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Next issue: Thursday 20th February
Deadline: 10am, Wednesday 19th February

Wednesday 19th FEBRUARY 2003 (5th Week)

COMING

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CINEMA

Until Thurs 20th February

Phoenix Picture House 512526
LOVE LIZA (15) Daily: 4.30, 9.15
Thu: 4.30, 9.15, 11.15pm
THE HOURS (12A) Daily: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00
Streep, Moore & Kidman star in the new film from the
director of Billy Elliot. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
TAKE CARE OF MY CAT (PG) Wed & Thur: 2.30, 6.45
Five Korean teenagers try to stay friends as they grow up.
8 WOMEN (15) Thu: 11.20pm
French musical murder mystery.

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288
THE SHIPPING NEWS (15) Wed & Thu: 7.00pm
Kevin Spacey heads north...
SALO (18) Wed & Thu: 9.15pm
Based on the Marquis de Sade. Let the squeamish beware...

Odeon Magdalen Street 0870 5050007
THE HOURS (12A) Daily: 12.15, 3.00, 5.45, 8.30
Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore & Nicole Kidman star in the
new film from the director of Billy Elliot. See review at
www.dailyinfo.co.uk

TREASURE PLANET (U) Daily: 1.00*, 3.30*, 6.15*
Disney do Treasure Island in space
PUNCH DRUNK LOVE (15) Daily: 8.45
Adam Sandler is violent eccentric in romantic comedy.
See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk

Odeon George Street 0870 5050007
CHICAGO (12A) Daily: 2.15*, 5.15*, 8.00*
Zellweger, Zeta-Jones & Gere do sex & violence,
1920s-style. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (12A) Daily: 1.30*, 5.00*, 8.15*
Hanks, DiCaprio, Walken & Sheen in true story of a
successful conman. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk

TWO WEEKS' NOTICE (12A) Daily: 12.45, 3.30,
6.15, 9.00
Sandra Bullock & Hugh Grant in 'stiff-you, Boss!' flick
THE WILD THORNBERRYS MOVIE (U) Daily: 11.45,
1.45, 3.45
Eliza talks to animals and saves elephants in animated fantasy

DAREDEVIL (15) Daily: 12.00, 3.00, 5.45, 8.30
Justice is blind... So is Ben Affleck.
8 MILE (15) Daily: 6.00, 8.45, except Thu: 6.00
Eminem stars in biographical tale. See review at
www.dailyinfo.co.uk

PUNCH DRUNK LOVE (15) Daily: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00
Adam Sandler is violent eccentric in romantic comedy.
See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
FINAL DESTINATION 2 (15) Daily: 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15
19-year-old must save friends from marauding Death.
See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk

DIE ANOTHER DAY (12A) Thurs: 11.30am
Bond. James Bond. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS (PG)
Daily: 11.15am

His education continues...
ODEON SENIOR SCREEN: KISSING JESSICA STEIN (15)
Wed: 10.45am* Over 55s only!
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THEATRE REVIEW

NOISES OFF

by Michael Frayn
Oxford Playhouse until 22nd Feb
I tend to steer well clear of productions in which soap actors whose star has slightly waned have a go at treading the boards - you need only think of Beppe DiMarco in Chicago, or Tiffany in My Fair Lady (though thankfully we haven't yet seen Grant as Hamlet) to see why. Bringing such prejudice to Noises Off, however, was a serious misjudgement. This was a classy outfit, with actors completely on top of their roles despite their pedigrees in Eastenders, Dr Who and The Darling Buds of May.

Michael Frayn is one of Britain's leading comic playwrights, and here he is at his very best. Working with a well-established play-within-a-play format, Frayn manages to weave together countless levels of farce and irony in what must be hailed as an astonishing feat of imagination. The first act, necessarily, runs slower than the others - as the final rehearsal for Nothing On (the inner play) lays the plot groundwork for all that follows. The second act, though, is a tour de force of acting and staging. For this we are backstage in the same production and, as the actors play out their stage roles at the back of the stage, we witness what goes on whilst they're off-stage. Cue endless comic quasi-sexual positions, much throwing of things at people, and frequent running off with trousers down to deliver a line. What shines through is how well drilled the (real) actors are - speedy physical gags are set-up with fantastic precision, and the stage positively buzzes with their energy. The ensemble playing is so excellent that it's invidious to identify one star, but Sylvester McCoy did seem to get the most laughs.

If you're hitting those pre-Easter blues, then, this play must be well recommended. Don't expect great insights on life, or even immediate laughs. Hang in there for the second act, though, and you can be sure of the odd embarrassing cackle or hearty belly laugh. Don't go just to see the soap stars - go to see that some of them actually do have talent!

Greg Sanderson, 18.02.03

PLEASE NOTE:

All performances of 'Noises Off' are now sold out. Sorry!

