

## Students to Decide Future in NUS

Imperial College students will vote in a referendum to decide whether Imperial should join the National Union of Students, after Union Council narrowly voted last Tuesday to put the question to the student body.

Under the Union Constitution, referenda must be held within thirty College days of this decision being taken, meaning that a vote on the issue will be held on or before 19 March.

Speaking at the meeting, Union President Sen Ganesh argued that as six years had passed since the last such referendum, "a whole generation of students has not had the opportunity to vote on the affiliation to the National Union of Students," and that he wanted to give the students this opportunity to "have a say in what the Union does."

The decision to hold a referendum met some opposition, led by Natasha Newton, a former Union President. Ms Newton argued that similar polls at other universities had "torn the student body apart," and that such referenda "really stuff up a student union." She went on to argue that it would be an unwise move to hold a referendum at a time so close to exams and elections for Sabbatical officers, as many students would pay more attention to the vote than to revising.

There was also dismay at the decision from Medic students, as it became clear that the referendum would fall outside of their term time, meaning that a large section of the student population would be excluded from the vote.

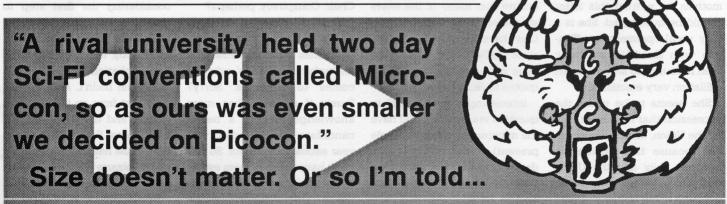
The most obvious benefit of NUS affiliation is the discounts offered to NUS cardholders by many shops, though many local outlets also accept the ICU card. Affiliation may also give Imperial students more representative power, as it would be part of a larger, national body of students. It would also allow ICU members access to more welfare support, which could potentially offset the loss of the backing of the University of London Union if the College's application to award its own degree-awarding powers is successful.

However, financing the £56,000 annual

cost of membership would probably divert money away from Union clubs and societies. Prices in the Union bars may also rise, as the bars would be forced to use suppliers endorsed by the NUS rather than its own, cheaper providers. A spokesman for the bar at the University of London Union, which uses NUS suppliers, told Felix that Grolsch is sold there for £2 a pint, whereas it currently costs £1.85 at the Union.

The political nature of the NUS is also a major problem, as all member unions must declare some kind of political affiliation. This is certain to conflict with the apolitical stance of ICU.

The impending referendum is likely to bring a new dimension to the Union elections later this month, raising the possibility that candidates may take up a position when campaigning for Sabbatical positions. John S



Send your Valentine's Day messages to felix@ic.ac.uk before Monday evening

### council comment

## **Council Comment**

This letter was received from Tasha Newton on Wednesday evening, and due to print deadlines, was too late to go in the letters page. However, since it is very relevant to this week's issues, I have included it here. Alongside it is my editorial, to balance the tone of this page.

'Watch out Sen we're going to sack you'

Sometimes Union meetings can be stuffed full of jargon that makes regular students feel outsiders. But last night, when a council member officially warned the President of ICU that he was facing a motion of censure, anyone could have understood that Sen's job is very much on the line.

As a final year who hopes to leave IC in June, you would have thought that I would have simply sat back and laughed at last night's farce of a meeting. But sadly as a misguided former Sabbatical, I care about what happens to ICU, its staff and students. I am especially worried that only the Sabbs' view on what happened will appear in Felix, so here's an alternative interpretation of what went on.

Council was first asked to consider a motion on whether ICU should have a referendum on joining the NUS. I'm sure that that news will be covered in great detail in Felix. There were two sides to the debate, those who felt it's time you, the students decide rather than Council deciding on your behalf and those who felt that a referendum would dominate the forthcoming elections and exam period, be a waste of money and probably fall flat due to lack of votes. (It needs more than 1.5 times the number of people who normally turn out for elections!) In the end even Council wasn't that convinced, only just over half thought it was a good idea and the meeting was inquorate anyway. (Sorry, in other words not even half of Council was there, which means only a quarter of Council thought it was good.) The real question is, why would Sen want to do this to us? Could it be that he worries that he'll be finishing soon and won't have done anything, that we won't remember him? Or is he looking for an advantage in the up-com-

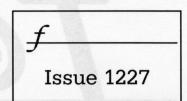
After this really bad decision there was an amusing turn of events as the President came under fire for going to Felix with issues before Council, for giving up his duty as returning officer

ing election?

(ah, yes, you see he does want to stand again, heavens!) and lots of other things I can't even remember. Then he was told that he should realise that people are considering sacking him. They weren't joking, seriously, people were asking me after the meeting if I'd sign up. Well Sen, I think they're going to remember you now, mate! Just when the whole thing couldn't get any more bizarre one of the members challenged the number of people at the meeting, quorum, there weren't enough people so that was it, game over

Now I can't really comment on whether Sen should get the sack or not (although I can tell you that people normally have to be really, really bad for it even to be suggested) because I've been out the country for three months and simply don't know. But I can tell you that an NUS referendum is a bleak thing. There's gonna be a big fight, and it'll probably be for nothing.

What you need to ask yourselves is: What are Sen's motives for bringing about this referendum? Is he worried that with just two Councils to go he won't have done anything? Or is it because he hopes he'll have an (unfair) advantage over the



### 8 February 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

> With Thanks To: John S

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other candidates because he can say he knows more about it than them? He told Council last night he doesn't care either way, that he's going to be totally impartial. But ask yourselves, how can he be, when he wants to be the President who will have to deal with whatever the decision is? Thanks, Tasha Newton. (n.newton@ic.ac.uk)

#### And now... my reply:

While Tasha's concerns should be considered, her own motives for writing this letter should be questioned. She is a very vocal opponent to affiliation with the NUS, and was seen in council to argue against affiliation very emotionally.

She seems to be under the impression that *Felix* is written by the Union, and this is possibly because the relationship between *Felix* and the Union this year is significantly better than that of her tenure as Union President. This does not, how-

ever, mean that *Felix* is a vehicle for Union propaganda, but, in my opinion, this does help to ensure that many of the news stories are more accurate than they have been in the past, since the Sabbatical officers are more willing to talk to, and give quotes to *Felix*.

Interestingly, the Council in question was quorate (did have the minimum number of people present), and was only declared otherwise as a mistake by Council Chair Sam Sharpe. Additionally, Mr Sharpe has now resigned from this post for academic reasons, which means for the time being, Sen Ganesh is Council Chair. Conspiracy, perhaps?

Tasha also seems to think that Sen having more knowledge than other candidates is an 'unfair advantage' when it comes to elections. Sorry? Surely if someone has more knowledge, they're a better candidate: that's what two year sabbaticals are for. So you don't have to teach them everything again. And Sen clearly doesn't control Council, so his impartiality is not an issue.

Finally, Sen was warned with censure, meaning someone was warning that they were considering the first step to getting a bit cross with him. This was because he had, apparently, told Felix about the fifth sabbatical before Council. Which he hadn't. Felix discovered that from an independent source, and merely asked Sen for a quote. So it seems to me that Tasha has used this particularly bizarre Council session as an excuse to cast a bad light on a decision that was democratically made. Hmm. will

The great thing about democracy is that it gives every voter a chance to do something stupid. Art Spander, Columnist

Nomination Papers Down Friday, February 15

Hustings

Tuesday, February 26 Wye Campus, JCR Union Building

Wednesday, February 27 South Ken Campus, dBs Club Bar

CON 2

Voting Thursday, February 28 Friday, March 1

**Results Declared** 

Monday, March 4 (at 12 noon) South Ken Campus, Union Dining Hall

imperial

# Sabbatical Elections •

## **Throbbing Elections**

### Don't leave it to everyone else!

With election season fast approaching, and nomination papers up for the sabbatical posts at both Imperial College Union and ULU, I thought I would write a few words about the whole election business, from a club and society perspective. You should also be aware that your club or society's AGM must be held this term, but more about that later.

So, the sabbatical elections, what's the big deal? Well, it sounds obvious, but you get the chance to choose who you want to run the show next year. For club and society members, the results could have a significant bearing on how easy, or difficult, your lives become next year. This applies not only for the DP(C&S), but for all four Sabbatical Officers. Perhaps you'll hit problems or you just need assistance or support in trying out something new; the attitude of the Sabbaticals may determine whether you get the kind of help you need or the opportunity to go ahead with your plans. Thinking more globally, the ULU Sabbaticals will set the direction of London-wide campaigns to shape your lives as students in the capital, examples being the LT Travelcards and student finance. So, in both cases, find out about the candidates, ask questions, raise interest among your friends and fellow club and society members and, most importantly, cast your vote!

On a smaller scale, each club and society will be electing its officers for the following year at its Annual General Meeting. This is a great opportunity to get more involved, give something back to your contemporaries, and gain valuable experience in a whole host of tasks. It would be all too easy to leave it to everyone else to stand for the posts on your club committee; remember, if everyone did that, there would be no club next year. So, take the initiative and go for it; even if someone else is standing for the post you want, don't let that put you off, the members of your club deserve the opportunity to choose the best candidate.

If you've already been on your club's committee, perhaps you'd like to take it a stage further and help run all the clubs in your CSC. You could go for Athletics Clubs Committee Chair, Overseas Students Committee Secretary, Arts and Entertainments Board Treasurer, to name but three posts. Any student is able to stand for any post on a CSC Executive, you don't have to have experience running a club, but it helps. These posts are more demanding, but you get the satisfaction of helping a broader range of people, and the knowledge that comes from working more closely with experienced Union staff, as well as the Sabbatical Officers. Without dedicated individuals putting themselves forward for these positions, the Union quite simply could not operate as it does. So give it a go, put your heart into it, and the rewards will be yours at the end.

Rob Davenport Deputy President of Clubs and Societies

## **President Speaks**

#### Elections

It is that time of year, and election fever will soon grip us. The first major elections are for Sabbatical Officers. These officers take a year out from their studies and get paid to run the Union for one year. There are four Sabbatical Officers: President, Deputy President (Finance and Services), Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) and Deputy President (Education and Welfare), and one who is not an officer of the Union: Felix Editor. They are charged with the day-to-day running of the Union and will have a big impact on the facilities, services and support that are provided to you. There is of course an opportunity to come along and question the candidates at hustings. Keep your eye on the publicity (posters around College and adverts in Felix) for more information.

