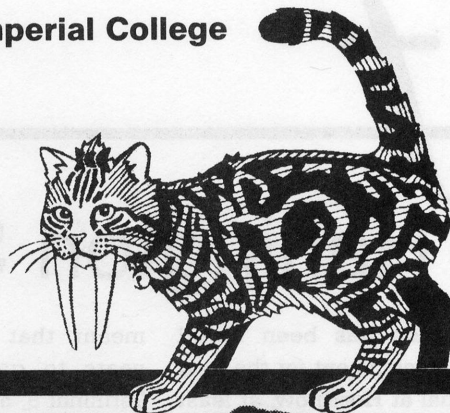


felix



**Handcuffs. Parole
Officer. Coogan.
Obviously. (Page 17)**



**Knight Fever?
Possibly the worst
gag on the front
page, ever. (Page 21)**

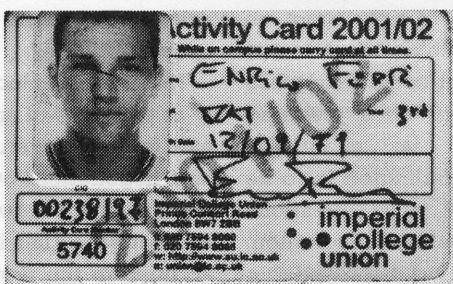


Union Suffers Budget Cut

Following the research assessment exercise last year, the results of which were described as 'fantastic' by our Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (the council that determines government funding for further and higher education) has decided to cut funding to College, despite the fact that our rating (6.68) was higher than last year.

This seemingly perverse decision is due to the fact that although we did better than we did last year, we actually improved less than other institutions nationally, and so get a lesser share of the available funds, which have themselves not increased in the last year. This decrease in funding will hit all non-academic departments that rely on College for money, including the Union.

Union finances were already looking strained for the coming year, as extra cash needs to be found to fund, amongst other things, the 8% rise in sabbatical salaries, necessitated by the increasing of the grant from the Engineering and



Obsolete from next year?

Physical Sciences Research Council grant, to which these salaries are linked contractually. As College will only fund the first 2.5% of salary increases the Union will be forced to cover the shortfall.

These two issues combined are going to force the Union to cut costs even further than had been previously thought, and it is feared that clubs and societies will, once again, take the brunt of the Union's cost-cutting. Sen Ganesh, Union President, has, however, assured Felix that although funding is extremely tight and many parts of College will face cut-backs, the Union should be able to make

up this shortfall by improving the efficiency of the central administration, without having to drastically reduce the funding given to clubs and societies.

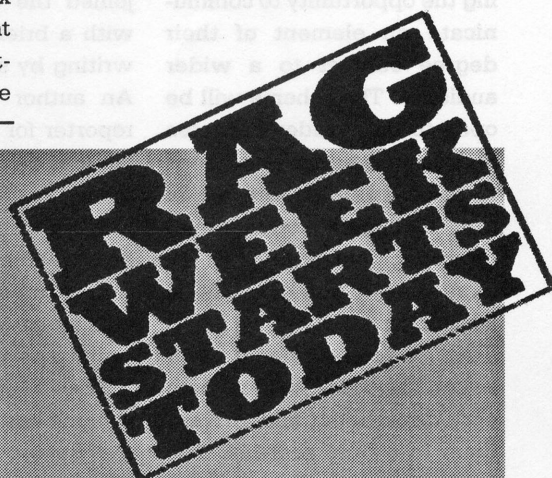
All this could, however, prove to be a blessing for students, as amongst the proposals being discussed by Union authorities to improve efficiency is the scrapping of activities card. Instead of providing insurance for those with a card, all members of the Union will be covered as a matter of course.

It has been revealed to Felix that the administration costs incurred by the system of forcing those students who wish to be covered by the Union's insurance to sign up for activities cards are far greater than the savings gained by not insuring those without cards, and so the possibility of change is being looked into.

Alex

**"Imperial Rag Week begins today,
bringing with it seven full days of
wine, women, song and good old
fashioned silliness."**

Sounds good to me...



Harlington Safe For Now

Harlington has been saved from development for the new terminal at Heathrow, at least for the time being. The news comes after the leak of a confidential government report to the Financial Times recommended that three new runways be built in south-east England in order to meet predicted future demand for air travel.

The release of the report last month came after the approval of a fifth Heathrow terminal by the Secretary of State for Transport, Stephen Byers, last November. As the largest and busiest air travel hub in the world, it is widely believed that the recommendations of the report will inevitably lead to the construction of a third runway at the West London airport, extending it to possibly engulf land currently occupied by the Harlington ground.

Widespread opposition

meant that it took twelve years to gain approval for Terminal 5, and as Harlington lies in a designated 'green belt' area, it will not be possible to build such a commercial development without an extensive planning battle, meaning that there would appear to be no immediate threat to the medics' cherished ground.

However, the government is also looking at making changes to planning procedures with an aim of reducing the amount of time spent on appeal, which could mean that development could take place much sooner once planning permission is eventually sought. If Harlington is to be lost, it will raise questions about the sale of Teddington, currently being discussed.

Nigel Buck, Assistant Director of Estates, told Felix that "the extent of the plan-

ning requirements for runway three are as yet unknown" and that while the timescale of development cannot be forecast, it could be almost a decade before the land occupied by the ground would be sought to extend Heathrow.

Sen Ganesh, Imperial College Union President, said that if College decided that it would be desirable to sell both Harlington and Teddington, the Union would need to be compensated for the loss, with the money gained from the sales being spent on student sports facilities.

The College is looking closely at the issue of sports provision for Imperial students, and is in negotiations over a multi-million pound new development at Barn Elms in Putney in addition to the proposed new sports centre in South Kensington.

John S

*f***Issue 1228****15 February 2002**

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New Challenge

A new challenge was launched this week with the aim of promoting good writing within the College.

'Writing The Future' will give students who enjoy writing the opportunity to communicate an element of their degree subject to a wider audience. The scheme will be open to both undergraduates and postgraduates and hopes to demonstrate the breadth of the College's educational interests, portraying it as more than a purely scientific institution.

An editorial panel will select the best entries from each department and forward them to a final shortlist. The work of the finalists will be published in both CD and book form and will be avail-

able in the College's libraries from October.

The scheme has been set up in association with resident Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow, Ann Shearer, who joined the College last term with a brief to promote good writing by staff and students. An author and previously a reporter for the Guardian, Ms Shearer will one of the three members of the editorial panel judging entries, but will also be available as a consultant to assist students with their entries at any stage of the writing process.

The 'Writing The Future' scheme has been endorsed by the Rector, and will replace his existing 'Communication Competition'.

John S

Election Change

The timetable for this year's Sabbatical elections has been changed, after it was decided that the opening of nominations had not been publicised widely enough.

It was feared that the minimal publicity for the elections in the first week of the nomination period would limit the number of good students standing for positions, and lead to a loss of confidence in the those elected as Sabbatical officers.

The nomination papers will remain on the wall facing the offices on the first floor of the Union building until 5pm today. For nominations to be valid, candidates must be backed up by the signature of a proposer and twenty seconders by this deadline.

Hustings for those standing for the positions of President, Deputy President (Clubs and Societies), Deputy President (Finance and Services), Deputy President (Education and Welfare), and Felix Editor will now take place in the JCR of the Union building at the Wye campus on the evening of Tuesday 26 February, and then again in dBs in the Union building of the South Kensington campus on Wednesday 27 February. This will be followed by voting across all departments on Thursday and Friday of that week, with the results officially declared in the Union Dining Hall, on the first floor of the Union building, at 12noon on Monday 4 March.

John S

The Brussels Buzz

Bees

Oh Dear! Not all is rosy in Euroland, it seems. European bee-keepers will this week be staging militant protests in Brussels. The object? Better working conditions for their workers - the honeybees.

It seems that the legions of farmers, mostly from Spain, France and Italy, are unhappy about the lack of recognition their invaluable insects make to local ecologies.

They argue that the pollen delivery systems, propped up by the bees, constitute a "service" - and that the bees should be recompensed accordingly. For example, they should be allowed to have a monopoly over honey trade in the EU, as a reward for the bees' hard work. This would outlaw Mexican honey, for example (currently around half



the price of the native European stuff).

The bees themselves are not expected to attend the protest, due to the cold.

Panic

Thousands of Argentines rushed to buy US dollars this

week, in an effort to safeguard their savings against inflation.

Their actions were prompted by the final separation of the Argentinian peso from the dollar.

Although the economy of the South American country had appeared strong to many,

the separation from the strong American currency - pegged to the peso for over twenty years - has raised fears of inflation and ruin among the population, who are lapping up the dollars despite government pleas for calm.

Slime

Former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic awaits trial for war crimes at The Hague this week. Although the list of war crimes he is charged with is both horrifying and shocking, the former leader shows no sign of remorse.

In a statement released this week, the defendant insisted that he was ready for the trial, and that he would use the opportunity to "tell the truth" about the bloody conflict.

Joe

No Logo

A former Nazi will have an operation to remove a large tattoo paid for by the state, Associated Press reports.

Darren Lee Letourneau, 31, will have the series of operations - which will cost a total of £2,870 - paid for by taxpayers because he says he has given up the tenets of National Socialism after "much reflection" in prison.

After leaving jail, hopefully early in next year, Letourneau also hopes to speak out against racism, particularly to juveniles and young adults. He is currently serving a 10-year sentence for a mixture of offences, including robberies, assault and weapons offences.

Reactions in Canada were mixed. While some groups were lukewarm at the

prospect of using taxpayers' money to fund a convict's image change, others were enthusiastic about the move.

In particular, Rubin Friedman, a spokesman for the Canadian Jewish Congress voiced his approval. The decision, he said, represented an "action for good" in the world, adding that it meant "one less racist swastika."

Prison warder Alex Lubimov agreed that Letourneau had shown a massive improvement in attitude over the past couple of years.

"He no longer believes in the things the swastika stands for," he explained, "in fact, he now believes that his past actions were wrong and evil. He is keen to do whatever he can to put that right."

Joe

Seafire

(Reuters) A large bush-fire in California this week continued to grow out of control. As well as residential, municipal and industrial buildings, the fire also threatened the very government of the United States of America in the form of the U.S. Marine Corps base near San Diego.

Outrage in the region that the fire - which has already destroyed over 30 homes and forced the evacuation of thousands at time of going to press - be allowed to spread out of control was heightened when it became apparent that the marines were unable to fight fires on their own base effectively due to cuts in the training budget.

The regular firefighting units were taken aback by the scale and ferocity of the blaze,

which is reckoned by many to be the worst in 50 years. Over 700 men, including aerial units, are currently involved.

The fires, which have been fanned throughout the fortnight-long blaze by a strong easterly wind, were only halted by the Pacific Ocean in the south. Now, however, the wind has shifted suddenly to the south. The bush fires - in an area untouched since the great Scrub Fires of 85 years ago have correspondingly swung north, threatening the cities of San Diego and even LA, at 14 million residents one of America's biggest cities.

Although millions of kilos of explosive are kept at the military base, Navy spokesman Gregg Smith insisted there was "no danger" to civilians.

Joe

Valentine Messages

To J
I'll be your
prisoner...
Of love...

To Minky,
You're so pretty
Munky

Here are some
Valentine's Messages
we received from all
the love-birds last
week...

HC,
Hope you liked the
quote

To R,
Reception Queen
We Love
You

Lurgee,
I love you now and will do
all through Edinburgh.

Always,
xxx

To D,
You can check my
keylist any time
Love, F

To my darling Monster,
Your sexy moves really get
me going!
Love your nuscence
xxxxxxxxxx

To D,
You're my DP(Love &
Affection)...
xxx

To all the readers,
I can tell you're
lonely...
Love, Felix
xxx

Imperial College Union, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road

Friday, February 15

Valentine's Party

8pm-2am

Free Chocolate Hearts & Love Hearts

Free before 9pm
Union Members £1.50
Guests £2.00

imperial
college
union

Friday Night Out
Supported by

union
djs:play

TimeOut

HAPPY
VALENTINES
DAY

HEY
BIG BOY!

I LOVE
YOU

HAPPY
VALENTINES
DAY

YOU
THRILL
ME

YOUR PLACE
OR MINE?

I LOVE
YOU

YOU
THRILL
ME

FOXY
LADY!

HEY
BIG BOY!

FOXY
LADY!

HAPPY
VALENTINES
DAY

I LOVE
YOU

HAPPY
VALENTINES
DAY

I LOVE
YOU

YOUR PLACE
OR MINE?



Good Fun
& good prices

International Night

Last Thursday saw this year's international night coming together after months of preparation and work by the Overseas Committee Team, and specifically Ram Ramanan, the organiser of the event.

The concept of the event is for the international societies to have an opportunity to express their own cultures to one another, as well as to the numerous home students who come to watch the event every year. In the past it has been marred by political differences, which have been expressed by students booing various acts, and in one case even storming the stage. This has also led to punch ups back stage, and therefore this year, there were more stewards present to ensure that the security of the event was not compromised.

Perhaps due to this, or maybe perhaps due to improving relations, there weren't any such problems this year, however, the flagship show caused problems of its own, through the use of pyrotechnics that set the fire alarm off. This resulted in the mass evacuation of the great hall, as well as the rest of Sheffield, that lasted around half an hour. Happily most of the audience were eager to stick around, and so thirty minutes later the Hall refilled to enjoy the first show. However, any mood that had been built up would obviously have been destroyed by this point, so the first act of the evening, which belonged to the Pakistan Society, was to have quite a job getting everyone back into the mood. However, the choice was good, and the comedy based on arranged marriage brought the show back up to its original tempo, paving the way for the rest of the show.



