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interview.
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The rise and rise of
Vanessa Mae
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Wath Chronicle

Wednesday 15th March 1995

GB and US Split over Ireland

Grobelaar faces new penalty

by Eddie Kitchen

Britain has a deepening distrust of the Americans over the peace process in Northern Ireland. Over the weekend it is alleged that Mr Major refused to take a phone call from Mr Clinton this is an indication that the British government is not happy about what the Americans are doing.

Mr Adams is over in America on a three months visa. He will meet Mr Clinton on St Patricks day. The British are very unhappy about America's seeming acceptance of Mr Adams. Mr Adams has said that he is only over in

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

America to raise funds for Sinn Fein. The Americans have said this morning that they want to see all accounts thus making sure that the money that is raised only goes on campaigning for the party and not on weapons.

Over the weekend the PM has likened the peace process in Northern Ireland to what is happening in Israel.

At the moment the British want a gesture from the IRA of some weapons this will show the British that the IRA are committed to peace and will not revert back to violence if they do not get their own way. In the end the Unionists want to see all IRA weapons handed over and I would think that the Republicans

will not do this until the unionist paramilitaries do the same. This is a catch 22 situations where we have to get the two sides to hand over weapons at the same time. This only be achieved if we get the two sides talking.

The PM also wants Adams to renounce violence he said the difference between the PLO and the IRA is that the PLO has renounced violence and the IRA have not.

Gerry Adams this morning, whilst been interviewed by the BBC, said that the de-commissioning of arms will be discussed in the first meeting with the British government. This I think is a gesture by Adams to try and get the British government to actually talk to Sinn Fein because at the moment they are not even talking to each other. If this occurs when the Sinn Fein leader comes home, then I think we will be one step along the road to getting the two sides in the conflict talking. I think this is the chief aim of both the British and Irish governments. Without

by Gav Browne

Merson, Graham, Cantona, Ince, Armstrong and Wise. The catalogue of shame in the FA Carling Premiership broke more ground yesterday with Hampshire Police arresting the Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, the Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers, and the Aston Villa striker John Fashanu, in connection with a Far East gambling syndicate.

Hampshire police have been investigating allegations of match-fixing against Grobbelaar since his ex-business partner Chris Vincent's allegations in a newspaper last November, that Grobbelaar accepted £40,000 to lose a Premier League match against Newcastle United by the exact scoreline of 3-0.

The result was the one which netted a Malaysian syndicate many hundred of pounds. His present club Southampton have stood by him during the time in which police are investigating Vincent's claims.

Hans Segers' name was originally mentioned in jest

after the final game of last season where he let in a "soft" goal, which meant that Everton beat Wimbledon 3-2, thus avoiding relegation, but a

spokesman for William Hill said that there wasn't a betting coup on the game as they would have known.

Fashanu's arrest is more mysterious as what he and his girlfriend have to do with these allegations is unknown. The arrest of Heng Suan Lim is also puzzling authorities as a Malaysian Trade Commission official has admitted that he is unknown to them. They face further questions after spending the night in Hampshire police cells, and have successfully applied for a further 12 hours to question them, having either to charge them, apply to a magistrate for another extension, or release them.

If found guilty, they have cheated fans of their own clubs, and have to be banned from football worldwide forever, but I agree with the opinion that cases like these are not prevalent in our national game.

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The staff at Resources

Apologies to anyone I
may have missed off.**TES**THE TIMES
EDUCATIONAL
SUPPLEMENT

Acorn

Computers

By Paul Campy

Welcome to a very special edition of the Wath Chronicle. Why is it so special? Well, this whole publication has been produced in a single day. It's an event organised by the Times Educational Supplement in association with Acorn computers. It's a great opportunity for us to raise the profile of the Wath Chronicle around the school.

Since launching the Wath Chronicle (in a rather crude form) in 1992, I've taken a back seat while others have taken the editors chair. But here I am in my favourite role for one last time before I leave Wath with tears in my eyes for university.

This issue contains our regular features, special articles as well as today's national and international news and sport. The regular Wath Chronicle will be out soon so don't miss it! If you've got any comments (heaven forbid complaints), don't hesitate to speak your mind. If you'd like to help the editorial team, then catch one of us in the library. Alternatively, articles will always be gratefully accepted on (almost) any subject.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Watkin for his excellent editorship over the past two years. I also offer my best wishes to Ian Watson in Y8, the next Chronicle editor who will no doubt prove himself to be more than capable in this role.

I must thank everyone, students and staff, who have supported me over the past six and a half years in everything I have done. It's time for me to sign off though.

Best wishes for the future,

Paul Campy

Paul Campy, Y13



One can only hope that Gerry Adams is finally coming to his senses with possible talk of the IRA de-commissioning its arms stock. To date however, Sinn Fein has demanded the removal of troops from the province, as though the de-commissioning of British troops is somehow equal or similar to an illegal, violent, terrorist organisation giving up it's, primarily American funded, arms.

Edward Kitchen's brilliant article elsewhere in this issue gives an excellent background to the Irish problem. Here we have the British and Irish governments both striving for peace and on the same track. Unfortunately both the Unionists and the Republicans have decided to ignore the Framework document. The Unionists are threatening to bring down the government over any question and the Republicans have gone to the USA for help.

And what of the "special relationship" between the US and Britain that President Clinton in his attempt to secure the Irish-American vote has disregarded. What a coup for Major to have snubbed Clinton when the US President telephoned Downing Street. Instead, Major allowed 'Bill' to wait and be forced to send a "constructive" letter. Let's hope that Mr Clinton can now force Mr Adams into informing the IRA that it must get rid of its weapons. Not that Mr Adams will have far to go to tell the IRA.

History has shown us that the Irish problem will not go away overnight. Any sudden ideas have always failed or produced very little progress. The IRA, sorry Sinn Fein leadership has said that the British government is stalling; the British government has reason enough to be very cautious.

Wath Chronicle Letters*Dear Editor,*

Walking around school I couldn't help but notice the vast amount of litter collecting in the corridors and doorways. Is anything being done about it?

There have been litter patrols in the past and because of the size of the campus, the problem takes time to show. The best thing you can do is not to drop litter and tell your friends to do likewise.

Dear Editor,

Being a new pupil at the school I would like some information about out of school activities and opportunities within school

Keep an ear out for assembly notices. You could always join the Wath Chronicle or come into the library and find out what's happening.

Dear Editor,

I would love to hear your views on the uniform policy for sixth formers (they have to wear it) and the objection to girls not being able to wear trousers.

See the article by Ian Watson, elsewhere in this issue.

Dear Editor,

Comic Relief Day is drawing nearer and I would like to get involved. Could you please fill me in on any money raising events that the school is embarking upon.

Come and see "Miss Wath Comprehensive" on Tuesday lunchtime in the main school hall.

If you want to say something or ask a question, please write to:

*The Editor,
Wath Chronicle,
c/o The Library,
Wath Comprehensive*

Trousers!

By Ian Watson, Y8

Schools who ban girls from wearing trousers could be breaking the law, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) have said.

The announcement follows a good number of complaints all of which have been reviewed by the EOC.

Pupils in many schools are extremely angry, and girls at Testbourne School in Whitchurch, Hampshire, staged a sit-in after their school banned trousers. The problem is well rooted, as just last week, twelve fifth form girls were sent home from Cleeve school, near Cheltenham, in Gloucester after arriving for lessons in black slacks.

Our Headteacher, Mr Kirby found a few moments to tell us "It is probably equal that boys are not asking to wear skirts, as it is a whim of fashion as are boots and wearing your shirt outside. Girls are, and for many years have been, allowed to

wear trousers to and from school. But other inequalities also exist on Wath uniform; for example blazers are optional for girls.

He added "I am concerned for the majority of girls who are neither rich nor poor, and to whom it is an unnecessary expense, that the rich can afford. The poor can, and do, get a

clothing allowance, but the majority of parents do not fit into the rich or poor categories, and it would be hard for them to buy additional pieces of uniform."

But the opinion of the girls in the school playground was simple - "We want trousers!" as nearly everyone we interviewed had no qualms about telling us. The immediate response was that the inequality was "disgraceful". Many other schools in the Rotherham area do allow girls to have the choice. Wath does not however, even for the sixth formers. "It is sexist and petty" said one girl.

Another pointed out that "skirts are cold (very cold in the winter months), uncomfortable and out of fashion. These are the 1990s and not the 1890s". "Schools are wrong in thinking that allowing girls to wear trousers would erode the smartness of the uniform" was the opinion of one Y11 girl, "if the policy were to be changed, it would be welcomed by all".

This debate is certain to go on for a long time until a ruling and precedent is made, possibly at an equal opportunities tribunal. If it is found to be discriminatory then Wath may be forced to change its view. Until then, all schools have the right to set their own uniform



Movement Evening

by Emma Baldock & Lindsey Jarvis

Wath Comprehensive school's movement evening on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th of February was 'The best ever seen in this school' according to Mrs. Hartley, the Chairman of Governors. It raised over £500 and there was a full house both nights.

The action packed programme included dance routines, a Kamikaze vaulting club, performances by the under 16 and under 18 national aerobic champions, a dance solo contributions from local junior schools, a typical gym lesson and a staff ballet called the 'Nutcracker Sweeties'. 'When the teachers came on I was crying with laughter,' enthused Corinne Williams, a year 8 pupil about the sight of the male staff wearing tutus and the female staff sporting shirts and tights. Mr. Price's ludicrous feather headdress also deserves a mention.

There was a lot of support

among the older pupils for the younger performers,' commented Phil Davis, pictured in the Blues Brothers act. Matt guest, Phil and Mr. Price shared the comparing and encouraged much audience participation which was well received. Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils also supported the event by ushering.