### Summer Ball

Most of you should be aware that the Summer Ball is now back on. The College has kindly donated a large amount of cash to support the Ball. The Summer Ball is the biggest and most expensive event hosted at Imperial College and we hope to build on the success on last year's event. The event features live acts on stage on the Queens Lawn, cocktail bar, casino, fairground rides, obligatory rooms with cheese and dance music and much more. The best thing is that it is a student lead event and you have the chance to contribute. So if you are interested in getting involved just get in touch with me (president@ic.ac.uk).

#### Freshers

One of the hottest topics at the moment is the welcome that is afforded to freshers arriving at the College. As most of you found out "Freshers Week" is not quite a week. Indeed some of you might have had lectures starting on the first Wednesday of term. Due to the heavy work load and highly loaded timetables, there is very little flexibility to allow for these induction activities. I am campaigning to try and remove formal lectures from the first week. I believe it is important to have a full and considered welcome which could help students settle better into the College life.

One group of students where the welcome is especially important is International Students. Imperial College has one of the highest proportion of international students to be found at any University and they can face especially acute problems coming to study here. Many come from a completely different culture and it can take time to adapt to life in London.

I have started a consultation process with students to find out what would help. Ideas include allowing International Students to move in halls a day or two earlier and bus service to pick freshers up from major London airports. If you have any views or suggestions on the matter please get in touch with me.

Sen Ganesh

President, Imperial College Union



### society feature

## **Holocaust Remembrance**

"As I stand here before you, Judges of Labour government for the millions who Israel, to lead the prosecution of Adolf Eichmann, I do not stand alone. With me, in this place and at this hour, stand six

million accusers. But they cannot rise to their feet and point an accusing finger toward the man who sits in the glass dock and cry 'I accuse'. For their ashes were piled up in the hills of Auschwitz and in the fields of Treblinka, or washed away by the rivers of Poland; their graves are scattered over the length and breadth of Europe. Their blood cries out, but their voices are not heard. Therefore it falls to me to be their spokesman and to unfold in their name the awesome indictment."

Gideon Hausner, Chief Prosecutor at the trial of Adolf Eichmann, one of the chief architects of the Holocaust, in his opening address to an Israeli court in 1961.

Last year, for the first time ever, an annual memorial day was set up by the

perished under the Nazi genocide. This was in line with other remembrance days across Europe and North America and



coincides with the "march of the living" through the concentration camp at Auschwitz.

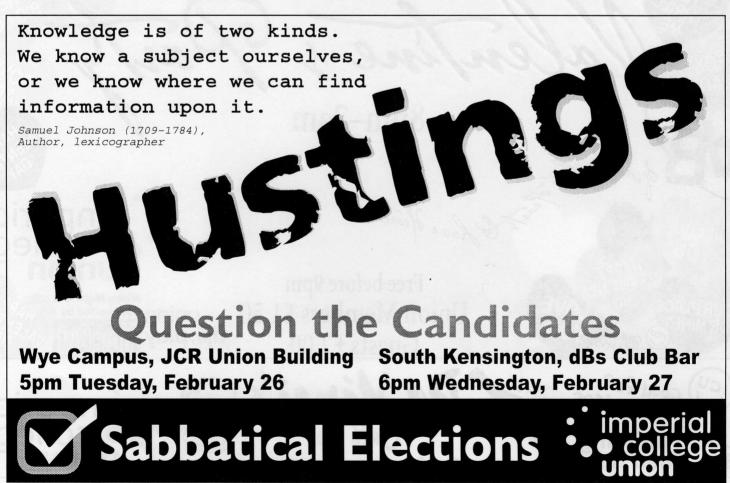
The Jewish tradition of "Vehigadeta Lebincha" ("And you will tell your children"), places a heavy emphasis on educating the younger generations about their past and it is for that very reason we see fit to remember the Holocaust. In this spirit the Jewish Society, with the kind

> help of college, set up a poster Exhibition in the Sherfield building this week coinciding with the national Holocaust Memorial Day. The poster exhibition was also aimed at giving some of the facts and background to the Holocaust as well as serving as a memorial. Many people from different departments around college, stopped to have a look, to contemplate and discuss the exhibit for a few minutes. The exhibition also drew attention to the plight of more recent victims of genocide such as those in Cambodia

and Rwanda.

By preserving their memory, we are ensuring that in some small way their deaths were not in vain and hope such terrible crimes will never be repeated.

David Shalom



### 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.

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#### 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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### rag week

## Countdown to RAG

Seven days to go, it's coming to a South Kensington campus near you on Friday February 15th, and it's Imperial RAG Week!

"Uh? RAG What? How do I get involved? Does it include sex, booze and fast women?" It's up to you, really... For anyone who's been spending too much time in the library, on the playstation or surfing the internet, this is what it's about...

RAG Week is the one week of the year when everyone at Imperial can get together, have some fun and raise loads of cash for charity. Most of the events are completely free to join in, and give you the chance to do something completely different for one week of the year! If you missed out last year, or just want to try something completely different (whilst incidentally raising thousands of quid for a good cause), read on to find out where you can get some of that sex, booze and more of those fast women...

#### SEX

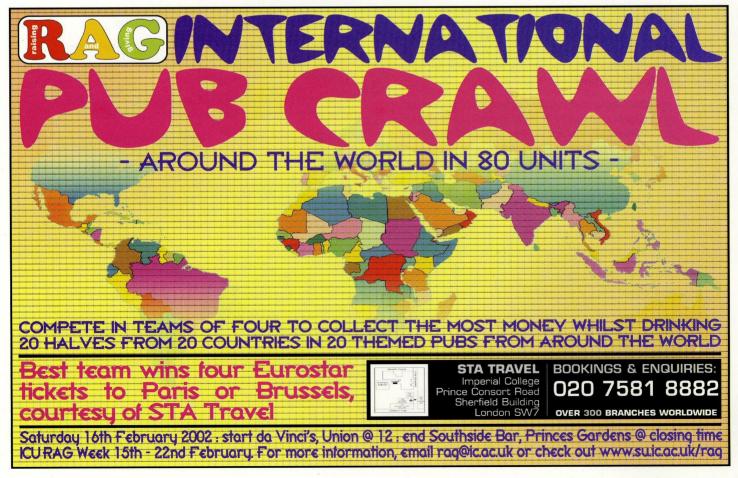
-y school-uniformed students will be running around the Queen's Lawn at lunchtime on Friday 22nd February, the climax of RAG Week. 500 balloons will be lifting off from the Lawn in the big charity balloon race, and there's free squash and sweeties for anyone who turns up in uniform. From 1pm you'll have a chance to get your own back on all the Milkround companies that make your life a careers fair hell. Invade streets in the City Of London and Canary Wharf for donations from those rich merchant bankers out on their expense account lunches... Mischief and childish behaviour will be encouraged at the final event of the week when RAG takes over the Union for a Back To School Party!! Live bands in the School Hall, cheese in the Home Room, giant jenga and twister in the Playground and vodka jelly behind the Bikesheds, all this will be a bargain £2 for the best Union night this term

#### MORE SEX

Valentines Day. Aaah. February 14th, time to romance that man or woman in your life and make them feel truly appreciated and cared for. Or just completely embarrassed. Either way, for the most memorable Valentines gift ever given, you need the Men of The World to help you! For a round tenner, these gorgeous boys will burst into your loved one's lecture, sing a romantic barbershop song and present a long-stem rose to your lucky lad or lass. Not only a beautiful gift but also the chance to waste a big chunk of lecturing time. Book one now by emailing rag@ic.ac.uk or online at www.su.ic.ac.uk/rag

#### BOOZE

And lots of it, all week! There's vet another RAG Week first in 2002, the first All-London International Pub Crawl on Saturday February 16th. Check out on the advert on the opposite page - it says it all. Your team of four (or less?) has to make it "around the world in 80 units" while collecting cash for charity and drinking 20 units in 20 pubs from around the world. Free to enter and starting from 12 in the Union, the route takes you all over the City, the West End, the local area and a couple of other unexpected places. As a big



## Week Starts Here

bonus, if your team raises the most cash you'll win four Eurostar tickets to Paris or Brussels courtesy of those gorgeous people at STA travel. So, travel London and you could travel to Europe too - what else were you going to do on a boring Saturday? Stay in the library?

#### MORE BOOZE

There'll be rampant drinking opportunities all week, if that's what you're into, and live music at the Union, if you're into that too. On top of that, you've got opportunities to combine them both! On Monday 18th Jazz and Rock Society host a night of live bands including the Rocking Chairs, Urban Bongo, What the Funk and Meantime in dBs from 8pm. The very funky Jazz Big Band will be playing their socks off on Tuesday night, February 19th, with their mix of jazz, funk, latin and swing from 8pm in the Union. Both gigs are totally free, with donations on the door going to the RAG charity and T-shirts on sale in case your brain hasn't let you do any washing after Saturdays Pub Crawl...

#### FAST WOMEN

...and men will be racing down crowded shopping areas in a revival of the traditional RAG Week sport - Tiddlywink races down Oxford Street! Wednesday will be one of the money-raising highlights of the week, with hundreds of students out to invade the street of London. There'll be challenges for yourselves and buckets to raise money for others, with the bonus of Imperial's most bizarre event starting at 2pm from Oxford Circus Tube Station. It'll cost you nothing to join in and there are prizes for the best

collectors and free T-shirts for everyone who raises over £50 an easy challenge for you high achieving IC students, huh? So make your Wednesday afternoon something to remember and get yourself to the JCR from 12pm on the 20th February and take up the London Raid challenge!

#### FAST MEN

To keep in line with the Union's equal opportunities policy. I am obliged to write about fast men too. These are available at the C&GCU Slave Auction, and infamous annual event that will make its first appearance in the JCR this vear. Sabbaticals will be on sale, C&G officers, RAG Team members and anyone worth a bit of cash for charity! How fast these men are depend on. what you make them do I suppose... I cleaned an oven for £69 last year, but we'll not go there today. One careful owner, yours for 24hours, bargains to be had in the JCR, 12pm, Thursday 21st February.

