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# Oxford's DAILY INFORMATION

www.dailyinfo.co.uk  
Issue No. 7352

Next issue: Thursday 6th February  
Deadline: 10am, Wednesday 5th February

Wednesday 5th FEBRUARY 2003 (3rd Week)

## COMING

### Graham Swift

will give  
**THE RICHARD HILLARY MEMORIAL LECTURE**  
"I Do Like to be Beside the Seaside:  
The Place of 'Place in Fiction'"  
at 5pm on Wednesday 5 February  
in the St Cross Building, Manor Road

### OPENING THE ORBIT

The Microcosmic Orbit is the collective name for your two most important energy channels, which run up the spine & down the front of the body. The joining and activation of these channels produces important health benefits, including increased resistance to stress and illness and a heightened level of vitality. This is the energy which is balanced by acupuncture, except here you do it yourself, without needles. Movements to open the orbit will be taught: Sunday January 2nd, 11am-3pm, St Philip & St James School, Leckford Rd. £15, £10 concs. Beginners very welcome. Details from 432901, or www.healingtaooford.co.uk



## COMPETITION

ARE YOU A 2ND YEAR UNDERGRAD?  
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**£1000**  
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Or Gill Powell at St Edmund Hall (279003)

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53 more on [www.dailyinfo.co.uk](http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk)!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Volunteers Wanted**  
For Mental Health Helpline.

Training and Support Provided.

For more information: Call 01865 791105 or email [crisis.line@virgin.net](mailto:crisis.line@virgin.net)

## JOBS OFFERED

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THE OXFORD APOLLO: STAGE DOOR KEEPER, 9am - 1.30pm. Someone to act as the main reception point for visiting companies, answer telephone enquiries and create a safe and welcoming environment for anyone entering the theatre. Sometimes quiet, at other times it will be necessary for you to juggle many tasks at once. Katherine.binks@clearchannel.co.uk / 01865243041. Closing date 14th February

SUMMER WORK IN FRANCE as a Select France Campsite Representative. Suit sociable, active person prepared to work hard - including cleaning and organising client social events. Preferably able to work from May to end September. Phone for more details and an application form. 01865 331350.

VERY EXPERIENCED TYPIST WANTED to transcribe tapes. 01865 310095

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Flexible hours to suit most lifestyles  
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## CINEMA REVIEW

### Catch Me If You Can

Odeon Magdalen St. until Thursday 6th

'Catch Me If You Can' is based on the true story of Frank Abagnale Jr., a confidence trickster who defrauded banks of millions of dollars in the 1960s. He got his forged cheques cashed by exploiting his charm, good looks and chameleon-like adaptability - all while still a teenager - and successfully impersonated a substitute French teacher, a Pan-Am co-pilot, a Harvard-trained paediatrician, and a Berkeley-trained attorney. Pursued for six years through the USA and Europe by FBI Fraud Squadman Carl Hanratty (Tom Hanks), Frank was finally captured, only to be offered a consultancy job in Carl's own department.

Director Stephen Spielberg is himself a past master at convincing people to part with their well-earned money. Like any good con-artist, Spielberg knows full well that the key to success lies in showing people what they want to see and telling them what they want to hear, because palatable fictions are always easier to swallow than unattractive truths. So he shows us a pretty face (Leonardo DiCaprio as Frank) and dresses it in his usual appealing mix of family values, boyhood nostalgia and tear-inducing hokum, distracting our attention almost entirely from the selfish, antisocial criminality which lies at the heart of Frank's behaviour. We hear the humorous names that Frank adopts, but none of the names of his victims. This directorial sleight of hand illustrates graphically the point made by Frank's father (played by Christopher



Walken) that 'the rest of us really are suckers'. If we left the cinema disliking Frank, we would no doubt feel that we had been ripped off.

