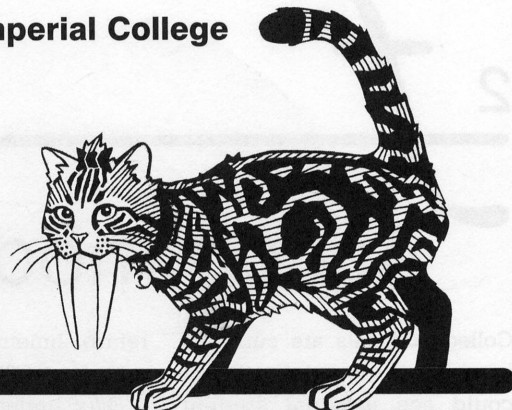


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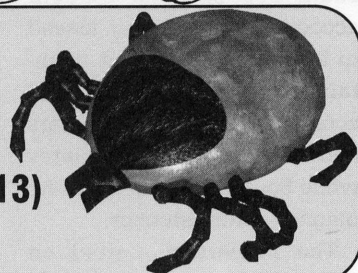


<http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/felix/>

**Molko: looks a bit like Alex
and sounds a bit like Moloko.
Like Clockwork. (Page 27)**



**It's a tick. For our
questionnaire.
Obviously... (Page 13)**



Summer Ball Success

This year's Summer Ball has been hailed as a success, despite concerns that insufficient tickets were sold to enable the event to break even, in spite of the large donation given by the Rector to enable the event to go ahead.

While much effort had gone into making sure that the evening would run smoothly, less attention was paid to its advertising, meaning that while those who went to the Ball enjoyed themselves thoroughly, the Union may find a funding shortfall which it may have difficulty in absorbing, particularly after the big losses of previous years.

A lack of cash had threatened to cancel the Ball earlier this year, but it was revived after the College agreed to donate £20,000 to underwrite what it sees as "an important part of College life." While it was thought that this year's Ball finances would once again place its future in jeopardy, last week's meeting of Union Council was assured that the event will take place in 2003, possibly with a similar donation from College as was received this year.



JTQ rockin' da joint...

The night's entertainment was provided by Cornershop, Mos Eisley and the James Taylor Quartet on the main stage, while the ICU Big Band, and Jazz and Rock societies played to appreciative audiences in the Main Dining Hall. Dance music was provided upstairs by, amongst others, Mark Horne, the Scratch Perverts and Timmi Magic.

Less than a week after the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations had lit up the night sky of central London, the residents of South Kensington were treated to another impressive fireworks display,

which was launched from the roof of the Sherfield building at the stroke of midnight, and considered to not have been far short of the Buckingham Palace offering.

The feel-good nature of the event was marred however by a group of students who saw fit to steal confectionery, biscuits and other items from the Senior Common Room, also unsuccessfully attempting to steal some of the alcohol on offer later in the evening. College Security have made it known that they have clear, colour CCTV footage of the men and women involved in these incidents, and strongly advise them to make themselves known to Security. Otherwise, the images will be released to Imperial's publications - including *Felix* - with a request for anyone with knowledge of those identified to contact College Security to assist in the investigation into the thefts.

John S

REFERENCE COLLECTION

Imperial College and
Science Museum Libraries

**29 Issues, 5 Writers, 100 000 Words,
53 Pictures, 6 Computers and 1 Very
Long Year For Felix News.**

This Year's News In Brief

Accommodation Sought

College officials are currently involved in negotiations that could see external student accommodation being leased to Imperial to ensure it maintains its guarantee of hall accommodation for all freshers and first-year postgraduates while Southside undergoes its planned refurbishment.

The properties - sited on Cromwell Road and Queens Gate Gardens - are owned by a neighbouring academic institution that may not require their use for a period of three or four years, potentially freeing them up for use by Imperial students. As reported earlier this term, the College faces a potential crisis over a lack of student bed-spaces due to its plans to sell Clayponds village in Ealing and that Southside halls are due to close for a two-year

refurbishment project in the autumn of 2003.

Felix understands that the housing offered in these properties would be based on accommodation licenses of 51-weeks' duration, and so would be most suitable for postgraduates. The College would then be able to use its own properties to offer undergraduates accommodation for shorter license periods.

Union President, Sen Ganesh, told *Felix* that the negotiations were still at a very early stage, but the College is working hard to ensure that it offered sufficient levels of hall accommodation. Mr. Ganesh went on to say that he had been assured that the guarantee of accommodation for first year undergraduate and postgraduate students would be met.

Meanwhile, in another development, the Rector has apologised over the way in which the news that Clayponds village is to be sold next year was released. The decision to approve the proposed sale was made before consulting the student body, and met with an angry response at a meeting of the Union's Executive Committee last month.

Mr. Ganesh told *Felix* that in order to improve communication between the College, the Union and its students regarding matters of accommodation, a monthly meeting between him, the Rector, Deputy Rector and the Director of Estates would now take place "to ensure that students are kept aware of developments."

John S

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Issue 1240

19 June 2002

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Francis Warned

David Francis, Deputy President for Education and Welfare, was given a formal written warning at this year's last meeting of Union Council.

Union President, Sen Ganesh, was obliged to issue the warning to Mr. Francis due to the alleged libellous content of a report that he had submitted to Council in March. This followed a complaint by Mustafa Arif, the president of City and Guilds College Union, and relates to comments made by Mr. Francis regarding the issue of the electronic LEQ system, which many people allege Mr. Arif tampered with.

Although most senior Union figures believe that these allegations are true, Mr. Arif has not formally been

brought before a College disciplinary committee to answer these charges, and as such they remain unsubstantiated.

A senior Union source said that they thought that the warning had "been a long time coming," and that "David Francis has been a law unto himself for the whole year, which is symptomatic of Sen Ganesh failing to lead the Union or manage the work of his deputies." It is not known whether this view is indicative of the views of Council as a whole, as there are other senior Union members who believe the complaint to be a waste of Council time and more about personalities than the issues at hand.

Alex



NATIONAL ASTHMA CAMPAIGN
conquering asthma

Knowledge of Reference Manager?

Spare time in the holidays?

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National Asthma Campaign needs
you.**

Looking for an enthusiastic volunteer to
help disseminate the research we fund.

Gain experience of working in the
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**INTERESTED? Call Fiona on
020 7704 5810**

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Overseas Student Applications Up

The number of undergraduate applications to British universities from Chinese students has risen sharply in the last year, according to official statistics released by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

The number of students from China wishing to study in the UK has increased almost ten-fold in the last three years, with an increase in applications of 69% this year. These increases may be connected with the fact that students that come to Britain to study from outside the European Union pay much higher tuition fees than those from within it, and some believe that British

universities may be intentionally attracting overseas students to help the funding crisis currently prevalent in the country's higher education system.

While there have been widespread decreases in the number of students applying to British universities in the past couple of years, mostly attributed to the abolition of grants and the introduction of tuition fees, applications have risen by 2% across the nation as a whole this year, with the biggest increase occurring in Scotland - at more than 5% - where fees have been abolished. In contrast, applications from under 21-year-olds

in England rose by just 0.1%.

A number of politicians have suggested that this year's minute increases in application numbers has called into question the likelihood of the government meeting its target of 50% of all those under 30 experiencing some form of higher education by the year 2010. Speaking to BBC News, The Liberal Democrat's Education spokesman, Phil Willis, decried the target as now "little more than a pipe dream," but the Higher Education Minister, Margaret Hodge, defended the Blair 'vision', citing that applications were now on the up after an initial downturn following

the introduction of fees in 1998. She went on to say that while there had been only a 0.1% increase in the number of under 21-year-olds applying, applications by 18-30 year-olds had risen by 7.3%.

Meanwhile, a report published by Universities UK reported that the basic infrastructure of the British Higher Education system is in a state of disrepair. The report estimated that around £10bn of funding needs to be found to ensure that the buildings owned by Higher Education institutions across the country coming to the end of their intended lifespans remain safe and usable.

The following were awarded Colours this year for service to the Union.

Half Colours

Matthew J Smith
Paul Wortley
Dan Lehmann
Richard Roberts
Louise Timms
David Wembridge
Ellen Bazely-White
Diana Anderson
Kevin Clemitchaw
Eleanor Haine
Jennifer Wood
Priscilla Chow
Chris Liston
Jacki Wielkopolska
David Tregidgo
Helen Clubb
Roy Gilbert
Paul Hotton
Lia Davies
Chloe Bermudez
Andrew Smith
Nnenna Onuba
Ravi Jain
Rupal Gala
Chris Powell
Irfan Habib
John Paul Clarke
Lorna Robinson
Mary Jane Poynor

Rosanna Jon
Alexandra Archard
Alisdair Wren
Nona Ahamat
Stuart Davis
Demetrius Onoufriou

Full Colours

Patrick Hoar
Stuart McDermott
Edward Brown
Andrew Gallagher
Burly Cumberland
Ronald Ng
Annalisa Massara
Amy Elliott
Alison Bostock
Chris Adams
Chirag Patel
Samuel Sharpe
Jatil Damania
Barry Edmonstone
Robin Greenwood
Andy Heeps
Melody Williams
Philip Power
Max Werner
Thomas Tibbits
Nikhil Joshi
Imran Sharaf
Amardeep Chana
Chris Christofou
Andrew Lawrie

Benedict Gove
Adam Hasen
Thofee Adamjee
Steven Little
Nada Yousif
Alex Liddle
Amanda Saunders-Vest
Daniel Rose
Enrico Ferri

Outstanding Service Awards

Helen Arney
Oliver Pell
Richard Tang
Shazia Munir
Gavin Daisley
Shovi Ghosh
Ruth Chapple
Tim Collins
Dan Thompson
Ramnath Ramanan
John Donovan
Ruth Roberts

Union Fellowships

Akira Kirton
Mustafa Arif

Union Distinguished Fellowships

Gus Paul
David C. Rolls

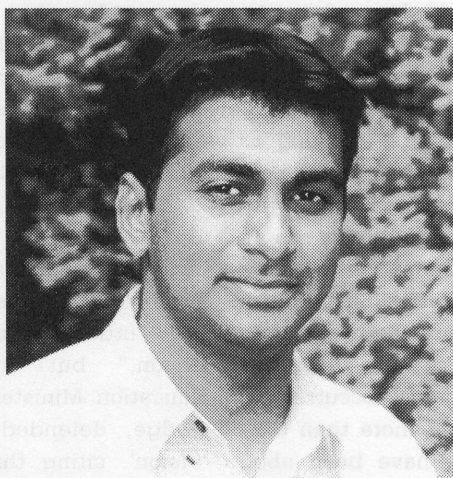
State of the Union

The Union's Annual General Meeting took place this term on Thursday 16 May. The AGM is your chance to hear what your Union is doing for you, the students, by students.

This year, the Union underwent a huge constitutional change to fall in line with the College's new faculty structure. While this took much time and work, we're confident that we are now better equipped to represent you to your departments, and ensure you receive the education you deserve. We also abolished the distinction between postgraduate and undergraduate students.

This year also saw a dramatic development in the services available to students. The basements in Beit Quad were completely refurbished, and now provide a state of the art media centre, dark room and science-fiction library in the West Wing. The East Wing houses the Chaplaincy, Union Advice Centre, RAG office and MicroClub, providing urgently needed student support services. The Charing Cross refurbishment was also

completed, greatly improving the entertainment services at the campus. The gyms have also been refurbished at Wye, Charing Cross and Silwood.



The Union relies heavily on volunteers to help it run. This year, the Higher Education Funding Council established the Active Community Fund to encourage recognition of volunteers. Even before this, the Union was working to better support

the volunteers that form the backbone of its activities. A new student activities coordinator, Nicholas Gore, has been appointed to help run the clubs and societies aspect of the Union. Training will now be provided to club volunteers at the beginning of next year, and the student activities centre is now located in the East Wing basement, closer to these support services.

This year has seen some great events organised by students. Most recently, the Summer Ball was a huge success after the Rector kindly donated £20,000 towards the event. Thanks go to all the Summer Ball team. International Night dazzled a vast audience last term, and the RAG Sports Day filled the Queen's Lawn with bizarrely dressed athletes. This year, along with RAG, Imperial students have raised over £100,000 pounds for good causes.

Finally, I'd like to thank all those people who give their time to run and take part in the Union. I look forward to welcoming many back next year, and to those that are leaving, the best of luck. *Sen*

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION Recreational Clubs Committee

Colours Awards 2001-2002

In recognition of their efforts this academic year, the Recreational Clubs Committee wishes to announce the following Colours awards

Full Commitment Colours

Katie Sykes, Melanie Tan

Half Commitment Colours

Alan Bamford, Alexis Biller, Gemma Cansell, Rebecca Day,
Gareth Gretton, Ruth Harman, Kah Lee, Stephen Perrott

Half Achievement Colours

Martin Taylor, Jennifer Wood

Half Social Colours

Pooi Cheong, Hemraj Nithianandarajah

Awards will be presented at final meeting of this academic year;
Thursday 13th June 2002 at 5pm in the Union Dining Hall

South Ken Electrical Power Shortage

As the summer weather gets increasingly warmer, the South Kensington campus could find itself faced with a power shortage. If nothing is done, we could be faced with a black out. There will be a controlled shutdown of sub-stations on a least priority basis which means Southside residences, then Sherfield, will be shed, followed by the academic departments.

Last summer, even with an automatic load-shedding system that intermittently switched off non-essential loads for short durations, the South Kensington campus frequently came within a few percent of its maximum available power limit of 11 megawatts. New refurbishment projects in many departments has added extra load to the supply, and it is forecast that demand will exceed the limit this summer. Summer is the time when the problem becomes apparent because of the extra electricity required for cooling systems and air conditioning.

Standby generators will be used this summer in three main buildings and that will help to reduce the excess demand. However, these measures alone will not be enough to reduce the demand to 11

megawatts. The Estates Department has been taking precautions to prevent this happening in future years; there are plans to increase the supply available by laying a new cable through Hyde Park by 2003.

The only way to prevent a black-out this summer is to reduce the electricity demand, especially during the main periods 10.30 - 15.30 Monday to Friday, but of course we want to be saving electricity all of the time. So what can you do to avoid an electrical shutdown in summer 2002? There are some simple housekeeping habits that could make a sufficient difference if everybody follows these guidelines:

- Set air conditioning thermostat controls to a minimum of 22°C. A 1°C saving on room temperature saves 10% of the heating/cooling energy.
- Switch off unnecessary main lights. Make best use of daylight and local task lighting. Every kW of lighting power used in every room has to be removed by 0.35 kW of cooling power, so equipment left on wastes power twice over.
- Ensure that blinds are kept down to prevent excessive solar gains, which

would have to be cooled. If blinds are left up overnight, the sun will already be cooking your room by 09.00 the next day when you arrive.

- Keep doors and windows closed in cooled rooms.
- Fume cupboards waste fan power and remove all the expensively cooled air. Help by not using fume cupboards as chemical stores and close off all non-essential systems
- If you have a choice, try to restrict use of high power consumption equipment such as lasers, glass washers, compressors, large pumps/motors and sterilisers during peak periods.
- Switch off unused PCs, which waste power and add to the cooling load. As a minimum, switch off the monitor when unattended, as this will reduce the work station's power use by almost 75%.
- Assist your department in identifying non-essential equipment, which can be added to the load shedding system.

