I remember back in the ‘80s we used to make jokes about computers saying what else can they do? Can they make coffee? Can they give you a shave? If not, then they are not worth their money. Twenty-five years later the computer civilization has moved faster than any other evolution on Earth and it would not surprise me if, in the near future, we will not make coffee with our computer but we will probably download it from the internet; we already download cookies after all.

This is an issue about computers and their evolution, and it has a dual message since our e-zine is connected to the computer evolution. Ovi magazine is somehow a part of this evolution being totally digitally-made and electronically-distributed; even though Asa and I come from the traditional printed media world. Well, I’m the old dinosaur; Asa is more a kid of his time.

Being a digital and internet-orientated magazine means that we had to improve our style, layout, navigation and the way we pass our information. This has meant that for the last four months, at least, we’ve been experimenting with different styles, but now Oliver, a German in Mexico (sounds like a film title), has joined giving us solutions.

In our eleventh issue we managed to reach our first target, which was to create a modern and easy to navigate site and we have now started moving towards our second target: the expansion of Ovi magazine to Ovi project, with first step being our newest section, Ovi Fiction.

More sections are to follow soon, since the Ovi team is getting bigger and more eager to expand where nobody has gone before - I suppose that sounds just like Star Trek but it is our destination and, as I said before, the way computers and the internet evolves every day you just…never know!

In the intro pages of the magazine, next to the editorials, you will find a small intro about the sections of the magazine and another intro about Ovi magazine, its history and who we are. Please do read it. In the other pages there are the usual columns with Asa spying over the letter P and my anger over the Iranian clowns.

There are a lot of computers. In every section I think. F.A. Hutchison is after Chinese keyboards and Satya Prakash is talking about how computers are changing the Organizations. Louie Parsons asks if computers are a friend or foe. And Tony Butcher checks his magic ball with predictions for 2006.

Ovi Fiction, Asa and I have added two short stories and Jan Sand has submitted another poem, this time about ‘Virus’. We know that there are people out there who write short stories, poems and they would like to see them published. This is exactly what we are doing, so if you have something you would like to see published, send it to us.

By the way, we are inviting anybody who wants to write and join the dream. At the top of the page we always mention when the next issue will be published and what the theme is. You can always send us articles even if they are not about our theme and we are always looking for correspondents from all around the world who can give us an idea on what’s going on in their country. This is the beauty of the digital media, so let’s use it.

As always, please send us your comments and your opinions about the magazine and the themes we are writing about, and don’t forget to join the forum and start a conversation with us about anything you like.

Enjoy issue 11
Thanos Kalamidas
Happy New Year to those who deserve it, while the rest of you can just work harder over 2006 and we’ll see what happens next January.

Here is the first Ovi of the New Year, the first Ovi in a January, since we missed this month last year, the eleventh issue ever and the second time we have revamped the website.

The website has been our biggest dilemma over the past year, but once we met a charming gentleman living in Mexico, all our web concerns evaporated. Young Oli is a hard-working technical genius who takes all the responsibility and praise for the creation of our new site.

We hope you like the new layout and it doesn’t take you too long to become familiar with the navigation, if you have any comments or suggestions please email us or post them in our forum. Please try to explore all the new sections to get an overview of all the areas Ovi is covering, there is something here for everybody.

Many of our regulars are back again, refreshed from a relaxing Christmas/festive period, in which we all over did it, and are eager to flex their creativity within the pages of Ovi. We decided that issue 11 should carry the topic ‘computers’, probably because 11 looks like binary code or something bizarre like that.

We have F.A. Hutchison revealing the headache of using a computer in China, Louie Parsons asking if PCs are our friend or foe and Satya Prakash takes a trip down Internet memory lane. Tony Butcher is back with a preview of the 2006 financial year, Phil Schwarzmann is Bilingual Illiterate again, Giorgos Vrachliotis is Caffeinated, Jan Sand makes the virus poetic and Nic Mepham entertains in the Baloney section.

Thanos and I have been our usual busy selves and you can enjoy a variety of articles from the two of us in every section. Don’t forget to check out the new iFiction section that we launched in issue ten. If you want to contribute anything to Ovi, be it a column, illustrations, photos, cartoons, fiction, poetry, an iPromote ad or a blog web address, you are most welcome.

I shall end with a thank you to each of our contributors, plus a three-cheer salute to our favourite web designer, Oli…Hip Hip hooray! Hip Hip hooray! Hip Hip hooray!

All the best for 2006,

Asa
Window to the nightmare

I'm sure my relationship with Mr. Bill Gates and his products is not unique and if you check the net you will find that others have worse feelings towards him than me. I simply hate the bastard! To get worse, there have been times I admire him!!! And these times are equally as many as the times I hate him.

Ok, imagine a life where you must eat and the only thing you can eat is raw cauliflower. And you eat the bloody thing day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year. It is the same with Mr. Microsoft. For twenty years I have to eat the same cauliflower and like it is not enough I always look forward for his newest discovery.

In the beginning it was MS Dos. Version 3 was good, version 5 a disaster, version 6 just saved some things to come to version 7 and lose everything, and then the next cauliflower, Windows. Supposed to be windows to a new environment, it is the same with Mr. Microsoft. For twenty years I have to eat the same cauliflower and like it is not enough I always look forward for his newest discovery.

But then, nothing would have happened without Windows. Think of it. There are millions of users all around the world, probably billions. And there are millions that their salary depends on computers. Millions that work for computers and other millions that works to improve computers. In an interview a couple of years ago, the new king of Jordan, when he was still fresh on the throne, said that his country is very poor and even though in the middle of oil rich countries is a state without resources, so he was trying to lead his people to follow the example of India and become a computer power. And all that because of Mr. Gates. The one and only Mr. Gates. What about the internet? Check your PC and you’ll find Instant Messenger MSN, browser MS-explorer, one fifth of the people I know they have Hotmail. All my programs work perfectly alright only with Windows, however much penguins and other birds have tried. Even my Mac has Windows programs, not to mention MS Word which is one program after Windows that I haven’t seen any computer not have. To make it worse, most of the Macs I know have it as well.

But then when you buy a new equipment or try to install an old one you just plug and pray that everything will work, otherwise you have to buy a new one which will be compatible to the newest version of Windows.

And Bill Gates created the new Windows XP Professional and everybody said, ‘now you are going to be happy, everything works’. Oh yes, it did indeed till I downloaded a security upgrade from the Microsoft site and my computer crashed so badly that I had to format the disk and lost two months of work. Of course, all of you cleverly will say why you didn’t keep a backup? Yeah, when was the last time you took a backup?

Bedtime e-story

Computers is the topic of Ovi issue 11, Thanos has dealt with Bill Gates and his Microsoft emotions, so it is up to me to write about Google. Over the past couple of years, there has been discussion about online book libraries and Google has been grabbing most of the headlines.

There are already 17,000 free books in the Project Gutenberg Online Book Catalogue, but Google has announced plans to create an index to all the world’s books. This little venture has run into some opposition from publishers, authors and other copyright holders, but it is usually a matter of time before a giant gets his own way.

My issue with online digital catalogues is that I can’t read a novel on a screen. I have a dozen e-books from Project Gutenberg on my hard drive, but I use them for research and not to read. ‘Read’, now that is not the term I would use because reading involves going from top to bottom, I’d say ‘scroll’ because the text moves in a different way compared to reading a printed book.