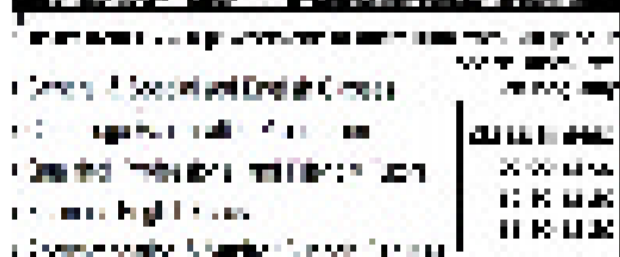
'Catch Me If You Can' is a beautiful recreation of the 1960s as they were viewed by the cinema of the time. The casting is spot on, with DiCaprio playing someone who is all charisma and no substance, and Hanks portraying a bland father figure. The story itself is full of ballsy bravado and the sort of incredible (but true) twists which will leave you gasping. Yet in the end, the material becomes somewhat bogged down by Spielberg's trademark heavy-handed attempts to package everything in terms of parent-son relationships.

Catch it if you can, but don't be too taken in.

Anton Bitel, 02.02.03

## TUITION OFFERED

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TUITION. Cambridge / IELTS exams. Writing skills. Thesis checking. 728698



## FUTON FOR SALE

Unused 6 layer cotton futon. 5 foot wide. £125. Ox 244960

## CINEMA

Until Thurs 6th February

### Ultimate Picture Palace 245288

THE QUIET AMERICAN (15) Tues - Thu: 7.30pm  
Michael Caine in subtle personal & political drama. See review at [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk)

AI NO CORRIDA (IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES) (18) Tues - Thu: 9.30pm  
Lots of shagging. 'Best viewed over a boiled egg' apparently

### Odeon George Street 0870 5050007

GANGS OF NEW YORK (18) Wed: 12.30, 4.15, 8.00  
Di Caprio, Day-Lewis, Diaz & Broadbent in Scorsese's 19th century NY. See review at [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk)

CHICAGO (12A) Daily: 11.45, 2.30, 5.30, 8.15  
Zellweger, Zeta-Jones & Gere do sex & violence, 1920s-style. See review at [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk)

8 MILE (15) Daily: 12.15, 3.00, 6.00, 8.45  
Eminem stars in biographical tale. See review at [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk)

ABOUT SCHMIDT (15) Wed: 2.15, 5.15, 8.30  
Jack Nicholson & Kathy Bates in the tale of a failed man. See review at [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk)

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS (12A) Wed: 11.30, 12.00, 3.15, 3.45, 7.30, 7.45, Thu: 12.00, 3.45, 7.45  
Contains intense combat & fantasy horror. See review at [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk)

SENIOR SCREEN: ANGELA'S ASHES (15) Wed: 10.45am  
Irish boy & family wrestle poverty in pre-war Ireland. Over 55s only

SPECIAL ADVANCE PREVIEW: FINAL DESTINATION 2 (15) Thu: 1.45, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00  
19-year-old must save her friends from evil marauding Death

SPECIAL ADVANCE PREVIEW: TWO WEEKS NOTICE (12A) Thu: 1.00, 3.30, 5.45, 8.00  
Sandra Bullock & Hugh Grant in 'stuff-you, Boss!' flick

### Odeon Magdalen Street 0870 5050007

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (12A) Wed & Thu: 1.15, 4.45, 8.15  
Hanks, DiCaprio, Walken & Sheen in true story of successful con man

GHOST SHIP (18) Wed: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.45  
Gabriel Byrne & fellow salvagers trapped in a haunted ship

Phoenix Picture House 512526

THE PIANIST (15) Daily: 2.50, 6.15  
A Jewish pianist's tale of survival through WWII. See review at [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk)

THE GOOD GIRL (15) Tues - Thu: 2.30, 6.50, 9.00  
Small-town girl Jennifer Aniston is... or is she?

IRREVERSIBLE (18) Tue - Thu: 4.40, 9.10  
Contains graphic violence which viewers may find disturbing. See review at [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk)

DOG TOWN AND Z BOYS (15) Thu: 11.20 pm  
Documentary about the pioneering 1970s Zephyr skateboarding team.

