

WessexScene

ELECTION FRENZY - MEET THE ELITE - ELECTION FRENZY - MEET THE ELITE

UNION **Surge** FORWARD



SURGE staff and regular DJs have been working hard over the last few months with the support of the Student's Union, to ensure that the FM switchover will be smooth and successful. Station Manager Lex Nichol summed up the view of the whole station when he commented: "The SURGE staff have all put a lot of work into this project - I believe that we'll get as much out of this as the listeners will."

The build-up to the launch began in force at the beginning of the new semester, with a poster campaign around the Students' Union, swiftly followed by an exclusive interview with the DumDums on Saturday 10th. SURGE listeners can expect more special features coming up over the next month.

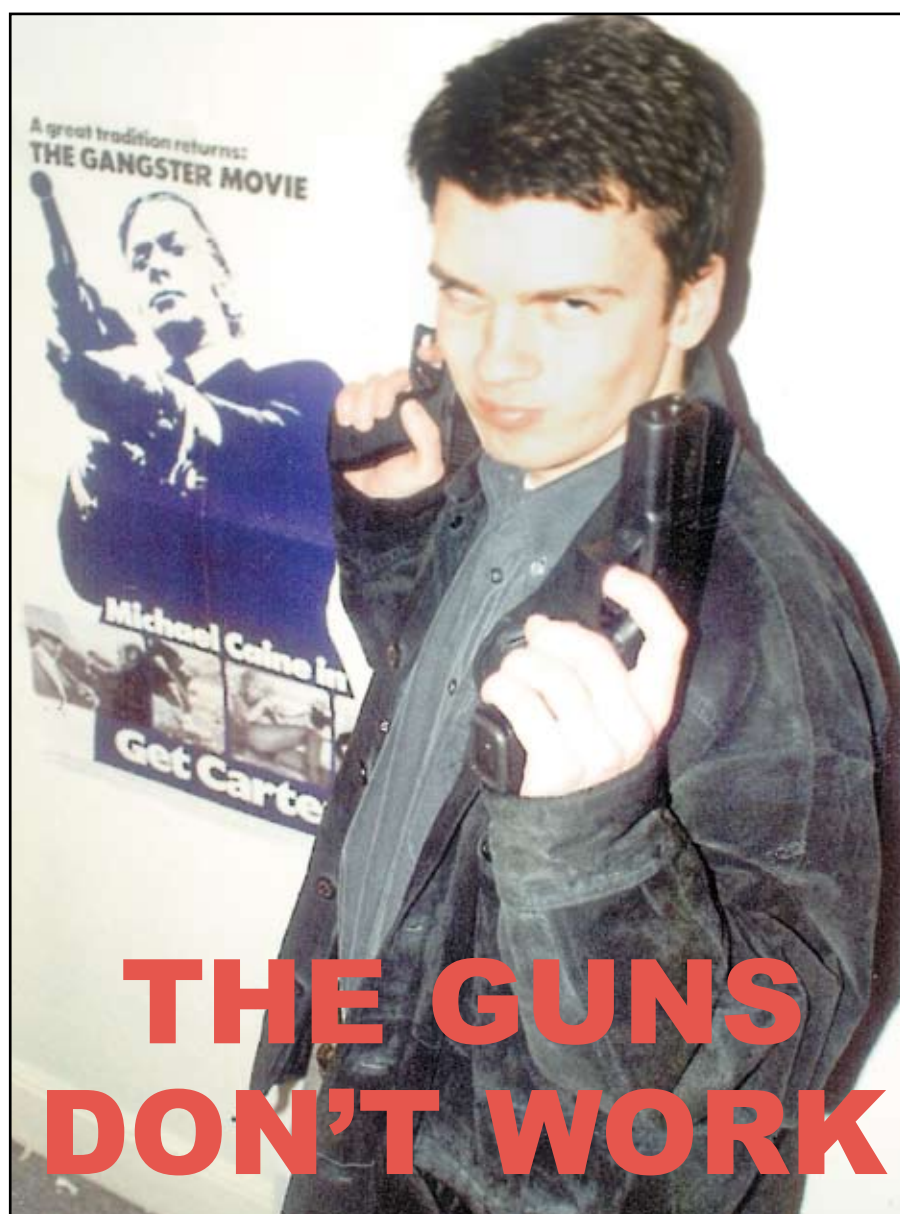
Week 2 saw the SURGE Launch Party at the club, New York, New York. DJs

Haden and Anna (pictured above) proudly wore their promotional SURGE T-shirts around the university campuses and the city centre throughout the week. In his official capacity as SURGE Webmaster, Haden enthusiastically proclaimed his opinion the FM launch: "Apart from increasing my pulling power, it gives us the opportunity to transmit to a much wider arena. Working at SURGE is great fun, and the new schedule features a varied and exciting line-up which is sure to appeal to all."

SURGE is also online. You can check out the listings on www.surgeradio.co.uk. The site provides info about the station and its staff, plus an in-depth run-through of the new schedule.

Anna Kerensa Pascoe

Saturday 17th February saw the launch of the student radio station SURGE on to the new frequency 87.7 FM. Transmitting on 1287 AM for several years, Southampton University's Radio from Glen Eyre has become a popular choice amongst the residents of the Glen Eyre complex. The extension of the license to FM status for a special trial period of one month offers the opportunity for all the students based at the University to listen to, or even work on SURGE.



THE GUNS DON'T WORK

A University film society's location-shoot turned sour last week, when a large proportion of the Hampshire Constabulary responded to a call concerning the crew's use of a gun. The group of Southampton University students, filming a 15-minute short, 'The Tesseract' for the society, Wessex Films were surrounded by Police cars and confronted by an officer wearing a bullet-proof vest.

See inside for more

In this issue of **THE EDGE**

Grandaddy
Trail Of Dead
Ministry of Sound at the Dome



All style no...

CONTENTS



White Trash?

PAGE 5



Liz Barker Interview

PAGE 16



Win Tickets To Dublin

PAGE 18



The Gym Uncovered

PAGE 22



Rain Stops Play

PAGE 24



GUNS ON FILM

...Continued From Front Page

admitted that it was impossible to authorise the filming, but added that there was nothing strictly illegal and yes, you'd probably get away with it if you were smart enough.

However, the director decided he was not smart enough, but did possess sufficient common sense not to ignore the subtle hint of a passing Police Inspector. Consequently, Paul and the crew proceeded to shoot (ahem) elsewhere. 'I felt that even though I'd effectively been refused permission, it was definitely not worth trying and getting arrested for. Plus, the last thing the film unit wants is to develop a bad reputation with the police.'

It was on that fateful Thursday evening, however, that the director's concerns became horribly well-founded. As Paul, Pete and Matt had just finished filming in the street, a car pulled up. The unmarked Panda was a clever tactic, but it was probably the less-than-discreet bullet-proof vest that ultimately gave the game away. That and the uniform, of course.

'Who's the individual with the gun, please?' Oh dear. It was handed over. The trio exchanged nervous glances as the officer (who had clearly drawn the short 'cannon fodder' straw) radioed in: 'Yeah, all units; it's an imitation, over.' A crackle of garbled responses followed. 'Confirm that, an imitation. It's a group of students.' His last words lacked the disparaging tones and colourful epithets usually applied to them.

This did not, however, indicate the law's passing amusement, but instead

precluded a serious reminder of how the situation could have turned nasty and very expensive for all those concerned. As if to add to the potential costs and the actual embarrassment, it was said - on no uncertain terms - that had there not been anyone outside when the officer arrived, the house would have been stormed by the armed response unit only minutes later and shot anyone who moved. The force helicopter had been ordered to stand by and the chief inspector (off-duty) had been notified of the situation. Along with that, five BMW cruisers were just visible at the end of the road, blocking off the area or crawling past suspiciously. Fortunately in the end, the only thing the officer took away was some personal details.

This is wholly reminiscent of an incident that occurred two years ago, when University student, Andy Berg was reported to the Police by an elderly Portswood resident, concerned by the over-realistic BB-gun he was wielding whilst driving past. Andy's problems were exacerbated furthermore by the fact that the car (whose license plate was reported) was owned by his parents; the Constabulary's first port of call.

Both stories are a lesson to us all and good reason for why gun laws are - and should remain - so strict in this country.

If you'd like to join WESSEX FILMS for more thrills and spills, email: sufu@soton.ac.uk or come to the Sports Bar at 7.30 every Thursday.

If you want to see the 'The Tesseract' and many other Wessex Films movies in big-screen glory, come to the MINI-FESTIVAL on March 17th in the Debating Chamber. Tickets are £1 in advance. Email for details.

ORGAN SCANDAL FEARS DISPELLED

Following the Alder Hey organ scandal last month, fears that Southampton University General Hospital was also victim to unsolicited organ retention have been quelled by Professor William Roche, director of cellular pathology.

A hotline set up by the Southampton NHS Trust received no less than 600 calls from worried families, after it was disclosed that over a period of 30 years, SUGH had retained 1500 organs from post-mortems. However, Prof Roche was keen to stress that the situation was totally divorced from the situation at Alder Hey, where autopsies were not completed.

"The problem in Southampton's case was a lack of communication", he said. "Before 1999, when the post-mortem consent forms were thoroughly revised, it appears that the conditions laid

out in the form were too vague. People were unaware that 'tissues retained for future examination' actually included the heart and brain. Once a coroner has ordered a post-mortem, the brain must be treated for 2 months before being examined; i.e. retained beyond the funeral - an outcome that the next of kin was not previously informed of."

At a press conference at the end of January, SU Hospital Trust revealed that of the 1,300 brains and 200 hearts retained, 80 percent were kept after the coroners' inquests. National legislation at the time meant that families did not have to be told of this practise. Twelve of those organs have now been released, via a funeral director for burial.

Contrary to what many feared - including medical students at the University - the organs used for research

and teaching in anatomy and morphology departments are tightly controlled by a completely different branch of the law and are donated by the deceased before death. A spokesman said: "We will continue to deal openly and sensitively with individual families and relatives who raise questions or concerns with us."



DO YOU LIKE SEX?

This may appear to be a strange headline for an article relating to email spam, but thousands of Hotmail users worldwide have become all-too-familiar with the subject line filling their inboxes over recent weeks. An undisclosed number of unsolicited emails have been sent purporting to originate from University accounts, notably Southampton. The emails were largely advertising pornographic web sites and the University has received "a huge number" of complaints over recent weeks from ped. Judging by the apparent impact on Hotmail users, the hacker appears to be using a weakness in Hotmail's system to gain user's account details. Another victory for Microsoft then.

Most of the emails that were sent out during the last weekend in January and the first weekend of February were advertising pornographic material on the world-wide web. Typical subject lines for the emails included "See best adult site on the net now!!" and "Horny tonight?" but also ranged to the more obscure "Acne cure & penny stock pick!". The vast number of complaints received suggests the sheer number of people affected is phenomenal - how many of you actually complain when you receive bulk mail?

Southampton University is not the only institution to be affected by the spam, however. Reports have suggested that

other universities across the nation have had similar problems, such as the University Of East London, Huddersfield, and more recently Warwick to name only a small fraction of the affected. If you have, or do receive such email, please do not complain to universities - take the complaint up with Hotmail themselves or even your Internet Service Provider.

But what advantage could be gained by claiming to originate from a university in the UK? A number of theories exist, but it appears likely that credibility is the aim. Email spammers are going to increasing lengths to make sure that the mail they send gets read. Recent reports of the new Anna Kournikova virus highlight these new techniques. In this case, an email is received asking the recipient to view a file apparently of the Tennis ace, but instead of being a picture, the file sends emails to everybody in the user's address book. This can have the effect of crippling large organisations' email servers. In the case of the University emails, the main advantage appears to be that they appear to derive from a credible, academic source. The email may be more likely to be treated as serious and subsequently read if it appears to originate from @soton.ac.uk and not @xxx.com, for example. This is just one theory, but is plausible. Another is that this is a deliberate attack on the universities themselves, although this

seems unlikely given the perpetrator originates from the USA.

Whatever the reason, the emails have succeeded in wreaking havoc among university complaints departments over recent weeks and have gone beyond the usual realms of offensive spam. The complaints to Southampton University appear to be almost exclusively from Hotmail users, suggesting that another security breach on the part of Microsoft may be once again to blame.

Andrew Farley



NO LAPTOP - NO DEGREE

A recent and bold proposal at Warwick University has thrust the role of information technology into shocking and stark relief. The most controversial element of Warwick's so called e-strategy is to make it compulsory for all first year students to own a laptop computer by 2003. According to spokespeople, the project is intended to "end the digital divide" amongst students and enhance the facilities for online learning. First year students will enjoy IT-led seminars, tutorials and lectures plus unlimited access to the Internet in their study bedrooms - that is if they can meet the costs, of course.

Students at Warwick have been angered by this proposal which they swiftly branded as "elitist." Caitlin McKenzie, the President of Warwick Student Union, articulated some widely-held anxieties about the proposal and insists that "the mandatory requirement to own a compatible computer means that students unwilling or unable to purchase will be forced to apply to other universities."

In fairness, the architects of the scheme have outlined their plan to give assistance to those who cannot meet the cost of purchasing a laptop by allowing students to lease equipment with the help of hardship funds. However, this has only

fuelled cynicism in various student quarters with many alleging that the University's plan to enter into deals with certain IT companies is ample evidence that concerns with business and profit have supplanted the students' best interests.

It was found that last year, 70% of students at Warwick had their own computers with an additional 25% planing to purchase one. Evidently, the university feels that the scheme will only really affect the few that are left but many students are angry about the obligatory nature of the proposals. By implication, it seems that from 2003, it will be impossible to study at Warwick without a laptop and this means that plenty of able and enthusiastic applicants will be deterred from applying due to a lack of funds. Owain James, president of the NUS, has vocally attacked the proposal for exactly these reasons: "If Warwick is allowed to do this, with no doubt other universities following suit, then the crisis in higher education can only intensify."

The fear that Warwick is setting a dangerous precedent was evident from general student feeling around the Highfield campus as well. Many students that were questioned seemed to agree with the necessity of keeping up

with technological advances but few felt that making laptops an entry requirement for uni was a positive step. The majority felt that such action constituted grounds for discrimination and were unhappy with a Warwick official's comment that turning up for a lecture without a laptop is like turning up for an exam without a pencil.

So, can we expect a similar thing at Southampton? Whilst Southampton University Computing Services were unable to comment on this specific project, a representative said that Southampton University had no such plans to rival Warwick at this stage. However, they do recognise that an inevitable trend towards involving computers in every area of a degree course is underway.

Whilst we should perhaps praise Warwick for seeking to give all its First Year students a level playing field upon which to start their undergraduate career, there is no doubt that the scheme could act as a deterrent against prospective students who are either unable, or simply unwilling to meet the extra costs. What with tuition fees and an increasing debt burden, many students may feel reluctant to pursue a degree anyway and new measures such as those unveiled by Warwick are likely to increase such fears rather than relieve them.

Fiona Cowood



The World In a Nutshell

Allied Attack on Iraq

Bombing intensifies over Iraq as Allied forces strike command and control centers in response to "increased threat to allied aircraft from Iraq's missile defences in recent weeks"

Ralph Bulger Loses Court Battle

The Bulger family is unsuccessful in overturning the ruling of Lord Chief Justice, Lord Woolf - which authorized the early release of their son's killers.

New Home in the Dome?

The race is on to find new occupiers of the Millenium Dome, after the Legacy consortium is stripped of their preferred bidder status. The BBC, Tussaud's Group and concert promoter Harvey Goldsmith have all expressed interest.

Japanese Angry At Sea Accident

The Japanese government and citizens are 'outraged' at the collision between a US Navel Sub and a Japanese Fishing Vessel after learning that civilians were controlling the Navy craft. 9 people are missing after the accident.

Bin Man Nicked For Posh Luggage

A refuse collector who handled the stolen luggage of Victoria Beckham has been sentenced to a 15-month term in a young offenders institution

Move Over Mayo

After 15 years as one of Radio One's most recognized voices, Simon Mayo begins a new career with sport and news channel 5Live.

SOS TXT

14 tourists found a good use for a mobile phone when a text message saved them from two days stranded at sea near Bali.

Eggs For Sale

Increasing numbers of couples are using the Internet to buy human eggs a BBC 5Live investigation has revealed. Eggs exchange hands for up to \$5,000





STAR LETTER

Just in case you hadn't noticed, controversial rapper Eminem, aka Marshall Mathers, aka Slim Shady, played a set of gigs in Britain during February. His lyrics are often explicit, violent, drugs related, misogynistic and homophobic. These concerts were accompanied by various protests, especially in the 'gay village' of Manchester. The papers, television, and even internet chat-rooms, have all been filled with the calls of people for this rapper to be banned. As a gay man I watched these scenes with interest, but while I can't condone the sentiments that Eminem expresses, I cannot agree with the idea of banning him. According to the argument, an impressionable audience of schoolchildren hear his lyrics condoning drug-abuse and violence and therefore grow up believing these views to be correct. This, initially, seems a reasonable argument.

But haven't we heard it before? In the mid-1950s there were howls of disapproval when Elvis Presley gyrated his hips, causing the Ed Sullivan show to film him from the waist up only. In 1966 many called for the Beatles to be banned after John Lennon claimed: 'We're more popular than Jesus now' (which they probably were). Controversy surrounded Queen's 'Another One Bites the Dust' in 1980 when someone discovered that the chorus sounded a little like 'it's fun to smoke marijuana' if played backwards. Mike Reid famously banned the 'overtly sexual' 'Relax' by Frankie Goes to Hollywood. As for the drugs references, try listening to 'Itchycoo Park' by the Small Faces, 'Perfect Day' by Lou Reed, or 'Purple Haze' by Hendrix.

Other forms of media received less attention when dealing with these subjects. Brett Easton Ellis's film, 'American Psycho' contains more violence against women than any of Eminem's tracks. Trainspotting painted a very real picture of drug-taking. As for homophobia, the negative imagery of John Inman in 'Are You Being Served?' did more damage to the way that gay people are perceived than any record.

Censorship is unnecessary and reactive. Imagine the consequences of banning every vaguely controversial record: we would be left with nothing except Steps, S Club 7, and Five! It is our role as (supposedly) responsible members of society to ensure that views on violence etc. are not accepted. But don't believe that if kids don't hear them from rappers that they won't hear them at all. And remember that if you do find Eminem particularly offensive you can always resort to the ultimate in personal censorship. The off button.

Neil Anderson (former LGB rep for SUSU)

Ed- Congrats Neil. Please collect your Free Case of WARP! from the VP Office on Level 2 (Main Union).

Dear Glen-Eyre Bar,

I have to say I read your interview with the Wessex Scene with a slight smile on my face. Your use of irony was brilliant as you tried to fool us into thinking that beer tokens were a better form of payment than actual hard currency into your accounts, which I'm sure helps to decrease those huge overdrafts you must have from spending more than you get in tokens every night.

Now the increased drinks prices you harped on about, oh if only the Labour government could have you spin doctor capabilities you seem to then they wouldn't be knee deep in the shit they are at the moment. Don't try and fool us in the Wessex Lane Bars that were paying more for our beer and that we're being ripped off or that being employed by the seemingly devil incarnate business services we're, dare I say it, ripping our fellow students off! Better quality for a few extra pennies, we know it and so do you. Certainly I have my reservations about a profit orientated University service running the bars, but the changes we've experienced have only been positive: brighter bars with posters and more offers and give-aways than ever before. Oh and for those in the Lanes I'm sure you'll all understand when I say that we've a boss who doesn't keep his little cupboard locked! Glen Bar, wise-up, before your's goes a little bare as you weep into your better quality pint.

**Yours,
A Wessex Lane employee**

Dear Editor,

As a Duty Manager of a Wessex Lane Bar, I find it very difficult to understand why the employees and committee of Glen Eyre Hall Bar have moaned at an apparently improved situation. The last issue of the Wessex Scene reported that the bar was to be brought into line more closely to those of Wessex Lane and I feel justified, nay, obliged, in explaining a little about our alcohol-vending threesome.

Firstly, our staff are paid £4.22 per hour, a hearty wage for bar work, and are paid from the moment they start their shift until they finish. This means that a member of staff receives around £20 for their weekly shift. For the record, having been an integral part of the interviewing team for the selection of bar staff, one of the most common questions is "do I get paid in beer or cash", and after being told the details of their pay-packet, the sighs of relief flourish. After all, who wants to be paid a few beer tokens instead of having the freedom to spend their wage on that that they wish? Wessex Lane 1/Glen Eyre 0.

Secondly, a little should be said about the rise in bar prices.

Admittedly, our cheapest lager and cider has increased by 10p per pint, Guinness by 5p and bitter by 20p. However, the products are far more popular than ever before, owing to the quality of the product and change in brewery suppliers. What would you rather sup Glen, a pint

of watery Heiniken Cold Filtered or a perfectly chilled Carling? Or perhaps you would prefer a pint of rancid Boddingtons over Worthington Creamflow? The addition of Caffreys to the pumps was well supported, and most popular spirits have been decreased in price by 10 or 20 pence (e.g. Smirnoff Red, Bacardi, Archers, Malibu, etc, etc). A move instigated for profit-boosting purposes? Unlikely. Wessex Lane 2/Glen Eyre 0.

Thirdly, is it any wonder that Business Services are taking power away from the farce known as "The Glen Eyre Hall Bars Committee"? They appear to have had little success in attracting more people to their bar through promotions, friendliness - even a few new lightbulbs would have been an improvement over the dreary atmosphere that suffocates the cheer within the merry individual. Wessex Lane Hall Bars are managed far more efficiently and effectively through a team of competent staff and experienced Duty Managers, who work under a co-ordinating Bar Manager answering to "The Big Chief", the Wessex Lane Bars Manager. In this sense, issues very rarely escalate to

the level where Business Services are required to intervene, and problems are dealt with locally. Maybe you should ask yourselves why the power should be removed if your procedure was so flawless? Wessex Lane 3/Glen Eyre 0.

I could sit here all day and list the reasons why your letter has annoyed me, but to be honest, time is of the essence. I have a meeting with my Bar Manager to clean our beer lines, discuss future promotions, review problems/successes with staff...issues that you, Glen Eyre, may want to address before throwing out your toys and going on strike.

**Yours,
A Bar Person.**

Dear Editor,

During housing week, many student priorities are to get the best houses, in the best part of town, with the best choice of housemates. The contract is not a priority; after all you generally do not have a choice when it comes to this. In 1996, we signed the contract on a house that I was hoping to make my home for the duration of my PhD. One year later we moved out and are still waiting for our deposit.

We found our house through an estate agent, Gables Property Services. It belonged to one 'Fiona Harris', whose address, according to the contract, was the house we were about to move into. At no place on the contract were Gables Property Services mentioned. This is where our problems lay, but we didn't realise that at the time. We were told that a 'Shaun' sorted out everything to do with the house; Gables just took the money from us. If we needed a repair done, 'Shaun' would consider it; Gables was just the go-between. Fiona Harris herself didn't seem to have very much to do with it.

Our relations with the Agency were never particularly good. When the contract ran out, we were all looking to move

elsewhere. The deposit should have been returned. We have received nothing. In fact, we weren't even been told WHY we hadn't had our deposit back. Jacelyn Sims, the Director of Gables, said it was "up to the discretion of the landlord". She instructed us to contact Shaun by 'phone, because she claims not to know the whereabouts of Fiona Harris. She refused to accept any responsibility for the deposit, despite the fact that we paid it to Gables and the rent into what appeared to be her personal bank account.

We took the case to the court using Jacelyn's home address and finally had both Jacelyn and Shaun in front of a judge. They both claimed that our money had been put into an account for Fiona Harris and they could not return it because they had no access to this account. The judge did not ask for proof of any of these statements. We now have a judgement against Fiona Harris worth over £800. However, because neither Jacelyn nor Shaun can tell us her whereabouts, we have no way of claiming this money. We cannot even put a Charging Order on her property because when we started the court proceedings, Gables sold the house.

So who is responsible? Landlord-tenant relations are not most solicitors' favourite topic so the legal advice we can glean on this matter is scant. Colin Levine at the National Homelessness Line, who has given us the some of the most knowledgeable legal advice, says that it is the landlord who has responsibility for the deposit. If this is so, can an Estate Agent legally take on a landlord as a client for whom they have only a name?

This cautionary tale ends in the present day, with no conclusion. It would have been very difficult to have avoided what has happened because we had no knowledge of landlord-tenant law. If you are about to sign a contract with a landlord through an estate agent, ask for the landlord's address. If the estate agent refuses, at the very least ask to have a statement on your deposit receipt to the effect that deposit monies will be returned to you by the estate agent. If you are unsure about anything at all to do with the tenancy, the Student Advice and Information Centre on the Union Concourse is a mine of information and have been a huge support through our case. If you are one of the thousands of students owed millions of pounds in deposit, this has become a particularly hot issue so kick up a fuss, see your MP, tell your local newspaper, and let's see if we can get some clarity in the law on this issue.

Isabel Sargent



EMINEM ENEMY OF THE STATE?

Controversial American rapper Eminem has been banned from Sheffield University's radio station and newspaper in a move that has caused acrimony within the student community. The artist will no longer be heard on the University radio station Sure or played at any Union events. Students wearing Eminem clothing will not be allowed into the university bar.

The surprise move has resulted in a constitutional dilemma for the university, which justified the action under its Gay-Friendly Policy. Eminem has been frequently accused of homophobia in his lyrics and the decision came after complaints from students who were offended by his songs. The committee of Union sabbaticals that made the decision has been accused of censorship and circumventing the correct procedures in taking the step, and media chiefs in Sheffield vowed to break the ban by continuing to broadcast the rapper's work.

Dan Morfitt, head of music at Sure, said "Three people out of a student community of 20,000 complained. We argued till we were blue in the face that we're all over 18 and are unlikely to have our opinions about homosexuality be influenced by the homophobic lyrics of a singer, but it didn't do any good." He went on to say he would defy the ban "to

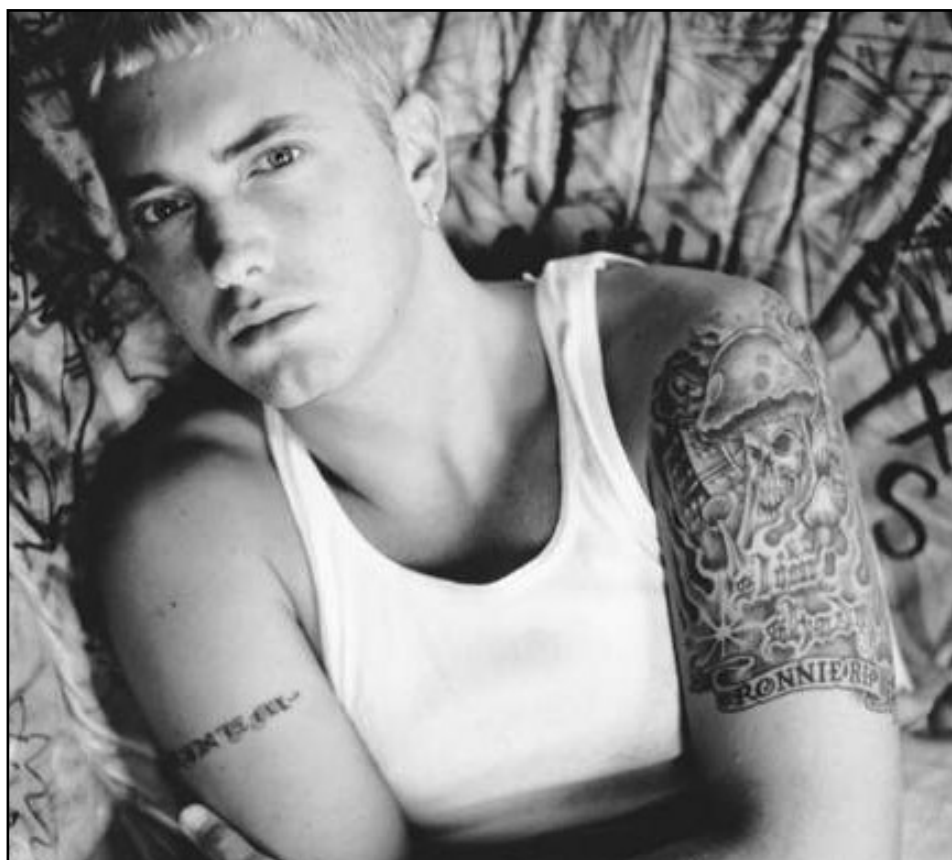
see what happens."