#### EVEN MORE SEX

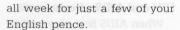
I though your attention was flagging slightly there, so hopefully I've got it for a few more seconds to say that the "Blues Brothers" and "The Italian Job" will be at ICU Cinema on Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st February. From 6pm in the Union Concert Hall, you can see them both for the same price as usual, donate a bit of cash to the RAG charity without even thinking about it and enjoy two classic films with your mates.

#### **BIG ERECTIONS**

Comedy title, sorry, it's getting late... But still, the tallest building in college is pretty impressive, and does deserve a bit of attention. RCSU will be opening up the Queen's Tower ton Monday 18th and Friday 22nd February and running trips up and down all that's left of the massive gothic entity that used to be the Imperial Institute. I reckon it's there to remind yourself what life used to be like before concrete. Trips are free on both lunchtimes, and the views of London are pretty amazing.

#### FREE STUFF

Even after all of that, we still have some freebies and very cheap stuff to give away to all of you beautiful people. You can get 10% off at Snappy Snaps photo developing on High Street Kensington all week, prizes and easy blags could be yours at all the events, and chocolate spread, jam and peanut butter RAGwiches available in dBs



Our funky RAG Week T-shirts arrived in the office yesterday, and my god, they are very sexy! Just five squid for black, red or green, six squid for girlie ones. Or you can get one for free by turning up at one of the events above and raising £50 for the RAG charity. Come along to the stall in the JCR every lunchtime next week and get yours before they're all gone.

#### Keep up!

The sparkling new website at www.su.ic.ac.uk/rag will tell you everything you need to know about the latest events and the charity we're doing it all for, the Shooting Star Appeal so please take a look. Have a fun weekend, see you all in RAG week!

helen



Send your loved one a barbershop song & a rose for Valentínes Day

Delivered on Thursday 14th February to any South Ken campus location in return for a £10 donation to this year's RAG charity, it's a gift that they'll never forget... Mail rag@ic.ac.uk or visit www.su.ic.ac.uk/rag to book now and avoid disappointment.



RAG WEEK 2002 : 15th - 22ND FEBRUARY : WWW.SU.IC.AC.UK/RAG

## Chaplaincy

### HIV and AIDS affects us all.

When AIDS first emerged as a disease over twenty years ago, few people could have predicted how the epidemic would evolve, and fewer still could have described with any certainty the best ways of combating it. Now in the year 2002, it is known from experience that AIDS can devastate whole regions, knock decades off national development, widen the gulf between rich and poor nations and push already-stigmatised groups closer to the margins of societv.

Already, 21.8 million people around the world have died of AIDS, 4.3 million of them children by the end of 2000. Nearly twice that many - 40 million - are now living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and most of these are likely to die over the next decade or so. The most recent UNAIDS/WHO estimates show that, in 2001 alone, 5 million people were newly infected with HIV.

Michael Sean Paterson in his book 'Singing for our lives' writes:

"Tell me it's not true ...

• That AIDS provokes feelings of fear, ignorance, disgust, hostility, rejection, marginalisation and prejudice

• That AIDS strikes at the vulnerable - the African peoples. gay men, intravenous drug users, commercial sex workers, haemophiliacs

• That those who live with AIDS personally embody the rejection of society hungry for a scapegoat

• That people with AIDS carry the can for all that society cannot face to." Sadly we cannot say that it is not true, because we know full well that it is true!

Sebi died last year from AIDS. He was 9 years old. Sebi was born in Romania and infected when he received a 'blood tonic' soon after his birth. His parents could not cope so they placed him in an orphanage.

Johnathon also died last year. He was 45 and one of the first to be diagnosed with the virus in this country.

Sadly some in the Church still condemn those who have the HIV or AIDS virus. They condemn people for the lifestyle that they live. But for many Christian people this is not the response that we would give. So what should our response be? Paterson gives some responses from people with the virus: • We are living with Aids, not dying of Aids

Don't judge, but accept us
Don't classify us into two groups - the 'poor innocents' and those who brought HIV on themselves.

• Don't be frightened of us. We won't infect you.

• Don't love me for Christ's sake. Love me for my sake.

• We are looking for God too, but not necessarily in the places where the Church has hidden him.

There are people and organisations both on and off campus who are happy to discuss any issues that may arise from this article. If you would like to talk in total confidence, the Chaplaincy team are available and can also advise on other people that you might like to contact. chaplaincy@ic.ac.uk or 020 7594 9600.

## Inkwell - Condom Bureaucracy

In case you've been having a more than active sex-life lately, it might interest you to know - if you don't already that free condoms are available from the IC Health Centre in South-side. But, if you're thinking of walking in, and helping yourself to a generous quantity...think again. For there's a small catch.

And here it is: You have to fill out a special form. Yes! Something aptly named, a "Condom Ordering Form". A little piece of paper presumably upon which you fill in all your details; you know...Name, Age, Sex, quantity required, etc. After which you kindly hand in your filled form to the nice lady at the counter. I presume she'd check for any silly errors you might have made.

"Oh, I'm sorry, Mr. Bloggs" she might say, "But could you please be more specific? Is that extra strong or regular? Would you like it with or without spermicide?" and so on and so forth. After which you turn pink, smile sheepishly and say... "Busy weekend."

Now, of course since making this startling discovery a few weeks ago, the question-Ometer in my head has risen to critical point and one or two questions have been flitting within the inner walls of my cranium.

First Question...Why?

Has Imperial College really sunk to such bureaucratic lows? One would have expected to see the little rectangular packages lying lazily in a disorderly pile in a small yet accessible basket, such that fingers could conveniently swipe a few. Why forms need to be laboriously filled is completely beyond me.

If this is the Health Centre's idea of encouraging safe sex...viz. asking you to publicly fill out a "Condom Ordering Form", no wonder Britain has such a high "unwanted-pregnancy" rate. One understands the importance of keeping records et al, but surely there must be limits to bureaucracy, and this, in my humble opinion is simply pushing them far. Too far!

The second obvious question is...Who?

Who on earth would be so

brazen as to venture counterward, with "Condom Ordering Form" in hand?

It brings to mind that rather memorable scene from Ally McBeal, where she ventures bravely to the counter to pay for some spermicide. Sadly for Ms. McBeal, the till stops working, and the insensitive cashier chooses to announce publicly over the PA system for the price of spermicide. (At which Ms. McBeal naturally turns bright pink and cringes.) I accept that ours is an age in which there exists a sense of sexual freedom and openness, but Puh-leeze! Asking people to fill out a form to obtain condoms is not only potentially embarrassing; it's downright ridiculous as well.



icsf: 25 Years and Counting

The IC union science fiction, fantasy and horror society is celebrating its 25th year during this academic year. The big red book of society accounts indicates that the society started in 1976 and had such exciting events as showings in the IC cinema of Barbarella and Invasion of the body Snatchers. 25 years later and we are still showing equally cheesy films, although we now show them in our own dedicated library.

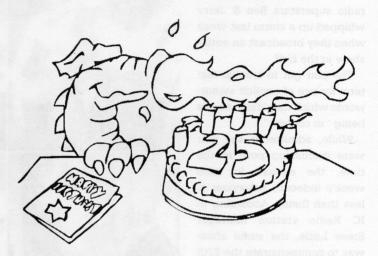
In 1976 the Beit hall warden generously donated a couple of hundred science fiction and fantasy books. These were stored in 3 large lockers in the Green CommitteeRoom on the top floor of the union. In 1987 the society was given its own room, a pleasant cupboard under the south west corner of Beit Quad. It contained a growing collection of books and healthy colonies of cockroaches and silverfish. The card system was getting rather difficult to manage, so in 1995 a member donated a pc to run a database and this sturdy little 386 ran the system until 1999. In 1996 the library obtained a television and video player and there were regular crowds of people squashed in the cramped space between pipes watching the increasing number of society videos.

After a hard fought campaign the society obtained a new room, located almost directly underneath Beit Quad arch. After several weeks of cleaning, painting, decorating and moving over 3000 books down the corridor, icsf became established in its new library (a room which is now the Beit Hall laundry). The library was huge and was quickly furnished with things acquired from various skips around college. However with the start of the Beit renovations we were once again on the move to a location dubbed by the sabbaticals at the time as "the icsf portacabin experience". In October 1999 the society reluctantly moved venue from its luxurious underground cavern to an upper portacabin behind the main library which was about half the size of our previous one. It was generally pretty crowded in there, although at least when there were lots of people in there, it wasn't quite so cold!

The delays of the Beit project meant that we were in the portacabin for twice as long as originally planned, but the wait was well worth it. Last year we moved into our beautiful new home in the Union West Basement Media Centre. We could finally spread out all the library contents. At the moment the library contains 4460 books, 113 graphic novels, 447 videos, and 36 audio items. All of these items can be borrowed by society members and we show a video every lunchtime for members to sit, watch, debate and make jokes about.

#### Picocon 19 - February 9th

Our major event almost every year since 1984 has been our one day convention - Picocon. The first Picocon came to be when a group of society members invited a few friends, including a couple of authors to the union bar for a day of discussion and drinking. The event was called Picocon as a rival university held two day conventions called Microcon, so as ours was even smaller we decided on Picocon. We now also hold femtocons for Freshers that only last an afternoon - see, our sense of humour is still as good as ever.



Over the years Picocons have grown, they now take over the entire union building and attract more than 100 guests. Over the years we've had such renowned authors as Stephen Baxter, Terry Pratchett and Iain (M) Banks. Other events include debates, quizzes, panels and film showings in the icu cinema.

This year is no exception: Picocon 19 will be coming to the Union building from 10am on Saturday February 9th and we will be joined by four special guests:

**Anne Gay** - author of several fantasy books including *Mindsail* and *Dancing on the Volcano* and also edits LineOne's Science Fiction and Fantasy Club.

**China Miéville** - The winner of this year's Arthur C. Clarke award for his novel *Perdido Street Station* and has also written *King Rat* and *The Scar*.

**Stan Nicholls** - has done a wide range of jobs in the genre, including managing a SF&F book and memorabilia shop, journalism, teaching and writing fiction and biographies.

**Geoff Ryman** is a past winner of the Clarke and many other awards for his novels. He has also created an internet book - 253 <www.ryman-novel.com>, about the people on a tube journey.