It would be impossible in the space allowed to go through every act, and while some were certainly... interesting, all had clearly received a lot of care and attention from each society.

The problem with a show such as this is that cultural differences are very difficult to express in such a short amount of time, and since no-one can be aware of all cultures, often misunderstanding can occur as to the point that is trying to be made.

As an example of this, one of my personal favourite acts was that of the Singapore society, which I found very reminiscent of the time I have spent in Singapore over several months. I'm not sure I would have found it so good, however, were I not already aware of some of the culture.

Asking around after the show, I found that three shows had really stood out in many peoples' minds. They were the Afro-Caribbean Society, the Japanese Society, and the Bangladeshi Society.

The Afro-Caribbeans put on an amazingly high energy show, and were also remembered for the lack of clothing

outs, all accompanied by that irritatingly catchy tune from the game.

The Bangladeshi Society could be seen to be the conscience of the show, with probably the most political act, showing a man's trip around the country in a rickshaw, observing the beauty and pain in the country.

Also I must mention Shovi and Ruth, who did a fantastic job of holding everything together with their presenting, and keeping us amused during the scene changes.

What really got me, however, was the after show party. Everyone from all the societies were there, and I have to say that for the first time in five years at this college, I realised how truly international we can be. Bring it on.

THE UNION BAR

6 Beers on tap

Regular beers from Bass, Brakspear, Carlsberg, Tetley and Youngs plus Specials from many smaller breweries.

Coming Soon:
Kiwi and Red Berry Reef

Special
£1.85
bottle



Mon-Fri: 12-2/5-close
Sat: closed/Sun: 6-close

Chaplaincy

"No pain, no gain" is the mantra of those who willingly submit themselves to the tyranny of the regular workout. It also fits with the caricature of Lent, the forty day period of self-denial before Easter in the Christian calendar. If you enjoy something, then give it up for Lent. If it does not hurt then it can't be good for you. Get out your old sack-cloths and start sitting in ashes, it's the season for self-flagellation.

Of course, there is a more cuddly parody of Lent. This first requires that the meaning of Easter be reduced to a mammoth chocolate puke-athon. In order to be fully prepared for this Olympian feast Lent is used as a time to give up all chocolate and sweets. This is the Lent of delayed gratification and binging. This fits much better with our culture. Self-denial for improved body image is clearly seen as a very good thing. Forget the pressures to conform to an idealised body image.

There is an ancient and more radical take on the season of Lent. Forget the

crude self-denial theme of "give it up". Instead "take up" something new. What used to be called "doing good works" is now known as joining the "volunteering culture".

Lent could be a good time to start doing something to make the world a better place for other people. IC already has a host of clubs and societies engaged in social issues. For example, RAG is operating all year round raising money for good causes. Students on the Pimlico Connection help teach in local primary schools. The Community Action Group give you a chance to help with the Sunday Night Soup Run, or work at the Nightshelter for the homeless. They are also involved in the "Tools for Self Reliance" scheme that repairs old tools and sends them to Africa.

What all of these projects offer those who volunteer are new experiences. Yes voluntary work helps others. But equally importantly it changes us. It can encour-

age us to go beyond the small worlds that we create for our own protection. Volunteering can be a good way to gain insight into areas of life and society that we would not normally visit. By all means "give something up" for Lent. But also think about "taking up" something new. It could do you the power of good as well as helping others.

In the Chaplaincy we have a file of volunteering opportunities including journalism for Christian Aid, doing DIY for the housebound, helping community development in Notting Hill, supporting a charity assisting people living with HIV/Aids, or working on a building site with the homeless.

Some need regular commitment and some you can join whenever you are free. For further information contact Community Action Group icag@ic.ac.uk, or RAG helen.arney@ic.ac.uk or Pimlico Connection william.mitchel@ic.ac.uk or chaplaincy@ic.ac.uk

ISRAEL

ON TRIAL



“This House Believes that Yassar Arafat was Right to Refuse Israel’s Terms at Camp David”

PHYSICS - LT1 - THURSDAY 21st - 6:00pm

IC Secular Society

IC RADIO

Matt and Sam, the dynamic duo of radio, are rarely visible to the public eye. They exist in a fantasy world, removing themselves from society as a whole. However, after some coaxing but mainly blatant threatening they have emerged, dirty and smelly, from their hermit cave in the furthest reaches of Outer Bayswater to give this exclusive interview to Felix:

So, guys, why did you call your show 'The Matt 'n' Sam Show?'

Matt: Well, we were going to go with just 'and' but for artistic purposes we eventually went for 'n.'

Sam: Lack of originality, really...

What's your show all about?

Matt: It's an orgasmic blend of sensuous music, hilariously amusing features and sickeningly professional links.

Sam: Yeah, complete bollocks really...

Do you have many listeners?

Matt: Yes



Another high quality web-cam photo

Sam: No. Sorry, it's his ego. By the way if any wants to listen in we'd really appreciate it. Talking to yourself for two hours isn't fun... no honestly!!!

What sort of music do you play?

Matt: Not telling you.

Sam: The wanker's in a sulk now. Don't worry, just give him one of those lollies and he'll shut up for while... We play everything from up-to-the-minute dance tracks to classic tunes from MC Hammer and Nick Kershaw... actually we don't really play his songs (nervous laughter).

Matt, since leaving IC last summer you've only made a few appearances on the show, leaving Sam to flounder through on his own. Sam, you've been reported to be suffering from chronic suicidal depression, as illustrated in this photo. What do you have to say?

Sam: Well, yeah, it's depressing sitting there on your own but it's probably better than being stuck in there with this boring bastard!

Matt: At least I don't cock up the equipment all the time.

Sam: Try and do the show without me then you cheeky bastard...

At this point the interview degenerated into something out of Mortal Kombat, the scenes are not suitable for children, students and domesticated animals.

You can tune into the Matt 'n' Sam show every Saturday at midday on IC Radio - 99.9Mhz AM and icradio.com.

Alternatively you couldn't.

ICU Arts Festival

The ICU Arts Festival is an event especially dedicated to promoting the arts societies of Imperial College. The first ever arts festival will take place from the 20th February to the 1st March this year and will feature everyone from the IC Choir to Classical Guitar. This is your chance to see exactly what each arts society does, and maybe even find out what you have been missing out on all this time.

There are three nights that you should put into your diary, with the times when everything begins.

Wednesday, 20th February, Union Concert Hall:

7.30: Wind Band
8.00: Classical Guitar
8.30: Interval
9.00: DramSoc
9.30: Musical Theatre
10.00: Finish

This event is completely free.

Monday, 25th February, dB's, Union:

7.30 Guitar Soloists
8.00: Modern Dance
8.15: Interval
8.30: Modern Dance
8.45: Contemporary Music
9.15: DJs
9.30: Close

This event is completely free.

8pm Friday, 1st March, Great Hall:

[In association with the ICU Arts Festival] The IC Symphony Orchestra and the IC Choir will be performing Mahler together, in what will undoubtedly be a fantastic display of musical talent.

Tickets Available from the Blyth Music Centre, £2.50/£6.50 in advance, £3/£7 on the door.

There will also be exhibitions from Photo Soc, Phoenix (Literature), Leonardo (Fine Arts) and the Origami Society taking

place around campus at lunchtimes.

The ICU Arts Festival's debut is sure to go with a bang - but it doesn't end there. This is to be the first of many annual arts festivals happening at Imperial College. That means that any IC student who has missed out on being involved this year has now got twelve months to prepare for the next one.

This really is a unique opportunity to showcase your work and get yourself noticed as a performer, artist or musician - or whatever you can do!

But this isn't the only way, to get involved. You can help run the events this year, or if you want to decide how the ICU Arts Festival 2003 goes, you can form part of next year's committee.

So don't forget, the ICU Arts Festival is here to show that Imperial College *isn't* just about science

Patrick

For more information:
e-mail: patrick.hoar@ic.ac.uk

Editorial

This week, I have mostly been ill. And this is probably the worst part of my job here. Even when I'm dying with 'flu, and a temperature of 104, I still have to get up and make sure that this gets out so you lot have something to read during lectures. I wouldn't mind so much if I thought you all read it for the insightful journalism, or the stunning design and layout, or even for the well rounded editorial, but as far as I can reckon, you don't. You read it so you can do the crosswords and the GFAQ. Is this really true? Am I really wasting my time (and health) to provide you people with two pages of puzzles and a protective covering of emergency toilet paper. I'd like to think *not*.

So, what I'm asking is that you, the reader, take a moment right now (or at least once you've finished the crossword) to sit at a computer and e-mail me, telling me what it is you do and don't read in *Felix*. Not only will it make an old man very happy (or possibly not), but it also might mean that less of the bad stuff will

go in, which would logically imply that there would be more good stuff. Or at least a greater percentage of good stuff.

But yes, ill. I've been. And most horribly. I'm too young to die, and too beautiful too. It would be denying the world of perfection, and as such, for all your sakes, I'm hanging on to this life with a fervour. Sorry, I get a touch melodramatic when feeling ill. Also, considering the number of little pills I've taken, I'm probably hallucinating. And much fun it is too. Why, only this morning I was talking to my lampshade about the quality of life that haberdashery enjoys, and I was sorely tempted to turn it all in and become a cushion.

But foolishly, I did not, and so here I am, waffling away. Oh yes! E-mail address. To e-mail me with your comments about *Felix* (and I really do want them), use the address felix@ic.ac.uk is my advice. You could use another address and trust in the mighty god of the internet to guide it, but I find that's about as reliable as dous-

ing for jam in a sausage factory. As my old grandmother used to say.

High time I ranted about something, now, I think, being an editor and all. This week we have RAG week coming up, and to be honest we here in the *Felix* world are pretty moist at the thought... many photo opportunities and stories of drunken debauchery galore. At least, that's what I've been promised. However, once again, dear reader, it is you who must actually ensure that this promise comes true. And you don't want to make a liar of the person who promised the promise, if you see what I mean, and I think you do, do you?

So that was nice. I have one hour until I have to send this fine tome off to out friendly neighbourhood printers, so I should probably cut this short, and just write blah for the rest of it, but frankly I'm too professional, so like every good actor, I will instead whisper rhubarb repeatedly under my breath. Rhubarb rhubarb rhubarb rhubarb rhubarb rhubarb rhubarb.

Knowledge is of two kinds.
We know a subject ourselves,
or we know where we can find
information upon it.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784),
Author, lexicographer

Hustings

Question the Candidates

Wye Campus, JCR Union Building
5pm Tuesday, February 26

South Kensington, dBs Club Bar
6pm Wednesday, February 27



Sabbatical Elections

imperial
college
union

**Friday
15th**

*Valentine's
Party*

**Come and find
your True Love**

Free Chocolate Hearts
and Love Hearts

**union
djs:play**

8pm-2am

£1.50 Union/£2 Guests

Friday Night Out
Supported by

dB **UPH** **TimeOut**

**Tuesday
19th**

RAG WEEK

with ICU Cinema
(From 6pm, See listings)

JAZZ BIG BAND

Support **RAG**
Buy a T-Shirt
FREE from 8pm

**UNION
QUIZ NIGHT**

sponsored by **STA TRAVEL**

Prizes: £50 & beer

8:30pm/FREE@the union

Da Vinci's

**Wednesday
20th**

**CHEESY
WOTSITS**

**union
djs:play**



£1/pint Tetleys or
Carlsberg while beer
lasts from 5pm (dBs only)
Plus extra seating for DaVinci's Café

8pm-2am

£1 Union/£1.50 Guests

Late Night Hot Food

dB **ICU** Good Fun
@ good prices

**Thursday
21st**

RAG WEEK

with ICU Cinema
(From 6pm, See listings)

**CEG
SLAVE
AUCTION**

in JCR from 12pm
in support of
RAG WEEK

**Friday
22nd**

**union
djs:play**

**SCHOOL
DISCO**

CHEESE IN DBS &
CHILL OUT IN THE UDH
TO COOL SOUNDS FROM
THE LUNCH BUNCH

8pm-2am

£2.00 In Fancy Dress/

£2.50 Guests & Others

50p from each entry donated to RAG

Friday Night Out
Supported by

dB **UPH** **TimeOut**

**Tuesday
26th**

**UNION
QUIZ
NIGHT**

sponsored by

STA TRAVEL

Prizes: £50 & beer

8:30pm/FREE@the union

Da Vinci's

**Wednesday
27th**

**CHEESY
WOTSITS**

**union
djs:play**



£1/pint Tetleys or
Carlsberg while beer
lasts from 5pm (dBs only)
Plus extra seating for DaVinci's Café

8pm-2am

£1 Union/£1.50 Guests

Late Night Hot Food

dB **ICU** Good Fun
@ good prices

**Thursday
28th**

**COMEDY
BUST-A-GUT**

Winner of the 1995
Glastonbury Festival New
Act Competition, comic Tony
Law has firmly established
himself as a regular stand-
up on the UK circuit.

**Tony
Law**

WKD Joke Competition
Win a case of WKD

Purchase advance tickets
from the Union Reception

Doors 7:30pm

£3 Union/£3.50 Guests

dB **WKD** **The Daily Telegraph**
**OPEN MIC
AWARD**

ICU Good Fun
@ good prices

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



Da Vinci's
— Café bar —



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

**imperial
college
union**

NUS Debate

Should Imperial College Union join the National Union of Students (NUS)? This is the question that will be posed to the students of Imperial College and you will have your chance to have your say.

NUS

So what is the NUS? The NUS was established in 1922 to represent the interests of students. Currently 98% of students unions affiliate to the NUS and Imperial College Union is not one of them.

So what's the fuss about? Well, affiliation to the NUS is a matter for referendum, i.e. the students of the college get to choose. There will be a college wide secret ballot with a yes/no question asking you whether you want to affiliate to the NUS.