DIE ANOTHER DAY (12A) Thu: 11.15pm  
Bond needs no introduction. See review at [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk)

\*=Wheelchair access

## THEATRE

Until Thurs 6th February

### Burton Taylor Theatre 305350

COPENHAGEN Tue 4 - Sat 8 Feb. Daily: 7.30pm  
NB: Full show length, with interval.  
Michael Frayn's meeting of 2 great physicists on different sides of WWII. £6/£5

Oxford Playhouse 305305  
HEDDA GABLER Wed 5 - Sat 8 Feb: 7.30pm (Fri: 8pm)  
Thu & Sat Mats: 2.30pm  
by Henrik Ibsen

Old Fire Station Theatre 297170

RUDDIGORE Tue 4 - Sat 8  
Daily: 7.30pm Plus Sat mat: 2.30pm  
Gilbert & Sullivan Operetta. First-night discounts available

## SERVICES OFFERED

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## MEETINGS/LECTURES

PUBLICIZE YOUR SOCIETY HERE!  
Put YOUR meetings or lectures up - immediately, any time and free - at [www.dailyinfo.co.uk](http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk).  
Queries to [dailyinfo@dailyinfo.co.uk](mailto:dailyinfo@dailyinfo.co.uk)

### Sun 2nd

TRUTH AND THE MEDIA / Meal (charge), talk by Kirsten Lass (BBC) & discussion / University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, High Street (Radcliffe Sq. entrance) / 7pm, Old Library

"I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE: THE PLACE OF PLACE IN FICTION" / Graham Swift gives the Richard Hillary Memorial Lecture / 5pm on / St Cross Building, Manor Road

SLADE LECTURE / 'How to be a connoisseur in the seventeenth century'. Prof. Ernst van de Wetering. Public lecture, part of the 'Reconstructing Rembrandt' series. / 5pm / Lecture Hall, Taylor Institution, St Giles'

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS / Weekly 12 Step meeting for anyone with an eating disorder. / 7.30pm - 8.30pm / West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road

OXFORD GAMELAN SOCIETY / Play the enchanting bronze orchestra of Javan Beginners welcome / Balfour Building, 60, Banbury Road, Oxford. Contact: Maryp Bull 01235 815470 or Pete Smith 01865 510815 / 6pm

PHILOSOPHY SESSIONS / Dealing with the most fundamental topics of human thought in a fresh manner. 07812 413335 / 7.00 / tba

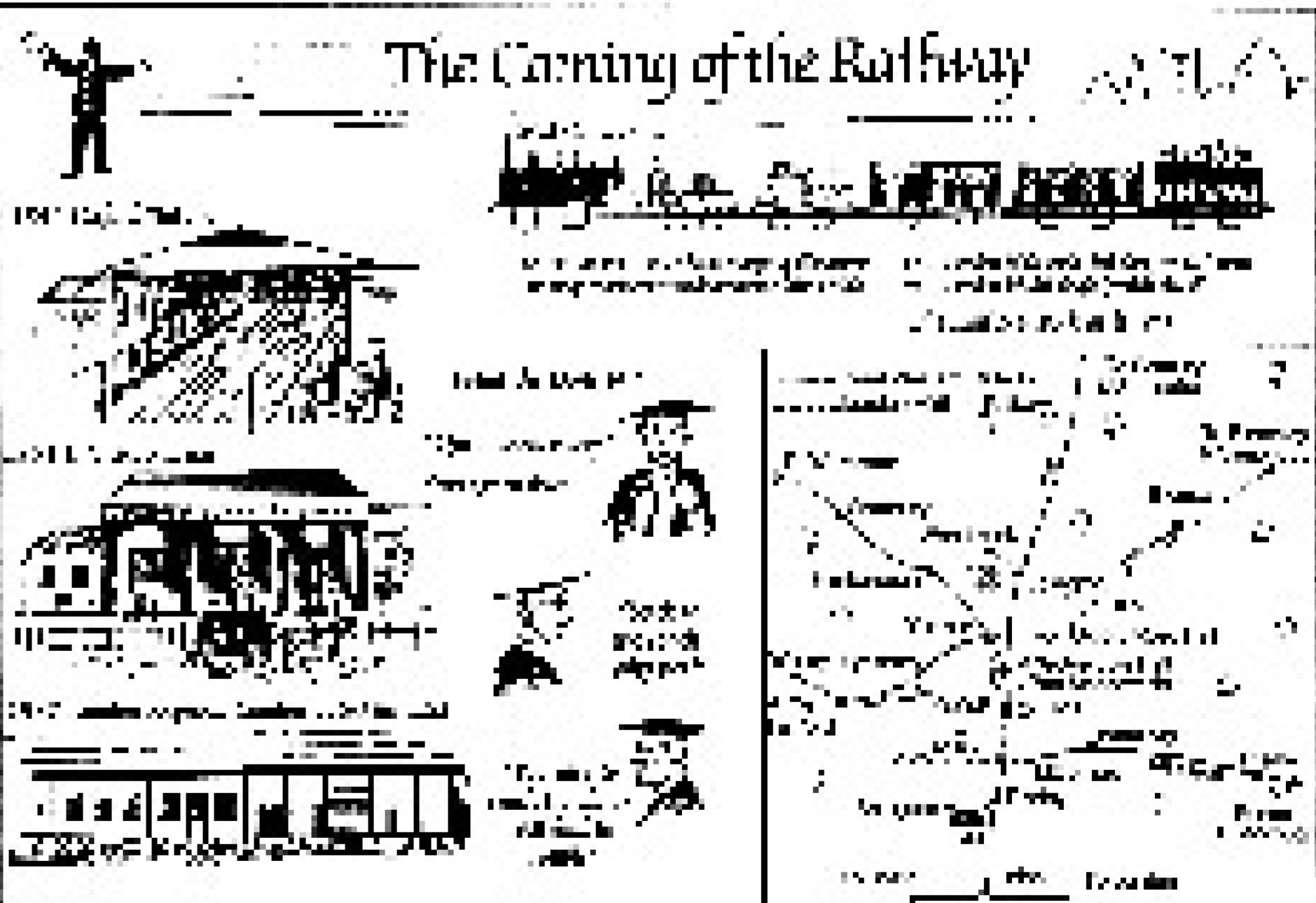
NO ATTACK ON IRAQ / With speakers George Galloway, Kate Hudson & Felicity Arbuthnot / 7.30pm / Oxford Town Hall, 109-113 St Aldate's; Tel: 252195