Other events of the day will include our famous (or is that infamous?) destruction of dodgy merchandise during which we auction tacky items to be destroyed in entertaining ways by the highest bidder (all money to RAG). There will also be booksellers, a LAN network, Dalek racing and even a Killer tournament running throughout the day. To round it all off there will be a showing of Pitch Black in the icu cinema which everyone can come along to. The day kicks off with registration at 10am and finishes with the film at 6pm. All of this will only cost you £5 if you're a current student, £2 if you're already and member of icsf, or £8 if you are neither. Oh, and there will be a piece of birthday cake for every attendee. What more could anyone want from a sci-fi convention?

There is more information on icsf, its history and details of Picocon on our WebPages - www.su.ic.ac.uk/icsf. Or drop by the library one lunchtime to have a chat... we're not that scary... not really.

### naked men

## The Naked Truth

Controversy-raising student radio superstars Ben & Jerry whipped up a storm last week when they broadcast an entire show in the buff.

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The pair got in trouble last term for use of explicit swearwords which they defended as being "in context".

While, admittedly, the pair were discussing porn at the time, the excuse for this week's indecent behaviour is less than flimsy. According to IC Radio station manager Steve Little, the sinful show was to commemorate the 27th anniversary of radio nudity in the UK; pioneered in 1975 by IC Radio. However, when *Felix* spoke to Ben & Jerry, they revealed that they had simply exposed themselves "for a dare".



Above, clockwise from top left: Nekked and lovin' it; Photo opportunity; smile for the camera; boxing clever...

Rather than express any remorse at their actions, they revelled in their licentiousness, adding that they felt "fresh like cream".

"It's like a brand new strawberry you bite into for the first time," explained Ben, eagerly. "Or virgin snow."

"Right!" interjected Jerry, "when you piss into it and give it that nice yellow stain."

*Felix* editor will Dugdale described the whole sordid affair as "disgusting."

Catch the Ben & Jerry show from 12-1pm Thursdays on www.icradio.com.

Joe



"Its true we are immune when fact is fiction TV reality Today the millions cry we eat and drink while tomorrow they die"

Welcome to the REAL world

Starring

George Galloway MP Terror by any other means

Lord Nazir Ahmed Full Circle on Liberty

Bruce Kent CND Not in my name - The Voice of Dissent

Monday 11/2 6-8pm Clore Lecture Theatre Huxley Building Rosted by the ICU Bangladeshi S<u>ociety</u>

### **Pigeon Fancier?**

#### Dear Felix,

I had a thought. People who know me often assume that this is a time for me to reflect on whether or not it is really a good idea, but today I think that I may be on to something. Living in London one is constantly bombarded with two things: Requests for charity and pigeons. My thought involved both. No, I am not suggesting that we just give pigeons to charity, oh, actually yes I am, but just think a moment. How often have you looked at one of those chickens of the street and thought, "hmm, if I could catch one of those, I wouldn't have to pay for my dinner tonight"? But is it feasible? Like the good scientist that I am, I did a little research.

The average pigeon is between 28-35cm in length and weighs 227g. Removing heads, legs and inedible internal organs leaves you with around 150g of meat per bird. It is estimated that 30 000 pigeons flock to Trafalgar Square alone every day. Even my rather dubious mathematical knowledge tells me that that is a lot of meat. In fact, that's 4500kg of meat that could be put to a good cause. How many people could that much pigeon feed? Ok, so it's not caviar but the French eat horses and call it civilised.

Fair enough, so it's not a great idea although I can think of an alternative... The average American tourist weighs around 90kilos, now removing heads and inedible internal organs that's...bloody Hell. Problem solved.

Pete

The only problem I can see is that some fool might decide to farm the bastards 'free range'. Pigeons, that is.

### Recycling

#### Dear Felix.

I agree with the sentiments in the article, regarding taking an active interest in recycling and environmental issues in the world, and the interconnectedness of many issues, but would add a caveat: how many of you actually know what happens to the waste you recycle, or what the cost of recycling is?

As far as I know (and please, if you know better, feel free to set me straight), glass and aluminium and can recycling does produce a benefit. Textile recycling, where they are given to charities and reused, also seems to work. However, paper and cardboard recycling, in many cases, actually uses more pollutants, such as bleaches etc, to render the paper into a suitable state for re-use, and actually would have a negative environmental impact. However, the really shocking fact is that although many councils do provide separate recycling facilities, and some even collect, like the bin men, a lot of the so-called "recycled" waste ends up in the same landfills as the rest of the waste. I would be interested if anyone knows more about this, as my last info was about 2 years ago, and the situation may by now have changed (at least, we hope so).

Alex.



#### Dear Will

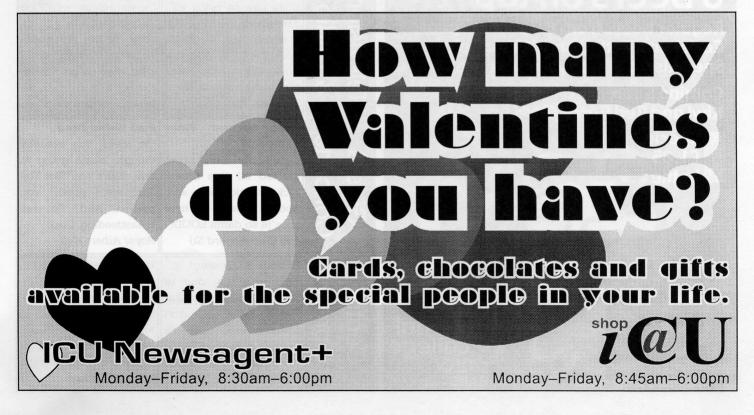
This is sort of a public service announcement letter:

If your name is Lilly or Lillian or something and you are in the first year of studying biochem (or something similar) at IC (Falmouth Keogh hall???) and were knocked over by a white car by the junction of Exhibition Rd and Some Other Road early in the morning of 2/2/02 then I stopped to help you. I certainly stopped. Whether I actually helped or not is something better judged by subsequent events. In any case I'd like to know how you're doing and so on because otherwise I shall worry. My email address is idris.harding@ic.ac.uk and I'd be grateful for some sort of response.

yours, idris j harding

### And Finally

Remember that you can send valentines messages to go into the next issue on felix@ic.ac.uk.



### this week



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## week this

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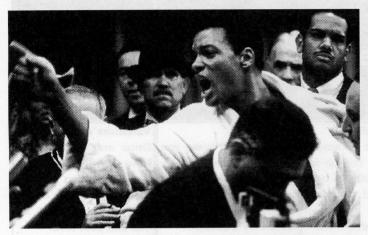
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D. Maria

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Socialists get slightly pongy, as they redistrib- ute the wealth of music	<b>Trivia</b> What did I have for breakfast? This might seem a trivial question to you, but it's just the kind of thing you might be asked! Nothing. Ha! <i>dBs, 7pm-11pm</i>	Could it be the oh-so- sweet malodour of both cheese and slightly		
be funny, I'm afraid. George Galloway MP	Faculties Talk If you want made up stuff, go to Thursday. Faculty Principle Prof. John Perkins, will talk to engineering students about recent changes. Clore Theatre, 1pm	Wednesday seems a popular time for Christians to meet, and these ones are no differ-		which means all kinds of zany stuff is going to happen. You could sit in a bath full of jelly, but
David Lynch bloke - the cult directors' director responsible for <i>Twin</i>	Gosford Park Also out at the moment, and also unsettling but still worth seeing, is this new film noir by Robert Altman. Although I'm just going on the posters. On general release	got a bit serious for some reason. This is apparently about wars, but I only know that	bespectacled Harry (not to be confused with the stoned one) didn't	It's doing so well in cin- emas, that we're men- tioning it twice. I
<b>Show</b> Possibly the best way to wake up in the morning. Apart from opening your	TheRadioOneBreakfast ShowPossibly the best way towake up in the morning.Apart from opening youreyes, moving around a bitand muttering, that is.Weekdays, 7-9am	wake up in the morning. Apart from opening your	Why not have your own breakfast 'show'? Invite housemates to gibber and scream as you leap	think it's a fair bet that it is. Is Rachel still fit? Is Chandler a bloater? The debate rages
to fancy them a few	Nickelback 'Top Rock' from the Canadian four-piece, who really do rock a lot. No, I hadn't heard of them, either. Still, it's all pagefillingly good stuff. Astoria, 7pm	stopped doing crap Noel Gallagher collabo- rations recently, so this might actually be	Oh, ho,	shocked to find his father accused of manip- ulating pre-teens for evil
a trial, which they apparently hope will be permanent. Let's hope	extends once again in order to allow you, the average student, to enjoy the library's boun- ty of knowledge for	thing is really important, which is why we're giv- ing it so much coverage. Today, the plants get	hours, that's 8am-10pm, is that you can read books in the library for	longer these days - er, the days for a start. But nothing compared with the length of those

### film interview



This week's film section features an interview with the man who has the task of bringing the story of the Greatest to screen...

## Will Smith

Willard Smith was born on the 25th September 1968, the second of Caroline and Willard Smith Sr.'s four children. His father was the owner of a refrigeration company and he grew up in middleclass West Philadelphia where he got the nickname 'Prince' (because of the way he would charm his way out of trouble).

Years later in 1989 and after embarking on a showbiz career, Will Smith starred in the NBC sitcom based on his early life. In The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, Smith played himself, a street-wise teenager transplanted into the heart of Beverly Hills. The series lasted six years and set him on the road to super-stardom.

His first movie was Six Degrees of Separation (1993), followed by the successful action picture, Bad Boys (1995). The Smash-hit Independence Day (1996) secured his position as one of Hollywood's highest earners. Since then he has made a sequence of often dubious, but invariably successful movies, including Men In Black (1997) and Wild Wild West (1999).

He is currently working on Men In Black 2 (2002). In the meantime, audiences around Britain are waiting in keen anticipation to see his performance in Michael Mann's, Ali. But will Will do justice to the legend behind the story?

In this interview Will Smith talks about the rigorous training schedule required for playing the part, his views on Ali, boxing, being punched, and his prediction on the Lewis versus Tyson match.

#### How tough was it to get to the Ali standard of fitness?

Essentially, we trained for twelve months. I had a little sneaky month before that where I crept out by myself to try to get into some sort of shape. Little bits so Michael Mann would think that I was already in good shape.