The sides

In the referendum there are two sides; the "yes" and the "no" campaign. Both sides will be given exactly the same resources and will start campaigning shortly. Each side through a variety of media will



inform you of the advantages and disadvantages of joining the NUS. In addition there will be a series of official debates, where you will be able to hear both sides argue their points and be able to put questions to them.

The history

The last time there was a Referendum was in 1995, when the students voted not to join the NUS. For the Referendum to be valid, there has to be a 15% turnout, this

equates to approximately eighteen hundred students. If this turnout is not achieved then the status quo (disaffiliation from the NUS) remains.

My Job

My role as a returning officer is to ensure that the Referendum is run fairly and honestly, and to ensure that you are given the information to make an informed choice. I am also not allowed to express any bias towards any one side, in fact I am not allowed to vote. If you would like more information about the Referendum please contact me (president@ic.ac.uk).

Your Choice

Ultimately, the decision of whether to join the NUS is yours. So read the information, attend the debates and make your choice. It is your chance to have a direct impact on the future of the Union.

Sen Ganesh

President, Imperial College Union

Election Inferno

Yes folks, it's that time of year again: that time of year when your walk to the lecture theatre is hampered by a deluge of posters. When the Media wing of Imperial College Union really begins to flex its muscles, with Felix interviews, STOIC programmes and IC Radio broadcasting live into the Southside Kitchens... When mass e-mails go out, breaking all the election regulations, encouraging you to vote like sheep for some random student who must be fantastic because they're studying the same course as you. Wow. I love this time of year.

Hustings

Tuesday, February 26: Wye Campus, JCR Union Building, 6:30pm
Wednesday, February 27: dBs Club Bar, 6:00pm

This is, historically, where candidates get a good grilling. Candidates pace around the main stairs of the Union build-

ing, palms sweating, wishing they hadn't put so much gel in their hair because it's starting to trickle down the side of their face. Some turn to cigarettes. And within minutes they find themselves standing on the stage. Now the problems really begin. Questions are asked by you lot; completely unpredictable in nature, on a topic that generally has absolutely minimal relevance to the positions in question. Fabulous.

Voting

Thursday, February 28: 10:00 - 17:00
Friday, March 1: 10:00 - 17:00

Without doubt the most important bit. Whether you're voting through gut instinct, through detailed character assassination, or by bribe from the candidate's other half, the unequivocally vital thing here is to vote. In itself, the most powerful tool democracy has ever created: The secret ballot.

Results Declared

Monday, March 4, 12:00 - 13:00

Given that voting closes on a Friday, counting is likely to take place over the weekend. This means that the "ceremony" (implying that there might actually be a winner in all of this) will take place Monday lunchtime. STOIC will be feeding live audio streams into the JCR, the IC Radio team will be poised, mini-disc'n'microphone combination in hand, and Felix will be geared up to get an Elections Special out to the masses by Monday night.

So all that leaves is you lot. You have the power to select the direction the Union takes over the coming years. You have the ability to change something, to make a difference. And I beg you, use that power. Whether it be through the traditional voting mediums, or through proxying your vote as you may not be in the country, VOTE VOTE VOTE.

More From Sen

Dear Felix,

Following the letter last week from Ms Tasha Newton, I thought it would be appropriate to respond. I do not intend to get into an argument over some of the personal remarks she made, however I thought I should address some of the issues raised in that letter.

The main concern seems to be about Council's decision to call for a Referendum on Imperial College Union's affiliation to the National Union of Students (NUS) and the motivation of bringing that paper to Council.

To answer the later issue first, the motivation is quite simple. Earlier this year with the arrival of the freshers, the Union had a lot queries about NUS cards. Many were surprised that we are not part of the NUS. It is clear that a whole generation of students do not know about the NUS and why we are not affiliated to it.

Contrary to popular belief, there is no conspiracy or ulterior motive, it is simply the conviction that it is time to have an informed open debate on the issue. I do believe that we are capable of having a mature and sensible discussion on the matter and let the students decide. My decision to go for re-election or not is entirely irrelevant and has no bearing on the issue.

If students don't care then they won't vote - the quota won't be met and the status quo will remain. However by running a referendum it does give students the choice and the cost to the Union is relatively small and easily covered by contingency funds. All I ask of the student population is to take an interest in the issue and encourage everyone to make an informed decision.

The reason I did not give an opinion about whether I believe the Union should join or not, is that as the Returning Officer and for the sake of impartiality, I am not allowed to express my view publicly or indeed vote in the referendum.

I also strongly reject the claim that the Union has not done anything this year. We have built on our support for Clubs and Societies, increased external funding and sponsorship, expanded on our work in the community, secured funding

for the Summer Ball, supported student development programmes, started volunteer investment programme, re-focused on education issues and much more besides.

I believe we have done a lot but still need to do more. We need to move forward and take a more proactive approach and I encourage all students (including Ms Tasha Newton) to take up the challenge, get involved in their Union and help us achieve this.

Sen Ganesh

President, Imperial College Union

Stupid Is As Stupid Does

Dear Felix,

I have once again become quite annoyed at something petty. This time it is stupidity that has got me riled. I recently (i.e. 20 minutes ago) purchased a drink whose bottle bore the label "Do not store on side when cap is removed". So that's what I've been doing wrong, how many now stained shirts could have been saved if they'd warned me earlier. How stupid must I be?

This incident was not the only one of its type, a few days ago I was walking by the banks of the Thames feeding the partially submerged shopping trolleys and cooling off from another fit of logic when I saw a sign that set my attempts at relaxation back by several years worth of yoga and incense. "Beware!" It exclaimed, "Danger of Drowning!" It's a river, if you are not aware that falling into the river presents a danger of drowning then perhaps you truly are in need of warnings about the spatial orientation of bottles, that sucking hot tar into your lungs is dangerous or that dancing painted black on the M1 poses a slight health hazard. Are we all so damned stupid nowadays?

I am also rather worried about my own condition, for the past few weeks I have noticed that my ability to spell has deteriorated and my word order pot to gone. Can some charitable soul please tell me, is Dyslexia contagious or am I just being plain stupid? And in case you weren't aware: This letter is flammable; do not attempt to use as a fire retardant.

Yours furiously,

Pete

Wye Balls

Will,

Hello to everyone reading this in London and at places other than the Wye Campus. We thought that we would just let you all know that life down here is brilliant, although unfortunately we have had to start working and can't just concentrate on socialising. There are many activities going on, Old Boy's weekend, 1st - 3rd February, was a great success with hundreds of people coming back, although it did see the end to the unbeaten rugby season that the team was enjoying, regular activities in the union are proving to be very popular.

The main reason for this article is to let everyone know about our Commemoration Ball which is definitely on and bigger and better than ever, FRIDAY 21st JUNE! The Commemoration Ball at Wye is an annual event that is viewed as the most important evening on the social calendar. It is always a fantastic evening with a funfair, fireworks, bands, and a great DJ all preceded by a meal in the marquee. The evening is packed with fun and frolics and ends with the survivors photograph at 6am. The bar is open through the night! This event gives you much more freedom than is usually experienced in London and takes place in our fantastic Withersdane Gardens. Accommodation will be available, although it will be on a first come first served basis. Tables are for 8-10 people although the odd 12 can be accommodated and we would love to see as many of you here as possible. There will be prizes for the person that organises the biggest party!

Preceding this event is our cricket week which you are all more than welcome to come down to and is a week full of fun and games with the bar open 11am til 1am everyday, and as you might expect, the odd cricket match. Both events are situated in the fantastic gardens with the backdrop of a wonderful countryside, slightly different to the wall of concrete that they call London!

If you wish to contact us for more information about any of these events or anything else to do with Wye life please feel free to do so.

Thomas Bradshaw

thomas.bradshaw@ic.ac.uk

RAG Sandwich
Jam
Peanut Butter
Chocolate Spread



20p milk
20p
per filling

12-2pm
Mon 18-Fri 22

dB RAG :: imperial college
Imperial College Union, Beit Quad CATERING

Part-Time Staff Needed

Union staff needed to work in the Shop and Bars.

Many variable hours available.

£4.10 per hour plus benefits.
Training provided.

Contact Michelle on 020 8594-8060
or x-48060 Email: union@ic.ac.uk.

imperial college union

Work for yourself. Work at the Union...
...and make a difference to your social life.

This Week	Friday	Weekend
Union Events	Valentine's Party Roses are red Or you could call it berry Come to the Union And pop your... money into a collecting tin for RAG Week! <i>Union, 8pm-2am</i>	RAG Week RAG Week is here. Give us an 'R'! Give us an 'A'! Give us a 'G'! What do you get? A full square without me letting on that I don't know what's happening on Saturday!
Rag Week Events	College Collections and more... RAG agents, almost as scary as the FBI, will be collecting for charity at the College gates. Cupids and devils at the Union too.	International RAG Pub Crawl Around the world in eighty units - a feat Phileas Fogg would have been proud of, had he drunk recklessly. <i>Union, 12pm Saturday</i>
At The Movies	Fellowship of the Ring The source of much hilarity in the office this week, as we veto yet another run of highly amusing arse jokes. Doesn't mean we can't ridicule hobbits, though.	Black Hawk Down See this week's special "Bird Watching" section in the diary this week, and you'll note the total absence of black hawks. That's mostly because they're down. Sorry.
Television & Radio	Smack The Pony Women messing around, and occasionally being quite funny. I can't imagine what the title could possibly mean, though. <i>Channel 4, 9:30pm</i>	It Shouldn't Happen to a TV Cook Since animal cruelty leg- islation doesn't apply to lifeforms so low as Jamie Oliver, there's no reason why it can't... <i>Saturday, ITV, 8:10pm</i>
Gigs & Concerts	Baz Also appearing: Daz, Gaz, Paz and their pet dog, Pooz. But seriously (could you tell anyway?) she's the next rising thing for UK soul-pop. <i>Jazz Cafe, £10/£12 door</i>	Mr Gone Yes, yet another Jazz Cafe concert, but I'm including this one because I'm going. Hurray. It should be jazzy, funky and fused. <i>Saturday, Jazz Cafe, £12</i>
Bird Watching	Sparrow The house sparrow, or <i>Passer domesticus</i> , is often found in London. It isn't even slightly endangered, and has been known to be bor- ing at parties.	Pigeon I think they're mainly <i>Columba livia</i> , but I can't be sure. While also known for boring con- versation, pigeons brighten up parties involving shotguns.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jazz and Rock Jazz Chill-out at the Union today, brought to you by the ICU Jazz and Rock society. If I were you, I'd relax before RAG week begins... <i>dBs</i>	Trivia Quiz Show off your highly interesting knowledge of Carol Vorderman's musical tastes in order to win prizes. Oh yeah, did I mention that it's RAG week yet?	Cheesy Wotsits Suited sportsmen quaff their beer whilst highly qualified DJs blast out their favourite action-laden classics. How does 'Tragedy' go? <i>The Union, 'till 1am</i>	RAG Week <i>Felix</i> can exclusively reveal that this is RAG week! At lunchtime, there'll be slave auction either in the JCR or in dB's.	RAG Ball The typical Friday night fracas, but with some extra RAG magic. School Uniform, lollipops and cheesy music will all make an appearance. <i>Union, 8pm-2am</i>
Queen's Tower Trips Scale the behemoth of the South Kensington campus. Those on other campuses will be able to wave at those enjoying the view. <i>Lunchtime</i>	Cinema Night Two classic films from the ICU Cinema: Blues Brothers and the Italian Job. Mix 'em up and what do you get? Well, I'll leave that to you... <i>Union Concert Hall, 6pm</i>	London Raid and Tiddlywink Race Go out into London with your friends to collect money for Rag. Race tiddlywinks down Oxford Street too! Bizarre. <i>Somewhere, 12pm</i>	Intercollege Boat Race Drink yourself silly - novel idea, I know - against other colleges to see who has the most alcoholic students. Free beer for the race... <i>ULU, Mallet St, 7:30pm</i>	School Uniform Day Wear your school uniform to College today. Not that we're appealing to fetishism at all. Big balloons on the Queen's Lawn too! <i>Everywhere, all day</i>
Ocean's Eleven Casinoes, heists, money, Pitt and Roberts (not being Mexican), George Clooney (not being a doctor), Damon (not hunting any goodwill) and Garcia (er...)	Monsters Inc. Yeah, so it might be funny, but what you really need to know about is what they've got in their computers. Like, those 1337-MF CPUs really kick ass!	Happy Splatter and the Joke's Wearing Thin Surely they've run out of screaming children and amorous teenagers to show this to? I might have to think up a new amusing concept soon!	Vanilla Sky Mmmm. Vanilla. Good for three things - putting in ice cream, sniffing to encourage weight loss, and smearing on... Anyway, Tom Cruise stars, apparently.	From Hell Unusually, Johnny Depp plays a troubled, slightly mystical character who, to add an extra twist, is clairvoyant. Ms Voyant is considering legal action. Arf, arf.
Shooting Stars It's time once again for the dove from above. Coo, coo! Oh no! I summoned Ulrika Jonnson by mistake! Quick, where's that frying-pan? <i>BBC2, 9:30pm</i>	Delia's How To Cook A poor attempt to convince the world that cooking is something worth doing. This week, I have been mostly eating... mains cable! Zzzt! <i>BBC2, 8:30pm</i>	Liam Family drama written by Jimmy McGovern. So it's going to be gritty, acclaimed, and set in Liverpool, then. Polly want a Cracker? <i>BBC2, 9pm</i>	The Punk Rock Show: Punk Covers Joe Parker and Liz Moores continue their weekly trawl through all things unmusical with a look at classic covers. <i>www.icradio.com, 8-9pm</i>	Inspector Morse Another dot-dashing dose of detective drudgery. Unpleasant events in Oxford, and I'm not just talking about the students... Rah! <i>ITV, 8:30pm</i>
Beth Orton, and friends I don't know if you need a Central Reservation for this one. Snigger. Beth Orton apparently appears with other acoustic and folky types. <i>Cherry Jam, free - £7</i>	Manu Chao Their website was out there, man. All very halucinogenic 'with lots of wierd music. I can only imagine that's what they play. <i>Shepherd's Bush Empire</i>	Defenestration You're all erudite people, and know full well that this means throwing stuff out of a window. Whether or not this lot deserve it is up to you... <i>Garage</i>	Anamorphic "Dark moody smouldering dark wave that tastes of lusciously quiet and rather velvety erotic things..." Well, yes. <i>Monarch, Camden</i>	Deep Purple Long hair, absence of sleeves. Yes, it's one of those bands. But, they played Grimsby and survived to sing again, so they must be tough... <i>Hammersmith Apollo</i>
Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i> to its friends, the common swift bears absolutely no relation whatsoever to the Piccadilly Line, the trains on which are neither common nor swift.	Rose-ringed Parakeet If you see one of these <i>Psittacula krameri</i> in London, regardless of what the ornithologists say, I'll be quite surprised. And London Zoo doesn't count, cowboy.	Blue Tit <i>Parus caeruleus</i> can make up his own jokes as far as I'm concerned. Geddit? Yeah, it's an anagram of 'lie butt'. Guffaw! Oh, you mean that joke? Pervert.	Winter Wren A fine bird by anyone's measure, he's popularly known as <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> . You'd think it lives underground, maybe correctly, but at least it's furnished...	Eurasian Treecreeper I think the name gives this one away, but not nearly as obviously as <i>Certhia familiaris</i> . He must have been teased at school with a name like 'Certhia'. Snigger.