Rotherham's Physical Education Advisor, Mr. Brian Chapple wrote in a letter to Mr. Kirby, the headmaster, 'Having attended a number of these evenings I have to say that this was the best. The quality of the performances of the students was at times superb.'

Mr. Kirby himself said, 'It was good to see so many kids enjoying themselves. It makes you proud of the school. This view was seconded by Laurie Jarvis, a year 8 dancer, 'It was fun. Everyone worked very hard and gave up a lot of their spare time.' If you missed these outstanding evenings do not worry, a video is available from Mr. Price.



NEWS IN BRIEF

by Paul Campy, Y13

Five Wath sixth formers will be going to Oxbridge in October. Paul Campy and Chris Golby have secured places at Oxford and Clare Bacon, Ben Lawson and Sarah Boxley have received offers from Cambridge.

Wath is to take place in Carol Vorderman's quiz show "On Your Marks". Filming will take place on the 29th March and representing the school will be students from years 11 to 13. Good luck Wath!

The library will soon benefit from full network facilities including a printer server station and "shared" application machine. See the article on "LCARC" in this issue.

This week, Y13 Spanish students are going to Crowden to take part in a modern language weekend in an attempt to improve their Spanish conversational skills.

Miss Wath Comp.

If you fancy a really good laugh or think you'll be turned on by the sight of various male staff, from the science, drama, PE and history departments, prancing down the catwalk in frilly frocks and high heels, then get yourself a ticket for the Miss Wath Comprehensive competition 1995.

A judging panel of female staff will decide on a winner by listening to the volume of the screams as he mounts the catwalk. Zoe Marsh and Helen Watkinson will be comparing.

This amusing event will take place on Tuesday 21st March. Tickets are available from the Uniform Shop and members of the 6th form. These necessities cost a mere 50p each, so get one or miss out on the biggest laugh this year.

Unemployment Falls

Employment
by Eddie Kitchen

The seasonally adjusted unemployment figures are do out for the month of February next week. They are predicted to show a fall of around thirty five thousand. This brings the numbers out of work down to 2.4 million.

Unemployment in the UK peaked in 1992 at just under 3 million since then it has dropped steadily. This fall accelerated at the beginning of 1994. But what sort of jobs have been created and are they part or fulltime.

A major top provider over the last couple of years has been ROVER who have set on three thousand workers. This is really due to a rise in exports particularly in the Range Rover. Most of these jobs are full time but the amount of full time jobs with job security is falling.

This means that most jobs these days are part time and often people have contracts for zero hours, this means they have to work when the employer wants them to.

The number of part time jobs in the UK has grown and we are quoted a figure of around six million of the workforce been on zero hours contracts.

The problem is that if there is no job security then people do not know if they are going to have a job

tomorrow or not then they will not make any commitments. This is bad for the economy. This is why at the moment we are said to be lacking the feel good factor in our economy even though the economy is actually growing at around four percent.

This is because it is mainly export lead growth, which creates jobs. These jobs are usually temporary because the company does not know how long the order for their exports will last. The fluctuation in the currency market does not help exports, when they do not know what the exchange rate is going to be from one day to the next. This means that jobs are insecure and this does not create a good feeling inside the economy.

Short term contracts are now also very popular with employers taking people on for a period of time when they know they have orders for.

Even though we are seeing a fall in unemployment the numbers in secure full time employment is falling and this is why our economy is in the mess that it is at the moment.

Sell or Not? - The Electric Chiefs Ask

By Christina Roberts

The top executives of 12 regional electricity companies today have to debate whether or not to sell their jointly owned company, The National Grid Company, which is estimated to be valued at £5 bn.

The companies have to decide whether or not to proceed with the sale and how much should be paid to customers in rebates. They have so far disagreed on this matter.

They must also decide whether to link the grid sale and rebate to the review of electricity prices.

The regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild announced a price clamp-

down last week plunging the industry into trouble, wiping £3.5 bn off the value of the shares.

The sale of the grid was supposed to happen in the summer but the crisis over the price review may have thrown all the plans off the road because of the uncertainty in the industry.

There has already been lots of negotiations with the government about the customer rebates and the amounts of tax the Treasury would be able to take on with the sale of the Grid. At one point the companies would have to pay a total of £1 billion in tax but this would have left the Treasury with hundreds of millions of pounds less than is needed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australians favour own president
Most Australians would prefer an Australian head of state to the Queen, according to an opinion poll. The poll, commissioned by The Australian, found 57% backing for an Australian president and 34% for the

status quo. Comparative figures in an earlier poll were 52% and 38%. Prime Minister Paul Keating has been campaigning actively for a republic by the year 2001.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PM spending second day in Jordan
Uk Prime Minister John Major is spending his second day in Jordan. Yesterday he discussed moves towards peace in the Middle East and economic co-operation with Europe with King Hussein. Mr Major also went to Gaza Strip to meet PLO Leader Yasser Arafat. Today he is expected to visit some aid projects before returning to London.

STOCK MARKET

INDEX	CLOSE	DAYS CHANGE
FTSE 100	3050.6	+38.8
FTSE 250	3332.5	+16.9
FTSE 350	1514.3	+16.7
FT Small Cap	1681.0	+2.43
New York	4050.5	+23.25
Tokyo	16245.8	-231.8
Hong Kong	8094.6	-16.69
Frankfurt	2000.45	+0.96
Paris	1768.9	+47.11
Milan	9688.0	+145.0

Currencies - Pound

	Yesterday	Change
S(London)	1.5848	-0.66 ¢
S(N.York)	1.5845	-0.83 ¢
DM	2.2419	+0.55
¥	144.29	+0.71
£ INDEX	85.3	n/c

Currencies - Dollar

	Yesterday	Change
£(London)	0.6309	+0.25
£(N.York)	0.6277	u/c
DM	1.4170	+1.00pf
¥	90.85	+0.10
S INDEX	91.7	+0.4

Quids In

by Jess Mahdavi

In the present economic climate money and savings are important to many people. In a recent study of teenagers it was found that an average 15 year old boy earns £31.85 per week while a girl of the same age would only receive an average of £16.54.

Jobs for young people are not easy to come by but girls of 16 have the most opportunities to earn. Babysitting or a Saturday job in a shop can transform and allowance from mum and dad into a healthy wage.

However you are never too young to earn. A ten year old Lancaster girl gets £1 for doing a share of her brother's paper round. The youngest worker among the boys is 12, he earns £2 for cleaning cars in Catford, East London.

Most of the people surveyed had some sort of saving habit, and many of those are looking towards a holiday, car or other treat. Sums up to £4000 were stashed away already and this generation seem to be setting and reaching high goals. Maybe its time to teach their parents a thing or two.

NEWS IN BRIEF

T.V Sales

ITV's practical joke show "Beadle About" has been sold to Ukraine. Certain episodes of Agatha Christie's "Poirot" has also been sold there. Poland has bought Hale and Pace and Dempsey and Makepeace. The eighties crime series will also soon be seen in Czech television.

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S INDEX

Clause Four Concern

Adapted from an article written by Paul Campy shortlisted for Young Political Writer of the Year.

Talk of a Labour constitutional crisis may have been somewhat exaggerated. Tony Blair has faced down his enemies on the Labour left as the NEC approves the change to Clause 4 of the party constitution.

The contentious issue first emerged at last year's conference when rumours of the euthanasia of the clause provoked a backlash amongst delegates. A motion was soon brought forward to reaffirm the Party's commitment to "common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange" that Clause 4 represents.

The left were out in force though and inflicted a defeat on their new leader still on his honeymoon. Few could have avoided the pictures of the Beast of Bolsover, Dennis Skinner congratulating the young proposer of the motion with "Well done, son" in characteristic style from the platform.

Clause four has been heavily criticised by some factions for being irrelevant to the political culture of the 1990s. Written as it was in 1918, the contrast to the laissez faire policies of the 19th century isn't needed by the party to win votes. It has only become a theoretical objective and far really believe that this passage, straight out of Marxist ideology, could actually be put into practice.

Some on the left say, as Peter Kellner notes, that nobody "on the doorstep" even mentions it. Surely it is a trivial matter therefore? No says the others. The removal of a cornerstone on the labour movement is believed to be more

evidence of a lurch from the left to the right under Tony Blair.

In an attempt to capture the battlegrounds of "Middle England" commentators say this has become necessary. A cynic, such as myself, might say that the Tories have already waved the white flag, paled from the blue after fifteen years in office. As the Conservative government appears to tear itself apart with backbench rebellion over the European question, Labour have the time to worry about fundamental changes without too much headline attention.

Tony Blair's changes will be to put a hyphen in socialism and remove the stigma of the Marxist associated term. The new social-ism is not a new ideology but has no ideology at all. This "ethical socialism" sees public ownership is as a means and not the ends. Public ownership is seen as important but with regulation of privatised industries and co-operation with the private sector and free market system.

His consultation document told of the weaknesses of "monolithic state corporations that have been typical of nationalised industries in the past". Many believed that a new Clause 4 would just be a mellowing of the status quo but the proposal appears to be a complete departure from the wishes of Skimmer & Co.

Surprisingly, the new clause has been drafted with the left wing John "Mouth of the Humber" Prescott. This may prove to be a powerful weapon in convincing the trade unions and left wing to accept the changes when the special conference is called in late April.

Certainly the TGWU

seemed to reject the new replacement last week even though the proposed text has only just been released. On Friday however, Scottish Labour members accepted the change after a much heated debate and the NEC has approved the change with 21 votes to 3. The battle has been closely fought but with the support of the NEC, the change appears to be inevitable.

Blair's proposals have to be a dynamic statement of the Labour Party's role in the 1990s maintaining the support of the "more socialist rather than capitalist" amongst his party, including of course many vital party activists.