So probably twelve or thirteen months of training and essentially we would run at six for three to five miles in the morning, depending on the day, and we would go into the boxing gym from 10.30 am to 1.00pm. Technical boxing training, jumping ropes, sparring, and then in the evening we would go into the weight room for physical weight training. So that was five or six days a week for a year, so your body would definitely come into shape with that kind of regime.

### Did the pain of being punched ever deter you from taking the part?

Yeah! That's the first thing! There's a really strange primal thing that happens when you get punched. When you get hit there's a blue flash and you start trying to remember where your car is! Where did I put my keys? As soon as this buzzing goes out of my ears, I'm outta here! But when you get hit and you get knocked down and you stand up, there's a really animalistic thing that happens inside of you that either destroys or reaffirms your manhood.

The first time Michael Bentt (who plays Sonny Liston) hit me, he hit me really clean. I didn't have much time to move so I put my chin down and he hit me right on the top of my head. But it didn't flip my head back. It sort of compressed down onto my neck and I felt an electrical shock from the base of my neck down to the back of both of my elbows. I remember thinking 'Damn that Michael Mann!' But it felt like a rite of passage to the commitment that we had all made to telling Muhammad Ali's story; so it almost felt like I was worthy now after getting hit, to be in the ring with all the champions. We didn't use any actors; we only used professional fighters so that sort of confirmed my worthiness, in my mind at least.

### When you were a young man Muhammad Ali had already ended his fighting career, but was he still an icon for you?

That was what was really important to me about telling this story. I'm thirty-three years old so I was born September 25th 1968, so by the time I was paying attention to fights, Muhammad Ali had already finished fighting.

By that time, he had obtained icon status so I knew that Muhammad Ali was an icon. I knew he was a fighter and I knew he was important, but I didn't know why. That was part of what inspired me to want to tell this story because anyone that is younger than me has no idea what Muhammad Ali had to endure in his life. They just know that their parents love Muhammad Ali and everyone claps when he is on television or when he walks into the room. So I really was inspired to tell this story, however terrified I was!

### I can understand the intimidation of taking the part. Did it make you think 'mmm, perhaps not me'?

I felt physically perfect to tell the Muhammad Ali story. I felt that I could put the weight on, and that I could look like him. I felt that I could physically become Muhammad Ali, and I felt spiritually akin to his transformation from being at a stage where he believed in God, through to being a man who elevated himself to an individual one-on-one relationship with God. So I can relate to that transformation very well. I can relate to that spiritual space and I have always felt similar to Muhammad Ali in the simplicity of his spiritual beliefs.

At the same time I was terrified by the prospect of being the guy that messed up the Muhammad Ali story. They would say 'Independence Day', that was good! 'Men in Black', that was cool! But he's the dude that messed up the Muhammad Ali story!' So, I was terrified by that prospect, until I met Michael Mann. And he really got the ball rolling in terms of what I had to do to be Mohammed Ali. He gave me the belief that it was possible for that transformation to occur.

### interview film

### Was there a particular moment when you felt you had become Ali? When you felt you had made it?

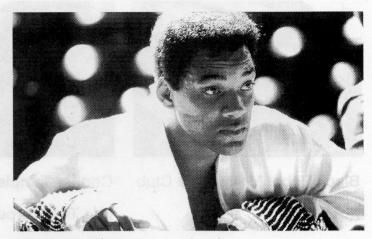
You know there were moments that information created an epiphany. I don't specifically remember a moment where I said 'I got it. I'm Ali'. I don't remember that moment. It was such a gradual process for me. I remember Michael called in a guy called Jeronimo, formerly Jeronimo Pratt, of the Black Panthers. Michael had called him in to give me a sense of the era, because that was what was really difficult for me. The comprehension of the sixties is so foreign to me. I'm a child of rap music, cars, and women so I just cannot relate to the social upheaval of the sixties and Jeronimo said that war had been declared on Black America. Fire hoses, dogs, domestic terrorism, the bombing of the church in Birmingham, Alabama. He said war had been declared and when he said that, I just felt a wave of understanding. Of course, Muhammad Ali had not gone to Vietnam to fight a war, when in his mind, he's fighting a war right here at home, and if he goes ten thousand miles away, women and children aren't safe here in America. One war at a time. And with that point of view, I started to feel the dominoes beginning to tumble towards becoming Muhammad Ali and understanding the necessity for that point of view. The necessity for this hero during that era.

### There was a negative sense out there that the Fresh Prince of Bel Air was playing the king of the boxing world. Seeing that it would take two year's of your life to become this man, did. it take you a long time to make that choice?

Well, I turned the script down for years. Probably for six years. I think I was probably twenty-seven the first time an Ali script was presented to me. I just turned it down for years and years. Even I couldn't see the road from Will Smith, Fresh Prince of Bel Air, to Muhammad Ali. Someone said 'you have to become Muhammad Ali'. What do you do to become Muhammad Ali?

Michael Mann was the first person who illustrated what he called a 'course syllabus' for becoming Muhammad Ali. He said, 'I will create the curriculum that will create Muhammad Ali inside of you'. I was like 'alright, cool!' I didn't know what it was! He said that there would be essentially a three-tiered course syllabus. The first tier would be physical. He said we are going to run the way Muhammad Ali ran in the cities on the routes that he ran. We are going to eat the food that Muhammad Ali ate. We are going to spar the way he sparred. We are going to go get Angelo Dundee and train the way Muhammad Ali trained. And by we, he meant me! He said that creating the physical life and the physical burden of Muhammad Ali would take us to the second tier, the mental and emotional development of Muhammad Ali. And he said by understanding what it feels like to be in a ring, and when that bell rings, and knowing that there's an animal on the other side of that ring that wants nothing more than to tear your head off, by being in that physical space you will understand the mental and emotional stress that Muhammad Ali lived with on a daily basis.

This would naturally carry us to the third tier which would be the spiritual development. From understanding the physical, mental, and emotional, he said that I would understand the necessity for the spiritual convictions that Muhammad Ali had developed during the period that we were shooting in the film.



#### What about Ali's vocal mannerisms?

We worked with a dialect coach. It was the same 'course syllabus' that Michael Mann laid out just after the physical. We found that Ali had a big, wide open chest and that's what gave him a big resonant voice, but he also really constricted his throat which gave him almost a higher pitched sound. Then we traced essentially the flavour of his dialect to seven Baptist preachers. So we studied a few Baptist preachers. You know how he'll get really low and speak really low and getting really dramatic, and then he takes it up high. So the voice is really that very holy Baptist preacher trying to impart the holy ghost.

#### What is your view about boxing as a sport?

I think in America, with boxing in the early 20s, 30s and 40s, the boxing ring was the only place where is was fair. For Jack Johnson, for Joe Louis, for Muhammad Ali, the boxing ring represented the only place that racism didn't matter. Because when Johnson hits you with that right hand, no matter how racist you are, you're asleep! So it represented a place where it was man to man, it was one on one, and there was no perceivable way to cheat. So I think that's a large part of the reason why people tend to gravitate towards the boxing match as a true test of man to man. There is no room for the referee to fly a flag; you can't get a red card! There's none of that, it's one to one, man on man. Or woman to woman! Absolutely!

#### Did any of Ali's mannerisms stay with you after the shoot?

Yes, the pure appreciation of beautiful women. That has stayed with me. The mementos also, I kept everything. All of the clothes, all of the gloves, everything. I knew from day one that this would be a journey that I would remember for the rest of my life. When we got into Africa, we had the opportunity to sit with Nelson Mandela and at every turn in making this film I just had new experiences and was being enlightened. I was keeping everything that I could get my hands on.

#### What chance has Mike Tyson got against Lennox Lewis?

That's a tough one. That's real tough. If Mike trains, he's hard to beat. But I think Lennox Lewis is a heavy enough puncher and a cautious enough fighter to potentially beat Mike cause he's jab, jab, jab, right hand and will tire him out. I think if he gets past the third round he will be a really great champ. "Ali" is released in the West End on the 15th February

Darius

### music reviews



### Black Rebel Motorcycle Club

### B.R.M.C.

18

Out now on Virgin records

There's been a fair bit of hype about this band. Judging from the photos on the inlay, this is probably due to their live act - lots of thrashy guitars, with dry ice billowing melodramatically in the intense lighting - and not much to do with their music. Or maybe pensive, moody male trios with unkempt hair are now back.

They namecheck the Dandy Warhols on the inlay and go in a similar musical direction, but without the humour or the flair.

A sample of the tracks is illustrative. On Love Burns, the lyric "Now she's gone, her love burns inside me" repeats to three-chord riffs, sounding like a bunch of teenagers practising after school. Whatever Happened To My Rock 'n' Roll [Punk Song] delivers what it promises, though rather unimaginatively. White Palms rolls out a dreary, deliberately muffled bassline, whilst an even drearier vocal moans over the top.

The attempt to spice it up with jangly, muffled Madchester guitars and keyboards only adds to the misery. *Rifles* is a good attempt at something genuinely moody - multiple repeating voices layered like canta Gregoriana are entwined with threatening basslines reminiscent of the Jesus and Mary Chain. After 90 seconds though, it suddenly reverts to pop-rock with indie vocals. The dark mood of the intro occasionally reprises, but the dumb indie vocals and post-Oasis guitars ruin the track.

The album ends with a couple of tracks that try to sound like Primal Scream but end up sounding like Celine Dion with a sore throat. Dull and disappointing.



### Cooper Temple Clause See This Through And Leave

Out this Monday on Morning records

The Cooper Temple Clause are a band with passion and integrity. That was the first impression I got when listening to the London live favourites' debut album See This Through And Leave.

They don't waste time in getting started, with the omnipresent, minimalist, futuristic arrangements of *Did You Miss Me*? focusing my attention firmly on the music. The guitar-riffed rock 'n' roll opening of current single *Film Maker* takes me completely by surprise, since it could hardly be more different from the first track. It's sleaze-rock, with a hint of glam, done in the best possible way. *Panzer Attack* carries on in a similar vein, with older punk influences (Buzzcocks, The Clash) coming through.

Lush orchestral backing features on the bluesy Who Needs Enemies?, which is one of the highlights of the album. Amber is both haunting and lyrically blessed, displaying the band's emotional side. This is continued on the simplistic Radiohead-inspired track Digital Observations, which demonstrates that the band can be experimental without being irritating.

