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Next issue Fri 6th April  
Deadline 10am, Thur 5th April

FRIDAY 30TH MARCH - THURSDAY 5TH APRIL 2001

**COMING**

**THE LIBRA PROJECT** - Confidential support group for alcohol and drug users on Monday evenings in Central Oxford. Tel: 01865-723500

**Oxford Bach Choir with Orchester Göttinger Musikfreunde**  
**BRAHMS - GERMAN REQUIEM**  
Conducted by Christian Hammer  
Tuesday 3 April at 7.30pm  
at the Sheldonian Theatre  
Tickets: £5-£15 from Oxford Playhouse Box Office (Tel: 01865-798600)

**Tom Poster**  
(BBC Young Pianist of the Year)  
Beethoven, "MOONLIGHT" SONATA - Chopin, 2 NOCTURNES OP. 27  
Ravel, GABRIEL DE LA NUIT - Liszt, "REQUIEM" PARAPHASE  
**Wednesday 4th April 8pm**  
Hollywell Music Room  
Tickets £8 (£5 concessions) on the door or in advance from Rewley House. 01865-270360 or 280367.

**COMPUTER CORNER**

**FOR SALE NOW:** Good condition PACKARD BELL PC (Legend 425 SX-Elite), 4MB ram, 105MB HD (2 drives), monitor, laser printer (IBM 4037SE Lexmark) £150 o.n.o 01865 739622

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**CARS FOR SALE**

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**MARSHALL B30 BASS** Amplifier, mint condition, £150. bruno.luse@keb.ox.ac.uk 07733403651

**WANTED**

**CHORAL SINGERS WANTED** Central Oxford. Regular paid work. renneller@freezone 763281

**DINING TABLE & 6 CHAIRS**, pref. pale wood singerm@oup.co.uk

**U2 CONCERT TICKETS** wanted pjninja@yahoo.com 07765256438

**REVIEW: FILM**

**Best in Show (12)**  
Dir. Christopher Guest  
Showing at the Phoenix Picture House until Thursday 5th April

Christopher Guest has always found his muse parodying those in search of stardom. As guitarist Nigel Tufnel in *Spinal Tap* (which he also co-wrote) it was musicians; in *Waiting for Guffman*, smalltown wannabe actors. In his latest film he has chosen as his target the unique pedigree of empty suburbanites who choose to carry their pets hundreds of miles to have them judged and exhibited. *Best in Show's* a film about dog shows. As with his earlier films, *Best in Show* takes the form of a mock documentary. We are introduced to five dogs and their owners in a series of straight-to-camera interviews. Guest allows his actors a very free rein, forcing them to improvise around a very loose structure - a technique which produces characters who are painfully credible. "We have so much in common," says the young, big-breasted Sheri-Annsitting next to her octogenarian millionaire husband. "We both like show." Their pet is a ludicrously coiffured poodle called Rhapsody in White. Other characters include a pair of beautifully presented puppylawyers, Meg and Hamilton Swan, who met in Starbucks and live for materials and retail. "We were so lucky to be raised among catalogues," says Meg with a lisp through his "n" hers or thodontics.

**FROM WINTER- INTO SPRING**  
A concert to celebrate the arrival of Spring.  
**OXFORD PRO MUSICA SINGERS**  
THE HILDEGARD CHOIR  
(semi-finalists in the BBC TV Choir of the Year 2000)  
THE ONYX BRASS QUINTETT  
Conducted by Lucy Haigh and Michael Smedley  
Music by Hildegard of Bingen, Palestrina, Weelkes, Malcolm Pearce, Stephen McNeff and motets for multiple choirs and brass by Gabrieli.  
University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, High St, Oxford  
Saturday March 31st at 8pm. Tickets from Oxford Playhouse or on the door

**Oxford Coffee Concerts**  
Hollywell Music Room  
Sunday 1st April  
11.15 am

**FIONA CROSS** (CLARINET)  
**NIGEL CLAYTON** (PIANO)  
**CHRISTOPHER WINDASS** (VIOLA)  
BRAHMS CLARINET SONATA IN F MINOR  
MOZART TRIO K498, "KEGELSTATT"  
BRUCH 8 PIECES OP. 83  
Tickets on the door or from Playhouse Box Office 798600