Sheffield University's student paper The Steel Press has been banned from reviewing the new Marshall Mathers LP but is allowed to feature the singer in its news section. The paper branded the action "reactionary" and featured representatives of the student media with gags over their mouths in protest. A poll of students in Sheffield found that 76% disagree with the ban, with 8% in favour.

The Union defended its action by citing its responsibility to ensure they create "an environment in which individuals and groups of individuals are free from discrimination, harassment and intimidation." However, many students have accused the Union for being hypocritical, as the LP is still being sold in the Union shop and earning a healthy profit...

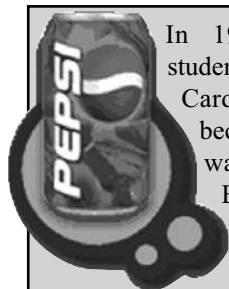
The Grammy Awards ceremony will follow Eminem's February tour of England, where American homosexual organisations plan a "Rally Against Hate" to protest against his lyrics. The singer still faces up to nine years in jail on gun charges for his part in a fracas in a Michigan Car Park.

Pat Wintersgill



Will the real threat to society please stand up ?

In February last year, Leeds University student union voted to revoke the life-long membership of the home secretary Jack Straw, their former president, because of his "anti-libertarian policies"

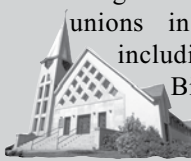


In 1996, a group of student unions, including Cardiff, banned Pepsi because the company was working in Burma, which has a poor human rights record.

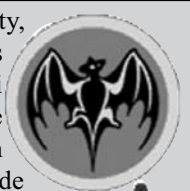


Around 80 student unions, including Cardiff and Cambridge, ban the sale or advertisement of Nestlé products because students do not agree with the company's ethical policy and marketing of baby milk in the developing world.

The controversial evangelical organisation The International Church of Christ was banned from canvassing on campus by 23 student unions in the mid 1990s, including Manchester, Birmingham and the London School of Economics.



Sheffield University, among others, has banned all Bacardi products from the student union bar in protest at US trade embargoes against Cuba, which students feel are depriving Cubans of medical and food supplies.



Since 1998, the NUS have banned all McDonalds' advertising or special offers from any student union, because of the company's ethical policy.



Almost every student union in Britain banned an FHM special student edition last year which featured a piece on "how to commit suicide".

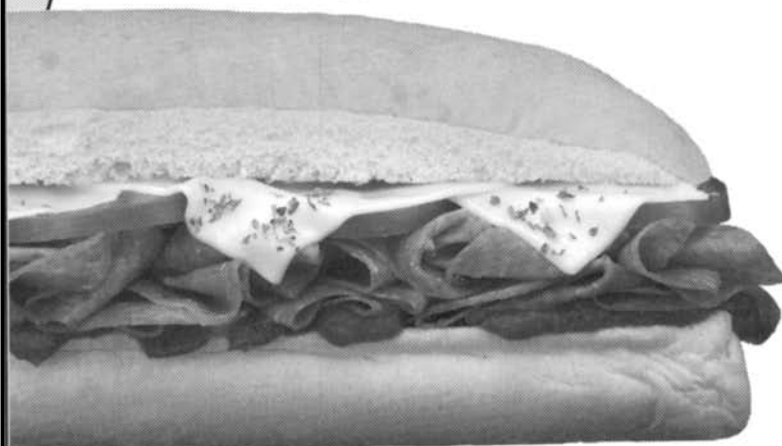


In 1999, Cambridge's student union banned the Officer Training Corps from canvassing at its freshers' fair because students disapproved of the armed forces' discriminatory policy against homosexuals.

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THE SUBWAY
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FEED A FRIEND FOR FREE !

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a second Footlong of equal or lesser value **FREE**

Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per person (Your friend must accompany you)

YOUR COMMENT

SATIRE!

Student elections - my final opportunity to vote someone I've never met into an obscurely titled position that has no relevance to everyday student-life. The student's union seems to have failed to realise that to create an effective democratic system requires much more than simply giving people the right to vote, and the ability to affix posters in such obscure places that one is forced to encounter them for at least six months after the elections.

So what is the cause of student apathy? Firstly, there is very little direct election of student representation leading to a distancing between the student body and the union council. Rather than giving each department the chance to elect a number of representatives that would be directly accountable to their 'electorate', we have an unusual system of voting officers that play no obvious part in a representative process (UCOM representative number 7 anyone?). There is a single representative on council to represent the views of the entire engineering faculty for example, and one for postgraduates - yet small organisations like the Wessex Scene and RAG manage to get at least one voting member each.

The number of positions open to students is baffling. Why, for example are the positions of Vice-president Communications and Education and Welfare sabbatical open for election? Surely these roles would suit a professional person much better. Without wishing to detract from the work of the current sabbaticals, for surely they have been dedicated, these sabbatical positions require much more than the ability to run a successful self-election campaign. Editing a newspaper, effectively raising student awareness of very important issues and the other roles that sabbatical positions entail are skills that cannot, with the best will in the world, be learnt in a single sabbatical term. An experienced industry professional must be a better choice for students.

Reducing the number of electable sabbatical positions would make the job of president, our true representative to the NUS and the population at large, much more enticing - and would lead to a far more engaging election campaign.

Chris Lowis

Stats To Consider When Buying Your Ball Tickets

Based on previous years...

- Average waiting time for alcohol at the Grad Ball: 37 mins
- Average journey time to Portsmouth for the Monte Ball: 42 mins
- Average cost of a pint at the Medics' Ball: £2.00
- Average length of adhesive tape used during preparations for the Medics' Ball: 250m
- 81% of couples who attend the Monte Ball have sex during or after the Ball
- 79% of couples who attend the Monte Ball have sex with each other during or after the Ball
- Average number of pints of beer consumed per person at the Connaught Ball: 12
- Three quarters of a tonne of real sand was needed for this year's Medics' Ball advertising.
- 4 litres of gold paint were used to cover the bodies of the models in this year's Monte Ball publicity.
- 1% of people who attend student balls may develop psychiatric anomalies that cause them to quote dubious statistics.

Note: any resemblance of these stats to facts, living or dead, is purely coincidental.



Things to do on St. Patrick's Day

1. Get drunk on cheap stout.
2. Get drunk at the AU Ball.
3. Get drunk at the Monte Ball.
4. Get drunk at the Wessex Films MiniFestival (Debating Chamber, tickets £1 in advance. Email "sufu@soton.ac.uk" for details...)
5. Get drunk.

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THE END IS NEAR

A bright red screen in the union bar encourages patrons to shame NTL for their supposed bad practice. This anti-corporate stance struck me as slightly odd considering the union's standard policy of unconditionally embracing the almighty pound.

A refreshingly jovial 'President's Message' recently encouraged us to thank Nestle for their donations of free cold-coffee drinks. Now I know how easy it is to gain massive amounts of cheap promotion for an ethically unsound company, I'll apply for that job in Exxon's PR department (...my CV's in the post). Last year the NUS signed a £625,000 deal with Bacardi - ensuring that their line of drinks were available, without competition, in all student union bars throughout the country. The Bacardi family's involvement in the anti-Cuba campaign, their use of Cuban imagery in ad campaigns and their funding involvement with the anti-Cuban, possibly terrorist, organisation the Cuban American Foundation (CANF). Middlesex University, among a handful of others, resisted and decided in an almost unanimous vote to stock the genuine Cuban Havana Club products in their bar. When the EU have said that the actions of the US and Bacardi concerning Cuba are unethical, why was this issue so readily ignored by SUSU?

Flicking through the last issue of Wessex Scene revealed an interesting full-page spread in the sports section (pg15) - Arthur Anderson with a half page advertisement, preceded by an article asserting the wonders of the company's sponsorship deal with the AU. As far as I am aware, Arthur Anderson is a magical company, staffed by freethinking, healthy types who desire nothing else from life other than to see students enjoying sport. However would the same lack of journalistic standards apply to more controversial company sponsorship (how about 'The coffee bar in association with McDonaldsTM')? The constitution places the Wessex Scene firmly under the editorial control of the Union; perhaps one must now go elsewhere for unbiased news?

Is the Union a soft touch for companies looking for free/low-cost advertising, and the opportunity to bolster their corporate image to young people? Or is this simply the SU doing as much as it can to make life better for the student body? These questions can only be answered in time, but perhaps this is the thin end of a very powerful wedge that will eventually erode the freedoms of students. Students that are forced to rely on the Union out of financial necessity, and do not have the same level of consumer-power as non-students.

Chris Lowis

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gene-ius!

A new diagnostic kit has been developed by Professor Tom Brown and colleagues at the University's internationally renowned Chemistry department, for identifying serious chromosomal abnormalities, such as those associated with Down's Syndrome and some cancers. Pieces of fluorescent DNA are used to stain matching strands of DNA within the human genome, lighting up any anomalies.

Labour Rules Out 'Top-Up' Fees

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary has assured the public that should Labour be voted in again after the next general election, they would not allow the so-called 'elite' universities to charge top-up fees. Although parents have breathed a collective sigh of relief, the surprise pledge angered Universities, which complain that they are in financial crisis.

Lib Dems Rule Out Tuition Fees

The Liberal Democrats have pledged to abolish tuition fees for higher education, should they be voted in. This is part of a package which they claimed would provide free education for all and open up Universities to students from poorer backgrounds, as well as an injection of £700m into the sector, above existing government spending plans.

Top Marks for Economics Department

The Department of Economics achieved top marks of 24 out of 24, after its visit from the Quality Assurance Agency last week. It also received Grade 5 in the last Research Assessment Exercise. Dept. Head, Professor Alan Hamlin said: "The whole department were involved in preparing for the Review process and it's very satisfying to see these efforts rewarded".

National e-science Role for Tony Hey

The Dean of Engineering, Professor Tony Hey has been appointed by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) as Director of the E-science Core Programme, starting from 1 April. The programme will be investing in new information technologies, including so-called 'Grid' technologies in distributed computing, allowing scientists to pursue cutting-edge research when faced with ever-increasing amounts of data. Prof. Hey first joined the University in 1974 and has been Dean of Engineering since 1999. "I am delighted to have been offered this very challenging role", he said. "I am looking forward to working with EPSRC, the DTI and the science and engineering communities..."

Academics win Prizes

Dr Nils Andersson of the Maths Department and Dr Andrew Roberts of the School of Ocean and Earth Science have both won the prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prizes, awarded by the Leverhulme Trust, recognising world-class achievement of young research scholars, who have made substantial and original contributions to fundamental knowledge. Each will receive £50,000.

Purr-fect Post

Veterinary behaviourist, Rachel Casey has been appointed to a new lectureship in feline behaviour and welfare at the University of Southampton. The post, which is supported over 5 years by a £250,000 investment by The Cats Protection charity, will provide a unique opportunity to study many aspects of feline behaviour and participate in other cat-related projects undertaken by the charity.



STUDENTS



**Wessex Scene are looking for anyone interested in:
Reporting for news, features, sports or union and
academic affairs. Being a theatre/music critic, cartoonist
or a photographer.**

**If this is you contact the Wessex Scene Team email:
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The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Students' Union.

UNION

CHRIS ISAAC



NEWS

EMMA HOGAN

Yet another editorial effortlessly rolls off the press of the *Wessex Scene*, this one being one of the most important for this section. As it will undoubtedly have not escaped all those but the most unobservant brain-dead students, it is election time.

The time when, if last year is to go by, posters will be put up and torn down, flyers handed out, tears will be shed, tantrums will be thrown, complaints will be made, and candidates will be rejected. All but a small elite group will get elected. And no one much will really care. The turn out will be low with only about one in 10 bothering to vote. As with elections in general people are being turned off.

Nominations closed on Friday the 16th, having been competently dealt with by the diligent Claire Kennard, in her role as Returning Officer. However due to a computer error; we must assume, the first list of candidates inadvertently included the names of one Marie Herraculous (ever heard of her?) as a Presidential candidate, and a Krystal Miller as VP Comms nominee. This mistake was quickly realised and amended. Much to the relief of many a candidate who didn't relish the prospect of encountering a fight with an incumbent sabbatical.

The sabbatical candidates themselves are reviewed in the latter part of this section, and a full list is given of all candidates who are standing for all positions oppsite.

Good luck to all candidates, and rather you than me!

If you have any gossip or bits of infomation the *Scene* should hear about, email: unioned@soton.ac.uk

Nominations for Union Election 6-7 March 2001

President: Stephen Edwards, Felix Hebblethwaite and Neil Payne.

Environmental Officer: Adam Moniz and Joe Whittick.

VP-Comms: Chris Leese, Jamie Moore and Niaomah Walsh.

Equal Opportunities Officer: Kofi Debrah and Nick Le Prevost.

Education and Welfare: Jon Hartley, Kate Holmes and Dominic Walsh.

UCOM: Kevin Coomber, William Ellis, Jon Fletcher, Tim Rowlandson and Jonathan Walsh.

AU President: James 'Fish' Baker, Kyle Bateman, Antonio 'Des/Tiger' DeSouza and Alex Paterson.

NUS Delegate: Bobby Bacchus, Kevin Coomber, Kofi Debrah, Jon Hartley, Felix Hebblethwaite, Robin Hobbs, Kate Holmes, Jaap Huibers, Eva Papaionnou, Phil Pope, Nick Le Prevost, Adrian Longdon, Jamie Moore, Dominic Walsh, Jonathan Walsh, Christopher Webber and Joe Whittick.

WSA President: Thomas Morgan.

Clubs and Socs Officer: Michael George and Tim Thornton.

President's Column



This term promises to be an exciting one. SURGE (Southampton University Radio from Glen Eyre) is going on to 87.7FM for a one month period on the 17th February with loads of student DJs, freebies and the fabulous show the vice-president and myself are putting on, (not to be missed) this is one of the most exciting projects the Students' Union has ever done. The elections are also looming and if you are not standing for a position then I encourage you all to vote as whoever gets in will be running the place for the next year. It may not seem like you can make a difference but believe me you can. Every time you use the bars, shop, read this paper or take part in a club you are using the facilities the Students' Union provides and the elected students have a chance to have their say on everything that we do. So use your vote and make a difference.

Have you ever thought that we could win University Challenge (probably not) or that you could stand up to Jeremy Paxman or answer the questions, then come and have a go, just e-mail: susu@soton.ac.uk, and maybe we can show them how its done this year. Apparently they put you up in a posh hotel and pay for your meals and stuff, so it will be worth it for the day out.

I don't know whether any of you have heard, but the Students' Union building will be undergoing massive refurbishment due to start over the summer and continuing into next year, this will make way for a cinema, nightclub, bar/cafe and a room for clubs requiring a sprung floor. So whilst their will be loads of disruption for one year it will be worth it in the end (I can guarantee it). I will be holding open meetings and presentations that will be advertised soon to give all of you the chance to view the plans. If you have any questions please come and see me as I am more than happy to give you some information.

Have a good term, there are so many things you can get involved with, and so make sure you make the most of it. Until next time,

Marie x

SEX

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National No Smoking Day is coming up soon (10th March). This is the day used by many people as the day on which they will start giving up smoking.

It is either the day they actually throw all remaining packets down the toilet and watch their lighter flame die one last time, or, the day they go along to a "Quitters" session.

Quitters is a national organisation which has a local branch based at Southampton Health Promotion Unit, not only that, but they will soon be running sessions at your very own Students' Union!

Every other Tuesday from 12pm - 2pm in the Bell tower (Students' Union West Building) a man from Quitters will be available for YOU to discuss how and when you are going to give up. He will hold your hand through the whole process and give you loads of helpful hints and support.

NB : Smoking kills about 5 times more people than all other avoidable deaths put together - including road accidents, fires, other accidents, suicide, murder, AIDS, alcohol and illicit drugs, etc. - GIVE UP NOW

Campaign Corner

My other thought of the day regards mental health. It is something everybody has. Although there is often a certain amount of stigma attached to this subject that is largely due to the fear and ignorance abundant among most people. This year alone, 1 in 4 people will suffer from some sort of mental health problem.

You almost certainly have at least one friend or family member that is suffering from some sort of mental ill health, if you are not yourself. You almost certainly have at least one friend or family member that is suffering from physical ill health, how many had a cold over Christmas? So you see, there should be no perceived peculiarity to the concept of mental health; we all have it in the same way that we all have physical health, and sometimes both mental and physical are worse than at others.

To finish I'd just like to say that whatever the problem, there is someone out there who can help you. A good place to start is in the student advice centre or your doctor but if you don't fancy that, do tell

someone, a friend, your parents. A problem shared may not be a problem halved but at least it has more heads working on it, SO LET SOMEONE KNOW THAT SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YOU!

Finally just to let you know that I have



met recently with NTL and discussed many of the complaints that have been brought to me by you and your JCRs. I haven't found many solutions as such but

there are several explanations and steps in the right direction! Take a look at www.soton.ac.uk/~today over the next few weeks and look out for NTL stuff there.

Charlie Pugh

RATS TALES

Views expressed by the author of this anonymous diary are not necessarily those of the Students' Union!

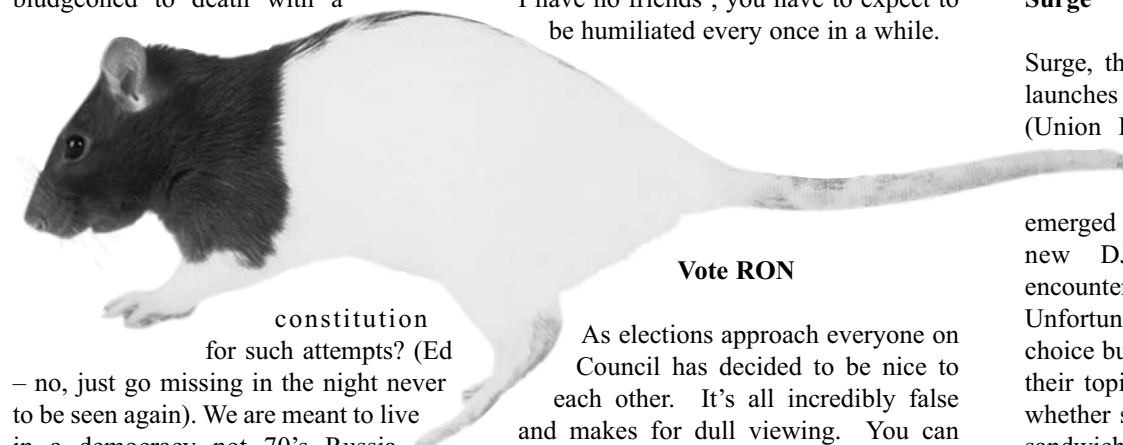
Union Council Monday 5th February

I was quite looking forward to Council, as it was the first meeting of the year. Surely, the sabbs would have lots to tell us? Surely everyone else would be on top form as we build up to this years elections? Surely?

The sabbs did have something to tell us but mainly it revolved around the same things we had heard about all year, which were the AU Ball, Surge FM and the building refurbishment. Our cuddly Education and Welfare Sabbatical was notably absent but I am not sure anyone really noticed. She, apparently, is rather ill. Unfortunately, this had also meant that she has cancelled Mental Health Week ... now I know what you thinking (Ed - how apt!)...were we meant to be having a Mental Health week?

The highlight of the meeting had to be the correspondence from 'Barry'. This was rather absurd for two reasons. First, the ripple of giggles which passed around

the Debating Chamber at the mention of his name suggested that everyone knew who Barry was, but there was no one there called Barry ... I suspect that Barry is infact someone's pseudonym. Why is everyone so fearful to ask questions in their own name? Do they expect to get bludgeoned to death with a



constitution for such attempts? (Ed - no, just go missing in the night never to be seen again). We are meant to live in a democracy not 70's Russia where a hammer and sickle is an accepted political tool (Ed - is this a direct quotation from the Daily Telegraph?).

Second, this particular piece of correspondence was directed at a

sheepish looking Ordinary Member of Council. It concerned his nomination for the post of student representative to University Senate ... or should I say the fact that he lost. Bad losers are never appreciated and when you run a campaign with the slogan 'Vote for me ... I have no friends', you have to expect to be humiliated every once in a while.

Vote RON

As elections approach everyone on Council has decided to be nice to each other. It's all incredibly false and makes for dull viewing. You can spot the front runners a mile off as they try to make 'rational' and unnecessary points for the sake of saying something. It adds nothing to the discussion and is a bigger turn off than a vote winner. So, who am I going to vote for? I'm campaigning for

RON (Re-Open Nomination) because I wouldn't trust this bunch of monkeys with a banana let alone the Students' Union (Ed - I'm sure they'd know how to handle bananas).

Surge

Surge, the new University radio station launches this month (87.7 FM) and Marie (Union President) and Krystal (Vice-President) have decided to do their own show. Reports emerged that they were the worst two new DJs the trainers had ever encountered which doesn't bode well. Unfortunately, I doubt we will have a choice but to listen to them. Apparently, their topics of discussion have included whether snacking on chocolate or bacon sandwiches makes you a better lover. Perhaps they're going for the so bad it's good approach? I hope so for their sake.

Meet the candidates...



Stephen Edwards

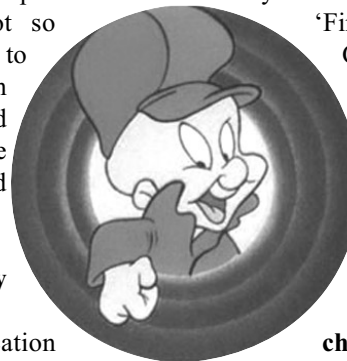
Q: Why are you the best candidate?

A: I am determined to work effectively with all members and officers of the Students' Union. I am not scared of standing my ground and speaking strongly in defence of the interests of all students in Southampton. I want to keep

the pressure on the University and Business Services to put students first - before profit and commercial interests. I have enough experience in the Students' Union to make a positive difference and yet not so much that I am opposed to change. I will have an open-door policy and want to get more feedback from YOU and what matters to YOU!

Q: Outline your key policies

A: Improve communication between the Union and members by making Wessex Scene fortnightly. Also make The Edge into a separate publication. More information about the long-term re-development of the buildings. High speed network (internet) points in all student rooms and sort out the NTL problem.



Effective national opposition to top-up fees. Continue to raise awareness of rented housing issues - bring forward housing week. Make Uni-link non-compulsory for first years and monitor the renewal of the 'First' contract.

Closer working with all JCRs - especially the new committees at Winchester and Archers Road.

Keep the Library and Computer Facilities open late.

Q: If you were a cartoon character, which would you be, and why?

A: Elma Fudd, and I'm man enough to admit it!

Q: How big is your ego?

A: Big enough to get the job done!

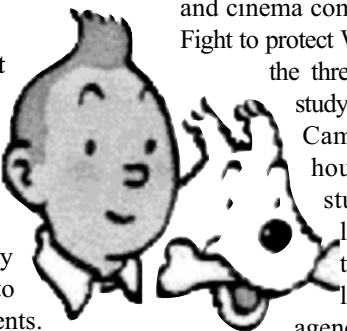
Felix Hebblethwaite

Q: Why are you the best candidate?

A: I have demonstrated through extensive involvement within Southampton University Students' Union my commitment to campaigning to ensure a fair deal for all students. The wide knowledge and experience developed over the last two years as NUS Co-ordinator and an executive member of the student union has demonstrated my ability to gain results.

Q: Outline your key policies

A: Work to ensure the completion of planned new facilities in the student



union building to include a night-club and cinema complex.

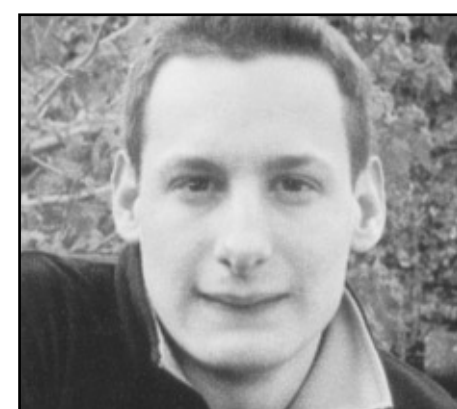
Fight to protect Wednesday afternoons from the threat of timetabled academic study.

Campaign for improved housing provision for all students and ensure the legal rights of student tenants are respected by landlords and letting agencies.

Defend the right to free higher education and continue to campaign against tuition fees and the implementation of top-up fees in conjunction with the National Union of Students.

Demand the provision of fair and reliable services from Uni-link and NTL.

Q: If you were a cartoon character,



which would you be, and why?

A: Tin Tin. Just look at the photo!

Q: How big is your ego?

A: What ego?



Neil Payne

Q: Why are you the best candidate?

A: I have the experience to bring in much needed reform to the Union. I was previously a JCR President and am currently Chairman of the committee organising the Social Science Ball. I consider myself qualified and competent. I've further been involved with the Union

for the past three years, currently being Men's Officer. I am a fresh face, though untarnished by previous Union squabbles not being part of that exclusive Union clique. If you'd like to see reform and change in the Union for the better, you'll vote for me.

Q: Outline your key policies

A: I have an array of policy ideas, full details are available on request if you e-mail me njp398@soton.ac.uk. My key policies are:

To campaign for greater clarity and a reduction in Hall fees.

To establish the Union's own hardship fund.

To expand and enhance the activities of ENTS and RAG.

Q: If you were a cartoon character, which would you be, and why?

A: Cartman. I am big boned and you should respect my authority!

Q: How big is your ego?

A: Moderate to large, and that's just my ego!





Christopher Leese

Q: Why are you the best candidate?

A: Because I am hard working. And because I

have grass roots clubs and societies experience, as President of the politics society. Therefore I am a candidate with a history of working for students. I also have a friendly and approachable personality that I think it important for someone who wants to work with the students' union

Q: Outline you key policies.

A: I would expand the Wessex Scene and start a student's union magazine. This magazine would include articles on student issues and many special promotions that I would negotiate. I would also campaign for more comfortable surroundings in the SU bar. Another idea I have, is to set up e-mail forwarding so leaving students can keep their e-mail address. Most importantly I would work for the thing that students want me to work for.

Q: If you were a cartoon character, which would you be, and why?

A: Bart Simpson, because he has a sense of humour that I think is very important in life.

Q: How big is your ego?