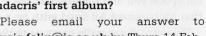
The recent single *Let's Kill Music* comes through with its '60s-style brilliance, its chanting attempting to "kill" soulless, manufactured pop through pure repetition. Even a weather report makes an entrance - is there anything this band can't do?

The creeping *The Lake* and the atmospherically excellent *Murder Song* serve to close the proceedings effectively. I'm close to crying now, the album is that good! Go out and buy it!

Sajini



Robert



music.felix@ic.ac.uk by Thurs 14 Feb. Sean Regan of Chem Eng I knew that Motorhead's original name was Bastard. He wins the Motorhead DVD.



### Ludacris Word Of Mouf

Out now on Def Jam South records

One of the hip-hop intellectual elite Ludacris is not. The main subjects "discussed" on *Word Of Mouf* are hoes and the all-important life of a gangsta. But unlike many other rappers, Ludacris has fortunately picked up a bit of a comic streak, and some of the best moments of this album are the comedic skits.

Although hip-hop snobs may dismiss the subject matter of *Word Of Mouf*, one cannot ignore the production quality. Timbaland and Organized Noise (the team behind Outkast classics such as *Wheelz Of Steel*) produce the best tracks, like *Area Codes* and *Cold Outside*.

Ludacris is a self-proclaimed "ass valedictorian" and "abominable ho-man", and the tracks where he lets his freaky comedic side run wild are up there with any Redman track.

It is when he starts the gun-toting gangsta routine that the album falls apart, and Ludacris turns into a generic No Limit or Cash Money clone. He has the potential to become hip-hop's super-freak genius, and should follow his own advice on *Area Codes* and "put the .44 away".

t at an edit

Marcus

COMPETITION

This week, we've got a copy of *Word Of Mouf* (see above) to give away.

QUESTION: What is the name of Ludacris' first album?

### reviews music



### LIVE: Jimmy Eat World + Seafood @ Astoria

Kicking off this evening's proceedings were the relatively eclectic **Seafood**. Giving us a selection of offerings to show the unacquainted audience precisely what solid matter they're made of, they started big and ended big, just like a band should (and gained top points for effective use of a starcloth!). The highlights of the set were their dynamic recent single *Splinter* and two very short cover versions - a couple of chords from Ash's *Shining Light* and the first verse of Jimmy Eat World's *Bleed American* (a short intermission while they tried to recover their bassist from the wings). A very classy and original idea from a band that just didn't want to leave the stage.

### 

They're not crazy 'cause they take the right pills every day, they bleed Americans and they sweat salt and sugar. They are, of course, the amazing **Jimmy Eat World**.

Jimmy Eat World began the evening with the highly successful *Bleed American* (although whether this could top the totally unexpected Seafood version is doubtful). The crowd were excitable to say the least - at times, the number of crowdsurfers almost exceeded the number of people with their feet on the floor. The band had astounding stage presence and drive, and interestingly, they introduced a guest keyboardist/vocalist after the first couple of songs.

The sheer energy of some of JEW's heavier tracks was nicely contrasted by their mellower, more melodic emo side. Tracks like *If You Don't*, *Don't* proved that the band are not only capable of producing large amounts of noise, but also of moving adult and child alike. To our surprise, they left the stage before playing new single *The Middle*. Luckily for us, they came back and thrashed it out of their guitars with proper vigour and style.

The thing about Jimmy Eat World that confuses us is how they managed to release four albums before anyone had even heard of them. But the reason why they became so popular so quickly is obvious - emo-core never had it so good.



### LIVE: Hell Is For Heroes + Kids Near Water @ Borderline

Tonight, I finally laid to rest the ghost of Symposium. Fond memories abound of the "your best mate's high school band" vibe of the endearingly gormless pop-punkers. But drummer Joe Birch and baby-faced guitarist Will McGonagle's incredible incendiary rock rebirth buries Symposium under ten tons of blood, sweat and, er, piss... ooh look, isn't that Som from My Vitriol?

But hang on, rewind an hour or so, and **Kids Near Water** are venting their spleen at a surprisingly unenthusiastic audience. Surprising, because they sound pretty similar to HIFH. They seem extremely pissed off about something or everything, though between the tunes they seem more apologetic - shame. To be fair, they're not nearly as good as HIFH, but they're still exciting in that interesting way that only angry young men with guitars and nothing to lose can be.



**Hell Is For Heroes** tease us with the almost unbearable buildup of *Slow Song*. Then, as soon as *Out of Sight* kicks in, the place goes mental. It's pandemonium, at once a catharsis of all the teenage angst of punk and a joyous celebration of the glory of rock'n'roll. Or something like that...

Singer Justin hangs, monkey-like, from a pipe over the stage before leaping off and crowdsurfing. Surely that's gotta hurt? The rest of the band are equally unflinching. *Cut Down* and new tune, er, *New Tune* kick particularly hard, powered by McGonagle's angular riffs and the band's sheer rock momentum.

Hell is for Heroes list Fugazi and Deftones among their main influences. That's setting the bar pretty high, but at their best moments, HIFH manage to weld Fugazi's righteous anger to the Tones' tide of ill-feeling.

Their first single *Sick/Happy* closes the set and has the place in a frenzy again. Will claims that this is what he wanted to do all along. Is it, or is he just moving with fashion? Who cares, because this is incredible stuff. 2002 will be their year, mark my words.



### music reviews



### Singles Roundup

### THE HIVES - Hate To Say I Told You So

Unknown to many, this band (pic above) are from Sweden, but you wouldn't have thought so. For one, they're good, sounding similar to The Strokes. This single is quality rock music that sounds slightly punky and energetic. Unfortunately, the B-sides are not up to scratch - they're quite thrashy, more like other run of the mill rock. But on the basis of the first track, I look forward to hearing the album.



#### Toby B

#### BEN & JASON - How The Hell Do I Explain?

This is the second single from the beautiful album *Ten Songs About You.* Apparently written in the period of relief the pair felt after believing they had finished the album, *How The Hell Do I Explain?* is full of laid-back strings and tambourine shakes. These, together with Ben's smooth, melancholy vocals, make this track the perfect chill-out tune.

### 

### SPEK - Smell the Coffee

A fun little pop song where Spek puts on the coolest voice he can and raps over a ditzy guitar riff, while female vocalists chime along obediently in the background. The track isn't as catchy as *I m a Hippy*, his previous single. Nothing here to get annoyed about, but nothing to get interested in either.



Tom X

Jess

#### TIMO MAAS - To Get Down

German DJ Timo Maas makes a good fist of imitating the Chemical Brothers/Prodigy style of combining guitars and funky house breaks, but it doesn't quite come off. Still, this is headnodding stuff, and the Fatboy Slim remix is possibly better than the original.



Derek

### **OUT THIS WEEK**

The following should appear in all good record shops on Monday 11 February. Please note that all release dates are subject to change.

#### ALBUMS

COOPER TEMPLE CLAUSE - See This Through And Leave LHB - Tell 'Em Who We Are **SINGLES** IAN BROWN - Whispers DEPECHE MODE - Goodnight Lovers DILATED PEOPLES - Worst Comes To Worst SPIRITUALIZED - Do It All Over Again ...and also **all eight** singles reviewed below

#### **RELISH - Heart Shaped Box**

On reading the title of this single, you would be forgiven for thinking that this was a substandard cover of the seminal Nirvana track of the same name. Thankfully, it goes nowhere near that, and is instead a fine bluesy number reminiscent of the Black Crowes at their peak. The song does get a bit repetitive after a while, but it's a good one to bring out now and then for a bit of cheering up.

### 

Tank

Chris

### SAHARA HOTNIGHTS - On Top Of Your World

Sahara Hotnights are an angry ball of frustration, all shouts and hollers over jumpy rhythms and staccato guitar salvos. Strong vocals burn through the slick production, only to offer up boring teen clichés. SH have a pure pop sensibility and apply this to their garage basis stylishly. Ultimately, however, the final product is pleasant, but nothing more.



#### LLORCA - Indigo Blues

This is a fantastic single, taken from a wicked album. It's chilled-out jazz house, courtesy of the man who revolutionised French house music in the mid '90s, and it features the stunning voice of Nicole Graham. The two B-side tracks are both good remixes - the first is an *Indigo Blues* remix by Minus 8, and the second is a remix of *I Cry* (from the album *Newcomer*) by Ernst St Laurent. I only hope to be hearing these in clubland soon.

### 

Toby B

### PINHOLE - Breaking Hearts And Windows EP

Pinhole are the right age to play rock 'n' roll. They love their tunes, but they also love the rush of cranked guitars. Their debut release is a four track EP which comes stuffed with a live video, loads of photos, an interview with the band and more. Intro track *City*, complete with puerile, simplistic vocals and crashing guitar background, is a pleasant enough, half-energising track. The lyrics are the only real down side to this promising EP.

### **CREDIT** FIRST **SUISSE** BOSTON

### NO HIERARCHIES. NO EGOS. NO STATUS QUO. NO ASSUMPTIONS. NO STEREOTYPES.



www.csfb.com

CSFB would like to invite female penultimate year students at Imperial College who are interested in finding out more about investment banking in general, and the CSFB Summer Internship opportunities in particular, to an informational dinner on Wednesday 13 February 2002.

This will be an ideal chance to discuss with professionals of all levels, as well as interns from previous years, what an internship entails and the variety of opportunities available. As places are limited please email faye.woodhead@csfb.com stating your degree discipline and area of interest.

Describe a typical CSFB employee? We can't. Yes, they do have certain qualities in common. They're all incredibly bright, imaginative, articulate and collaborative. But they're also very different in terms of background, nationality, culture, degree discipline and aspirations. We already have 25,000 dissimilar employees in more than 89 locations across six continents, making us a truly global investment bank. You'll work with this international network whichever division you join us in – **Investment Banking, Fixed Income or Equity.** Whoever you are and whatever your role, your ability to make things happen will ensure our clients continue to take advantage of change. Please click on www.csfb.com to find out more.

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## Get a taste of the future.....