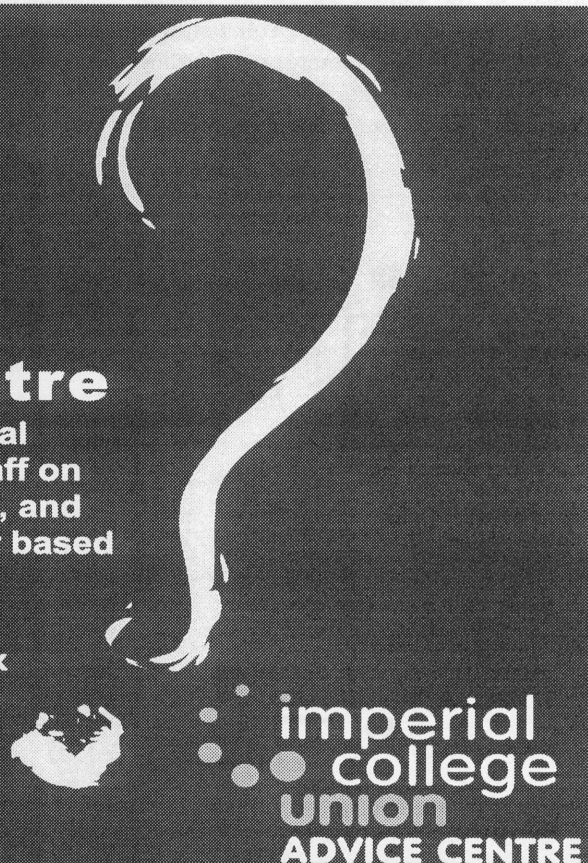
For further information you can contact the energy manager, Michael Parry on m.k.parry@ic.ac.uk.

The Union Advice Centre

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

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

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



Medicine In The Digital Age

Looking at the changes in the lifestyle of our parents' and grandparents' lives it is hard to disagree that life has improved substantially. Every decade has seen a technological revolution. If the '70s, '80s, and '90s have seen semiconductors, PCs and the Internet respectively, in the 21st century 'pervasive computing' will be poised to transform our lives. This would mark a fundamental transition in medicine with an increasing adoption of pervasive computing and broadband networks in the provision of high quality care. Today, the network and computer are as essential to providing medical care as the stethoscope and reflex hammer. This new environment of bits and optical pulses is transforming virtually every aspect of medical care. This text addresses the opportunities central to our transition to a 'digital age' in medicine.

So, here's a sneak preview: I have been assimilated. I am hooked up to an electronic device 24 hours. And I love it! This is how many people might feel in the not-so-far future. If you are asking why?, then think about this.

The Smart Medical Home (SMH) is a project at the Center for Future Health, University of Rochester in collaboration with MIT's Media Laboratory. According to Philippe Fauchet one of the co-founders, "today we wait until you get

sick, drag yourself to the doctor, and then we throw this multimillion-dollar heroic technology at you. So we wondered if it was possible to do early detection, even before you got sick, with technology that is very inexpensive, consumer friendly, and doesn't require a complex change in lifestyle."

The Smart Medical Home would include a series of devices working in conjunction in the home to monitor a family's health. With the present work on networking protocols like Bluetooth, etc, it is not far before we could realise such a smart home.

Consider placing an adhesive bandage on a cut, and having the bandage tell you immediately that dangerous bacteria have got into the wound and you need to seek a doctor's help. Once you scan your bandage, the chip will connect to a home PC responsible for monitoring residents' health, reporting what kind of bacteria is present. The house will check a medical database via the web to determine what kind of treatment is necessary, confer with other sensors that have been monitoring your gait for signs of stroke, your skin for signs of melanoma, and your medicine cabinet to make sure you haven't been taking anything that may conflict with any new medication, and suggest to you in spoken English (or for that matter

any language you prefer) what steps you need to take to treat your infection. Cripes, hypochondriac alert...

The California-based Stanford University Medical Center and Providence Everett Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, became the first two medical facilities in the United States to implant Biotronik's novel pacemaker, which features home monitoring technology. Home monitoring is the first technology of its kind to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration, and is anticipated to revolutionize the way physicians currently monitor their pacemaker patients.

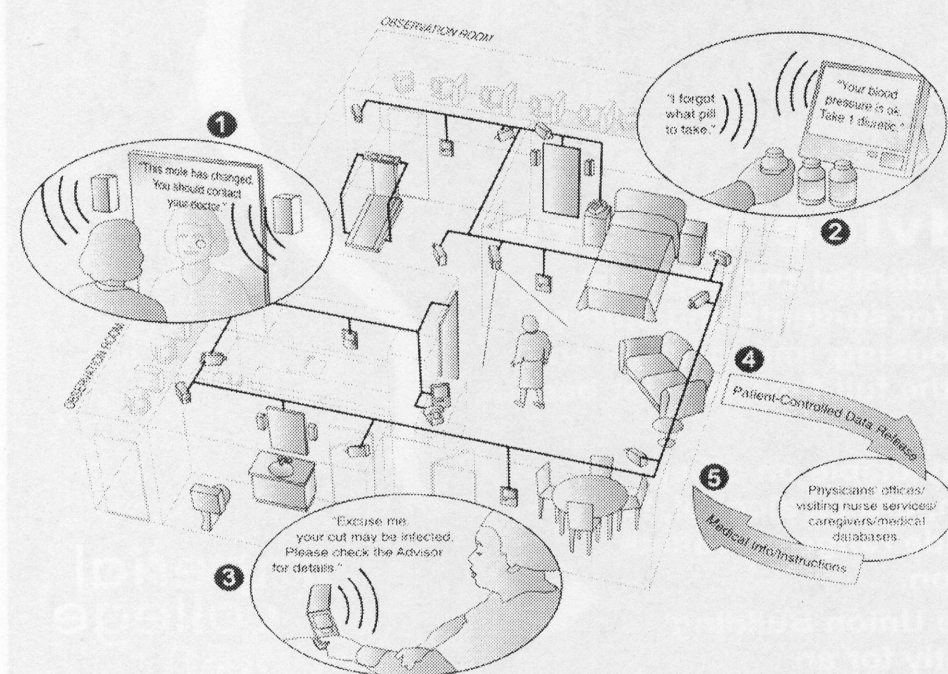
The home monitoring system implanted is one of the most exciting technologies that have been developed in the field of arrhythmia management. This technology will serve as a platform to deliver true 21st century patient care by allowing physicians to provide more prompt response as well as more complete patient management to those with arrhythmia problems.

With home monitoring, the pacemaker can be customized to automatically transmit a detailed cardio report to the physician's office on a daily or weekly basis, or if the patient experiences a significant change in their heart condition, allowing the patient's clinician to be able to respond more effectively to their patients' changing cardiac status.

This remote wireless pacemaker could become a critical telemedicine application, where cardiologists could monitor their patients with cardio-vascular conditions anywhere in the world. In the future, consumers will use personal medical technology in the privacy of their homes to maintain health, detect the onset of disease and to manage disease proactively.

Another area of interest in the way technology is being used for medical monitoring is 'Smart clothing,' that not only has the capability to make you look smart but would be able to think as well.

VivoMetrics of Ventura, California, have begun beta-testing its LifeShirt. It looks like a sleek fishing vest and records more than 40 health parameters. Sewn into the vest are electrodes for heart monitoring and three conductive bands that gauge the movement of the heart and lungs from



A Smart Medical Home

changes in their magnetic field. The sensors measure both vital signs and indicators of psychological state, such as sighs. The data can be sent via the Internet to a doctor who can adjust medications according to fluctuations.

However, Nexan of Alpharetta, Georgia, has invented smart monitoring without wiring clothes. Its sensors - which look like an elaborately bent paper clip - adheres to a patient's chest and radios data to a storage device up to fifteen metres away. Electrodes in the sensor measure respiration and contraction of the heart.

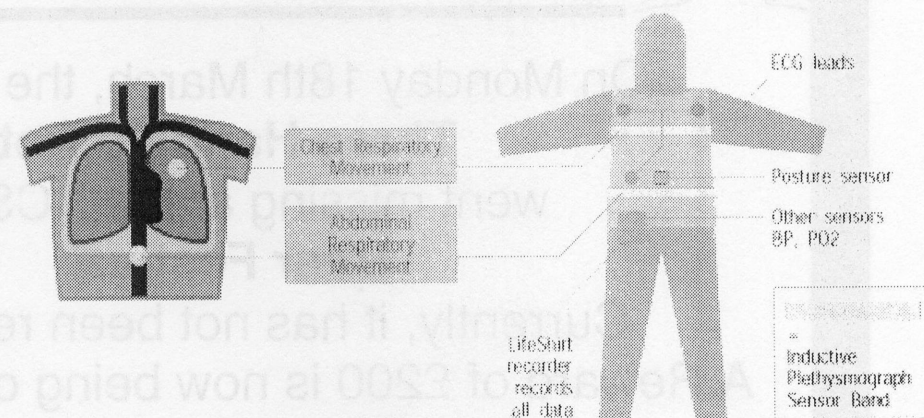
The interface between flesh and silicon is evolving quickly. I quote one of the visionaries Mario Ferrari, who said, "the child is not born yet, but at least we have the marriage."

David Ross in the September 2001 Technology Review stated that every year approximately more than 50,000 Americans with diabetes must undergo foot or leg amputations. In many of these cases, poor blood circulation is the villain. Imagine, then, having socks with built-in pressure sensors that would alert you to put your feet up for a while.

Smart socks are just one example of the growing push to make high-tech home medical devices a part of our everyday lives.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a personal futuristic jogging suit, like a second skin, with interfaces to the inside and the outside? From the outside your jogging suit monitors the weather and terrain, while on the inside your bio-physiological state is detected. The suit can analyze your movement, and advise on the duration and intensity of the exercise, according to your personalized training programme, stored on a smart card. When your suit 'notifies' that you are getting tired, it can encourage you to go on, or it can immediately adapt the training scheme for the next days, and if necessary make the 999 call to the doctor.

Most of these first-generation gadgets grab data on vital signs and then radio the information back to a home health station or a receiver connected to the PC. Now physicians and engineers at a handful of universities and start-ups are pushing the technology even further. Their goal is to harness new materials and powerful microelectronics to make devices that are even more intelligent and self contained to make not only data



'LifeShirt'

reporters but preventive aids that detect dangerous medical conditions.

Researchers at Andersen Consulting's Centre for Strategic Technology Research are redefining the concept of 'personal' computing by bringing the Internet into the bathroom with the Online Medicine Cabinet (OMC).

The OMC is a computerized bathroom cabinet that greets you, checks your blood pressure, communicates with your health care provider and reminds you to take your medicines on time. It combines special sensor technology, embedded computers and the Internet to create what Andersen calls a "situated portal." The OMC integrates technologies such as face recognition, voice synthesis, flat panel displays and smart labels. On entering the bathroom the computer initi-

"The doctor can poke at the computer screen with the pointer and would feel in his finger that he is actually touching it"

ates a dialogue by greeting the person through voice technology. Special sensors detect when a medicine bottle is lifted out of the cabinet and when the supplies are running low. If a refill is required, the OMC generates an email request to the

pharmacy. And using smart labels, it warns if you pick up the wrong medication. Sounds too good to be true, but this kind of technology is available.

2002 marks a decade of accomplishments in the field of interactive computer based technology - virtual reality - for use in medicine.

One such example: nowadays when doctors perform an abdominal examination on a patient, they have to rely on their hands to do much of the guesswork. Tender livers, pea-sized tumors, and swollen spleens are often diagnosed this way, and followed up with high-resolution scans that take precise recordings of the size and location of those bumps and lumps.

A new virtual reality glove being developed by researchers at the State University of New York at Buffalo promises to change that.

The information will be transmitted to the second doctor through a haptic feedback device; a small, transportable robot that fits on a user's hand like a thimble. The robot allows a user to manipulate an image on a computer screen and feel the physical results of that virtual manipulation. The doctor can poke at the computer screen with the pointer and would feel in his finger that he is actually touching it.

Future health care delivery will rely on an aggressive, preventive model that is vastly different from the reactive, episodic model utilised today. Individuals will assume a more active role in their care. Medical systems, including home health systems, will exhibit collective intelligence of individual devices.

One way or the other, our daily lives will depend on computing at many levels. This is just the beginning...



RCSU



On Monday 18th March, the RCSU's
Three Handled Pot
went missing at the RCSU's
Beer Festival

Currently, it has not been returned.

A Reward of £200 is now being offered for it's
SAFE RETURN

The Pot is made of Pewter and has a Glass Bottom.

It has Three Handles, each approximately equidistant around it's circumference, and can hold roughly 3 pints of beer. It's main distinguishing features are a large engraving of the RCS Crown, as well as the names of all Executive Committees from the Mid 60's up until the Late 70's/Early 80's

REWARD

£200

For Information leading to the
SAFE RETURN
of the RCSU's

Three Handled Pot
as well as an

Amnesty of 3 weeks
for whomever took it.

Any information relating to the Three Handled Pot
will be treated IN CONFIDENCE, and should be addressed
to edward.piggott@ic.ac.uk
or telephone **020 759 48075** [ext. 48075] or **07754 851720**

Entertaining Angels

The old wisdom says, 'Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.' That is of course unless it is a completely free handful of delicious high quality chocolate. Last week we were giving away, yes *giving* away, chocolate, biscuits, coffee, tea bags and fruit juice. It was all part of a series of events to raise awareness of Fairtrade products and why they are important in an effort to end global poverty and world hunger. If you are a regular reader of this column you will have taken the Fairtrade message to heart by now, so no further sermonising on that issue!

Instead I want to think about the experience some of us had standing of the walkway trying to give away a free sample of a tasty morsel all in aid of a genuinely good cause.

Many people stopped and chatted, munched and slurped and read the leaflets. Some came back for more, and a few came back and back. That was great. It was a moment of freely given gifts.

But those of us dispensing the chocolate had a common experience: we felt the deep suspicion of many people who hur-

ried past. "Free chocolate - where is the catch?" "What are you selling?" "What will this cost me in time and energy to stop, find out what it is about and taste the chocolate?" Several volunteers felt they wanted to have T-shirts that said, 'I am a decent, pleasant human being really and I genuinely want to give you this gift, for free and there are no hidden catches. HONEST!'

Now some of us are shy, some of us are in a hurry, and a few of us may have good reason to be wary because of previous bad experiences... but that still fails to explain the huge number of people who hurried by, finding it impossible to believe that something could be offered as a free gift with no catch. We seem to live in a society that, by and large, sees it as normal and acceptable to not get involved. Now, there are some good reasons to be wary of strangers, but mistrust and cynicism on this scale surely points to something wrong.

Our freebie chocolate experience concerns me because of what it says about the way we are being conditioned not to

be surprised. We are encouraged by unnecessary anxiety of urban life not to take even a very safe risk, the risk of a fleeting encounter with a stranger.

Is this about a deep cynicism towards anything offered for free? An avoidance of any unplanned encounters, an isolation from any surprising contact with others? Not all strangers are dangers, and (reassuringly) not all contacts are conducted like this. In some places, rural villages for example, people stop to pass the time of day, to chat or simply to make eye contact and smile.

In the Judao-Christian tradition there is a valued story about Abraham, the father of many nations. It runs like this: one day, sitting at the door of his tent, Abraham was confronted by three mysterious strangers passing by. He took the risk of hospitality, openness and human engagement, and (so the phrase was coined) 'entertained angels unawares.' From that encounter he became the father of many nations precisely because of his openness, his willingness to engage. He took the risk of being open. Shouldn't we?