A: I don't think I have a big ego. My ambition in life is to work for society. If I leave this world in even slightly better condition than I found it, I would have succeeded in my life.



Jamie Moore

Q: Why are you the best candidate?

A: I have been involved in all aspects of SUSU for three years. I understand how

the union works and can see how to make it perform even better. I am dedicated to teamwork, achieving results and campaigning on behalf of Southampton students both locally and at a national level. I have the right skills for the job such as professional publishing and website design. The massive union renovations will hopefully begin next year. I have had four years experience in the construction industry and will not allow the university to back out of its commitments. I will fight tooth and nail to ensure these developments go ahead. I work at my best under pressure.

Q: Outline you key policies.

A: Nightclub and Cinema: ensure

completion of massive £3.5m union building renovation.

Radio Station: launch a new Southampton-wide student radio station on FM full time.

Wessex Scene: changes including fortnightly publication, more investigative journalism, TV guise, competitions and more up to date image. Crackdown: on extortionate NTL charges in halls and unreliable Uni-link services. E-resources: development of SUSU websites and computer access in the union and at all satellite site SU offices.

Q: If you were a cartoon character, which would you be, and why?

A: Homer Simpson... eat the pudding, eat the pudding, eat the pudding...

Q: How big is your ego?

A: As big as my hat.



Niaomh Walsh

Q: Why are you the best candidate?

A: 'Simply the best better than all the rest?' I

promise no Tina Turner impression! As for the role of VP Comms? I don't like

the word 'best'. I'm one of those weird individuals who believe in representing everyone equally. Corny, but true!

Q: Outline you key policies.

A: Cash machines for all sites and halls. Wessex Scene – Jobs page, spot your friend page, launch parties with each issue. Get your guys involved. It's not just student politics!

Satellite sites – weekly visits. I'll come to you. Prominent advertising – to let you know what's happening.

Raise funds for common rooms.

All to increase awareness.

To be your slave for one joyous year!

Q: If you were a cartoon character, which would you be, and why?

A: Well she's not so much a cartoon character but Miss Piggy is definitely my idol! Not only is she one powerful pig, great dress sense but behind those eyelashes she would do anything for her muppets. Bless.

Q: How big is your ego?

A: To use Miss Piggy's own words 'Moi is a star!'... (but only if you allow me!).



Jon Hartley

Q: Why are you the best candidate?

A: I want to serve the students. I believe I have the experience and passion to get

things done. With the help of others we can make a difference!

Vote No1. Hartley4EdWelf

Q: Outline you key policies.

A: Campaign for return of grants.

Campaign against top-up fees.

Campaign for 24 hour library access.

Closer links with JCRs, officers concerned with welfare, and course reps.

Q: If you were a cartoon character, which would you be, and why?

A: I'm a caricature of myself – my life is a comic strip, although not many would read it!

Q: How big is your ego?

A: As big as the present contents of the Millennium Dome – my ego's always been deflated – much like a big tent with nothing in it.



Kate Holmes

Q: Why are you the best candidate?

A: I have a good knowledge of the way in which both students union and university

procedures are implemented, and thus understand the best methods to use to effect change. I care greatly about the needs of students, and would like to have the opportunity to both represent you, and ensure that you have as safe and enjoyable time at university as possible.

Q: Outline you key policies.

A: To address the problems incurred by students in halls of residence, as well as continuing the work carried out this year to improve privately rented accommodation.

To create a forum for all students who use the uni-link service.

To continue efforts to provide equal services for all students across all university sites whilst recognising that students at each site have their own special need.

To work with the NUS, and support (and encourage student participation in) specific campaigns on issues such as top-up fees.

To ensure that students education and welfare needs are considered by the university in every decision made and to

a persuasive informed representative of the student body.

Q: If you were a cartoon character, which would you be, and why?

A: Penelope Pitstop. She drives too fast, spends far too much time on her make-up, but always wins in the end!

Q: How big is your ego?

A: Enormous – I just do quite a good job of hiding it!



spent the last 3 years studying skills that are directly transferable into the role of Education and Welfare Sab. I believe that I am the candidate that can bring most experience and skills to this job. I am committed to the role of Ed and Wel Sab.

Q: Outline you key policies.

A: Oppose tuition and top-up fees.

Campaign for 24 hour access to library and computers.

Work with ILT.

Campaign for bus service.

Develop course representation

Run campaigns on meningitis, sexual health, NTL reform, anonymous marking, better banking for international students and post grads.

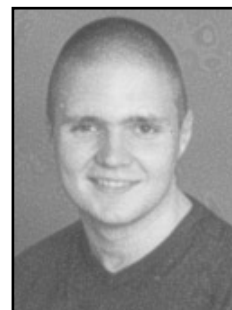
Greater equality for childcare provision.

Q: If you were a cartoon character, which would you be, and why?

A: Marvin the Martian – because men ARE from mars.

Q: How big is your ego?

A: 21 years cubed.



Dominic Walsh

Q: Why are you the best candidate?

A: I have been involved in the SU since I started 3 years ago, having been an executive officer for 2. As a student nurse I have

Kyle Bateman - No answers submitted



James 'Fish' Baker

Q: Why are you the best candidate?

A: I feel that I know better than any other candidate what it means to Wessex, as an AU, to run as well as maintaining a respectable and closely social club reputation.

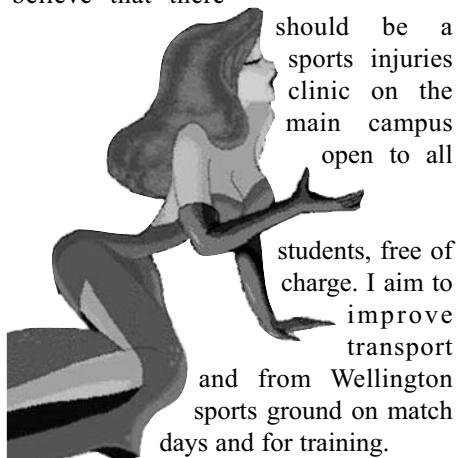
Antonio 'Des' DeSouza

Q: Why are you the best candidate?

A: I have more experience within the union and AU than the other candidates. I have sat on union council, been a member of both the AU ball committee and AU council as well as being an experienced club officer. Having been here for three and a half years I appreciate and respect AU tradition whilst being prepared to modernize those aspects that have become outdated. While some other candidates may see this as a last minute opportunity to stay at university and avoid the real world I have decided to run for election many months ago. Although I have my own agenda I want to hear and possibly implement the policies and ideas of other clubs and AU members.

Q: Outline your key policies

A: I will continue to maintain and improve the relationship between the AU and the DSR. I will also endeavor to reintroduce all BUSA teams into the Eastern Division rather than the Western, to reduce traveling time and expense. I believe that there



Q: If you were a cartoon character,

Q: Outline your key policies

A: Keep the club armour and kit going, while making money for the AU and its clubs by running the option to order from the AU office. Better transport to and from Wellington sports ground. Continued improved relations with DSR. Re-establish positive links with Clowns and Jesters and maintain Wednesday colours night. Establish a Wednesday night slot for the recreational clubs on a similar line to the colours night. Continued support of colours clubs. Fundraisers to improve money available for capital expenditure.

Q: If you were a cartoon character, which would you be, and why?

A: Tigger, because I'm bouncy, trouncy, flouncy, pouncy, fun, fun, fun, fun, fun. The football club and a few other people call me Tigger. I hope

which would you be, and why?

A: Roger Rabbit; so I could make out with Jessica Rabbit!

Q: How big is your ego?

A: Bigger than John Major, smaller than Chris Eubank.



I'm loveable. Oh yes, and the most wonderful thing about Tigger is I'm the only one.

Q: How big is your ego?

A: It depends on your perspective. I suppose I often tread the fine line between confidence and arrogance, though having said that 'my mouth's never written cheques my ass can't cash!'

which would you be, and why?

A: Roger Rabbit – Do you remember Jessica Rabbit?

Q: How big is your ego?

A: Not as big as my overdraft.



Alex Paterson

Q: Why are you the best candidate?

A: Over the last year my position as football club captain has meant working closely with the president on a daily basis. I therefore have an excellent knowledge of what the position involves, and how the athletic union works. I'm therefore very capable of the job.

Q: Outline your key policies

A: Reduction in cost of all sport and leisure.
Increase membership and participation rate.
Complete resolution of Wednesday's all night situation.
Close working relations with the Department of Sport and Recreation.



EDGE

► Old-folk rock

February 26th 2001

**...And You Will Know Us By The Trail Of Dead
Ministry Of Sound New Year**

**Terris
Divine Comedy
All Inside!!!**

**Kids just aren't making music
like they used to!**

The beautiful sounds of GRANDDADDY inside

At The Drive-In • Reef • Ratpack • The Strokes • Games • The Bricks

W E L C O M E T O

THE **EDGE****THE EDGE TEAM**

Editor - Andrew Snowball
Dance - Charlotte Devalda
Games - James Rumsey
Reviews - Paul Cornwell
Film and Theatre - Jenny Szwiel

With - Lewis Packwood, Darren Pickering, Chris Lees, Chris Thornton, Emmanuelle Smith, Tim Houghton, Rachel Lee, Marin McGrath, Steve Johnson, John McKenna, Alex Doak, Brian Clifford

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THE EDGE TOP TEN

George W. Bush –
 Son of Bush, Son
 of
 Star Wars!

1. Atrocity Exhibition - Joy Division

No matter how hard he tries to defend it, Bush's new missile defence thing will not be getting any popular support.

2. Intergalactic - Beastie Boys

Bush is aiming high.

3. Guns and Ammunition - The Clash

Mere guns will be nothing in the face of his latest venture.

4. Superscud - Raging Speedhorn

Will Saddam be responding to Bush with a few of these?

5. Vaporizer - Lupine Howl

Bush probably has a few of these up his sleeves too!

6. Exterminator - Primal Scream

The Prez seems to be hell-bent on starting a war with the Russians, but for now, he'll just have to settle for killing more Iraqi civilians in the name of peace

7. The Intense Humming of Evil - Manic Street Preachers

The noise coming from America right now.

8. The Black Angel's Death Song - The Velvet Underground

Also known as The Battle Hymn of the American Republic

9. Transmitting Live From Mars - De La Soul

Having annexed the rest of the world, Bush's next aim will be the rest of the galaxy. Expect some 'State of the Universe' addresses

10. Waitin' For A Superman - The Flaming Lips

Now we just need someone to finish off the trigger-happy president.

The News

with **EDGE** hound **PAUL CORNWELL**



Coldplay had to end their sold-out show at the New York Irving Plaza on February 16 early due to Chris Martin's voice. The singer, who was visibly unwell, had his voice gave out just three songs in to their set. Details of whether or not further dates on the tour were to go ahead or not are unknown.

Internet MP3 file swapping sight, **Napster**, has had a court ruling against it effectively terminating it as we know it. Napster is facing closure since a judge in San Francisco found largely in favour of the American record labels that want the site closed. According to Shawn Fanning, founder of Napster, a new service will soon be available soon which is quite legal and will have an MP3 protection lawyer to monitor files as they are swapped.

Jennifer Lopez has reputedly axed sometime partner **Sean (Puff Daddy) Combs** after mounting pressure due to gun charges involving the pair and a nightclub shooting. Excellent, she's back on the market.

What news page would be complete without **Glastonbury** or **Radiohead** news? Neatly combining them both, Radiohead have been hotly tipped by organiser, Michael Eavis, to headline the 2002 festival. However he did go on to issue a stark warning to fence jumpers "If we can't stop the fence-jumping the festival will actually finish. I have got one last chance next year to convince (the authorities) that I can control the numbers."

The Boutique family **weekender** has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. All ticket holders entitled to refunds should go back to the point of purchase.

EDITORIAL

I told you so, didn't I? Anticipating a rash of complaints due to the unhealthily meagre proportions of the last issue, The Edge has returned to its usual state of sublime magnificence!

With all the right bits in the right places, such as the Top Ten ad Dance section, we also bring you a newly revamped film and theatre section, in an attempt to make it slightly less, well, shit.

In what must be the finest turn of events in music journalism all year (*that good!*) we bring you a collection of Top Drawer US music, from the cover stars Grandaddy, to Trail of Dead and At The Drive-In, both from Texas. You lucky buggers.

DARIUS
NEWS

Edited by the 3am Girls

The *only* news service dedicated to Popstars' lovable reject, Darius

January 30th 2001

Popstars legend Darius is reputed to have been hunted down by major label Polydor.

Apparently, a producer was trying to track the young and impossibly arrogant shit down, following his dramatic expulsion from TV's Popstars.

It is believed that the label are currently forming a new, all-Scottish boyband, in an attempt to follow the success of Irish groups like Boyzone and Westlife. In particular, the label are looking for a talented frontman. So far, though, they have only succeeded in finding Darius.

Darius also said today that the Popstars band wasn't really what he wanted, after all. "I feel almost a sense of relief and certainly a sense of gratitude," he lied.

January 31st 2001

Darius joined Ash on stage at a Virgin in-store signing in Leeds. The Scottish wonder sang the chorus to 'Girl From Mars' with the band, to hearty booing from the crowd. Afterwards, a spokesperson for Ash said it was good that the band don't take things too seriously. Damn right it is! Have you heard their latest single?

January 31st 2001

Darius sang the national anthem at the opening of the NME Carling Cup. Teams playing in the five a side football tournament included various bands and demi-celebs. Darius was also playing in goal for The Cooper Temple Clause, who told The Edge that he was the "shittest goalkeeper ever."

VOTE NOW • VOTE NOW • VOTE NOW • VOTE NOW • VOTE NOW • VOTE NOW •

THE BRICKS - 2001

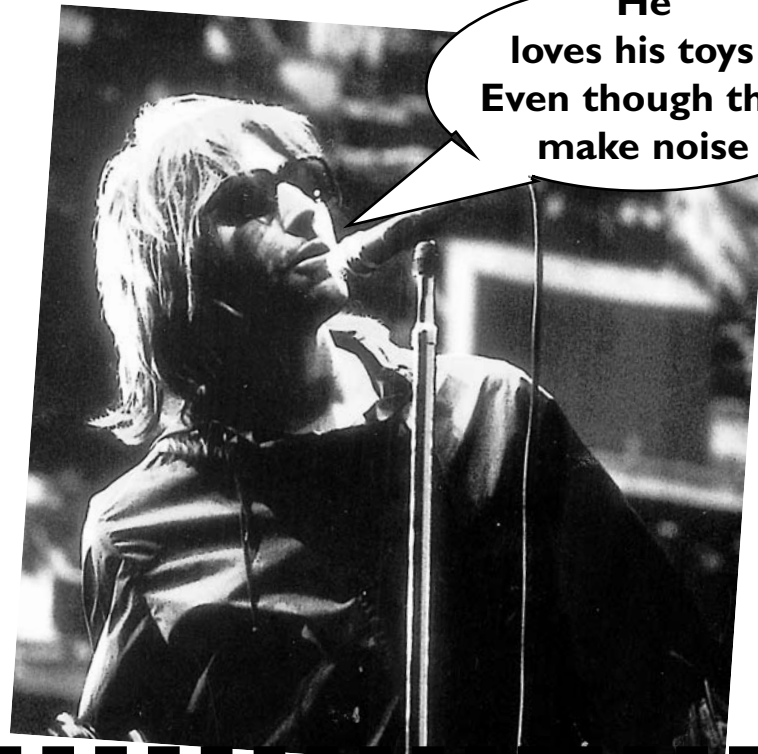
As Brits and Brats fever sweeps the nation, The Edge indulges in its now legendary tradition of The Brick Awards™. Voting is now open so fill in the form below and get it back to us as soon as possible!

Just tell us your favourites (and least favourites) of the last twelve months. Is Badly Drawn Boy really the best new artist in Britain? Did Queens Of The Stone Age make the best album of the year? And was your top TV moment At The Drive-In playing four different songs at once on Jools Holland or Judy Finnigan's sensible bra on live, prime-time TV (a personal fave!)?

Fill in the form below IMMEDIATELY, and you could be in with a chance of winning some rather nifty prizes, and some junk which has been lying around the office for months. Last year was a record-breaking year for the Bricks - voting reached double figures! So let's see if you lazy good-for-nothings can double the numbers this time, to take us to the big two-oh...

Remember you can e-mail your votes to theedge@soton.ac.uk. Alternatively, bring your completed forms to the Wessex Scene office (above the SU bar) or leave them in the box provided at the SU reception, in the Union Concourse. Please don't go tearing out any pages until you've read the superb Granddaddy interview on the other side, obviously. It's perfectly understandable that you won't want to rip up your treasured copy of The Edge, so photocopies are acceptable.

This is YOUR chance to decide who the best and worst people of the last year are, so make the choices good, won't you? I mean, you won't be voting Westlife for 'Best Band'. And please try your best to make sure Darius is 'Tosser of the Year'. Thanks.



Will Liam win the coveted silver brick in the rhyming couplet award, for 'Little James'?

The Entry Form - all categories & special awards

BEST BAND

GRANDDADDY AWARD FOR MOST FULSOME BEARD

BEST MALE

GODSPEED YOU BLACK EMPEROR! AWARD FOR MOST CUMBERSOME ALBUM TITLE

BEST FEMALE

TOSSER OF THE YEAR

BEST ALBUM

TEENY-POP DUO OF THE YEAR

BEST SINGLE

MARTINE McCUTCHEON AWARD FOR TERRIBLE RHYMING COUPLET OF THE YEAR

BEST DJ

CRAIG DAVID AWARD FOR MOST SOULLESS 'SOUL' MUSIC

BEST LIVE ACT

Your details: Name, email, telephone

TOP TV MOMENT

SUSU EVENT OF THE YEAR

VOTE NOW • VOTE NOW • VOTE NOW • VOTE NOW • VOTE NOW • VOTE NOW •

S I N G L E S

U2 Stuck In A Moment You Can't Get Out Of (Island)

Aside from the spectacularly uncanny name this single testament to U2's return to fine fettle in the song writing stakes. Following the criminally under acclaimed 'Beautiful Day', this song is quite stunning in its power and faultless ability to have you singing it all day.

U2 have returned to their song writing glory with such a meaningful, beautiful and pleasing song it is untrue.

CD1 also has a version of 'Beautiful Day' live, in case you don't already have it to blare out on those sunny mornings that are shortly on their way.

8/10
PC



THIRTEEN:13

50 Stories (Polydor)

Nice enough tune, meaningful lyrics and just a little something else to separate them from the masses. Not by much though. Don't get me wrong, Thirteen:13 seem very nice but they don't appear to be helping the state of the music scene at the moment.

This just isn't incendiary enough, it doesn't make you want to head butt the wall, drink twelve pints and lose your mind. Sorry.

6/10
PC

SOULWAX

Conversation Intercom (Pias)

Never heard more than snippets of Soulwax before, and have been relatively impressed. 'Conversation Intercom', is likely to achieve radio friendly indie crossover success. However if Soulwax b- sides are a relection of their wider work (iffy Pearl Jammy lite strums), then make your wallet run for cover.

6/10
DP

MO*HO*BISH*O*PI

Playboy (V2)

Question: What do you get if you cross Welsh punks with legendary Dinosaur Jr producer and noise-smith Don Fleming?
Answer: Just over 3 minutes of fuzzy vocals, Californian melodies, cheeky riffs and lyrics like 'I'm in love with your daughter, you'd better call the police'. And, another 1 and a half minutes of fuzzed-up, speeded-up, glam-punk, Chinese-proverb-plagiarising romping.

7/10
AS

FATHER OF BOON

A Case of Not Knowing Before (Growl - wow)

The black and white contemplative

nature of the record cover. The handsome black clad young geezer on the step. Excitement reaching Steven Duffy ala 'Love All My Friends', proportions. Boon be the bearer of bad news. Track one, 'The Last Thing I Broke', sounds like a bunch of chemistry students falling down two flights of stairs (that exciting), but overall your taste sensation is the empty gut crawl of an anorexic washed out 80's band. Yum.

1/10
DP

AEROSMITH

Jaded (Columbia Records)

Since 'Don't Wanna Miss a Thing', it seems that Tyler and co. have decided to take it easy. This one doesn't drip with the same sentimental, emotional wish-wash (and hey I liked it!) and doesn't have the BIG feel that song had. It's a nice little ballad but with a bit of a repetitious riff which strikes of the bad brit-pop era (i.e. Manics). The changes are nice and Tyler's voice still sounds like no other, but I think from now on the days of songs like Dude Looks Like a Lady are long gone.

3/5
CL

GOLDFRAPP

Human (Mute)

Alison Goldfrapp returns here with a moody, jazzy big band-style piece of debonaire class. With stabs of brass, John Barry strings and sultry vocals.

It is only the mere addition of squelchy noises and various other assorted noises that makes this distinguishable from any one of a number of Shirley Bassey anthems.

But no matter how many noises are thrown on top, they don't do much to disguise a rather tired sounding song.

5/10
AS

FUN LOVIN' CRIMINALS

Loco (Chrysalis)

My first reaction towards this album was negative. Before I'd even heard it I was dreading what it may hold and whether or not it would indicate a further slide away from the style that they had around the 'Come Find Yourself' era.

I was worried that they'd expose themselves further as the lounge pastiches that it appears that they were turning in to. I was worried that they were now in to the phase of parodying themselves, which is just embarrassing. When I heard the album, I feared that my thoughts were all founded as it was spectacularly unlike FLC material circa 'Come Find Yourself'.

After several listens however, I found that I was enjoying the melodies, the more serious approach to songwriting and the more chilled out melancholia. However, don't despair, this is melancholy with a quart of Tequila and an ounce of skunk though, not your average Radiohead/Verve sort. Quite interesting, I'm sure you'll agree.

So I decided; it's time to drop the double standards. If Radiohead produce a half-baked album of weird electronica, they are rightly praised for following their desire to make interesting and challenging music. If FLC make a change in their style as they did with '100% Colombian' and now again with 'Loco' that is their prerogative.

As for the album, you can tell it's FLC with a touch of the blues, funk, punk and a heavy portion of latino groove. It's interesting, fun, clever and (gulp) more mature, but this again isn't necessarily a bad thing.

This isn't 'Come Find Yourself' so don't buy this expecting another helping of some of 1996 finest. However this album does stand up for itself, up on its own two feet and is most buy-able if you want to hear some good songs from a band that has found a sound that they are comfortable with.

6/10

LABRADFORD

Fixed::context (Blast First)

The word 'ambient' is one that inevitably strikes fear into many a music lover's heart. Understandable, seeing as that since the pioneering work of Brian Eno, all but a few would-be jumpers on the bandwagon have failed due to pale imitation within a constraining genre.

Labradford obviously aren't afraid of such pre-conceptions, having recently toured their self-organised 'Festival of Drifting', and leaving a string of long-players devoid of beats save for a glitchy crackle or a sampled snippet of found-sound here and there. 'Fixed::context' is no exception and the pieces here are extremely similar in sound to its predecessor, 1999's 'E luxu so'. However, the reason why Labradford succeed where so many have failed is perhaps due to an approach from a rock perspective, much like Eno himself, rather than from an inability to do anything else except play the same few notes ad infinitum.

The trio use a guitar/guitar/synth line-up along with an array of FX pedals to create some brilliantly crafted arrangements based on the simplest of phrases, and while 'original' might not be the most accurate word used in the press release accompanying this CD, the description 'beautiful' could certainly be applied.

8/10
TH

JOHN WAYNE ARMY

Night Without End (Cavalera)

Based around London and formed back in 1991, John Wayne Army is certainly a peculiar beast. Described as "Tom Waits and Nancy Sinatra dueting in a David Lynch film after a gin drenched coupling"! It's lo-fi country with a bit of Suede, Nick Cave, Bowie and a touch of Joni Mitchell on speed.

When I say lo-fi, I do mean lo-fi, as in it has a beautiful made in a garage sound which just adds emphasis to the raw vocals and heart felt emotions. You can almost see Al Newton's face with a big frown looking as if he's about to burst in to tears at any moment on songs such as 'House Without Love'. There are tales of every kind of love (most unrequited or sour) but some turn out for the best.

In the greatest tradition of rock and roll heart break, tales abound of fucked up relationships, getting slaughtered, stoned and questioning why it just won't work out. Sam Ireland has a tortuous voice that can send shivers down a man's spine from twenty paces. She adds such a beautiful twist when dueting with Al to make a change from the usual one man moaning, it's kind of twisted.

Above all, there's great melodies, tunes and harmonies. That with top song writing is all you need, that and a push in to the mainstream so that you can highlight exactly how wrong most record exec's are in their thinking of what the general record buying public wants.

8/10
PC

THE EDGE ALBUMS

KINGS OF CONVENIENCE

Quiet is the new loud.

(Source)

Hot on the heels of their excellent 'Playing Live in a Room' EP comes this Scandinavian duo's debut album. One of the frontrunners in the much lauded NAM (New Acoustic Movement, keep up their at the back) along with Badly Drawn Boy and new comers Starsailor, although they do wish that they and their brethren weren't packaged with this tag.

To say that the Kings of Convenience's style is understated is well, understating things. A pair of acoustic guitars and two voices, hence Kings of Convenience. Nowt much else either.

Very similar to their debut release, but something appears to have been lost. Whether it's the fact that all of the songs are sung in English on this album as opposed to the mix of French and English or whether it's just the sort of music that's best in small doses.

Still, the Kings' one of the more interesting and strangely different acts to have emerged over the past year and definitely worth hearing. Quiet is to be proud.

7/10

PC

PIXIES

Complete B-sides.

(4AD)

The Pixies formed in Boston in the mid-eighties and set about releasing 5 albums in 5 years that are widely recognised to have revolutionized the face of rock music. This album contains a wide selection of re-recordings, live stuff, videos and a couple of very good Neil Young covers thrown in for good measure. The impressive thing about this album is the consistently high quality which most bands would kill for in a genuine studio album, let alone a compilation. This means a set of songs a decade old still sound fresh.

My only word of caution is perhaps this album is for die hard Pixies fans only and newcomers would be better off with a studio album such as "Doolittle". However this is an excellent album in it's own right and certainly worth a look.

BC

8/10

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Whisper Number

(Parallelism)

While new recruit Jon Steele has achieved a minor success drumming for instrumental rockers State River Widening, guitarist Gerard Cosloy has been languishing in the backwaters as far as recognition goes. Which is unfair, because on Whisper Number, the Controllers prove themselves as a truly inventive outfit, improvising all four lengthy tracks live in the studio and still managing to come up with a cohesive sound. This is largely due to Cosloy's versatile playing which covers many reference points with flair, recalling at times Mogwai's understated melodicism and Gary Smith's stereo-guitar trickery, to name a couple. Steele more than plays his part, though, and helps to keep Cosloy on his toes for the first three tracks, avoiding the meanderings that often bog down experimental rock. Finally, Cosloy can't resist throwing down the gauntlet - it's either insane skill or some sneaky live sampling which creates the illusion of more than one guitarist - and the two battle it out Sister Ray style in the blazing highlight of this fine offering. Any improv-sceptics out there should be converted with just one listen.

9/10

TH

TERRORVISION

Good To Go

(Papillon)

I would have thought that in their somewhat dubiously illustrious 8-year tenure at the forefront of straight-ahead, fun-loving British rock, Terrorvision would have matured at least to the point of playing something that sounds a bit different from their tried-and-tested loud guitar noise. Although they came dangerously close to perfect songsmithery with 'Regular Urban Survivors', nothing has progressed beyond this at all. 'Shaving Peaches' might not (perhaps should not) have happened at all.

