other films like *Goodfellas* and *Die Hard* and moves it into the 'very good but not great' category.



Alex Dunbar



Va Savoir released 8th January

Life is story, story is life. The Arts and their connection to the lives of those involved in them is a particular fascination of Jacques Rivette; and he is back with it again in his new comedy. In a previous film Rivette used Pericles as the central axis of the narrative, and now for *Va Savoir* he has chosen Pirandello's *As You Desire Me*, a piece about illusion and identity. The film's six lead characters are all related in some way to a touring production of the play and the long sequences we are shown from performances of it let us draw parallels between the actors' lives and those of their onstage personas, whilst at the same time not allowing us to forget that the film we are watching is itself fiction.

With audiences dwindling, their production arrives in Paris, and the female lead, Jeanne Balibar, immediately reacquaints herself with an old beau, in an effort to alleviate boredom. This leaves her director, co-star lover, Sergio Castellitto, alone in his attempts to find the long-lost Goldoni manuscript that he believes will save his flagging company. Fortuitously he comes across a beautiful young graduate, Helene de Fougerolles, whose family just happens to have the entire Goldoni back catalogue - but de Fougerolles' loutish half-brother stands in the way of obtaining it and some careful manoeuvrings ensue.

The troupe's love-interest musical-chairs is a central to *Va Savoir*, with much farce-like humour coming from all the various partner swapping. The art/life blurring is good to watch, with coincidences and overplayed scenes adding to the feeling of artifice, as exemplified by the huggy-kissy, onstage happy ending.

Having previously made the titanically long *Out One* (over 13 hours, if you were wondering), Rivette manages to stretch out this comedy to a lengthy two and a half hours, but this does allow for a leisurely accumulation of humour and characterisation. The first act is a little slow, but after that we are treated to the fantastic, intellectual musings about love and art of the sort that is only found in New Wave cinema. Quite simply, this is just a lot of fun.

Adam Joyce



Blackhawk Down released 18th January

17:37, 3rd October, 1993: American UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters drop 120 elite soldiers into downtown Mogadishu to kidnap Somali warlord Mohammed Farrah Aidid's top advisors and military officials. The operation is scheduled for an hour.

09:11, 4th October, 1993: 18 Americans are dead and 73 wounded in the biggest single firefight involving American troops since the Vietnam war. Somali officials claim that one thousand militia have been killed; independent observers place the estimate somewhere around five-hundred.

In 1993, Somalia was suffering from terrible famine, hundreds of thousands had already died and millions were facing starvation. The country's most powerful warlord, Mohammed Farrah Aided, was quelling food distribution in an attempt to win Somalia's long and bloody civil war. Faced with a humanitarian disaster on a biblical scale, the United Nations intervened, with food airlifts and peacekeeping forces.

In the meantime, the U.S. military set up operation Task Force Ranger, to root out and remove Aided and his staff. The operation culminated with intelligence pointing to a building in central Mogadishu, where Aided's top lieutenants were hiding. A highly trained team was assembled to kidnap them. If everything went according to plan then the mission would take one hour and there would be no American casualties.

Blackhawk Down tells the story of the kidnapping and the subsequent Battle of Mogadishu in graphic detail. Rarely before has the American public been exposed to the bare physical reality of warfare. Ridley Scott's movie should put off any prospective army recruit. I mean, who wants to have their legs blown off by a rocket propelled grenade? Not me. I would prefer to get legless down Southside.

Despite the breath-takingly realistic action sequences the movie's centrepiece is a message about friendship, heroism, and the true nature of war. But this is really a case of Hollywood rewriting history. The truth is that the operation was characterised by incompetence on behalf of the American leadership, a complete failure of intelligence, and infighting.

Felix On Film Competition

When a routine drug deal is not what it seems. Clayton Pierce, anti-terrorist agent, working undercover, finds out that the deal is actually a nuclear bomb. In a world where the truth has a price. And the price is the truth. *Timelapse* is a straight-to-video B-movie which you have a chance to win. Just answer this simple question:

Who directed this year's *The Lord Of The Rings: The Fellowship Of The Chicken Wing*?

- a) Peter Jackson
- b) Barrie Osborne
- c) Colonel Sanders

Answers to: film.felix@ic.ac.uk

Francis Ford Coppola once said that the artistic obligation of any director making a war movie is to make an anti-war movie. Ridley Scott's *Blackhawk Down* is not anti-war. It is an attempt to hide historical events such as this behind a wall of clichéd sentimentality, in a patent refusal to serve up the real truth about the sheer idiocy of American involvement in Somalia. It also champions the ignorance of the individual soldiers as they sacrifice their lives unquestioningly for a cause that proved to be so trifling for US policymakers that President Clinton called off the whole of operation Task Force Ranger the next day.