Do e-books encourage more people to read? I guess they are useful to download to your laptop and read on a flight, but then what am I supposed to do with the bookmark my wife bought for me? I can’t imagine sitting down in the future to read my daughter a bedtime story via Microsoft Reader, even if it does have ClearType.

Google may feel that this is a public service, but I don’t believe it is necessary. Reading a real book will take you away from the computer rather than another a few hours in front of it. We need a break from the monitor and now we can install a TV card and watch movies and TV shows, the time in front of the screen is becoming dangerous.

On the other hand, if all my books were on the hard drive that would free up more space on my book shelf for DVDs and my back wouldn’t ache after moving countless boxes of books each time we move house. I guess only time will tell concerning Google’s success in this venture, but until then I’ll read to my daughter traditional bedtime stories, “Once upon a time there was an ERROR 404!”
There is an old Chinese saying that one picture is like one thousand words, but there is a number that came out lately after research by the British medical journal The Lancet that is like one million thoughts.

Since 1998, 3.9 million people have lost their life in the Democratic Republic of Congo due to local conflicts and civil war. 38,000 people every month.

Please read it again. 38,000 people lose their life every month. Mothers and kids are included in this 38,000.

Wherever you live, in whatever part of this planet, check the map of your country, how many cities have this population? In how many of them have you been? Or live now? You saw the parks full of people; you saw libraries and supermarkets, malls and libraries, people going to restaurants and pubs. You saw babies breastfeeding and kids running to School. You saw people like you going to work, laugh and cry. Well one city this size has vanished after one month in Congo!

I just hope some people will get angry, I hope these bureaucrats in the UN or EU will have nightmares every single night with the screams of 38,000 people crying out. I hope somebody will start understanding what all these numbers mean for our future as a society.

38,000 people don’t even have the chance to cry help every month in Congo because there are 38,000 dead!

At the end of last year, I was asked to rewrite a cover story that dealt with the rise of ethnic commerce in Finland, particularly Helsinki. The article dealt with the fact that the mainstream Finnish retail sector was ignoring the influx of immigrants and their demands, which has led to a boom in the number of ethnic grocery shops.

Ten years ago only mention the name of François Mitterand in France it was enough to start a political conversation you were definitely going to lose. The increasing number of unemployment, the suicides in his close court, the scandals even in his personal life with an unknown daughter and his Napoleon style would come like a rope full of strong personalities, like one million thoughts.

As an immigrant, albeit a Western EU foreigner, I have never searched out products from my own country or felt that they should even be available to me. Naturally, the stores stock international brands that I recognise from back home, but that is a bonus on my part. I will buy and eat Finnish brands and products without feeling bitter or forced.

Migrants are buying their own ‘special’ food from different stores and are avoiding Finnish environments can lead to increased suspicion.

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Computers - Friend or foe?

A couple of months ago here in Finland a girl went on a blind date to meet a guy she met in a chat room, a couple of days later she was found dead and tied to a tree. These stories are becoming way too common place and are treated with the urban myth scenario and the “it would never happen to me”. But unfortunately, it can and does.

I have a friend who has spent the last 4 years looking for a boyfriend on the net. She won’t listen to friends telling her how dangerous it is and the only reason I think nothing has happened to her so far is the fact she lives so far from the people she is seeking.

This girl is devoutly religious and is a virgin, so as you can imagine when she gives this information she receives mail from a certain type of guy. So many times she has said he is intelligent, good looking and many times she has said he is from a certain type of guy. So information she receives mail and is a virgin, so as you can imagine when she gives this information she receives mail from a certain type of guy.

Why isn’t he able to make his way into the city and meet people at weekends or if he is looking for a foreign girl why not travel instead of spending time in his home behind a screen living in a fantasy world of chat rooms cyber girlfriends and cyber sex? And why isn’t she asking these questions herself? Unfortunately, we don’t know who we are conversing with in chat rooms it gives people a certain power to think they can be whoever they want to be to impress others and probably themselves.

Computers are useless. They can only give you answers. - Pablo Picasso

Electronic aids, particularly domestic computers, will help the inner migration, the opting out of reality. Reality is no longer going to be the stuff out there, but the stuff inside your head. It’s going to be commercial and nasty at the same time. - J G Ballard

Today the business world has become highly competitive with most of the bargaining power shifting towards the customers. Those companies, which can give maximum value to customer at least cost are the order winners. All this has hurt the bottom line of the companies and those who managed to change themselves have survived while others busted. This race for survival has brought radical changes in how companies work and their greatest help in this era has been the computers.

The traditional workflow in any company had been on the lines of various functional departments, like finance & accounting, human resources, production, sales & marketing, etc. But now the workflow has to be changed on the lines as to how a customer interacts with the company. The customer does not see the company along the lines of functional departments but along the various processes, like the process of buying or getting after sales service. Consequently the functional divisions within an organization have merged and have taken the shape of a value chain. In this chain value is created and ultimately passed on to the customer while information flows back through the chain from the customer.

How are organizations managing these changes? Earlier the information of one department used to be with the same department, but now the data are required by all the departments according to the process. The amount of information flow has grown by volumes and also needed is high speed of transaction. An organization which can bring about this change successfully, is called an agile enterprise, and has the best chance of adjusting itself to the changing dynamics of market.

Today all the information sharing and processing work has been totally taken over by computers and the whole workflow is managed by network of computers. This kind of solution is often called as enterprise solution for their reach across the enterprise. They have made the process streamlined, efficient and quite fast. Earlier many operations used to take days for the amount of data processing which are now done in real time. For example any change desired by customer will be managed quite fast. This has benefit for both the customer and the organization, as it reduces waste in the system, thereby bringing down the cost. The information about the potential for the market is more accurately assessed and the production follows it.

Since the information flow is being handled by computers so management has become far easier. This has further resulted in the hierarchy getting flatter. Not only the senior management but most of the employee has access to the information creating democracy. This empowerment of the employees most often results in boosting the morale which is reflected in the increasing productivity.

Today computers have become backbone of any organization and both the customers and the producers are getting benefited.

www.greensatya.blogspot.com
Watching 2006 closely

Happy New Year everyone! There’s plenty to look forward to in the coming twelve months. Worldwide stock markets have had a very strong start to the year, but the real headlines are going to the commodities.

Large banks and funds who squared their books for the end of 2005 have been buying the world’s resources on the financial exchanges. Oil (4%), Gold (5%) and Copper (2.8%) have all had large price rises from the start of the year. Secondary commodity markets have also been benefiting, with coffee and sugar performing particularly well so far. But when everyone is calling the markets higher, it makes a perfect opportunity to sell some of those recent highs.

Stock markets, for example, have gone through large psychological levels with the FTSE 100 (UK) above 5700 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average above 11000. I would suggest a correction could happen before lovers celebrate St. Valentine’s Day on the 14th February.

The coming months will be focusing on different events either side of the Atlantic. Firstly in Europe, the European Central Bank (ECB) is widely expected to raise rates again in March 2006 by one quarter of one percent to 2.5% and rising to 3% before the end of 2006. This will be in their continuing attempt to provide price stability to the citizens of Europe, by controlling inflation which is still at risk from second round effects from wage price negotiations in the member countries. Although I feel the more of a priority the ECB makes of this issue, the stronger the wage demands will be from the major unions in France and Germany.