I'm afraid that slapping an excuse for a drumloop at the start of the odd song, as they have done here, with 'Good To Go', is not going to convince even their die-hard fans that this album belongs in 2001. 'Fists of Fury' is a ray of hope halfway through the record, with a pissed-up, moshpit-happy chorus far more worthy of a beating-by-crowdsurfing-Doc Marten wearers than the frankly lame single, 'D'Ya Wanna Go Faster'. A safe purchase if you're a fan. Otherwise, steer clear...

3/10

AD

Buy this record! Or else...

TURIN BRAKES

The Optimist LP

(Source)

This is it, year zero. Bulldoze the charts and appoint Turin Brakes numbers one through to forty. This is what needs to be in the charts, pure thrilling, foot tapping music, you just can't stop yourself from singing along to. The melodies are beautiful the tunes are sublime, from the first to the last song. A journey you'll want to travel again and again.

Ollie Knights' voice is one of the most endearing and moving since Thom Yorke's but with as much fun in it as he wants to dole out. Which he does choose to quite frequently. Ollie and his partner in crime, Gale Paridjanian, (who incidentally pulls out some delightful harmonies) practice a pretty stripped down operation. There's isn't too much other than guitar, bass, some nice little effects and a bit of harmonica but they don't need much of anything else.

Ollie and Gale have known each other for ever but they first got together musically aged ten. For Cathedral choir. They've been jamming, improvising, singing and playing sporadically ever since. And another thing, on how they got their name; "Gale's always been obsessed with Turin, the Italian city, and I've always had a strange kind of love affair with brakes," deadpans Ollie. "I've got lots of brakes in my room, really oily brakes on newspapers round the house." Fair enough.

They always said that madness was a sign of genius. Now they've been proved right.

10/10

PC



Snow Patrol

When it's all over we still have to clear up

(Jeepster)

If you were going to create a plot of land for indie/pop rock alternative types, you'd have to advertise for confident cliff top inhabitants. Rather than being able to set up camp with the confident tent pegs of a SFA or a JJ72, Snow Patrol are most definitely part of the limestone foot brigade ala Gorky's backs to the wall scenario.

Being Jeepster stablemates of the cherishable undercurrents known as Salako and Looper, are Snow Patrol some kind of missing golden Shergar, or the rear end of a Lord Lucan inhabited pantomime horse? 'When it's all...' begins swimmingly well with the gorgeous 'Never gonna fall in love again' and continues in much the same vein until mid-ground slowdown where contemplation breaks concentration. Echoes of the poor bits of the Llama Farmers latest album are too obvious to miss. Lacking the nutty narrative of Looper or the bonkers calling card of Salako, Snow Patrol with their skin deep tendency to often sound like old rock donkeys, are risking a fan-ish revolt worthy of a cliff top descent.

5/10

DP



Come to Granddaddy

PRIOR TO THEIR RECENT VISIT TO THE STUDENTS' UNION, THE EDGE HAD THE HONOUR OF SPEAKING TO GRANDDADDY'S SEXPOT GUITARIST JIM FAIRCHILD

The world of Granddaddy is strange and beautiful, but, unfortunately, entrance is limited to members only. However, we can all catch a glimpse of what it's like by taking a listen to their music, which epitomises lo-fi excellency, or, even better, by seeing them live (as many of us did when they played our union). The Edge were lucky enough to go one step further and have a chat with Jim Fairchild, guitarist with the band, before they did the Southampton show.

The interview was to be conducted by phone, and was scheduled for 3.15pm. However, when I called, their tour manager informed me that they were all still in bed with a hangover, and asked me to call back. I did, an hour later, and Jim was very polite and becoming considering the lack of sleep he'd had the night before. I ask him about the

reputation that the band seems to have acquired for being totally wasted 100% of the time whilst on tour. How much of that is true, I wonder? "It's gotten a little bit easier cos' it had to", he admits. "I don't want to get too dramatic or anything but the way we used to do it was really really far from being healthy. It came to the point where people were pretty familiar with the band, and I'm not trying to brag cos' its nothing to brag about, but they were like 'the amount of fucking alcohol that you guys put away, I don't know how you can do it' and we would just drink for months on end, and I don't know how we did it either. It still happens, but I've been trying to cool down on that in the name of self-preservation." Apparently, his getting pissed last night was nothing to do with him, but all down to two girls (obviously!) from their record label, who coaxed him into it: "We were sat in the

bar drinking and I think I started to get up at 2am to go to bed and they were like 'hey we were just about to buy another round' and I was like fuck, okay, but that turned into another 5 rounds and then it got to about 6am and we were like, okay, you guys have gotta get the fuck out of here, alright." Sounds like a tough life to me.

Last year was a very exciting one for Granddaddy. The Sophtware Slump, their second full-length album was released in May to great critical acclaim, and they've been touring pretty much non-stop since. The Reading/Leeds festival weekend was a highlight for them in the sense that they got to see some of their favourite bands as well as perform themselves: "We got to see Ween every day for four days which was amazing, and we got to see Calexico, who are also good friends of ours, and it's always nice to see them live. And we got to see

Home, who are great, and hang around with them". Surely they didn't miss Slipknot? "I actually saw Slipknot earlier on in the year, in Germany. They were loud and really not too much to my liking. I'm actually a big fan of certain Slayer albums and some really aggressive music like that, but Slipknot was a little bit derivative, conceptually and musically. I feel like they should be giving a couple of dollars to some of the bands that preceded them."

After the UK tour they're on right now, the band are finally going to have a well-earned break from touring. Jason Lytle, Granddaddy front man, has to go into hospital for knee surgery due to a pre-existing skate injury (he used to be a professional skateboarder) and so everyone is getting a couple of months off. No rest for the wicked though, because Jim and Aaron (drummer) have been invited to tour with Howe Gelb

from Giant Sand, supporting PJ Harvey in Europe. This is something that Jim is obviously very excited about, because Giant Sand are Grandaddy's favourite band ever and possibly their greatest influence: "It's kind of like this big circle being completed. It's like watching your dad work for ever or something, like he owns a landscaping business and has been working for ever and then suddenly you get the opportunity to design your own little yard or something, and that's a pretty big deal"

As well as being in Grandaddy, Jim

how sad it is what can actually get lost in the process of that, like people's ideas. Sometimes people don't need to have original ideas when everything's being done for them. And also, the encroachment on nature and that's something we can see totally first hand cos' where we live, there used to be a lot of wide open space and now that's less and less and less prevalent"

Grandaddy's musical offerings have sometimes been described as a soundtrack to the anti-globalisation movement. Where does Jim Fairchild

when I speak to Jim and hear his soft spoken and perfectly articulated views, that the melancholy and sadness that can be found in their music emanates from a profound dissatisfaction with what they view as a sad state of affairs. And frankly, their message speaks louder and clearer than any angry rant.

Emmanuelle Smith

"WE WERE FLYING INTO COLOGNE, GERMANY, AND I LOOKED OUT OF THE PLANE WINDOW AND I SAW A WAL-MART. AND I WAS SERIOUSLY DAMN NEAR IN TEARS BECAUSE THAT'S A PRETTY DECENT STANDARD BEARER FOR SOME OF THE WORST ELEMENTS OF AMERICA" - JIM FAIRCHILD

writes his own songs. "I have a couple of four-tracks and odds and ends at home. That's actually what I was going to do with the bulk of that time off, I was gonna finally finish some of that stuff. But then Howe offered for Aaron and I to go off with him, so that reconfigured it a little in my head". Could any of Jim's songs end up being Grandaddy songs? "Well, I guess we can't rule anything out completely but I don't have any particular ambition to get my name in the song writing credits or anything like that in terms of Grandaddy. That's simply because I think that Jason is one of the best out there right now. It helps that we've known each other for as long as we have, cos' nobody is doing anything for the sake of the ego or the 'check me out' factor."

Is there any new Grandaddy material out on the horizon? "We haven't deliberately sat down and worked on much stuff recently. That could happen in that next break. I would like to think it would be less absolutely structured than it has been in the past, but that's gonna require us to get a new headquarters, a new home base. I mean, it is kind of neat that this record that people wound up liking (Sophtware Slump) was recorded in an incredibly fucking small 2-bedroom house, so that the studio was a bench stashed in the corner. But there needs to be a bigger place, a more efficient central ground for ideas, I think. So, yeah, maybe once that happens."

The Sophtware Slump is a concept album if there ever was one. A running theme throughout the record is that of abandoned electrical goods and machinery. Were Grandaddy trying to express a fear of peoples dependences on technology?

"I don't know if it's necessarily a fear. It's just the seeming blind casting of people's reliances and affections towards that stuff. Sure, they absolutely can be a monumental addition to your life, and a great tool, but eventually, people can get too attached to them. But then again, who the hell am I to say that? It's just my personal feeling, and it kind of creeps me out. People get so caught up in that whole idea of 'I've got to have the newest thing right now, right now, right now' when you actually don't sometimes have to have the newest thing." One of their main concerns is what impact this "progress" in terms of technology is having on us and our environment: "I think it has a lot to do with the idea of

stand on that? "Well I wouldn't think that would be the worst thing in the world. We're not a blatantly political band by any stretch of the imagination but the whole economic unification thing kind of frightens me, simply because I think there's value in individuals and in personality. And that comes down to the products that you buy, and the way you buy them and stuff, and the fact that that's another element of loss of identity. One of the saddest things that happened to me last year was that Jason and I were doing a promo tour before the record came out and we were flying into Cologne, Germany, and I looked out of the plane window and I saw a Wal-Mart. And I was seriously damn near in tears because that's a pretty decent standard bearer for some of the worst elements of America, and there it was, sitting in a different country, getting ready to destroy their culture."

Economic globalisation is an issue that Jim and probably all of the band have witnessed personally. Jim loathes the big chains not only out of principle, but also because they have robbed some of his closest friends and relatives of a livelihood. "Yeah, whenever I can, I will certainly try to buy whatever I buy, or patronize small, independently operated stores. And avoid the Starbucks at all costs! The depressing thing in America is sometimes you almost can't do that anymore."

Grandaddy do not go on and on about their political beliefs in the way that, say, the Manics do. However, it becomes clear to me

A salacious (and almost entirely fictional) Jim-related story

To demonstrate just how popular Jim is with the ladies, The Edge was treated to a story about him by Grandaddy's support band, Lowgold. It will be worth remembering when reading this that, at the most, only the first sentence or two is true.

Now, we'll leave you to Darren and Miles of Lowgold to tell you the story.



Lowgold: 'And it was this big!'

Miles: Front row, at the Grandaddy show in Newcastle, a girl gets her top off, for Jim. The band are wondering what's going on, and all the crew pop up from nowhere. Then it's like, clothes off! Knickers off! And there's another girl, and they start kissing. Then this guy comes along and [redacted] in the front row, at a Grandaddy show!

This is true, absolutely true.

Darren: But it gets worse... Another girl comes up and these two girls start [redacted], and she gets [redacted] as well and they're licking [redacted]. Then the other one that hasn't already had a go gets down on her knees [redacted].

Miles: then they indulge in this three-way [redacted]

Darren: A [redacted], right at the front, right in front of Jim the guitarist, and it goes on and on and on and on, all the way through the show!

Miles: Then at the end of the show they were trying to get back stage, and no-one was having any of it, and she said "I'll do anything to get backstage, anything you like. I'll [redacted]."

What I'll do, [redacted] cucumber and [redacted] sister [redacted] with it...

Darren: You don't believe us, do you?

The Edge: No.

Darren: He shoves babies up his arse!

Miles: Dead babies.

Darren: Up a dead arse...

Andrew Snowball

**...AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD
WREAK HAVOC AT THE ULU, LONDON**



"We're from Austin, motherf***in' Texas!" cries Neil Busch, Trail Of Dead bassist, and sometime guitarist and vocalist, raising his middle finger to the back of the auditorium.

One of the most vocal and uncompromising bands around, Trail Of Dead take no prisoners throughout their set. At the end, guitarist/vocalist/drummer, Conrad Keely will climb up onto the stack of speakers at one side of the stage, and threaten to jump the 30-odd feet into the crowd. As he does this, white noise will pour from every amp and every speaker as the three remaining members of the most vital band in America today systematically destroy their guitars and drums.

As the noise of 'A Perfect Teenhood', a breathless anthem of destructive, adolescent angst dies away, a period of a mere half a second will see the drum kit disappear, spread across the stage, and a guitar broken in two as Keely finds himself in the crowd for the millionth time tonight.

This is what Trail Of Dead do every time they play: They'll thrill the audience with a set of blistering feedback and immensely tuneful psychedelic punk, before leaving them, gutted and awestruck. The performance (for that is what it is) is interspersed with star jumps, stage dives and windmills. Every trick in the rock 'n' roll book is used to staggering effect.

They've taken all the best bits of Sonic Youth's 'Daydream Nation' and perverted it, twisting the art rock classic to their own demented wants, adding militancy and a spellbinding self-belief.

But there is no way this band could be called predictable - no-one ever knows what they will be doing next. It is a recipe which has left them with many die-hard fans and probably equally as many enemies. Tonight, the promoters at ULU are lucky - recently they've been chased out of venues by crazed mobs, forcing the band to defend themselves with their own guitars. Promoters have attacked the band, and the band have retaliated in kind.

The combination of a volatile passion for the music they create and a desire for everyone in the world to hear it, coupled with a morbid and dangerous sense of humour makes for a beautiful and compelling mixture, without ever descending into a cringe-making mass of pretentiousness. They are both hilariously funny and deadly serious - as they enter the stage Keely will indulge members of the audience with an

impromptu question-and-answer session, then they will invite the audience to throw bottles at them. And during 'Mark David Chapman', any chance of the song carrying any added significance on the twentieth anniversary of John Lennon's death is discarded, heroically, as Neil Busch concentrates on throwing the right shapes rather than playing the right notes while he sings.

It goes without saying, then, that they are a band to believe in.

**TEXAS GUITAR
MASSACRE**

The Edge e-mailed some questions to Trail Of Dead's primary mouthpiece Conrad Keely in the hope of clearing up some myths. Here's what we got instead:

The Edge: According to your website, you guys met in church, and 'Richter Scale Madness' was based on a hymn ('Lord of All Hopefulness'), do you think God is pleased with what He created there, or are you destined for an eternity in Hell?

Conrad Keely: Well firstly, one should never believe everything one reads.

Secondly, God isn't a He, he's a She. And She's black.

And finally, I think She loves all her creations. Certainly 'Richter Scale Madness' is a song about killing everyone, but there are plenty of passages out of the Bible about killing everyone as well. Killing is something that I'm sure God enjoys just as much as she enjoys bringing them to life. It's all part of the karmic cycle, n'est pas?

A recent interview said that your conversation makes "the likes of the Bloodhound Gang sound like politically aware intellectual heavyweights", so what do you like to talk about?

We like to ruminate upon topics such as English etymology, Easter mysticism, excursions from the mundane via meditation, the folly of the entertainment industry, eating pussy - you know, the usual lowbrow topics. I don't know exactly who wrote that about us, but we had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with the Bloodhound Gang recently at an anthropology seminar in Chicago, and although quite intellectual, they didn't strike me as particularly politically motivated. Perhaps they meant At The Drive-In.

Another review quoted a promoter referring to you all as "rich, spoiled mama's boys". Are you?

I love my mother, and she certainly spoiled me as best she could. Unfortunately we've never been anywhere close to rich. In fact, at one point in my life we lived on a gypsy caravan site outside of Nuneaton (in Griff), and we picked coal off the train tracks nearby for heat. I'm sure you think I'm making that up. I'm not. In fact, I just sent her two hundred dollars this Christmas so she could pay her rent, so if I ever meet people who think that about us, I would love to ram a fucking fist down their throat and yank their guts up. How's that for fucking intellectual?

Something on your website said that you didn't remember giving a particular interview, but it's "beginning to get like that". Are you enjoying the attention that you're getting, or do you hate having to do so many interviews now? Would rather you became known in a word-of-mouth way, but not being that successful, or is selling tons of records and being the biggest thing ever what you really crave?

I've never gotten sick of doing interviews, otherwise I wouldn't be doing this one now.

I was one of those discipline cases as a child who craved attention - not just my parents' attention, because I had that, but EVERYONE's attention. It even got me kicked out of a private school in Hawai'i (I believe that in England they call them "public" schools). I am not ashamed to admit that I simply love attention. And why shouldn't you; if being an artist is what you want? Certainly no artist dreams of dying obscure and undiscovered, unless they're pathetic and disillusioned into thinking that Van Gogh is some sort of role model - God knows there are some people who do think of him as a role model, which is why I decided to stop painting and disassociate myself from the visual arts community when I was eighteen.

I don't think that it's possible to be as big as I could dream of being, and that's due to the fact that we're not capable of space travel right now. But I wish I could get alien civilizations into our band as well. I mean, why the fuck not, right? Isn't music universal (I imagine that when we do perfect space travel one of the great disappointments we'll encounter is that music is

certainly NOT universal)?

At the ULU gig Jason (Reece, guitar, drums, vocals) referred on stage to the people who come to the gig just to witness the gear-trashing and stuff - is that aspect of what you do beginning to get you down now - as if it's just a gimmick? Jimi Hendrix hated that he had a reputation for smashing stuff up, he thought it held him back. Do you feel the same?

We're *starting* to feel that way. We never used to, simply because that was just always how we played, there was nothing particularly gimmicky about it. But I mean, what would happen if we did try to play a show that we just wanted people to listen to? The people up front would throw a fucking fit, right?

I guess if Hendrix were whining to me about that back stage right now, I'd be like, "Jimi - dude. Come on. You have the rest of your life to be a serious artist - assuming you don't choke on your vomit. Just loosen up and get into it."

How much of what you do is theatre? Is it really you guys being yourselves up on stage every night?

Well, it is certainly us being ourselves, but that doesn't discredit the whole thing from being theatre. It's ALL theatre, if

you like. Going to the fucking grocery store and checking out at the counter involves a certain amount of theatre. Admittedly being on stage involves quite a bit more, but you learn in college sociology that acting is part of communication.

But no, I don't usually get myself into "character", or do facial exercises in the dressing room mirrors before coming on stage. And when I see someone in the crowd I recognize, I'm going to shout out to them just like I saw them walking on the opposite side of the street, and say hi. Hell, I've had conversations with friends from the stage on some nights. The thought of not being myself - like being a Marilyn Manson, or a Slipknot clown/demon - I find kind of disturbing. I mean, granted, that's their own type of theatre, so whatever turns their crank. But it tends to make me think that the real person behind the mask must not be as interesting, which is why they resort to such extremes. And I like to think of myself as a pretty fucking interesting person - humor me.

The only truly theatrical thing I will admit to doing is a windmill on the guitar, and that is because when I spin my arm around like that, I'm not even hitting the guitar strings - I'm just spinning my arm around, and strumming the strings with my left hand. I don't know why I do that, but it kind of feels good in the right hand

when the blood rushes to your finger tips.

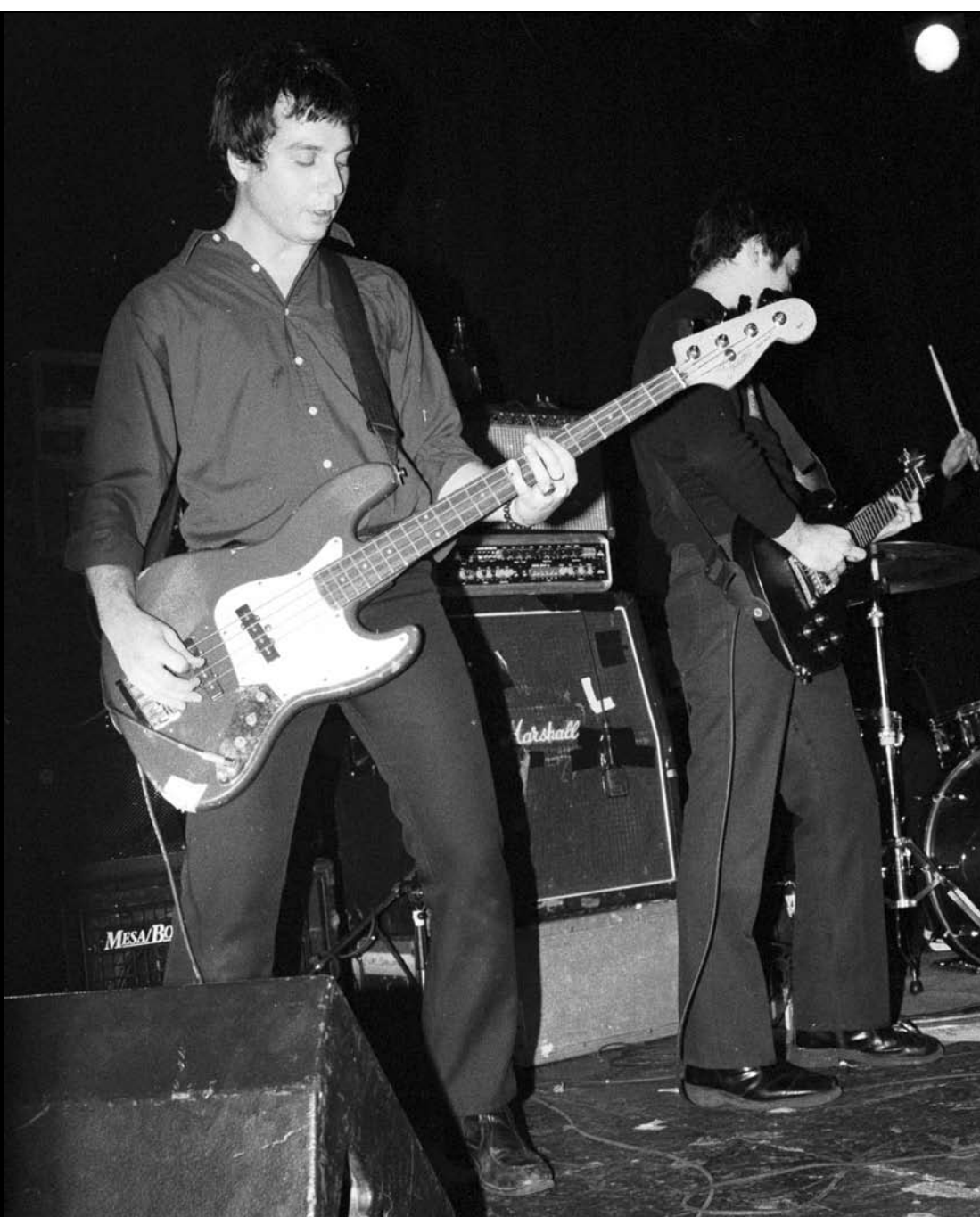
On that Stooges album 'Metallic K.O.' (a legendary bootleg of the last ever stooges show. Features such sounds as bottles and insults alike being hurled at Iggy Pop as he baits the biker audience, present only for the chance to kick Iggy's head in!), it sounds genuinely dangerous up on stage, have you ever actually feared for your life on stage because of a psycho crowd?

Oh yeah. It's a great feeling. I mean, what is your life worth? Next to nothing - you might lose it tomorrow. What's being in front of a huge crowd worth? Everything. You might never see that again.

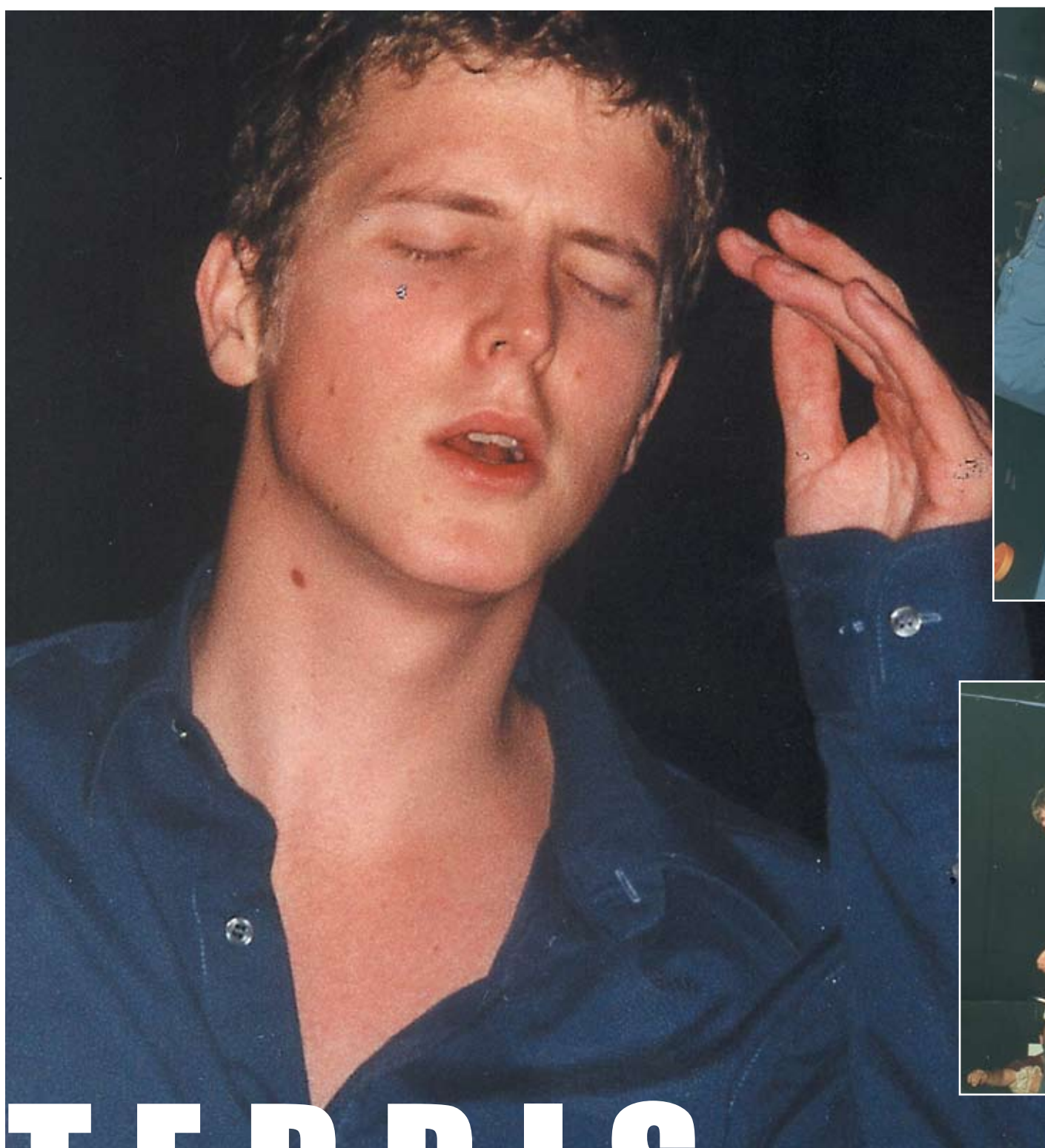
When Jason did his hand when you were last in London (his hand was impaled by a drum stand following a stage invasion), you still didn't cancel any gigs...for what reason would you cancel, if any?

Well certainly not for a few stupid stitches! I think I would cancel a gig if I found out the club owner was a Nazi, or the promoter was an asshole to the kids. I fucking hate that.