At the same time it must be wary of frightening away the middle England it wishes to woo and not becoming a paler shade of red and blue.

Whatever happens in the weeks to come, few can say that the clause 4 argument is not important to the future of the Labour party and a possible Labour government.

Ireland Question

(continued from page 1)

these talks nothing will ever happen and we will perhaps go back down the road to violence again.

I think that the British government feels that the Americans are trying to put us over a barrel and make us talk to the IRA because it will be so unpopular if we do not. The Americans are bringing it onto the world scale when to the British it is an internal matter because it is one of national sovereignty and national security we do not like other countries poking their noses in on these matters.

Madonna "Is Pregnant"
Superstar Madonna is three months pregnant, a magazine claimed yesterday. "The 36-year old singer dropped hints that she is expecting during a visit to Monte Carlo", said the Paris weekly "Voci". She did not name the father, but friends guess it might be basketball star Dennis Rodman - or her Cuban gym teacher Carlos.

Water Prices Surge
By Christina Roberts Y8

Water bills for Yorkshire water customers are about to rise next month by an increase of £14 a year which has been sanctioned by the water regulator Ofwat. New figures show that the average water bill will rise from £193 to £207, £4 lower a year than the national average.

Breast The Best?

by Lauren Campy, Y8

Scientists at Glasgow University have discovered that breast feeding is better than feeding babies on milk formula out of a bottle. One scientist has found that new evidence that shows that babies to infants should be breast fed if at all possible.

At the Department of Child Health, Glasgow University Royal Hospital for Sick Children, they have found that the brains of babies fed on breast milk have developed better and more advanced than the babies fed on milk formula.

Apparently powdered milk might not have enough fatty acids. These acids are vital parts of brain chemicals that ensure neurological development.

Now mothers are being urged to breast feed their babies.

Professor Forrester Cockburn of the University has said: "The problem is that it is impossible to recreate human milk. Artificial food is a always third rate compromise. Human milk is a complex living tissue and you cannot recreate all the enzymes and cells in it."

Professor Cockburn has also discovered that out of 16 cot deaths 10 babies had been fed on well known brands of milk formula whilst the other 6 had been breastfed.

It is now mothers choice whether to breast feed or to stay with the well known brands of powdered milk.

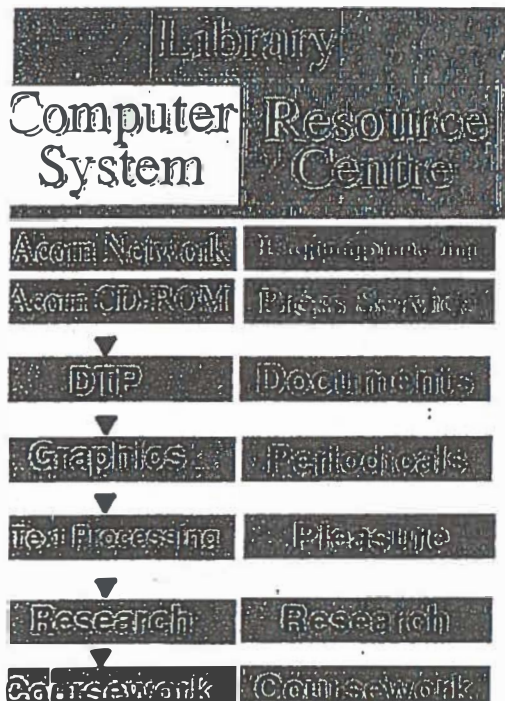
fight their corner as vigorously as the Unionist parties.

I think as a result of what as happened so far in America the chances of talks have greatly improved. I also think that the American president is now more committed to pushing the Sinn Fein president into talking. This would be no bad thing for the British government and it might course the peace process to move on even faster as a result.

It is the Sinn Fein president, though, who is taking the matter onto the world scale and we do not like this. If he was to stay at home and not go to America and Europe with his problems then it would not infuriate the British government as much.

I think though it is very important that we see where the money which is raised in America goes and I think the Americans are intent on making sure that it does not go on weapons. This perhaps is no bad thing because it gives Sinn Fein some money so that they can

The Lcarc Lark



by Paul Campy, Y13

Actually, it's not a typing error (for a change) but LCARC stands for Library Computer And Resource Centre. This new area of the school library is now officially open and available for all students and staff to use, but what does it consist of?

Perhaps the focal point are the acorn computers. Three of the four are fully networked to the main school file servers allowing you to access your directory and use the full range of programs and applications.

One of the three networked also has CD ROM Facilities. For those of you who have been asleep for the past few years, CD-ROM allows you to mix text, graphics, sound and video images onto a compact disc. The library has encyclopedias on CD ROM, the Bible, The complete works of Shakespeare and many others (see the list at the end).

There are also print-out facilities available for files on the network and for CD-ROM information.

The other Acorn machine is "stand-alone" which means it works independently of the network. It uses floppy discs to run applications and even games! But, Eastwriter is also available with a dedicated printer on-line and work can be saved if required.

You may have also noticed a BBC Master computer tucked away. This has a computerised version of a subject index ready-loaded. A subject index is the guide which gives you a "Dewey number" for a certain non-fiction subject.

From September 1995, each machine will have its own easy-to-understand user guide. In the meantime, librarians can help you use the equipment and there are posters with instructions on for certain functions.

The fun doesn't stop there though! For the more

traditional among you, there is a typewriter to use. If you want to give your work a more professional touch, there is a laminator which puts a plastic cover over a sheet of paper and a thermal binder which binds a piece of work within a project file.

One service which has been available for over two years now is the Library Press Service. In addition to buying in daily newspapers and magazines, library staff pick out articles which will be of use for pieces of school work - to allow you to show of your research. These are filed under their "Dewey number" so you can cross reference them with a relevant non-fiction book.

In addition, the "Essential Articles" files published by Carel Press file subjects such as "abortion", "racism" etc alphabetically. All are really easy to use and will give you up-to-date information.

If you need any help, see one of the student librarians, Mrs Mitchell and there is a centre co-ordinator and assistant co-ordinator on hand every lunchtime. If you want to book a computer, just go to the "book exchange" window and ask.

Remember, this is your library and your LCARC. Use it! Don't be afraid to just come and have a look at what's on offer.

Centre Co-ordinator:
Paul Campy, Y13

Asst Centre Co-ordinator:
Javid Mahdavi, Y8

CD-ROM discs available in
LCARC

The Hutchinson Encyclopedia
The Illustrated Holy Bible
Complete Works of Shakespeare
Complete Sherlock Holmes
Space Encyclopedia
Mapskills
Physical Geography
Religious Studies
Commonwealth InfoDatabase
and many more!...

THE PRICE OF FUN!

With impending government action concerning the price of games for computer consoles, we question the philosophy of keeping prices high, and say it's about time that someone stepped in. By Javid Mahdavi

Are we, the honest tax payer, being ripped off by rising computer games prices? The computer giants Sega and Nintendo have already been accused by The Monopolies Commission. They said "the two Japanese companies who dominate the £550 million a year video games market, were operating against the public interest.

Not every household can afford nearly £50 a game but they do make a profit so if they lowered their prices then they would probably make a bigger profit one because more people would buy it because it would be easier on their pocket.

Over 6 million homes in the U.K now have a TV-LINKED console like a

Mega Drive, Master System, S.N.E.S., Jaguar and many others but not only that but there is also the hand held game boys and the game gears and they still cost between £50 to £300 far more than in the U.S and popular games like the Sonic Series sell for up to £70. Wing commander 3 for the P.C is available for just under £55. Stop!

What's this! The government are actually going to crack down on the way that computer games are sold. Halleluah they are going to do something for the good of the people who put them in power. It is said that they deliberately brought down the price of computers and consoles but the software and programs prices are slowly but surely increasing by the pound.

FISHING FOR NEW BUSINESS?



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International News

Smoking

NHS

70% of all smokers who have tried to give up, have failed at least twice. Reasons for this are:- lack of will power, stress, weight gain, loss of prop, loss of employment, withdrawal symptoms.

A study published to mark non smoking day provided one puzzling piece of information. People in Scotland and the North of England smoked more than the men and women in the South, because they find it harder to stop.

25% of the people in the South-east smoke compared with 37% in Scotland and 30% in the North.

Dr Robin West wrote the report "Escaping the Nicotine Trap", which paints a picture of a circle in the South with the ex-smokers and the non-smokers increasing creating a non-smoking environment, whereas in the North the circle includes many more smokers who reinforce the habit and there is less pressure to stop.

Experts say that people smoke because they are addicted, they enjoy it and they couldn't cope without them. Women smoke because they believe it helps to stay slim, if they stop they put on weight initially. Younger people smoke because they believe

it makes them look 'big' or 'glamorous'.

In the U.K. 28% of men and 26% of women smoke. Statistics published a few weeks ago show that there was little change in cigarette consumption in 1993 compared with 1992. It seems unlikely that the government with reach its aim of reducing smoking down by 20% by the year 2000.

Already, the target set in 1990 which aimed to reduce teenage smoking by half by 1994 has not been achieved.

In today's National Health Service Hospitals up to 90% of operations are performed by Junior doctors with no senior surgeon to check their work. At least some of these operations are likely to be 'beyond their competence'.

In the first independent comparison of consultants' private practise with their NHS work, the commission obtained details on 227 consultants working in 5 specialities in 10 hospitals. The results showed that 25% who did most private work did least for the NHS in terms of operating sessions and outpatient clinics.

Perhaps this balance ought to be redressed in view of the 200 mile, 10 hour mercy dash to get Malcolm Murray to hospital. His death at 4.15pm on the afternoon of the 8th, at the Leeds General Infirmary came as no real surprise to the surgeons who performed the intricate 7 hour operation, 10 hours too late!

Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission, said: "Most hospital doctors work hard for the NHS. But they could achieve even more if they were better organised. Doctors should review the way they work, so they can maximise the benefit they bring to patients."

Fishing Row Gathers Pace

Emma Bonino, the EU's fisheries commissioner, has rebuked Canada for seizing a Spanish fishing trawler. Accusing Canada of holding the international community hostage, she criticised her "long and pernicious" strategy. In a conciliatory mood, she opened the door to further talks between the EU and Canada. Spanish authorities have refuted the claim by the Canadians that they were using illegal nets to catch undersized fish. In retaliation, Spain is to re-introduce visas for visiting Canadians.

Russian launch success!

The Russian rocket Soyuz has been successfully launched on its mission to rendez-vous with the Russian Space Station Mir. The mission is a joint venture with the Americans for whom Norman Thagard makes the first trip in a Russian space craft. He is accompanied by two Russians. The launch was carried out from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. A joint memorial service has been held on the island which was subject to one of the bloodiest battles of World War Two. The service was attended by IWO JIMA Japanese and US war veterans.

Chinese officials have said that more than 20 people have died in a freak blaze

which swept through the upper storey of a hotel in Anshan, a city in the North East of the country.

Two Australian steel-workers have died in a tragic accident at a steel plant in Newcastle in eastern Australia. The men died when they were overcome by molten metal which rained down on them after an explosion at the plant.

In the German city of Bonn Kurdish militants have attacked several Turkish properties including a Mosque, with firebombs.

USA Syria Talks

Warren Christopher, US Secretary of State, has arrived in Damascus to try to restart the stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks. He will be meeting with Syrian president Hafez al-Assad, and earlier he briefed Israeli leader Yitzhak Rabin on his talks on Monday in Jerusalem with the Syrian leader.

Sanctions Against Iraq Stay

The UN Security Council has voted not to lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq after the gulf war. The council said that Iraq had not done enough to justify the easing of sanctions. Douglas Hurd, on a visit to the gulf states, expressed support for the decision. He said that the sanctions were aimed at Saddam Hussein, who was not fully cooperating with UN resolutions.

Berlin Wall Trials

Germany has brought charges against seven former East German communist leaders, over deaths of people trying to escape to the west. The seven, all members of the politburo, include Egon Krenz, former head of state.

Russian Bomb Misses Power Station

A missile fired from a Russian warplane exploded three miles from a power station in central Russia on Friday. The missile, which lost control after being launched, exploded near a village. The incident has only just been made public, five days after it happened. The regional governor has said that the base is to be closed. The location of the base, so near a heavily populated area, has been criticised.

Major Meets Arafat in Gaza Strip

John major has finished a meeting with Yasser Arafat in the Gaza strip today. During talks, Mr Major offered economic and trade assistance to the Palestinians. Earlier, on a visit to Israel, he voiced concern about the repeated closures of Israel's borders with the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He stressed the need for political and economic progress to sustain Middle East peace talks.

Bosnia: Peacekeepers die in car accident.

Un envoy Yasushi Akashi has announced that eight French troops have died in a road accident on Mount Igman, near Sarajevo. The accident occurred when their car overturned. The announcement was made by Mr Akashi a short time before his meeting with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. Earlier Mr Akashi in a meeting with the Bosnian serbs informed them of the need for a lasting ceasefire. He also affirmed his concern over the continued shelling of Sarajevo by the Bosnian Serbs.

Private Healthcare shove Bottles up NHS

By Lauren Campy Y8

The 10 year old suffering from Cancer, who was refused treatment by a health authority, was yesterday responding well to Chemotherapy paid for by an anonymous donor.

The girl who is known for legal reasons as Child B was put into a huge legal battle when Cambridge Health Authority decided not to give her the £75,000 she needed to fund her treatment for Leukaemia

After the court hearing about the refusal an anonymous donor offered to give the proposed amount and yesterday the girl started a 5 day course of Chemotherapy at the Portland Hospital for Women and Children in London.

Her blood specialist who is in charge of all her treatment made comments on her progress saying that she is bearing up well to the powerful drugs being drip-fed.

Consultant, Haematologist Dr Peter Gravett has said "So far there haven't been any adverse effects at all. It hasn't even affected her appetite."

"Chemotherapy is a very individual thing and some people are more sensitive to it than others."

by Javid Mahdavi

Comic Relief

Who Nose?

by Jess Mahdavi

What colour will your nose be this year?

Since the birth of Comic Relief on 25th December 1985 there have been 4 "red nose" days and the fifth is fast approaching.

Around 17 million small red plastic noses have been sold in the UK in the last nine years, each one recyclable. The noses on sale this year are a far cry from the first primitive nasal appliances; their little hands have gone and taken at nose value they seem to be pretty ordinary.

However within seconds of coming into contact with your skin, this vibrant red object turns magically into the most fluorescent pink or the yellowest of yellows. For the less brave or more fanatical comic relief supporters, a 'cold' nose for the car is available. This turns a deep purple when the temperature drops below freezing - very useful for black ice warnings as well as being a bit of fun.

Other fundraising products include the magical T-shirt carrying an original exclusive design by "Bang on the Door", a classy enamel pin badge known as the "Clothes Nose" and a

computer screen saver which will cause the most stressed executive to relax and banish goofy goldfish from your idle screen forever.

On the music scene, Cher, Chrissie Hynde, Neneh Cherry and Eric Clapton have got together to sing "Love can build a bridge": Comic Relief's first 'serious' song produced by Peter Asher. This is claimed to be the most ambitious music project to date and it is already aiming high in the charts.

Besides these highly worthy causes other ways to help Comic Relief are well publicised. The new, free Red Nose Top Ten Best Fundraising Ideas Of All Time. It also gives details of how to Splat the TeacherBoss, run your own "Not A Lottery", Be a Sport, and be involved in the first ever *Pet Nose Day*. Collar tags are available so that family pets no longer feel excluded.

On Friday March 17th between 7pm and 1am, BBC1 along with Lenny Henry, Chris Evans, Harry Enfield, Paul Whitehouse and chums, French and Saunders, Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones will host the "Night of Comic Relief". It promises to be an unmissable 6 hours of

TV, featuring lots of original comedy slots.

The more serious side to Comic Relief will also be shown as donations are taken: 100% of the cash given goes to charitable projects as all fundraising costs are sponsored through companies and gifts. So far over £92 million has been raised, the amount donated by the end of the television program is usually doubled and on one occasion trebled. Without the general public the crucial work of helping some of the poorest people across the globe would not be able to continue.

About one third of the money stays in the UK and helps to run four Grants Programs working with

- older people
- young homeless people
- young disabled people
- young people who have problems with drugs and alcohol

The remaining two thirds of the money goes to Africa where one quarter of it is spent on emergency relief. The remainder is used on long term development projects where local people work to ensure a secure future and improve their quality of life.

Comic Relief's literature

WORDSEARCH

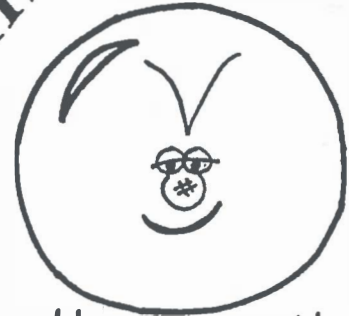
by Lauren Campy

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COMIC RELIEF

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quotes various statistics which emphasise the need for ongoing help highlighted by the recent UN World Poverty Conference.

Clean water is taken for granted by a vast majority of people in the Western world, yet 18 of the 20 poorest countries are in Africa where millions of people have left their homes and live difficult lives because of conflict.

Documentaries on Africa and other projects helped by Comic Relief will feature throughout Friday evening and Radio 1FM will also be featuring special programs and competitions.

This year Red Nose Day is focussing on a difference -

COMIC RELIEF COMIC RELIEF COMIC RELIEF COMIC RELIEF



one day spent fooling around for Comic Relief will make a crucial difference to the lives of needy people in the UK and Africa.

When Lenny Henry visited Somalia to make a film for Comic Relief '93 he said,

"Of course the normal response to all this is to say, well, it's Africa, if it's not one problem it's another you know?... what we do know is this; if this was happening to a neighbour of yours you'd bust a gut to help. The point is this: forget geography. These are your neighbours. This is your doorstep."

So don't treat Red Nose Day '95 as just another fundraising event. Every donation helps, directly.

Comic Relief
Katy Nash, a Y8 pupil from Wath Comprehensive has raised £30 for Comic Relief by doing a 24 hour sponsored silence.

Will She Or Won't She?... Vanessa Mae

Soundbite
by DJX

I made the near fatal mistake last week of criticising some of the favourite music of a certain friend. Unintentionally, I generalised about the type of music she was 'into'. I was soon reprimanded, by been made to endure the howling on both sides of one of her tapes. We have all generalised about our music tastes at one time or another, (let's face it, we generalise about everything else!)

In my opinion, most 'so called' Indie music is a row with someone screaming lyrics written under the influence of half of Columbia's cocaine stocks. But that's just my opinion you realise. It's hard to justify disliking a whole genre with only the experience of a few snippets.

At the same time I happen to like classical music... BUT not all classical music. Never listen to Mahler before you go to a party for example, I do tend to get very offensive when a trendy 'oik' declares that he doesn't like classical music. When was the last time they ever sat down and listened to a bit of Bach or Beethoven. Don't forget though, that when Radio 1 (remember that?) had an experimental classical show, it was a huge success.

My sister proclaims that she doesn't like classical music either, but she soon hums along when she hears a track used on a television advert.

But I'm not going to use this column to show my distaste for 'Indie' music, (not this time anyway).