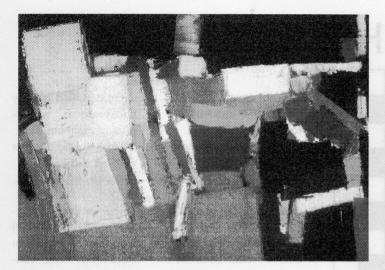
Come and see what a future with Shell might hold; a paid placement gives you real responsibility and a chance to test your abilities on genuine business challenges. To ensure that you get the maximum benefit, your placement will be tailored to your specific abilities and interests and include two-way evaluation. As part of a global company, you may also have the chance to work outside your home country. See what you're capable of, gain some real experience... ...and see whether you and Shell could have a long-term relationship!



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Visit our website or your Careers Service for an application form or telephone 0845 600 1819. Applications welcomed from students of all disciplines in their penultimate year of study. Closing date: 11th March, 2002.

### reviews arts



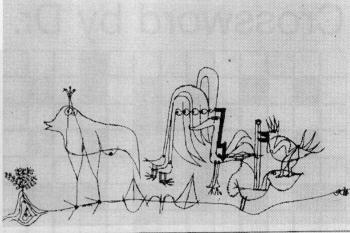
### Paris:Capital of the Arts 1900-68 Royal Academy of Arts

For most of the 20th century Paris' beauty, romantic spirit, liberality (and low cost living too!) have made it the world's capital of arts, attracting artists form all over the world: Picasso and Dalí from Spain, Chagall and Kandinsky from Russia, Modigliani from Italy, Foujita from Japan and Kelly from the USA are a representative sample.

From the World Fair of 1900 to the student street riots in 1968 the exhibition guides the spectator through the masterpieces of the artists, and at the same time it highlights the social and political context in which they were developed. Four main sections correspond to the four districts of Paris that constituted the centre of intellectual activities: Montmartre with its rural character, its cabarets and nightclubs from 1900-18; Montparnasse with a sophisticated taste for cafés, Jazz and an international artistic elite from 1919-39; Saint-Germain-des-Prés as a shelter during the Nazi occupation and later as the cradle of existentialism (1940-57); finally The Latin Quarter with the politic turbulence of the European 60s, culminating with the 1968 student rebellions.

It's hard to choose the most representative works out of a set of almost 300, all of the highest quality. Worth mentioning are surely the studies for "Les Damoiselles d'Avignon" by Picasso, opening the way to Cubism, and the nudes of the Ecole de Paris for the first section. Avant-garde, Dadaism and Surrealism constitute the Montparnasse section, where Mondrian, Duchamp and Dalí are the flag bearers. During and after the German occupation is evident a radical shift in the themes and techniques employed, and the visual arts undergo the transformation through the metamorphosis of the sixties, to the contemporary way of interpreting art and the artist. Finally the 60s, characterised by political engagement and torn between philo-american Nouveau Réalisme and the left wing sympathising Narrative Figuration movement.

To our opinion the value of the exhibition lies, apart from the impressive collection of art, also in a coherent exposition that allows to travel through time and follow the evolution of arts in their own very centre, that constitutes in a certain way the ultimate masterpiece: Paris is the real focus, the "prima-Donna".



### Klee:The Nature of Creation Hayward Gallery

With a grandiose title like "The Nature of Creation" our expectations of this exhibition were high, and if the queue was anything to go by we weren't the only excited ones. The Hayward Gallery has become a temporary home to about one hundred of Paul Klee's works created between 1914 and 1940. The exhibition has met with mixed reviews so feeling all important with our press tickets in hand we stepped out of the drizzle and waved goodbye to the soggy queue to give our, ahem, definitive verdict.

Paul Klee is often heralded as one of the great painters of the last century and a fore-father of abstraction. The exhibition was joint-curated by Bridget Riley and this is reflected in the choice of works. Lots of the pieces have a hypnotic quality and the selection reflects Klee's analytic skill.

Klee's most famous works are probably the early "Square Paintings". The vivid geometric paintings reflect Klee's passion for colour. As he explained "To paint well is simply this: to put the right colour in the right place". The influence of his time in Africa is prominent in these works. The colours are a response to the light at dawn and at dusk. Curves reminiscent of North African architecture are contrasted with rectangles and squares.

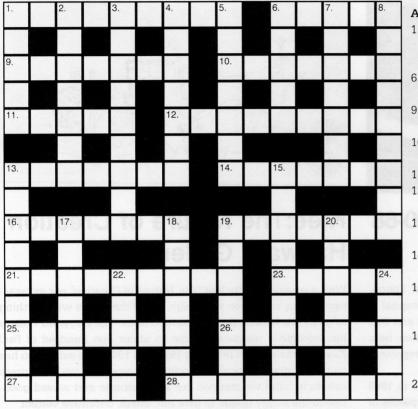
As the title suggests the exhibition focuses on the process of creation. "The Narrative Line" section focuses on Klee's uses of lines and simple geometric shapes to create dynamic and organic images. The pictures have a form that is free from the rhythm of the shapes that they are constructed from. A highlight of the exhibition was being able to explore the development of this new form of abstraction.

In 1935 Klee contracted scleroderma a disease that reduced his mobility. The delicate construction of images using hundreds of repeating shapes is replaced by sparse symbolic shapes and coarse lines.

The exhibition is a lively display of Klee's talents and also a chance to study the methods of one of the great abstractionists of the last century. The Nature of Abstraction is at the Hayward Gallery SE1 until April 1 and costs students £6.

### coffee break

## Crossword by Dr. Hot Fudge



Answer to 1226 - Across: Chief Constables, Nettles, Tantalise. Argumentative, Unearth, Pompeii, Unintelligent, Incidence, Station, 23. Monsters circle gross have me: they whip Superintendents.

Down: Congratulations, Intrigue, Fulham, Stanza, Aquarium, Liaise, 25. Rugs are awkward to 19. Rob hems badly with Same Again Thanks, Stench, Reindeer, Pulses, Election, Unclip, Tin Man, Island.

Que pasa amigos? This weekend I've been living the 'high-life' in Amsterdam, so I've tried to make a themed crossword to reflect my experiences. I've also got a massive project deadline this Friday, so you dirty jiz-meisters are lucky that I've managed to do a crossword at all. This weeks winner is Louise Davies, Maths 4. Once again, all correct crossword entries will be entered into a Playstation 2 draw in the last week of the spring term. You can send your grids to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk or drop then in at the Felix office in Beit Quad. We've been having some ideas about the GFQQ grand prize which we'll let you know more about Dr. Hot Fudge next week. Adios hermanos.







### Across

- 1. Five, for example, have alien that can make food. (9)
- 6. The French came after taxi with wire. (5)
- 9. Big silver ring from the distant past. (4-3)
- 10. Leave out former 500 in hint. (7)
- 11. An island corridor. (5) 12. Dance with Jack at
- awful tribute force. (9) 13. Bath used to be on
- hospital boat. (7)
- 14. Backward deity finishes with fag butts. (3-4)
- 16. Ointment to be put on Royal Society for pro- 13. Battle led by peg gives tection? (7)
- (4-3)
- 21. Difficult master goes 17. Lingerie worn by (9)
  - extras. (5)
- see up. (7)
- (7)
- England's report. (5)
- 28. Dangle the queen from 24. Special organ makes strap. (9)

NEXT please!

### Down

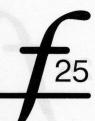
- 1. Genitals found in very backward underground museum. (5)
- 2. DNA sibling forms rock band. (7)
- 3 Drink drum from pot. (3-6)
- 4. Throw away occupation for oral pleasure! (7)
- 5. Stood up in european community over concern for Edward. (7)
- 6. Series of transport. (5)
- 7. See boob run to whisky. (7)
- 8. Dirty Green is at drug river making battery. (9)
- guarantee. (9)
- 19. Make a mess of plank 15. Geordie footballer has in Dutch coffee shop. shilling for the meter, we hear. (9)
  - nuts and flips in city. regional Spaniards? (7)
    - 18. Miserable pious types me! (7)
      - Spanish guys. (7)
- 26. Two blokes surround 20. Ban mother with idenking for second mark. tification of serving wench. (7)
- 27. Speak after head of 22. Nemesis located in serene mystery. (5)
  - weapon. (5)

Now ... where'd lout my cash?

file

Next week is the Valentine's issue, and as such will have a double page worth of love messages. So send any anonymous (or not) correspondances to us here, on felix@ic.ac.uk, and they'll get printed!

### break coffee



# GFQQ - The Great Felix Quote Quiz



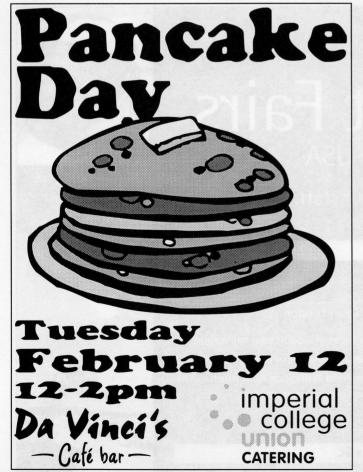
- 1. "I suddenly remembered my Charlemagne: 'Let my armies be the rocks and the trees...and the birds in the sky.'"
- **2.** "Choose, but choose wisely. For the true grail will bring you life; the false one will take it from you."
- 3. "Snakes why did it have to be snakes?"
- 4. "You lost today kid, but that doesn't mean you have to like it."
- **5.** *A*: "You're gonna get killed chasing after your damn fortune and glory!"
  - B: "Maybe. But not today."

## Bonus Question. What 'Star Wars' reference is made in 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom'?

by Bobby Cyclops & Dr. Hot Fudge

Number of players: 65					
The Leader Board - top 15					
Name	Score				
Chris Ince	101				
Anthony Rodriques	99.5				
John Anderson	95.5				
Andrew Ince	85.5				
Simon North	85.5				
Daniel Sauder	85				
Christopher Dent	81.5				
Rebekah Hymas	62.5				
Michael Simonds	62.5				
Arosha Bandara	61				
Gregory Mann	59.5				
Fred Marquis	58.5				
Geoff Lay	58				
Kim Randell	58				
Vuk Cerovic	55				

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



### Answers to Simpsons special:

- 1. Jimbo Jones Bart Sells His Soul
- 2. Mr Burns Who Shot Mr Burns? Part 2
- 3. Chief Wiggum Cape Feare
- 4. Groundskeeper Willie Sweet Seymour Skinner's Baadass Song
- 5. Homer Trash of the Titans
- 6. Martin Prince Bart gets an 'F'
- 7. Ralph Wiggum I Love Lisa
- 8. Moe Szyslak The Springfield Files
- 9. Marge Simpson Homer the Great
- 10. Captain McAllister New Kid on the Block
- 11. Bart Simpson Homer and Apu
- 12. Lionel Hutz Marge in Chains
- 13. Grampa Simpson Homer the Vigilante
- 14. Professor Frink Homer Vs. Sexual Inadequacy
- 15. Troy McClure Bart the Fink
- 16. Comic Book Guy Treehouse of Horror X

Bonus 1. Bart gets an 'F'

(as quoted on back cover of "The Simpson's Greatest Hits" video). Bonus 2. The Flying Hellfish

Bonus 3. Flanders considers insurance to be a form of gambling Bonus 4. Homer, Apu, Chief Wiggum and Principle Skinner

Not much space left for the usual rubbish I churn out this week, but I hope you enjoyed the Simpson's Special. This week I had a special request for an Indiana Jones Special, so here it is (don't say I never give you anything).