Andrew Snowball



"DUDE. COME ON. YOU HAVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE TO BE A SERIOUS ARTIST - ASSUMING YOU DON'T CHOKER ON YOUR VOMIT. JUST LOOSEN UP AND GET INTO IT." - CONRAD KEELY ON WHAT HE'D SAY TO JIMI HENDRIX



TERRIS

An unexpected offering from a band that have chosen to go the hard way. Terris started last year with an explosion, instigated by their name being plastered across the first issue of the NME to hit the news stands in the new millennium. They were hailed as our saviours but with no recorded material and very little live experience this seemed to be quite a leap of faith from the NME.

Their debut EP and first national tour rolled around quickly though and it was clear that this hype was worth it and then some. Terris called in at the Joiners on that tour, with Coldplay, and put on a sweat soaked show of supremacy that has gone down in the annals of Southampton rock history. But with the album a long way off Terris faded from the publics memory.

And so to December 2000. A gig that was thrown together at very short notice and was devastatingly undersold, what did Terris think of that? Again in their style, they didn't particularly care, the tour was for them to just end off the year, to just try out some of the songs from the new album live and to also have a bit of a laugh.

The set comprised almost entirely of new songs, just 'Lost October' and 'Searching for the Switches' were played from their older material and 'Lost October' is the only old song to make it on to their debut album. The delay on the album was explained by Gavin Goodwin, the enigmatic lead singer "Gil [Norton] wasn't available for a couple of months, so it was either go with someone else or wait for him, and we wanted to wait. The wait was worth it, we wanted everything to be exactly right."

Terris' set was most short and sweet, only nine songs long and these just seemed to slip through my fingers. But what energy, what tunes, Terris are going to be the most vital band of this year, to miss them is a crime.

It has to be slightly disheartening to them however, that Coldplay, with whom they were on tour with in April have gone on to super stardom. "The limelight was premature. Coldplay already had been on tour and had their album in the bag at that point. They were like a year ahead of us, we were just in a different position altogether." That clears that up then.

One point of note is the difference in



the normally sweat soaked Gavin to the dampness level on his shirt at the end of that set. I discovered that this was due to the new air conditioning in the Joiners and admitted my disappointment at the lack of sweat, that's how I got used to gauging a band's performance there. Gavin was pleased by the new investment "Last time I was sweating my bollocks off".

On their Glastonbury performance last summer Terris were quick to admit their disdain for the sound there and the fact that it was about twelve miles away from anywhere else.

Terris' set closed with the mind blowing crescendo that is 'Deliverance' that saw jumping and thumping and was a perfect closer to a incendiary set that literally rocked the Joiners and everybody within it's hallowed walls.

Terris, the anti-Coldplay. Please, please, for the sake of God listen out for their debut album, out in March and when they pass through Portsmouth on tour, see them and witness the power as it's unleashed. Fucking amazing.

Paul Cornwell

The Divine intervened

The Divine Comedy engage The Edge in a little light banter, what ho!



THE DIVINE COMEDY: This editor hates them!

The Divine Comedy. You either love them or hate them, but the people who love them, well, they REALLY love them. You should be able to spot them - they're the ones wandering around in velvet jackets who have a tendency to over-use the word "extraordinary" in everyday conversation, whilst referring to Neil

Hannon as "sir". As for everyone else, they tend to be a mixed camp, being divided as to whether they think the band are just "annoying" or "very annoying". If this is you, then I'm guessing you've only heard the band's recent, dare I say it, "novelty" songs (ie. "National

would be. Still, the thoroughly nice chap told me that the album sounds a lot more like "Liberation" (D.C.'s first "proper" album) than the recent "Fin de Siecle", and that the songs were much less "tongue in cheek" and "raised eyebrow" than before. It seems that Neil Hannon (remember him? "little guy, big

Express" and "The Pop Singer's Fear of the Pollen Count"), but fear not, there are exciting things in store...

A new album is just around the corner, it's called "Regeneration", and it does exactly what it says on the tin, although obviously it comes in a box like normal CD's. Not a tin. Although that would be cool. Anyway, The Edge spoke to Stuart "Pinkie" Bates, keyboardist in The Divine Comedy (although he has been known to dabble in the accordion), and he was very positive about the new stuff, as you'd guess he

voice" as Stuart describes him) has sheathed his witticism rapier for the new songs, reverting instead to a much more heartfelt style of songwriting. I had a listen to some of the new songs on the band's website

(www.thedivinecomedy.com) and I can confirm that this is indeed true, with some of the tracks being positively tear-jerking. The suits have gone too, although Stuart was very cagey about what they'd wear instead. He did balk at my suggestion of Sgt. Pepper outfits though.

The band have evolved considerably over the years: from Neil working alone in his bedroom, they have reached their current status as a seven piece, a transition clearly audible in their new work. Neil still writes the songs but the band now have more input, a change reflected in the album cover: for the first time Neil does not appear, and instead it features several statues made by Joby Talbot's wife, which were present in the studio during recording. Excited by the symbolism of these pieces of art I asked Stuart what the underlying reasons were for using them on the cover, but apparently they just look nice. 'Nuff said.

The band are only playing "intimate venues" on their new tour ("for the fans" you see), so we will be graced with their presence at Southampton Uni on 14th March, where they have promised to play the new album in its entirety, plus a few "surprises"... Personally I can't wait - see you there!

Lewis Packwood

"Love What You Do" (the new single) is out on 26th February.

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AT THE DRIVE-IN

At The Drive-In - 02/02.01 - The Astoria

The night started early at 6:30 and despite being sold out the Astoria was pretty empty when Terris hit the stage. Terris are a rock act with an average sound and they did nothing to excite, despite their efforts the audience were simply waiting for better things. The next band, My Vitriol, proved grunge is still alive and well, even if it took them a long time to show this with big build-ups to all their songs. All their songs seem to have the same formulae, pretty intros that go on for too long before building up to fast paced rock, which some of the crowd had a good jump about to, but I don't think they were suited to the atmosphere tonight.

By the time At The Drive-In hit the stage the Astoria was packed. At The Drive-In are an amazing band on record and they lived up to the expectation of being one of the best live acts around

too. If you have never heard them then you must have been living in a hole. They sound like a whole mix of genres thrown into a blender and coming out screaming. As they walked on the stage they seemed unaware of the hype surrounding them, they were just here to have fun. The key word tonight was energy, and this hit the Astoria like a tidal wave. From the very first notes of 'Arcarsenal' they were flying over the stage, and Omar, the guitarist, was hurling his guitar all over the place and spinning it around his body. It's amazing he could actually find time to play any of the songs. This is a band that begged to be watched. With Cedric, the vocalist, jumping all over the place and leaping off the top of the drums whilst maniacally swinging the microphone about this band are full of energy and give their all into every song. This band aren't stuck to their instruments, the microphone spent more time being thrown about the stage and in the air

than it did in Cedric's hands, and the guitar was being thrown around more like a weapon. Although they looked small on the big stage of the Astoria they made full use of the size, the vocalist even did some funky breakdancin'.

They suffered a bit from sound on the first two or three songs because you could barely hear the guitars but the vocals and the drums carried the songs, not many bands could have pulled that off. They played all the classic songs as they ran through, literally it seemed, most of their songs from the Relationships of command album. They slowed down for a couple of their older songs, including the best song from IN/CASINO/OUT, that is 'Lopsided', and 'Rascuache' was certainly a highlight, but At The Drive-In slow is like most bands at their peak. Even when Cedric is trying to stand still he is still twitching all over the place like a man possessed. The guitarist even took his guitar off and the whole band danced for everyone at one point, you don't get much funkier than that. They are a band that want to be associated with having a good time for everyone and they hate crowd surfin' and slam dancin', especially after the death at the Big Day Out, but everyone still had a really good time and the crowd went mad to every song. I know Cedric considers himself

to be a figure of crowd control and he made sure people at the front were not getting crushed during songs. I think bands with a conscious are cool, If every band had this attitude then maybe there wouldn't be as much violence at hardcore gigs, although we don't get this so much in England so I don't think many people appreciated his point. The highlight would have to be 'Rolodex Propaganda', or 'Cosmonaut', or 'Pattern Against User', or 'One Armed Scissor'. Or 'Lopsided'. Sod it every song was a highlight. They came back for a quick encore though and managed to smash up their instruments at the same time in true rock'n'roll fashion. And then as innocently as they had arrived with their whirlwind style performance they left, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake.

At The Drive-In have proved that they are one of the best bands around at the moment, not only have they got the music but they have the stage presence and they put on a real performance. If you thought their songs on the album were energetic then to witness them live doesn't do justice to the record, there is no way to recreate the effort and emotion they put into each song. Maybe if you got two really fluffy dogs and threw them around your bedroom...

Steve Johnson



DANCE



NYE 2000

...saw Ministry of Sound take over London's South Bank in its most ambitious manoeuvre yet. Discussions had begun some time ago and in the months that followed the highly skilled team were sent in to negotiate the transition into 2001.



The event, which sold out entirely before the eve, was supplied with some of the biggest names in all that is dance. The Ministry had really excelled in its multiplicity. The featured acts, or those who prefer to be referred to as artistes, transcended all domains of house, trance, garage, UK Garage (a whole different category please!), and drum and bass. Clearly there was going to be something to please most. This would also, albeit somewhat conveniently, offer grounds to justify the apparently minor

fact that the event was not in the actual dome itself but in the Skyscape surrounding the dome (Beware the power of marketing).

In any case it was most impressive to observe a rather smooth juxtapositioning of musical derivatives within the same sphere of influence. The image of a rather elated crasherstyle kid attempting to entice a garage appreciating selecta with his glow stick, was priceless (needless to say, the individual in question did not submit and stood firm in his branded urban wears). But then this was a lesson to us all. The ministry had gathered all those persons there present to deliver the rather poignant message, that together we are all One... Though in all seriousness, there was a sense of unity, a comfort somewhere amongst all illogicality and labelled inanity. And after all, a party was to be had.

Throughout the night the vibe was massive. Each arena was completely raucous from start to finish. Even the

chime of NY seemed a fairly minor event, as the party folks were quick to resume the places around the musical feast. While the sounds were eclectic, the common theme seemed pretty retrospective of the year gone by. Some of the better sounds and a welcomed supply of lesser known pieces did feature. Though the sharp intrinsic cuts of that little known track, "Operation Blade" (!!) did lead to a certain surge of psychosis on the System F stage. Ministry residents began the deeper sounds of house and a more funk related workout followed in that vicinity. Oakenfold unsurprisingly mixed up his usual blend of magic and electrically weaned delights to have the masses totally enthralled. The mighty garage arena, ground out the tunes to a steadily rhythmic mass. Dream team, broadcast live on radio 1, did not fail to disappoint with their Spoon fed antics. MJ Cole and 'Da Boss' Windross each did their stuff in fine form. The delicate cocktail of twostep, hip hop, and rnb, received periodic outbursts of an almost jungalist nature to paced the evening perfectly.



And lest we forget the drum and bass stage. Where tightness had been before could not really compare. It was tight. Dark. Intense. Yet somehow there remained an overwhelming affability. The line up was first class as the masters flexed their power of bass with the fresh breed of db'sters. Ed Rush and C gave a colossal set, if somewhat brief. Ray Keith rolled up to incur rapturous response from his searing bass cut fresh with twisted vocal tracks. Amongst the sounds was the ever faithful 'Alien Girl' and 'Warzone', as well as more recent tracks from the likes of Kosheen. Appreciation also had to be lent to the smooth punctuation, given courtesy of MCs Moose, G and Rhyme Time.

Basically, the ministry had done good. Commercial. Perhaps, though certainly at its very best. However this piece cannot however be ended without thanking the forces above for ALL that rain. And many thanks for to Nasty Nick for making an appearance, proving that he is as funny in real life, and every bit of the t**t that we saw on big bro.



as easy as ABC . . . ? ?

ABC, (the Addict Beats Collective), presented what was to be the third episode of their highly entertaining hip hop and scratchy show. Screened at Southampton's Rhino club, Scala's Matt Smooth and Rob Mac starred alongside Mr Thing and Defikew in what proved to be a night of superlative sound and musical fluency.

The sounds of Jurassic 5 provided a friendly prelude as the cultivated audience gathered together. Defikew, of the Distortion crew, kicked off with a deeper bass and more driven pace before giving way to Gripper of Manchester's Grand Central label. As momentum grew the Scarecrows Breakdance massive were limbering up, by the bar. Smooth and Mac were punctuated by the furious scratching of Mr Thing, World DMC No. 3, as they delivered their polished blend of hip hop and breaks. The percussive periods were spot on and it was great that the tunes played at this point seemed highly sympathetic to our homegrown talents - classic tracks from Massive Attack and the Freestylers were mixed in perfectly with newer sounds such as Mark B and Blade's excellent 'The Unknown'. This seemed a perfect moment for the Scarecrows to flex their breakdancing substance. As they took centre stage, the scene emulated one of Fame as the likes of Jerome et al 'rolled like kings', within the confines of the appreciative crowd. Stateside bad boys, Dr. Dre and Snoop Dog, later featured with their 'Next Episode' and when this was followed by 'Simon says' the breakers became even more animated, to the thrill of the audience. The rapturous responses paid due dividends to a night of the purest quality, as ABC delivered their elementary lessons.

CD



Ratpack in town,

The 1st of February 2001 heralded a new night down at CLub M by the organisers Squeeze18. Thursday nights are now being offered to the Southampton 'massive' under the title 'SLAM.' Squeeze18 has promised us, that as well as 'quality' drum & bass on Fridays and 'banging' house techno and trance on Saturdays, this new night will bring an array of old school antics and an alternative feel to the already established nights in Southampton.

So it has begun. The first night offered us The Ratpack - hardcore legends. Remember warehouse raves, glow sticks, white gloves, horns, whistles and workman jackets? That's what the Ratpack catapulted me towards. Tunes like 'on a ragga tip', Prodigy's 'Out of Space' - are you feeling the late eighties and early ninties enveloping you? Is it making you smile? Where were you then last Thursday? The Club was rammed with a complete mix of people from locals, to students, and those who just don't fit under either those umbrellas. But all of them uniting in a massive spasm of dance and horn blowing!! The night offered no moodiness - that being the beauty of hardcore and it's essentially acceptable cheezy feel.

"The Ratpack were the first guys I heard at a rave, they revolutionised my music taste throughout my teens!!!!" Kind of like when you sit in a room with your mates and remember your childhood with emblems like 'Dungeons and Dragons' with the whiny unicorn called uni! The Ratpack conjured this feeling.

It is hot and very sweaty, the idea is to empty your bladder before you go into the main downstairs room, because once you leave you will have to queue for up to twenty minutes to hear the big names.

The line up for the next few Thursdays are just as phat for those up for a serious boog! So Solid Crew provide the one night a month garage feel. DJ Marky - D&B and John 'oo' Fleming - hard 'ouse. Pick your arena of music and visit Club M on a Thursday of your choice or indeed if your up for some experimentation this is the night to choose.

MS

SINGLES

57th DYNASTY GHETTO GOLD/ HOLD STRONG Fasfwd

57th Dynasty are the Brixton based hip hop crew who have recently picked up Best Act at UK Hip Hop Awards. For anyone who's seen them live, its no surprise that their latest release is pretty massive. "Ghetto Gold" launches a full on assault of driven beats. The organic lyrics boast the arrival of the Dynasty and enhance the harder musical effects. There's enough drama in this one to rival any Eastend feud. Though it would have to be said that the chants of 'ole' to end do seem somewhat incongruous. Then the flip, "Hold on Strong", recounts some of the harsher realities of a contemporary upbringing. While the beats remain purposive, the track is altogether more soulful. The rhymes reveal a natural fluency and the soulful vocals, combined with the charming piano notes create a certain vulnerability. The more interesting track on the release.

3/5

CD

INGEVAN HENDRICK SHAMEN Unicorn star records

This is the second single release from the UK-based Belgian and features the apparently Great Lord Kane Vs- Aura remixes. This is possibly the most impotent track ever to be heard. Comprising merely of a weak, delusional vocal cry, wrapped about a lackadaisical grouping of beats. Sure they may be programmed to follow a pseudo housetype formula but will somebody please explain that a methodical progression is not really enough to stand on its own. Guess this one's probably not for me.

0/5

CD

FINGATHING and MR SCRUFF JUST PRACTICE grandcentralrecords

This is the Manchester based label in the slightly more abstract as it presents the collaborative instruction of Fingathing (DJ Peter Parker and double bass guy Sneaky) and Mr Scruff. Ultimately the parties provide a tutorial in playing rock guitar with a turntable. The guitar loop and almost western twang all manage some how to fall into place with the rare scratches and mild breaks. The track offers an oblique sort of funk, in the vain of J5, with an overwhelmingly cheeky nature. The guitar speak and lessons kindly lent throughout, make this fresh sounding episode a highly humorous musical transposition.

4/5

CD



L-FUDGE LOVE LETTERS b-9 belgium

L Fudge has been skulking about for a while now. This tale of mistaken love is a genuinely affecting hip hop affair. The Fudge coolly rhymes over the dipping piano echo. The steady beat serves to warm the track while the chorus is trulyly absortbant. This amicable approach becomes neutralised with a more abrasive edging, to ensure a binding listen.

4/5

CD

ALBUMS

SMUT PEDDLERS

Porn Again

(Rawkus)

A blazin' Rawkus joint - DJ Mighty Mi and Mr Eon, of the High and Mighty, and Cage form this ill combo. Get out now if easily offended - the promo flyer, based on the group name, was x-rated! Mighty Mi's turntablism combined with Eon's Erick Sermon like rhymes blast on "Smut Council" and "Medicated Minutes" could have been on Def Squad's "El Nino". E has many styles, coming like Roots Manuva, then Busta Rhymes then his own style. Cage's attitude compliments this well - Tunes like "Amazing Feats" and "One by One" showcase each vocal talent over phat breaks and bass, with a strong anti-commercial flava. The comparison with the other white boy of hip hop, Eminem, is an obvious one but these guys were doin' it when Em was getting beat down at high-school! The content is similarly offensive, but that's where it ends - check Cage's beef with Em in his rhymes... Most definitely one for fans of Rawkus and independent hip-hop. Not for the faint hearted.

8/10

PC

MEMPHIS BLEEK

From Jay-Z's stable comes a.n.other playa - this one claims his name stands for "Makin' Easy Money Pimpin' Hos In Style". Bleek obviously comes from his style... Another gangsta turned emcee with more guns than rhymes, loads of money, pagers, cars and an attitude. If you've heard the Jigga's latest albums, and you want more of the same, get this. "They'll never play me" has some interesting samples and a catchy melody and, while the intro promises much, the rest of the album fails to score high. With joints featuring Jay-Z, Beanie Sigel, Missy Elliot and Carl Thomas (of "Kun=g Fu Fighting" fame?!), this album certainly has plenty of hype but fails to rise significantly above the mass of east/west coast gansta (c)rap. With the release of Lyricist Lounge 2, I know what I'll be getting...

5/10

PC

SPOOKS

S.I.O.S.O.S. Volume One

(Antra)

Trying to avoid comparing Spooks to the Fugees is hard, since similar bittersweet female vocals percolate every one of this carefully-constructed album's biting and occasionally mellow hip-hop tunes, as it was on 1996's 'The Score'. Most will know them from their recent single 'Things I've Seen' which is probably famous for being the only decent tune in the Top Ten for too many years.

Spooks' influences range widely and their usual brand of hip-hop can sometimes verge on slightly cheesy R'n'B or soul ('Swindley's Maracas' has a rhythm section horribly reminiscent of a Craig David song); a drum'n'bass loop in 'Sweet Revenge' however makes a pleasant surprise and 'Deep Cutz's' relentlessly rolling breakbeat is an adrenaline-charged change of pace that offers a welcome contrast to the usually laid-back vibe of the record. Although the rapping can be simplistic in rhythm and rhyme, the lyrics are intelligent, with a venom that belies this ambience.

The last two tracks, 'Bitch Blood' and 'Murder' have superb Dre/Eminem-style, acidic but half-comic vocals that round off an album that will endure several listens; if only for its sheer variety and complexity

8/10

AD

TAYO Y4K FURTHER STILL distinctive breaks

Y4k is Tayo's second mix album with distinctive breaks. Possibly one of the most persuasive and diverse jockeys around right now, this enigmatic macrocosm of sounds will offer multiple pleasures to the more aurally tuned. The album demonstrates a progressive crossover between electrotech-house and nu skool breaks. The rather debonair "Travellin' On" kicks off the mix. This stylish groove is enticed by the gentle female vocals, to provide a somewhat magmatic serenity. This mixes in to the chic Italian design "Sueno Latino", though the Bushwacka mix does delve into a harder edged funk. The Stanton Warriors' "Da Antidote" a bit later launches into a prolific assault of beats while the central electro line is outstanding. Tayo indulges in some tribal minimalism from Rennie Pilgrim and releases some machiavellian incisions with the immense "Scram". The West Coast frat are also represented with their Pill-type conundrum and the audacious breaks of Jackal & Hyde's 'Beyond' receive a finely placed airing. To end there's "Fire Good" by Tayo himself in collaboration with Precision Cuts. The chilling vocals, perfectly layered breakbeats and stunning electroinfusions, bring a deserved ending to this definitive compilation.

9/10

CD

Ministry of Sound The chillout session ministry recordings

In two cds and 36 tracks the ministry has made a selection of superlative quality including orchestral overtures, soulful jazz, dubby house, trance, samba, salsa, and funk.

The classical French horn cello of Badly Drawn Boy's 'The Shining' opens the first disc of authentic 'blissful beats', swiftly chased away by fatboy slim and macy gray's 'demons'. The u.k's groove armada's with 'dusk you and me' and 'Les nuits' from nightmare's on wax are two of the most chilled out tunes imaginable, a great remedy for

all those who, like rob d, are 'clubbed to death'. A d'n'b mix of 'the sun rising' from the beloved raises the tempo, but the harmony already attained levitates to reach this plateau, escalating into the 'horizons' of Itj bukem. Tim 'love' lee and the thievery corporation bring salsa and softer drums before delectable tracks from lemon jelly, kinobe and bonobo, and the renowned 'natural blues' from moby. This fabulous combination is made complete by the soul hooligan remix of the stone roses legendary 'shoot you down'.

Disc two brings a seamlessly mixed compilation of 'chilled-out house', of the most subtle beats and gentle harmonies. From the chart topping jakatta 'American dream', the mellow 'awakening', to the dub-infused 'pasilda' from afro medusa. The pace steps into a more ambient tone creating an enveloping blanket of sound, which includes sumsonic's falling, amber's sensual 'sexual'. This second disc is made completed by leftfield's 'melt', a personal favourite and exceptional tune. Fading out with an excellent remix of energy 52's outstanding 'cafe del mar' highlighting what this compilation is all about - the serenity of an Ibiza sunset.

The discs are what they set out to be (although disc two best precedes disc one); the definitive chillout album, easy listening for the descent of any night out, anywhere.

9/10

RL

ERYKAH BADU

Mama's Gun

(Motown Records)

It's been four years since the release of Erykah Badu's critically acclaimed album 'Baduizm' and fans of this album will be pleased to know that the wait for new material is over. "I'm brighter than before... brighter, reflecting the light of the sun", sings a blissful Badu on the excellent track 'Orange Moon' and it's fair to say that her follow up album 'Mama's Gun' is at least equal and maybe even a cut above it's predecessor.

The tempo of the opening track 'Penitentiary Philosophy' is upbeat and funky but for the majority of this album Badu's soulful vocals are set to downtempo jazzy hip-hop beats, and if you are a fan of this genre then "Mama's Gun" is absolutely essential.

There's a collaboration here with Steve Marley on the heartfelt track "I'm in love with you" and also check the New York, jazz-funk style contribution from Roy Ayers who provides percussion and vocals on the infectious "Cleva". This is a quality album and is highly recommended.

9/10

JH

SHEA SEGER

The may street project

(RCA)

'Last time' seems like a strange choice of introduction to the delights of shea seger, but is swiftly followed by the more buoyant 'clutch'. Incorporating the rhymes of DRUGS, and the scratching of Commissioner Gordon in 'Blind Situation', make it an eclectic fusion of bass and funk. 'Shatterwall' is a soothing interlude, the gentle percussion, acoustic guitar and backing vocals combine, drawing attention away from the tale of a life in disintegration. Add extra drums, shimmering trills and tambourine for 'I love you too much' which culminates in a more intense segment of sound. A delicate, unaccompanied voice solo in the opening of 'Walk on rainbows' confirms Shea's affiliation with Janis Joplin and Ricky Lee Jones. The soft vocal whisper gives way to more synthesised tones of dub and 'plucked piano'. As a debut album this shows the possibilities of Shea's talents, and her certain progress will fill those areas which may seem a little lacking.

8/10

RL



It's a drizzly December evening. Inside the foyer of the Guildhall, a small group of student hacks are waiting. Outside, the steps are already beginning to swell with pre-pubescent bodies, swathed in Quiksilver and Mambo hoodies, unkempt hair poking out from under beanie hats. Reef are late. Again.

To be fair, it's not entirely their fault. The West Country boys were forced to postpone their Getaway tour (which was due to start in October) when Leonine vocalist Gary Stringer was asked by doctors to rest for six weeks following his third knee operation in less than six years. Tonight, it is the weather conditions and traffic that have conspired against them, delaying their arrival in Southampton by an hour. An irrepressibly chummy Sony rep informs me, not unlike a protective mother, that they can come out after they've had their dinner. Inside the main hall, bassist Jack and guitarist Kenwyn (obviously the fast eaters of the group) have already been allowed out to play and have begun kicking a football around the main hall.

Eventually, a tall figure with dishevelled brown hair saunters up, wielding a steaming bowl of spotted dick and custard. He introduces himself as Dominic, the drummer, and apologises with a soft-spoken earnestness that the others will not be joining us. The interview begins.

Getaway is the band's fourth album, a riffed up, energised, delirious blinder, in marked contrast to the mellow acoustic feel of their last release, Rides. As Gary has said, "we've gone for getting melody into three minutes and songs that are a bit more rocking and immediately brilliant." On their penultimate UK gig before Christmas, how's it all going?

"I'm feeling a bit tired over these last few days, but it's just really good to be doing this", Dominic explains. "It's just like a dream really; if you want to be in a band you think 'oh, imagine playing gigs with loads and loads of people', so it's the thing you look forward to the most really."

We start talking about what he's got planned after the tour.

"Well, I'll be going back down to Devon [for Christmas], see my girlfriend, stay in a little cottage somewhere, visit my parents, family, then go to Australia...it'll be brilliant" It seems the work never stops...

"Yeah, I suppose so; we're spending New Year in Australia, then we're going to Japan for the tour, and then we're coming back here, to do those extra dates [in Ireland]."

I suggest that Reef are more suited to being a live band than a studio band.

"Well, I think they come hand in hand really. I s'pose it's like, yeah, if you think we're better live than actually on record..."

I suddenly remember a recent Melody Maker review that suggested that, while being great at gigs, Reef had never made a really good record, and frantically try to get myself out of a tight spot by citing a band who are crap live (sorry but they are just so dull), but whose seem to work pretty well (well, passable at least)



REEF (in brief)

on record: Embrace. Dominic replies in a voice which oozes with sarcasm:

"Yeah. What a great band they are."