Germany is starting to see the beginning of an economic recovery and the massive influx of foreign visitors and their money; for the Football World Cup Finals in June will give it a mighty boost. If anyone can find somewhere I can back England to win at more than 10-1 please let me know.

In the United Kingdom, it is a matter of ‘wait and see’. The recent small cut in interest rates will not be the start of a series of moves, and the markets are keeping a close eye on all the data coming out over the next few months. It looked like a strong trading Christmas for most retailers and they will be hoping to continue that trend into the spring.

In the United States, Ben Bernanke is only weeks away from taking over from Alan Greenspan. It is clear he will be in charge of bringing the current cycle of rate rises to an end, but the unanswerable question is at what level the Federal Reserve will stop. It will be somewhere between 4.5-5.5% and I would think by the end of 2006 interest rates will be at the upper end of that range.

The major macro-economic story for the start of the year is Iran’s desire to begin nuclear power generation. Allowing one of the world most unstable and uncooperative countries the ability to produce the most devastating weapon of modern times is not on anybody’s agenda. The United Nations Security Council involvement is probably only weeks away and the world’s eyes are watching closely.

Luckily for American troops in Iraq, it’s not too far to walk to Iran to begin military operations there. It makes me think the whole Iraq war was just to give the United States the largest base camp it required for another invasion.

Empowerment through Computers

It would only be a slight exaggeration if I say that today computers have become as ubiquitous as air, if only we could see it. The use of computers in many ways have revolutionized our world and introduced radical changes. Some of the effects are direct and can be seen easily but there are several other indirect effects which have cascaded deep down our society.

One such change brought about due to use of computers is accessibility of information. Computers have removed the information asymmetry, made it available to all with minimal delay and cost. Information is basis of empowerment consequently all the sections of our society have been empowered in proportion to the information dissemination

The most visible impact of empowerment has been seen between citizens and its Government. An empowered citizen is one who is aware of all the fundamental rights bestowed by the government of the land and also the opportunity to exercise those rights in totality without any obstruction. It also includes free access to the required levels of government and two way information exchange. This type of governance is also referred as E-governance.

With E-governance becoming the norm, numerous layers of bureaucracy has been removed. Gone are the days when information used to be with only few privileged, resulting in lot of unfair advantages. Today any citizen can interact directly with the top echelons of government and get the information. The communication has also improved, today one need not walk through the corridors of power to get audience with the ministers, a simple email is enough. All of this has translated the right to freedom of expression and freedom of information to actuality.

Various processes have been streamlined resulting in greater efficiency and transparency. Planning and decision making has vastly improved. The receding layer of bureaucracy has also resulted in dropping levels of corruption and reduced the lead time for taking decision. Due to computers information has become accessible, understandable, has given people means to communicate and participate in policy making processes for improving their life.

With the help of computers many services can be facilitated anywhere and anytime leading to improved citizen relationship. This enhanced two way information exchange has also made possible efficient micro management of state’s affair, which was earlier not possible due to volume of transactions involved. It has bridged the urban-rural, gender and many other divisions of society.

Recent examples have shown how with little innovation and use of computers the benefits can cascade down. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Rita, US

www.greensatya.blogspot.com
Ain’t the Christian idea of forgiveness great! It truly is a spiritual gift, a gift that continually saves the evangelistic arse of Pat Robertson. Evangelism is supposed to be the preaching of the Christian Gospel, but his approach seems to demotically twisted and it scares the hell out of me if that is a representation of Christianity goodness.

Pat Robertson is easily recognised because he has to hop around on one foot, since the other is continually wedged in his mouth. His latest outburst claimed that Israeli leader Ariel Sharon’s stroke was divine retribution for leaving the Gaza Strip and this left his bodyguard nervously twitching.

There was no need for them to make apologies and Bible where inspired his comments, “We have the ability to take him out, and I think the time has come that we exercise that ability.”

Hallelujah! God be praised that this mindless jackass has his own television show, The 700 Club, on which he can make suggestions, such as the explosion of a nuclear weapon at State Department Headquarters would be good for the country and “if you look over the course of a hundred years, I think the gradual erosion of the consensus that’s held our country together is probably more serious than a few bearded terrorists who fly into buildings.”

One man muttering these things on the street is considered strange, but give him a TV show and he becomes Network’s Howard Beale. In his letter to Sharon’s son, he wrote:

“My concern for the future safety of your nation led me to make remarks which I can now view in retrospect as inappropriate and insensitive in light of a national grief experienced because of your father’s illness… I ask your forgiveness and the forgiveness of the people of Israel.”

Personally, I’d tell the old mindless jackass to go show his apology and Bible where God’s sun don’t shine.

On the other hand, he must be a mindless jackass if he was making yet another public apology after only 140-odd days. Back in August 2005, ole Pat was drawing on that Book of the Bible that calls for US Special Forces to kill Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. I’m not sure which of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, inspired his comments, “We have the ability to take him out, and I think the time has come that we exercise that ability.”

In the last issue of the Ovi magazine I wrote an article about the presidential elections in Bolivia predicting that Evo Morales will be the new president. One month after, the llama shepherd and unionist is the first native Bolivian to become president in the history of the country.

Evo Morales will be the president of the poorest South American country and one of the poorest countries in the world on the 22nd of January. In a desperate move he has already started a trip to major countries around the world looking for help, since he knows for a fact that the USA are going to make his life difficult and he can’t ignore the children that die from hunger in his country.

In this cynical word of modern politics, his romantic message for power to the people is so refreshing that it becomes a surprise. The man started his tour with a visit to France where he was surprised on how welcome he was and that he had the chance to feel like an equal with the Caesar style French President. Then he visited China where he mentioned that Mao’s red book was one of his first readings with the next stop India and then Iran.

I know that the man needs allies and if that cannot be the USA he has to find them somewhere else, but his advisors must remind him of a couple of things. China and her leadership of today have nothing to do with Mao’s teachings. Actually George W. Bush might have more to do with Mao than the Chinese leadership. A dictatorship under the veil of People’s Republic with mysterious aims and huge weaponry and targets in the east.

Iran, another dictatorship with a real veil this time, has a racist and mad comic president, with cleric elite that rule the poor country and threaten any meaning of peace. India, another mystery; a country that has only one agenda over the last 30 years, which is to become an upper power at least in central Asia and occasionally involved in Africa, is a dangerous ally.

I left France and Europe last because Mr. Morales must be sure that the European Union will help Bolivia and especially France. We Europeans have the reputation to help the weak and defenseless. The only problem is as an old saying goes after he makes a deal with Europe and shakes hands, he had better check his fingers or he might find out that some of them are missing.

One last thing, people respect you when you have a mighty and huge opposition like David and Goliath but they don’t respect you when you are going around with the wrong gang! And it is one thing USA not to like you and another to find your self in the same bed with the Chinese leadership and the Iranian ayatollahs!
Americans may be celebrating a new holiday on the 2nd Monday in October every year because claims have been made that Chinese mariners discovered and mapped America decades before Columbus’ 1492 arrival.

The unearthing of this map has not appeared. The map was bought in 2001 by a Chinese lawyer and collector, who became aware of the map’s significance after reading Gavin Menzies’ controversial book 1421: The Year the World Discovered the World.

By Asa Butcher

Zheng Day

For the last six or seven issues of Ovi magazine I found that I wrote something about the Iranian dictatorship and its cur- tain-style but dangerous leaders. Getting ready for this issue I scanned the news to make sure that there was something about Iran, but there was nothing worth writing.