THEATRE

Until Thurs 20th February

Old Fire Station Theatre 297170
POPCORN Until Sat 22nd. Daily: 7.30pm
plus Sat Mat: 2.30pm
Ben Elton's black comedy. Unsuitable for under
twelves. £8.50/£6.50 (first night discount)

Burton Taylor Theatre 305350
HER OLD POSSESSIONS Until Sat 22nd
Daily: 7.30pm
'By women, About women, For all. £5/£4
PSYCHOSIS Until Sat 22nd Daily: 9.30pm
By Sarah Kane £5/£4

Oxford Playhouse 305305
NOISES OFF - SOLD OUT!! Until Sat 22nd
Daily: 7.30pm, Fri: 8.00pm Thu & Sat Mats: 2.30
Award Winning Comedy by Michael Frayn. See review
above

Pegasus Theatre 722851
THE TEMPEST Until Sat 22nd. Daily: 8pm
Oxford School of Drama

The Apollo Oxford 0870 6063500
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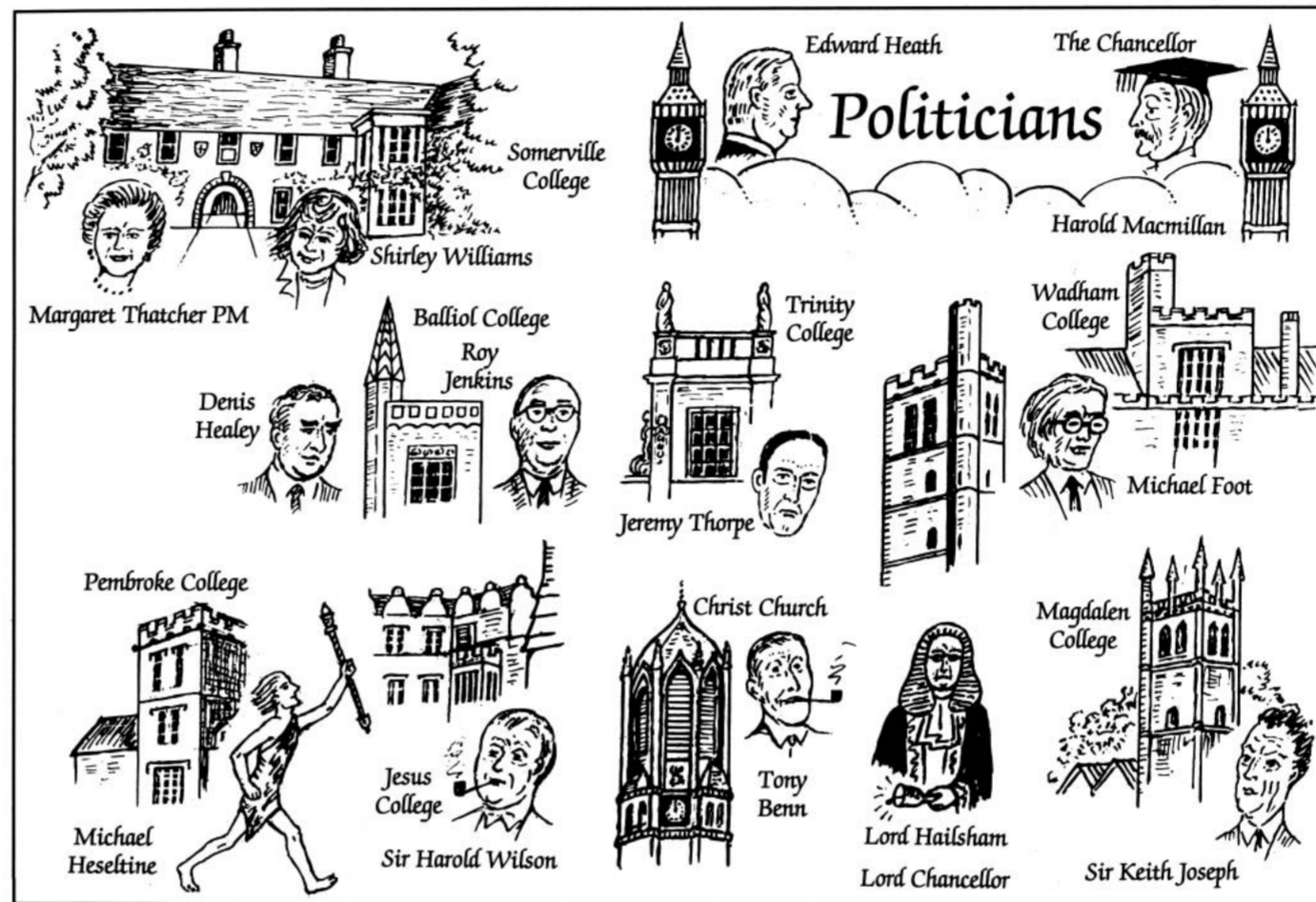
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& Tibetans: tentative comparisons & lessons learned'.
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Giles

OXFORD AMNESTY LECTURE / See advert at top of
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TROPISMES DE NATHALIE SARRAUTE / Reading in
French by Nicole Gore & Arthur Miller, with piano inter-
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puting Services, 13 Banbury Rd