**EXHIBITIONS**

**MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OXFORD**  
Katherine Keyser  
Mark Lewis  
Alison Turnbull  
John Skelton

**Design into Architecture** / An exhibition of drawings selected by the editor of *The Burlington Magazine*. Ends 12th April / Christ Church Picture Gallery, Christ Church (entrance via Canterbury Gate / Oneil Square) Opening times: Mon-Sat 10.30-1.00, 2.00-4.30. Sun 2.00-4.30 (Easter-end Sept closes 5.30); Tel: 276172, Fax: 202429

**JOBS WANTED**

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**FREVD**  
FRI 30 AMERICAN VANDAL DANCE JAZZ  
SAT 31 ZABADOO LATIN JAZZ  
SUN 1 TRISTAN RUSSCHER (PIANO) 2-4 PM  
then VIVA SALSA! FROM 6.30  
MON 2 DOROTHY SHAW PIANO  
TUE 3 THE BYTES JAZZ  
WED 4 PETE AND SANDRO LATIN GUITARS  
THU 5 LOS HOMBRES LATIN GUITARS  
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**NORTH OXFORD. SHORT** let or long. Independent male graduate to share quiet house. £55p.w. inc fuel. Tel 01865 515379 for details.

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**OXFORD UNIVERSITY STUDENTS!!!**  
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**CONCERTS**

**Friday 30th March**  
**OXFORD PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS** / Shostakovich Piano Concerto no. 2, Bernstein 'West Side Story' / 8pm / Sheldonian Theatre, 798600

**Saturday 31st March**  
**ORLANDO CONSORT** / Songs about food from Medieval Europe; 3-course dinner and concert. / 7.30pm / Christ Church Hall

**FROM WINTER INTO SPRING** / Music for the arrival of Spring / Oxford Pro Musica Singers; The Hildegard Choir / University Church, High Street / 8pm / 798600

**A MUSICAL MISCELLANY** / Donations to Bayworth Baptist Chapel. / 7.30pm / Abingdon Baptist Church, Ock Street, Abingdon

**STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION** / Magdalen College Choir / 798600 / 8.00pm / St Cross Church, St Cross Rd

**MARK HOOPER (PIANO)** / Mozart, Bartok, Prokofiev & Grieg / 10/2 Concerts 798600 / 7.30pm / Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St. Hilda's College.

**OXFORD GIRLS CHOIR** / Concert of 'Close Harmony' works by Roderick Williams / £6 (E3) / 7.30pm / St. Andrew's Church, Linton Road (off Banbury Road)

**MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER** / The Queen's College Choir, £5/£3.8 / 15pm / The Queen's College

**THAMES VALE YOUTH ORCHESTRA** / Britten, Bax & Schumann. £7/£3concs, children free (with parents) 01235 532808 / 7.30pm / Oxford Town Hall

**Sunday 1st April**  
**EVENSONG TO MUSIC BY JOHN STAINER** / Led by the University Church Choir / 5.30pm / St Cross Church, St Cross Rd

**FIONA CROSS (CLARINET), NIGEL CLAYTON (PIANO), CHRISTOPHER WINDASS (VIOLA)** / Brahms, Mozart / Holywell Music Room, 11.15 am / 798600

**Tuesday 3rd April**  
**OXFORD BACH CHOIR** / Brahms German Requiem / Sheldonian Theatre, 7.30pm / 798600

**Wednesday 4th April**  
**TOM POSTER (PIANO)** / Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel, Liszt / Holywell Music Room, 8pm / 270360

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Join us as a Visitor Guide in the Old Bodleian Library Quadrangle this summer to work in shifts between the hours of 9.00 am and 6.00 pm, Monday-Friday, and 9.00 am to 1.00 pm on alternate Saturdays starting from April 2001.

