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Comments
You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted, then used against you.

Nuclear fusion TEARS the world apart
SAY YES TO PEACE
Editorial

“Good things come to those who wait!”

At last, we hear you cry in unison! We know it has been an embarrassingly long gap since we produced our birthday issue, but 2007 has had its foot on the accelerator for three whole months and we think that the brake pedal doesn’t even work.

Anyway...

Welcome to Ovi magazine’s latest theme issue!

The theme, if you hadn’t guessed already, is ‘Media’ and the Ovi team have discovered just how far that subject goes. It covers everything from movies to press, magazines to television, internet to the newspaper boy earning a few pounds each morning.

It has been a long time since any of the Ovi team got up early to deliver newspapers, but we are all still involved in this media business one way or another – some of us even work.

We hope you enjoy our effort and feel generous enough to leave a tip…”

The Ovi Team

ABC...AP...BBC...BMG...CBS...CNN...ESPN...FHM...GQ...HBO...MGM...MTV...NBC...NPR...OVI...RCA...VH1...
It may be ten years, it could be five, but one day Hollywood will decide to film the Ovi story in a big budget, special effects laden extravaganza that will sweep the board at that year’s Academy Awards. Thanos will probably be played by Jodie Foster and I’ll be played by Eddie Murphy (creative license), but the story of the exciting days of Ovi magazine will dazzle audiences around the world.

The use of the media in the movies is natural, since the world of newspaper journalism, television studios and daily internet magazines are exciting places packed with drama, emotion, relationships and back-stabbing, although there has been plenty of back slapping among the Ovi team. An investigation into how many films have used the medium is quite a surprise, especially the number that won or was nominated for an Oscar.

Case number one is Chicago, one of the worst Best Film winners ever. The film is so bad that I can barely bring myself to even write these few lines about Velma Kelly (Catherine Zeta-Jones) and Roxie Hart’s (Renée Zellweger) fight for fame among the yellow journalists of Chicago in the 1920s. Thankfully, there are four other Best Picture winners involving the media that are far better to discuss than this waste of celluloid.

In Ovi recently, I reviewed 1931’s Cimarron, the third Best Picture winner and first Western to win, which tells the story of Yancey Cravat as one of the pioneers of the West. Yancey’s profession was a newspaper editor and he declares early in the film: “I’ll show them first crack that the Oklahoma Wigwam prints all the news all the time - knowing no law except the law of God and the government of the United States. Say, that’s a pretty good slogan! Top of the page - just ahead of the editorial column!”

Strangely enough, the year that Cimarron won the Best Picture it was up against The Front Page, which, dare I say it, is one of the best journalism films perhaps because it was the first to solely focus upon the medium. You may know it from one of its two sequels, His Girl Friday with Cary Grant or The Front Page with Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, and follows the story of top reporter planning to quit in order to get married, but the editor has other plans though.

Another Best Picture winner that I reviewed lately was Gentleman’s Agreement, which moves out of the realm of newspapers and into a magazine, with Peck researching and writing a story about anti-Semitism by posing as a Jew himself. Undercover work also appears in 1935’s Best Picture It Happened One Night with Clark Gable as an unemployed reporter helping a runaway socialite in order to get a good story.
Finally, 1950's Best Picture All the King's Men, recently remade with Sean Penn, follows the rise of a politician through the eyes of a journalist, who documents the man's slow turn towards corruption, which has echoes of Citizen Kane, although isn't quite as overblown and pompous as Orson Welles' cinematic masterpiece. Welles and Herman J. Mankiewicz won an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay and have gone down as writing a tongue-in-cheek bio-movie of William Randolph Hearst, the multi-millionaire newspaper tycoon of the time.

From All the King's Men to All the President's Men is the natural next step, with the latter scooping four Oscars and four other nominations. Carl Bernstein, Bob Woodward and Deep Throat are synonymous with Watergate and the downfall of President Nixon, so a movie adaptation was to be expected and it allows everybody to understand the process and difficulties Bernstein and Woodward faced.