One thing that annoys me more than your average (off his) head banger is your music purist. These are your defenders of criticising anyone out of

hand anyone who tries to update or put a different slant on a piece of music. Have you got a name in mind yet?

If I mention the name "VANESSA MAE" what do you think of? Does it create images of a sexy scantily clad sixteen year old girl successfully sold by the marketing men, or of an amazing violin player?

Vanessa Mae has been packaged for the charts, but behind the girl standing in the water in a white and practically see-through is a mean fiddler. But the purists don't like her. Is it envy that the video and image has been used to put the music in the charts, or is it anger at the way Tocatta & Fugue by Bach has been altered?

Let's forget this gorgeous girl for a moment, difficult as it might be, and concentrate on the music. I have to admit to liking Tocatta and Fugue, I like the new interpretation even more. I also like Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" but a number of years ago, Nigel Kennedy's version impressed me even more than the original. Perhaps every so often, a new bit of expression and energy needs to be injected into some classical masterpieces. Can classical music, in the purists attempt for accuracy, have become clinical, and devoid of any expression and feeling that the music is designed to convey?

This argument of the balance between marketing and music was the subject of a Times Magazine article at the end of February and a Radio 4 discussion last week. The Times and the Vanessa Mae Nicholson had become "enslaved by the pop worlds publicity machine" and perhaps this is true to an extent. Joanna Pitman produced a well balanced argument.

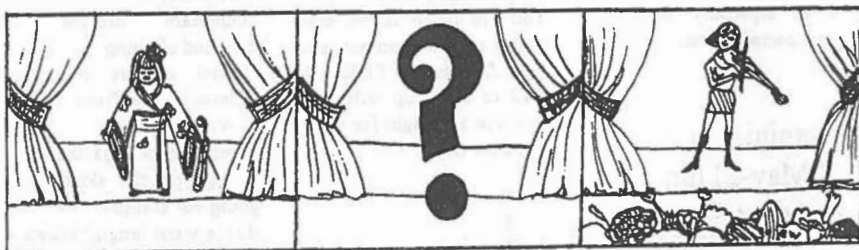
One "purist" on the radio though was concerned that Vanessa-Mae's music was too "pop" like. I'm sorry to surprise everyone but "pop" is not a genre. Pop by definition means popular - the music that most people buy. If 500,000 people went out and bought one of Des O'Connor's records, it would go into the "pop" charts.

Are the purists so worried that they might lose a sense of self-professed superiority in culture? If the only reason for

Vanessa-Mae's success is her sex appeal then perhaps the purists are vindicated. I happen to think that the main reason for handing over money for a record is not trend, not image, not sex appeal but a love of the music.

Classic CD's editor said that if they were to put Vanessa-Mae on the front cover, they would lose half their readership. What about the possible gains in readership of those who are not so narrow minded. Classic CD needs to maintain a

readership in the long term after all. Save the music industry from the purists who like the holier than thou image of themselves and allow music to maintain diversity and experimentation. In the meantime, audition Vanessa-Mae and her album "The Violin Player". With a refreshingly vibrant sound and toe-tapping rock beat, it's just a little different. You may be pleasantly surprised. If you're not, then remember not to write off an entire genre.



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Cookery

Fashion

In And Out

Pisces

20Feb-20Mar

Don't try too hard to make an impression this week. Act naturally and it will pay off.

Aries

21Mar-20Apr

Opportunities will come your way this week so snatch them up quickly before they pass you by.

Taurus

21Apr-21May

If you're having problems with your family, things should calm down this week especially after an unexpected visitor.

Gemini

22May-21Jun

Just because of a new love, don't ignore your friends or you could lose them.

Cancer

22Jun-23July

Be careful what you spend your money on this week. You may need it for something much more important soon.

Leo

24July-23Aug

This week you should build up your confidence and go out and get what you want. If you don't, you'll regret it.

Virgo

24Aug-23Sep

You are intent on doing what you want, but listen to other people's advice before you make a big mistake.

Libra

24 Sep-23Oct

You are bustling with energy so show it off by going out and partying and enjoying yourself to the max.

Scorpio

24Oct-22Nov

If you're unsure and confused about what direction to take in your life, make a positive decision no matter what others think.

Sagittarius

23Nov-22Dec

Don't try too hard and wear yourself out this week; you'll need your energy for an upcoming event.

Capricorn

23Dec-20Jan

You are more active than usual at the moment and your friends are finding it hard to catch up with you so spare a thought for them and slow down.

Aquarius

21Jan-19Feb

You don't really know where you stand with your boyfriend / girlfriend so maybe it's time to review your relationship.

Cookery

Jim's Chicken
Mushroom Casserole

This recipe takes tender white chicken breasts and combines them with a sublime mushroom sauce.

4 Chicken breasts (boned)
1 can mushroom soup (undiluted)
1 can mushrooms (bits & pieces) without water
½ cup sherry
1 cup sour cream
Paprika

Method:

-Put all ingredients in a casserole dish.
-Bake in oven 180°C for 25 to 30 minutes



In the 90s you never know what's in or what's out; fashion changes all the time and our purses can't keep up.

Whether it's clothes, hairstyles, make-up or accessories, here's your exclusive guide to what's in and what's out for 1995.

Clothes

IN

-Country & Western style (like Rednex)
-Gingham dresses & checked clothing
-Pastel colours on mini dresses made from cotton or wool.
-Denim jeans or jacket
-Long pencil skirts for going out at night
-Little waist length jackets.
-Girly dolly shoes & strappy sandals
-Long ruffled shirts with short sleeveless jumpers and short skirts are a definite must!!!
-Knee high boots

Gingerbread Men

255g/8oz butter or marg.
75g/3oz icing sugar (sifted)
255g/8oz self raising flour
2 tsp ground ginger
1/2 salt
75g/3oz medium oatmeal
5 drops of vanilla essence
glacé icing to decorate.
cream the fat and gradually beat in the sugar. Sift together the flour, ginger and salt and add to the creamed mixture with the oatmeal and vanilla essence. Mix to a stiff dough. Either by hand mould a little man out of the dough, or roll it out flat and use a biscuit cutter.
Place these on a greased baking sheet and bake in a pre-heated oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about 20 minutes. Cool on a wire rack, then pipe on faces.

By Katie
Kingston

Fashion

OUT

-Silver mini skirts (avoid like the plague)
-T-shirts with "Babe Power" etc written on them

Make-up

IN

-Glamour look
-Bright lipstick & nail polish
-Pink & Orange make-up
"Smokey" eyes
-Black or grey eyeshadow,
-Black mascara and black eyeliner
-Painting each nail a different colour

OUT

-Plain (boring) look
-Blue make-up

Hair

IN

-Slicked back look (Princess Diana style)
-"Björk" hairstyle with the wild knots on top
-"Angel" style plaits for the girly look

OUT

-Colours in hair
-Wild streaks

Accessories

IN

-50s style sunglasses
-PVC glossy bags (bucket style or shoulder bag)
-Vera Duckworth style headscarfs
-Tennis style headbands (costs as little as 60p)
-Diamante (a much less expensive imitation diamond) hairclips, bracelets, necklaces.

OUT

-Tacky plastic bangles
-Burn Bags (do me a favour!)

Take notice of this and you have no excuse not to look good.

Now if only the boys could get their act together.....

By Vikki Robinson

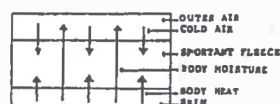
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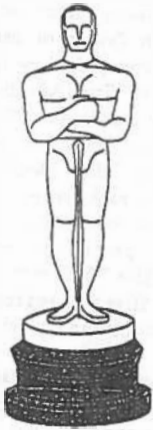
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STYLED GARMENTS FOR
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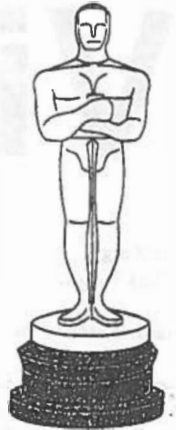
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The Oscars



By Andi Li (Y12)

Well it's nearly Oscar time again: the night of the year that losers congratulate winners for prizes they didn't really want after all. The night that we look at the faces on the split screen as the winner is announced and wish that once just once, someone will mouth expletives and shake their fists in a fit of rage.

Aside from all that, you now have the opportunity to vote for those you think deserve the Oscars this year. Using the form at the bottom of the page, we'd like you to select your favourites from the categories below.

When you've done that, place your entries in the competition box in the school library. The winners will be announced in the next edition of the Wath Chronicle.

Here are the categories...

Best Picture of the Year

Forrest Gump
Four Weddings & a Funeral
Pulp Fiction
Quiz Show
Shawshank Redemption

Leading Actor

Morgan Freeman
(*Shawshank Redemption*)
Tom Hanks
(*Forrest Gump*)
Nigel Hawthorne
(*Madness of King George*)
Paul Newman
(*Nobody's Fool*)
John Travolta
(*Pulp Fiction*)

Supporting Actor

Samuel L Jackson
(*Pulp Fiction*)
Martin Landau
(*Ed Wood*)
Chazz Palminteri
(*Bullets over Broadway*)
Paul Scofield
(*Quiz Show*)
Gary Sinise
(*Forrest Gump*)

Leading Actress

Jodie Foster
(*Nell*)
Jessica Lange
(*Blue Sky*)
Miranda Richardson
(*Tom & Viv*)
Winona Ryder
(*Little Women*)
Susan Sarandon
(*The Client*)

Supporting Actress

Rosemary Harris
(*Tom & Viv*)
Helen Mirren
(*Madness of King George*)
Uma Thurman
(*Pulp Fiction*)
Jennifer Tilly
(*Bullets over Broadway*)
Dianne West
(*Bullets over Broadway*)

Best Director

Woody Allen
(*Bullets over Broadway*)
Robert Zemeckis
(*Forrest Gump*)
Quentin Tarantino
(*Pulp Fiction*)
Robert Redford
(*Quiz Show*)
Krzysztof Kieslowski
(*Red*)

Best Screenplay

Bullets Over Broadway
(Written by Woody Allen)
Four Weddings & a Funeral
(Written by Richard Curtis)
Heavenly Creatures
(Screenplay by Frances Walsh and Peter Jackson)
Pulp Fiction
(Screenplay by Quentin Tarantino; Story by Quentin Tarantino and Roger Avery)
Red
(Screenplay by Krzysztof Kieslowski and Krzysztof Kieslowski)

Best Music

Alan Silvestri
(*Forrest Gump*)
Elliot Goldenthal
(*Interview with Vampire*)
Hans Zimmer
(*The Lion King*)
Thomas Newman
(*Little Women*)
Thomas Newman
(*Shawshank Redemption*)

Best Special Effects

Forrest Gump
The Mask
True Lies

CHOICE

Nell
Cinema now, 12



Love, friendship and trust are all in the enchanting tale of Nell which opened countrywide on the 10th March.