Radio: Impossible

It's an impossible mission: to sell science to a few thousand undergraduates who, day in and day out, live and breathe science, and who are quite possibly utterly bored with it. But impossible missions suit some people just fine, and those are the committed people studying science communication. Tune in to IC Radio between 6 and 7 on Thursday evenings, and you will be admitted into the world of Mission Impossible.

The Mission Impossible show is to science what napalm is to a bail of hay - except that while napalm would destroy your average haystack, Mission Impossible merely chooses to ignite science with a refreshing brand of humour and intrigue.

What will you hear? Rest assured that Imperial's science communication students are out searching for the best science news every week, ready and packaged for you in a five-minute burst of current affairs. And any topical science news

during the week will be digested and debated during the show, with special guests from such places as the Science Museum.

Mission Impossible also promises to bring you fiction and drama on the radio. There's Imperial College's first ever radio soap opera, 'Empirical College,' which the production team would like to call a comedy series, if only the plot didn't involve quite so much infidelity. And the show's special reporter Stian Reimers produces a weekly update on the science wars - the eternally raging battle between those who believe science searches for the 'truth', and those who argue that science just a piece of modern culture.

Or, does anyone enjoy a quiz? There's a different science quiz on mission impossible every week, and most recently the production team came up with the first 'Science Call My Bluff' show. For example, do you think 'bathycolpian' is a bout of

unexpected depression, or a deep, fleshy cleft? And do you think the Mission Impossible show is unnecessarily vulgar? Answers can be sent to our e-mail address: imperialradio@hotmail.com. There's also a weekly update on what's new, what's hot, and what positively stinks, in the world of technology and gadgets.

If you read this before 20 June, then be sure to check out Mission Impossible's end-of-term-special - a show purely devoted to the study of where science is today. What does science mean to you? Why do you study science, and why is science important?

Mission Impossible will also be running over the summer, and as with all of the IC Radio shows, you can listen and download at www.icradio.com. Remember, science isn't just about the cold and clinical search for the truth - it's about fun, intrigue, humour, and above all, the human beings who actually do it.

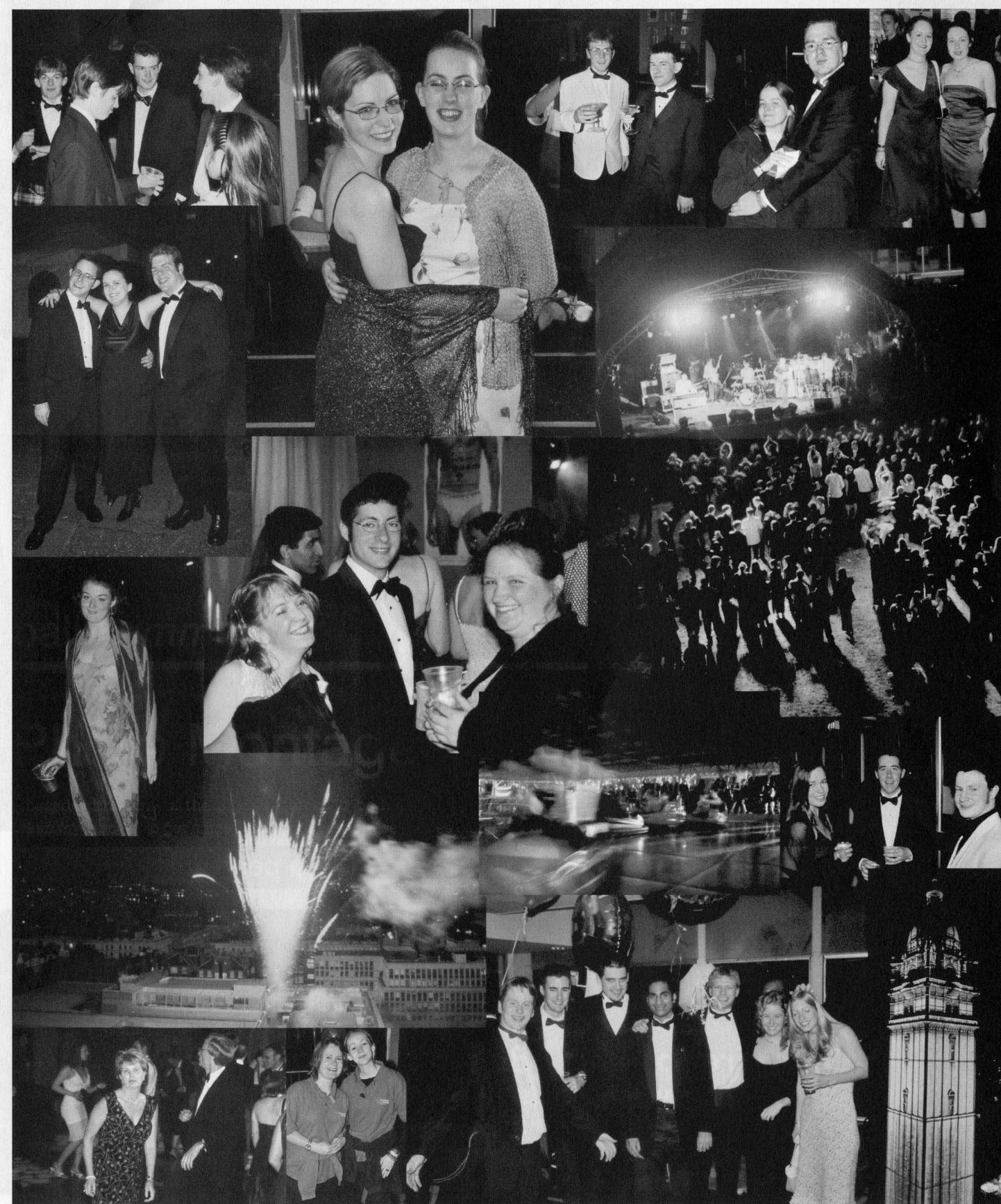
Summer Ball

Well, wasn't it fun, boys and girls? I've been to several, and without dissing last year's, I have to say that I think they're getting better every year. I was there with my trusty camera, and some relatively fast film, snapping away, and I was quite

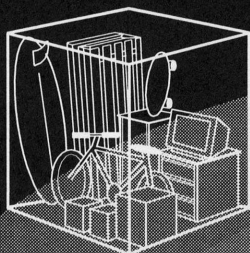


Photo Montage

pleased with some of the piccies I took. To be honest I'd only taken my camera to get a free ticket, but once these babies came out, I felt it was my duty to share them. So I hope you were there, I hope you enjoyed it and I hope there's a photo of you beneath.



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The summer term is over - for most of you, at least - and you are about a third of the way through the last *Felix* of term, so I'm sure the last thing that you want to be thinking about is the fact that in three month's time it all starts again, but I'm going to anyway.

We want to make *Felix* even better next year, and the only way that we can do that is to find out what you want from it. So just fill out this questionnaire and hand it back to any security desk or any of the Union bars - including Charing Cross, Silwood and Wye - and you should start to see improvements from the very first issue.

If that's not incentive enough, we've also got an absolutely obscene number of free VIP paintballing trips to give away, so if you send this back, and fill out the box at the end, then you've got a fairly good chance of winning a trip for you and some mates to go to any of three venues in the South East, be equipped with semi-automatic weapons and get to run round in the woods.

Anyway - on to the questions!

1. Do you think that there should be less, the same amount, or more of the following:

	More	Less	The Same
College News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
World News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sabbaticals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music Reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Film Reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Book Reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Club Reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coffee Break	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Humour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Indicate whether you disagree with, are indifferent towards, or agree with the following statements:

'Felix should be somewhere any student can voice their opinion, no matter what that opinion is.'

DisagreeIndifferentAgree

☐☐☐

'Felix should include more reports from less mainstream sports teams, clubs and societies.'

DisagreeIndifferentAgree

☐☐☐

'The Diary should contain more factual information.'

DisagreeIndifferentAgree

☐☐☐

'Felix would be improved by a 'page 3' feature.'

DisagreeIndifferentAgree

☐☐☐

'Felix should feature more from the campuses outside South Kensington.'

DisagreeIndifferentAgree

☐☐☐

'Felix is simply there for amusement and should not be a forum for serious debate.'

DisagreeIndifferentAgree

☐☐☐

3 Is there anything that you particularly want to see in Felix next year?

4. Is there anything that you never want to see in Felix again?

Name:

Dept:

E-mail:

Editorial

Hurrah! The last editorial that a reasonable number of you will ever read. Not the last one I have to write, of course. No, I have another year to go, but for you lucky few, yes, you fortunate ones who will be escaping the interminable drivel of my mind, this is it.

So on to business. I have been looking back in the past, and there have generally been many thanks bits and stuff done by all the editors, and some rambling, etc.

I'm not going to do that. Firstly, I don't really believe in selecting people when I know I'll forget others who have been more important; secondly because I have such a bad memory for names that I can't remember most of them; thirdly, I'm much too lazy to have to think about it that hard, when all I really want to do is go to bed, and fourthly I find it all rather maudlin, and I've always been rather bad at goodbyes. Especially when it's my friends who are leaving, and not me.

This is the third year now when I've had to say goodbye to friends I've made at IC. I suppose it's my own fault for being here so long, and I suppose I enjoy it on some level, but in the end it is always sad to have your friends moving on around you, and for you to be left alone like the nowhere man at the end of that song by the *Beatles* in *Yellow Submarine*. But I have met and made friends with many people I have felt very strongly for, and it is sadly likely that I will never see many of them again. So to you I would like to say that while I may not be the most honest person about facts, I am honest about feelings, and I can promise categorically that I have never lied

to anyone about how I have felt. If you leave this University thinking I loved you, then I most probably did.

Sorry about this rather depressing turn, but up until now I have been running around wildly trying to get things done, and it was only once I started writing this very column that I realised that this was, as they say, it.

So yes. I realise that this isn't a very terminal *Felix*. No heartfelt goodbyes, and no long winded rants about things that have pissed me off. This is possibly because I'm not easily angered (at least for long), and possibly because I'm too lazy to bother. Aside from all this, I would like to ask all of you who are moving on whether you feel you've made the most of your time here (and this coming from someone who has possibly made too much of his time here). I hope you all feel that strange feeling that I do of joy and sadness combined when you leave knowing (and I realise I sound trite, but I'm really not very poetic) that something wonderful has ended, that will hopefully be replaced with something even better.

I said I wasn't going to say any thank-yous, but I'm having trouble reaching the end without mentioning some of the people who have made this year wonderful, so I will do it with references. The reference doesn't necessarily have to be about you, just as long as you understand...

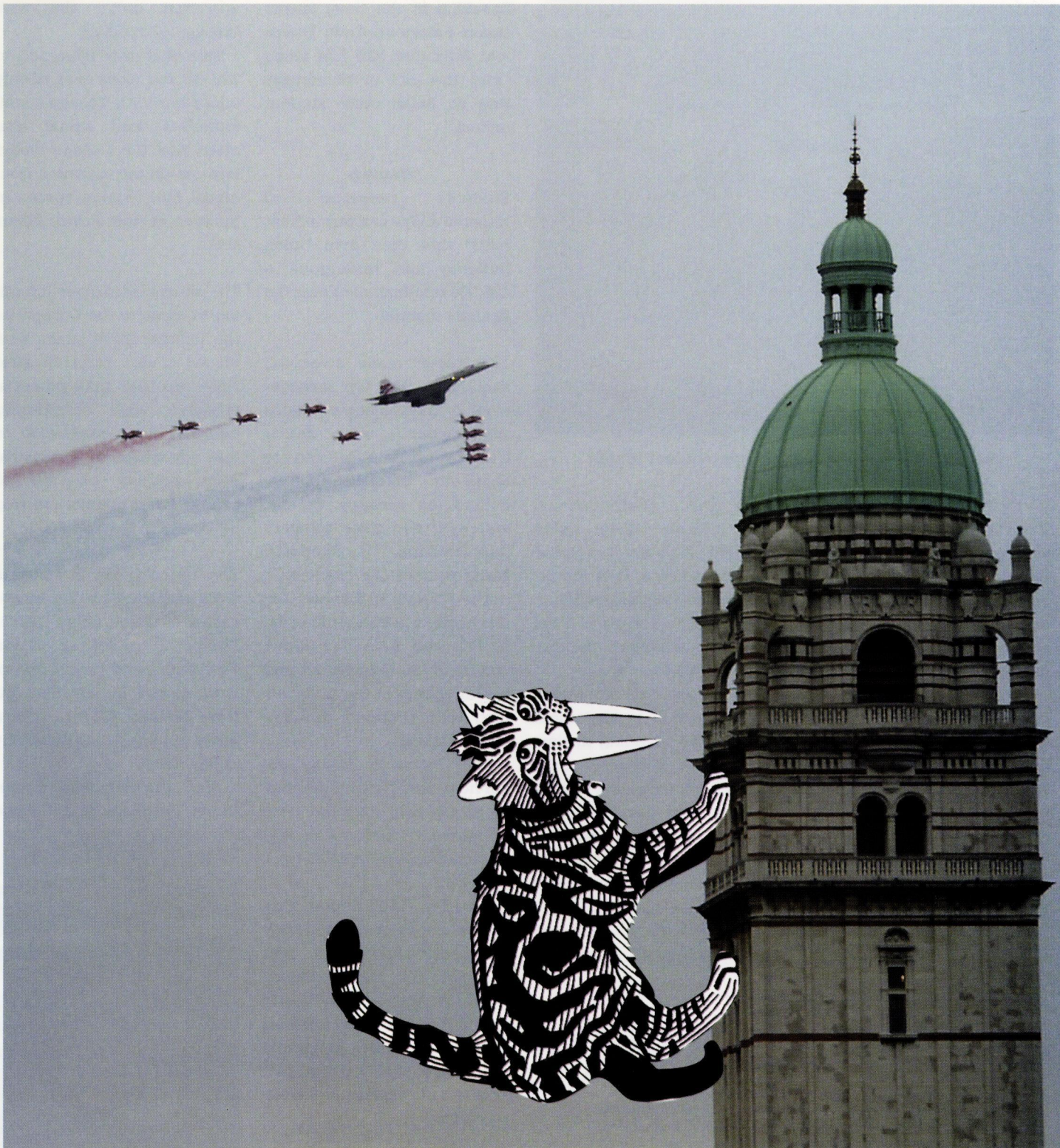
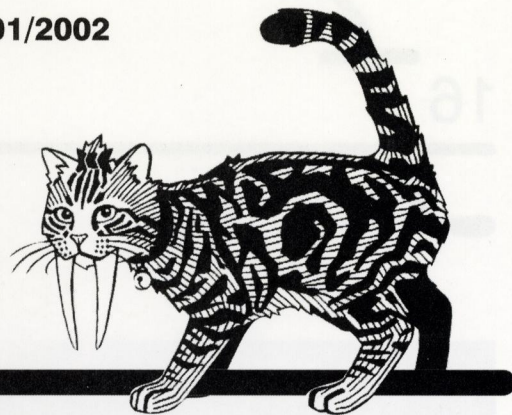
Love to all who get: esquiro!!l, Champagne in the morning, wagas, minkey, bagpuss, Bitchmonkey, so many chickens, Felix sofa chats, lifestyle issues, kissmonster.

Be Seeing You...