TRUTH AND IMAGINATION / Meal (charge), talk
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Church of St. Mary the Virgin (Radcliffe Sq. entrance) /
7pm, Old Library / Email: university.church@ox.ac.uk

SLADE LECTURE / 'Rembrandt's workshop: training
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ture, part of the 'Reconstructing Rembrandt' series. /
5pm / Lecture Hall, Taylor Institution, St Giles', Oxford

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7.30pm / Asian Cultural Centre, Manzil Way
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Taken from Mary Potter's Oxford Calendar, 1982

- Lord Heselaine was once known for his flowing golden locks and rousing speeches. He was once so carried away that he seized and shook the Mace, symbol of the authority of the House of Commons.
- It has become increasingly difficult for Peers to become successful politicians, as they cannot sit in the House of Commons where the most important events take place. The now Tony Benn was the moving spirit behind the bill, passed some years ago, which enabled Peers to renounce their peerages. He started rather more formally as Anthony Wedgewood Benn, then became Lord Stansgate on the death of his father, a Labour Peer.
- Quintin Hogg, former Conservative MP for Oxford, also became a Peer and renounced his title while fighting for the leadership of the party when Harold MacMillan retired. He went round the Party Conference ringing a bell to suggest symbolically perhaps that he would wake things up a bit! He didn't get the leadership, and died aged 94 as Lord Hailsham in 2001.

College	Degree	Union Position
Benn	Christ Church	2nd PPE
Foot	Wadham	2nd PPE
Hailsham	Christ Church	1st Lit. Hum.
Healey	Balioi/Merton	1st Lit. Hum.
Heath	Balioi	2nd PPE
Heselaine	Pembroke	2nd PPE
Jenkins	Balioi	1st PPE
Joseph	Magdalen	1st Law
MacMillan	Balioi	1st (Classics Mods)
Thatcher	Somerville	2nd Chem.
Thorpe	Trinity	3rd Law
Williams	Somerville	2nd PPE
Wilson	Jesus	1st PPE

NB: It is possible to belong to more than one college, usually on 'promotion' to a fellowship. You might also get yourself transferred if your college feared your poor performance would upset their academic record. PPE denotes Politics, Philosophy & Economics. It is usual to study 2 out of the 3 subjects for the 2nd and 3rd years of the 3-year BA, although it is possible to do all of them. Lit. Hum. denotes Literature Humanities, known commonly now as Classics, which comprises study of Ancient Greek and Latin language, literature, history and philosophy. Occasionally still known as 'Greats', after a nickname for the Final exams, it is one of the oldest schools in the University. Sir Harold MacMillan didn't take finals but was allowed his degree on the results of an intermediate examination - a concession due to service in the Great War. The Union is a private debating society where the membership fee is paid by the student himself, and differs from the Oxford University Student Union (OUSU), of which all students are automatically members. During the time of the politicians mentioned (there are of course a great many more who have attended the University since - including the current PM himself, who graduated in Law from St John's in 1975), OUSU didn't really exist. Women have only been allowed to join the Oxford Union Society since 1993, although (now Baroness) Shirley Williams (née Catlin) spoke in a debate there in the early 1950s. She is now Liberal Democrat Leader in the House of Lords.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Paddyfield's 39 Hythe Bridge Street

Famously known as the only Chinese restaurant that Chinese people actually go to in Oxford, my friend and I went along enthusiastically for a spot of Saturday lunchtime dim sum (I am HK Chinese, my friend an ignorant 'guilo'). And indeed the restaurant was filled with mainly Chinese people. I could only spot two tables of non-Chinese munching away. The decor was also typically Chinese; a blend of tasteful calligraphy and tacky new year banners. So far so good then.

Dim sum is eaten mainly by Hong Kong Chinese and consists of morsel-sized delicacies ranging from fried squid cakes to steamed custard buns. The idea is to get lots and share, and maybe get some fried rice or noodles at the end to finish off the meal. The menu at Paddyfield's, which does dim sum from midday to 6pm daily, is rather good, although mainly consisting of traditional dishes (Liaison on Castle Street, on the other hand, like to do a lot of 'specials').

My friend and I opted for 6 dishes to share: prawn dumplings, glutinous rice parcels, cheung fun with dough stick, spare ribs in black bean sauce, grilled dumplings, and fried meat and vegetable buns, with the menu ranging from £2.10 to £3.00 for dim sum dishes, and from £5 for rice and noodles. The food was generally of a good standard (and I am an experienced dim sumer!), except for the cheung fun, which had a very strange, dense dough stick and a slightly artificial sauce. They were also a bit mean with the meat and vegetable buns; you only get 2 for your money. I would recommend the spare ribs though - they reminded me of my mum.

The only problem is that the service is a bit poor. The dishes are not supposed to come all at the same time, but then you're not really supposed to wait 10 minutes between each one either. It was also rather difficult trying to catch a waiter's eye.

The bill came to £16, which includes tea and tip. Oh, and for that final Chinese touch, the dirty dishes were left piled up in full view of the customers.

Connie Kwok, 17.02.03

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