Nell is a young American woman living in California's Blue Ridge mountains. She has been completely cut off from the 20th century and can't speak any English.

A local doctor (Liam Neeson) discovers her and he turns for advice to a psychologist (played by his real life wife Natasha Richardson). The pair must introduce Nell to modern life yet also try and protect her from the dangers of this day & age.

Jodie Foster plays Nell and her performance is first class: so much so that she has been nominated for an Oscar as best actress for the film.

Recommended.

Television

by Paul Campy, Y13

CHOICE

The X Files
Thursday, 2130 BBC2



In the last of the gripping paranormal series, FBI agents Mulder and Scully uncover a case involving the cloning of extra-terrestrial viruses.

This spectacular conclusion to the first series ends with... well wait and see! The X Files took American audiences and critics by storm and have consistently topped the BBC2 ratings.

Those of you who haven't seen it yet, well I feel very sorry for you. And for those X-philes among you who are worried about withdrawal symptoms after tomorrow night, fear not! The second series has just started on Tuesdays at 2000 on Sky One and will be shown on the Beeb in the Autumn.

Remember, trust no one....

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FILL IN YOUR NOMINATIONS AND DROP THE SLIP INTO THE LIBRARY

BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR

.....

LEADING ACTOR

.....

SUPPORTING ACTOR

.....

LEADING ACTRESS

.....

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

.....

BEST DIRECTOR

.....

BEST SCREEN PLAY

.....

BEST MUSIC

.....

BEST SPECIAL EFFECTS

.....

Virgin King

Virgin King
By Chris Watkin

Richard Branson is only 44, yet he has accomplished more in the first half of his life (if the longevity of his mother is any guide) than many achieve through a whole career of hard work and labour. So what is it about the seemingly irrepressible character of Richard Branson that has propelled him so far in such a relatively short time?

Branson's entrepreneurial career started early. At the age of sixteen he founded a national magazine, "Student". It was two years later that the first issue of student was to appear, and the publication was only to run for one year. However, a precedent for innovation and enterprise was established, with a list of contributors which reads like a who's who of counter-culture in the 1960s: John Le Carré, Vanessa Redgrave, Henry Moore and David Hockney among the names.

It is maybe ironic that the last issue of "Student" carried the first advert for Branson's mail order record company "Virgin", a name which has grown with him throughout his career. The venture's success owed itself to Branson's acute business sense. He saw potential in the abolition of the Retail price maintenance, which kept the price of records at thirty

SCHOOL BOOKSHOP
Have you been in the library this week?

Did you know of the Sale Of The Century at the school bookshop?

If not come on down and see the great discounts on books!

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

nine shillings and eleven pence. Although this control had been abolished five years previously, no-one before Branson had exploited it, until his company started selling records at thirty-seven and six. Branson, and the "Virgin" label were born.

Shortly after this success, he opened his first record shop in Oxford Street. Two years later, in his recording studio in Oxfordshire, the first Virgin artist, Mike Oldfield recorded "Tubular Bells", which would go on to sell in excess of five million copies. Branson's list of clients swelled to include Paula Abdul, Genesis, Phil Collins, Simple Minds, Boy George and the Rolling Stones. The company likewise grew and in 1992 it was sold to Thorn EMI for US\$1bn.

Building on his success, Branson expanded the Virgin brand name to include publishing of books and software, as well as clubs, hotels, a national radio station and the "Virgin Megastore" music retailers; in all, over 100 companies in 17 countries.

Virgin Atlantic Airways was founded in 1984 and is based on the philosophy of giving competitive and high quality services in Upper and Economy class. Branson now owns the second largest long haul international airline in Britain.

Yet Branson, dubbed "Britain's most successful public relations man" [Tim Jackson - Biographer] is also a charity trustee, and patron of good causes such as The Healthcare Foundation which held an AIDS education campaign in 1987. In the same year, Branson launched the "Mates" condom brand, raising £1m for charity, but attracting criticism for his community work.

Never the archetypal executive, he is renowned for world record breaking attempts, and now holds records for the fastest ever crossing of the Atlantic Ocean, in "Virgin Atlantic Challenger II", and the first ever balloon flights over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the largest hot air balloon ever flown and the longest ever balloon flight.

What, then, is the key of Branson's blistering success? Far from his hard childhood, some of which he spent living on a houseboat, being a hindrance to him, his character was shaped by his early business years being a struggle for survival. Though never a law breaker, he is keen to use offshore investments to avoid millions of pounds in tax. His trademark grin, beard and woolly sweaters veil a powerful aptitude for negotiation and a business acumen which has proved to be among the best in the world.



However, the greatest clue to the secret of Branson's success should come from the man himself. He identifies the greatest obstacles to the setting up of new businesses as the bank manager and the competition of established companies:

"It is very easy for large companies who dominate the market to crush competitors..."

And the Branson secret of business?

"Profits should never be the priority, if they are, new businesses would never grow into the large companies of today." Instead, he believes that

"It is ideas and management that matters most. It is also important to cover costs and always be able to repay your debts. ... It is cash flow rather than profits which are important."

Lest it be thought that the Branson philosophy has guaranteed him eternal success, he is ready to identify his mistake, (singular!).

"We have only ever had one big mistake which a magazine which we started in London in the early 1980s called Event." He acknowledges that its closure after six months was a failure, but adds that it has taught him valuable lessons:

"...always limit the maximum amount you are prepared to lose in any venture before you start."

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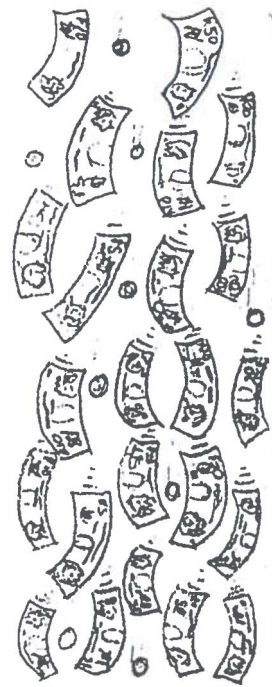
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The successful philosophy of sacrificing short term profits in favour of cash flow is exemplified by the example of Virgin Atlantic.

"I have travelled on other peoples' [airlines] and got bored by the identical service on each carrier. ... I thought it was logical to entertain people on long plane flights." However, he still identifies the need for "...determination to see it through...", along with choice of the right bank manager and raising sufficient capital.



BIG JOB LOSSES ANNOUNCED AT BRITISH AEROSPACE

BaE has announced this morning that it is to shed 1,350 jobs from its Dynamics Division. 660 jobs will go from Stevenage, Herts, 570 jobs from Lostock, Lancashire and 120 will be lost in Bristol.

According to the company, precise timing and number of total job losses will be reviewed towards the end of 1995.

It is expected however, that half the cuts will be made this year, with the rest losing their jobs next year. The cuts have been blamed on a smaller world market for defence products.

Prison Poetry

Prison Poetry
By Lindsey Jarvis

How easy is it to organise a tour of five-day performance poetry workshops in women's prisons?

There are bound to be some attending just to cadge cigarettes or cause trouble.

There will be some showing a certain degree of enthusiasm, but these may be transferred to another prison after a few days.

However, even with all the drawbacks, Apples and Snakes, the London performance group, decided to risk it and launched the "Inside Information" tour last month. Against all odds the club's strategy of short, sharp sessions made a majority of the tour a success. It began in HMP Holloway and other venues include Cockham Wood in Rochester, Risley in Warrington and the tour will end at Bullwood Hall in Essex next week.

Steve Tasane, the tour's organiser, believes that, although the tour will not reduce re-offending figures, it may improve literacy among inmates and help change feelings of low self-esteem and lack of purpose after release.

Some of the poems written during the workshops were depressing and reflected past experiences. One woman wrote a poem, about having her child taken away and the death of her father. When she read it she cried about it for the first time. One of the poets, Leonora Rogers Wright, said "It's a release of toxins"

All in all, I think that the tour has brought out the unseen side of some of the prisoners. As Rogers Wright found in one of the poem diaries: "Never judge a crook by his cover

/ Never judge a screw by its nail / keep an open mind when you are able / You never know, maybe we'll all get well!"

However some of the poems hide this in humour. Holloway inmate Sarah Walker wrote "The Last Rolo": "If I was your last Rolo, would you Unwrap me slowly? / Would you peel back my wrapper with care? / ...or would you tear into my wrapping and chew me up / Without even tasting me?"

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND BY EDDIE KITCHEN.

In the UK there are five guide dog training centres. These are situated at various points around the UK. These five centres are where you go for training. If you are blind or partially sighted and you apply for a guide dog then you will have to go to one of these centres for a month's training with your guide dog. For example, if you live in Yorkshire then you go to the training centre in Middlesborough.