STORYTELLING PROGRAMME FOR ADULTS / Part of National Storytelling Week. Marguerite Osborne, Pres., Ox. Storytelling Soc. 248142 / 11am / Botley Library, Elms Court, Botley

OXFORD URBAN WILDLIFE EVENT: SOME WILDFLOWERS OF OXFORDSHIRE / Illustrated talk by Susan Heeks based on trips to Dry Sandford Pit, Sydlings Copse, Port Meadow & other local green spaces. Contact: Janet Keene 820522 (tel/fax) / 7.30 - 9.30pm. Wheelchair access. / Community Room, East Oxford Life-long Learning Centre (use entrance from Union Street)



## OXFORD HISTORY



Taken from Mary Potter's Oxford Calendar, 1987

1. The University was initially hostile to the railways. Christ Church opposed a scheme to build the first station on their land near Magdalen Bridge, and the Duke of Wellington - Chancellor of the University - was an inveterate opponent. For a number of years, the nearest station was at Stevenston, 10 miles south of the city. It was served by eight coaches daily, which took one and a half hours and cost three shillings.

2. When the line eventually opened on June 12th 1844, the station was at Grandpont, just south of Folly Bridge. The usual excuse for the late return of undergraduates at the beginning of term had always been the state of the roads; now it became the state of the railways, a hazard whose existence some of the older dons refused to acknowledge.

3. The original Oxford-London line was built on a wide gauge, backed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. When the narrow-gauge faction eventually won the argument, the line had to be taken up and re-laid at its present width of 4'8 1/2".

4. In 1852, a new Great Western Railway station was built on the present site, opposite the London Midland Railway (later London Midland Scottish, or L.M.S.) railway terminus of 1851, which survived until 1998 as a Tyre and Exhaust workshop. The L.M.R.(S). station was probably the most important derivative remnant of the Crystal Palace, with which it was built concurrently by the same engineers (Messrs Fox & Henderson), using the same technique of pre-fabricated ironwork. It was closed in 1951, its centenary year.

In 1999, after much controversy (including occupation by eco-activists wishing the building to remain and be incorporated into a new "Green Gateway" to Oxford), the Grade II listed building was deconstructed piece by piece and reassembled at Buckinghamshire Railway Centre near Aylesbury (where it was opened in May 2002). The Said Business School now stands in its place.

5. Our map shows the railways network at its height. Until 1968 it was possible to take the Brain Train to Cambridge. The service to Woodstock stopped in 1954; one of the passengers on the last ever train was a man of 86 who had helped to build the line.

6. Oxford's present station was built in 1972.

Additions to 5. by Su Jordan, 03.02.03