Phew, saved! Having found a preferable subject for conversation we spend a few minutes slagging off Embrace until we are interrupted by support band Crashland's soundcheck. We retreat to the plush location of... a nearby stairwell! I compliment him on his spotted dick (sorry, I couldn't resist), which was apparently preceded with Irish stew:

"Yeah, they're like a catering company, they come out on tour... its brilliant really, they're like mums".

Bless. I get a mental picture of the band being tucked up at night on the tour bus by a group of large bosomed matrons (and that Sony rep), and try desperately to suppress a smile. Talk turns to Gary. How is his knee keeping up?

"Yeah, he's alright."

It's not the first time that one of Gary's injuries has caused problems with the band's schedule; is it a pain in the proverbial?

"Yeah, it's a pain in the knee! (groan) But yeah, he's had quite a lot of problems with his knees...not for any particular reason, it just got bad one day and a few weeks before the start of the tour he had to have an operation."

What did the rest of you do?

"Just had a month off really! ...it was quite nice, but at the same time we were all really looking forward to this tour. It always happens; when you've recorded the songs you're just really looking forward to playing them live."

I ask about Reef's recent foray into dance

music, where the vocals of Mellow were used as a sample in a Steve Lawler track; do they have any plans for more work in that direction?

"No, not really..."

Not your thing?

"Well kind of, I mean I like dance music, but not that sort of dance music. I was into it a for a little bit when I was at college, got into a bit of hip hop..." What sort of music do you listen to on tour?

"I'm into Elliott Smith...the Beatles, obviously. We've got loads of stuff...like Ike and Tina Turner, Queen, Sly and the Family Stone..."

So it's mainly retro music?

" Well, Elliott Smith's not retro...retro style maybe, but it's just good songs really, good songwriters."

We discuss the cheesy commercialism of the pop charts, and how it seems to be getting harder and harder to find decent songs at the moment.

" I know, you really have to look for it don't you, you don't get given it."

One mutual favourite, however, is Badly Drawn Boy.

"I like that album...I like the way he put it together, its good...I like it when people work on their own, they tend to have that sort of album. You can tell he was on his own, rather than being in a band. When you're in a band you kind of compromise a lot, sometimes. You lose that quirkiness."

Surely not a problem that Reef have?

"No, but you do, really. I mean we get on really well and creatively we work really well together, but you know, because

you're there with other people, you have four people's points of view. Things can get ironed out a little bit."

Despite this, there have been no real tensions in the band during the tour. But is it hard to find your own space?

"Yeah, I feel like that today. Just sometimes. You just can't get away from everyone...but sometimes you don't want to. It's really wicked having everyone around, but sometimes you just want to get away."

Talk turns to the next album, have the band started working on it yet?

"We haven't really...up until now, we've just been thinking about this tour, but recently, you know, after a while you start thinking about new stuff. After we've been on tour for a while our priorities change and we'll be playing these songs easily and we'll have more energy to start writing again. It won't be long before we do stuff."

We banter a bit about festivals and Dominic suggests that Glastonbury may be cancelled (this was before the official announcement) to which (as a Glasto veteran) I roll my eyes and suggest that they say that every year (Doh! Sorry Ed. - could have had an exclusive there). But by this time the tour-wearied drummer's eyes are starting to droop, and he looks like he needs a rest. We wind it down, shake hands and with that, Dominic Greensmith picks himself up off the stairs, says "Cheers" and strolls back through to the foyer. The dinner ladies will be tucking him in early tonight.

Jenny Szwiel

THE STROKES

Live Stuff

Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms
January 31

On their first British date, supporting ...And You Will Know Us By The Trail Of Dead at a low key warm-up before the NME Astoria shows, the crowd are already interested by a gushing NME On piece the week previously. The attention directed at New York's The Strokes is not undeserved.

With one UK single release under their belts - 'The Modern Age' - they typify everything the average Brit might imagine New York to be. Singer Julian Casablancas growls along in a laconic drawl - very Lou Reed - and occasionally stumbles around the stage, or he stands, with one hand in his pocket, propped up against the microphone stand like Joey Ramone. Then there are the guitarists, bobbing around like Brian Jones. Meanwhile, the rest of the band, decked out in their finest leather and denim and with floppy bowl-cuts and demi-afros a-go go, know how to look cool like bands used to.

The music has just as rich a musical heritage within its chords too. There's chugging, gristly post-punk noise, Bowie at his 'Moonage Daydream' best, west coast melodies, a bit of sleaze - 'I want to steal your innocence' croons Casablancas, and, strangely, there's more than just a

touch of mod in there. And then, of course, lots of Velvet Underground. Whether it's in the stuttered delivery, or the ceaseless, hypnotic groove.

Each of the songs twists and turns through every one of the great rock 'n'

roll reference points, as the ghost of Lou Reed's long since deceased talent guides them above the stage.

It's punk rock like they made it in the good ol' days! Forget the three-chord wonders like The Offspring or Green

Day. It's more than just teen-rebellion by numbers, The Strokes are sophisticated, sexy and cool and they are going to re-shape the rock landscape.

Andrew Snowball



Herman dune
London, 12 Bar Club

Both poetic and enigmatic, the french brothers David-Ivar and Andre Herman Dune, with their Swiss friend Ome, strike up a mysterious presence.

In the middle of last year, the group quietly released their inly album to date, 'Turn Off the Light', which is a dark, brooding collection of melancholia, with little light relief. But tonight, the band are much more graceful, and treat the crowd gently.

On a stage bedecked with candles, the trio gently roll into their set with the blissful elegance of 'One Chord Song'. whereas on record, the band are often uncomfortable to listen to, the stark lyrics and grating guitar sounds emphasising this, tonight they mostly surrender this in favour of infinitely warmer and more accessible songs. This means that tonight's show is of a more subtle texture, more pleasant and less intimidating. But the power that the band possess to move their audience on record is generally lost.

Instead what we have is something significantly less striking, but not necessarily made up of mere platitudes. Many of the band's songs are deeply personal, but they have a vaguely political side too, expressed most evidently by the call and response whispers, compelling the listener to "hate the state".

But the battered guitars, creating such harsh tones, coupled with the Brothers' Neil Young-esque singing voices make this band impossible to ignore.

Andrew Snowball

picture: Andrew Snowball



Granddaddy / Lowgold
Southampton University Students' Union, Saturday 3 February.

The Kids are desperate to Rock - it's official! The evidence over recent weeks has been unavoidable - Limp Bizkit on top of both the singles and album charts; Amen's Casey Chaos on the front cover of

the NME; and now - moshing at a Granddaddy gig! The formation of a 'pit for every song that included something resembling a loud guitar was certainly unlikely, though (at least for the band) not unwelcome. Frontman Jason Lytle thanked the crowd, adding that it made a pleasant change, as they "normally have a quietening effect, which we find quite disturbing". The reason Granddaddy normally have a quietening effect (and why you wouldn't expect moshing at one of their gigs), is that they create songs of such simple yet staggering beauty, which are produced in such an intricate and

thoughtful way. With songs like 'He's Simple, He's Dumb, He's The Pilot', one cannot help but feel compelled to simply stand, listen, and be consumed by the wonderful melodies and sounds produced by these five guys from California.

Granddaddy's music possesses the kind of beauty that makes it sound as though it has been around forever. Lowgold also sound as though they've been around forever, but for all the wrong reasons. They seem to be aiming at a beautiful, melody-driven soundscape, but they simply don't have the tunes to back up the grand idea. If, like Granddaddy, they put some inventive thought into their arrangements, then they might just start to make people pay attention. However, tonight they are simply boring. Their current single Mercury, was one of the highlights of the set - I think this says it all about the quality of the set, as heard in isolation, or on the radio, this is nothing more than a nice, average track which passes the time. The only time the band look like they might rise above their excruciating mediocrity, is when, upon announcing the final song, lead singer Darren Ford informs the audience that they won't enjoy Granddaddy as they're "fucking shit" and "the worst band ever". This creates a refreshing air of tension as sections of the Granddaddy faithful temporarily lose all grip on irony. However, halfway through the song Ford realises that he may have caused the audience to feel something other than indifference, and disappointingly points out the obvious, that he was only joking.

If Granddaddy wanted a support band who would be guaranteed not to steal their thunder, they picked the right guys in Lowgold. This evening categorically belongs to those strange bearded men from the other side of the Atlantic.

John McKenna

THE GAMES PAGE

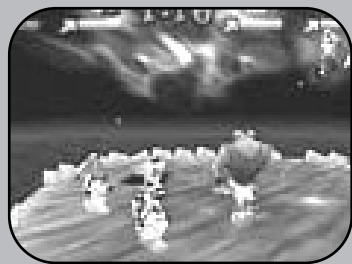


- * 1-4 Players
- * 3D Arena-based Battle
- * Eurocom/Cerny Games/SCEE
- * Playstation

Describing Crash Bash is a little bit tricky. As you have already guest this game



includes the characters from Crash Bandicoot (a rather successful series of games). The main premise of this game is to compete in four player competitive events either against the computer or against your mates. With more than 30 competitive events to master this game should keep you entertained for ages.



The game play is smooth with some very nice graphics. Even with four players playing at the same time on the same screen the keeps its speed. At times though, it is hard to precisely work out what is going on, making the game very hectic and partly a game of chance. The slightly random nature of the game is great as it allows any standard of gamer to join in with the fun, making this one of the most

enjoyable multi-player games released to date.

Some of you might remember a game on the N64 called Mario Party, which it seems that Crash Bash has modelled itself on. Although not the most original game around, this is the first game of its type on the Playstation (I believe). The very simple nature of the games actually adds to the game play, although after a while of playing on your own (No, I'm not being rude) the game starts to lose its edge and you begin to get frustrated with the blatant cheating of the computer characters.

In all, this game is a must if you are looking for competitive entertainment between your mates. If you don't go out and have no friends (like myself) then Crash Bash will probably bore you after a while, leaving you to find alternative entertainment on your own!!!!?



91%

James Rumsey

THE JUNGLE BOOK GROOVE PARTY

- * 1-2 players
- * Music and Dance
- * Ubisoft/Disney/SCEE
- * Playstation



In The Jungle Book Groove Party the player takes the famous character of Mowgli, the boy raised in the jungle by wolves who, after being summoned back to the Man Village by the Wolf Council, embarks on a fantastic adventure through the jungle with Bagheera the black panther, dancing along with all the amusing and engaging characters he meets on the way. Right, that's enough of the press release.

Most of you should know the story The Jungle Book, but do you really know the full story? I mean, did you know that our hero Mowgli had to 'dance' his way through the jungle? I doubt it! Did you know that Mowgli really defeated the tiger (Shere Khan) with his slick foot movement, break dancing, and the occasional backflip? Again, I doubt it!

In a nutshell, the game is based on dancing and music, where you have to press the right direction in line with the instructions in the game. With the inclusion of subtitles to help to you learn the songs and with some stunning FMV scenes this game seems to be on to a winner.



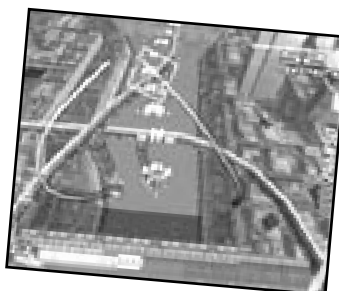
But what makes this game so different from anything released so far is the inclusion of a dance mat. Gone are the days of the Playstation bottom, as you get the chance to dance along with all you Jungle Book favourites. This game is obviously directed towards children, giving them a chance to interact directly with the game using the dance mat. Having said that, I'm sure after a couple of larger tops, this game will keep you entertained watching your mates make a fool of themselves if nothing else.

85%

James Rumsey



- * 1 Player only
- * Shoot em up
- * Taito/JVC
- * Playstation

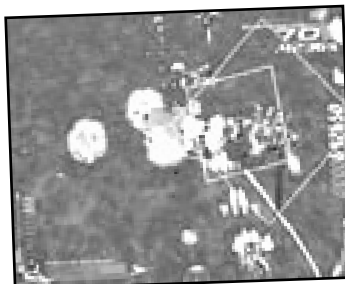
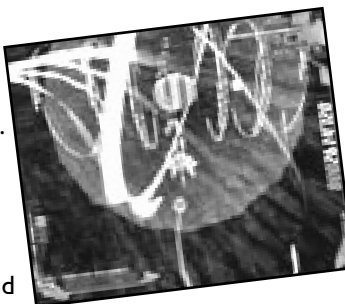


Uniquely exploiting the Playstation's 2.5D capabilities, your mission, to cut a safe path for your ship and free mankind from mech invasion. Obtain power-ups galore as you destroy waves of oncoming enemy craft in a shoot 'em up frenzy that excites the arcade lover in all of us (I love press releases, because they make my job so much easier).

Raycrisis is basically your average shoot 'em up, with all the original features i.e. power ups, big bad bosses, and numerous enemies to blow to kingdom come. The only feature that stands out in my mind is the ability to lock on to several targets and destroy them all in one go.

The game play and graphics are finely tuned and the 2.5D effects really do stand out well. The actual game is also very challenging, which increases the lastability in trying to master each of the levels. With the amount of action going on at any given time, you get a feeling of franticness which is rewarded with the countless number of explosions and effects you receive.

Having said all this, there are very few levels to get through. After completing it on the first evening the only other option is to try and get a high score. If you have no friends to show of your high scores then I believe this game will be put to the bottom of your games pile after a matter of weeks, if that.



83%

James Rumsey

RAYCRISIS COMPETITION

Yes, its your lucky day. I have decided to relinquish the ownership of a free game sent to me, to be able to donate it to the less fortunate of you out there. Wow, I'm just too good to you lot sometimes. Anyway, teaming up with the boys down at JVC, we have a copy of the newly released Raycrisis to give away and, a rather funky spacepen. No, the pen does not come from outer space, but yes it does write underwater; in freezing cold and boiling temperatures; upside down; and just in case, it writes in a gravity free vacume.

This is a once in a life time offer that just can't be beaten, unless of course I offer myself as the prize, but that would be a bit stupid to just had away my sexy body like that. Anyway I have decided to offer these prizes only to the most deserving of readers, which is why I am asking this extremely taxing question (but please don't lose any sleep over it).

Keeping on the space theme, **What does NASA stand for?**

Send your answers to jdr498@soton.ac.uk
Good luck!

FILM AND THEATRE

Love at First Bite

Preceding the release of *Shadow of the Vampire* later this month, January saw the re-release of the horror classic it was inspired by, *Nosferatu*, on video and DVD.

Directed by F.W. Murnau, who has been called "the greatest film director the Germans have ever known", the film was the very first to be based on Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and while Francis Ford Coppola's adaptation is the better known, Murnau's version undoubtedly set the standard and contains many spine-chilling cinematic techniques that we can still see in horror films today.

It is only by chance, however, that *Nosferatu* is still available. After its initial release in 1922, Florence Stoker sued Murnau for using her (deceased) husband's story without permission. Rather than opting for compensation, a court order was issued to destroy the original negatives and all known prints of the film. However, one print remained hidden in London, and it is from that copy that the new, digitally remastered version became available.

The film itself is elaborate and, at times, chillingly atmospheric. Shreck's

vampire is incredibly striking, with pointed ears, black rimmed eyes and abnormally long, white fingers. His pointed teeth, situated at the front of his mouth, give him a rat-like appearance, and his bulgy-eyed stares are genuinely disturbing. The film was shot on location, leading to some stunning scenery, and the studio scenes are just as meticulously decorous. Much of the film is shot in ominous shadows, which add to the chilling atmosphere, as does *Nosferatu*'s habit of gradually fading away into nothingness.

Unsurprisingly, however, there are many parts of the film that have not translated so well into the twenty-first century. The melodrama can seem way over the top, as when the hero, Jonathan Hutter, rushes home to exclaim to his wife "I'm going to travel far away to the country of thieves and ghosts", then runs around the house grinning inanely and shoving clothes into what appears to be a large bratwurst sausage. We are more likely to giggle at the sight of *Nosferatu*'s coach zooming around the screen in fast-motion than be spooked, and why Hutter never



notices that his estate agent boss is clearly a cannibalistic loony is beyond me.

Nevertheless, if you can accept the odd peculiarity of this sort, and the grating soundtrack doesn't deter you, this film is well worth watching, particularly for the serious film buff, but

also for anyone who is interested in cult horror. It may not star the delectable Gary Oldman, Keanu Reeves or Winona Ryder, but this, my friends, is the *real thing*.

Jenny Szwiel

Preview

**'Black Comedy'
and
'A Test of Character'**

**Nuffield Theatre, Southampton
8th - 10th March 2001, 7.30pm**

This double bill of comedy offers the unique chance to see the best of student drama in the Theatre Group's Nuffield show. The plays are united by themes of love, intrigue, and hidden identity. Despite being written 200 years apart, these hilarious, one-act farces dovetail neatly to form what promises to be a highly entertaining evening.

In *Black Comedy*, written by the highly acclaimed Sir Peter Shaffer, who wouldn't feel sorry for the struggling young sculptor, Brindsley? His prospective father-in-law hates him; his neighbours hate his fiancée; a rich art-collector is coming to view his work but the lights have just fused; he has borrowed a neighbour's prized antique furniture but hasn't told him; and his mistress is on her way home from the airport. Under the cover of darkness,



Brindsley may just be able to put everything right. Then again, is there

really light at the end of the tunnel for him or is it an oncoming train?

A Test of Character is a classic eighteenth-century French farce by Pierre Marivaux. Freshly translated for this production by the director Simon Williams, the play revolves around Lucidor, a wealthy bachelor from Paris who falls in love with Angélique, the daughter of a country landowner. To test the strength of Angélique's love, Lucidor decides to send his handsome and wily servant, disguised as a nobleman, to woo her. The cunning plan soon begins to unravel. It's reassuring to know that, despite having the reputation of a nation of lovers, the French are just as cack-handed as the rest of us when it comes to affairs of the heart.

The University is very lucky to have one of the best venues in the South on campus, but it is not often that students get the chance to put on shows there. Give the group your support, and have a night out in a real theatre. Tickets are £8.00 for adults, £5.00 for students and £4.50 for Theatre Group members. They are available now from the Nuffield box office - (023) 8067 1771 - and will also be on sale from February 26th around the campuses.

Simon Williams

WIN INSTANT FAME AND MEGABUCKS!*

WITH MORCHEEBA

COMMON PROBLEM No 1: You've heard a great record, but it just doesn't have that certain *thing*, that unidentifiable element to make it something really special, so that the whole world falls in love with it. But every now and then, you know exactly what you can do to a record to make it shine.

COMMON PROBLEM No 2: So, you've identified what the record needs, but, the label refuse to give you the separate tracks on the song for you to remix. Hey, we've all been there! It's part of that endless cycle of despair - you can't do an international remix without already having that reputation, and you can't get the reputation without first doing a bad-ass remix. So how do you start? Well, believe it or not, The Edge have the answer.

THE SOLUTION:

Those nice Morcheeba people have given you, yes readers, *you*, the chance to remix their next single, the sublime 'World Looking In' (the one off that car ad)! All you need to do is pick up a



special CD containing the original song, and a capella and instrumental versions.

The next step is to remix the thing (obviously) and send it off to the judges.

This is a national competition, and there will be a winner from each university who will get a signed copy of the single, before moving onto the final.

The overall winner will be judged by Morcheeba themselves and the winning mix will be pressed onto vinyl by East West records, and

distributed to DJs nationwide!

Feel free to do what you want with the record. Maybe you think it just needs beefing up, or you may want to speed it up to 250 bpm for the full-on gabba treatment. Whatever, the choice is yours.

To enter, send an email to theedge@soton.ac.uk leaving your full postal address, and you'll receive the CD and an entry form. Simple.

*Not a guarantee

KING ADORA/CRACKOUT /EASYWORLD Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms

First things first: Easyworld. Thank God I got there in time for this band is all I can say. At first it was a case of "Oh no, not another JJ72/Placebo sounding three-piece", but I was pleasantly surprised to find a band that were just that little bit special. The soaring vocals and neck snapping guitar were made all the more powerful by a sense of, well, how can I put it, fun. This is the first time since I was wearing skinny fit T-shirts that a support band has generated so much euphoria. Top notch song-writing, fantastic melodies and even a mandolin thrown in for good measure - buy Easyworld, you can't go wrong. Probably the best thing to come out of Eastport since, well, forever. Their debut single, "Hundredweight", is out on 19th February on Fierce Panda - I urge you to use your purchasing power boys and girls!



Crackout, well, my mother always said if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.

So onto King Adora - if you haven't heard of this band yet you soon will. Their brand of glam punk sounds refreshingly different to your normal brand. Think Smashing Pumpkins with very spiky hair and fishnet tops. But before they were crap. King Adora truly rock in a "lets dye our hair and go and break things sort of way", and the crowd loved it, although for the most part they were made up of young girls with fairy wings and 8 year old's with Slipknot T-shirts. Still, the classic "Smoulder" sounded just as fresh as ever, and the new single "Suffocate" serves up the promise of a phenomenally good album to come. But then it ended. No encore, and only half an hour into the set the lights came back on and we were ushered out by over-zealous security guards, still gagging for more. Good while it lasted, but you've got to worry that such a short set hints at a definite lack of material. Perhaps they're working on the "play fast, die young" philosophy, but for a headline band I expected a set just a little longer than this. Having said that, seeing King Adora is a truly amazing experience, and one I urge you all to participate in as soon as possible.

Lewis Packwood

What's on, at various local toilet venues..

February

27 Big D and the Kid's Table
Southampton Joiners

March

1 Sanctum, Snub, Torna-K
Southampton Joiners
1 Al Stewart
Southampton Brook
1 Goldfinger
Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms
2 Four Letter Word, Mix
Twitch, Turtlehead
Southampton Joiners
3 Bob Patterson
Southampton Joiners
4 (Spunge)
Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms
6 Big Sur, Drugstore, La

Honda

Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms
6 Remote Control, Miss
Miss Murdoch, Leonard
(featuring The Edge's Lewis)
Southampton Joiners
8 Levellers
Southampton Guildhall
13 Terris
Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms
14 Divine Comedy
Southampton University
14 Sunna
Southampton Joiners
15 Lowgold
Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms
20 Starsailor
Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms
22 Toploader
Southampton Guildhall

April

26 Barenaked Ladies
Portsmouth Guildhall
5 Muse
Southampton Guildhall
6-8 All Tomorrow's Parties
9 Gary Moore
Portsmouth Guildhall
24 Gabrielle
Portsmouth Guildhall
20 Feeder
Portsmouth Pyramid Centre
24 Gabrielle
Portsmouth Guildhall
25 Ash
Portsmouth Pyramid
26 Napalm Death
Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms



FEATURES

Katherine Bruce

Editors Touch

You can't fail to miss the build up to no smoking day. It's everywhere you look, from bill-boards to morose ad's on the TV, all telling you what you already know: that it's bad for you, that it's expensive, that it can - and probably will - kill you. But to be honest, this I can handle, far worse is the look of horror on the doctor's face when you let on that you smoke and the knowing glance as you lie through you're teeth that you only 'smoke socially'. My last no smoking binge lasted all of two weeks - quite an accomplishment I think you'll agree - unfortunately it was the inevitable vodka that led me back to the comfort of cigarettes and my twenty-a-day habit has returned with full force. But come no smoking day on March 14th (see page15) I'll be joining the millions of others nervously reaching for the chewing gum and looking enviously at those hardened smokers who have boycotted the whole idea. In truth, I actually quite like the thought of becoming a smug reformed smoker, perhaps I'll take up a sport to make use of my newly cleansed lungs (but perhaps not) its just a shame that I have to give up smoking to do it! Good luck to every other serial quitter out there and let's hope that this time will finally be the last. Katherine

xxx

GET A JOB

The careers advisory service (CAS) is running a series of key skills workshops to help you gain the confidence and expertise to land yourself the job you deserve. To book you can either visit the CAS reception in building 3, on Highfield Campus or phone on 023 80593501. A £5 refundable deposit is required which is returned to you when you attend the workshop (if you don't attend your £5 will be forfeited and used for CAS resources). Book early as places are limited and for further details go to the CAS workshop at www.careers.soton.ac.uk.

Key Skills Workshops

Presentation skills: Tuesday 27th Feb
Time Management: Wednesday 28th Feb
Negotiating Skills: Thursday 1st March
Project Management: Tuesday 6th March
Assessment : Wednesday 7th March
Presentation Skills: Thursday 8th March
Interview Skills: Tuesday 13th March
Leadership: Wednesday 14th March
Teamwork Skills: Thursday 15th March
Commercial Awareness: Tuesday 20th March

The Rough Guide to House Hunting

By Serena Coyne

Unless you've been living as a hermit for the past few weeks you won't have been able to escape the fact that every man and his dog is knocking down the doors of the accommodation office to find his/hers dream house (we all live in hope!!) If the thought of finding a house and actually doing some grown up decision making daunts you then here are the top five tips to finding your student pad.

1. When choosing a house, the numero uno consideration is the people you are thinking of living with. Even if you do manage to find the nicest house that Portwood has to offer, it will be a living hell if you and your house mates don't see eye to eye. It's the small things, like not changing the toilet roll, that can threaten world peace so ensure that you can be tolerant towards all the people you live with even when they've used all the hot water and your hair is greasier than an oil slick! Remember that you're not just going to be bumping into them on your course any more you'll be living with them 24/7, which could take some getting used to. Also, choose people with similar life styles and interests; if you're a clean freak, don't live with some one who is quite willing to cultivate their own form of penicillin on their crockery!

2. When looking for a house, be prepared to ask lots of questions. You want to know as much about the house as possible before signing on the dotted line or else you could find yourself in for a few nasty surprises. Make sure you know how much the rent is, what it includes and how it is payable. Find out what type of tenancy agreement you will have and whether you will have a joint, or separate contracts. It is also recommended that the agreement is checked by SAIC or the Accommodation Office. You should try to negotiate a reduced rent during the summer holidays. If you pay a reduced rent (e.g. half rent) you will be able to live in the house over the holidays. However, if you pay a nominal rent you will not have the right to live there, (but some cheeky people do try!)



They might be your mates but do you really want to live with them?

3. Steps can be taken to ensure that you retain the bulk of your deposit on leaving the property and don't get 'dun over' by the landlord. You should make sure that you get a receipt for the deposit, with a written statement of what the deposit

good condition and meet all the fire safety standards.

5. "Love thy neighbour!" The thought of moving into a house probably conjures up images of loud music, all night

'Small things, like not changing the toilet roll, can cause world war three - be tolerant!'

covers and when it will be returned. You should get an inventory list from your landlord so you know exactly what is in the house (or what is not) when you move in. Above all make sure that you maintain the house sufficiently during your tenancy other wise you won't be getting all of you deposit back and lose out on vital beer money!

4. Make sure that the house is in good condition. You could have a plumbing crisis if you don't check whether the taps work, or if the toilet doesn't flush - especially if you have an unfortunate chundering episode! Check whether there are any signs of damp in the property, which need to be seen to. Also look for signs of infestations, for example slugs or mice, other wise you could have some unwanted guests! The furniture provided with the house should be in

drinking sessions and general debauchery. You must, however, remember that your neighbours may not like repeatedly listening to 'California Dreaming' at full volume in the early hours of the morning on your return from 'Jesters!' The Environmental Health Service is responsible for dealing with noisy neighbours and prosecution can lead to anything up to a £2000 fine - I don't think you want to be spending your student loan on that!

Happy house hunting!!