When you apply for a guide dog you have to fill in certain forms. You have to have a full medical and then somebody will come from your designated centre to see you. When they come, they ask you a lot of questions and fill in some forms. Then they take you outside. What happens is they have a short harness on their arm and walk up and down with you. This is quite embarrassing because they encourage you to talk to them like they are a dog. Then hopefully they except you for training and then you have to play the waiting game because you go on a waiting list until they find a dog to match you. These matches are ninety nine percent successful.

When they eventually find a dog which suits you they call you for training, they usually notify you around five to six weeks before. The dogs are usually 18

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months to two years old when they come up to class. This means they under go around seventeen to twenty three months of training by a fully qualified handler. The guide dog association have now been breeding for temperament for over twenty five years. They say that one 1 in 6 of every lot of dogs they bring in make the class where only 1 in 5 of the dogs breed by the association itself fail. This means that it pays the guide dog association to breed their own dogs. These days the dogs are main cross Labrador Golden Retriever they cross breed the two dogs because it means you get the best points of both the problem is that when it goes wrong it goes really wrong. They also use a kind of Kirly retriever, German Shepherds and occasionally a Boarder Collie.

The main things the dog will be taught is to keep the person safe. There is a lot of miss conceptions about guide dogs for example people think they will take you across the road the fact is that they do not you have to really on your ears to cross the road just like you do when using a long cane. The guide may stop you when a car is coming but in many cases you will make the dog go when it thinks it is not safe so this brake down will not work. The guide dog is trained to keep you walking in a straightline and to walk you round any obstacles

which appear in front of you. It will stop at every Kerb you come across and either sit down or stand. It will be trained al to walk you round over hanging branches from trees this training is done right at the very end when they know the height of the person who going to be having the dog. The dog will be trained to stay on command and also not to scavenging for food whilst it is working. The dog is trained not be aggressive at any time and you will very rarely hear one bark because this is seen as a problem. The dog will also be trained to go to the door on its own so as to lead you direct to the door on the command door.

When you get the guide dog you will to learn how to treat and handle it. You have to learn all the different commands which they use to make them and stop and other diherent things. The reason why you go up to where the guide is been trained because then it is only you that is strange to the guide dog it will know the area and thus you only have one evil. If you had to learn at home then the dog would not know you you would not know the dog so you would have the worse of two evils.

When you come home the dog does not come home with you they diliver it. You have to sign an agreement of ownership which has certain rules and regulations if you brake any of these rules then the

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guide dog will be taken off you and the 50 pence charge for the dog will be repaid to you.

The dog is then yours, but you have to learn the routes which you use the most with the dog. For this purpose a dog trainer will come from your centre and help you. They will come as many times as you want and teach you as many routes as you want. After this you have to report back to the centre every six months to make sure that the dog has been to the vets this is paid for by the guide dog association. They also provide 65 pence a day for food they by this is bulk and transport it to you when you need it. All other comforts for the dog have to be provided buy the guide dog owner.

Even after you have got a guide dog it is a good idea to keep your long cane skills up because one day the dog might be at the vets and you will have to get home.

The dog is a guide and a help to a blind person but it is not the ultimate answer. It has to be seen as an aid because even though it is extensively trained it is a dog and it might do some uncharacteristic things at times.



Motoring

DAE - WHO?

by Ryan Turner, Y10

The best known name you've never heard of is coming. A South Korean company, Daewoo is about to invade the British car market. The company, the 33rd largest in the world, manufactures a wide range of products from hi-fi to trains and of course, cars.

Daewoo has grand plans for carving a niche in the UK though with very innovative selling techniques. It will sell its models (the first being the Nexia and the Espero) direct to customers via its own showrooms, cutting out the middlemen. Not only that but the sales people will be paid a salary and not on commission which should mean a better, fairer deal for the customer. In addition, the showrooms will feature cafés, childrens play areas and interactive multimedia information points.

So where will this exciting new concept be launched? In London, Manchester, York, Oxford? No, Parkgate in Rotherham. That's right, Daewoo's invasion will begin just a few miles down the road from Wath Comprehensive School.

But these bold new ideas have met with criticism and query - not least why they are deciding to locate in Rotherham. Many worry that after-sales service will

be limited as a company owned dealer network will be slow to establish. However, Daewoo has clinched a deal with Halfords and maintenance and repair will be available at 136 Halfords sites - not a bad start.

Brian Whalan, the Managing Director of Halfords said "We see the relationship with Daewoo as an exciting opportunity in the development of our garage servicing business".

Despite this admittedly well thought-out strategy, Daewoo has the challenge of building a brand new reputation unknown in the West. A key factor will be the quality of the cars themselves which are rumoured to cost up to £13,000.

Whalan continues "it is a new name to the UK public but a major global player". Customer operations director of Daewoo cars thinks the market is ready for a change. "We are in the business of giving customers exactly what they want - not just satisfying customers but delighting them".

This optimistic attitude if accurate can only be good for the car market and a bit of a coup for Rotherham. Daewoo investment of over £150million indicates a determination to succeed and all other factors appear favourable.

Vijae por el Túnel

by Matthew Swallow, Y10

Más importante que una descripción del EuroTunnel es una experiencia personal del viaje. Esta puede crear una imagen para todo el mundo.

¿Porqué decidiste ir por el túnel en vez del barco?

Porque es una viaje más cómodo para llegar a España por Francia y es más barato que los barcos.

¿Cuánto tiempo dura el viaje?

Dura sólo 35 minutos 1 hora menos que el barco.

¿Como subiste al tren?

Hicimos cola durante 15 minutos y entonces condujimos al tren. Cuando el tren se puso en marcha no sentimos nada pero el coche se movió un poco.

¿Qué hay que hacer en el tren?

Se podía salir del coche y entrar en otros departamentos. Durante el viaje había informaciones por la radio en inglés y en francés sobre las carreteras y el tiempo.

Así es que, para un viaje cómodo y rápido desde Inglaterra hasta Francia, es bueno ir por el nuevo Túnel.

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DAYTONA CONTROVERSY

The prestigious Daytona 200 mile motorcycle race was in controversy last night, as it emerged that American officials had helped Scot Russell to beat Carl Fogerty after Scott crashed out in a dramatic second lap slide out. It is alleged that the pace car was brought on to aid Russell as he re-mounted, re-started his bike, and caught up to the pack, shortly after the start of the gruelling 2 hour race. Carl Fogerty (who rides the works Ducati) has made the allegations, as his hopes of being the first ever Britain to win the race were shattered, "I will never return to Daytona, Never again" His second allegation was that the American officials had failed to penalise

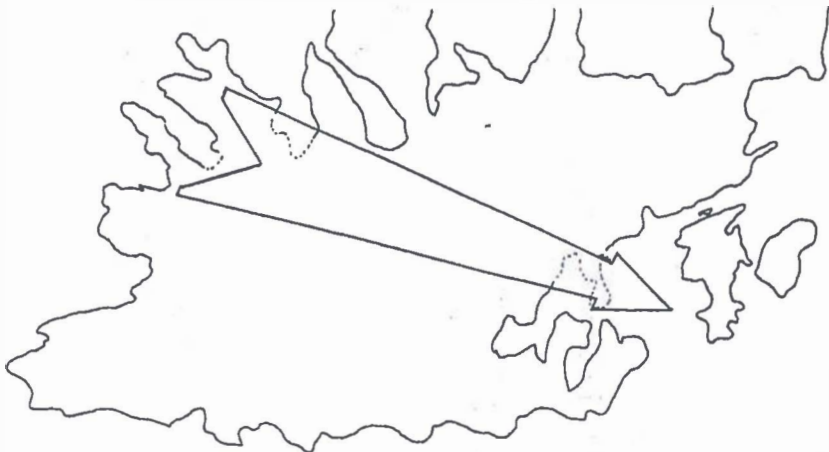
Russel for passing under a yellow flag. The race became controversial, as, after Scot had re-mounted his bike, with the aid of marshalls, he re-joined the race in 60th position. Two laps later, with Russell in 46th position, Scotsman Roger Bennett crashed out, taking the factory Harley rider with him, but the pace car emerged, whilst the track was cleared of wreckage. One rider, quoting a later incident said "when an American rider crashes, the pace car comes out, but later, when a rider is lying half dead on the track, the pace car fails to emerge. This incident follows controversy, over the safety of the sport, as some bikes can reach speeds of around 200mph.

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MANSELL IN OFF-TRACK ACCIDENT. Formula 1 driver Nigel Mansell had his first off-track accident when his Mercedes was hit when a van shunted into a car which then went into Mansell's car yesterday. Luckily Mansell and his wife suffered minor injuries.

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NIGEL



Invasion Of Daewoo

School

For Y7 Only!

MARVELLOUS MELVIN CALLS ALL YEAR 7
by Julie Lunniss, Y13

Join Marvellous Melvin at Wath Lifesaving Club now for action-packed learning and guaranteed fun.

Every Monday evening at Wath Swimming Pool, local kids go to **MARVELLOUS MELVIN'S** one and only lifesaving club.

You must be at least eleven years old to enable you to do this challenging and exiting course. This is why Melvin needs you in year seven. This course combines vital first-aid skills with crucial life saving techniques and life saving-rules.

To begin with you'll learn personal survival. Essential information: how to be safe near water, keeping warm in water, and how to avoid the most simple of accidents.

In the next stage you will learn skills to save other lives, which includes some biology. Those who have taken this wonderful opportunity have never looked back - they say Why miss it?