Elections

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

Voting

Thursday, February 28

Friday, March 1

Results Declared

Monday, March 4 (at 12 noon)

South Ken Campus, Union Dining Hall



Sabbatical Elections

imperial
college
union



The Bonesetters Daughter Amy Tan

Reading the quote on the back of this book could be somewhat misleading, "told with originality and humour....keeps you guessing, laughing and crying until the end." Now, even if I do say so myself, I have a pretty good sense of humour but this is certainly not a humorous book, leaving me to wonder whether the Sunday Express critic had actually read it!

Nonetheless, this is a really great novel, not something that will brighten your day, but a riveting account of life's ups and downs from two generations of family.

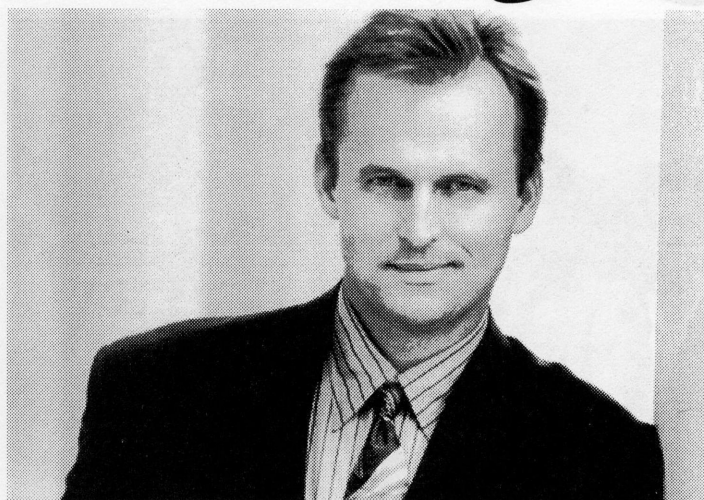
The first part is told by Ruth, daughter of LuLing, who is living in the modern western world. She juggles work, with her live-in lover; Art, his children; Fia and Dory and caring for her aging mother whose memory is failing rapidly. Her relationship with her mother is tense and this book explores how the relationship evolves as Ruth uncovers secrets from her mothers past life in China.

The beginning of LuLing's life is buried deep in her memory and is revealed in the second part of this book. This is where the book really gets started; the story told by LuLing is both amazing and tragic. Based in the nineteen thirties in a time where superstition ruled and women were second class citizens, LuLing's childhood is continuously disrupted as she is forced to move from one home to another before finally moving to America. This novel provides a personal account of the effects of war on the individual people involved:

Lui Ling and her sister, GaoLing, are survivors in the truest form and Ruth realizes this as she hears more from her mothers tale, eventually she sees LuLing as a selfless woman, scared by her own superstitions and haunted by her past. LuLing decides to write her life's story down because she realizes her memory is fading, and so she writes her tale - the story of the bonesetter's daughter.

The Bonesetters Daughter is a wonderfully woven tale of love, loss, betrayal and the strength of the maternal bond. An intriguing book that will keep you turning the pages right until the end. Published by Flamingo, £6.99.

Jennifer



The Summons John Grisham

Ray Atlee and his brother, Forrest, are summoned to Clanton, Mississippi, by their dying father, Judge Reuben Atlee. Once a beloved local chancellor who gave money and support to whoever asked, Atlee became a recluse in his last years after he lost his last election.

He lived alone and sick, dying of cancer, in a decaying antebellum shamble called Maple Run. Ray has become a successful professor in the law department of the University of Virginia, while his younger brother, Forrest, has devoted himself to drugs, alcohol and trouble. Reuben, of course, disapproves of Forrest's lifestyle, but has spent thousands on rehab and legal bills for his wayward son.

Life, though, has had its own pain for Ray. His apparently happy marriage ended suddenly when his wife got a better offer from an extremely rich older Wall Street operator.

Ray arrives at Maple Run and discovers not only that his father is dead but also that there is more than three million dollars in cash hidden in stationery boxes in his father's study. A will instructs Ray to divide the judge's assets with his brother and to act as the executor.

Ray starts to question where the money came from. He is reluctant to declare it as it might prove that the judge was not so honourable. He is also unwilling to share it with his brother due to what he would probably spend it on. A more pressing problem for Ray is that someone else knows about the money and is determined to obtain it no matter what.

The Summons is Grisham writing the kind of novel he has become famous for while also being the type of novel that his die-hard fans love. Ray is an interesting character who at the beginning is keen to do the right thing but by the end is caught up in the intoxicating effects of money. The novel itself is not as good as early Grisham works due to the plot taking a long time to get going and the unemotional and one-dimensional prose of many of the other characters. The saving grace for the reader is that the plot does come together well by the end with a very thought provoking ending. Published by Century, £16.99.

Jonathan



Ocean's Eleven released 15th February

At the 2001 Oscars Steven Soderbergh made history by becoming the first post-war director to get two of his films, *Traffic* and *Erin Brokovich*, Oscar-nominated in the best director category. But does that give him the right to make a movie that is so lightweight that it could get in the ring with Naseem Hamed?! Apparently so. It does. Give him the right. To.

Having just been released from prison, Danny Ocean (George Clooney) rounds up a gang of about a dozen or so professionals to rob three of Terry Benedict's (Andy Garcia) casinos in one night. For a reason which still remain a mystery to me, he calls his crew 'Ocean's eleven'. And that, listeners, is where Soderbergh subsequently got the title of his movie. How the facts fall into place - like the pieces of an elementary jigsaw.

Ocean's Eleven is perhaps more remarkable for its acting line-up than anything else. Clooney's posse includes Matt Damon, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, and famous Chuckle brother, Barry Chuckle. And there's even a cameo from Lennox Lewis. They must have spent a fair few dollars getting this lot together. In fact, rumour has it Barry Chuckle was paid by the second. Unfortunately, the movie suffers from there being too many 'stars'. There is no central performance and none of the acting is daring enough to carry it through to the ending.

There is very little that can be said about this film apart from the fact that it is highly predictable and formulaic. Everything about it is formulaic. The dialogue, the acting, the wafer-thin plot. You know from the start they're going to get away with the heist. *I don't care if I've just given the plot away!* Because as Imperial Students you should be able to clock that one straight off.

If you're looking for some lightly flavoured entertainment, I would recommend salted crisps. Not a bunch of over-paid ego-maniacs playing out their over-indulgent childhood fantasies by robbing a casino. Nothing more to say, so I'm just twiddling my thumbs. Just sitting here typing away, trying to finish off this review. Look how the end is getting nearer. It's a Monday morning, and the grumbling of my stomach reminds me that I forgot to have breakfast. But I never have breakfast anyway. Eh?



Darius



Cool and Crazy released 8th February

Though a few degrees colder, this simply made documentary is a Nordic version of *Buena Vista Social Club*. Knut Erik Jensen's film follows the male voice choir of Berlevag, a 30-strong group from the harsh surroundings of Finnmark. Wrapped up against the elements, they sing the first of many haunting, melancholic pieces concerned with the natural world and the trials of life.

We are introduced to various men from the choir including octogenarian brothers, an ex-addict, the local commie and their wheel-chair bound conductor. We learn about their respective private lives and their views on the choir to which they are all so loyal and which offers respite from the bleak reality of life in the town. Despite the huge differences in age, the group are very close and supportive of each other. The local fisheries may be closing one after the other, but the sense of community running through all those connected to the choir is clearly strong.

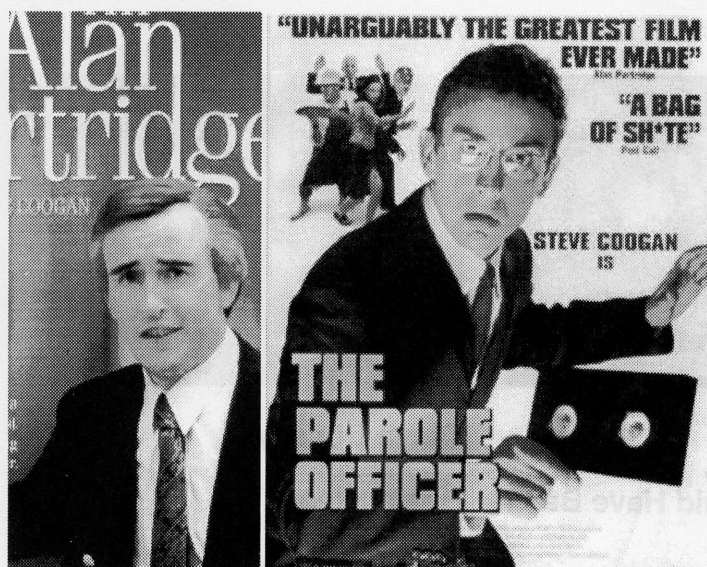
There is little plot to speak of, barring a visit to the Russian town of Murmansk to take part in a concert. The choir is keen on taking the trip, and all are amusingly eager to flirt with some local Russian ladies, teasing their partners about waltzing with comely babushkas. Once into the former Soviet Union though, the group are truly shocked at the surrounding environment, so alien to their unspoilt homeland. A blazing row breaks out on the coach between the communist and virtually everyone else onboard, as he tries to defend this raping of the landscape.

The documentary is filmed at a languid pace, without voiceover or incidental music. All we are exposed to is the choir members themselves. Their personalities come through strongly and their frequently amusing stories are shot in a deadpan style.

It is a shame that the musical scenes are what let the film down. With only limited concert footage, we are shown countless staged scenes of the choir, in varying locations, with the camera panning up and down the line of singers. This gets tiresome and only adds to the sense that we are being sold the accompanying soundtrack, but what we learn in the rest of the film is fascinating and more than makes up for this repetitiveness.

Cool and Crazy is being currently shown at the Renoir (020 - 7837-8402) and the Odeon Wardour Street (0870 -505-0007)

Adam Joyce



Steve Coogan is THE PAROLE OFFICER

*Steve Coogan is probably more famous as Alan Partridge, but most of us know him as the one of Britain's greatest ever comedians. To celebrate the 15th February rental release on DVD and VHS of his first movie, **The Parole Officer**, we have this fascinating interview in which he talks about script-writing, film literacy, and the effect his upbringing had on his choice of career.*

Was there pressure on you to make an Alan Partridge movie for your first leading role on the big screen?

I think an Alan Partridge film was mooted very early on. It would have been easier and more straightforward in the industry for me to get the go ahead for that sort of film. But whenever I do something I ask myself what's to be gained from it and what's potentially can be lost from doing it - and on that I think there was more to be lost than gained from it.

You co-wrote the Parole Officer. Was it a hard thing to share out the funny lines, and not keep the best ones for yourself?

It is tricky. I can remember writing the script with Henry Normal (the other co-writer) coming up with a funny line and suggesting it for another character, and Henry would say 'don't you want to say that, it's a really funny line?' and I'd say, 'okay, you've twisted my arm'. What I say to people is that I shared out the funny lines, but I kept the best ones for myself. The other characters do have some good lines after all. I'm generous but not stupid.

How different is it, writing for film instead of television?

It's completely different, this was a very steep learning curve for me. When John Duigan (director) came on board he helped in the writing process and pointed out things that Henry and I would not have foreseen as being problematic. Also there was a lot more dialogue than I would have been used to in television, where I have more autonomy. I had lots of discussions with Duncan about the right and wrong way to do something. I had some verbose conversations with him, which all went to making the film better. Any point that was worth arguing about was argued about and then resolved.

Does coming from a big family have any connection to your being involved in comedy?

It brought out the performer in me to some extent, I suppose. People often talk to me about middle child syndrome, which I'd never heard of until I became successful, but we were a big family. We're not particularly touchy feely, because there's too many of us. So we would express affection by taking the Mickey out of people and seeing who can be the funniest, and you did have to shout to get noticed, so there was some of that.

What was the most dangerous or scary stunt you got to do on *The Parole Officer*?