This Week	Wednesday	Thursday
Union Events	Cheesy Wotsits While most of us are preparing to go home, a few die-hard alcoholics will still be down the Union doing permanent damage to their livers. <i>Hospital, Until Next Term</i>	Nothing Nothing has ever happened ever on a Thursday. Fridays, as you know, play a large part in my downfall, but Thursdays, nothing. <i>Infinite Emptiness</i>
Student Activities	Last Felix Comes Out Maybe not exciting to you, but this day marks a serious moment of relaxation for me. I will be in the bar if you want to come and say 'hello' and buy me a drink.	Sixth Form Open Day Don't know about this, officially, but am doing a prospectus for it. Probably a fair amount of young people you can save from coming here, if you can be bothered...
At The Movies	Spiderman Go and see it. It's fun, and slightly darker than your average summer blockbuster. Almost gothic, in fact. Mmm, gothic. Reminds me of... Gotham, I suppose.	Baise-Moi Came out a while ago, but annoyed people because the title is rude in French (literally 'kiss me,' but it has 'other' connotations) Violent women galore. Yahoo!
Television & Radio	Simpsons What? You really think I have the time or resources to go through the entire next four months of television and tell you what's on? <i>Sky One, 7pm</i>	Simpsons What? You really think I have the time or resources to go through the entire next four moths of television and tell you what's on? <i>Sky One, 7pm</i>
Gigs & Concerts	Destiny's Child They're survivors, and they're independent women. What more can you ask for? I don't know. Perhaps a nice big car and some cash. <i>Wembley Arena</i>	Primal Scream 'We wanna get high, and we wanna have a good time.' Words that forever echo around my brain in a tempting manner, but never achieving. <i>Shepherd's Bush Empire</i>
The Final Word	Well This is it. Many people read different parts of this organ, but from what I can tell, the section with the highest readership is the diary. So I will assume I have...	Boys ...a captive audience here, and put forward some feelings I've had on this <i>Felix</i> year. Interestingly this is the final piece of writing I will do for anything...

Review of the Year, 2001/2002

felix



That Was The Year



Beit Hall: £17 million of three star student luxury

September

The start of the new College year saw the re-opening of Beit Hall and its East and West basements, after the College and Union refurbishment projects were finally completed during the summer vacation.

The Beit Hall project - intended to provide students with 'three-star accommodation' - was due to be completed a year earlier but was overrun by financial problems. The original contractors hit financial difficulties in June 2000 and went bankrupt later that year. This helped to increase the cost of the project from £12.5m to almost £17m.

The hall was officially reopened on 28 September by Lady Beit, who unveiled a plaque on the East wall of the archway entrance to the Quad. Otto Beit, a direct ancestor of hers, gave College the money for the construction of the original Beit Quadrangle.

There was a mixed reaction when Imperial College Union unveiled its new corporate identity and logo. *Felix* reported that the incoming sabbatical officers had approved the rebranding without consulting the Union Executive.

The brand-new sabbatical team were keen to implement the updated branding in time for the arrival of freshers at the end of September, but after a breakdown in communication between the incoming and outgoing sabbaticals, the new look was chosen and approved by the sabbaticals alone.

While few people objected to the branding itself - estimat-

ed to cost £17,000, with a £5,000 contribution from the Imperial College Trust - many spoke out at what they saw as a breach of democracy. Speaking at the time, former Union President Andy Heeps told *Felix* that ICU had fallen "into the pits of democracy that so befall other student unions."

October

Students returning to Imperial's Wye campus in Kent found that their own Union building had undergone a £20,000 refurbishment over the summer months.

The Rector made sweeping changes in the top management of the College's Estates Department, but senior College officials refused to comment on the motive behind the changes. Estates was split into three separate departments; Property, Maintenance and Projects.

The Director of Estates, Ian Caldwell, was unceremoniously removed from day-to-day control of his department and put in charge of the College's long term property development strategy.

The Centre for Computing Services and parts of Estates were merged into the new department of Information and Communication Technology.

Imperial's RAG Sports Day took place on a sunny Friday afternoon and raised over £1,800 for the homeless charity Shelter. The Sports Day Ball followed later that evening, with donations adding to the £900 that RAG raised during Freshers Week events.

Felix reported that the number of available parking

spaces on the South Kensington campus was due to plummet from 330 to just 150 for the next two years as the Dalby Court car park disappeared under the new College HQ building.

This was later increased to 220, as the move was deeply unpopular with College's staff motorists, and would also mean that the College would lose out on the income it generates from leasing spaces to punters at the Royal Albert Hall.

The number of freshers intending to apply to the College for the October 2002 intake was placed under scrutiny after *Felix* reported that potential students were considering delaying their application to take advantage of the possible reintroduction of student grants for students starting university in October 2003.

The Union's Beit Basements were reopened by the broadcaster and journalist Trevor Philips - a former Union President - and the Bishop of London, the Rt. Rev and Rt. Hon. Richard Chartres, in a glitzy ribbon-cutting ceremony in Beit Quad.

Also present was former Union President and College



RAG Sports Day 2001



Logo: Is ICU an autocratic regime?

That Was 2001/02

Celebrity Andy Heeps, who originally negotiated for the College to hand the Beit basements over to the Union during his time as President in 1997-98.



Ribbon cutting: Beit basements re-open

The Media Centre - housed in the West Basement - was still not completely finished at the time of the official opening, despite the valiant efforts of the project manager, Iain Campbell. Speaking to *Felix*, he said that the Union had "little experience with running projects of this scale and complexity, and consequently the learning curve has been exceedingly steep."

Despite the fact that the ICU Media Group societies were also still awaiting the arrival of some of their brand-new equipment, the basements project was generally acknowledged as a success.

Basics Pizzeria below Southside Hall was replaced by an enlarged Southside shop, with a new fast food servery, a wider range of yummy foodstuffs and extended opening hours.

College decided to close Basics mainly because of the large losses - sometimes in excess of £100,000 - that the outlet had been producing in the past couple of years. Take-aways were apparently more popular than restaurant meals.

The Royal School of Mines Freshers Dinner ended with a small group of drunken students embroiled in a food fight and vomiting in the Senior Common Room.

College officials were unhappy with the situation and questioned whether the Royal School of Mines Union should be allowed to hold social events on College premises in future.

Down in leafy Kent, the Wye College Union Society (WCUS) announced that it was considering plans to move to new premises to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, which comes into effect in 2004.

The Olave building - its current site - would require large scale renovation to comply with the legislation and ensure adequate provision for the disabled, and it was thought that relocating to the nearby ADAS building might prove a more cost-effective solution.

A visit to the Rector's house at 170 Queens Gate by the Chinese Vice President, Hu Jintao, caused commotion on the South Kensington campus.

A group of protesters turned out to draw attention to the cause of those persecuted in China for membership of the spiritual and meditative Falun Gong movement, branded by the Chinese authorities as an 'evil cult'. Police officers kept order at the Falmouth Gate entrance to College, where a group of Chinese students studying in London had also assembled to greet Mr Hu.

November

A charged session of Union Council revealed that Union President, Sen Ganesh, intended to call a referendum on affiliation to the NUS.

Lorne McEwan, former President of the Medics' Union (ICSMU) suggested the radical proposal of creating four new sabbatical positions; one for each of the four College faculties due to come into existence on 1 August 2002.

To meet the costs of the new positions, Mr. McEwan proposed the abolition of the Deputy Presidents for Education and Welfare, Clubs and Societies and also the Felix Editor as sabbatical positions.

Senior College officials told *Felix* that the on-off Southside refurbishment would now definitely take place in late 2003. After five years of planning the College was forced to move the project to the top of its priority list because of concerns that heating, water and ventilation services might fail. There was no word on how College planned to fund the £20 million project, though *Felix* was happy to speculate.

The Royal School of Mines building was evacuated after smoke was discovered in the



RSM goes up in smoke

first floor toilets. The cause of the incident was later discovered to be contractors refurbishing the basement.

An emergency meeting of Union Council was called to discuss restructuring the Union in light of the College's new faculty structure. The Council Chair, Sam Sharpe, was replaced by former Union President, Andy Heeps.

After Mr. Heeps promised to remove one item of clothing per opinion expressed (the Chair is prohibited from expressing bias) there was a productive two hour discussion and a very full flip-chart. A working group was convened to discuss the tedious details.

continued on page 16



Southside: Looking up?

continued from page 15

December

The first round of College-wide web-based Lecturer Evaluation Questionnaires went online. David Francis, the Deputy President for Education and Welfare, promised in a *Felix* article that "this time it's as robust as a tank built by the A-Team."

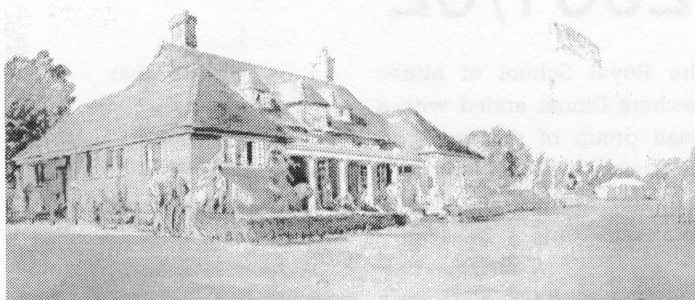
Unfortunately, the scheme failed to run entirely to plan, with security breaches and student apathy ruining the organisers' attempts to get a representative sample of student opinion.

Felix reported that students from the Department of Computing had uncovered security flaws that one "could drive Texas through," casting serious doubts on the validity of any survey carried out using the system. Worse still, the engineers in charge of constructing the system had been advised of these security problems a year ago.

January

A confidential College document confirmed that the Teddington sports ground is likely to be sold during the 2002 summer vacation. Unsurprisingly, most medics are upset by the proposals.

Aside from the question of 70 years of tradition, the major argument against the development of these grounds is the superior quality of the land;



Teddington: likely to be sold during the summer vacation

Teddington is regarded as one of the best sports pitches in the South of England.

Work began on the £27m Tanaka project, which will see the construction of a brand new site for the College's Business School on its Exhibition Road façade. The project was made possible by a donation from IC alumnus Dr. Gary Tanaka.

The second question and answer session by the Rector took place in the Great Hall, where Sir Richard outlined his plans to strengthen the Imperial College brand.

It was revealed that the College had applied for its own degree-awarding powers which, if granted, would see it gain independence from the University of London by 2007.

The Rector also confirmed that Garden Hall will be sold - apparently to provide funding for the Southside refurbishment project.

The Union decided that it couldn't afford to run a Summer Ball without significant financial support from the College. The College had offered to under-write the event, but the Union insisted that the College already owed them the £25,000 that was on offer. The dispute was later resolved by the Deputy Rector, Professor Peter Bearman.

The Summer Ball was revived a week later with a £20,000 gift from the College to plug the projected financial shortfall. A desperate search was undertaken by Union President, Sen Ganesh, to find students willing to take on the task of planning the event.

Many months of wrangling finally came to a head with a five hour meeting of Union Council to ratify proposed changes to the way that the Union represents students to the College. The required majority was easily reached, with David Francis (Deputy President for Education and Welfare) the only person who voted against the new changes being made.

Rumours of a new sabbatical position were reported by *Felix*. The new position - Deputy President for External Sites - would cover all Wye, Silwood and Medical campuses. There were suggestions that this might remove the need for a sabbatical Medic President.

A company headed by the former Tory cabinet minister John Selwyn Gummer offered to upgrade the College's air conditioning system in an effort to help combat its chronic energy shortage problem.

Earthcare Products was reported to have offered to provide an integrated cooling service for £700,000 per year more than the College currently pays.

February

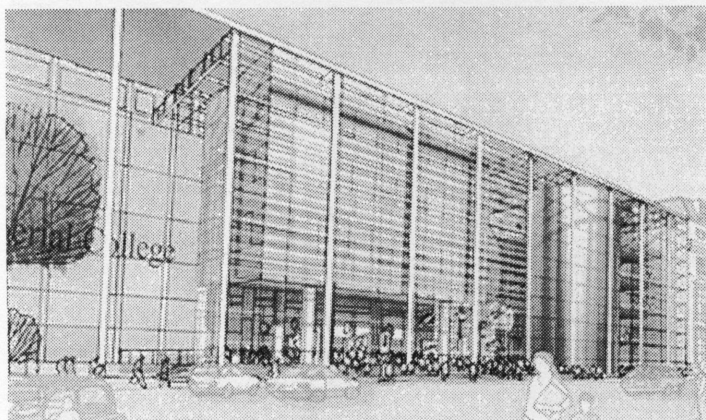
The Higher Education Funding Council for England decided to cut next year's funding to the College despite the fact that the results of this year's research assessment exercise - in which College achieved a score of 6.68 - were higher than last year.

The cut was made because Imperial improved less than other institutions nationally, and so was entitled to a smaller share of the same level of available funds.

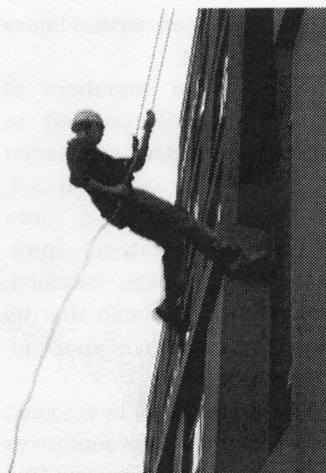
The Union was expected to feel a knock-on effect, particularly as its finances were already under pressure, while it was contractually obliged to increase the salaries of the sabbatical officers by 8% as a result of an increase in the standard PhD grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

The combined effect was expected to result in cuts in funding to clubs and societies, although the Union intended to make up a large proportion of the shortfall by improving the efficiency of its central administration, including the scrapping of the Activities Card for sports clubs.

A new writing challenge was launched by the College with the aim of promoting good writing by its students. 'Writing the Future' was designed to enable undergraduates and postgraduates alike



An artist's impression of the new Tanaka Business School



RAG: Abseiling in Chelsea

to communicate an element of their degree course to a wider audience. It replaces the Rector's 'Communication Competition'.

IndianSoc caused a storm at a packed meeting of Union Council following President, Sen Ganesh's handling of fire regulations at the *East Meets West* event in the Great Hall.

They were eventually told to put their concerns in writing and bring them to the Union Executive committee for consideration and adjudication.

Authorities at Wye commenced negotiations with the NHS in a move that could provide nurses with accommodation at the Kent campus and allow them full access to its bars and sports facilities. Wye is already home to 55 cadets of the Police Training Academy in Ashford.

Felix also reported that the College was in the process of disposing of Coldharbour House, another of its Wye residences, to raise funds.

The eight-day extravaganza known as *RAG Week 2002* raised more than £9,000 for the Shooting Star Childrens' Hospice Appeal. Fundraising events included an International Pub Crawl, the City & Guilds Slave Auction and abseiling down the

Chelsea Design Centre.

Students also took to the streets of the capital in the London Raid, while the week culminated in 'School Uniform Day' in which students paid a small donation to the appeal for the opportunity to spend the day at College in the apparel of their *alma mater*.

Campaigning for the sabbatical elections got underway at the end of February following an extended nomination period, after it was decided that the nomination papers had not been sufficiently well-advertised in the first week.

Hustings brought with them fresh controversy, particularly the session at Wye, which began before all of the candidates had arrived at the Kent campus, having been caught in rush-hour traffic from the capital.

During the South Kensington session, an Emergency meeting of the Union Executive Committee took place near the bar and over-ruled the Returning Officer's decision to allow only written questions.

Those victorious in the polls were the current President, Sen Ganesh, and current *Felix* Editor, Will Dugdale, who both benefited from a new Union rule that allows students to spend a second year as a sabbatical officer.

The other winners were Nona Ahamat (Deputy President for Clubs and Societies), Ram Ramanan (Deputy President for Finance and Services) and Andrew Smith (Deputy President for Education and Welfare).