I said, ‘Fine, this is going to be an issue without an article about the usual clowns.’ Ha! Ayatollah Ali, something like the supreme leader of Iran - I don’t know why I thought that Allah would be their supreme leader - took care of it.

“The Islamic world has no need of teaching about human rights and republic since they are all lies. The western values lead to immorality, violence and homosexuality that could never be an issue of mimic.” And that was the supreme spiritual leader and highest authority of the Islamic republic, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

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Hold on to your horses or camels, cowboy! Let me see. First of all you don’t need lessons about human rights in Iran, don’t have human rights. You only have clerics’ rights. The rest can just die! Any doubts? Ask the women who enjoy the total equality in Iran, well equality with the camels probably and according to the clerics’ teaching should be thankful for that as well.

Republic and democracy. Iran’s best! A year ago they used every possible publicity trick to show us that they are a real democracy and even though the favorite was a cleric the republic voted a civilian. So why do they complain? They are so proud of how the western style democracy works there, but there is a catch.

The new president is a puppet. He wakes up every morning and after praying for one hour he’s becoming the mouthpiece of the clerics. He is the worst puppet ever, he’s always bending. Poor dude, he must really have problems with his back from so much bending.

As far as homosexuality, there are no guys in Iran, at least officially because according to the sharia law it is a sin punished by death with latest victim Mehdi Barzandeh, who was sentenced to death in 1995. His case was the last after a man during the early-90s, so who would ever dare to claim homosexuality in Iran.

However a book called Witness Play by Sirious Shamisa was banned from the bookshops because it claimed that a number of cultural figures from Iranian culture were homosexuals. Then over the last few years a number of gay men and women escaped from the Iranian prisons and with the threat of a death pleaded asylum from European countries, especially Netherlands.

According to a secret survey by human right organizations, homosexuality is popular in Iran, especially among young people and women. It doesn’t disappear if you ignore it, hide it, punish it or kill. Well with the reputation clerics of every religion have we are going to find a lot of naughty stories one day when they open their closet.

It might be tiring talking about Iran in every issue but it is not tiring talking about a danger, an international danger that can be the beginning of an immense disaster. But most of all, I despise any kind of dictatorship.

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I said, ‘Fine, this is going to be an issue without an article about the usual clowns.’ Ha! Ayatollah Ali, something like the supreme leader of Iran - I don’t know why I thought that Allah would be their supreme leader - took care of it.

The Islamic world has no need of teaching about human rights and republic since they are all lies. The western values lead to immorality, violence and homosexuality that could never be an issue of mimic.” And that was the supreme spiritual leader and highest authority of the Islamic republic, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Hold on to your horses or camels, cowboy! Let me see. First of all you don’t need lessons about human rights in Iran, don’t have human rights. You only have clerics’ rights. The rest can just die! Any doubts? Ask the women who enjoy the total equality in Iran, well equality with the camels probably and according to the clerics’ teaching should be thankful for that as well.

Republic and democracy. Iran’s best! A year ago they used every possible publicity trick to show us that they are a real democracy and even though the favorite was a cleric the republic voted a civilian. So why do they complain? They are so proud of how the western style democracy works there, but there is a catch.

The new president is a puppet. He wakes up every morning and after praying for one hour he’s becoming the mouthpiece of the clerics. He is the worst puppet ever, he’s always bending. Poor dude, he must really have problems with his back from so much bending.

As far as homosexuality, there are no guys in Iran, at least officially because according to the sharia law it is a sin punished by death with latest victim Mehdi Barzandeh, who was sentenced to death in 1995. His case was the last after a man during the early-90s, so who would ever dare to claim homosexuality in Iran.

However a book called Witness Play by Sirious Shamisa was banned from the bookshops because it claimed that a number of cultural figures from Iranian culture were homosexuals. Then over the last few years a number of gay men and women escaped from the Iranian prisons and with the threat of a death pleaded asylum from European countries, especially Netherlands.

According to a secret survey by human right organizations, homosexuality is popular in Iran, especially among young people and women. It doesn’t disappear if you ignore it, hide it, punish it or kill. Well with the reputation clerics of every religion have we are going to find a lot of naughty stories one day when they open their closet.

It might be tiring talking about Iran in every issue but it is not tiring talking about a danger, an international danger that can be the beginning of an immense disaster. But most of all, I despise any kind of dictatorship.
Key loggers are one of the most used programs for logging each keystroke that is made on a computer. Normally it is used by jealous husbands on their wife’s personal pc or your business partner or boss wants to monitor each movement you make on the office computers, but when it is used on the computers of a Bank it shall not take long to do naughty things with all those private passwords and account numbers.

The Bank of Sumitomo Mitsui (Japan) in London was laying there like an open book in front of the bad boys. The only problem was that the money could not be transferred as the cyber police interacted quickly to prevent this cyber assault. In Israel, the bad boy who should have received the transfer was arrested quickly after attempting to rob the bank in London.

How could these bad boys come so far to be almost robbing a bank over the internet? Very simple. They somehow achieved it to hide key loggers and this is known by Scotland Yard too, so they have informed other Banks about this issue so they might consider checking their protection to block this robbers from getting on to their network. But how would such a protection work? The Cyber Police can’t be everywhere at the same time, let alone monitor every hacking attempt to a network with delicate information. What a Safe is for coins, bills and gold bars, Spam-Filters, Virus Scanners and Firewalls are for Money that is only available in bits and bytes.

Every Bank, every security relevant IT system has a whole palette of protection mechanisms whose duty is to recognize attackers early enough because suspicious activities are very often present and some security systems might not even recognize them because they can’t get smarter by learning only what they have on their own system.

Because of this, many have human personnel that handle this kind of security lack like the ones offered by the company CoreTec IT Security Solution GmbH in Austria. Their Product ANT (Analyzing Network Traffic) is an IDS (Intrusion Detection System) that is additionally accompanied by humans made of flesh and blood.

Human intuition with high tech is supposed to win the game against the bad boy, but you shall never forget: The Bad is always the same and everywhere! And more on the Internet!

Back in 2003 someone had written long articles about the oil crisis and the price of oil. Their best predictions were that even though a series of events and local crisis show that the price of oil will keep increasing, by the end of 2005 the price will stabilize somewhere around $50 a barrel.

At the beginning of 2006, the price has reached $64.30 a barrel and everything shows that the prices will increase even more, disappointing all the predictions. Actually, and in less than a month from the first of January 2006, the price of oil has increased nearly five dollars a barrel.

Excuses? There have been plenty over the last two months. The war, or whatever they want to call it, still continues, which means nothing works over there, especially the oil industry and the number of the dead is increasing with the same rhythm as the price of the oil.

The illness of the Israeli prime minister, his disability to continue his duties and the whole Middle East is facing a new crisis, and if that is not enough guerilla groups in Nigeria keep attacking the main oil canals and Russia gives a heart problem to Europe with their games for the natural gas.

You need more? You can just add the insecurity of the international community with Iran playing games with its nuclear program, North Korea following close enough and somewhere around there India and Pakistan play their own nuclear games. More? Add the mystery of China, a country that constantly violates every sense of human rights and democracy with a secret production of nuclear bombs. Unfortunately this lot is always the same and accidentally it’s the same lot that pays the taxes as well.