Sliding between two buildings on a wire was quite scary. Actors always say they did their own stunts to maintain the integrity of the film, but I did them because they looked like a lot of fun. What you forget is that something simple like falling off a chair, which most people could do once with relative physical impunity, starts to hurt when you do it a dozen times. Fortunately they pad you up.

Do you find acting on film easier than on television?

No, it's a lot more difficult doing this because I know I'm quite good at is being annoying and funny for half an hour. People are prepared to sacrifice half an hour of their lives if you make them laugh, even if you're annoying. The difficulty of carrying a film, or playing the lead role, is that it's more difficult because I always find it easier to portray myself as being stupid and unlikeable and idiotic. To play a character who engages the audience and is likeable is far more difficult, it's a more subtle kind of challenge really. I was guided in that by the director, because in some ways writing it was easier. Doing it on the set was the difficult thing. How to pitch it, how big to make the performance; often on television you can do a big performance, because on screen things are amplified. Here more subtlety was required.

Would you describe yourself as very film literate?

I like film, I'm a film buff, but I'm not a film anorak. Some people have pointed out references in *The Parole Officer* to other films that I didn't know were there. But my knowledge of how to write films came from watching other films and being influenced by them.

FELIX ON FILM COMPETITION

For fans of the much-lauded *TAXI*, *TAXI 2* will be a hit. The same characters, the same jokes, and more of the same mental car chases. *TAXI 2* has been released for rental on DVD and VHS formats, but why bother when you have the opportunity to win it in this week's competition? If you want to win a copy of *TAXI 2* on video then answer this question: Who wrote the script for *Taxi* and *Taxi 2*?

- a) Gerard Pires
- b) Paul Ree
- c) Luc Besson

Just email your answer to film.felix@ic.ac.uk. The winner of the Timelapse competition was **Chris Wright**.



Lo-Fidelity Allstars

Don't Be Afraid Of Love

Out this Monday on Skint records

At a recent Felix Music meeting, a fellow reviewer tried to prise this recording from my hands with a viciously wielded bottle of Bombay Sapphire, stolen from the editor's private gin stash. I stubbornly refused to hand it over, risking life and limb and probably making an enemy for life in the process. But was it all worth it? Let us investigate...

Don't Be Afraid Of Love is album number 3 from the British beatmeisters and FabricLive regulars, and it seems like business as usual. Lord "big-ass" Beats and his trusty sidekick Prince Bouncy Funk Bass mingle socially with Mr and Mrs Indie Vocals, sipping from cocktails lovingly constructed by the Bigbeat barman at a private seventies-themed party in the Sheffield suburbs.

Every now and again, Lord Beats disappears to get some more special brew from the fridge, and Bass and Vocals are allowed a little privacy to indulge in what the locals may once have called "chillout" (a phrase now only heard coming from the lips of Radio 2 presenters and Telegraph columnists, thanks to a certain Mr Moby). At various points throughout the evening, a couple of friends (star-spectacled Bootsy Collins included) turn up to share a beer, chew the cud and use the loo.

The whole event passes swimmingly. Everyone grabs their coats and agrees that "Yes, we really must do this again sometime soon". As the party disappears slowly over the horizon, I sit back and think to myself "Sorry Patrick, I wouldn't trade this for a bottle of ropey spirits any day of the week".



Ben



Nine Inch Nails

And All That Could Have Been

Out now on Interscope records

Nine Inch Nails have always been something of a guilty pleasure for me. Or rather *The Downward Spiral* has, since pretty much everything else they've done has struck me as either boring or ridiculous, and I'm still unsure as to why their second album doesn't have the same effect. Accordingly, I approached this new live album with caution, as it contains a mere four *Spiral*-era songs, compared with six tracks from *The Fragile* and six earlier songs.

I was thus pleasantly surprised to find that the album is, for the most part, excellent. Songs from their debut release *Pretty Hate Machine* benefit greatly from increased guitar and sample content, with *Terrible Lie* and *Head Like A Hole* rocking like water buffalo.

The songs from *Spiral* are predictably great, and indeed the only weak points are the boring-as-hell tracks from their most recent work. Aside from their goth-by-numbers titles, songs like *The Frail* and *The Wretched* must have bored the arses off the live audience, and they inspire instant use of the skip button.

The album ends, of course, with *Hurt*, still the most moving song to come out of the industrial genre.

It's a good listen, then. But counting against it is the fact that a live show from the mid-nineties - or, more to the point, a copy of *The Downward Spiral* - would be infinitely better. If you have every other Nine Inch Nails release, you'll probably buy *And All That Could Have Been* anyway. If you don't, then buy my favourite album-that-you-love-in-spite-of-itself, and stop there.



Toby G



Tanya Donnelly

Beautysleep

Out this Monday on 4AD records

Tanya Donnelly is something of an alternative music legend, having been a founder member of Throwing Muses, The Breeders and Belly.

Throwing Muses were one of the great college bands of the 1980s, with Kristen Hersh's folk/punk songs providing the soundtrack to many a tortured teen's life. The Breeders were formed by Donnelly and the Pixies' Kim Deal, in an effort to take a break from being second bananas in their main bands. After a couple of excellent Pixies-style albums, they went on a seemingly endless hiatus.

Donnelly then formed her own band, Belly, who seemed destined for the big time when their debut album went gold and the single *Feed the Tree* became a mainstream radio hit. It wasn't to be, however, and Donnelly disbanded Belly and released her first solo album in 1997. Since then, she has released very little, making this, her second solo album, something of a comeback effort.

Sadly, *Beautysleep* is pretty underwhelming - she seems to have lost the knack of writing catchy songs in a misplaced search for atmosphere. Consequently, most of the tracks feature barely-there vocals over a fuzzy guitar/organ sound, which makes for nice background music but little more.

That said, some tracks do stand out; *The Night You Saved My Life* being a case in point, with (gasp) audible vocals. And there's the rub: singer-songwriter material suffers when the songs play second fiddle to the sounds. It's nice enough, but you never feel compelled to come back to it.



Toby G



LIVE: Alien Ant Farm + Dredg + Vex Red @ Brixton Academy

You probably think that Alien Ant Farm are a bunch of twats. You'd be wrong. That dubious honour goes to Dredg (sic), probably the worst band I've ever seen live.

As the second support band, Dredg proceeded to utterly destroy any atmosphere created by openers **Vex Red**, for whom the crowd went nuts despite the fact that their music was utterly formulaic. Soft verses, loud choruses? Check. Alternating breathy and strained vocals? Check. Jumping up and down to aid the "rock" look? Check. Angsty lyrics? Dyed hair? Snazzy threads? Check, check, check. Not bad, but I wouldn't slit my wrists if I never heard them again.



Dredg were four accountants making turgid music in the general style of Tool, only worse. The singer had a nice voice, but his range consisted solely of three notes. Also, the spray-painted naked woman they had watering plants onstage departed after one song. None out of five, plus a sound beating.



So the scene was set for **Alien Ant Farm** (pic above) to amble on, arse about for an hour and annoy me. Instead, they provided a thoroughly entertaining evening's entertainment. They stand out from the nu-metal hordes by injecting a healthy dose of melody into every song and by generally being fun.

They're awesome musicians too. Dryden Mitchell has a fine voice, and he really sustained the tunes in the acoustically-challenged enormodrome that is Brixton Academy. The incredible rhythm section were rock solid, which was even more impressive given that the bassist stomped about like a gorilla in the heat, playing behind his back and gurning for his country.

Smooth Criminal was undoubtedly the highlight, sped up and adrenalinised into a version that not even Wacko Jacko could complain about.



Kunal



LIVE: Staind @ Brixton Academy

Having sold over six million copies of their album *Break The Cycle*, one of the biggest bands in America come to Brixton Academy for one reason, and that is to rock. Aply supported by Puddle of Mudd, Staind put on a show consisting of slick sounds, introspection and sheer power that will be difficult to match.

Don't make the mistake of tossing Staind in with the rest of the current crop of nu-metal bands - trust me, they are definitely more like old-fashioned rock, with some grunge chucked in for good measure. On production albums, they rawk, sing ballads and draw you in close to the speakers to make sure you don't miss the message. Live, things are no different. No matter which song they're playing, from the acoustic-sounding *Epiphany* to the all-out rock of *Can't Believe*, Staind get into the crowd and get your body moving.

Playing live, Aaron Lewis is a bit of a strange frontman - at times, he is right up front serenading the crowd with his powerful voice, but on other occasions he can seem detached, as if it hurts to sing the words. At these points, Staind find a more than suitable second lieutenant in Mike Mushok, who makes his guitar sing with the passion that obviously flows through him. And this is the ultimate word for Staind playing live: passion. They ooze passion, right from Lewis' vocals to April's drums, as if they are begging you to come in closer, expend your energy and then think about what is wrong in your life and how to make it better.

Outstanding songs of the night are *Open Your Eyes*, *Fade*, *Suffer*, a full band version of *Outside* and encore song *It's Been Awhile*. *Outside* is brilliant, because of the sheer intimacy and intensity of the performance. *Fade* and *Suffer* show the ease with which the band can transfer from calmness to madness in two chords and bring the pit along with them. *Open Your Eyes* and *It's Been Awhile* are very slick reproductions of the album tracks, with a certain extra flavour.

All in all, a very good concert, let down only by the odd bout of over-introspection from Lewis.



Tank

INTERVIEW

with Tetra Splendour

Tetra Splendour have released two singles so far, and they recorded their debut album last year. Felix spoke to Peter and Gaz from the band before their recent gig at the Monarch (see review, right).

FELIX: Could you introduce yourselves?

PETER: The four of us, we're called Tetra Splendour and we're from Wales. We all met at school a couple of years back. Three of us started off the band doing jazz. That's all we were basically interested in, just playing instruments and stuff. And then we started supporting bands...

How long ago was that?

PETER: About three years ago. Yeah, three years ago, and then me and Gaz got a songwriting partnership going.

What have you been doing since then?

PETER: We toured in September, fourteen dates. We'd never been on the road before, so that was our first experience.

How did that go? What kind of places were you playing?

PETER: Clubs, toilets...

You said you started off playing jazz stuff - was that other people's stuff?

PETER: I think we kinda jammed our own ideas - you try to be as original as you can, I suppose. And we obviously had to change what we were doing just to try to get a record deal and make a living out of it. We just took our influences and basically decided what we'd do. We did the demos and sent them off, and that was why we got record companies coming to gigs.

GAZ: It wasn't a very sensational way to get signed. I mean, we did it the bog standard way - everyone and their bosses had to come and see us before we got the cash. It took a good few months, maybe six months, maybe even a year...

Have you been touting yourselves around the student newspapers?

PETER: [Laughs] Yeah! We did that on the first tour actually.

GAZ: Student papers tend to be nicer, because they tend to be less offensive.

What are you thinking about the future then, if anything?

PETER: Well, we just want to get out of Britain really. Just gig a lot, tour a lot. We just want to up the level of the gigs, get them centred around our live show.

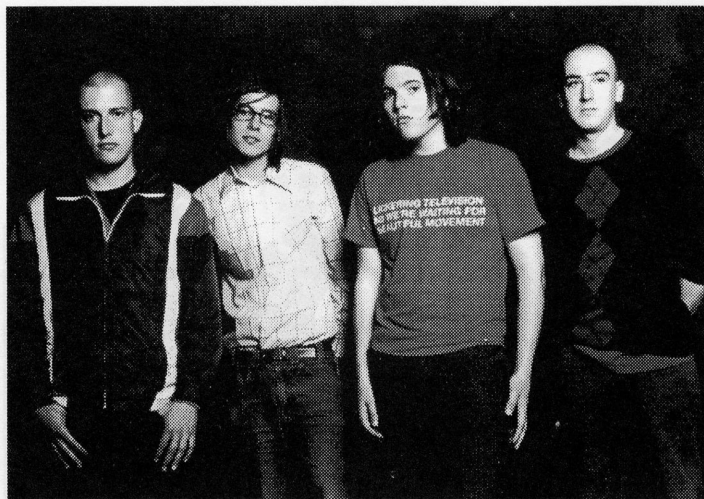
GAZ: I don't know how much more we can get out of gigs where people just aren't interested, basically. We need to be exposed to a larger audience.

Sorry, the tape's ran out. I guess that's it...

GAZ: Hang on, can I just say one thing? I read an article earlier [in Felix], and it was a gig review and I can't remember the name of the person. We were associated with the Toploader kind of, er, thing. And I'd just like to mention that.

Really?! You remember these things?

G. Yeah. It's just having Toploader on the same page, in the article about us. In an attempt to explain what we were doing. We were quite hurt, frankly.



LIVE: Tetra Splendour + Fi-Lo Radio @ The Monarch

Stupidly named three-piece **Fi-Lo Radio** have all the ingredients: a female bassist (cf. Pixies, Sonic Youth), a chubby male vocalist (cf. Mogwai) and a wild-eyed drummer (cf. any rock band). The first three tracks are delivered in the style one would expect from such a trio: good energy, loud guitars and fantastic bass, with plenty of trad metal and stadium rock influences.

All of that goes out of the window on the next three tracks though, as the passion of the opening numbers is quelled by the need to sound marketable. Fortunately, their final track is awesome - screaming alt-metal worthy of The Bastards or Napalm Death, with true stadium kitsch showpiece rock attitude.



The **New Electrics** seem to have been touring Camden for years, playing to their musically and fashionably retarded following. The band are a hopeless bunch of posers and posturers. This is trash for the sake of it, and they can't even do sleaze properly.



Gaz seems like the shy, quiet type in person. But when he's at the front of the stage, equipped with a mike and two keyboards, an alternative persona is allowed to express itself. And there is a lot of expression to be found in the music of **Tetra Splendour**.