ABV, the RCSU wine tasting society, had thirty-two bottles of wine stolen from the Union in the latest of a series of thefts and attempted thefts from the Union building. The Union conceded joint responsibility for the theft but agreed to fully

reimburse the club for the loss.

March

The results of the sabbatical elections were shrouded in uncertainty after Medic President, Shazia Munir, made a formal complaint to the Returning Officer, David Francis, regarding the placement and limited number of ballot boxes on the medical campuses and criticised the "lack of notice" given to students wishing to register their vote remotely.

Some suggested that Ms. Munir's enthusiasm for re-running the elections were connected with the narrow defeat of fourth-year medic, Idris Harding, in the vote for Union President, who overwhelmingly beat all other candidates for the position in the counts at the medical campuses.

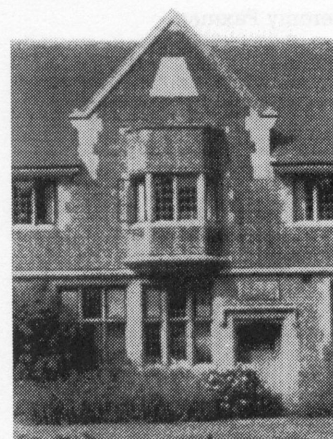
Ms. Munir's objections to the running of the sabbatical elections were not upheld and the Medic President decided not to appeal at the next meeting of Union Council, so the results of the elections were finally declared as valid.

Imperial played host to the second London Alternative Careers fair in March, organised jointly between E-Soc and the LSE Environmental

Initiatives Network.

The fair aimed to show students that there are more options for Imperial graduates other than the usual crop of positions in 'consultancy and financial services' that are advertised prominently in the annual Union Careers Fair.

Imperial took on Somerville



Wye: nurses' home

College, Oxford in the final of *University Challenge*. While the series was recorded in the autumn, the teams were sworn to secrecy over the result until it was televised in March. The Imperial team, who were looking for a record-breaking third win of the competition after claiming the title in both 1996 and 2001, got off to a catastrophic start but ral-

continued on page 18



Uncertainty: the winners celebrate amidst controversy

continued from page 17
 lied to finish with 185 points to
 Somerville's 200.

The performance of the Imperial team - comprising captain Darius Fidgett of computing, Sunil Rao studying information systems, Patrick Hayes of chemistry and Lloyd Kilford studying number theory - was praised by quizmaster Jeremy Paxman.

"To get to the final is a terrific achievement... they were storming back at the end and they almost did it."

Rob Davenport, this year's Deputy President for Clubs and Societies, was elected to the position of ULU's Vice President for Sports with a mandate of 250 votes from an electorate of over 120,000 students. Well done Rob!

The Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, announced that he was to stand down as Non-Executive Chairman of the pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline, to concentrate on his efforts on boosting the profile of the College and the implementation of the new faculty structure due to come into effect in August. Sir Richard had retained his position on the board of GSK when he was appointed Rector of Imperial College in January 2001.

The Union's new constitution was approved by an efficient meeting of Union Council, led

by new chair Andy Heeps, following the resignation of Sam Sharpe. The change was needed to reflect the changes in the structure of the College; namely the abolition of the constituent colleges and their replacement with faculties.

Medical students said an emotional goodbye to Gladys', the much-loved bar at the St. Mary's in Paddington. It was closed after seventy years of use to make way for the construction of a new 'animal house.' So, no change there.

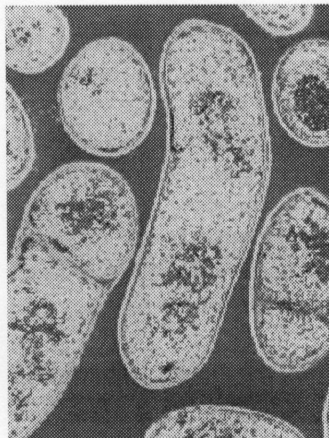
A record number of students turned out to vote in the referendum on Imperial College Union's affiliation to the National Union of Students (NUS). It was the first NUS vote at Imperial in almost six years.

Although the NUS had expected that they would be able to recruit Imperial as a member, their hopes were dashed as 28% of the student body turned out to cast their vote - the largest turnout in living memory for a College election. The 'no' campaign won by 1983 votes to 766.

Campaigning on both sides was fierce as the poll approached. The 'no' campaign had the backing of several former Union Presidents, while the 'yes' campaign imported representatives of the NUS to canvass students on the streets around the South Kensington campus.

The spring session of the web-based Lecturer Evaluation Questionnaire was expected to work far better than the autumn one had, after some "cosmetic changes" had been made to the system, and it had been "road-tested by a few student volunteers."

Similar problems were encountered however, and the web-based LEQ was abandoned once again.



Botulism: busted

April

A security guard in the Blackett Laboratory - home to the Physics Department - was attacked by an intruder brandishing a knife during the Easter vacation in the first serious attack on a member of College security in more than a decade.

The man was challenged by security guard Tom Gamble as he attempted to enter the building, asking to see a particular senior member of staff in the physics department. He described himself as a 'physicist' and wished to tell the staff member of a physical theory he had devised.

He produced the large blade on being challenged, and Mr Gamble was only able to prevent a potentially lethal blow to the neck by blocking the blade with his right hand,

which sustained serious injury in the incident.

When other members of College security arrived to assist, the man was wrestled to the ground and disarmed, but was able to spray those present with surgical spirit. Once he had been subdued, the assailant claimed that he was in possession of an explosive device.

The bomb squad later joined the assembled representatives of the emergency services. The department, Prince Consort Road and the surrounding area were closed off for the rest of the day.

Felix also reported that a number of thefts had been committed in Evelyn Gardens by an individual described as being very tall, having dreadlocks and being of Afro-Caribbean appearance.

May

That the vast majority of Imperial's student population had their heads in a book revising for forthcoming exams was evident at the start of May, when a lead story in *Felix* reported that Union President had injured his finger in "a complex stapling operation in the Union's South Kensington offices." The finger has now made a full recovery.

The £1.5m refurbishment at



Rector: stood down at GSK



Physics department: Scene of violent knife attack

the Charing Cross campus in Hammersmith was completed, and its new bar was opened in the area that had previously been known as the 'airport lounge.'

The new student facilities at the site include a snack shop and seating area, which becomes a dancefloor by night. There is also a gymnasium in the basement.

In a rare act of generosity, West London Magistrates Court granted the bar a late licence on the understanding that Medics work hard, but also 'play hard' too.

Professor Oliver Dolly, a member of staff in the biochemistry department, was placed under investigation over alleged breaches of Government regulations regarding research on dangerous substances.

It had been claimed that Professor Dolly failed to notify the Health and Safety Executive before beginning work on a potentially lethal class 2 strain of genetically-modified botulism.

Felix reported that a junior researcher who raised the question of HSE authorisation was immediately fired by Professor Dolly. College authorities were notified and he was escorted from his office by security officers.

A man was arrested under suspicion of theft in the vicinity of Beit Hall when he was apprehended with several items of stolen electronics in his possession.

The man - who was on bail at the time of his arrest - was known to both security and the police, and had previously assaulted some of the College's security officers.

Felix revealed that College authorities had approved plans to sell Clayponds hall of residence in the summer of

2003 for an estimated £8m, raising doubts about the College's ability to meet its guarantee of providing accommodation to all first-year undergraduates.

The sale of Clayponds - situated in Ealing and housing 332 students, mostly first year overseas postgraduates - would coincide with planned refurbishments to both Southside and Bernard Sunley halls, meaning that College would have to find an extra 330 bedspaces just to keep its guarantee to freshers.

An angry meeting of the Union Executive Committee established that students had not been consulted regarding the proposed sell-off. Senior College officials tried to portray the decision as "cock-up, not conspiracy," and agreed that the student body should have been informed of the plans in advance.

Concerns over student accommodation deepened when the sale of Clayponds was confirmed. It was also revealed that the College had insufficient cash to fund the planned refurbishment of the Southside halls, yet was still intent on building a new £12.7m headquarters building on the South Kensington campus.

An interim balance sheet approved by College Council showed that £30m was expected to be raised through the sale of student residences, yet only £8m was to be ploughed into residences refurbishment with the rest being diverted into the new HQ project and sports hall redevelopment. The possibility of privatising Southside halls was raised as a possible solution to the funding crisis.

Meanwhile, proposals to allow students to stay in Linstead, Southside and Weeks halls over the Easter vacation were approved in

response to complaints from students and their parents inconvenienced by having to move out at the end of the spring term and then move back shortly before the onset of the summer exams.

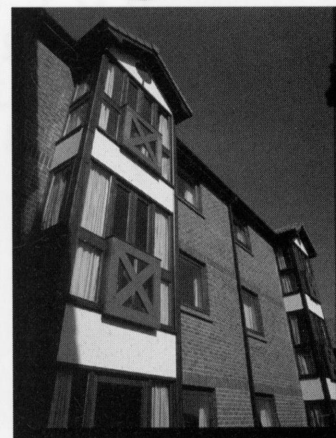
In an interview with the *Financial Times*, the Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, was alleged to have called for the creation of a group of elite universities rivalling the American 'Ivy League' to place Britain at the forefront of science education.

Sir Richard - a member of the Government's Council for Science and Technology and the new Science Policy Strategy Board of the Department of Trade and Industry - called for the establishment of around twelve universities that would be able to charge students tuition fees at market rates. These could exceed £10,000 each year, potentially enabling scientific institutions to attract the best students and research staff by offering the "best conditions in the world."

His words were seen as a warning to Tony Blair, who recently told the Royal Society that he wanted to make the UK "one of the best places in the world to do science."



Summer Ball revellers



Clayponds: going in 2003?

June

Firefighters were called to the Charing Cross campus over the Golden Jubilee Bank Holiday when an electrical fault caused a generator to spill diesel oil within the hospital. Early reports claimed that around ten thousand litres of oil had escaped, but the spillage in fact turned out to be only a minor one with no injuries and no detrimental effect either on patients in the hospital or their care.

Despite having been cancelled and then reinstated earlier in the year, the Summer Ball went off well with live performances from Cornershop, the James Taylor Quartet and Mos Eisley, along with sets from the ICU Big Band, and Jazz and Rock societies.

While the event itself was successful, low ticket sales mean that the event is unlikely to break even. However, a meeting of the Union Council was given assurances that the event will take place next year, probably with funding from College in a similar vein to this year's £20,000 gift.

The Deputy President for Education & Welfare, David Francis, was given a written warning by the Union President after an LEQ-related complaint was upheld.

Etienne and John S

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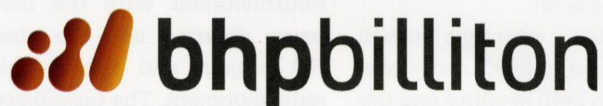
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WE ARE RECRUITING GRADUATES IN ALL OUR LOCATIONS – BUT WE ONLY HIRE THE BEST!
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Friday	Next Week	July	August	September
End Of Year Carnage If you haven't pulled all year, (and you know who you are) then this is your last chance. Get out there and find your soul mate. It'll be fun. <i>Union, All Night</i>	You'll Be Lucky We're all going home. You can look after yourselves. In fact you can come to Beit Quad and bask in the fact that there won't be people playing football, badly.	More Of The Same Again, I doubt that much will be occurring. It is the holidays, you know, and postgrads don't count. Yah Boo! The bars will be open, though. I hope.	Even I Won't Be Here Hopefully I will have done everything that needs to be done, so will be taking all my holiday for the year over this month. I might be in America. Now you know.	Only A Term To Go You must be so desperate to get back to College, if you've read this far. Or maybe you've got a job, and are dying to be young again. Sorry, but you're not. Haha.
Who Knows? There is so much potential for Fridays. They have enormous spiritual power, and frankly they scare me. I think I might hide in my room watching Bagpuss.	Alternative Music Not the types to give up easily, these chaps and chappettes will continue to make your eardrums bleed. Go along for obscure noises. <i>dBs, 5pm</i>	My Birthday Come along to the bar. Again. I will be celebrating my recent arrival into a year that has more factors than I've ever had before. Very exciting, I can tell you.	My Mother's Birthday She'll be somewhere very nice, but it's a surprise, and as there's a slim chance she might read this, I won't tell you where. But she'll like it, oh yes she will.	SAD I hate September. I always feel like it's winter again by now, which really puts a damper on my summers. Oh well, see you in a couple of weeks.
Episode II How arrogant just to name a film 'episode ii'. In order to bring it down to size, I will from now on refer to it in lower case letters. Because it's pretty dodgy.	Resident Evil Yay. A film that is merely about death and isn't scared to admit it. Busty women, big guns, and less plot than Tomb Raider. No? Well I'll watch it....	Van Wilder According to the Telly, this is only National Lampoon status because they paid a large wodge of cash to refer to itself as such. Pretty scary.	Snow Dogs I don't know. Something about a dentist and some dogs. Sounds disgusting to me, but your little brother/sister might like it, so perhaps go with them.	Spirit Ooh erry erry er. I really can't think of anything worse. Horse related Western? Animated? Pass me a bucket, and call me Shirley, then bite my bottom.
Simpsons What? You really think I have the time or resources to go through the entire next four moths of television and tell you what's on? <i>Sky One, 7pm</i>	Simpsons What? You really think I have the time or resources to go through the entire next four moths of television and tell you what's on? <i>Sky One, 7pm</i>	Simpsons What? You really think I have the time or resources to go through the entire next four moths of television and tell you what's on? <i>Sky One, 7pm</i>	Simpsons What? You really think I have the time or resources to go through the entire next four moths of television and tell you what's on? <i>Sky One, 7pm</i>	Simpsons What? You really think I have the time or resources to go through the entire next four moths of television and tell you what's on? <i>Sky One, 7pm</i>
Secret Affair In my opinion they never last. But then what do I know? Nothing, that's what, and I'm proud. But if you like these people, go see them. Simple, eh? <i>Shepherd's Bush Empire</i>	Glastonbury It's big and muddy, with lots of stoned people, and some relatively decent bands, sometimes. I would go if I wasn't allergic to mud. <i>Somerset, The Weekend</i>	Erm... You must realise that without serious research of the variety that I don't have time for, the chances of anything sensible being written in here is minimal.	...Therefore I'm just going to talk tosh to fill up these spaces, and reminisce on the good old days when <i>Felix</i> was just a young kitten, and not the sabre-toothed...	...Pussy I present for your delectation today. So enjoy it, my friends. Make the most of it, for one day it will be old and wrinkled, and will be of no use to anyone. No, not even me.
And ...this school year, and as such I mean to finish it in the same way as I started it. No, not with that first faltering issue of <i>Felix</i> that started all this nonsense, but...	Girls ...a piece of writing called the handbook I did even before that. I hope some of you read it, and if you did, you may recognise what I have to say to you, and if...	It's ...you're the emotional type, (for while this is only a student newspaper, it has actually been my life for a year) it may in fact bring a small tear to your eye, as you...	Been ...think of me sitting here wondering if this year has just been a waste of time, or whether I have brought some joy to some of you. But enough of this...	Emotional ...self indulgence. So maybe you'll marry, maybe you won't. Maybe you'll have children, and maybe you won't. But trust me on the sunscreen...

Mmmmmmmmusic. Great. It's been fun, but after 29 issues, (well, 28 really, after last week's 4-page spectacular) it's time to relinquish my automatic right to pocket any CD that finds its way into the Felix office. I'm off to take over as manager of our fantastic student radio station, to which I'm sure you are already a regular listener, and to do some general writing and editing stuff for this wonderful publication. I'm pleased to announce that Sajini Wijetilleka is brave/stupid enough to be taking over from me next year.