Another behind the scenes film, albeit far harsher, was The Killing Fields, which won three and was nominated for four others. The story tells of how Sydney Schanberg, a reporter for the New York Times, won a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the Cambodian War. If Cambodia was a little too brutal, why not try the movie version of Graham Greene’s The Quiet American starring Brendan Fraser and nominated Michael Caine as a disillusioned British journalist in 1950's Saigon.

Do you remember which film has this quote: "I'M AS MAD AS HELL, AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE THIS ANYMORE!" That's right, Network (four wins and six nominations) that presents the darker side of a TV network exploiting a suicidal TV anchor, who becomes a media sensation. The list of media movies is quite extensive with Michael Keaton as the editor of a New York City tabloid in The Paper, Paul Hogan falling in love with an American reporter in Crocodile Dundee and Hitchcock received six nominations for Foreign Correspondent about an American reporter sent to Britain just before the outbreak of World War II. Frank Capra’s Mr. Smith Goes to Washington and Mr Deeds Goes to Town (two wins and fourteen nominations between them) both tell the story of a man that falls victim to a female reporter looking for a story, but fails to inform them of her profession - both films are fantastic and worth watching for James Stewart and Gary Cooper respectively.

Comic books, media and movies... what a combination! The Daily Planet's Clark Kent and Lois Lane are perhaps the most famous reporters, while Spider-Man is continually harassed by J. Jonah Jameson, editor of the Daily Bugle. Thanks to all the movie incarnations of both comic strips, we have seen these characters brought to life.

Before I wrap this article up and meet my own deadline, honourable mentions should be awarded to the following movie media personalities. Jim Carrey's Bruce Nolan in Bruce Almighty, a television reporter assigned to undignified assignments; Drew Barrymore's Josie Geller, a journalist who enrolls in her old high school as part of her research for a story in Never Been Kissed; and Johnny Depp as an oddball journalist in Terry Gilliam’s Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas.

Yes there are more...Bill Murray as a weatherman reliving the same day over and over in my all-time favourite film Groundhog Day, Eva Mendes' gossip columnist pursuing Will Smith's "date doctor" in Hitch and, finally, Bridget Jones’s Diary that presents Chicago’s star Renee Zellweger as a TV presenter, also in the sequel. So, we have come full circle and this now gives me the idea of an Ovi movie sequel... the possibilities are endless.
Talking about media, without really specifying what kind of media, is like talking about a star in the summer night sky where all the possible stars are visible from the Earth.

Media also has its own atmosphere, which, over the last few decades, has become more polluted like the Earth. Another aspect of discussing the media at the beginning of the 21st century means that you have to separate illusion and theory with reality and that’s not an easy since illusion works better with the way we like perceive our civilization and culture than the bitter reality.

With the invasion of the tabloids and the gradual retreat of the traditional newspapers to the new tabloid form, plus in the beginning of ‘80s the invasion dozens of private television and radio channels were launched. The mass media changed and they changed in many levels. I experienced this change from the inside and I believe that the change brought a loss.

This is only my opinion, of course, but this change made the media accessible to the common man. First of all, they underestimated this common man by simplifying, often naively, the role of the media in order to get better sales. This actually transformed the ‘common man’ from an individual who was looking for opinion and ideas into a mass who look through the keyhole. I have the feeling that it all started from the newspapers when sometimes the Page Three girls showed nothing compared to other pages, which included detailed descriptions that often triggered the imagination more than the Page Three topless girl.

Worst of all is the lack of respect in private lives. Suddenly everybody became the center of anybody who wanted a printed scandal to increase the sales of their media, with the result being either to create the scandal or create 10-minute celebrities who were ready to do anything as long they could see their photo and name in a newspaper.

The so-called “serious” newspapers followed that by exposing personas sometimes without good reason. The paper exposed things that under different circumstances would have been considered normal and often the same newspapers in their own past had defended the right of the privacy.