HERE'S ONE WE MADE EARLIER

Meet the new Blue Peter presenter, Liz Barker, who also just happens to be a Southampton graduate, she gives her take on student life, fan-mail and Richard Bacon's, drug habit!

Remember Blue Peter? It's the one programme that anyone under the age of 40 grew up with and it's still going strong, encouraging kids to hassle parents for double-sided sticky tape and bribing them with Blue Peter badges!

One thing that has changed, however, is the presenters. They have moved on from the rather mumsy style Valerie Singleton of the past to make way for younger, better looking hosts who look more like your siblings than your parents. Liz Barker is part of this new breed of presenter. At a mere twenty-five she is Blue Peter's (or BP if you're up with the lingo) latest addition and has now been doing the show for eight months.

"I don't think they'd give you the job if you were a party animal"

Before BP, Liz was happily working behind the scenes on a programme called 'Backstage' where, in a Big Breakfast style, the crew would often be found in front of the camera dressing up and

generally larking around. Before long Liz was doing sports reports and basically grabbing the opportunity to learn masses about television broadcasting. It wasn't long before her name appeared on the desk of the BP producers who whisked her off for auditions. 'A tape landed in their office with me on it and they tracked me down so I was just very fortunate and really lucky' says Liz modestly with none of the showbiz panache you would expect from a celebrity. 'It was really just a case of being in the right place at the right time'.

So how does it feel being recognised in the street and getting fan mail? Does she enjoy it? 'No, not really' she laughs, then quickly taking it back, 'it really depends on the situation, if you're walking through Sainsburys on a Sunday and you haven't had a wash then it can be a bit embarrassing. You just have to remember to always be nice to people and be prepared to give them your time, which can be hard, but you have to keep in mind that you're always on show.'

Doing three live shows a week plus all the rehearsals and recorded items can be pretty tiring so when she does get a day off Liz avoids the high life we associate with being on TV, preferring instead to spend her spare time at home. 'My life hasn't changed very much, I don't think they'd give you the job if you were a bit of party animal, they'd probably worry that you wouldn't be able to do it.'

Of course there was a certain BP presenter, Richard Bacon, who didn't quite see it this way. Richard (for anyone who missed the headlines) was booted off the show after being caught taking drugs and is now a presenter on the Big Breakfast. 'To be honest we're so busy and so exhausted that whenever I do get a day off I really just want to relax and spend the evening in.' So it doesn't look like we'll be seeing Liz splashed across the tabloids. 'I don't really know what happened to Richard but let's just say it hasn't done his career any harm!'

Going back to before Liz had even stepped into a TV studio, she spent three years at Southampton studying for a philosophy degree, which she loved. 'I came out with a 2.2, but it was a hard subject to do! I really enjoyed studying it and it was an excellent course with good lecturers and lots of nice people.' Unfortunately, however, she isn't quite as enthusiastic about just being a student here in sunny Southampton, she was no Jester's Queen or Squeeze girl - in truth University just wasn't for her. 'I didn't really like it, it wasn't my cup of tea, I think it was mainly the place. There was lots going on but I didn't really get involved an awful lot or go out and about very much.'

Liz's break really came just after University when a friend of hers, who also just happened to be the head of production at Lion TV - the makers of

Channel 4's 'Castaway', offered her some work experience. But for anybody thinking about joining the thousands of

"Being a student just wasn't my cup of tea."

wannabe presenters then be prepared for a hard slog to the top. Liz was a runner and receptionist for two years before even getting behind the camera let alone in front of it. 'You have to be prepared to work from the bottom and have a general interest in life and people not just want to go into presenting to become famous. There are so many wannabe's out there that it just won't work.'

Liz says she's quite happy doing what she's doing now and has no major plans to carry on presenting after her stint at BP. 'There's nothing else I'd really want to do, I'll probably just go back to working behind the scenes. You never really know what's going to happen in life so you just have to enjoy each moment.'

By **Katherine Bruce**

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Freedom of choice and speech is taken for granted in our society. Inherent in the understanding of citizenship is the belief that equality and acceptance are concepts we deserve and respect, on both a collective and individual level. It is expected that governmental and non-governmental organisations and institutions alike will adhere to human rights issues. But for others it is a distant unreachable dream.

Imagine the fear, desperation and loneliness of captives, unjustly imprisoned without fair trial, probably because of the colour of their skin, or the religion they were born into, or the nationality of their parents, or because they tried to fight for justice, peacefully. These peoples' pleas against their unfair treatment are usually smothered by the injustice of politics and tradition and power, or more directly by the brutality and torture that is general practice in many prisons. They need others to speak for them, to regain their natural right of dignity and equality.

Amnesty International, founded in 1961, works for equality and respect of human rights issues worldwide, and has over one million members. Its focus for the past few months has been the 'Stamp Out Torture' campaign, which protests against ill treatment and unjust human rights abuse. One of the cases in relation to this campaign is outlined below. Please read, think, and respond.

Adam Abubakarov's Story.

Adam is sixteen. In October 1999 his family fled to Inguestia from their home in the Chechen capital, Grozny, to escape the Russian bombardment. In February Adam returned to Chechnya to help his grandparents dig up their vegetable garden to make an air-raid shelter underneath their home. On his way back to Abubakarov he was detained by Russian forces at an army checkpoint in the Chechen town of Urus-Martan, on suspicion of being a Chechen fighter. The blisters on his hands from vegetable digging were assumed to be blisters from handling weapons. From this point onwards it is assumed Adam was taken to a filtration camp in Urus-Martan, and then taken to other detention centres in the Russian Federation. Torture and ill-treatment are routine and systematic in these places.

Please write to the addresses below, urging the release of Adam, if he has not

committed a recognisable criminal offence, requesting the authorities allow him contact with his family, a lawyer and medical care:

President Vladimir Putin,
His Excellency Mr Yuir E. Fokine,
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya
Embassy of the Russian Federation,
g. Moskva, Kreml,
13 Kensington Place Gardens,
Prezidentu Rossiyskoy Federatsii,
London, W8 4QX
Russian Federation.

Fax: 020 7727 8625.

YOUR LETTER CAN SAVE LIVES. PLEASE SPARE THE TIME FOR THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING.

Here are a few tips for letter writing, offered by Amnesty International:

- * Identify yourself by referring to a particular case
- * Give the full name of the victim
- * Make a specific request e.g. access to legal advice / medical treatment
- * When ending try to include a phrase that encourages a reply
- * Use 'Yours Respectfully' or 'Yours Sincerely'

Thank you so much for your time and concern. If you want further information on Amnesty you can look up their website: www.Amnesty.org, or for information on Southampton Amnesty group, e-mail lms100@soton.ac.uk or come to our meetings in the West Building Committee Room (up the stairs turn right) from 1-2 p.m. on a Tuesday. Look out for more letter-writing appeals in Wessex Scene. Thankyou.

By Lucy Snell



KISS IT GOODBYE

**WITH NO SMOKING DAY:
14TH MARCH 2001**

Want to stop smoking?
Here's some real help from No Smoking Day to Kiss it goodbye!



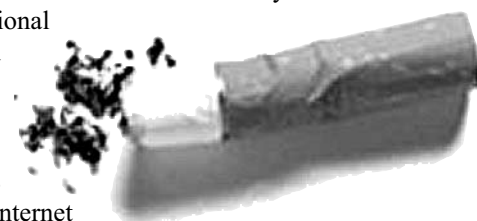
Stopping smoking takes planning, if you are ready to stop, here's how to get started:

- X Name the day when you are going to stop
- X Use the days between then and now to plan
- X Ask your doctor or pharmacist if any of the proven drug treatments could suit you.
- X Find out if there is a stop-smoking clinic near you, and check out what it offers
- X Tell your friends and family you want to stop smoking - get their help too.
- X Keep a diary for a few days, noting when and where you smoke, and how you feel each time.
- X Use the clues from your diary to spot the smoky situations in your day - make a plan for each one.
- X Plan some treats with the money you'll save - one for the end of you're smoke-free day, week and month.
- X Stock up on any products you are going to use, start the treatment at the right time and make sure you follow the instructions.
- X Keep a helpline number handy, and keep asking questions!

NHS Stop-Smoking Centres - these free services are opening all over The UK. They have specially trained staff who can advise you on the best way for you to stop. The national helplines can tell you where to find your nearest centre.

Internet

If you would like to chat to others about stopping smoking, then an internet site might help. Along with information about stopping, many sites offer chat rooms. See No Smoking Day's website www.nosmokingday.org.uk for some great links



The University Health Service will be displaying helpline numbers, Posters and leaflets on 14th March 2001

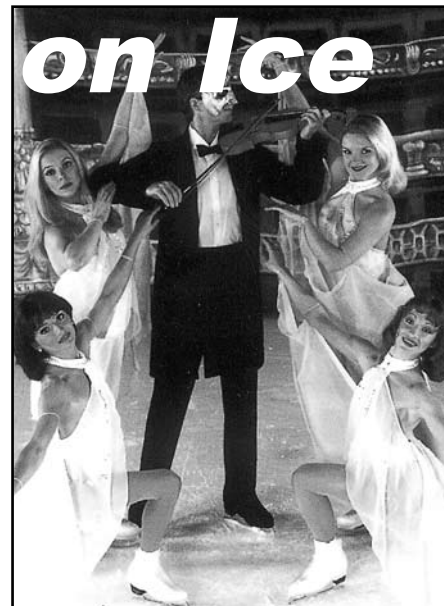
TRASH!



It's amazing what you can do with bins!

Unlike its name suggests, 'Trash' was remarkable. Based round a building site, this show pushes the boundaries of the run of the mill musical with its unique use of dust-bins, drain pipes and tap-dancing making it a rhythmical masterpiece. The only words used were 'Morph' like grunts, which caused much hilarity as the different characters emerged from the long line of gags and surprises. The ten dancers and percussionists entertained the audience with bin-bags full of dancing, humour and a healthy dose of audience participation which had us all in fits of laughter at our own inability to even clap our hands in time. Trash is neither a dance show nor a percussion show but rather a fusion of the two resulting in an exciting and fascinating performance whose wild finale is possibly one of the best around. You can't beat it, you have to go and see it, if only for the inventive use of concrete mixers. Trash is on tour at the moment. For venues go to the web-site at www.raw.co.uk

Phantom of the Opera



Yes it is as bad as it sounds! The skating itself was fantastic, the choreography amazing and the costumes beautiful but nothing could make up for the terrible idea of putting a story about the opera on the ice. With the success of the Andrew Lloyd Webber version this show comes a poor second not helped by the persistent (pre-recorded) panpipe music played throughout. This said, however, the male vocalist, David Lawrence, had an amazing voice and carried the musical side of the show without fault even though being endlessly hampered by the female vocalist, Kathy Dooley, who had a voice so full of vibrato that she must have been gagging (the audience certainly were). These were the only two singers and were placed just in front of the stage but unfortunately somebody had the bright idea of dragging poor David Lawrence onto the ice. He was pulled (and at times carried) around helplessly as if to prove to the audience (just in case we hadn't guessed) that he was no ice-skater. As I said, the actual ice-skaters were fabulous particularly Murugova who played Christine and who succeeded in wowing the audience with her expertise. Also included was a flying sequence, on ropes suspended from the rafters, with acrobats swinging right over the front row that was, admittedly, stunning. I'm sure that there are lots of shows which work very well when performed by ice-skaters but the Phantom of the Opera certainly isn't one of them and I'm pretty sure that Andrew Lloyd Webber won't be quaking in his boots just yet. The Phantom of the Opera on Ice is on tour but unless you're an ice-skating fanatic I wouldn't recommend it.

Trash and the Phantom of the Opera on Ice were both seen at the Mayflower. For ticket details and future shows phone the ticket hotline on 023 80711811 or check out the website at www.the-mayflower.com

Fringe Benefits

I have a confession to make.

When I offered to produce the Theatre Group's play at Edinburgh, I had absolutely no idea what I was meant to be doing. The closest I'd ever got to acting before was when I played the role of "second man on a bench". In fact I don't really know anything about theatre But I did know that the Edinburgh Fringe Festival is basically 3 weeks when the city is invaded by the performing arts, everyone from the wild and wacky to the sensible and serious, from those destined to win the prestigious Perrier award to those who should stick to serving Perrier. And that had to be worth seeing.

Entering the Fringe is actually laughably easy - so long as you pay the entrance fee, you're in - and hence the Fringe has the reputation of fostering new and innovative acts and just might be a launch pad to stardom ... or a show on BBC2 at least. It's everything else after entering that's the tricky bit. Obviously you need to know what you want to do - which was simple in our case, because

our director, Phil Leamon, a stalwart of Theatre Group in years gone by already had his heart set on a production of Ivan Turgenev's "A Month in the Country". Personally, I thought Turgenev only wrote novels but, like I said, I don't really know about theatre. Given that there are more than 1350 shows, somehow one has to stand out from the crowd. Fortunately, Phil had a cunning idea - the show would be performed outside, since most of the action takes place in a garden.

Casting followed soon after the initial idea and, given the calibre and depth of acting ability in Theatre Group, a strong cast was picked. Gabriela Blandy took the lead role of Natalya, Nick Odoni and Tom Woodward supporting in the other main roles of Michael and Alexsei. If you want to see the full cast list, it's on: www.soton.ac.uk/~theatre. The play itself is a classic from the middle of the 19th century, all about bored thirty-somethings falling in love with people they shouldn't - a bit like Friends but without the mindless optimism.

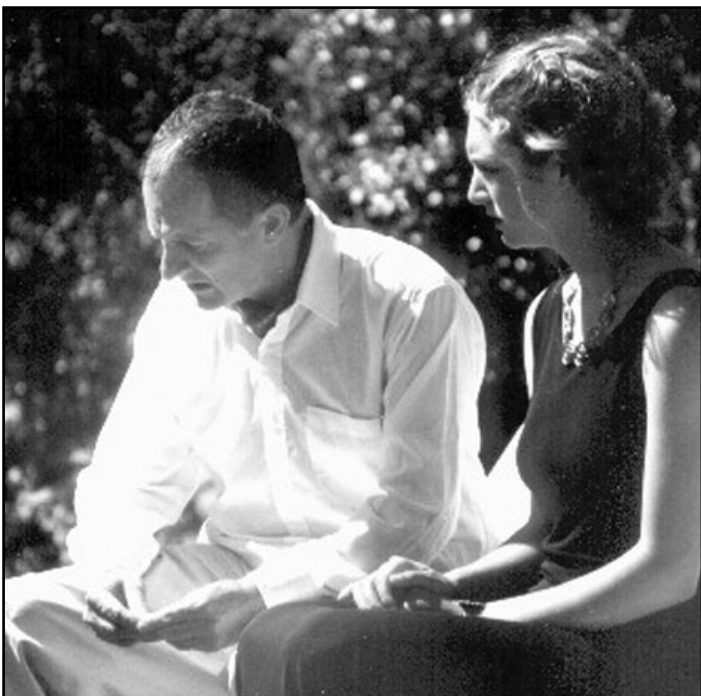
Having started preparations in February, the months zipped by... our trial run being three performances in the University's Botanic Garden. At that point, one was struck by what a smart idea it was to perform outdoors. The play had a totally different atmosphere, and as an experience what could be nicer than lazing around on cushions watching the performance?

It certainly beats being perched on a hard seat, with a whopping great big pillar in the middle

of your view of the stage. ... and that is not an uncommon occurrence at Edinburgh. With about 600 companies looking for venues, all sorts of places are "converted" into temporary theatres, with varying degrees of success. Don't get me wrong, the Fringe is definitely worth a visit. Many venues don't support their acts as well as they could ... eg: with basic facilities such as dressing rooms; venue hire is expensive and this is then reflected in high ticket prices; attracting an audience (and the press) is tough; it rains; accommodation is hideously expensive ... in general, one could argue that the financial pressure (which in some ways is a function of the sheer number of shows) is squeezing out the more innovative acts and the openness which built the Fringe's reputation. That said Edinburgh is a lovely city and the spot where we performed in the Royal Botanic Garden was gorgeous. As for our play, it grew in vivacity with each performance (and post-show analysis session in the tequila bar) and I think that the audience appreciated this. One person told me that this was the one show which she would remember from this year's Fringe.

I'd like to thank all our sponsors, the Students' Union, the University's Botanic Garden and a whole heap of other people for supporting the play. And I'd like to thank the cast and crew for letting me be in their play. Fortunately they overlooked the fact that I don't really know anything about theatre and they are even letting me help to produce Theatre Group's next big production - a comedy double-bill of "Black Comedy" by the highly-acclaimed Sir Peter Shaffer and "A Test of Character" by Pierre Marivaux, which will be on at the Nuffield Theatre from 8th to 10th March. Come along, it'll be a laugh!

by **Alun Thomas**



Clubs & Socs

PHOTOSOC DO IT IN THE DARK!

The Photographic Society has - unofficially - more members than any other non-sporting club in the university, and its list of members is still growing. I suppose the main attraction is the prospect of developing your own negatives and printing your own, arty black and white prints (full training offered throughout the year). But the society also thrives on the social front, with regular trips around the country, taking photos with other similarly-minded people on daytrips to the Isle of Wight (coming up this term, March 3rd),

London and Bath. Competitions every term allow you to have your photos criticized by a pro and possibly win some money for them (and drink lots of free wine!). Watch out for this summer's Open Competition, which can be entered by members (who pay £10 to join for free use of the darkroom) and non-members. Email: photo@soton.ac.uk Web: www.soton.ac.uk/~photo Meet us: Darkroom (1st floor of West Building) on Tues and Thurs lunchtimes.

Alex Doak



SAY PANTS TO POVERTY



with

RED NOSE DAY

On March 16th

PsychoSoc Social

By George Ng



PsychoSoc. Braved the rain and had its first event of the year last term, and what better way to start the ball rolling again than with a 70's night? Worries that people would be put off by the downpour waned with each passing beer, and the fact that the place started to fill up with psychology undergrads. Wringing out our shirts dry (obscenely coloured, of course: in strict accordance with 70's Theme-Night Rules), we encouraged as much drinking as possible at Varsity whilst chairs and tables were robbed from the unaware until we had enough to form a large enough table. No one really understood the drinking games that went

on, but the fact that they all made sense to us at the time reveals that they were effectively serving their purpose, and people were soon ready for Rhino's (especially Tash, who informed me that she was really up for some action). What happens when you mix tequilla, vodka, and beer? A large circle of Dancing Queens taking turns to do their thing in the centre. There were a number of potential dance champions that night, from Martin's Matrix impression (you had to be there, I'm afraid) to Jim and Louisa's Dance D'Amour. Longest arm award goes to Alex, however. (See picture)

Comic Relief now funds nearly 800 projects in Africa and the UK. It's incredible how many people your money ends up helping. This year why not get your club or Society to do something different from the usual pub crawls and balls and do something for charity- mate!

Comic Relief have come up with loads of ideas to get you started. Here's just a few of them.

* **Red Day** - Organize a day when you all get sponsored to dress in red for the day.

* **Lets face it, we all love a good pub crawl so why not make it a sponsored pub-crawl or a even a red nose party - whatever you decide.**

* **If you're on a sports team then why not have a sponsored event. Basically look at your sport and think of ways of making it into a cash making phenomenon!**

The people who get the comic relief cash really are the poorest and most needy in the UK and africa. A huge variety of people support the cause so in turn comic relief supports a huge variety of projects but all you have to do is raise as much as you can and have a good laugh doing it!

To register your events just go to www.comicrelief.com. and you can get copies of posters or sponsorship forms by phoning Comic Relief on 09068 102030



Competitions

GET SPACED OUT FOR FREE!

SPACED is Channel Four's award-winning, critically acclaimed situation comedy, written by and starring Simon Pegg and Jessica Stevenson and directed by Edgar Wright. Out for general release: 19th Feb.

It is the story of two very different people, enthusiastic but directionless Daisy Steiner (Jessica Stevenson) and grumpy, broken hearted skateboarder, Tim Bisley (Simon Pegg). These two twenty-something's pretend to be a professional couple in order to secure the tenancy of a North London flat. As the pair grow closer, the potent mix of their



friends, interests and ambitions leads them into a world more bizarre than childhood and a lifetime away from being grown up.

So, there you have it, two quirky flat-mates pretending to be a couple, living together in a flat in London with some equally bizarre friends and a gender-swapping dog - called Colin! **SPACED** was recognised by both critics and viewers as being a superbly written, hilarious sitcom. It was nominated for a Bafta, the Golden Rose of Montraux, the Creative Freedom Awards and won in its category at the British Comedy Awards 1999.

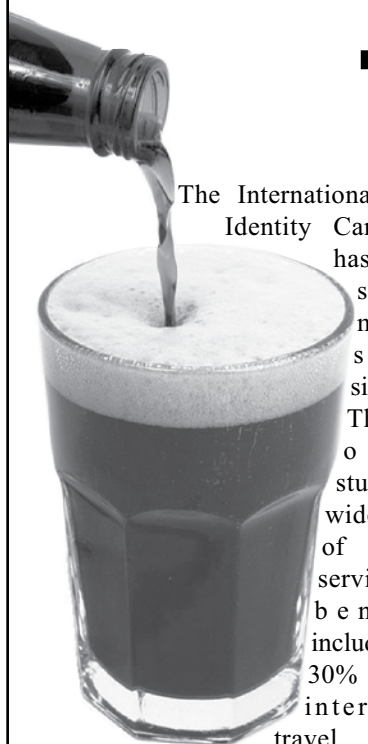
To win a free copy of the first series of **Spaced** simply answer this question:

What is the name of Daisy and Tim's gender swapping dog? Send your answers to keb398@soton.ac.uk. The first five to answer correctly will be the winners.



**If this is you,
take a trip to Vice President Krystal Miller's office, on the
second level of the union building to collect your £20 prize.**

Free Tickets to Dublin



The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) has been saving money for students since 1968. The ISIC offers students a wide variety of travel services and benefits, including up to 30% off international travel, and discounts at over 15,000 venues around the world, including 750 here in the UK. Students carrying the card can save money on accommodation, travel, entertainment, cultural venues, shops

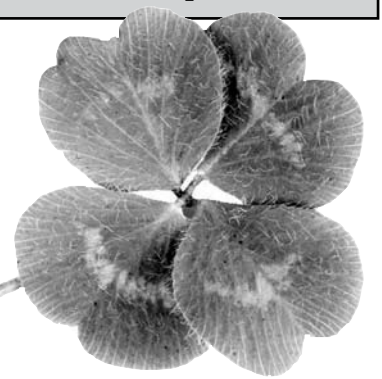
and much more. This year's UK ISIC discount package includes top names such as UCI Cinemas, BSM, Timberland, Sony Centres and Domino's Pizza. In addition, cardholders can benefit from commission free currency exchange, a 24-hr Helpline, and ISICConnect - the complete communications package for students on the move.

This month ISIC is offering 10 lucky winners the chance to win tickets to the city of Dublin. Visit the other city that never sleeps and see the sights of this fascinating cultural city. Dublin offers a whole host of attractions, including the Guinness Museum, the James Joyce House, the Jameson's Distillery, Trinity College, and much more. The list is endless. Alternatively, relax with a drink in one of the many bars and pubs in Temple Bar and simply soak up the atmosphere of this incredible city.

To enter, all you have to do is tell us:

- 1. The name of one of James Joyce's books**
- 2. The name of the second city of the Republic of Ireland**
- 3. The name of one of the main shopping streets in Dublin**

Send your answers to Jo Fearnhead, Marketing & New Media Executive, NUS Services Limited, Snape Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2NZ. Alternatively, you can e-mail your answers to JFearnhead@nussl.co.uk. On your entry, please include the answers to the three questions, your name, address, telephone number and E-mail address, the name of your University or college, and the name of the publication you are reading. Closing date for entries is March 16th.



ATHLETIC UNION BALL

17TH MARCH 2001

TICKETS

AU MEMBERS: £25 DINING, £10 NON-DINING
NON-MEMBERS: £30 DINING, £12 NON-DINING

AVAILABLE FROM AU OFFICE OR UNION
CONCOURSE DURING LUNCHTIMES.

4 COURSE MEAL WITH BAND
FOLLOWED BY CHEESY DISCO

GAMES ROOM WITH SCALEXTRIX AND
MONTE CARLO CASINO

BILLIARD ROOM WITH NINTENDO 64 - GOLDEN EYE

007



Oh Balls!!

Basketballers hit Stumbling Block in Stunning Season

Following their recent run of success, the Sharks have had a couple of hiccups on their way to local league victory.

The first was a match against Bournemouth Storm, a university team of ringers. Although Southampton were the more graceful team, Bournemouth's clumsy looking side still managed to power the ball to the hoop. It was a close game throughout until the fourth quarter when the Storm had stretched to a lead of 10. In the dying minutes, the Southampton boys realised they needed to turn it on. With a minute to go, Chris Blunt (supported by Chris Glover) turned up the defence forcing turnover after turnover and bringing the score to within 3 in 40 seconds. As time ran down, Another turnover was forced, now with the choice of a lay-up, leading to a loss of 1 or a three pointer to draw equal, The choice was a three. The shot was taken but to no avail. The shot rebounded off the court. As Bournemouth had regained possession, they were fouled and scored a free throw! Final score 77-73.

The next game was against the PCVL Smugglers, a Portsmouth side coached by Mick Byrne, ex-coach of England! The contests between Sharks and Smugglers have always been close but never like this one. For the whole first half, we were keeping neck and neck with the visiting team. Into the third quarter, something went wrong, the sharks started to make a couple of turnovers and before they knew it, the Smugglers had taken a ten point lead. Entering the fourth quarter, the Sharks knew they had to turn it up again. As the Southampton team started working hard again, the score slowly started to level out until about a minute before the end of the game when we were neck and neck. The smugglers main man - Alex Byrne (Solent Stars teammate of Chris Blunt) took control and scored a last bucket putting them up by 2. The Sharks made every effort to equal this but slowly time ran out leaving them on the end of another loss. Final score 81-83.

After the exams finished, the Sharks entered a week of Portsmouth competition. They first played Portsmouth on Sunday 4th February 2001 in a local league match away. This game was always going to be a tough one as the Sharks had not been able to beat the Pompey team since September 1999. In a brand new sports hall, the game started with a fairly strong Uni side and a Portsmouth team which hadn't seemed to have changed in the last three years and with their National League inside threat Jimmy Karamitsos fighting fit, things were not looking too good. The first quarter was fairly close finishing with the Pompey side 21-16 up. The second quarter saw some great shooting again

from the start fresher - Thorgane Marques who scored twelve points in the quarter to help put the Sharks up for a bit before Portsmouth came back to end the half 41-37 up. In the second half, things started going a bit pete tong for the Sharks as Portsmouth started edging their lead forward and the Shark guards started being called for dodgy fouls. In the fourth quarter, the sharks started to turn up their defence but it was too late as they were already hanging on by a thread. The end of the game came with little excitement as the Portsmouth side won 87-71 after Jimmy Karamitsos scored a total of 35 points over the game!

The next game that week was a double header BUSA match away again against Portsmouth. The game was an important one as it defined the winner of the league in BUSA as both sides stood undefeated in the league.

