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Next issue Friday 9th November
Deadline 10am, Thur 8th Nov.

THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2001

COMING

THE PENGUIN PRESS and Blackwell's invite you to a talk and reception to mark the publication of 'The Extraordinary Voyage of Pytheas the Greek: The Man Who Discovered Britain' by Barry Cunliffe. The talk will be chaired by Michael Wood (B.B.C. TV. Presenter) and will be held at Blackwell's Bookshop at 50 Broad Street, Oxford on Wednesday 14th November at 7.00pm. Tickets are £2 and are available from Customer Services, 50 Broad Street, Oxford. Tel: 01865 333623
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Coen brothers' latest.

THE OTHERS(15)
Thur: 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45
Nicole Kidman gets spooked...

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AMERICAN PIE 2(15)
Thur: 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45
The teenage search for sex continues

ENIGMA (15)
Daily: 11.30, 5.30
Against-the-clock code-breaking drama.

AMELIE (15)
Daily: 2.30, 8.30
From the director of 'Delicatessen'

MOULIN ROUGE (12)
Thur: 5.30, 8.30
Sumptuous musical hedonism.

LEGALLY BLONDE(12)
Thur: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00
Reese Witherspoon becomes unlikely law student

AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS (12)
Thur: 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45
Romantic comedy.

ATLANTIS (U)
Thur: 12.30, 3.00
Search for the lost continent

GABRIEL & ME (15)
Thurs: 2.00, 4.15, 6.45, 9.10
Boy dreams of becoming angel

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288

FIGHT CLUB(18)
Thur: 10.30pm
Madness, anarchy and soap.

BLADE RUNNER(15)
Thur: 8.15
Ridley Scott's futuristic thriller

ENIGMA OF KASPAR HAUSER(PG)
Thur: 6.00
Captive's true story

Phoenix Picture House 512526

AMELIE (15)
Thur: 2.00, 4.20, 9.10
From the director of 'Delicatessen'

THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE(15)
Daily: 1.40, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00
Coen brothers' latest

AIMEE AND JAGUAR(15)
Thur: 6.40
Atmospheric WWII-drama

THE WITCHFINDER GENERAL(15)
Thur: 11.30pm
Persecution of single cat-owners by travelling baddie.

THE IRON LADIES (15)
Thur: 11.30pm
Adventures of a gay volleyball team (sort of).

Trinity College 279900

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Thur: 8.30
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THEATRE

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Apollo 0870 6063500

CINDERELLA Mon 5th - Sat 10th: 7.30
Thur & Sat Mats: 2.30
English National Ballet

Old Fire Station 794490

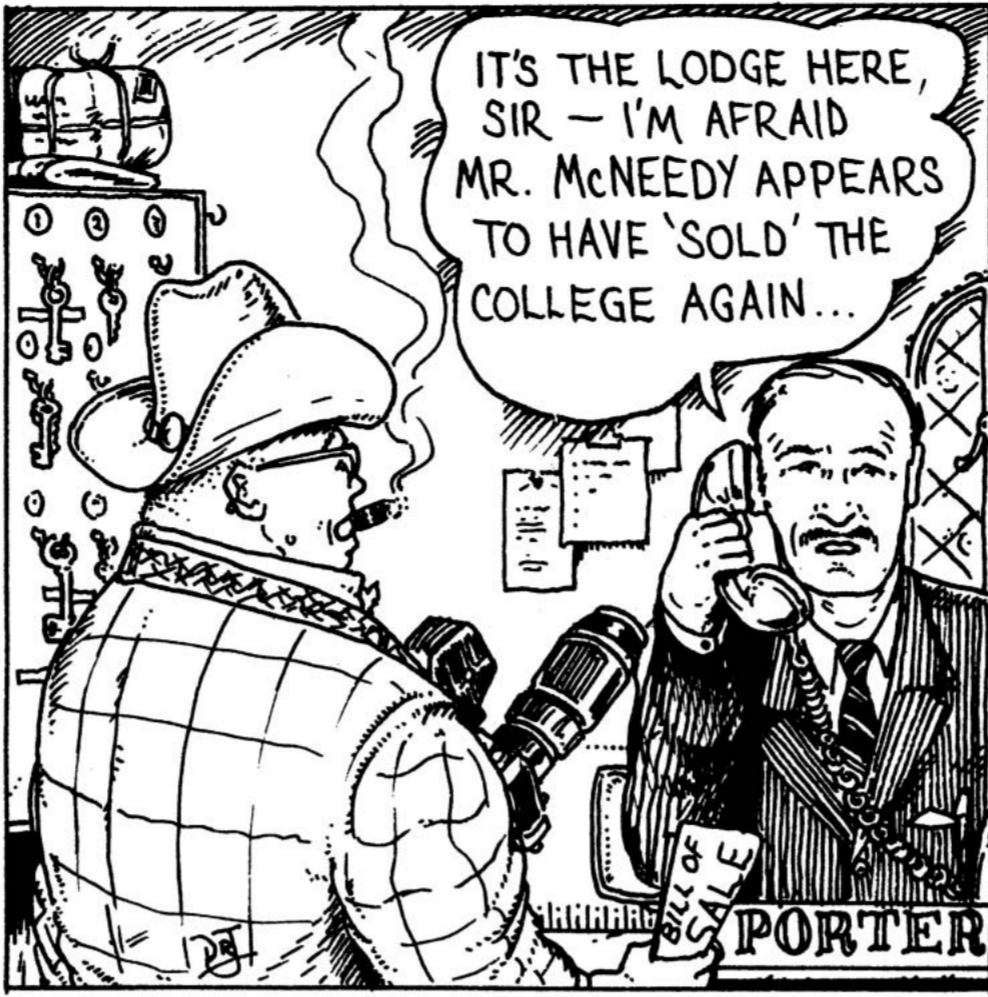
ANIMAL CRACKERS Tue 6th - Sat 10th: 7.30
Sat Mat: 2.30
Marx Brothers Mayhem