Then came television to give the deathblow to any possible remaining dignity. Reality shows in the beginning were just that and were broadcast sometime after midnight. Now the whole of television has become a reality show, including the main news bulletins where TV reporters expose politicians and any kind of persona in the most hideous ways.

TV reporters brought another revolution into journalism since it didn’t matter if you were aware of what journalism is or how much work and investigation is needed to write an article or make reportage. Anyway, what does that really matter if they can speak clearly and look nice on-screen? Suddenly the tailor became more important than knowing where Pakistan is located on the globe.

Television soon started gaining in numbers and adverts, so the print media needed to make a change and become have more of a reality show style. The very same television personas became columnists or reporters in the print media expanding their income and style. Nowadays very few newspapers, magazines and television stations have managed to escape from the trap that changes not only the way we are thinking but also the way we are acting and speaking. On some level, this has put our whole civilization headlong towards a new culture, but there are the ones that insist on reporting news and exchanging ideas and opinions.

The radio has been left until last because it is the only media that has kept some dignity paying for it in the worst way with very low numbers of listeners and struggling to find advertisements. Most often, just like it was back in ‘70s, only the desire of volunteers with a love of radio has saved its dignity.

Fortunately, the very same technology that made the tabloids and the television is the one that might bring the revenge and that’s a new form of media throughout the Internet with online magazines and blogs. It is like they have a room to exchange opinions and they bring back the mass media to the era of dreaming and improving, not exposing and dirt! Furthermore, it is like they escaped from the fascism of the manipulated news to the democracy of ideas.
I used to read my paper every morning and a couple of cigarettes! And then I had to quit smoking not having my morning coffee not having a cigarette!

Gradually I stopped drinking coffee while having my morning coffee. Now every morning... I still sit on my chair... And the news lost its importance in my life for people who drink coffee and smoke cigarettes hoping that soon I will die!!!

Watching morning soaps boom! And reality shows blank!
I have resigned myself to the fact that writing about pop culture will frequently mean writing about things that I do not really approve of or appreciate. I do have my guilty trash culture pleasures but trust me when I say that the British version of Big Brother is not one of them.

Come to think of it, none of the Big Brother versions around the world have ever been a favorite of mine. Yet - being the social commentator wannabe - I am compelled to write about it this week, if only to bring to the attention of sensitive Ovi readers the complexities and social anxiety that a TV show can throw up in the air.

Celebrity Big Brother is an offshoot of the Big Brother brand in Britain and it is based around the same concept as the main show more or less. The only difference is that the house contains (as if they were furniture) celebrities and they are paid a fee to be there. The show has also spawned a multitude of other shows, mainly talk shows, like Big Brother's Big Mouth and Big Brother's Little Brother where the events of each day are presented and with - at times extreme - socialist views.

When he entered the house he claimed that it was to make the views of his party known but the move has raised a lot of political and other eyebrows. Germaine Greer, a sour-faced academic and one of the most significant feminists of our time, was another unlikely ‘housemate’ who stormed out of the show and accused Big Brother of bullying tactics as reported by the BBC.

This season though it seemed that it was going to be the most uneventful Celebrity Big Brother for years since the ‘celebrities’ were so unknown that tabloids and gossip magazines had elaborate spreads about who they are and what their claim to fame is. ‘Housemates’ include a tabloid journalist, a footballer’s girlfriend and one of the Jackson Five; it’s Jermaine, but apart from Michael I don’t know which is which.

There is only one person who can be called a bona fide celebrity in the house and that is Shilpa Shetty, a Bollywood superstar (and when they say super in Bollywood they mean it) with numerous extravagant films behind her, a solid fan base and a claim to the title of ‘the best body in Bollywood’ - a result, I suspect, of her black belt in karate. Needless to say, Big Brother found a new fan base in the Asian communities that actually know who Shilpa is and adore her for it.