The oil producing countries assured everybody that there is not going to be any production problem and it will be a constant flow of the black gold. To keep anybody from blaming them they explained that any further problem in oil reaching the public or a sudden change of the price - of course higher - will have to do with the refinery and not with the producers.

Endless games and excuses with only one victim, the simple consumer who will see the price of milk and bread going higher because the factories need oil, because transportation needs oil, because there are always the few who make the profit and the lot who pays. Unfortunately this lot is always the same and accidentally it’s the same lot that pays the taxes as well.

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Does your computer drive you to download a six-pack? Does your slow net connection have you reaching for the bottle? Does the stress of another ‘Ctrl, Alt, Del’ reboot require a long drag on a cigarette? According to a recent poll by UK charity Developing Patient Partnerships, more than a third of men and a quarter of women relieve stress with alcohol.

The poll discovered that almost one third of those interviewed said that IT-related problems were a major source of stress, although death and divorce are still considered the top causes. The irony that computers were supposed to ease our workload, but have contributed to an increase in our workload, is causing many to burnout.

Emails, news headlines, RSS feeds, forwards, spam, pop-up ads and forum updates are the mere dust on the keyboard because the computer is a schizophrenic work colleague who can never decide whether it wants to bring your ideas to life or reduce you to a gibbering wreck.

Amateur computer users face an online world filled with words such as Spyware, WMF Exploits, cookies, metafiles and blended threats, yet we keep coming back for more. We rely upon computers to a terrifying extent and we need them to answer all our queries, questions and problems. How many of us have been faced a situation similar to this: Sorry, my computer says Cheese is the capital of France.

It is no wonder that computers can cause our stress levels to escalate and that is before the first ‘Program not responding’ message of the day. Recent web statistics claimed that there are approximately 15 billion web interactions every day, 22 million blogs worldwide and 60 million registered Skype users worldwide, although there is only one true Ovi magazine to relieve the tension.

How many of you regularly back up all your files in case of the dreaded crash? How many of you regularly check for updates for Windows, your browser, your antivirus software, your Spyware protection - do you even have Spyware protection? If your computer stopped working right now, would it be a minor inconvenience or would you be distraught over the loss of everything?

Steps can be taken to ease the stress of working with computers, such as controlled deep breathing, humour, taking regular breaks and I have heard that sex is a good way to ease stress, although that maybe better for those working from home. After all that...I’m going for a drink.

In the beginning of another year, the sixth in the twenty-first century, it is so sad to notice that even the feeling of a new year, a new beginning, has lost its glamour. Whatever you believed back in the ’60s, ’70s and even early-’80s, the New Year was bringing hope that something will change, something better will come. But nowadays the New Year came and we know for a fact that it will be at least as bad as the last, if not worse.

This feeling has mostly to do with the environment, this very same environment of the global economy that lets 30,000 kids die everyday somewhere in this wonderful world, this very same environment that lets hundreds of species disappear every day.

A few years ago, angry with the ignorance and the intentional destruction of the environment, I had thought, ‘Let them screw concrete and then we will see how they are going to recreate it.’ And here we are. Did you know that hippos are an endangered species? Show me one children’s book that doesn’t have a picture of a hippo. Most city kids will find it easier to recognize a hippo than a sheep.

A few years we are going to go to museums where hippo bones will stand next to dinosaur skeletons and we will try to explain to our kids that these were alive when we were walking on this planet. And then try to explain to them that you don’t have the same age as the dinosaurs.

Even the way we deal with the problems have something of a feeling of a new year, the sixth in the twenty-first century, it is so sad to notice that even the feeling of a new year, a new beginning, has lost its glamour. Whatever you believed back in the ’60s, ’70s and even early-’80s, the New Year was bringing hope that something will change, something better will come. But nowadays the New Year came and we know for a fact that it will be at least as bad as the last, if not worse.

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Earth ain’t Heaven

By Oliver H.

“Friends” that let you down when you need them the most, businessmen that waste your time trying to benefit only themselves and maybe an idiot you have to live with every day is what most people would call HELL! But wait! There are people that hate other things, like sitting on the streets with their kids that haven’t been washed in days maybe weeks trying to get some food and money by asking the people that don’t even bother noticing their existence.

In fact I am one of those bad persons who doesn’t care enough anymore to reach to my pocket and give them a few Mexican pesos. After living over 6 months now in the biggest city of the world, you get used to see somebody asking for money every... let’s say 5-10 min. walk! More than 24 million humans living in this city and I still feel alone and uniquely unadapted to society. (If you can call this society!) Today in the morning while my mom was getting ready to go to work, as usual the 10 dogs from the neighbour started barking like the end of the world would be near, at the same time a food seller with his mobile oven was hanging in the air above my department (5 floors) we live in (15 meters high) starts to shake very smoothly. Is it an earthquake? O no, this time it’s just the truck that drove by our street! But wait now I can feel a vibration nothing like an earthquake. Oooh it’s just a Helicopter like every motherf... DAY that has to look after my underwear or maybe just likes hanging in the air above my department a while.

After one minute of his crying, shouting or whatever you want to call it, the expected happens. If you think here in Mexico it’s enough to have ONE damn gas man shouting something that sounds like an invalid retarded monster crying for help, then you are wayy far from reality because there are two other gasmen that join him to shout exactly the same shit only in different voices and sounds!

As if this wouldn’t be enough the department (5 floors) we live in (15 meters high) starts to shake very smoothly. Is it an earthquake? O no, this time it’s just the truck that drove by our street! But wait now I can feel a vibration nothing like an earthquake. Oooh it’s just a Helicopter like every motherf... DAY that has to look after my underwear or maybe just likes hanging in the air above my department a while.

The good thing is you get used to it having to see or hear an airplane every 2min. max. but still those planes, helicopters, trucks and gas men are nothing against that loud whistle from the food men! ARRG-GHHH!!! Please god kill me or I’ll kill him!

Where was I? Oh yes now I remember. My mom was getting ready to go to work and while all this Hollywood scenario was ready to enter the cinemas, I got a VISION!

Yeah! Damn yes! I’m not really religious or share a lot of faith with anything magical but this vision was so clear to me that I asked my mom: “Do you think we are in Hell?” and she replied: “If this is Hell then what would heaven be like?” and there it was that I realized if we analyze the Hell-Heaven Concept on this planet, we might have misunderstood the concept.

Everything is relevant isn’t it? What would be cold without heat? Fire without oxygen and nothing without something. Without light there is no shadow, and what my little vision or concept brought to mind was very simple: “Maybe Heaven is just exactly the same as hell in a way that hell is this place giving us limitations and how I like to say: Letting us try a piece of the pie.

What would suffering mean to somebody that the only thing he knows is suffering? If you let somebody live one day like those who live their entire life on the streets, probably this person will suffer much more than the ones that are already used to it and don’t know better.

We come alone to earth and alone we shall part. The tricky part comes in the moment we get used to things that make us happy like food, sex, drugs, tv, chitchat, partnership, etc. and most important LOVE. We learn to love but we never learn to loose it. We can easily hate but hardly forgive. I would say many people know it and play with the fact that they will die and loose everything they ever loved. Maybe they will loose it even before death and death might not even sound so bad in that moment as dealing with THE great loss.

The problem here is that I think that if this “would be” hell, then it makes sense to let people only “taste” a bit of the pie to be able to suffer. Without being happy, how can you be sad? Without joy there is no suffering because it wouldn’t make any sense. Have you ever heard about something that suffers from the beginning of its life to its end?