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CLOSING DATE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 6 APRIL 2001.  
PLEASE QUOTE OUR REF. BL1034.

**WE WOULD LIKE** to hear from EFL teachers (pref. Dip) who may be interested in working with us should a suitable opportunity arise. Please send cv(with avail) to Bell Oxford, 15 King Edward Street, Oxford OX1 4HT. Find out more about us on www.bell-centres.com

**ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT REQUIRED** for office in central Oxford. Must show knowledge of entering transactions onto accounting system, processing payroll and producing financial and management accounts. May suit accountancy student; book-keeping experience a distinct advantage. Maternity cover, approximately three days a week required. Start date mid-March. £7 p/h. Contact Office manager on 01865-201132.

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**REVIEW: THEATRE**

**Feelgood, by Alistair Beaton**  
Playhouse until Saturday 31st

GM foods, mobile phones, the prevalence of spin - *Feelgood* leaves no criticism or totem of New Labour unchecked in its merciless lampooning of the present administration's obsession with image. The plot is simple and *zeitgeisty*: it is the night before the leader's big speech to the party conference, and a scandal is threatening to break: genetically modified hops from a government-sanctioned trial have found their way into beer; the breast growth and genital shrinkage in men the length and breadth of the country suggest that all is not well with the custom-built crops. Needless to say, the PM's Press Secretary, Eddie, will do anything to stop the story breaking.

The first act is an energetic rampage through the drafting of the PM's speech. The script takes great delight in demolishing the shibboleths of Blairism - the "spontaneous" asides, the self-consciously "firm, yet fair" approach - and the cast clearly enjoyed getting stuck into their famous characters. Henry Goodman, as Eddie and Jeremy Swift as Paul spar off each other well.

Amrita Dhilli (Asia, the PM's PA) rushes about with vigour and Nigel Plamer excels as George, Labour toff and old friend of the leader. There was a tendency, however, for performances to be rather overblown - nuance and comic timing were replaced by caricature and exaggeration. Henry Goodman, for example, gave his portrayal of Alistair Campbell none of the steely finesse that one would expect from such a powerful man, confining himself largely to frenzied face pulling and fist clenching.

Much of the responsibility for this must lie with the writing. Alistair Beaton, of *Not the Nine O'Clock News* and *Spiriting Away* fame, doesn't produce the sleek, incisive wit that one might expect from a former gag writer to Gordon Brown. Nothing is added to our understanding of this administration, and the characterisation - gaff prone deputy PM, slick, aggressive Press Secretary, unprincipled leader - is fairly unimaginative. Even when the central concern of the play - the suspicion that change itself has been defeated by the appearance of change - is explored in Act II's *State of the Nation* debate - the writing is still lacking in sharpness and originality.

Sarah Montgomery, 28 / 3 / 01

**GIGS + NIGHTLIFE**

**Friday 30th March**  
**BOOGIE BASEMENT** / Soul, funk, jazz & psychedelia. / 10.30pm / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

**LIVE JAZZ** / 7-9pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St, Oxford OX1 3AD; Tel: 203901

**THE BACKROOM BOOGIE** / Soul, funk, disco. £5. / 10-2am / Backroom @ The Bully, 162 Cowley Road; Tel: 244516

**OXFORD FOLK CLUB** / Regal Sign (Four-part Harmonies) £3.50 / 8.30 / Port Mahon, St. Clement's

**PETE OXLEY & INTERNATIONAL GUEST** / Live Jazz. Free. / 7-9pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St

**FUTUR/HOUSE**. £4 before 10.30/£6 after / 9.30pm / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

**COUSTEAU** / Downstairs £5 / 7.30pm / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

**SCAPEGOAT** / Indie rock / Cricketers Arms, 43, Ilffey Rd; Tel: 726264

**AMERICAN VANDAL** / Dance Jazz / 11pm-2am / Freud's, Walton Street; Tel: 311171, Fax: 311171

**Saturday 31st March**  
**THE JAM SESSION** / Admission free / 8.30pm / Cricketers Arms, 43, Ilffey Rd; Tel: 726264

**JOE LEXI ZYDECO BAND** / 510066 / 8pm dance workshop, 9pm band. / Lake Street Community Centre

**IN 2 THE BLUE CLUB NIGHT** / With DJ's Lunar, Trends & Posee £5 / 9-2am / Backroom @ The Bully, 162 Cowley Road; Tel: 244516