But perks come at a price and this one came with a record number of complaints. According to The Guardian, the media watchdog Ofcom has so far received 18,000 complaints alleging racial abuse and intolerance, for example. Examples of this have been splashed across the first pages of newspapers and have even been threatening to endanger diplomatic relations. British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the Chancellor Gordon Brown are currently visiting India, Shilpa’s home country, where there have almost been riots in the street and people have been burning Big Brother’s logo while holding on to Shilpa’s picture.
When did it get this serious? Examples of what can be considered racial abuse are abundant in the show. Some housemates have asked if people eat with their hands in India, with the disgusted look of your average Westerner on their faces, while another contestant refuses to pronounce Shilpa's name correctly, claiming it cannot be done and calling her instead ‘the Indian’. There have been protests about her use of spices when cooking and then Shilpa herself, confiding in another housemate, wondering out loud why she is so hated.

To the untrained eye this can be considered drivel or simply a tactic by the production company to up the ratings by inserting an element in the house that is bound to cause controversy. But things are never so simple in Britain.

For all its reputation as a multicultural country, it is difficult for anyone putting the words Britain and India together and not to think back to the dreaded imperial past. The control that Britain held over India, as well as the ugly incidents of racism that the first generation of Indians in the UK had to deal with are not easily forgotten – not to mention the ugly incidents of racism that the subsequent generations of British Indians have had to endure. The peace and quiet is fragile at the best of times and the following example I think explains it pretty well. Jack Tweed, one of the housemates, while speaking about Shilpa, said something that was bleeped over. It turned out that the word was ‘cunt’, but before that was revealed the word on the grapevine (and the internet) was that he had called her a ‘Paki’, short for Pakistani and is a derogatory term. In order for people to actually think that the bleeped out word was racially insulting there has to be some background there and that is indicative of the problem.

I am not an expert on racial issues or on the imperial history of Britain and India, but I would like to add my two cents in terms of human relationships and another aspect of British life that, as a Greek, took me a while to understand: The fixation with class. I read on a variety of websites that Shilpa is middle-class and that to an Indian her class is immediately visible. I suspect that her middle-class is visible to the British audience, as well even though it is difficult for me to understand the distinctions as my own culture lacks strict class characteristics and leftover bad feelings about who belongs to which class.

It gives me hope that there were a record number of complaints to the watchdog. It gives me less hope that the names associated with comments under newspaper articles sound Indian in their vast majority, which means that the ‘westerners’ remain blissfully out of a debate that could do Britain a lot of good.
G.B. Shaw once noticed that America and England were two nations divided by a common language, an observation that says a great deal about mutual understanding.

The world stumbles forward into a forbidding future, offering glittering possibilities of depletion of breathable air, oceans bereft of life, proliferation of radioactive weapons and garbage, pathological theological insanities capturing susceptible minds across all nations and novel viruses eagerly exploring chinks in our immunological armor.

We’re also fracturing the Ozone Layer permitting deadly ultra-violet radiation to spray across the Earth, and various gases blanketing the atmosphere to hot up our combative cultures, a vast intrusive network is pervading all corners of the world permitting humans to become better acquainted with each other’s problems, purposes and prejudices.

There is, of course, a huge variation of language in the world, but the rapid blooming of the electronic communication industries through computer networks and through the ubiquitous cell phone is honing linguistic variety in a way that heads communication towards a universal language. Admittedly, there is still a long way to go in this direction but the communication is both linguistic and graphic, which considerably facilitates people to see quickly what is going on in the entire world.

Totalitarian governments, such as China and a few others nearby, have been fighting this flow of free information and, to an extent, they have been partially successful. But it looks to be that the informational tsunami will, in the long run, be unstoppable.

Nevertheless, there remains the fifty million monkey’s problem. With this linguistic ocean washing on the shores of the world’s consciousness, what parts of it can be assumed worthwhile and what is watery garbage? Crop circles, unidentified objects, flying, floating, or otherwise, Sasquatch, Nostradamus, Charles Fort, and all other things bumping along after dark surf as easily on the web as the most useful reliable information. Bertrand Russell pointed out that the only virtue that truth possesses is that it never goes away. But, for a good deal of time, it can be drowned away by babble.