In the light of recent events in Afghanistan this movie will provide real insight into the methods employed the US in their covert operations abroad. The importance of intelligence gathering. This is modern American warfare. No longer the interminable struggle between the huge armies of two nations. Instead you have short and isolated encounters between highly trained and equipped American forces and third-world militia armed with rocks and Soviet machine-guns.

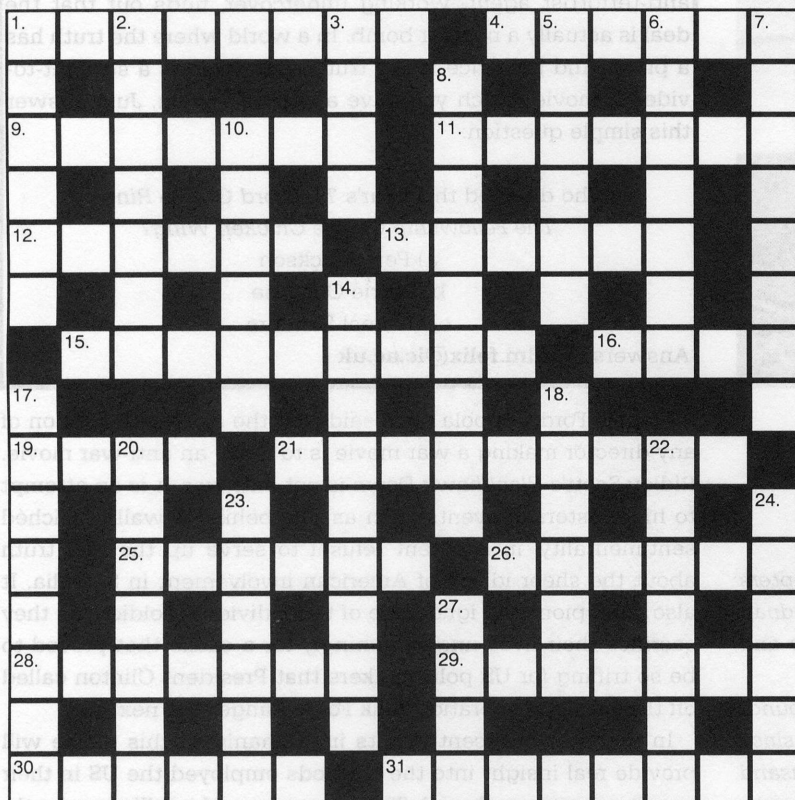
The sheer mismatch between US soldiers and Somali militia makes painful viewing at times. And as so often in Ridley Scott movies, the plot and characters take a back seat and you are left with a series of dazzling and often disturbing images and impressions of a terrible battle.

The acting is completely forgettable and Ridley Scott is the only star of the show. The characters are all faceless clichés. There's the idealist who cries, the pragmatist who smokes, kills, and lives life on the edge, and the guy who always has a picture of his wife and child handy just when he's going to die. "Tell her...ugh... that I lo... lov... loathe cheesy deaths," I clearly remember him saying, before realising that he's missing a torso. The dialogue is always corny to the point of hilarity.

Producer, Jerry Bruckheimer's presence is felt only too well. There is a clear parallel here with *Pearl Harbour* and *Armageddon* in terms of the moralising and hero-worship. But what partly redeems the movie is the action, at times on a par with the opening twenty minutes of *Saving Private Ryan*, with the only criticism being that there is too much of it. The action becomes diluted, especially with clichéd characters. Because who cares when a cliché dies? It's already dead.

So overall, it may look and sound spectacular, but *Blackhawk Down* is boring.

Crossword by Dr. Hot Fudge



Across

1. Wizard gives second goblin to two queens. (8)
4. Wooly garment makes dash from church. (6)
9. Perfect partners cheat badly in department store. (7)
11. Musical drink gives an understanding. (7)
12. Prophet on ecstasy goes to crooked jail before hospital. (6)
13. Bloke outside temporary settlement gets battered? (6)
15. Sickly green team comes to mutual conclusion. (9)
16. Insect holds gun over point. (4)
19. One extra in copyright object. (4)
21. Girl's furniture is an ornithological device. (4, 5)
25. Toast at the bar? (6)
26. Cooked sheep in syphilis, perhaps. (6)
28. Picture of carriage with ring on. (7)
29. Equation of class at university of louisiana. (7)
30. Currency group in vegetable. (6)
31. Calculated by company politician and Utah editor. (8)