Even a newborn child suffering in the moment they have no breasts to hold on or no mama to cry to. The question will always be the perspec-
vative. Many people loose their souls by ignoring the fact that they will die by using a lifestyle not exactly healthy for anyone. Like if they knew whatever they do, they want have to pay for it. Somehow that isn’t a bad way to live life!

Damn! All the money and gold this earth has and still we can’t share it with those who have nothing! Why is it that I have become myself one of those zombies that only live to enjoy the few happy things egotistically trying to ignore the bad ones?

I wish I had more time and more life but I know I’m going to die and that’s why I wont complain to hard about everything going the wrong way because if I open my mouth to complain to other people about things I myself am doing wrong that wouldn’t make any sense, would it? So if I open my mouth to give my words more weight I will have to start being an example for myself and others. I should go out there and talk and listen to people whose life is worse than mine. Sometimes a person who listens is much more worth than anything that money could buy.

And how many people are even interested in what any one has to say when MTV, BigBrother, Next American Top Model, The Surreal Life, etc. is on? And besides, why to care about anyone but yourself? Oh yeah! But in the moment YOUR life is affected there’s a big Brrrhhhh- hahahahahahahahahahaha and cry because nobody cares about you! Maybe the world is just split in good and bad, and good and ashso... good and idiots! I made my choice I’m definitively not on the good side, but either I feel comfortable with my conscience on the other side, so I’ll just be ignorant and egotistically and create a unreal fantasy in my brain that lets me create my own side, movie, fantasy, however you want to call it.

Finishing this little article, I’d like to say that my brain looks like the earth; it has two sides and a centre, millions of electrons moving like cars on the highway and many brain cells dying just because of my tolerance to alcohol. ☹

But also as a battery it has a north and south pole, a yes and no, and that’s why I am not taking any conclusion out of my thoughts because they are as confusing as the real world and probably if I would say yes today, tomorrow it’ll be NO!

And the moral of the whole story? Don’t get too used to the good things in life and appreciate more that you are alive and have still time to enjoy the movie!

Enjoy Life! Enjoy the bad and good things, and enjoy our magazine, it’s not so difficul!

Happy New Year 2006!!!
As long as I have remembered, archaeology and the pursuit of lost civilisations have fascinated me. There are many beliefs and issues about how long man and its civilisation has been around. Well unless we were there, then there are no absolutes and the teachings that society haphazardly force upon us is more fiction than fact. Sure in modern history there are more facts, but it is the belief that ancient civilisations did not start up until approx 6000 years ago, and there was nothing but Stone Age man before that.

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When a child is ill, a parent will do everything in their power to make them well once again. Thankfully, the majority of children only suffer from minor ailments, such as colds and coughs, which can be treated with over-the-counter medicine from your local pharmacy.

However, the American College of Chest Physicians has recently published guidelines stating that cough medicines do little to help recovery and they warn that children can be harmed by them; in fact, they will usually get better without pharmaceutical help.

The study reveals that there is no clinical evidence that over-the-counter medicines relieve coughs, which can be treated with quick fix medicines from the pharmacy and will be making appointments with their local GP instead. A scenario that has both positive and negative aspects, but the likelihood that the health service will be able to cope is highly doubtful.

The OTC medicines have been proven to provide comfort to patients, perhaps it is a placebo effect, and older types of antihistamines do help reduce coughing. The advice ‘do nothing’ is not what we want to hear when a child is coughing and sneezing, but until a cure for the common cold appears we’ll just have to make that choice.

Parents will stop buying the medicines that so many rely upon for that piece of mind. If a parent has to stop to think if a simple cough syrup will have dubious effects upon their child, will this lead to further pressure upon the medical profession?

As a principal, every decision that involves environmental issues and protects nature finds me a total supporter. And I have to admit that in many cases I found my self surprisingly happy with some of the decision taken from institutions like the European Union.

As a principal, every decision that involves environmental issues and protects nature finds me a total supporter. And I have to admit that in many cases I found my self surprisingly happy with some of the decision taken from institutions like the European Union.

It is easy to go further and further ignoring one element of this environment, the human. I felt sadness about these people reading the latest legislation over fishing from the EU and most of all the reaction of the fishermen on a small Greek island.

Firstly, there are two kinds of fishing fleets: The big, cool ‘professionals’ with super modern ships that include satellite scanners that can see the fish in meters, who kill anything on their route. They don’t care for species in extinction, dolphins, whales; they don’t care about the environment and their only problem is profit.

Then think, Greek island, a fisherman. The picture coming to mind is an old man, bare foot with the characteristic hat and a face burned from the sun and the salt, fixing his nets somewhere in a small Greek rocky harbor. Unfortunately these are the people who getting hurt more when legislations like that come out. And it is not only the Greek fisherman; it’s the Italian, the Spanish, the Portuguese and the Finn.

The legislation says that due to extended extinction of eels the fishing of them is forbidden. And the fishermen answer, yes we stop fishing for eels but isn’t the local retail market still bringing eels? And why to bring eels from Albania, which is just a neighbor, the very same eels just shows that this legislation doesn’t work. Are only the eels swimming in the Greek waters in danger of extinction? When they swim to the Albanian side they are aplenty and not in danger? Does the same apply in the Croatian waters and Slovenian?

What about roe? It’s totally forbidden in Greece, but roe is the caviar of the poor part of a Greek local kitchen and again the retailers will import it, guess where from, Albania! So, according to the EU legislation, we European citizens protect the environment and worry for it, while we let our next door neighbors do whatever they want with the environment we share, so we are going to pay the damage they are doing and, on top of that, we buy the result of their crime!!!

Perhaps the EU should think another way to force all these environmental laws and force them on to the neighbors as well; enough crimes are going on in the Ionian Sea from the Albanians and in the Aegean Sea from the Turks. After all, all these countries want to join the EU, they can respect, if anything else, the laws of the union they want to join.
“Let’s go cross-country skiing!” exclaimed my future wife. My eyebrows arched in that way that asks a question without words, and she replied by nodding her head enthusiastically. I was confident about skiing, especially after a week at the French ski resort of Tignes a few years ago, but when she handed me my skis my eyebrows began to arch again. I asked her why she had handed me a couple of one-metre rulers, instead of the traditional downhill skis. I was informed that these are cross-country skis and they are supposed to that thin, although she couldn’t furnish me with any more facts than that.

Off we went, swoosh, swoosh, arggh. She looked at me and told me a couple of one-metre rulers, instead of the traditional downhill skis. I was informed that these are cross-country skis and they are supposed to that thin, although she couldn’t furnish me with any more facts than that.

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What’s going on with the latest Bond movie? They choose Daniel Craig instead of Clive Owen and Quentin Tarantino, who originally suggested the remake of Casino Royale and expressed interest in directing it, has been shunned by the Bond producers. Following the impressive results of Owen and Tarantino’s work on Sin City, it is quite disappointing that neither will add their touch to Britain’s famous fictional spy.

Current sources believe that principle photography will begin in the first week of February and the locations will include UK, Czech Republic, Italy, and the Bahamas, so it seems the twenty-first film of the franchise is shaping up to be the usual Bond format. Exotic backgrounds, fast cars, stunning women, cold-blooded villains, futuristic gadgets, and a licence to kill will all be included.