Control of the media is one of the most useful weapons in armory of those who would bend the populace to their will. In the early days back in the 1700s, Thomas Paine could be effective with his Common Sense, as was Jonathon Swift with his A Modest Proposal at small capitalization of his communication facilities. But, as technology progressed, the means for reaching an effective audience required more and more finance so that, in the USA, from the inception of radio through television, and in concert with the newspapers of the time, very heavy money controlled the means of popular communication and saw to it that their points of view were the ones expressed.

The era of CBS’s William Paley and Edward R. Murrow and his crew was a noteworthy exception, which has no current counterpart. Adolf Hitler was well aware of the importance of media control and his man Goebbels saw to it that his point of view dominated, a tradition well observed in many nations today.

But the web today, effervescent with blogs, which require little or no great finance, are seeping into the awareness of the world as a totality. Much more than ever before people are speaking to people directly. A mind is emerging not too different from the mind of an individual containing internal combating factions, highly disturbed with the physical inequalities of the different peoples, struggling to resolve opposing beliefs and traditions.

There is much physical and mental struggle and much actual bloodshed. Humanity must somehow resolve and contain and live with these conflicts. More and more it is evident we live together on a very small, very fragile planet and we must learn to listen to each other, comprehend how and why we think the way we do and how to accommodate these differences so that we can live together.

The alternative is suicide.
What is news? This was the tough question regularly posed on my Cultural Studies course many years ago, but since everybody has a different opinion of what is considered newsworthy there is no easy answer. Events in my personal life are of interest to my wife, events in my daughter’s life are of interest to the grandparents, yet neither would be worth a mention on Prime-Time News unless something significant had happened.

However, editors of the television news, newspapers, radio and online news services have a daily responsibility to evaluate the globe’s news and present it to its audience. They have to weigh up the choice of local, domestic and international events, the impact socially, culturally and politically, plus its interest value. Generally, they perform their jobs very well, serving a well-balanced meal of news, but occasionally they run out of ingredients and the result is unexpected.

This is where Fark.com comes in. Every day this website presents news articles and other items from various websites submitted by its 300,000 members. The submissions highlight the unbelievable rubbish that some news sites consider news, or, as Fark’s founder Drew Curtis called his book, It’s Not News, It’s Fark: How Mass Media Tries to Pass off Crap as News.

I have yet to read the book, but the synopsis works just as well for the website:

The book is an exposé on the news media industry, revealing hilarious, often outrageous pieces that gets passed as news today. In his book, Drew covers his twelve entertaining, but undeniable patterns, observed in the news, including: fear-mongering in the absence of facts; the bogus press release, which states a new finding but fails to explain where the numbers came from; media fatigue, when the media exhaust every angle of an existing story rather than digging for something new; or coverage given to such events as brides who don’t want to get married, fake their own kidnapping, and escape cross-country.

How many of these have you encountered while browsing a news site? Often the culprits are the smaller local newspapers usually associated with ‘Cat Stuck Up a Tree’ headlines, which brings us back to ‘what is news?’ To somebody out there, these stories are of great interest, whether they can see their name in print or, or, or are bored at that moment in the day.

On the day I write this, there are a few featured stories that catch my attention, such as www.newsshopper.co.uk’s ‘Naked man causes traffic chaos’ story and www.int.iol.co.za’s story about a year-long study to identify the worst noise in the world - the honour went to the sound of someone vomiting. Could you imagine either of these appearing as top stories on your country’s main news or on BBC World?

How newsworthy is Japan’s online version of Mainichi Newspaper’s story revealing the global horror of McDonald’s new Mega Mac (a 4 burger Big Mac) selling so fast they’ve had to limit the amount sold. In a way these stories remind me of the UK’s tabloids, especially The Sun and Daily Star, that manage to bury hard news on page two opposite the distracting Page Three Girl and fill the rest of their pages with this garbage. Fark.com isn't as trashy as a tabloid newspaper, since it does mix in a generous amount of genuinely interesting stories and has faced criticism of being politically biased, plus of having a conservative and a liberal bias.