Without my talented, dedicated team of reviewers, there would, I think, be two possibilities: either I would spend my entire life in the West basement of Beit Quad, slowly forgetting what natural light really looks like, or there would simply be no music pages. So, thanks to the following people for all their hard work in writing reviews:

Patrick, Alex, Jess, Sajini, Derek, Oscar, Chris, Ben, Toby G, Libby, Robert, Tom X, Jamie, François, Tank, Warul, Robin, Toby B, Kunal, Marcus, Nick, Koram, Tommy Mack, Tom B, Russ, Alexis, Jon, Jeannette, Tom R, Rob, Vic, Komal, Leyla, Bharat, Jo, Johnny, Dominic, Linus, Ken, Daniel, Elena and, last but by no means least, Raoul Duke and Dr Gonzo.

Dave

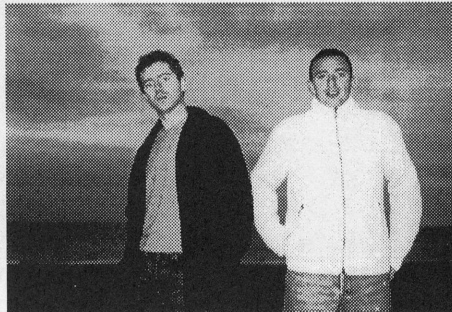
DJ SHADOW COMPETITION



Thanks to everyone who entered our recent DJ Shadow competition.

Congratulations to the following people, each of whom wins an exclusive DJ Shadow mix CD:

Chris Bates (Maths II)
Robin Clark (Medicine IV)
Hannah Johnson (Bio. Sci. PG)
Chris Pollock (Physics I)
Becky Wilson (Bio. Sci. PG)



Layo & Bushwacka Night Works

Out Monday 1 July on XL recordings

These two first began working together in the mid-nineties, when drum 'n' bass was taking over the hardcore scene and the new tech-house and breakbeat styles were emerging from the clubs. Both from London, they began to play together more often and released an album on End recordings called *Low Life*.

Since then, they've got bigger and bigger, mixing together techno, electro and, in their words, "proper tunes". They have even been known to turn down the opportunity to play at a club unless offered a full five-hour set to showcase their talents.

On their second album *Night Works*, Layo and Bushwacka broaden their horizons with more diverse tunes and samples. It begins with an intro called *Vinyl* and then bursts into *Ladies And Gentlemen*, a tune in a similar style to the music of DJ Shadow.

The album drifts on brilliantly to *We Met Last Night*, a chilling yet brilliant electro tune, using brilliant samples and a good bass line to make you stand up and listen. *Sleepy Language*, as the title suggests, lulls you into a relaxed state of consciousness with its fading electronic noises.

Eventually, we reach their anthem *Love Story*, previously known as *For The Fans*, which was renamed by their fans in Argentina who sit down rather than dance through the track as a mark of respect for its majesty.

Thought of by some as the most eagerly anticipated dance album of the year, *Night Works* is definitely a must for those into dance. Have it!



Toby B



Gary Numan Exposure

Out now on Universal records

Whilst most music stars have a fall from grace taking in drink, drugs, "artistic differences" and perhaps even an untimely death, Gary Numan uniquely made an appearance on *It's A Celebrity Knockout* as part of his downward trajectory.

But that was the lowest point in his career, and it really is cruel of me to mention it. However, the release of Armand van Helden's *Koochy*, The Sugababes' *Freak Like Me* and the Basement Jaxx's *Where's your Head At?*, all of which sampled his work, have helped bring Gary Numan back into the public consciousness.

If, for any reason, you place Numan in the "eighties relic" bracket, then now would be a good time to reshape your opinions. It is no secret that he has influenced artists as diverse as Afrika Bambaataa, Marilyn Manson and a whole shipload of DJs. He is a pioneer of electronic music. Whilst Kraftwerk may have given synthesised sounds a brain, it was Numan who gave them spirit.

Listening to tracks such as *Are 'Friends' Electric?*, *Cars* and *M.E.*, it's easy to see that a million and one bands have pilfered samples from Numan's work. Through the album, we get to hear how the infective electro-pop sound of *Cars* has developed into his dark, atmospheric and brooding recent work, such as *My Jesus*.

Ultimately, with this album, you get to be a sightseer visiting Gary Numan's work - you check out the salient tracks without having to bother with the surroundings. For the uninitiated, this is an ideal introduction to his music.



Patrick



Cee-Lo Cee-Lo Green...

Out now on Arista records

[Full title: *Cee-Lo Green And His Perfect Imperfections*]

It just goes to show that you can never judge an album by its cover - Cee-Lo looks nothing less than a five-star hip-hop fool on the front of his debut album, with his flowing locks and top hat.

And you can never judge an artist by his lyrics. A preliminary glance at the inlay yielded such gems as "Let me be, set me free, free, super chicken". Indeed, nor should you judge an artist by the first tune on his album - *Bad Mutha* sounds totally silly, and about as "bad" as an episode of *Jackanory*. Because, bizarrely, it does get better.

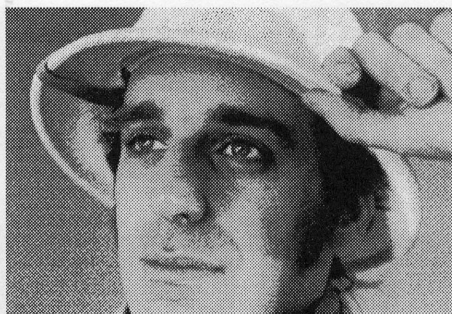
Cee-Lo was once a coveted rapper with Outkast, but has since gone solo, peddling a much more chilled brand of hip-hop on this, his long-awaited debut. About halfway through the album, things get really interesting, because the melodies become enjoyable and the lyrics stop being so stupid. *One For The Road* has a suitably funky trumpet line, and *Spend The Night In Your Mind* blends what is almost a choir of voices together very nicely.

His rapping and singing fit together well, even if it all sounds a little more tame than the efforts of some of the best hip-hop lyricists out there at the moment. Also featured are the now commonplace random interludes, which are strangely entertaining, where Cee-Lo talks with his homeboys about how he's the true lyrical master, or whatever.

So, not one to bang your head or shake your fist to, but maybe you could nod a little and hum along.



Derek



Gonzales Presidential Suite

Out now on Kitty Yo records

Hmm... what an odd little album. Quite possibly the most inexplicable thing I've ever heard, but I'll give it a go anyway.

Presidential Suite contains a mysterious selection of musical styles, together with rather a lot of silliness, the closest comparison, perhaps, being with the Beastie Boys.

Chilly Gonzo (I kid you not, that's really what he calls himself) raps over quirky synth tunes. Musically, it's not particularly good, but they clearly aren't taking themselves seriously anyway. The single *Take Me To Broadway* is a good example - if you appreciated that, then you won't be going far wrong with the album.

However, things get a whole lot sillier. As if from nowhere, the album suddenly goes into a slow serenade, with haunting (female) lyrics, silly keyboards, the odd cameo appearance from Chilly, and, best of all, synthesized drum sounds all round. An interlude of haunted house music, and then back to "normal" for a bit.

Now, I never expected to own a rap album containing a slow waltz. Not many people would. Chilly demonstrates that he can impersonate Matt Munroe, (not that you asked, mind) and you can almost see the mirror ball.

As the album draws to a close, the random silliness shows no sign of abating (wasn't that a hint of *In The Hall Of The Mountain King*?).

Presidential Suite will stretch most people's taste for the bizarre to its limit. You'll either think that it's great in its own unique way, as I do, or that it's just crap.



Jamie



FC Kahuna Machine Says Yes

Out now on City Rockers

It would be sloppy and, surely, facile to begin a review of FC Kahuna by comparing them to the Chemical Brothers. However, by saying that they are very much like the Chemical Brothers does make my job a whole lot easier.

FC Kahuna's debut album exhibits the panache, the versatility and the flair that we might associate with a Chemical Brothers album, whilst showcasing what is distinctively their own stylistic direction. In many ways, FC Kahuna's brand of music is more intimate than that of their counterparts: where others choose grand explosions of sound and soaring intensity, FC Kahuna favour subtle inflections, and, on the more dancefloor-friendly tracks, sheer rhythmic muscle.

This album is glorious, and this is due in part to the great guest vocalists that have been enlisted. Gruff Rhys, for example, makes his contribution in the form of the beautiful opening track *Fear Of Guitars*, and Hafdis Huld's vocals are deftly twisted into the head-scrambling title track *Machine Says Yes*.

Now, if you are still unconvinced that this album is worth your attention, then just get a listen to *Nothing Is Wrong* and *North Pole Transmission*. Because between these extremes, all of the other tracks lie. My personal favourite *Nothing Is Wrong* captures the experience of a pill-fuelled night out, as frantic and compulsive partying descends into claustrophobic paranoia.

Hopefully, FC Kahuna will go on to have the success and the international acclaim that the Chemical Brothers now enjoy. Undoubtedly, they deserve it.



Patrick



LIVE: System Of A Down + The Dillinger Escape Plan @ Brixton Academy

This is unquestionably the hottest rock ticket in town. Three shows at the 5,000-capacity Academy, all sold out about four months in advance, together with a host of other venues sold out across the nation, would suggest that anticipation is running a little high.

The Dillinger Escape Plan (pic above) are the only rock band capable, and insane, enough to cover Aphex Twin and make it sound better than the original. On record, they are an utterly blistering fusion of extreme metal, free jazz and punk rock. Unbelievably, when they play live, they really pull it off, making everything faster, louder, phatter and heavier.

Stage antics are at a maximum as they go apeshit, hurling themselves off speaker stacks and ploughing into the crowd and each other. Unfortunately, they go down like a turd sandwich with much of the audience, although the ten-or-so one-man moshpits (mine included) and healthy applause suggest that several of the more enthusiastic onlookers certainly appreciate their efforts.

■■■■■□

Where the Plan are a study in wild chaotic excess, **System Of A Down** are brutally regimented. Each riff is spat out, every polemic lyric barked, crooned, shrieked or gurgled. The opener is perhaps the model SOAD track *Prison Song*, with its chugging guitars, its sudden turn-on-the-spot switches from noise to silence, and, most importantly, its massive catchy chorus that gets everyone jumping.

System ensure that the kids go home tired but ecstatic. They are probably one of the oddest mainstream bands around today, as they fearlessly mix together modern metal and their Armenian folk roots with gleeful abandon. But the important thing is that it works, again and again and again, for each 180 second salvo.

■■■■■

Kunal



LIVE: The Cooper Temple Clause + Biffy Clyro + Oceansize @ Astoria

The first band on were **Oceansize**. Based in Manchester, although apparently from all around the country, they blew everyone away. Completely.

I'm used to walking into gigs slightly late and there being loads of room on the floor, with people sitting down and half-listening to the support - but not today. The Astoria was already totally packed out, with people peering over each other at the stage, listening in awe at the amazing prog-rock with devilish undertones - take Matt Bellamy's guitar playing and the drums from Tool, and you're not far off. Go see them! Now!

■■■■■□

The **Biffy Clyro** set was disappointing. Although the boys themselves were on good form and played right the way through 27, 37, 47 and 57, the sound was shocking. I wanted to hear beautiful rock music again, but the drums and bass were up too high and the vocals were completely screwy, with Simon's mic much louder than anyone else's.

The band (pic above) made a valiant effort to keep it up, but I think we were all secretly glad when their set came to an end.

■■■■□□

Launching straight into *Did You Miss Me?*, **The Cooper Temple Clause** were itching to get on with it, but they were still coherent and composed, and they rocked the joint like they always do. They played every single track from the album except 555-4823. Unfortunately, *Murder Song* was completely desecrated by feedback and interference. Sort it out!

They also previewed a new song, which may or may not have had a name. Absent fans will be glad to know that it was in the same vein as most of the songs on their album - The Coopers have found a niche, and they're sticking to it.

■■■■■□

Jess



LIVE: DJ Shadow @ Astoria

There is no support band to precede one of the year's most eagerly awaited performances by a DJ. There are only funky tunes to greet us before Shadow comes onstage with four turntables and various electronic boxes. Rarely seen live, he shows humbly his joy at being here, thanking his public for spending their time and money on him.

Before beginning his set, Shadow introduces a 12-minute movie directed by a friend, showing on a big screen in the middle of the stage. It shows the extraordinary meeting between jazz drummers and hip-hop DJs from San Francisco, images which, at once, make us aware that rhythm is a major force behind DJ Shadow's music.

Alone, but surrounded by his array of machines, Shadow gives us an original show. It is a DJ set at face value, but the live versions of his tracks make it into a gig. Videos, shown behind him, complement the music perfectly, from accelerated traffic on the Golden Gate bridge to a visit to the record shop on the cover of his debut album *Entroducing*.

But by letting the camera do some of his work for him, DJ Shadow reveals that he is, to an extent, limited by the fact that he plays alone. The excellent sound makes this barely noticeable, but I think that some more musicians would give him the chance to deliver a better performance. Confirmation of this arrives when he plays one of his demos accompanied by a drummer. Here, we really begin to notice the abstract hip-hop that is a real feature of his music.

In spite of the "coldness" that some of Shadow's detractors accuse his tracks of possessing, the man from UNKLE will always be saved by his love of music - the jazz, the hip-hop - and his obsession with rhythm.

An almighty encore provides us with a glimpse inside the new musical drawer in which DJ Shadow's future works are hidden: look out for some outstanding tracks with very very big beats.

DJ Shadow's new album The Private Press is out now on Island / Mo Wax records.



François

OUT THIS WEEK

ALBUM

THE D4 - 6Twenty LP

SINGLES

ALPINESTARS - Carbon Kid

ATHLETE - You Got The Style

AUBURN - Dreams

BASEMENT JAXX - Get Me Off

CURVESIDE - Save Yourself

FANTASTIC SUPER FOOPS - Bilo Boss

BEVERLEY KNIGHT - Gold

MUSE - Dead Star / In Your World

PARSLEY SOUND - Platonic Rate

Singles Roundup

ALPINESTARS feat BRIAN MOLKO - Carbon Kid

I can't decide whether this record really needs Molko's voice, which I feel was purpose built for his own songs and absolutely nothing else. It matters little though, as the Alpinestars conjure up a pleasurable soundscape in this brief big-beat number which bears more than a slight resemblance to early Chemical Brothers work.



Derek

FROU FROU - Breathe In

This is the new musical brainchild of Guy Sigsworth, who has worked with Madonna, Seal and even Bomb The Bass during his (possibly) illustrious career. And this little ballad is actually surprisingly easy to listen to, given the very soppy lyrics. Watch out for more from Frou Frou over the coming months, and if you're feeling bored, check out their excellent website at www.froufrou.net.



Derek

OUT THIS SUMMER

Just to whet your appetite, the following should appear in record shops over the next month or so. Current release dates are in brackets.

ALBUMS

IDLEWILD - Remote Part (8 July)

LAYO & BUSHWACKA - Night Works (1 July)

MORCHEEBA - Charango (1 July)

PAUL OAKENFOLD - Bunkka (24 June)

OASIS - Heathen Chemistry (1 July)

BETH ORTON - Daybreaker (15 July)

THE VINES - Highly Evolved (15 July)

SINGLES

DIRTY VEGAS - Ghosts (22 July)

THE PRODIGY - Baby's Got A Temper (1 July)



INTERVIEW with FC Kahuna

For years, FC Kahuna have stood in the wings and watched the rise and rise of contemporaries such as The Chemical Brothers and Fatboy Slim. But with the release of their debut LP *Machine Says Yes*, they are about to jump boldly into the limelight.