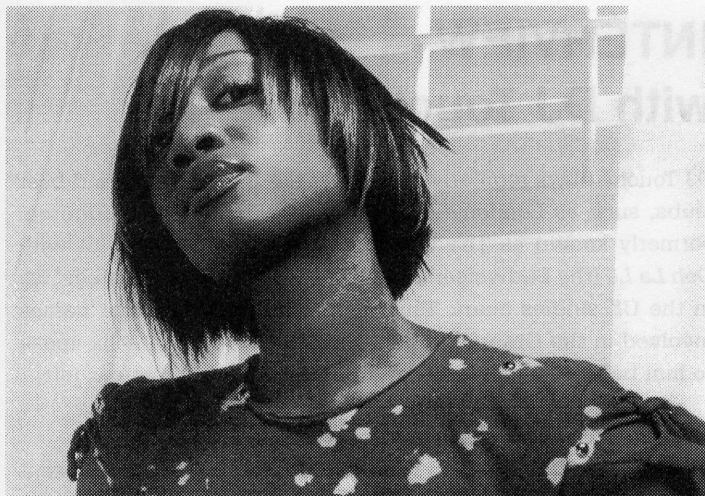
The background of guitars and drums provides a frame for the varied emotions and accompanying sounds being coaxed, wrenched or cajoled from the keyboards. It's not all tortuous, emotional stuff though. There's humour in the lyrics as well as simple boy-meets-girl sentiments, sometimes with added twists.

Tetra Splendour would benefit from a larger stage, as their music has an enveloping capacity similar to the atmosphere generated at a Tindersticks gig. Oh, and they sound nothing like Toploader.



Robert

Robert



Singles Roundup

BEVERLEY KNIGHT - Shoulda Woulda Coulda

This British R&B artist (pic above) has never really made it big, although she's always in the background. Hopefully this single will elevate her status. You can guess from the title that it's all about regret and what could have been. There's a lot of feeling here, but it doesn't sound soppy thanks to a good backing track. This has something more than the standard R&B ballad, which makes me think that it should do well.



Oscar

IAN BROWN - Whispers

This is the monkey king's best 45 since, ooh, I'm gonna stick my neck out here and say... *Fool's Gold*. The track starts with skittering electronic bleeps and synth washes, before kicking into one of those scally-funk choruses which seem to have become his trademark. A definite return to form. It's good to have him back.



Tommy Mack

MULL HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Watching Xanadu

The latest bout of catchy, bouncy, fun-filled guitar pop from Colin MacIntyre and associates is well worth getting hold of, even if the lyrics are a little difficult to understand. Unfortunately though, the B-sides on the first of the two CDs leave a lot to be desired. The second CD is a much better bet, as it contains the delightfully continental-sounding *Sad Old Day To Be Down* and the highly amusing video for *Watching Xanadu*, featuring Colin himself in a pair of red velvet bunny ears.



Jess

COMPETITION WINNER

Kei-Tee Tiew, a postgrad in EE, has won a copy of the soundtrack to the film *How High*. Kei-Tee knew that Redman's latest solo album is entitled *Malpractice*.

OUT THIS WEEK

The following are due for release on Monday 18 February:

ALBUMS

AIR - Everybody Hertz

TANYA DONELLY - Beautysleep

LO-FIDELITY ALLSTARS - Don't Be Afraid Of Love

SINGLES

A - Nothing

MAXIMILIAN HECKER - Polyester

TELEPOPMUSIK - Breathe

VEX RED - Can't Smile

...and also the Beverley Knight, Ikara Colt, Middlerow and Freeheat singles (all reviewed below)

SPIRITUALIZED - Do It All Over Again

This is a happy little ditty - very happy. In fact, so happy that it will corrode the very core of your cynical self, replacing it with little fluffy bunnies, so be warned. Bunnies aside, this has the gospel feel of many a Spiritualized track, with loud piano chords and even tambourines. It would work very well live, but, as it's the only track on the CD, this gets very wearing after the tenth play. Never mind.



Jamie

IKARA COLT - Rudd

Ikara Colt, it seems, are an up and coming indie band, for whom random shouting is clearly the order of the day. Indeed, this single has a large helping. Dischords and distortion are certainly close to their hearts too. The end result, a strange cross between The Hives and Clinic, rather unexpectedly grew on me. If that sounds like your thing, then it might be worth keeping an eye on this band...



Jamie

MIDDLEROW - Right Proper Charlie

This UK garage pisstake sounds creepily like The Shamen's *Ebenezer Goode* (cockney rapping, crap rhymes) and attempts to do for coke what that track did for E. It doesn't really work, not least because charlie turns everyone into a loud-mouthed self important wanker and therefore deserves no celebration. It's a shame, because when a decent MC comes on, this isn't actually a bad track. But it's not as funny as they think it is.



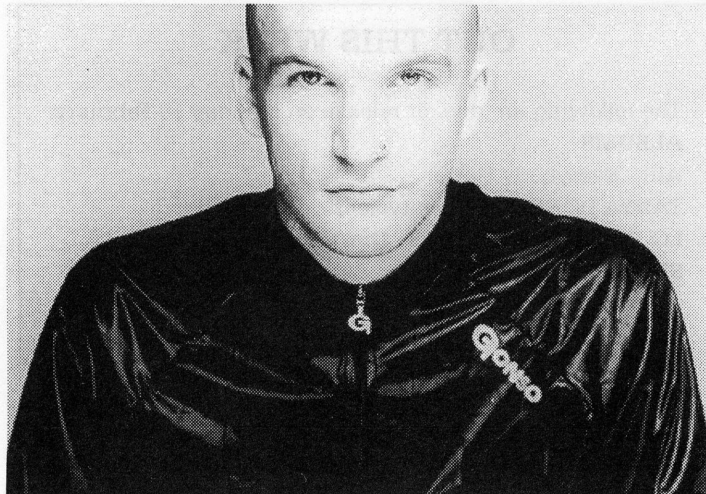
Tommy Mack

FREEHEAT - Retox

These guys are just your normal indie band but with two singers - one man and one woman. This makes the first song *The Two of Us* sound alright, but the lyrics are a bit dodgy. The EP starts uptempo, slows down and then is supposed to finish with a bang, but it all sounds very average. The songs sound samey and none of them really stand out. Although this isn't terrible, I've heard it all before.



Oscar



Enjoymusicv.2 @ Goldsmiths College Union

After winding its way around the various universities in the land, the Orange tour has finally made it back to London. The concept is simple: Orange and their expert team of light and sound people invade a students' union for the night, bringing a selection of top flight DJs with them. The students get a good night out, and Orange get their logo plastered all over the union in question. Felix reviewers, of course, just get plastered.

"Is it any good?" I hear you cry. In a word, yes. Despite a slow start at its under-attended London launch, the tour has gained significant momentum and has sold out nearly every venue it's been to. The stellar line-ups may have had something to do with this, and the night at Goldsmiths Union was no exception. DJ Touché (pic above) and Cut la Roc were the talent on offer, and they were well worth a trip south of the river. Goldsmiths, if you weren't aware, is located near New Cross station in south-east London and is seen by many as the "anti-Imperial", with its more than generous helping of liberal arts students.

When we arrived at the venue, we were greeted by a multitude of toys, most of which were familiar to veterans of the London launch. Again, the glow wall proved to be most popular, with a number of hilarious comedy shadows being produced. The giant text screen was less good, having been altered by the thought police so I couldn't use any rude words.

The main difference between this and the launch night was the atmosphere - a packed dance floor of drunken students contrasting with the handful of competition winners and assorted "we're too cool to dance" media types.

Touché (see interview, right) worked the dancefloor well, mixing a good variety of records over 110bpm. My favourite tunes of the evening were Max Linen's fantastic *Soulshaker* and a remix of a Mary J Blige track. In general, Touché's selection of records suited the night well.

After shaking my thing for some time, all that remained was the long journey home. Incidentally, I have worked out why night buses now have plastic rear seats upstairs - it's for their useful wipe-clean property.



Alex

INTERVIEW with DJ Touché

DJ Touché plays regularly at some of the UK's biggest and best clubs, such as London's Fabric and The Boutique in Brighton. Formerly known as The Wiseguys, he scored a huge hit with *Ooh La La* (the Budweiser theme), which made it to number two in the UK singles chart. Touché is now one of the star names involved in the Orange student nightclub tour, and Felix spoke to him before his headline set at Goldsmiths (see review, left).

FELIX: So how's the Orange tour going?

DJ TOUCHÉ: It's going all right, it's not too strenuous 'cause it only goes in term-time and you're only doing weekends or close to weekends. It's not like doing a normal tour when you're playing, you know, every day.

What sort of stuff are you going to be playing tonight?

House stuff really, funky house, nothing too schmaltzy. Whatever I play, I like it to be funky, you know, quality shit. There's no point in coming on and playing four hours of really blokey breakbeat - you've got to make it a good set.

You've got two new tracks coming out soon - will they be a new direction for you, or more of the Wiseguys sort of thing?

Basically, The Wiseguys is finished. The Wiseguys was those two albums, it was on Wall of Sound, and I'm not The Wiseguys any more. That was just one part of my career. But even before I made The Wiseguys in '92 I was producing house records so, you know, that's always been a part of me. I learnt my trade, as it were, making hip-hop beats and house beats.

So house music, your new face, it's not about becoming more commercial...

No, no, no, it's not commercial. Hip-hop is probably more commercial than house music, d'you know what I mean? I'm sure Jay-Z sells more records than the house guys.

What do you think to people who only play one type of music?

Well, it depends what that one style is. If you're there playing one style of music for ten, fifteen, however many years, that's fine, so long as you're good at it and you're innovative. I'm not saying you should try to be really clever and play everything, 'cause often that's just a complete bodge - you just have to play what feels right, you know?

So which other current established DJs and artists do you particularly like?

DJs I don't know... I've always found that a hard one, 'cause I don't actually go out and listen to a DJ unless I'm playing myself or whatever. There's loads of artists I like - I love the Neptunes, they're amazing, and Timbaland as well.

You've played loads of the best venues around - what's the best gig you've ever done?

A top gig for me was Tokyo - playing in Tokyo was amazing. I can't remember the place, it was that one on the Fatboy Slim documentary. Manumission in '97 I played about four times, that was pretty amazing. Also playing in Sydney was a real highlight for me.

Dave



Made @ Browns

I doubt that we should really believe reports that such luminaries as Omar, Kele Le Roc, Wookie, Sticky, Masterstepz, Tymes 4 and Selina from Honeyz were here for the launch party on January 22. But who knows? I wouldn't recognize a host of music industry names even if I were sober, so maybe I shouldn't be so cynical. Anyway, the relaunched Made (previously at CC) is still playing a rocking mix of tunes to shake your booty to, so who cares who's there, so long as they are dancing.

Browns itself hardly deserves the "infamous" and "exclusive" tags, unless they got them for overpriced warm beer poured by disinterested staff in an attempt to make the liggerati feel out of place. The beer aside though, the venue is ideal for this select night. With its shiny red leather, opulent paintings and subdued lighting, the almost Parisian interior allows the stylish gents to lounge by the DJ box whilst the honeyz cluster across the dancefloor.

The list of DJs leaves us in doubt about the music policy. None of these names are known for surprising us, but all play a cool, chilled, bootilicious (or whatever) variation on the same vibe. On rotation are: Manny Norte from Kiss FM, Lonyo from Garage Girls, Jamie Binns from Soul2Streets with some soulful (but not soul) flavas to gyrate to, Rachel Bee and Steve Webster from Green Island. Mostly it's a pretty dull, charty, popular slab of vaguely R&B sounds.

Overall, a harmless evening, with nothing to offend the ears and something to groove to, or even drink warm beer to. You might even spot a few celebrities. Bling! Bling!



Robert



Fabriclive @ Fabric

Fabric wouldn't be Fabric without the usual mile-long queue, but once I had got in, that familiar Fabric atmosphere hit me: ground-shaking noise and the smell of weed. Aii.

Unfortunately, all the name checking meant that I could only hear one song from Ali B's set. Good as it was, I wanted to hear more from the guy from my local town of Kingston. But I shouldn't have feared, because after him was Howie B doing a live breakbeat session with all the drum machines and synths. Now this was good shit.

A bit of an unusual name in the line-up, John Peel was in Room 3. Room 3 is normally the more chilled-out room, but for his set it was heaving. He played some old funky vinyl whilst even spinning some new stuff. He wasn't exactly the most active of DJs (well, he is older than my dad); as we stood right next to him, he looked like he was twiddling his thumbs deciding what to put on his grocery list rather than choosing which record to surprise us with.

James Lavelle was next, playing some damn fine tunes. *Smoke Machine*, which lasted about ten minutes, was simply ace. During the *Smoke Machine* vocal, they covered the dancefloor with smoke. See what they did there?

Lavelle played a more commercial set than usual, with songs like *Goldtrix* and *The Next Level* also making an appearance.

If you haven't been to Fabric, you gotta go - but hurry, because it's beginning to get "underagey". It's a quality night out, but drink before you get there to ensure that the beer monster doesn't eat those notes and use your switch card!



Oscar



The Best Of The Rest

Hey, pop-pickers. Now, you might be asking yourself what is the best way to get rid of all of those bank notes which are sitting in your wallet and not doing very much at all. Well, here are a few ideas...

Fabriclive @ Fabric (15/02)

The usual subterranean monkey business from dark lords James Lavelle, Jazzanova, Stanton Warriors, Roni Size, Fabio, Grooverider and Ali B.

The Gallery @ Turnmills (15/02)

It's ladies night at The Gallery as the UK/US soundclash enters its third round. Our headliners are SisterBliss, Lisa Loud and Sandra Collins.