Burton Taylor 793797

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1. Charles I upheld the belief of the divine right of kings at a time when people felt that kings should only rule by the will of Parliament; his unwillingness to compromise with the new Puritan movement meant that a 'war without an enemy' was inevitable. Oxford was selected as the Royalist capital.

2. Although most of its citizens were so anti-Royalist that the King had to disarm them, the University was loyal to the Monarch. When he and his army of 5,500 had to escape from the city, across Port Meadow, it surrendered to the Parliamentary victory with great reluctance. Cromwell became Chancellor in April 1646.

3. Subsequently, a 'Parliamentary Visitation' was sent to reform and regulate the University which was exhausted and disrupted by the years of war. An uneasy relationship existed between the Parliamentarians and the academics until 1660, when Charles II was restored to the throne.

EXHIBITIONS

Thursday 8th November

VENETIAN RENAISSANCE DRAWINGS / Important drawings from Christ Church's old master collection / Christ Church Picture Gallery

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MEETINGS

Thursday 8th November

CREATIVE VIGIL FOR PEACE / 6-7pm / Richard@232.org / Cornmarket

INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER AT CAFE MOMA / Vegetarian food and drink (If Cafe MOMA is closed meet at The Nosebag instead) / 6.30pm-8.30pm / Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT WOMEN WANT EQUAL RIGHTS ONLY WHEN IT SUITS THEM / PRO- Peter Stringfellow; Piers Henu, Antony Worrall Thompson
OPPOSITION- Lorraine Candy, Jean Corston MP, Jo Guest (for Union members) / 8.30pm / Oxford Union, Frewin Court

CARYL PHILLIPS, NOVELIST / Reads from and talks about his work / 5.15pm / Lecture Theatre 2, St. Cross Building

GIGS + NIGHTLIFE

Thursday 8th November

ACOUSTIC OPEN SESSION / Free / Bring an instrument and join in / 8.30pm - midnight / Cricketers Arms, 43, Iffley Rd; Tel: 726264

JEAN MICHEL HURE / Ex LA-based guitarist / £4 (£2.50) / 9pm / The Spin@The Wheatheaf, Wheat-sheaf Alley, 129 High Street; Tel: 243276



REVIEW: THEATRE

Animal Crackers
by George S Kaufman

Old Fire Station, to Saturday 10th

Animal Crackers features many a 'strange interlude', and not nearly enough mention of pineapple. This is only disappointing because Animal Crackers is itself one long, strange interlude, oozing with latent anarchism and sustained (comic) juice - a Tristram Shandy of the stage in which the diversions are the plot, the plot gloriously irrelevant and the irrelevance fantastically diverting. Sod Oscar Wilde, if only for one night: great comedy is physical, literal and romping (dreaded word) if it is anything, and this - the play of the film of George Kaufman's 1920s script, with extra Marx impro and sketches attached - has comic greatness in superabundance.

Those unfamiliar with the complete works of Marx can have no decent excuse for their ignorance; those with some awareness, however vague, can have nothing to gripe of in James Wilton's possessed, cigar-fuelled Groucho. Aping a universally-known comic deity is at best a traumatic task, as Jim Carrey found when Being Andy Kaufman in 1999. Milos Forman biopic Man on the Moon. In Groucho's case the exertion is exhausting, and this particular re-enactment is everything it ought to be: manic and nonchalant in equal measure, requisitely absurd but ruthlessly dominating both script and partners, irresistible in all the right twitches - the leer with a life of its own, the flutter of the caterpillar eyebrows, a stare so blank it simply glows with potential. Add to those a superior voice and real flair for the (occasionally ropery) accompaniment and the necessary ingredients are all there, though the support necessarily falls short on occasion - some repartee too slow, fragments of spontaneity contrived. Andy King as Harpo's mute Professor sports a sinistery endearing stage presence, John Parker (Tom Wood) a beautiful shuffling diffidence, Hives the Butler awe-inspiring intonation, to name but three.

Most of the cast do the shrewd choreography full justice, and keep the withering social comment - on New York society, colonialism, marriage, freedom of the press, pineapples &c. - unobtrusive. Josie Long and James Harris, born stand-ups both and outside the action as Jewish picturehouse owner and usherette, are in a class of their own. I was called a dirty Commie bastard by the manager and asked to leave, rightly so, since I arrived clutching a large red copy of Marx (Karl). It's a rare sideshow that steals the limelight; Animal Crackers can richly afford it, since its comic meat is so beguilingly competent.

Tom Hill 6/11/01

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