Here at GFQQ :HQ we have received alot of correspondance about the Moonraker Quote in the Bond Special (issue 1224), and I will report the findings of our investigation in next week's issue. Enjoy! Bobby Cyclops

### club active

"Karting; it all starts in karting." That's what we're told almost every time we watch a grand prix on the TV or read articles in the press about F1 drivers. "And they usually start at the age of four." Damn, so that's most of us out of the equation then. So what's the next best thing? Well, if you ask Michael Schumacher what he does when he has some spare time, I guarantee you that somewhere in his list of responses will be "karting."

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Then you think, "he's a bit weird, he spends most his life racing F1 cars, so why would he spend his spare time driving karts?". What we must remove straight away from our thoughts are visions of indoor circuits, stupid track marshals, and smelly sweaty helmets. We're not talking rubbish 35 mph indoor karts. We're talking 80mph outdoor karts that reach 60 in about 3 and a half seconds. And then

have organised the national Inter University Karting Championship. For the first time ever the championship



Karting

you begin to understand why. This year, the kart section of Imperial College Motor Club will be using the same karts that Michael Schumacher enjoys on his days off. So we get to do 80mph, and we get to do 60 in 3 and a half seconds. What's best though is that we get to show who has the best student karting team in the country and win one of those karts for ourselves.

Wednesday On 13th February Imperial's kart racing team are heading up towards Whilton Mill Kart Circuit for the 2nd of two championship test days to drive these ultra powerful karts. We are looking for a number of drivers to join our racing team so if you think you've got the talent, the enthusiasm and the commitment, and you wish to enjoy some fantastic karting that Wednesday, please email me at will@iukc.co.uk and you too could be racing for Imperial College.

Good luck.

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- And if possible, a completed application form which can be downloaded from www.campamerica.co.uk

For more information call 020 7581 7367 or see

www.campamerica.co.uk



### club active

**f**27

## RSM Bottle Match Warm Up

February the 14th is a very important day in many peoples calendar. As you may all know it is only two days to the Bottle match, or as it shall be known, the Valentines massacre of 2002 where 15 Cornish inbreds shall meet a sorry end. The mighty RSM Rugby team "The best looking team in IC" - even more so now that we are missing "Sir" Alex "the one man fashion disaster" Fergusson due to his bionic arm operation in the hope he can star along side Arnie in Terminator 3. Anyway, RSM is now well oiled, patched up with a few plasters and Enrico has returned the Vaseline now that has been utilised for his sexual gratification.

The 1st home game of the season and the return of Mr Nigeria saw us up against the Streatham and Croydon 21 development under squad... If any of them were under 21 then Italy will win the Grand slam. Their emblem was that of the Penny Farthing, the principle reason for this is that they were the engineering team involved in the development of the fine vehicle; when that failed, they turned to rugby. I understand that the front row helped Stevenson design his Rocket! In any case, the opposition front row had clearly been chewing on spanners all morning, a side effect of which resulted in them and their companions wearing the sacred black and white hoops, this livened up the proceedings and as such the RSM Barbarians were born. The resulting mishmash of colours upset some of the RSM boys in the first few minutes and we conceded a try and some other assorted points, despite the

Bigg Dave (note: big with a GG) tap and catch effort. The African Intercontinental break dance champion Flo, fresh from a rendezvous with the anonymous Norwegian bedroom gymnastics queen, was unimpressed, and responded with two quick tries assisted by the Angel Gabriel and Mr Nigeria. Tim suggested that the hobbyhorse was more technologically advanced than the penny farthing and was threatened with violence. Segun demanded that the tricycle was quicker than both and was hit by ugly geriatric. Doug "dingo" Smith kept traditions alive by throwing up on the sidelines as he has done for every fixture. Huy kicked the ball a lot - with style, whereas Ricky should have been shot for his kicking, the ball would have made more progress up the field astride a penny farthing with the entire RSM women's hockey team precariously balanced on the handlebars. "Big Gav Mike", as seen on South Park, was doing a sterling job running round the park like a ferret up a drainpipe, until he became the victim of an unprovoked torpedo attack from a U-boat somewhere up the Thames and he was broken. Someone took a shine to Mr Grant's neck, so he gave someone whiplash. Half time struck, RSM were winning, so they took the pace man off in the form of the Ambo to give the opposition a chance. Flo fell victim to cirrhosis of the liver and sexual exertion but not before claiming a hat trick. Pez, the rotund Cornish wideboy with the bad beard and his streamlined eyebrow, went on, but he got a dead leg within the time it took Flo

to order another bottle of £150 champagne. This set the stage for the mighty Yorkshire ripper: Steve "The Executioner" Horrocks. Steve stood up to his name and tried to decapitate a Zimmer frame-bearing S&C player immediately with a forearm smash and as such was nearly sent off. We scored lots, they scored once and Segun came off. There was a suspected stroke from one of the coffin dodgers, so Shags went back on as a traitor. Doug went down faster than a two-dollar whore for a try in the corner and snapped something. The game finished. No-one knows what the score was, but we won by lots to some. Tim was Man of the Match. Dirty pints went around quicker than a dose in

brothel and soho Nightingale was a disgrace. I've seen my Nan neck a pint faster than him. We watched the internationals and Ricky told us all how he used to play with the Italian no.7... in the showers! Huy, hope you had a good birthday. If anyone wants to see some shoe pie being dished out, book a bottle match ticket today. Bearing in mind that the kit is still in New Zealand. If DHL don't get their act together then the mighty RSM Barbarians might just be out to play again. The Bottle match will be screened live on Cornish grandstand on the 16th. English rights are available to the highest bidder. E-mail henry.grant@ic.ac.uk for details.

Hugs. Journalism Ltd

### **Reception Staff Needed**

Reception staff needed to work at the front desk in the Union office. Initially the hours available are Tuesday 5-6pm and Wednesday 9-10am. There may be other hours available shortly.

£4.10 per hour plus benefits. Training provided. Contact Michelle on 020 8594-8060 or x-48060 Email: union@ic.ac.uk.

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## Netball-Tastic

Not more medics! In netball, 3 goals can be scored in a minute. That's pretty much what happened with St.Georges. It was level the whole way through, meaning it was tough-going all the way, no time for slacking. Which isn't the easiest thing on a Monday night. They also wore the same colour kit as us making it pretty confusing stuff! But there were moments of nice play. This is where this team is so successful - moments of textbook netball that can only come from experience!

28

We had cheesy chips for tea. Jess turned purple, it was brilliant. She got a bit cross and shouted at her opponent a lot. Ggrr. Beckie as always stayed composed and making a swift move at the right time, and potted some beauties (goals really). Hannah was largin' it, but went and hurt her ankle, poo. Ruth had a scary defender, very big girl, who remembered her name at the end to congratulate her - I think she fancied me. Eek. Sooz was defending her in the last quarter and was just as scared but obvioulsy didn't work the charm in the same way cos she had no such luck. Kathryn and Clare, ah we love 'em, no one keeps us as entertained like Clare does! Ruth replaced Ruth in the 3rd guarter (tricky innit, perhaps I should refer to us as Ruthybaby and Stux) and

played a stormer, as did Claire who came on for Sooz. Enough of the confusion, we lost by 3 pants stupid flippin goals.

Southbank were far scarier, the keeper had a constipated look. They were an arsy and tetchy bunch, but no match for the girls in blue (us). It wasn't a very consistent game but it doesn't matter because we won. Our aim was to score a whole heap of goals to strengthen our position in the league table (we're 2nd in BUSA) and Hannah and Beckie, as always, delivered the goods. Southbank arrived with attitude - ready to claim a walkover because we only supplied one umpire. However, because of our

intelligent brain cells between us, it was right back at them as the rules say each team must supply an umpire! Ha! We won each quarter, only playing our less-thantextbook style in the 3rd guarter, because we were feeling the effects of 2 big games in one week. No cheesy chips this time, although Jess got ggrr again at her Centre and Sooz said a rude word, and Kathryn whacked her opponent around the head, who then lay on the floor being concussed. It was а Maradonna moment, a classic dive, it can't have hurt that much, the big girl's blouse. How about Kathryn's hand after the impact? It's all me Ruth me me.

## Volleyball

Kent have had an unbeaten run in the BUSA championships so far. We lost our match away in Canterbury 3-0 last term so although we were looking forward to facing them with an improved squad, it wasn't without huge doubts about our capabilities.

The first set was a close one but we lost it over the last few points 23-25. Kent went on to completely dominate the second set, winning it 16-25. It was clear that we had problems in reception but also in defence, with inaccurate blocking and poor coverage of the court. These were all symptoms of lack of focus.

We went into the third set determined to win at least one set. It was another close one but this time it went our way 25-23. The fourth set demonstrated why we have a team that can go all the way to the last 8 at Loughborough. We never lost our concentration and won it 25-20.

The deciding fifth set was a beauty. The fired up Kent team had no intention of writing a negative match report for their polished website. Of course, we had the home court advantage and by the fifth we had inspired our fans! It had a bit of everything, backrow hitting, blocking, desperate defence, diving, net touches... It was a fight for every point but we were in the lead from the start and we hung on to it to the finish, with a 15-10 score.

The starting line-up was Yannis, Jussi, Jeremy, Nicolas, Nikolaos and Etam. Harry and Marchetto (the shadow) substituted for Nicolas and Jeremy halfway through the second set and Ian and Michael were always there for us.