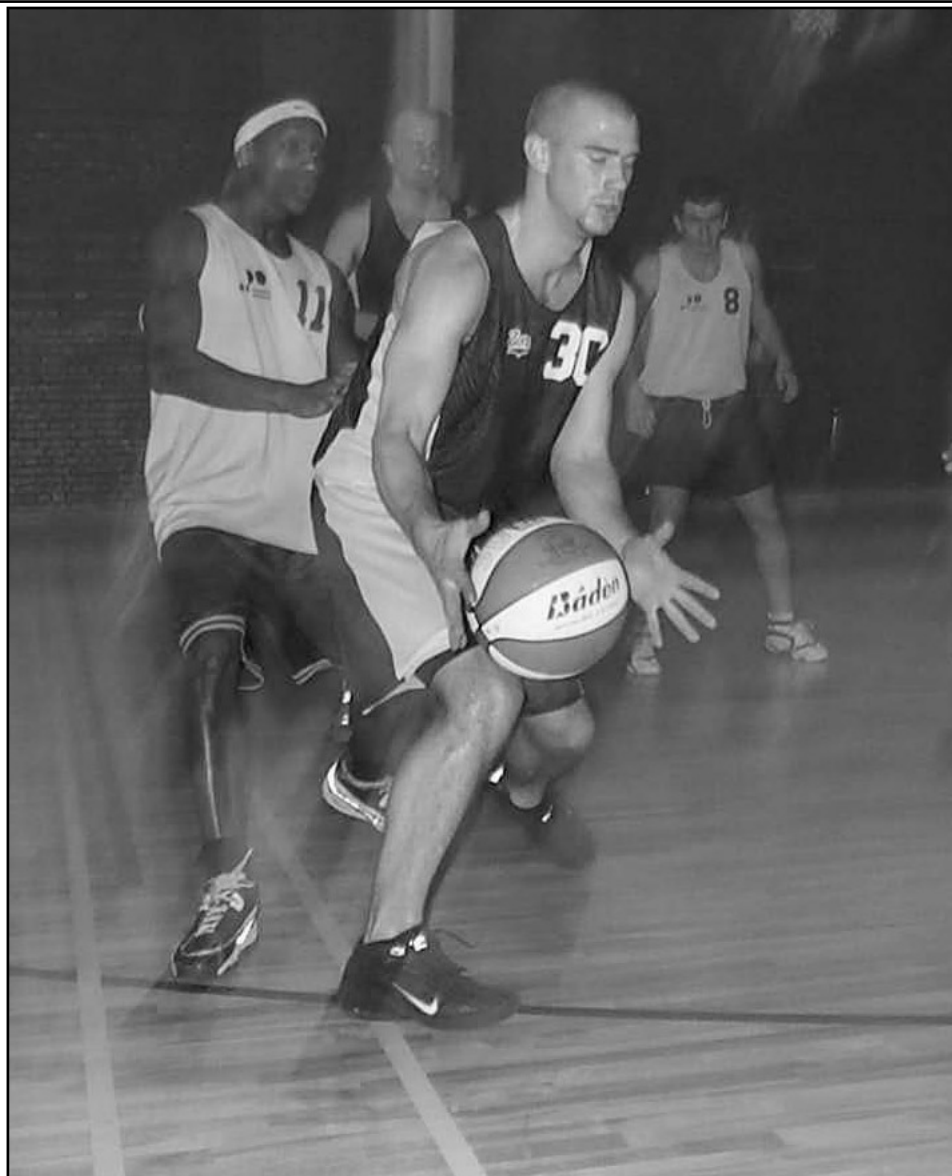
Right from the beginning, the Sharks went out and played with plenty of heart and hustle. Although there was not much scoring, the Sharks were up on Portsmouth right up to the end of the quarter leading 12-11 by the whistle. The second quarter was much of the same with James Gething scoring 9 points over the half. By halftime, The Sharks lead had been stretched to 28-23; things were looking good for the Sharks. As the third quarter began, something went wrong again. The Portsmouth side edged back to a level score and then as if the Sharks were giving up, Portsmouth forced turnover after turnover and then converted the steals to points helping them outscore the Sharks 24 points to 8 in the quarter leaving the Sharks down 47-36. Whatever happened at halftime had not been reversed at the beginning of the fourth as the Portsmouth continued to force turnover and stop the Sharks from scoring as they scored another 11 points before the Southampton side could put the ball through the hole. It was like a nightmare that had just got worse. Again the visiting team managed to turn up the defence and start bringing the score back but like before it was too late. The final whistle went with the score at 69-55 to Portsmouth. Oh well, at least Jimmy was held to 16 points this time. For the rest of the game - back to the practice court.

Come and support the Sharks and the rest of the club at the following home games:

22nd February @ 8pm against Itchen College.

15th March @ 8pm against Bournemouth Bears. both in Sports Hall, SU Building

Chris Glover.



WAR OF THE COURT

Firsts Show Extra Class in All-Uni Battle

As the end of term drew near, the biggest derby of the year was upon the Basketball teams: The home clash of Southampton Uni. A vs. Southampton Uni. B.

After a weekend of banter at the Christmas pub-crawl, the seconds had everything to lose. From the start of the game, both sides played solid and the scores were staying level. By half time, the firsts had edged forward to a 38-26 lead despite huge 16 points from the monstrous James Mason in the first half.

At the half time interval, the Red Bull girls turned up much to everyone's pleasure!! As the teams fuelled themselves with the teeth rotting energy provider, both teams prepared themselves for the second half. In the second half, Mason played big again along with former team captain James Gething to attempt to keep their team in the game. Unfortunately for the seconds, all the first team players on

the court started producing both on the defensive and the offensive ends of the court. By the end of the third quarter, the firsts were up 60-40 and another win for the firsts was looking ominous. In the fourth quarter, the seconds could not mustle up much and ended up losing 89-58. That'll be the end of their banter for a while!!



All Washed Up

Reps give their opinions on the Intra-Mural Wash Out

If an organisation like the FA can run the premiership then how hard could it be for two guys to run four 11-a-side intra-mural football leagues?

We had twenty plus weeks and plenty of pitches. With first class facilities at Wide Lane any premiership club would be jealous of and such a high level of enthusiasm we had to turn teams away, what could possibly go wrong...in fact, everything! You may have noticed as you looked out of your windows that we've had one or two drops of rain fall this year and you can guarantee that every Wednesday and Sunday I will look out my window to be greeted with flooding more usually associated with Bangladesh. There have been twice as many cancelled weeks as playable ones and unfortunately it is looking less and less likely that the season will ever finish; at least not until the fresher's graduate in a couple of years time.

The one group of people I will defend here are the Wide Lane groundsmen, who are regularly blamed for the farce which the tournament is becoming. These men tirelessly try to sort the pitches out every week, and by time are probably more hydrophobic than me. They're in a no win situation, each week wanting to leave it as late as possible before cancellation, so as to try and get the games on. Unfortunately every team wants to know about a month before if the games are on so they can get their team together and then complains when the games are on because they only knew this an hour before kick-off. The groundsmen are damned if they do and damned if they don't and until the lottery gives the DSR a £10 million grant for an extensive drainage system then they're destined to fight a losing battle. In fact at times matches have been played in such boggy conditions as to risk trashing the pitches. At times this year we've seen premier league matches called off because of weather (see Newcastle v. Southampton last week), so it is unsurprising that wide land cannot cope with flooding of near biblical proportions.

The players themselves are placed in an awkward situation, I myself know how annoying it is to wait around all morning to discover that a match is called off, but there is no other way. It's just as frustrating to find the matches on and no opposition turning up, usually because it rained two days before and the whole team has gone home for the weekend. Teams not turning up has been a huge problem this year as well, increasing the back catalogue of fixtures or giving the team who did turn up an unsatisfactory

3-0 victory. Most players want to play football, not trudge down to Wide Lane each week to leave with yet another default victory and no game played. We have so far had two teams turn up to less than two games, and both have been removed from the league, though it is unsurprising that the CSS quit after their 19-1 humiliation in the first game. Who would want to turn up each week to lose by that much, even Bradford haven't lost by that much this year...yet! What annoys me even more is when teams expect a re-arrangement of a game, when they email me two days later, with some lame excuse like their reserve goalkeeper stubbed his toe forcing the entire team to be unable to play!

One might also expect teams comprised of university players to contain at least one literate player who could read and comprehend a simple set of rules. The most blatantly transgressed rule regards the amount of university squad players allowed in a team. The rules state one can have two, because intra-mural football is for all Uni. students, and in the interests of fairness we don't want the Uni. 1st XI winning each match 30-0. Why I have to ask, do some teams manage to get the number 2 confused with the number 6? The team in question, after protesting through snide emails, failed to turn up to a meeting with the DSR, and us organisers and promptly left the league.

There are a number of people who deserve praise heaped on them for the work they've done as regards intra-mural football this year. Mike Doswell has tried his best to organise the Sunday morning league, and lets be honest who can be bothered to get up and play football on a Sunday morning. Andrew Wood, my co-organiser, has probably sent out more emails than anyone else has in the entire university trying to sort out each and every teams problems and let them know about revised fixtures, cancellations etc. So if the university email ever goes down, you know whom to blame. Finally I'd like to thank the St. Johns ambulance first-aiders, who go down each week come rain or shine (I wish) and sort out all the snapped cruciate ligaments (bruised ankles) and broken legs (studded shins) that we footballers sustain. My final word of warning, if you are thinking of taking over my role and running intra mural 11-a-side next year, then don't, just don't - all I can say is it is a great way to fail your degree.

Anton Osbourne - 11-a-side Rep

The extreme weather, and the DSR's lack of appropriate measures in response to it, has been a huge disruption to the intra-mural rugby competition this year.

At the Christmas break we were in a situation where by we had only had two weekends of games leaving a massive backlog of fixtures. Each Sunday I would (and still do) get phone calls from team reps, all very eager to play, and I have to tell them that the five minutes of rain that we had on Friday means that the pitches were apparently 'waterlogged'. At this moment in time there have been just four weekends on which intra mural rugby has been played this season. Every week I have had to re-arrange fixtures meaning that it has become increasingly difficult for teams to keep track of when they have games and get players to commit to being available on any particular weekend. I run an intra mural rugby team myself and I can vouch for the fact that it is difficult enough to



Next Door: The game goes on regardless

organise and ensure that you have players available let alone do so when each week you then turn around at 9.30 on a Sunday morning and say "sorry, you could have gone home to see your girlfriend after all, the game's off, there's leaves on the lines!". This has meant that on a couple of occasions when the pitches have been passed playable teams have had to pull out because of a lack of players, this leaves everyone disillusioned, including the DSR. One team has dropped out because they cannot get players to commit anymore. I have also had to re-arrange games on weekends during January that fell right in the middle of exam period, whilst I would welcome the distraction of a game of rugby myself, I fully understand the reasoning of some teams who couldn't play during this time. As a final year student you could hardly risk breaking your hand the day before an exam could you? On top of all of this of course is the frustration and inconvenience caused for

the referees, who commit themselves every Sunday only to find that they are not needed. These guys agree to ref for the good of the game and because they want to help and I really feel for them when they are let down.

Justifiably, people are not happy about the whole situation having paid out for sportcards etc for the sole reason of playing rugby. There are ten teams registered in the competition all of whom have paid £25 entrance fee, £20 to train a referee and at least £16 per player for a sportcard. Ten teams, about 20 players registered per team, that comes to a few thousand pounds. Where has this money gone? Certainly not towards maintaining the facilities!

I am not for one minute suggesting that the weather has not been bad this season. The point is that there have been weekends when games could and should have been played. This season I have visited Wide Lane on many occasions before games to check out the state of the pitches and most of the time have seen nothing to suggest that they may be unplayable. On one occasion I spoke to the groundsmen from King Edwards School (whose rugby pitches we also use) and he told me that he was allowing games to go ahead that afternoon and had no problem with us playing on one of his pitches the following day. On the Sunday morning I was told by the Wide Lane groundsmen that we couldn't play, I asked them what their reasoning for this was, given that the KES pitches were so obviously playable and was told that there existed an 'all sport or no sport' policy. Basically we couldn't play because the footballers would get jealous, as you can imagine I found this quite ridiculous. I understand that this policy has since changed.

The one lighter note in all of this is that the DSR have agreed to let me keep the rugby pitches for two weeks after Easter which is a great help and does mean that, so long as there are no more postponements, we should be able to finish the competition. Everyone is very grateful to the DSR for this.

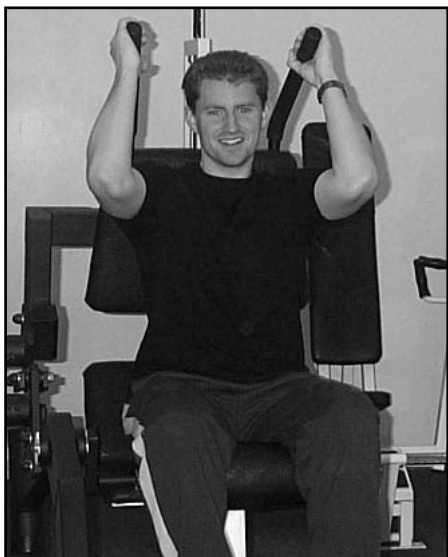
I could go on but I would be here all day. Basically, to sum up, the competition will hopefully finish but the standard of it has slipped because players and referees have become extremely disillusioned. Hopefully we can really crack on with the season now and get some good games of rugby played to get everyone's spirits up a bit!

Tim Firkins - Rugby Rep

Fit-Less Facilities

As someone who likes to keep fit, I and many others have had to endure an inconvenience that seriously impinges on any form of structured fitness programme, with the continued takeover of the gym by large teams and a lack of further investment in high-demand equipment.

The fitness facilities at the University are well below par, especially considering its



size. Consequently, you would think that the University would grab any improvement that could be made at little or no cost with both hands. Not so, eh, Mr Cook (Fitness facility manager)? Not that you cannot meet with this guy (you can) and he listens and nods often. Very often. This is probably to prevent any good suggestions from getting lodged between his ears.

For the record, let me just say that the increase in cardio equipment is welcomed. However, my first complaint is the rowing team. These guys have the gym booked for themselves from 8.30 to close every Monday and Tuesday night for the sole purpose of screaming at each other! Let me elaborate. The number of

times I have been removed from the gym in mid-workout so a handful - and I do mean a handful - of rowers can use the rowing machines is ridiculous. The rest of the machines, both cardio and resistance, remain empty. Now if like me, you work until 6ish, have some dinner and then want to work out; not so on Mon and Tues. The solution: open the gym an hour earlier in the mornings for the rowers. If they are keen on training they will get up. Even a compromise for the rowers not having two consecutive days booked would be preferable if you are an athlete who has one day on, one day off training. Mr Cook said neither idea would work.

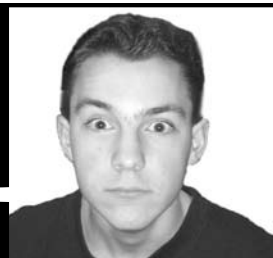
Secondly (and this is mainly directed towards all you meatheads out there), I would like to see an improvement in the free weights section. When I met with Mr Cook, nine months after a friend of mine had met with him to suggest very similar ideas, I got the familiar (and yes my friend got it too) nodding-dog impression. I suggested an extra, adjustable incline bench, in-between weight dumbbells to make those hard-to-reach extra gains and finally music, as this room has no atmosphere for training. These improvements could all be undertaken for less than the price of a new cycle machine and I was told they would be. Six months later and nothing. Oh sorry, a hole was drilled in the wall three months ago to install a speaker. Well, I still see the hole but no sign of a speaker. I ask you Mr Cook: what is going on? Are you not passionate enough to provide the best facilities possible in the limited space? If not resign, sit in my car's rear window and do what you do best: nod!!

Jeff Pilot



The Gym: Up to Standard?

EDITOR'S CORNER SPOT



The Dark Side of Football

Two recent events in football have brought up all those feelings that I try to push to the back of my mind when I talk about the sport I love.

Firstly, the recent Liverpool V Roma UEFA Cup game has seen football hooliganism raise its ugly head yet again, and saw at least seven Liverpool fans stabbed in the process. As someone who was in Copenhagen for Arsenal's UEFA Cup final match against Galatassary where there was so much trouble, it makes me feel sick to see it happening again. Everyone was so shocked and saddened by the deaths of two Leeds fans in Turkey early last year, yet it doesn't seem to prevent it happening again. The press often put the blame on the foreign element involved, and indeed it seems it is often the English fans that end up in hospital. Yet, if you believe that the English are the innocent party in this then you are extremely naïve.

For some reason English football fans and violence seem to go hand in hand. Having seen some of the 'Arsenal fans' (and I use that phrase very hesitantly as these people are not real fans) violently attack Turks in Denmark it makes it very hard to solely blame foreigners. Indeed it was Liverpool fans' violence which saw us banned from Europe 15 years ago, and hardly any Championship goes by without hearing how English hooligans have disrupted what otherwise seems a peaceful competition (think Euro 92, World Cup 98 and Euro 2000).

My question is simply: Why? Why can't we rid English football of the curse of the football hooligan? The Premiership may be the most financially lucrative in the world and stadiums might be getting bigger and better, but no amount of money seems to rid the sport of the tag that has dogged it since the seventies. One day someone may come up with the answer which permanently removes that parasitic minority from the game. I for one cannot wait for that day.

The second thing that has saddened me is the situation regarding Lee Bowyer and Johnathan Woodgate. It is bad enough that professional footballers might have sunk as low as they allegedly have in violently attacking a member of the public, but it is even worse that they are still playing football. I sincerely hope there was no racist element involved, but regardless of that they should be banned from playing for Leeds until they are cleared. I utterly believe in innocence until proved guilty, but anyone else would lose their job immediately if they were linked with such charges, so why should footballers be any different. Seeing Bowyer receive all the acclaim as he scored Leeds' winner, when he had earlier that day faced charges of GBH is not right. If he is utterly exonerated then fine, but until the case is over he or Woodgate should not be in a Leeds shirt.

Martin



'Science and Health' - a course book for all students'

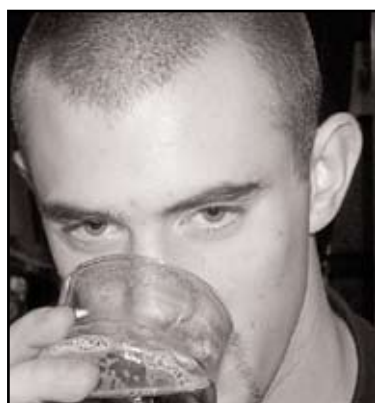
Please drop in to an informal talk on how Christian Science can help you with relationships, exams, career choices, keeping a balance to your life, ...

You can hear it at Southampton City College on:

Sponsored by the local
Christian Science church:
30-32 The Avenue
Southampton SO17 1XN
tel: 023 80 228048

Tuesday 6th March
at 7:30pm
Given by Mrs Jo Pickup

'A Block' Lecture Theatre
Southampton City College
St Mary Street
Next to St Mary's church



THE AU PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A great Athletic Union Administrator once told me that an Article or Speech should be like a womans skirt; long enough to cover the relevant parts, but short enough to keep you interested! So here I go...

I hope the exams have all been good fun for you people out there, I almost wish I had been doing them as well - not!

This term has seen a few problems mostly involving the weatherman. It has still been raining enough to cancel many matches. Now there is such a backlog that teams have to fulfil their BUSA games whenever they can, be it at the weekend or first thing on a Thursday morning (unlikely due to it being the morning after the night before etc.). Once all these fixtures have been played, those teams who have qualified for the next round will start the last 16 knockout stages. Isn't it exciting!!! At least the weather is starting to look a bit more promising.

Jesters, now that's an interesting one. My previous column had stated that it would no longer be happening - Wrong (I admit it, I was wrong) lots of people are still going to Jesters but the ticket system works a bit differently now (see your social sec for more info.) To those of you who wish to be part of a slightly different following, let me know and we can sort something out. I am thinking of an Academy night for example.

I don't really have a hell of a lot left to say and I don't want to start boring you so take care, keep boozing and lovin' life!!

Glover

PS. I forgot to mention the AU Ball - Licence to BOOZE. It will be an immense night out and tickets are selling so don't wait until we have sold out. If you go dining, you will be part of a table of your choice (sports club/ other club/ House table etc). It will be bigger, better and CHEAPER than the Monte ball!!!

The Story So Far.....

> accenture keep men's hockey moving.

We are already a few months into the 2000/2001 campaign and the men's hockey club, by its high standards, has so far had a varied season depending on whom you talk to!

The club has strengthened its wealth of talent by welcoming on board more than twenty Freshers since the start of the season, maintaining the clubs status as one of the largest within the University. As a result Wessex have once again been able to field four teams, three of these competing in BUSA, one in SESSA and all taking part in various divisions of the Hampshire Leagues.

The club is again very grateful to Accenture who have continued to show their support for the club by sponsoring us. Last semester, Alan Evans (Associate Partner) and Lucinda Ekins (Graduate Recruiting) from Accenture were at Wellington Sports Ground to present club captain, Matt Town with a cheque for £2,200. Without this generous sponsorship the mens hockey club would simply not be able to continue, such are the costs incurred through pitch hire and kit charges. Those of you not entirely up to date with the clubs goings on may be a little confused about the 'new' sponsorship name. Although the name of our sponsor has indeed changed they do in fact remain the same firm. You may have been more familiar with seeing Andersen Consulting across Wessex shirts, but as of 01/01/01 they were rebranded as Accenture. This followed a ruling in favour of Andersen Consulting in its arbitration with Andersen Worldwide and Arthur Andersen. Under the terms of the ruling, Andersen Consulting was excused from any further obligations to Andersen Worldwide and Arthur Andersen, and given until December 31, 2000 to adopt a new name. Further information on the changes can be found at www.accenture.com. We are indebted to Accenture for all their help and support and hope that it may long continue.

Now onto the hockey! As I previously mentioned there have so far been mixed

results from the club. The loss of eight 1st XI regulars through graduation meant that the 1st's would be up against it from the start. In addition, injuries to key players have meant the 1st XI has taken time to get into top gear and have struggled in the top flight. However since the winter break they have sorted out any problems and are yet to be beaten, ensuring their place in the league for next season.

However, on a brighter note, the 2nd's are making up for this abnormal performance from the 1st's and are continuing to dominate. They are currently enjoying success in both their league and BUSA. I should at this point add that some suspect umpiring has unfortunately left them a few places lower in the league than they might otherwise have been but since they have five games in hand there is a strong possibility of promotion. Some would argue this is a result of Hugh 'borrowing' lower team members to strengthen his squad! (Campbell, I'm doing my best to make excuses for you!) The 2nd's have also put together a good run in BUSA and are likely to be entered into the plate competition.

Owing to last seasons success the 4th XI is enjoying a fresh challenge in the Open League Division 1, following promotion last year. They have carried their form through and are dominating astros afar and as a result are sitting pretty around the

top of the league. Progress in SESSA is also good and I am delighted to report that they overpowered the might of Guildford College of Law to win 8-0 only last week. Never before have GCOL been beaten by a Wessex side and it now puts the team in with an excellent chance of winning their SESSA division. So, more silverware is potentially on the cards and they may even find themselves competing in the same league as the 3rd's next season if results continue as they are. Promotion for a successive season, who knows!!

Every year the club aspires to go on tour and this summer Tour Secretary, Dan Brown has not let us down and is hoping to lead us out to Barbados. The infamous Isle of Man tour has finally given way to shores afar and in June we head for the Banks International Hockey Festival. His plans are ever growing and it is an exciting prospect. A fundraising 15 hour 'sportathon' is due to take place in the near future, which will include hockey, football, cricket and basketball matches. The triumphant team will set the 'forfeit' for the losing team, to be carried out on the island. A 'Caribbean' night at Jesters is also a possibility later on this semester with all proceeds going towards the tour, so any of your support would be very much appreciated. We will let you know when this is and look forward to seeing you!!

Simon Mitchell



Rain Stopped Play

Continued from Back Page

However, teams must turn up for their fixtures and we have to hope that it doesn't continue to rain!"

It seems that the main problem lies with the drainage system at Wide Lane which does not appear to be particularly efficient. As Paul Cook, the facilities manager states: "due to the saturated state of the pitches any further rain will flood the pitches making them unsafe for play."

So it looks as if, although it may not be anyone's fault, the entire winter outdoor programme is destined to become a non-event. The problems that have been experienced this year need to be addressed to ensure that a further farce does not occur in future years. Southampton is by no means a rain-free city and on present form it seems likely that more games will be postponed than played unless the situation is sorted. People pay money for sports-cards and registration fees in order to play sport and not to be continually told they

cannot play. Unfortunately we don't live in the Med, and rain is an accepted part of our winter. We should be used to it by now, and should be able to make allowances for it, including in the provision of sport. This year may be consigned to farce but there is no need to let future years go the same way.

Martin Ashplant

WESSEX SCENE **SPORT**

WASH OUT !

Weather Leaves University Sport all Washed Up with Nowhere to Play

WIDE LANE. WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

This is what it should look like:



But this is what it does look like:



Martin Ashplant Reports:

Recent weather conditions, which seem to be more appropriate to the rainy season in the Tropics, have wrecked havoc on the University's outdoor intra-mural programme. Cancellation after cancellation has left the rugby, football and hockey competitions in a farcical state with it looking highly unlikely that any will come to any meaningful conclusion. Although the weather is something not quite under university control, there is a feeling that more games should have been played than have and that the Department of Sport and Recreation may have been too hasty in calling some matches off.

The Sunday programme of 11-a-side football and rugby seems to have been harder hit than most and many players have begun to give up on playing again this season. In the Sunday afternoon football, only five days have been deemed playable since October. This has had an obvious effect on the value of the tournament as there is no way that the complete programme will be finished on schedule. Even if a long period of glorious sunshine occurs until Easter, many teams will have great difficulty in persuading people to make the effort to play when they have been disappointed so many times in the past.

The finger of blame has been pointed towards the DSR in that it seems that it does not take much rain to cause a blanket cancellation, a decision which is often left very late in the day. On one recent Wednesday afternoon the many pitches at Wide Lane were empty having yet again been deemed unsuitable to play, yet merely 50 yards away a school match was taking place on the adjacent King Edwards pitch. It seems to imply that either the school has better resources and ground facilities than the University, which is highly unlikely, or that the

pitches could indeed be played upon.

As John, an 11-a-side footballer states: "It seems that it only takes a bit of drizzle earlier in the week for all matches to be called off. Our team haven't played a proper game since early November, and to be honest I don't think we'll play again. People can't really be bothered anymore, as the chances of getting a decent game are remote. If the weather is ok, then the chances are either we or the opposition won't be able to get a team out. It's a real shame because it's normally such a good competition."

Dr Bill Harris, Director of Sport and Recreation, states that he is "very worried about the effect that the severe weather is having on University sport". Whilst more outdoor sport on grass has been played at Wellington Sports Grounds than other local sports grounds, Dr Harris suggests that improved drainage and the provision of a second artificial pitch would help to alleviate the problem experienced, particularly with regard to Intra Mural sport.

Margaret O'Connor (DSR Programme Manager) writes that "we are struggling to complete Intra Mural fixtures at Wide Lane despite the hard work of the Intra Mural Reps who are rescheduling fixtures weekly. Additional time has been made available at the weekends, evenings and next term and this will hopefully help solve the problem.

Continued on Page 23

WHO'S TO BLAME?

Two Reps give their, very different, verdicts on page 21

WHATS INSIDE

Gym Bashing>>>The Sharks Slump>>>Football Hooliganism >>>AU Ball