City Loud @ Turnmills (16/02)

The ultimate party is to be found at City Loud, the superlative house night. CJ Mackintosh and Full Intention are your hosts for the evening.

Mixmag @ Cargo (20/02)

For those of you prefer not to spend Wednesday night in the Union, there is a decidedly tasty chance to catch Judge Jules (doing a funky house set), Lisa Lashes and Tim Sheridan from the Dope Smugglaz.

Headstart @ Turnmills (23/02)

The Headstart third birthday celebrations take place, as ever, at Turnmills. With a line-up featuring Fatboy Slim, FC Kahuna and Ladytron (four hour set), this is sure to be heaving.

SoulHeaven @ Ministry (23/02)

It does exactly what it says on the tin. For your delectation are sets from Joey Negro and Kenny Carpenter.

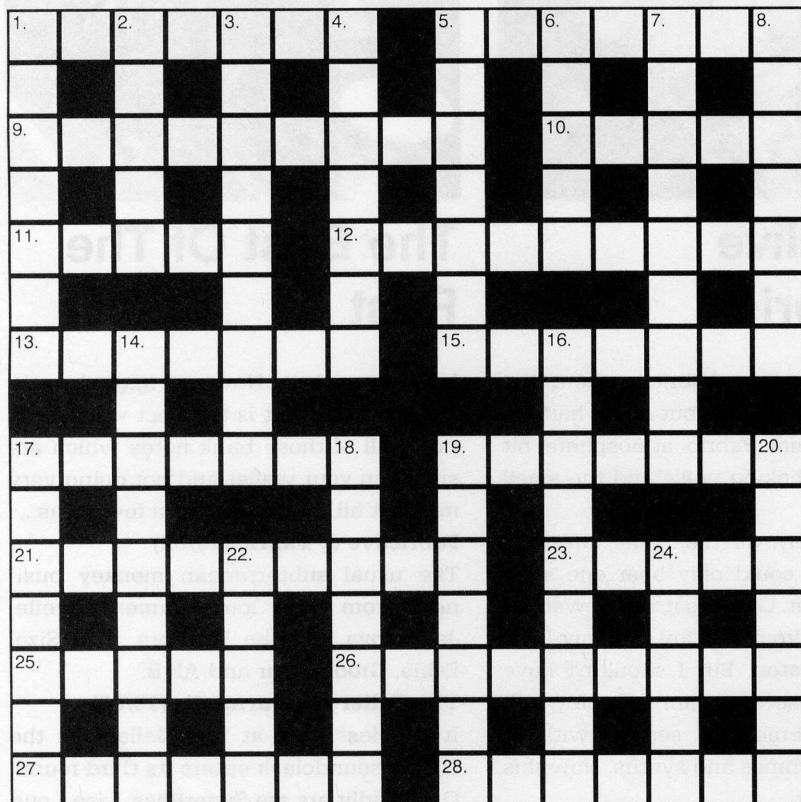
Renaissance @ The Cross (23/02)

Renaissance graces The Cross once again, featuring Graeme Park (five hours) and Nigel Dawson.

...So many clubs, so little money.

Patrick

Crossword by Dr. Hot Fudge



Answer to 1227 - Across: Vegetable, Cable, Long-Ago, Exclude, Aisle, Jitterbug, Washtub, Dog-Ends, Rubbers, Hash-Bar, Amsterdam, Ogres, Toupees, Regrade, Essay, Suspender.

Down: Vulva, Genesis, Tea-Kettle, Blowjob, Erected, Cycle, Bourbon, Energiser, Warrantee, Gascoigne, Basques, Sadists, Hombres, Barmaid, Enemy, Spear.

No theme or any such nonsense for you this week I'm afraid. I've been far too busy watching my inspiration and may I say, personal hero: Dr. Fox, lament over the hapless youngsters on 'cock idol'. Although, unlike me he is not a real fox, he does share my admiration for that Sultan of Stilton, Darius Danesh. Clearly, we the general public need Darius in our lives, and until he teams up to do a duet (or form a pro-wrestling tag-team) with that fat bloke Rick, the world will be a lesser place. In other news, this weeks winner is **Tom Tibbits**, Phys 4. Next week I might have something good to write about, but then again I probably won't.

Dr. Hot Fudge

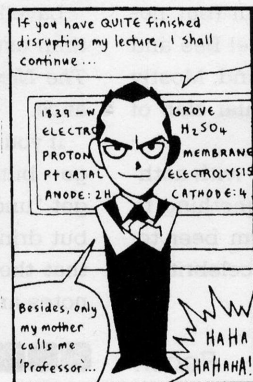
Across

1. Rest on casualty with a beam. (7)
5. Dehabilitating blow gives bloke three points, right?
9. Bet Satan that he's a lunatic. (9)
10. Man to win another. (5)
11. Child with special run scores own goal. (5)
12. Awfully irate tale causes a fight back. (9)
13. Confused super first person is the greatest. (7)
15. Gullible fools give good head. (7)
17. Girl comes out in spring. (7)
19. Rubber extra is crap at college. (7)
21. Five English endless seances bring about retribution. (9)
23. Small dog is not quite unwell in the eye. (5)
25. Quiet beats are concerned with martyrs. (5)
26. Infra-red number plate of Raul is unorthodox.... (9)
27. ...when the total edition is accepted. (7)
28. Fight with support for the French. (7)

Down

1. Fetishists are disappointed with firsts. (7)
2. Mistake made back in bar or restaurant. (5)
3. See red pig created from pure breeds. (9)
4. Turn around concerning poem. (7)
5. Girl on all purpose vehicles gives signals. (7)
6. Bend the truth concerning bladder. (5)
7. Spy is after four points to sell papers? (9)
8. Experts in disguise are found in phones? (7)
14. Illegitimate sprog is holding no forecast. (9)
16. Bubbly winner gets bottomless lady. (9)
17. Bad attitude in victory gives a strange air to country. (7)
18. Dude is caring to all men. (7)
19. Part of the face is in the best possible taste, we hear. (7)
20. Legend has one continuing state of energy. (7)
22. Surrey town has record of central Asian currency. (5)
24. First character on land. (5)

freakfighter!



fallus...



GFQQ - The Great Felix Quote Quiz

by Bobby Cyclops & Dr. Hot Fudge

1. "You think that's air you're breathing now?"
2. "Hey, Laser-lips! You're momma was a snowblower!"
3. "Some guys say Bozz died in Vietnam, some say he just disappeared, but knowing Bozz he'd probably be pissed I was talking about him anyway."
4. "I remember every detail, the Germans wore grey - you wore blue."
5. "Let's not start sucking each other's dicks quite yet."
6. "Sometimes nothin' can be a real cool hand."
7. "What the hell are you screamin' for? Every thirty seconds there's a bomb or somethin'! I'm leavin'! bzzzz!"

Number of players: 65

The Leader Board - top 15

Name	Score
Simon North	112.5
Daniel Sauder	111
Christopher Dent	108.5
Chris Ince	108
Anthony Rodriques	106.5
Andrew Ince	105.5
John Anderson	102.5
Michael Simonds	88
Chris Toffis	71
Rebekah Hymas	62.5
Aroscha Bandara	61
Gregory Mann	59.5
Fred Marquis	58.5
Geoff Lay	58
Kim Randell	58

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

Answers to Indiana Jones special:

1. Henry Jones Snr/Sean Connery - The Last Crusade
2. Grail Knight/Robert Eddison - The Last Crusade
3. Indiana Jones/Harrison Ford - Raiders of the Lost Ark
4. Fedora/Richard Young - The Last Crusade
5. A: Willie Scott/Kate Capshaw
B: Indy/Harrison Ford - Temple of Doom

Bonus. The Club in the opening scene in the Temple of Doom is called 'Club Obi Wan'. Also, Michael Sheard who plays Hitler in the Last Crusade and Julian Glover who plays Walter Donovan play Admiral Ozzle and General Veers respectively in The Empire Strikes Back.

Apologies Fudglings, for I am at fault. After exhaustive investigations, I have decided that the 'Jaws' quote I truly believed was from 'The Spy Who Loved Me' is in fact from 'Moonraker'. It seems that too many Aeros have clouded my once youthfully clear and bubble-free memory. Thanks to Anthony Rodriques & Co. for their SWLM vigil - points will be corrected accordingly in the GFQQ database. No Special GFQQ theme this week, just pure quotes from all over the shop, chosen purely because they tickle our fancy. Time is running out, and from now on the quotes will get progressively harder until a clear undisputed quidnunc of quote is announced in a few week's time.

Valentine's Day this week, and our recommendations for romantic chocolate products with good melting and spreading coefficients include: Flakes, Mars, Milkybars, Twirls and Buttons but **not** Twix, Time Outs, Snickers or the so-called Snowflakes.

Good-luck for this week!

Bobby Cyclops

2 for 1

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NEXT TO GLOUCESTER ROAD TUBE STATION

Ultimate Frisbee

Discdoctors arrived at Bristol with a confidence that they were better than most teams at the tournament. The first game was won with ease, Doctors winning 13-0 against a very understrength UWE. Doctors didn't even break into a sweat.

The next game was a little more of a challenge, as the Picnic 2 team did in fact turn up. Doctors played a solid game, scoring six points in thirteen minutes with one point in reply from an inexperienced Picnic 2 team. As Al rightly said at the end of the game, it was a good practice for us.

The next game was a tight 3-2 win over the Slurry Slingers from Surrey. Although Doctors were clearly a better team, somehow the Surrey players managed to keep it very tight and it was as close as the score

suggested. This was, however, the turning point of the tournament.

The next game was against the tournament veterans, Mr Men. Unfortunately, they managed to find five players for the game against us, so our tactics had to change a little. We played solidly against their zone, but couldn't find the scoring pass. Despite having continued possession, the Mr Men won the game 4-0. This result left Doctors second in the first pool, taking us into the second round guaranteeing a top ten finish.

The next game was against Mythago, and Doctors knew that they were a much better team than them. However, scoring again proved to be a problem, and we lost the game 6-4. Despite a good attempt at

a comeback, Doctors had left it too late, and the game was in the hands of the home team. The crowd were certainly on their side, which perhaps helped diminish the Doctors' spirits.

After that disappointing result, the Doctors were confident that they could beat the Purple Haze team, seeing as man for man, we were a much better team. However, after a very poor start, the Doctors heads dropped, and we were humiliated 8-0.

The Sunday morning, after an uneventful party, Doctors were rejuvenated, and knew that the skill within the team would take us to a good finish. A match against Bears woke us up... to a loss. However, we were definitely a better team than them.

The next game was against Purple Haze Old Boys. We were confident that our superior fitness would take us to an easy win over the aged players. After a good start, Purple Haze Old Boys came back, and then took the game 5-3 (or something like that).

This left us with a ninth-tenth place final against the old foe, Slurry Slingers. On the bigger pitch, the Doctors clearly made use of their speed and more accurate passing, and took an early 4-0 lead. Then they relaxed a little, and the Slingers came back to 6-5. The crucial pass to level it 6-6 was dropped by a slinger, and the Doctors went on to take the game comfortably, ending up ninth in the tournament. But we're a better team than that.

Tim

IC Virgins

Women's Rugby

Wednesday, 6th February

We All Tramped Eagerly Round London On Gertrude's Goat Eventually Descending Mount Herts Yodelling And Really Should have Excelled.

Sunday, 10th February

IC Virgins 0.....27 Vets

It was a fine sunny day, and we arrived at Harlington with hope and love in our hearts. We've been concentrating on our intensive training regime involving Classy yet Camp Fabian and Dave (no comment there Charlotte, nudge nudge wink wink), hoping to improve on some aspects of our game. Evil cap-ee-tan lost the toss, but still we started strongly with a lot of possession and

made some territory, after that although we had a share of the possession we were made to work hard to keep out the tries.

Tackling and support were greatly improved off the back of last Sunday's match and everyone had a stunning game. Special credit goes to Dan and Ash new girlies who won forward and back of the match respectively, for their stunning running and defensive efforts.

Our committee must also have a mention with Fetish Queen, vice cap-ee-tan, just ask about the latex; Hooker, Charlie; Gem, random man and Beth, no random man, for a change.

Kate

CHARITY JOGATHON 2002

Imperial College Singapore Society is proud to present to you **CHARITY JOGATHON 2002**, a charity drive in aid of the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled in Singapore (MINDS). The campaign includes a fund-raising Ping Pong on campus on the 4th March 2002 and a mass jogathon around Serpentine Lake on the 9th March 2002. Come down to Anticore anytime from 12 - 1pm on 4th March and register for this exciting and meaningful day.

Kind souls are encouraged to contact
Tira Tan @ 0774 789 7021, email: tiratani@hotmail.com

Get Out The Big Guns

Fullbore Fiesta

On Sunday 10th February the tranquillity of the sleepy village of Bisley was shattered by the ravenous hordes of the IC Rifle and Pistol Club's first full bore shoot of the New Year at the NRA's Range. Nick Keith and Laurie, three of the clubs more "mature" members joined us with their collection of antique (a shooting term meaning fun but wildly inaccurate) firearms.

The Sky was clear and the fresh country air entering our pollution conditioned lungs endowed us all with superhuman powers. After a brief shopping trip to buy enough ammunition to make even the seasoned locals look uneasy

we set up for our day's sport. Ben, Dan and Phil went to the 50 metre range to do some accurate shooting with their .22 target rifles. The rest of us made ourselves as comfortable as we could in the muddy field of the 200 yard Short Siberia range. Yu and Jordan did some excellent shooting with the scope 7.62 rifle. While Jacob's new (in geological terms at least) Number 4 saw some heavy use as everyone wanted to have a crack. Jacob's various claims that his poor shooting was due to the sights, the barrel, the ammunition and an unmerciful God were roundly disproved by everyone else achieving near pinpoint accuracy.