A couple of weeks ago, I met up with Dan Kahuna...

FELIX: So you guys have just finished the debut album, but why did it take over two years to make?

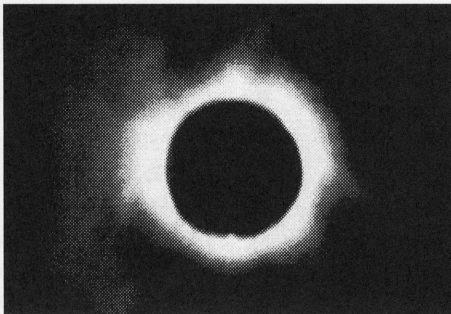
DAN: We knew it was going to have to take a while, as we really didn't want to do what everybody expected of us. That meant that we had to find something a bit different, something unique, so we just had to spend a lot of time experimenting until we found it. We were always trying out new ideas.

The album features some great collaborations, such as Gruff Rhys' vocal on *Fear Of Guitars*. What was it like working with these people?

Everyone seems to moan that it's difficult to get collaborations off the ground and that it's difficult to get people involved, but we didn't have anything like that. We worked with people who we'd already met - it wasn't like a big corporate endeavour.

Any particular memories?

Working with Gruff was brilliant. We had wanted to work with him for ages, and once, when we were in the studio, we saw him there. We were daring each



other to go and ask him, and in the end, Jon went over and Gruff was like "Yeah, 'course. Cool". He later came into the studio with us and started singing this sea shanty - it was mental - singing things like: [imitates Gruff] "I got fishy, fishy fingers pointing at me" and "bread crumb hands are strangling me". Jon and I sat there and got steadily more and more stoned in the studio. We thought it was hilarious and so we weren't being that constructive as to whether he was going overboard or not. The next day, Gruff rang us up and said: "Hello, er, I think I may have gone a little bit over the top".

Was your long-standing residency at Headstart a testing ground for the tracks on the album?

Before Headstart, we had been running the Big Kahuna Burger night in bars and basements, with crap sound systems. When we went to Headstart, it was this big warehousey place with a half-decent sound system - a complete change. Playing there really nurtured our appreciation of space.

Lastly, you and Jon have been working together for seven years. What has it been like?

It's been good. It's had its ups and downs - it can get a bit annoying sitting in the same room, year after year, with the same ugly bloke. No, he's not a bad bloke... Ultimately, we've done some good things and we've enjoyed ourselves, and we've been to some great places. What more would you need?



Bridge & Tunnel, Old Street

Situated within ten minutes' walk of Old Street tube station, this new DJ bar is a good place to head to on a Monday night, should you feel like continuing your weekend.

Unfortunately, the opening night was full of annoying media types, so it is difficult to say much about the people who go there.

Regardless of the clientele, the atmosphere of the place was impressive, created by great DJs playing the tunes they want to play, and by the informal, meandering layout of the newly designed venue.

The Bridge and Tunnel has two floors - the basement and ground level. The basement has an old school-style sound system and a small dance floor, which gives the place a back-in-the-day feel. The music in the basement depends on the night you go; we were lucky enough to be treated to an excellent mixture of breakbeat and deep house.

The ground floor is more like a normal bar, with nice lighting, a long bar and a great seating area - brilliant to just laze around and chat while listening to DJs mixing it up in the background. James Lavelle and Ross Allen were present on the opening night, but on an ordinary Monday the Bridge and Tunnel's residency is held by Ross Allen and Tony Farsides.

The one major drawback about this place is its location - were it in South Ken, it would be continuously packed with Imperial students. But as the Bridge and Tunnel is situated in Old Street, the handy tube is needed, which could be a bit too much hassle for a night out. Despite this, it is well worth a visit.

Patrick



Toby B



Editorial

"a film by Cédric Kahn"

Q. What happens when you cross a spider with a human?

A. Don't be stupid! You can't cross with a scalar.

Spider-man has broken virtually every box-office record. In the US, it has had the biggest opening day ever, biggest single day ever, and biggest week ever. It has been the fastest film to \$100 million (in just three days) and it has been hugely successful since. This should not however be your reason for seeing it. I like everybody else felt almost forced to see *Titanic* (1997) and that turned out to be a three-hour long insult.

Spider-man will overshadow everything else in the next couple of weeks but if you can, find *Roberto Succo* (pictured). Based on the story of one of France's most notorious and vicious serial killers, Succo stalked the south of France during the early eighties, randomly killing anybody that stood in his way. Cédric Kahn's film is made in a documentary style that disturbs in its brutal honesty. He presents the facts of the case without making any attempt to glamourise the motives and actions of the criminal in the same way other based-on-real-life movies like *Goodfellas* (1990) do. Succo is disturbing because he fits no stereotypes and, similarly, to Joe Pesci's Tommy DeVito is highly unpredictable and remorseless. The difference between Tommy DeVito and Roberto Succo is that outside of being a psychopath Succo is one of us. To check where Roberto Succo or other films are being shown go to the website www.scoot.com.

Back to *Spider-man*. You might have heard about all the continuity errors in the film. Despite all their efforts to digitally remove the twin towers from the skyline in the movie, there is one instance in which they are visible. So Ron Fatkinson spotter's badge for anybody getting that. I shit you not.

This is the final *Félix* of the year and I will no longer be editorialising *Film* next year. In fact, I hope I won't be at Imperial next year. So shout outs to the following: Cromwell firm, Physics firm (they're 2rude2B2ru), the rm19 syndicate, the family, film reviewers, anybody who knows me. Special thanks to will who took a gamble which I hope has paid off. So let's hear it for the master of ceremonies, MC Joka 2K2, because this is the end so I'll finish like I started... Bam.

Darius



Spider-man

in cinemas nationwide...now

At the screening I attended, the young boy sitting next to me could hardly sit still as the opening credits rolled. And by the end of Sam Raimi's take on everyone's favourite human-arachnid, it was difficult to tell who had the biggest, stupidest grin on his face, him or me.

A stoic, chin-stroking seriousness is the normal demeanour required of any self-respecting critic at these screenings, but from the moment a freshly bitten Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) awakes to find himself the bemused owner of big biceps and rock-hard pecs, my Cheshire grin appeared. It barely faded for the remainder of the film.

I'm sure the story is familiar to you: boy gets bitten by genetically modified spider, boy finds himself in possession of fantastic superpowers, boy rids world of evil green baddie. But Raimi, along with a fabulous leading cast, makes things far less black and white than that.

A few people may have raised eyebrows at the choice of Tobey Maguire, but his fraught, troubled take on Spidey fits so well. From the amusing boyish delight Parker takes in his new-found abilities, to the final acceptance of his responsibilities, Maguire is spot on. So too is Willem Dafoe, as the truly unsettling bi-polar Norman Osborn, desperately clinging on to his corporate empire, whilst battling to suppress his evil alter ego, the Green Goblin.

After initially being content to earn a few quid from back-street wrestling he eventually becomes more responsible with his powers, pulling babies from burning buildings etc.. But, at the same time, he has to contend with a suspicious newspaper magnate bad-mouthing his every move. And if that wasn't enough, he has his love, Mary Jane, stolen by his best friend.

In direct contrast to *Episode 2*, the story in *Spider-man* more than holds up and provides an excellent setting for the lead characters to fight it out. It is this that sets the film apart from its contemporaries. The CGI-fuelled action sequences are exhilarating and there lots of laughs to be had, but the great characters and story make it all the more enjoyable.



Adam Joyce

Hay Book Festival

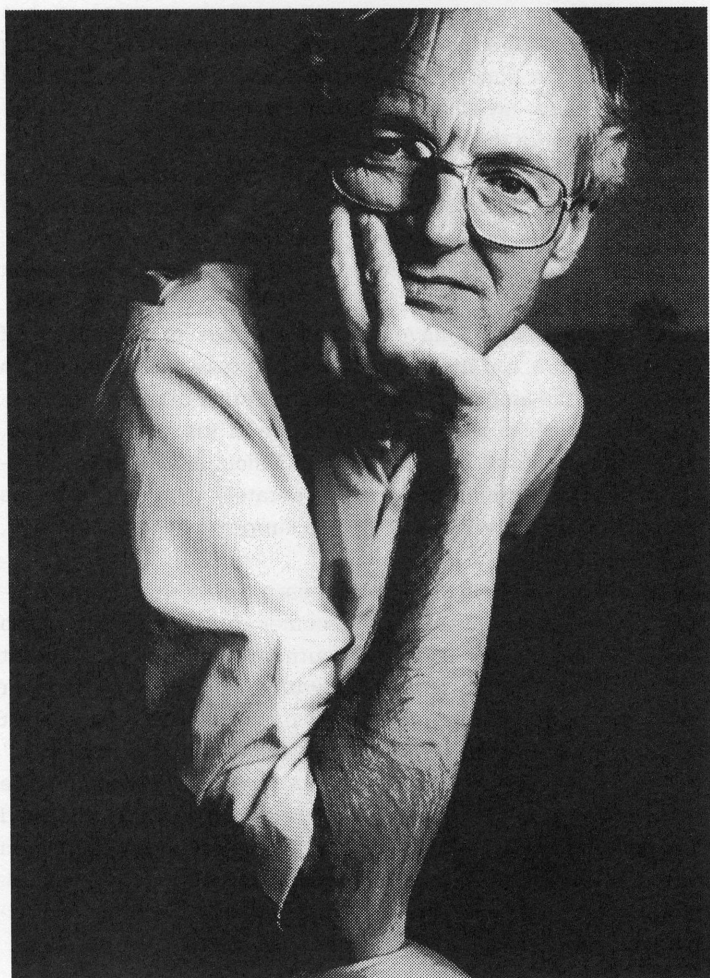
It seems that most of the nation have given themselves over to some form of patriotic fervour, either sporting or royalist, but here in a small Welsh town just north of the Black mountains, another form of passion is in the ascendant. In Hay-on-Wye the crowds come to worship at literary shrines. The week-long Hay Festival programme includes an international list of writers, from star names to new voices promoting their first novels.

Having unpacked at a hotel in Bredwardine, a few miles from the festival site and the final home of the famous diarist Kilvert, I make my way into Hay on Saturday evening for my first festival event. This is a poetry reading by Linton Kwesi Johnson, for 30 years a champion of the Afro-Caribbean community, a second generation member of an immigrant family; the "rebel generation," as he calls it. He is reading from a new volume of selected verse which spans the whole of his writing career, *Me Revalueshannary Fren* published by Penguin Modern Classics [paperback, £6.99]. LKJ comes from the oral tradition of Jamaican poetry. The printed verse is written in phonetic English. The voice and the rhythm rise clearly from the page, but nothing equals the power of live delivery. LKJ holds the book before him, checks the opening line, but never looks down again as he recites directly to the middle of the marquee. The poetry lives in the performance. "No applause between poems please. I'm as vain as the next man, but I've got a lot I want to

read this evening", and so we hear selections from his Seventies, Eighties and Nineties verse. Much of this poetry reflects the times in which it was written and LKJ sets the context for each poem, although this isn't really necessary to appreciate the power and subtlety of the message. My main misgivings are that the audience are 99% white, (100% Guardian readers I imagine) and there is a faint smell of cultural tourism here; from the nods and cheers you might have thought some members were tapping into a wealth of shared experience in poverty, prejudice and oppression. LKJ is in command though. He controls the show effortlessly and leaves the crowd wanting more.

Michael Frayn, former journalist, now playwright, novelist and translator, is another author who knows how to entertain a crowd. On Sunday, as the audience begins to wilt in the stifling heat of the 'Orange Word' marquee, Frayn gives an inspiring talk on the nature of childhood memories; how the seemingly unrelated fragments that we tend to recollect without any sense of chronology in fact hold the key to much of our early development and our changing perceptions of the world. In his latest novel *Spies*, [Faber, 2002, hardback £14.99] Frayn uses memories of his own childhood in the suburbs of south London during the second world war, (which he recalls as a big adventure, with no sense of the danger involved) as the starting point for a story which demonstrates how children exercise their imaginations to try and make sense of the world, which during wartime seems even more skewed and perplexing than normal. There are two main characters in *Spies*, Stephen and Keith, both eleven year old schoolboys. The narrative is from Stephen's point of view, the poorer of the two friends. He attends the state school, has fewer toys and competes with his older brother for his parents' attention, but he is clearly part of a loving family unit although he may feel envious of Keith; an only child destined for prep school, with a room full of pristine possessions. Keith's father however is a monster and his treatment of his family is horribly abusive. The main plot of the novel centres on Keith's wild assertion that his mother is really a German spy. The boys begin to follow her about the neighbourhood, but their prying accidentally uncovers a real mystery, with calamitous consequences. Frayn is wholly successful in seeing events through a child's eyes, maintaining the fine balance between the comedy of their misinterpretation of the adult world, and the tragedy that their games bring about. This achievement is recognised at Hay with a Bollinger award; a case of vintage champagne and a pig named in his honour, (it isn't made clear if the pig is to called 'Michael' or 'Spies').

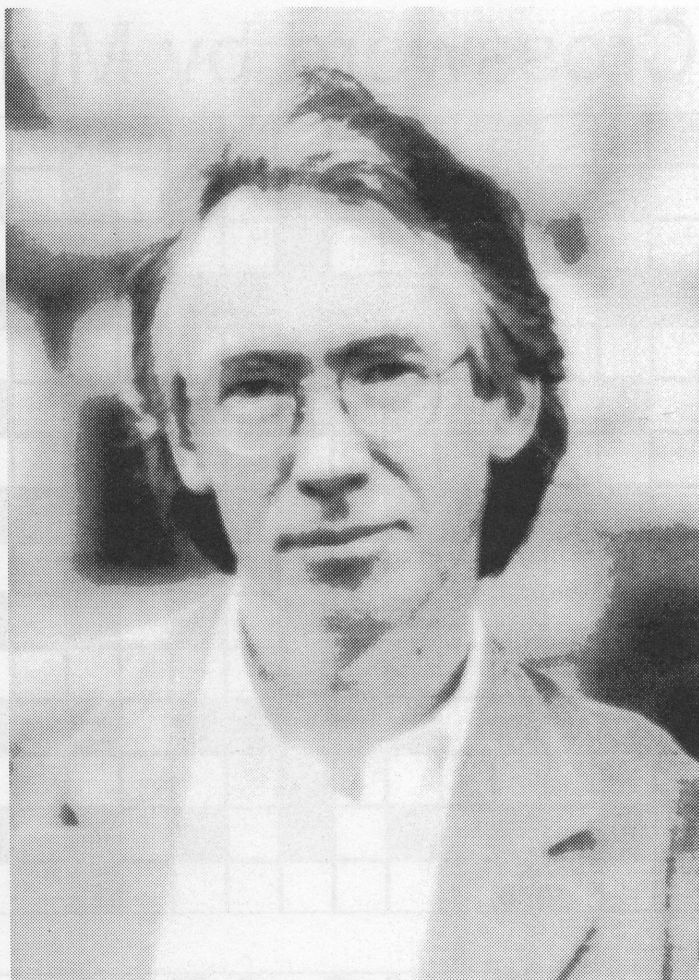
On Monday the fine weather finally breaks, which seems appropriate as Joanne Harris is appearing to talk about the flood plagued island community in her new novel *Coastliners* [Doubleday, 2002, hardback £12.99]. The PA system is also playing up, but Harris politely declines when her interviewer suggests they share the microphone attached to her ample bosom. At this point it looks as if the session might quickly degenerate into farce, but order is restored and Harris talks on a wide variety of topics such as finding your true authorial voice, (she was writing for more than a decade, experimenting with gothic