Published in 1953, Casino Royale was the first of eleven James Bond novels by author Ian Fleming. Fleming was an ex-Coronet magazine editor and this first Bond book was the launching pad of the franchise and became the basis for the first of eleven Bond films. Fleming wanted to create a Bond that was a historically accurate Englishman after Roger Moore, although Bond is actually half-Scottish and half-Swiss.

Judi Dench reprises her role as M, the head of MI6, strengthening the realm of female characters in the Bond franchise, who once were mere notches upon Bond’s bedpost, and there have been no other announcements to other cast members at this time. Who will be Vesper Lynd, the very first Bond girl, and who will play the nemesis Le Chiffre are questions that remain to be answered.

The stunts in the last film Die Another Day managed to impress the majority of audiences across the world, so we will be hoping for bigger and hotter explosions, daredevil car chases and life threatening battles, although I doubt they will involve a battered yellow Citroen negotiating the winding roads of Crete, like in For Your Eyes Only.

Bond’s employers MI6 are currently facing allegations that an MI6 officer took part in the abduction and torture of a Pakistani terror suspect in Greece following the 7th July bombings in London, so Britain’s secret intelligence service will be hoping that Casino Royale brings some good publicity their way.

Casino Royale currently has a November 17, 2006, release date and following the success of the last Bond film ($456,000,000 total Box Office gross), our favourite “Sexist, misogynist dinosaur and relic of the Cold War” will continue to make women want to be him and men want to be with him - I think that’s how it goes.

In 1985 I found my self in front a lehral dilemma. I was either going to buy a second hand Ford Taunus that would really free me and carry me and my friends all around the Greek islands giving me great time or I would buy a PCjr, IBM personal computer. It was the first personal computer in history and, most of all, an IBM which translates into the Rolls Royce of the computers.

The comparison with a Rolls Royce didn’t work very well, however many times I tried it for the two months it took me to take the decision. I faced answers like, ‘you’ve got a bloody cool electronic type writer, why do you need another machine that can write?’ Can this machine take you to work and weekends to the seaside? Can this machine make coffee or give you a shave? NO, no, no!!!

It could not do anything of the above. Still I bought it and I never had the chance to drive a second hand Ford Taunus - the price was something like 1,500 euros.

Now, just next to me I have a second PC for my backups and in case of emergency, this second computer, the small one has 3 GHz speed and 6 Gb RAM memory, plus two hard disks of over 160 Gb each, CD and DVD drives. My first IBM, PCjr that I bought only twenty years ago had 128K memory and a floppy disk drive - for the ones who still remember what a floppy disk is, of 360K 5.25 inch and that was all.

Are you laughing? Wait, there is more. Windows didn’t exist, for that I’m not sure if it was good or bad and everything worked with MS-Dos. I had to learn MS-Basic and my first glorious time was when I created an address book. Remember that whatever I did I had to save it to a floppy disk and that for a whole year till my PCjr was able to accept a hard disk. 10Mb! I was powerful, I was stronger than most of the companies. I could save my text, finish it and when I was happy with it save it in a floppy disk.

By the way, I never bought that Ford but a year after I bought my first real motorbike, 1,000cc. I rode this motorbike to the seaside, mountains, from Greece to Spain and then to Germany. I had fantastic time, still nothing compared with that week designing pixel by pixel a logo I could have drawn in ten minutes.
Where is home? Is it where the heart is and are we allowed to call more than one place home? Over the New Year weekend, I moved house again for the twenty-third time in my life and, due to a contractual screw-up, I move again in a month. 24 addresses in 27 years have pushed my friends’ address books to the limit, but what is the definition of home?

Is it the house, town or country in which we live, is it where our parents live or is the place in which we were born? My own idea of what constitutes ‘home’ changed very early in my life, especially after six houses by the age of fifteen. My parents aren’t gypsies and we weren’t on the run from anybody, my Dad would buy an old house on the run from anybody, my brother, even the furniture regular change, so I came to associate home as being the place where they are. Mums would put photographs on the wall and do that magic thing that mums do to make the place homely.

The one constant in all the houses was Mum, Dad and my brother, even the furniture regularly changed, so I came to associate home as being the place where they are. Mums would put photographs on the wall and do that magic thing that mums do to make the place homely. My parents always moved us within the confines of Bognor Regis, so the town became home, rather than the houses, and this became evident when I went to study in Grimsby.

Another idea of home emerged when I began living with Päivi, while studying in Falmouth, Cornwall. Suddenly I had two homes, Bognor and with Päivi, plus she would refer to her own hometown back in Finland, which eventually became my third. The phrase ‘I want to go home’ carried an element of confusion that had never crossed my mind before.

As I sit here in this temporary flat, surrounded by boxes and barren walls, it still feels like home because of my six-month-old daughter playing on the lounge floor. She has already had a taste of the gypsy life, she is barely seven months and she will have had three different addresses, but it is up to Päivi and I to make her realise that home is where she feels happy, safe and loved.

The German government did something last month that really touched every Greek all around the world and gave us hope that others will follow. The four hundred years Greece suffered under the Ottoman Empire wasn’t only hard for the people and the land; it was a disaster for the ancient monuments.

I’m sorry to say it for fellow humans, but the invaders treated all of this history like total barbarians and to make it worse they let treasure hunters from all around the world steal parts of magnificent monuments, such as the Parthenon.

When you talk about the Parthenon you talk about human history. This is part of everybody’s history and it is close to cannibalism to destroy them, steal them and refuse to return them to their home country. Museums across the world are accomplices to this cannibalism by keeping these stolen treasures and not showing any respect to the work.

A major protagonist among these museums is the British Museum and its refusal is an embarrassment to international culture. How would the British feel if a Greek had stolen the crown jewels and the Greek national museum was exhibiting them, refusing to return them? It’s just the same thing in theory, because in practice is much bigger since the crown jewels have a meaning only to the British, the parts of Parthenon have a meaning for the planet’s history.

A small piece from the north side of the Parthenon representing pageantry for a sacrifice and to be precise the 28th figure was hosted for the last hundred years by the archeological museum in Heidelberg, Germany. This is one of thousands of pieces that are in museums all around the world but its return is significant for the Greek heresy however small it is.

First of all, a big thank you to the German government and the university of Heidelberg and let’s hope that the director of the British museum will hear that and get a lesson, otherwise he has to think what you call the accomplice of a cannibal.
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Why should you read Sherlock Holmes? It's elementary my dear reader, for he is the foremost literary detective that walked the streets of Victorian London. He has been immortalized through films, television series, cartoons and comic strips, but reading the source material has brought a new dimension to this logical, observant, cocaine-using resident of 221B Baker Street.

The Wordsworth Classics edition contained the first two stories, A Study in Scarlet (1887) and The Sign of Four (1890), plus twelve stories from the original Strand Magazine that ran from July 1891 to June 1892, and another twelve that were published between December 1892 and December 1893. The book is printed in the same format as the original Strand Magazine, so the text is so small I couldn’t read it in low light, and it includes the illustrations by Sidney Paget, from whom the contemporary appearance of Holmes originates.

Despite never having read any Holmes story, I was already very familiar with the character—his personality, his relationship with Dr. Watson and his ability to spot clues where others had failed. However, reading them in context and in a chronologically ordered gave both Holmes and Watson more depth and shape, especially the latter.

The stories are written as accounts by Dr. John Watson who feels that Holmes deserves more recognition for his detective skills, although Holmes comments at one point that they are embellished. Holmes goes on to say that he is happy that the reports give prominence to incidents that appeared trivial because they allow his faculty of deduction and of logical synthesis to be highlighted even more.