Many pupils from Wath Comprehensive School have achieved lifesaving skills - some have even had to use them ... Sharon Norris, sixth-former and fellow lifesaver was glad to have those vital life saving skills on a school water sports holiday two years ago. If she had not been able to act quickly, her friend would have drowned she says..."The skills should be learnt by everyone"...

The organiser Melvin has a fantastic team of friendly instructors, and they all begin with courses just like this one. Obviously lifesaving at Wath is a wonderful to learn, as well as being a useful and exciting hobby.

My advice to you is to join **MARVELLOUS MELVIN** and the gang - soon.

Wath Comprehensive's Recent Drama Hits.
By Christina Roberts Y8.

I, Jew

by Lauren Campy, Y8

From the 7th to the 9th of March performances took place of two plays, The School For Witch's and The Incredible Vanishing. One performance was for junior schools around the Wath-upon-Dearne area, the children thoroughly enjoyed the plays.

Both plays were very well acted out with quite a lot of comedy in.

The "School for Witches" is about two old witch's who need to know new magic, they turn to the school for witch's which is run by four rejuvenated witch's who show how they can ruin Britain. Things go wrong when the four young witch's do a spell that goes wrong and turns them into babies while the two old witch's become young.

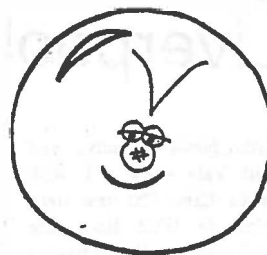
Dazzling music from the 50's and the 60's brings the spark to the play.

The incredible vanishing is where children have been stolen off the streets by goblins living underground, they turn them into slaves to work in the sewers. When Jenny goes missing, Pc Parker and Bert follow and try to rescue all the missing children, but they have to get past the evil goblin queen, "Her Marshesty". This play can keep you on the edge of your seat.

The casts of both plays and the drama teachers involved - Mr I McGrath and Mr J Miller, have worked really hard to put on these two plays, and I'm sure everyone who came to see the plays really enjoyed them.

R.E. is being made more fun for certain groups in Y8. This morning while we were making this newspaper, Mrs Pinto's R.E. class were acting out a Jewish wedding. The scene was set. A tent was made by draping the material over the bookcases. A long table was put out with glasses full with Jewish wine (coke). The students were dressed up. The bride was in white, the bridesmaids were in lilac and the groom in a suit. The wedding took place where the bride and groom signed the wedding contract. After the ceremony crisps and nibbles were handed out. Various teachers were invited, including Mr Kirby who I asked what he thought about it. He said that he thought that it was excellent and that the best way to learn something was to do it. This way by acting it out it will stick in your mind. Miss Brady, an English student who was in school today was passing by at the time of the wedding. She reflected that it was an excellent idea for a hands on project. She also said that it was cross curricula, it covered drama, media, and, of course, R.E. Also Mrs Mitchell's class recently did a real passover meah. After a while, perhaps all subject teachers will take this view on teaching to give students a new perspective on work.

What Are We Doing For Comic Relief?



Everyone is donning their Red Noses and rooting out their best smiles in aid of Comic Relief, which is even sillier than ever this year.

As well as the Miss Wath Comprehensive competition, Mr Bacon will be hosting a stupidly stupendous assembly, assisted by the PE staff.

Also, over at the first year wing, Mrs Bennett will be holding a silly socks competition.

You too can have a piece of the competitive spirit by guessing the number of sweeties in the sweetie jar. This is being run by some of our very own 6th formers.

By Lindsey Jarvis and Emma Baldock.



Comic Relief Football Match:

Upper 6th v. Staff.
By Christina Roberts, Y8
Referee: Colin Propet.

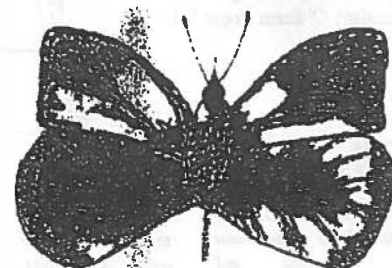
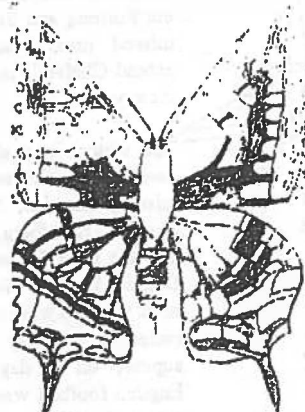
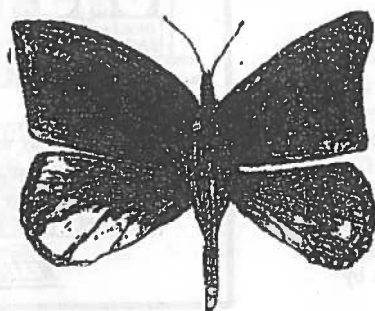
Wednesday the 15th Comic Relief football match took place with the Upper 6th taking on members of the staff- which include Mr Harper, Mr Bilby, Mr Woolley and Mr Deakin.

At half-time the score was 2-1 to the staff, at full-time the score ended up as 5-2 to the staff.

The scorers for the staff were: Mr Harper-4 goals, and Mr Deakin-1 goal. The scorers for the Upper 6th were: James Moralee-1 goal and Richard Oxe-1 goal.

Well it shows that the staff's team were the fittest after all and that they had picked a great team: Mr Harper with his skillful feet, and Mr Bilby with his skillful hands that only let 2 goals in!, of course the other players in the team did well. Bad luck to the Upper 6th team- maybe next year? All the players in their team should pat their backs for having a go, while the staff team celebrate their victory!

WELL DONE STAFF !!!



Butterflies from 8U's Cupboard

Sport

Coventry Thwart Liverpool

Liverpool: 2
Coventry: 3

HAT-TRICK HERO HALTS LIVERPOOL.

By Gav Browne.

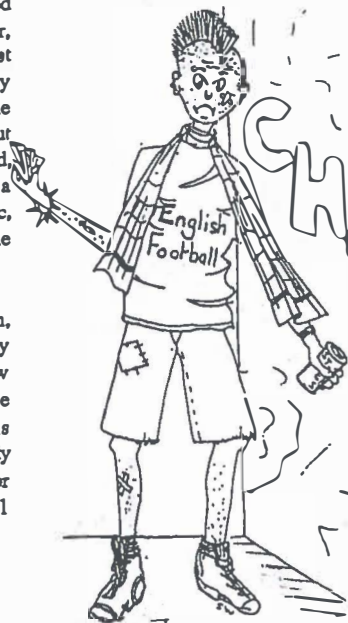
Ron Atkinson's teams have always had a Houdini-type jinx over Liverpool. His Manchester United and Aston Villa teams always seemed to go to Anfield and win last night was no exception. Liverpool were not helped by an injury to Phil Babb, forcing them to change their formation, which was fully exploited by Peter Ndlovu, a player who Liverpool are reportedly interested in. He scored two goals before half-time and another after 85 minutes to make the score 3-1, Jan Molby scoring a penalty prior to this, and David Burrows scoring an own-goal against his old team to make the final score 3-2 to Coventry.

Elsewhere in the Premiership, Crystal Palace moved out of the bottom four, winning 2-1 against Sheffield Wednesday. Guy Whittingham opened the scoring for Wednesday, but Chris Armstrong equalised, having returned from a drug rehabilitation clinic, and Iain Dowie scored the winner.

In the First Division, Middlesbrough could only manage a home draw against Barnsley, Jamie Moreno opening his League account, and Andy Payton equalising for Barnsley. Oldham drew 1-1

with Notts County, and Port Vale drew 1-1 with Stoke City. Off the field John de Wolf has gone back into hospital to have a thrombosis removed from his right leg. Wrexham defeated Rotherham 3-1 in the Second Division, with Rotherham having Mark Moxington sent-off, and York could only manage a 0-0 scoreline against Wycombe.

In the Third Division Bury won 3-0 against Barnet, and Walsall beat Darlington 2-0 with goals from Lightbourne and Wilson. Two sides going to Wembley after matches last night are Carlisle, who despite losing 2-1 on the night to Rochdale, won their Auto Windscreens Shield semi-final 5-3 on aggregate. In the other semi-final, Birmingham defeated Leyton Orient 3-2 to go through to the final 4-2 on aggregate.



Without the peripheral events which surrounded the match, Chelsea v Bruges was always going to be a tense affair. Indeed, the omens were good - the last time Chelsea played Bruges in this competition was in 1971, they recovered a two goal deficit to win 4-2, so surely a one goal deficit could not be hard to turn round?

Chelsea nipped into Bruges from the start, raining in high balls on the goalkeeper Verlinden to test his mettle, illustrated by Peacock's free header after only two minutes, which the keeper stretched to save. The overall weakness of Bruges in the air was never better illustrated after 16 minutes with a Burley free-kick was headed across goal by Furlong for Mark Stein to score on his European debut.

Stein was the central character in the first half, shooting wide from the angle when it would have been better to pull back to any one of the unmarked Chelsea players, and also being erratic in his laying off the ball. However, he initiated the move that led to the decisive goal. He found Clarke, who played the ball for Stein to chase. Somehow, he outwitted two defenders to cross for Furlong to score the second goal, putting Chelsea ahead on aggregate.

Bruges were only limited to long shots throughout the game, due to the outstanding work of Spackman in midfield, but Hitchcock was unflappable in goal. The only Bruges had were wasted by Buelinckx and Eijkelkamp, but Furlong and Stein both missed great chances to extend Chelsea's margin of victory.

The victory was also well deserved as Chelsea were missing Kharine, Newton, Spencer, Kjeldberg, Myers and the recently sentenced Dennis Wise. Man-for-man, Chelsea were terrific - collectively they were superb, on a day when English football was hit by a new scandal.

Chelsea Win By A Furlong

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