Michael Frayn

romances before the huge success of *Chocolat*), the importance of food, (she is currently writing a cookery book based on the recipes in *Chocolat*, *Blackberry Wine* and *Five Quarters of the Orange*) and dealing with Hollywood, (some writers may complain about the film treatments of their books, but she hasn't heard of anyone giving back the money). The film option to *Coastliners* has already been sold and this time she is writing the screenplay herself. The novel is her most ambitious work to date, portraying two rival communities fighting to survive on an inhospitable island on the French Atlantic coast. The main character in this drama is Mado, who has returned to the island after ten years. When her parents separated, she lived with her mother in Paris, gradually building a reputation as a painter. Following her mother's death, she returns to the island to seek a reconciliation with her father, a withdrawn, silent man, who was once the island's main boat builder. The local population has remained fairly static in the years since Mado left, but there is an important new arrival from Ireland, the enigmatic Flynn. Employing a number of devices, Flynn manages to manipulate the inhabitants, and by persuading them to construct sea defences, brings prosperity to the poorer side of the island. Mado is drawn into his scheming, but only gradually does she become aware of the true nature of his designs. There are many twists towards the end of the book, but as Harris says, she is essentially an optimist, so you can be assured that something positive will be salvaged from what appear to be terrible odds. She is certainly a prolific writer, with the first draft of her next novel already completed. It is set in a seventeenth century French convent, where for political reasons an eleven year old girl has been appointed head. Later on Monday the storms have passed and William Boyd takes the stage in the 'Orange Word' marquee. Boyd is a different sort of celebrity; he seems to have a rather breathless tribe of groupies in his wake. He's also saddled with John Walsh as interviewer, a man with a huge ego who overplays his "good mates with the author" card. In earlier books Boyd has attempted fictional memoirs (*The New Confessions*) and a celebrated hoax biography (*Nat Tate*). His new book *Any Human Heart*, [Hamish Hamilton, 2002, hardback £17.99] is a similar conceit, being the intimate journals of another fictional character, Logan Mountstuart. He claims that the diary form gives the novel an immediacy without the commentary of autobiography such as "if I had only known then that ...". In fact what these faux diaries lack is the mass of undirected, inconsequential and mundane events of a real life. Each section recorded here reaches a natural climax, like a well structured novel and it is a much better book because the real author is unable to hide his craftsmanship.

Boyd says that he promised himself never to revisit the territory of public school life, but if Mountstuart was to follow the traditional path of the early twentieth century writer then this was one of the obligatory rites of passage, together with a mediocre student career at Oxford and the early attempts to establish himself as a writer in London. Mountstuart has two great friends from school, Leeping and Scabius, (Walsh can't help commenting on Boyd's choice of outlandish names) and he maintains contact within them throughout his life and in many ways uses them to gauge his success in the world, (Leeping runs art galleries in Paris and New York, Scabius becomes a popular writer). Boyd says that to make Mountstuart a believ-

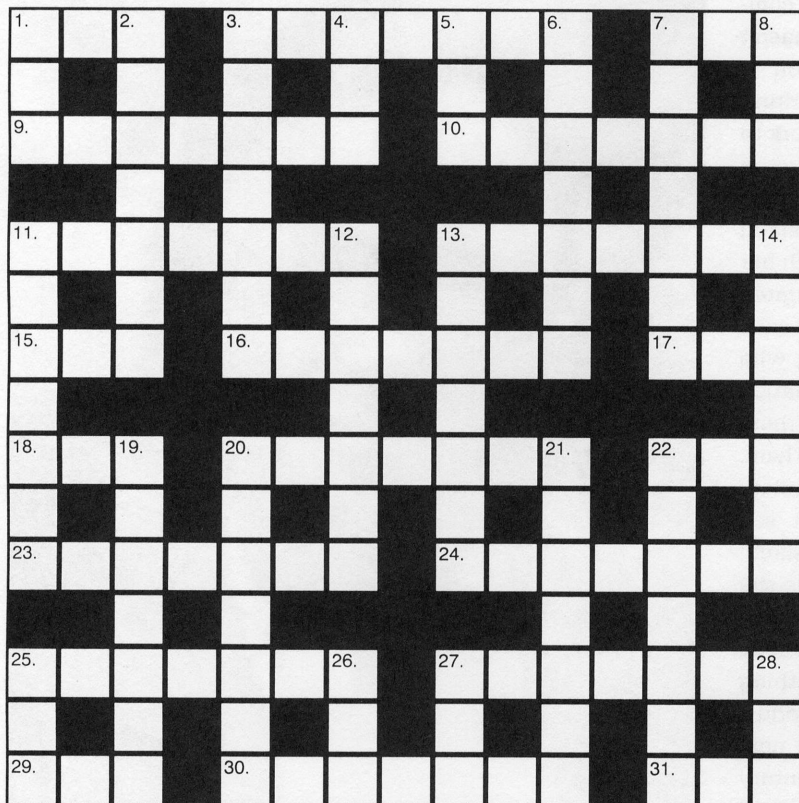


Ian McEwan

able minor figure in the footnotes of twentieth century literary history, he had to integrate his activities with real events and bring him into contact with significant writers of the period. So we find Mountstuart eavesdropping on a Bloomsbury gathering at Garsington, encountering James Joyce in Paris and Hemingway during the Spanish Civil War and extensive meetings with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, who appear as ghastly characters involved in the cover up of a murder in the Bahamas. Boyd stresses that this part of the novel is based on real evidence. He also seems to be doing his best to tarnish the reputation of Virginia Woolf, who is portrayed here as vain, spiteful and snobbish. It seems odd that he is so anxious to knock the elitism of Bloomsbury when he takes such pleasure in recounting the Nat Tate hoax, carried out with the help of celebrity friends such as David Bowie. Could he possibly be trying to emulate Woolf's involvement in the Dreadnaught affair of 1910? On Monday evening Pete McCarthy gives us a taste of his new book *The Road to McCarthy*, which is published next month; more travellers tales, but this time not limited to the public houses of Ireland. The closing event for my time at the festival is a concert by Baaba Maal, the great Senegalese musician with his fantastic dancers. I spot Ian McEwan slipping away after half an hour of the performance, but perhaps he's had a long day as well. He's due to give a talk in the morning. After all, Hay is where writers have to sing for their supper.

Adrian

Crossword by Mummy Huffwell



Across

1. Morning contains one target. (3)
3. Insect sport. (7)
7. Fashionable joint. (3)
9. Perfume hangs around North Sea between England and France. (7)
10. Tiny seed sounds like yearly meeting with elderly relative. (7)
11. Plant right-hand submarine around bar. (7)
13. Awfully sharp revolutionary-toothed wheel. (7)
15. Digit at centre of Lotto enquiry. (3)
16. Sister company is merged with Southern royal cult. (3)
17. Why ring Union, it's not me. (3)
18. Three points that have not been seen before. (3)
20. Lattice is following junction, right, east and two lefts. (7)
22. Container is backwards however. (3)
23. Our Mary stores weapons. (7)
24. Gem queen made and left is poor. (7)
25. Dome tit sadly left out. (7)
27. Hat is not inept? (7)
29. Burnt tree? (3)
30. Bench is following lawyer it is possible to know the age of. (7)
31. Silence joke. (3)

Down

1. Curve caused car crash. (3)
2. I'm a definite length. (7)
3. Solicit votes from an artist? (7)
4. Shortened tablet for the sick. (3)
5. Barrel got from back egress. (3)
6. Farm vehicle reverses right around the trailer. (7)
7. Disdainful youth follows disgust in headwear. (7)
8. Filling snack given by one in a sports lesson. (3)
11. Circular hall and German written into schedule. (7)
12. Leaders of bank robbers in big earning racket say yes to blackmail. (7)
13. Decide to have determination? (7)
14. Severe bodywork damage to man relied upon. (7)
19. Pathetic desire surrounds small man. (7)
20. Teased reserves united except for one. (7)
21. Soft point partly coated in metal provides high structure. (7)
22. Soft toy sounds like it was a carrier. (7)
25. A finished egg we hear. (3)
26. Make party drink. (3)
27. A hundred bend board for little animal. (3)
28. Urge Chinese horse. (3)

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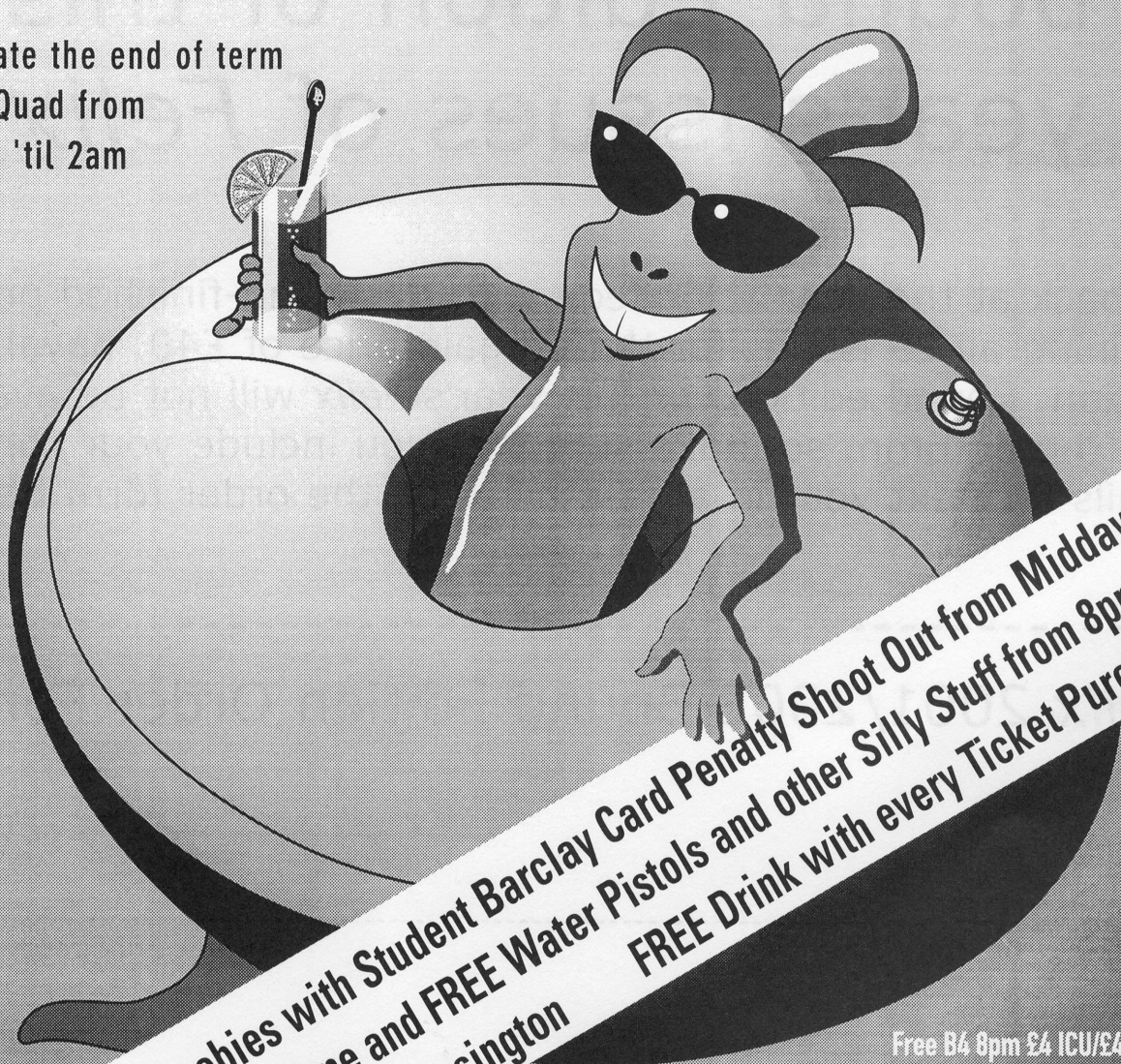
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S U M M E R

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midday 'til 2am



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FREE Bar Fly Bouncy Game and FREE Water Pistols and other Silly Stuff from 8pm
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Equestrian Antics

Last week I was fortunate to be present at an event which actually took place - strange I know, for these pages - but the nature of which you will find hard to believe. It was a surprisingly pleasant afternoon, and I found myself looking out over some of the greener parts of London with one of IC's few predominantly female clubs, all of them brandishing whips and many clad in long, leather boots.

This was, in fact, the riding club's inaugural annual show jumping competition, held at the London Equestrian Centre in Mill Hill last Friday, the fourteenth of June.

The competition was split into three categories - beginner, novice and open - and although there was a strong

showing in the latter classes only one beginner turned up on the day. I feel that it is my responsibility to warn the others of the fate that awaits them when they return to College, but instead I will just recommend that they leave the country. Now. Forever.

First up in the competition were the novices, jumping over a spacious course of 2 foot fences. After hard work by all concerned and a few moments of silliness Gemma - the organiser, who only stepped in to ride at the last minute - won. Shona came in second, Natalie was close behind in third followed

by Ruth M and Harriet.

The open class jumped the same course, but with the fences raised. This class rather than being a simple, timed, clear round was split into two sections. Initially all the competitors did one round of the course, and those who completed it successfully proceeded into the jump off.

Nicola and Rachel made it through to the jump off, after Jess and Anna picked up a number of faults and refusals in the first round, with Ruth C's horse unfortunately tripping and falling at the penultimate fence and unseating her. You will be pleased to know, however, that the running of

the Union is not in jeopardy as she escaped with nothing more than a few bruises, and the horse too received no serious injuries.

The jump off proceeded as planned and after excellent rounds by both, Nicola was deemed to have beaten Rachel by the narrowest of margins.

The afternoon was concluded with the beginners' class, which was won in some style by Karim, after a very convincing ride.

Many thanks must go to Gemma for such a well run competition, and let's hope that there are many more to come.

The Club rides every week, and if you want to join them then e-mail riding@ic.ac.uk.

Alex

Taking a year's Break?

Need a filler which involves good office work experience?

Student Activities Assistant

Imperial College Union has a vacancy for a part-time administrative assistant (24 or 36 weeks term-time only, 10:30am-6:30pm M-F) to provide support to the Student Activities Co-ordinator.

The successful applicant must have some work experience dealing with customers, good communication and organisational skills, IT technical experience, and have an outgoing personality who would enjoy working in a lively, student environment. Literacy and numeracy essential. Knowledge of BUSA would be advantageous.

For a job description and application form please phone 0207 594 8060 or write to: Michelle Lewthwaite, Office Manager, Imperial College Union, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB or email: union@ic.ac.uk.

Deadline for applications: Wednesday, July 31, 5pm.



Presents



Friday 21st June 12.30pm
Second ¼ Final

Saturday 22nd June 12.30pm
Fourth ¼ Final

Tuesday 25th June 12.30pm
First Semi Final

Wednesday 26th June 12.30pm
Second Semi Final

Saturday 29th June 12.00pm
Third Place Playoff

World Cup Final 12.00pm
Sunday 30th June 12:00pm



Felix Crew 2001/02

Clockwise from bottom: Joe Parker, Will Dugdale, Jon Matthews, Etienne Pollard, John Stratford, Darius Nikbin, Bobby Cyclops, Dr. Hot Fudge, Alex Coby, Dave Edwards. Inset: Alisdair Wren.