The selection of 26 stories were primarily about trivial matters, with the occasional Lord or European royalty thrown into the mix, but each is unique and the majority reach a conclusion that either took me by surprise or made me laugh. For example, The Red-Headed League’s “All red-headed men who are sound in body and mind, and above the age of twenty-one years, are eligible,” leads to an interesting conclusion.

Forensic science is commonplace today, but seeing Holmes applying it to his methods back in the late 19th century is still interesting, probably because of the way that Watson narrates the events and his astonishment at his friend’s methods comes through the text. Whether Holmes is estimating the height of a man from his stride or impressing everybody with his extensive knowledge of toba-}

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The plot is boring; the most exciting part is when inside the museum the two teams that want to steal the Declaration of Independence meet. There is a bit of shooting but everything is very Disney style. The bad guys are clever enough to get the clues but when it comes to most critical moment for them they are missing everything. They are just… stupid.

The woman scientist who falls for the star is totally neutral. She’s there for some reason, but since this is a Disney film and cannot wear a mini skirt or something more Pamela Anderson-style, so she’s just there.

Jon Voight obviously studied Indiana Jones III and he tried to imitate Sean Connery in the role of the father. Pitri for a man who was in films such as The Boys from Brazil and Midnight Cow-}

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Forensic science is commonplace today, but seeing Holmes applying it to his methods back in the late 19th century is still interesting, probably because of the way that Watson narrates the events and his astonishment at his friend’s methods comes through the text. Whether Holmes is estimating the height of a man from his stride or impressing everybody with his extensive knowledge of tobacco, he always applies his skills in a systematic and absorbing manner.

When Watson compares Holmes to Edgar Allen Poe’s Dupin in A Study in Scarlet, our detective is quick to describe Dupin as ‘a very inferior fellow’ and dismisses other famous detectives. Even Holmes’ disdain is mainly held for women, whom he believes are never to be entirely trusted, and if a woman is inexplicably ill, they are said to be suffering from brain fever.

One notable statement made by Conan Doyle through the lips of Holmes was about his love of Americans in The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor and perhaps a precursor to the ‘shoulder-to-shoulder’ statement made by Blair a few years ago:

“It is always a joy to me to meet an American, Mr Moulton, for I can always believe that the folly of a monarch and the blundering of a Minister in far gone years will not prevent our children from being some day citizens of the same world-wide country under a flag which shall be a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes.”

Naturally, Holmes’ cocaine habit is an aspect of Conan Doyle’s detective that has led to some censorship over the years, but the edition remained thankfully uncut and features Holmes taking out his hypodermic syringe from its neat morocco case and rolling up his shirtsleeve much to the disgust of his colleague Dr. Watson. “Which it today, I asked, ‘morphine or cocaine?’ He raised his eyes languidly from the old black-letter volume which he had opened. “It is cocaine,” he said, “a seven-cent solution. Would you care to try it?”

The Great Mouse Detective or The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle, The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter and The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet, in which he states his famous maxim for the first time: “When you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.” This has led to the downfall of many villains, crooks, liars and cheats, except for Holmes’ most infamous nemesis, Dr Moriarty.

One aspect of the book that came as a shock to me was the final story entitled The Adventure of the Final Problem, in which Watson reports the death of his friend. I believe that the foil of a monarch and the blundering of a Minister in far gone years will not prevent our children from being some day citizens of the same worldwide country under a flag which shall be a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes.”

Overall, it was a great experience following the first 26 adventures written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It has given me a taste for more of the detective, whether in the form of Basil-}

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National Treasure, 2004
Directed by Jon Turteltaub

Have you seen all the Indiana Jones films and you liked them? Walt Disney is here to offer you an alternative Indiana Jones with a treasure hunter who is not after a mythical ring or a small statue lost for centuries, but a real treasure and the whole pursuit is happening now.

If you combine Indiana Jones in modern times, add a lot of Da Vinci Code, the most popular book over the last three years and I bet the producers of the film were thrilled with its success, and then you add a very Indiana Jones poster, Nicolas Cage, Jon Voight (like Sean Connery playing the father) and Harvey Keitel as the mysterious FBI agent you get a gold mine. At least that’s what the producers thought because despite the huge promotion and the profit the film brought in the first couple of weeks, the whole thing is dead boring.

Nicolas Cage, even though he has played in some good films like the Rock over the last few years, he is something like a cakery to anything he does. Talking about cacophony, it might be the sound of his voice that makes me want to turn off the volume and read the subtitles every time; the man needs some phonetic lessons.

The only one who survives is Harvey Keitel. With a little of humor and the sense that this man is hinting at a different agenda behind the FBI agent’s activities makes you wonder if Europeans have a need of a historical identity and if they do are films like this the best way to find it?

Talking about Indiana Jones, except the poster and the stupid marketing from Disney, the professor archeologists has nothing to do with the joke professor in National Treasure. Most of all, Indiana Jones is original and that’s enough to make him unique. And this is coming from somebody who is not a fan of Indiana Jones’ films.

The film was not worth to see on the big screen, but I think having it as a DVD might have its uses. It will be good when I want my two-year-old daughter to sleep. She doesn’t understand much anyway and there is nothing scary or dark during the film, so she might fall asleep in the first two minutes saving us the time to hear the rest of the 123 minutes.

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boy, and even in the film Mission: Impossible he was better.

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Computer heaven:

1. The management is from Intel
2. The design and the construction is done by Apple
3. The marketing is done by Microsoft
4. IBM provides the support
5. Gateway determines the pricing

Computer hell:

1. The management is Apple
2. Microsoft does design and construction
3. IBM handles the marketing
4. The support is on Gateway
5. Intel sets the price

That’s for the main theme of this issue, computers.

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Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman who killed a well-known Turkish journalist and tried to assassinate Pope John Paul II is free after serving only five years in a Turkish prison.

More missions coming? ‘Democracy’ in Turkey and its men?

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Iran’s president announced that they are going to reopen the nuclear facilities regardless of what the EU and USA say.

I can see raining it men soon there!

**********

The German chancellor’s visit to USA gave new hopes to American foreign policy.

Why? She promised to invade Iran? Iraq for USA, Iran for EU?

**********

An investigation in the UK proved that people with a guilty past are working for British schools.

Let the wolf guard the sheep?

**********

Who’s the new president of Finland?

Like anybody cares? The biggest success the Finnish president’s foreign policy has ever had was having the piss taken out of them on the Conan O’Brien night show on CBS.

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Eminem remarries his wife.

Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Barton hip hop style! Yo brother!

**********

“The rumors about the bird flu in Turkey is a conspiracy by the enemies of Turkey’s entrance into the EU” claim Turkey’s officials.

Yes, that’s what everybody was waiting, a bloody chicken to keep Turkey out of Europe!!!

**********

Kuwait’s Emir Sheikh Jaber dies.

Such a pity, he saw two invasions of Iraq but he’s going to miss the first of Iran!!!

**********

Have you seen King Kong?

Sorry I hate Ping Pong! Too boring!

**********

There were complaints in Iraq that the president of the court treats Hussein too softly.

What? He let’s him breathe twice a day?

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Dear Santa, Christmas has gone and I’m still waiting for the Porsche 911 I asked you for.

Happy New Year everybody!