**THE BIGGER THE GOD** / 10th anniversary. £5adv / £6door / 8.30pm / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

**MORE THAN THE CRUCIFIXION - JOHN STAINER, MAN AND MUSICIAN** / Lecture with music by Jeremy Dibble / 5.00pm / St Cross Church, St Cross Rd

**KING B / Blues**. Admission free / 7pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St, Oxford OX1 3AD; Tel: 203901

**TRANSFORMATION & THE BLENDER** / Indie upstairs, Mark Gardener & guests downstairs. £5 / 10.30pm / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

**ZABADOO** / Latin Jazz / 11pm-2am / Freud's, Walton Street; Tel: 311171, Fax: 311171

**Sunday 1st April**  
**TRISTAN RUSSCHER** / Piano 2-4pm, then Viva Salsal from 6.30 / Freud's, Walton Street; Tel: 311171

**MAGIC** / Tribute to Freddie Mercury & Queen / 7.30pm / Apollo Theatre, George Street; Tel: 08706063500

**ACOUSTIC BLUES JAM SESSION** / Admission free / 8.30pm / Cricketers Arms, 43, Ilffey Rd; Tel: 726264

**Monday 2nd April**  
**LUIS D'AGOSTINO** / Jazz trio / 8.30pm / Cricketers Arms, 43, Ilffey Rd; Tel: 726264

**CLARENCE TEX WALKER & THE WALKER STREET BAND** / Monday blues night, free entry. / 8pm onwards / Fuggle & Firkin, 14 Gloucester Street; Tel: 246255

**CONTEMPO, AUGUST, SPACEHOPPER** / £4/£3 / 8-midnight / Backroom @ The Bully, 162 Cowley Road; Tel: 244516

**Tuesday 3rd April**  
**JAZZ CLUB WITH DENNY ILETT JNR QUARTET** / Free entry / 9-mid / Backroom @ The Bully, 162 Cowley Road; Tel: 244516

**SOUNDING OFF - THE FINAL VOLUME** / Young Oxford Music Talent. £1 / 8pm / Pegasus Theatre, Magdalen Road; Tel: 722851, Fax: 204976

**Wednesday 4th April**  
**DELICIOUS MUSIC** / Open mic & flash band bookings / £2 / 8.30pm / Rendezvous Pub, St. Ebbes

**THE CATWEAZLE CLUB** / Performance Showcase for musicians / £2.50 / 8.30pm / Northgate Hall, St Michael's Street; Tel: 243276

**Thursday 5th April**  
**CHRIS GARRICK GROUP** / Contemporary jazz quartet / £6/£3 concs. / Doors 8.15pm, Music 9pm / The Spin @ The Wheatheaf, Wheatheaf Alley, 12m / High Street; Tel: 243276

**THE SERVANT, VIGILANCE** / BLACK SPECIAL, PLASTICENE, NEMO. / £5/£4 / 8pm-2am / Backroom @ The Bully, 162 Cowley Road; Tel: 244516

**ACOUSTIC SESSION** / Admission free. / 8.30pm / Cricketers Arms, 43, Ilffey Rd; Tel: 726264

**CINEMA**

Until Thursday 5th April

The Phoenix, Walton Street 512526

**BEST IN SHOW (12)**  
Daily 1.00 (not Sun), 3.00, 4.45, 9.10  
Spoon documentary of America's 'Crufts'. See review.

**CHOCOLAT (12)** Daily 7.00  
Juliette Binoche defeats the church with chocolate. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk

**THE DEAD OF JERICHO (12)** Sun 2.00  
Morse's first case. With talk by Colin Dexter.

**O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU? (12)** Sun 12.45  
Coen Brothers' musical Odyssey.

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