Down

1. Seasonal mathematician? (6)
2. Decomposing over the top in circle..... (7)
3.besides East London college. (4)
5. Tumour in cheek of irish mother. (6)
6. Destruction of god before charge. (7)
7. Removes extensions surrounding endless track. (8)
8. Spiders mangled in crash ad. (9)
10. Cured leader holding the French. (6)
14. Foreigner receives allowance after January 2001. (9)
17. Late drink taken in nocturnal headgear. (5-3)
18. Teacher holds flagpole at east river. (6)
20. Prostitution vehicles? (7)
22. Case of legal clothing. (7)
23. Organise again at holiday destination. (6)
24. Man takes headless Ned to battle over penny. (6)
27. Hairstyle of a french zero. (4)

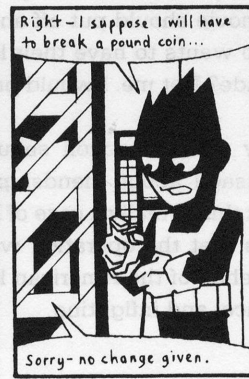
Answer to 1223 - Across: Veranda, Lucifer, Chimney Sweepers, Tawny, Tacit, Smile, Dry Rot, Nipple, Acmes, Phalli, Unplug, Naive, Atrip, Taste, Oral Stimulation, Pretext, Manager.

Down: Vacated, Railway Carriage, Nanny, Asylum, Lawful, Cheat, French Polishing, Rosette, Stain, Iambi, Ensue, Pea-Soup, Greener, Artist, Vacuum, Piste, Train.

Hey there good buddies. Fudge and Cyclops are back in business, bringing you the latest in puzzledom and all-purpose lubricants for another term of fun-filled madness. Our apologies for not making an appearance last week but we were late in returning from our break in Thailand, which was spent filming our upcoming masterpiece: "Bangkok Chick Boys II - Cyclops sheds a tear." The winner of last week's collaboration crossword is **Michael Bye**, Physics II. I don't know who those two idiots were who served up that disgusting vomit in the guise of a x-word, but rest assured they'll never be allowed to do it again. Until next time, be excellent to each other.

Dr. Hot Fudge

freakfighter!



freebies...



GFAQQ - The Great Felix Quote Quiz

by Bobby Cyclops & Dr. Hot Fudge

Bond Quotes Special!

- 1. "Red wine with fish. Well, that should have told me something!"
- 2. "His name's Jaws....he kills people."
- 3. "I've never killed a midget before, but there can always be a first time!"
- 4. "I feel a slight stiffness coming on."
- 5. "You defy all my attempts to plan an amusing death for you! You're not a sportsman Mr. Bond! Why did you break up the encounter with my pet-python?"

Bonus Question. To what does Bond liken drinking Dom Perignon '53 above a temperature of 38 degrees Farenheit?

Number of players: 60

The Leader Board - top 15

Name	Score
Andrew Ince	73
Simon North	73
Daniel Sauder	72.5
Christopher Dent	69
Chris Ince	68.5
Anthony Rodriques	67
John Anderson	65.5
Rebekah Hymas	62.5
Arosha Bandara	61
Gregory Mann	59.5
Geoff Lay	58
Kim Randell	58
Vuk Cerovic	55
Fred Marquis	51.5
Chris Toffis	51

Answers to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk or to the Felix Office - West Wing Basement, Beit Quad.

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Answers to lyric special:

- 1. Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head/B. J Thomas - Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid
- 2. Windmills of Your Mind/Noel Harrison - Thomas Crown Affair (orig.)
- 3. Up Where We Belong/Joe Cocker - An Officer and A Gentleman
- 4. Fame/Iren Cara - Fame
- 5. Moon River/Audrey Hepburn - Breakfast at Tiffany's

Bonus. All of these films won an Oscar for best song in the respective motion pictures.

'You amuse me, Mr. Bond!'

Welcome back 'Packers! I hope you accept my apologies for my absence last week, but the 'Doc is such a demanding actor to work with: he refuses to shoot unless he gets his two fudge-fingers at 9am. Back to more pressing matters: it's time for another helping of GFAQQ! Remember, the quiz ends in March at the end of the Spring Term, so keep sharp and send in your entries if you want to win the super Grand Prize! The end-of-term prize ('Bad Motherfucker' wallet) at Christmas was won by **Simon North** after a tie-break question with Andrew Ince. These two characters are still tied at the top of the leaderboard - we need challengers to dislodge them from their perch.