After a quick spot of lunch we were rejoined by our small bore friends and given a demonstration of the true meaning of accuracy with Laurie's civil war vintage Peabody. Through expert shooting he was able to make all the rounds reach the end of the range with some even hitting the target. At this point, half the group split off for an afternoon of clay pigeon shooting while the rest persevered with the rifles. The day saw the grand unveiling of the club's new 30-06 which garnered approving comments from all who used it. Despite being of first world war vintage it shot perfectly well and the bull received repeated

pepperings from all.

All too soon the claxon sounded and everyone had to return to the big city where our re-exposure to the smoke and fumes turned us back into mild mannered students. Thanks must be given to Ben's brother for his chauffeuring duties. We would also like to point out that no animals were harmed in the making of this trip.

If you fancy trying your hand at rifle shooting, or clay pigeon, air pistol and other disciplines, the Imperial College Rifle and Pistol club meets at the range in the Sports Centre on Wednesdays from 1pm to late and Saturdays from 1pm to 6pm.

Anthony

Cross Country

After an exciting start to the race in Guildford, things began to settle down, with Imperial athletes in contention. With the women only having to run half the distance of the men, their enthusiasm was displayed with Louise once again taking control of the race, finishing strongly in 2nd place. Sarah also ran well, for IC's A team to finish 14th.

In the men's race IC's teams were heavily depleted, missing many of their star runners who had performed so admirably at BUSA. Despite this Francois showed his class and led the way for the IC team, finishing 2nd. Close behind were Chris in 5th, and Roly in 12th.

Dave missed a turning, but fortunately his faithful teammate 'New Boy' Dom was in close attendance and showed him the right way, with them ultimately finishing 13th and

14th, and Jeff was close behind in 15th. Guy, Seb and debutant Michael all ran well to help the B team secure another strong finish.

Dan after his exploits at the weekend (cycling from Penzance to London for a bet!) managed to work his way through the field to finish 28th. Behind him were the ever dependable Mike and Gil. Mike suffered great problems with his new spikes that caused severe bleeding to the back of both heels, yet still managed his best race of the year.

After this Imperial went back to continue the organisation of the 54th Hyde Park Relays. The relays, which are the largest student relays in Europe, will take place on Saturday and any IC member wishing to take part should visit:

www.su.ic.ac.uk/crosscountry/hpr for more information.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

8pm FRIDAY 1st MARCH

GREAT HALL AS PART OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION ARTS FESTIVAL

MAHLER

SYMPHONY NO. 2

THE RESURRECTION

www.su.ic.ac.uk/orchestra

CONDUCTOR < RICHARD DICKINS

CHOIRS < IMPERIAL COLLEGE CHOIR

< THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL CHAPEL CHOIR

MEZZO < ROSE BELLINGHAM

SOPRANO < MARIANNE COTERILL

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM BLYTH MUSIC CENTRE £2.50 / £6.50 IN ADVANCE £3 / £7 ON THE DOOR

ARTS Festival

imperial college union

Rugby Firsts

Rugby - sponsored by

FITZPATRICK

The match started with a quick sensational try scored by Ricky, the Italian international, finally over his barrel spell of two years! All the merit really goes to the Nigerian international Aci, back from a nasty injury, and yet again proving his tremendous talent and skills with a prefect-timed pass, which cut the back line and reached Ricky for an easy try in the middle of the post, easily converted by Huy.

With 7 points behind us in the first two minutes, all the boys were looking pretty confident and with sensational fly half Chen-Cheun playing as

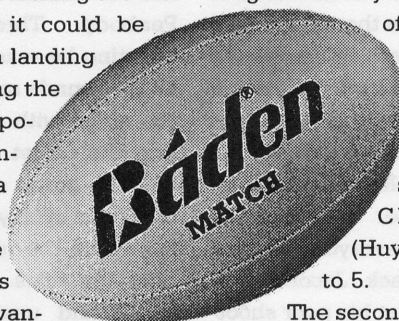
scrumhalf and ginger boy Bobby at the fly half, the game became very interesting! Bobby kept on kicking the ball so high that it could be mistaken for a landing airplane, giving the ball to the opposition! He eventually scored a try in the middle of the post giving us a 14 to nil advantage thanks to his famous eyebrow dummy. The first half seemed to end up with a corner try by the opposition... good effort from medics boys but frankly really not good

enough! That's because Aci quickly responded with an interception and scored a magnificent try in the middle of the post for an easy conversion from Vietnamese sensational Chen-Cheun (Huy) bring us 21 to 5.

The second half started with the medics well up for a big turn of the game in their favour but, as if it could ever happen, they did not get anything better than a drop goal in the middle of the second

half (after two attempts). Defence from IC first was brilliant with the boys all over the place and keeping GKT well out from their twenty-two. No more points were scored and the match ended up 21 - 8. Another victory for the mighty IC first and another medics team defeated. (Gosh! I'm tired of beating Medics around).

With the last game of the league played, IC now faces the big challenge of the BUSA plate and even more challenging Guttridge Cup. God save Captain Sven! (Praying is probably his last hope for finally finishing a game!)



Rugby III

IC III 12.....Essex II 32

We waited, and waited and finally the coach arrived an hour late, Rich. The thirds were on a mighty tour to the pits of Essex. Walking out onto the pitch with 14 men thanks to a clearly inept referee was our first kick in the bollocks. However, this really didn't affect our play! The match began and after some good rucking by IC we were in the opponents 22, but it was not to be with a quick turn over they stormed down the field and dropped the ball over our line... however it was a try. Their kicker, who seemed to have replaced his foot with a coat hanger, missed the conversion. Our casual approach to the game and blatant bias from the ref led to another 3 tries from the inbreds. However, after half time we

came back to storm over the line. If Nightingale's first name had been Florence there would have been more patients dead than at the charge of the light brigade; with an ability to catch second only to Graham Norton's with soap in a prison shower the turnover in play helped the MacDonald's mingers to slip another two past. The mighty Imperial came back to dish out more shoe pie and scored a magnificent try from Desmond the monkey. The journey back was more eventful with Matt "Taffy" Laffan vomiting everywhere, after only 3 litres of cider, and Svet the captain groping various random team members and pronouncing "hip hop forever".

Even though we failed to uphold Silva's good name we managed to grope her sister in Hombres later on. Alex



Live sport
on the

BIG SCREEN

Saturday 16th Feb.

Walsall v Fulham 12pm

England v Ireland 2.30pm

Wales v France 4pm

(We are unable to show Italy v Scotland)

Sunday 17th Feb.

Everton v Crewe 1.30pm

Chelsea v Preston 4pm

Wednesday 20th Feb.

Liverpool v Galatasary 7.45pm

Thursday 21st Feb.

PSV Eindhoven v Leeds 6pm

**Ground floor, Beit Quad
Prince Consort Road**

imperial
college
union
BARS

raising RAG and giving

Imperial College Rag Week

.....
15th - 22nd February, 2002
.....

The wait is over, the bars are open, the collection tins are labelled and the tiddlywinks have been unwrapped. Imperial Rag Week begins today, bringing with it seven full days of wine, women, song and good old fashioned silliness - and don't forget, every pint you drink, every game you play, every Ragwiche you eat and every silly costume you wear will help to raise money for charity. So don't feel embarrassed, don't feel silly, don't feel shy - just get out there and enjoy yourself!

Over the page you'll find a cut-out-and-keep guide to all this week's events, covering everything from excessive drinking to cinema and band nights and street collections to... erm, more excessive drinking, actually. Whatever you're into, there's something for you, so whether you want to bin your timetable and party all week, head out onto the streets of London with collecting tin in hand or just embarrass the hell out of your nearest and dearest, there's no excuse for not getting involved. Just remember that every penny raised this week goes to the Shooting Star Trust, helping them to give London's terminally ill children a home - and if that doesn't guilt trip you into getting involved, then I don't know what will...

Get ready for Imperial RAG Week! Do lots of fun stuff to raise money for charity!

Friday 15
(46-319)

Valentine Party, Union, 8pm
Check www.su.ic.ac.uk/rag for the latest events

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INTERNATIONAL PUB CRAWL - around the world in 80 units with 3 mates. Start @ Union 12pm, end @ Southside, closing time. Best team wins four Eurostar tickets

Saturday 16
(45-318)

February 2002
Week 8

RAG WEEK
ALL WEEK!

18 Monday
(49-316)

Collect loads of money at tube stns between lectures and run up the Queen's Tower at lunchtime for free

Chill out after the weekend at Jazz & Rock Band Night - loads of College bands in dBs, from 8pm. Free entry + cheap beer.

19 Tuesday
(50-315)

Classic films (The Italian Job + Blues Brothers) at ICU Cinema, Union Concert Hall from 6pm.

Funky Jazz Big Band gig in dBs at 8pm too.

20 Wednesday
(51-31)

Cancel everything & RAID LONDON for charity. Pick up challenges in the JCR from 12pm, meet back in the Union for cheese & £1 a pint in dBs

Thursday 21
(52-313)

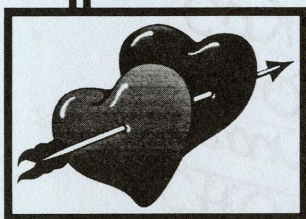
Bid for a bargain at the C&G Slave Auction, JCR from 12pm, with IC Radio.
Last chance to buy balloon race tickets. Try a peanut butter, chocolate or jam Ragwich in dBs.

Friday 22
(53-312)

SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY
Wear old school tie all day, watch balloon lift on Queen's Lawn at 12pm, then get out to the City & Canary Wharf for "Milkround Raid" - maps, tins and sweets from the Ante Room, Sherfield.
Back to School Party at the Union, from 8pm

Saturday 23
(54-311)

tiddlywink down Oxford St too!



Valentines Party

Cupids, hearts, roses, devils and a little drop of Rag magic will all be on hand this evening in the Union, to make your Valentines weekend that little bit sweeter. Aahhh, didums, etc etc. Head over to Beit Quad from 8pm to discover what cheesy really looks like...



INTERNATIONAL PUB CRAWL

Round up three mates and make your way to the Union Bar tomorrow, where you'll set off on a trip around 20 themed pubs across London. An early start is advised if you're serious about making it round - and there are four Eurostar tickets on offer for the team that collects the most money.



Band Nights

Catch some of the best bands in College on Monday evening, courtesy of the Jazz & Rock Society, whilst on Tuesday the Jazz Big Band will hit you with a torrent of jazz, funk and swing. Both events start at 8pm in dBs, and are absolutely free to enter.



London Raid

Your chance to create your own little bit of havoc on the streets of London on Wednesday, with collecting challenges dotted across the Capital - including the famous tiddlywink race down Oxford Street. Big prizes are on offer for the best collectors, and there's a party back at the Union at 8.



Slave Auction

House in need of a clean? Friends in need of embarrassment? Self in need of company? Head to the JCR at 12 on Friday and become the proud owner of someone you barely know for the best part of 24 hours in return for a small fee. Nice...



SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

Don your gymslip or old school (or even old skool) tie and get set for more things to do than could possibly fit in this box. At lunchtime there's a fete on the Queen's Lawn, followed by collections around the City from 1pm, and the huge Back 2 School party chez Union from 8pm.

So, Rag Week, huh. Is it really that time of year already? Blimey. Lots of messing about and being silly, isn't it? Well, erm, yes, pretty much. Except that it's messing about and being silly for a reason. Y'see, while Rag is supposed to be fundamentally fun, offering you the chance to have a laugh, try something new or just make a complete fool of yourself, it's also about raising a shed load of money for charity along the way - in fact, this year's Rag events have already raised more than £5000 for a variety of good causes. This week, however, every event, collection, sale and party will be helping to raise money for Rag's official charity, The Shooting Star Trust, a Twickenham based outfit who want to open West London's first hospice for terminally ill children by the end of next year.

Set up in 1995, the Trust will provide a respite for young people suffering from cancer, muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis and cerebral palsy, so that they (and their families) can live out their lives in a comfortable, reassuring home, rather than on a hospital ward. However, having already bought a site for the centre and raised the £6 million needed to get it built, they now need more money to kit out the hospice - everything from specially adapted beds and toys to IT tools and kitchen equipment. And that's where we come in. A few hundred pounds will buy a bed or learning toys; a few thousand pounds will kit out a bedroom or furnish the library or play room; a few tens of thousands of pounds could buy a new minibus, or fit out an entire wing of the building... You get the idea. Ultimately, though, the point is that this is a small charity trying to do something really great on a small scale - they haven't got hundreds of dedicated fundraisers or national sponsors, so every penny raised this week really will make a difference. To find out more about what that really means, visit www.shootingstar.org.uk, or check out the Rag website at www.su.ic.ac.uk/rag.

Of course, much as we might want to, there's no way that any of us could possibly afford to fund the Trust on our own. However, by getting out onto the streets of Knightsbridge, Westminster and Canary Wharf, having fun and rattling a few collecting tins at passing multi-millionaires, together we can make a difference - it's corny, but it's true. And, as a great man once said, you can't say fairer than that...

Hopefully, you're now fully convinced of two things. Firstly, that Rag is fun - doing some good doesn't necessarily have to be dull. Secondly, that all this playing around, dressing up and getting blind drunk really is all for a good cause. And thirdly that you really, really, really want to get involved. Sorry, three things - it's fun. It's for a good cause, and you want to get involved. And that you want to buy a ticket for the Balloon Race (available for just a pound from stalls in all good JCRs™). No, four things, four things... And that you'd better ring your mum and ask her to post your school tie down to you, ready for next Friday. And that you could really do with one of those free t-shirts. And that... Damn, I'll come in again...

What? When?
Why? Who?
How?