To start the year we have a special Bond GFAQQ featuring famous quips from both 007 himself and various villains/henchmen from Bond films from across the years. I'm surprised we haven't touched upon this subject before... where else can you find names like Holly Goodhead, Fatima Blush, Plenty O'Toole and, of course, Pussy Galore? Well, same rules as always (Film, Character/Actor) - good luck, see you next week!

Bobby Cyclops



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or pop into the RCSU office

(on Unwin Road between CivEng and MechEng)



There should be sports reports here.

If you play a match, you can have it reported in Felix. All you have to do is write it down, and get it to the Felix office in any way you like by 11pm on Wednesday evening. It will then, hopefully, be published by the following Friday, and everyone will know of your win. I'm assuming you will win. If you don't, you can report it too, and at least you'll get sympathy, or something, from your friends.

Netball

IC 118

ICSM 34

What can we say... too much drinking at School Disco & too much dancning - sore feet... well if we can't play netball, we have to say we can play better drinking games!

We started with scores drawing all the way, until they started getting more, that is. Ruthy-baby was superb & quick

around the court, and then Claire kept that ball from going out of the centre third. But even Claire (our medic who plays for the right team!!) couldn't always stop the 6+ ft (we're sure there should be a height limit in netball - if you can reach the ring without jumping you shouldn't be allowed to play... rainbow coloured socks are always going to put people off,

too) shooter from getting the ball. Kathryn kept the Goal Attack (GA) completely out of the shooting by blocking her out of the 'D'. Beckie (out most valuable player of the match) scored many amazing goals from all sorts of positions, and Hannah, with her dancing spins, got free of her Goal Defence (GD) at every turn, finishing off with some beautiful

goals. Jess fought against Hannah - a medic who had decided to do trials with us, but now plays for the medics... traitor! Just a few grunts and grimaces for the first match, though in the 3rd and 4th quarters, the medics extended their lead, despite all our efforts. We played a good match, but couldn't quite pull it off.

Jess

Ladies Hockey

Nobody would have ever believed it. Five-nil to the ladies' seconds! It was more than we could ever dream of. The match started with a smooth move from Bex taking the ball into their half, which was where it stayed for the

remainder of the game. Less than five minutes in, our supreme captain Nikki scored - we were all astonished. A couple of minutes later the two Jens combined light forces resulting in Jenny D placing a nifty one past their keeper.

After some excellent defending of the centre line by Anita and Sally, Chloe grabbed the ball and took the score to 3-0. Half time came and passed, and our magnificence was not suppressed. One more each from Nikki and Jenny, some fantastic

runs from Marianne, excellent tackles from Mary Hafia, and marvellous defending from Karen H and the score stood 5-0 as the final whistle blew. And where would we have been without the somewhat bored, belly-shuffling Karen M in goal?

RSM Football

A cold January wind blew over the desolate, waterlogged pitch. Stobbs wandered aimlessly from the changing rooms and by the time he reached the pitch, the mighty RSM were 1-0 down, after only thirty seconds. However, it was clear to everyone that this early surge was just a flash in the pan.

The pitch glowed, the crowd silenced and SOAS quivered in their feeble boots as the mighty ex-skipper graced the field with his presence. That was the best it was ever going to get for SOAS, and by the looks on their faces, they knew it.

Rob Thomas (the defensive prodigy) inspired the dynamic movement of new left back, bionic Gaz Northam as he stormed up the pitch with the

debutant extraordinaire Ludo by his side.

Sweet interplay was the theme in the presence of the legend, Sir Andy Mason who co-ordinated the rising stars' El Capitane Schluch-es-Menzies.

Lord Peter took the ball from what seemed an uncompromising position. He played what seemed an impossible ball through to the deviant yet explicitly talented James Stewert who split the defence like a grade 1 clipper through a taliban's beard.

Dear Lord, Pete was great, Ludo rolled a six, Bertie got shirty and new keeper Johnnie played the strikers like a cheap German harmonica. Thanks to Ken who scored four goals.

Final score: RSU 4-1 SOAS.



Live sport
on the

BIG SCREEN

Saturday 19th Jan.

Aberdeen v Rangers 5.35pm
bar open at 12 noon

Sunday 20th Jan.

Chelsea v West Ham 2pm

Leeds v Arsenal 4pm

bar open at 12 noon

Monday 21st Jan.

Charlton v Villa 7pm

Tuesday 22nd Jan.

Man Utd v Liverpool 8pm

Wednesday 23rd Jan.

Dumfermline v Rangers 7.45pm

Ground floor, Beit Quad
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