Fark.com is a valuable web asset due to its ability to expose the laziness of online journalism and offer a variety of news that will interest everybody around the world. Since the question, ‘What is news?’ is hard to answer, why not offer everything and let people decide for themselves. Now, I am going to read Mangalorean.com’s story about how a four-year-old boy killed hundreds of chickens by screaming because the stupid BBC website had nothing about it.
“Daddy, loves Mummy. He kicks her, punches her, shouts nasty words and makes her cry. And Daddy loves me. He burns me, slaps me, locks me in a cupboard and calls me a failure. I hate love.”
Imagine a future in which cows are extinct. Imagine your children can only see them in books. Imagine you could have done something to save them. Don’t wait until it is too late.

Act now and protect our planet.
TV watching “rewires” an infant’s brain, says Dr. Dimitri A. Christakis lead researcher and director of the Child Health Institute at Children’s Hospital and Regional Medical Center, Seattle, Wash. The damage shows up at age 7 when children have difficulty paying attention in school.

[www.whitedot.org - International Campaign Against Television] “In contrast to the way real life unfolds and is experienced by young children, the pace of TV is greatly sped up,” says Christakis. His research appears in the April 2004 issue of Pediatrics. Quick scene shifts of video images become “normal,” to a baby “when in fact, it’s decidedly not normal or natural.” Christakis says. Exposing a baby’s developing brain to videos may overstimulate it, causing permanent changes in developing neural pathways.

“Also in question is whether the insistent noise of television in the home may interfere with the development of ‘inner speech’ by which a child learns to think through problems and plans and restrain impulsive responding,” wrote Jane Healy, psychologist and child brain expert in the magazine’s commentary.

Even a child playing with its own fingers has the neural patterning that comes from bending, flexing, stretching and grasping. Scientists tell us that the brain develops in completely unique ways between birth and three years. As a kiddie viddie baby sits “mesmerized”, neural paths are not being created. This is crucial brain development that stops by age three.

“You don’t want to think that something as innocent as half-an-hour’s peace and quiet could reduce your kid’s chances later in life,” says Claire Eaton, 27-year-old mother from Lewisham, Australia.

**Setting up baby for failure in school**

Are parents who use infant videos such as “Baby Einstein” and “Teletubbies” putting their child at risk for a lifetime of Special Ed classes, school “behavioral therapy” and Ritalin?

In the study of more than 2,000 children, Christakis found that for every hour watched at age one and age three, the children had almost a ten percent higher chance of developing attention problems that could be diagnosed as ADHD by age 7. A toddler watching three hours of infant television daily had nearly a 30 percent higher chance of having attention problems in school.

An explosion of kidvids for the bouncy chair set has hit the market. These include Baby Einstein, Baby Mozart, So Smart etc. TV shows, such as Teletubbies, aim at 18-month-old toddlers. These videos are peddled as “educational tools” to “give your baby a head start.” The truth is, they are a video-tether that keeps baby out from underfoot.

Parents take away crucial life experiences from their child every time they pop in Baby Einstein. But they also love how it takes the baby out of their hair for awhile Listen to what parents say in testimonials about infant videos:

“I love spending time with my boy but let’s face it, there are times when you just have to have 10 minutes or so to yourself so that you can wash the dishes or do laundry; that’s when you pop this video in. It’s 25 minutes of entertainment that holds the attention of even very young children.” (son 10 months) Chris Hudson from San Antonio, TX.

There are times I rewind it and play it again and again until I get the dishes done and order restored. My son is captivated (and hopefully learning something). Mom In Connecticut

The only thing I wish is that the videos were longer than 30min. Melissa Perruzzi, Clinton Mississippi

(From Baby Einstein reviews on Amazon.com).

**Big problem for little people**

Twenty-six percent of US children younger than age two have TV in their bedrooms - often watched from the crib, and 36 percent of families leave the TV on almost all of the time, even when no one is watching, according to a 2000 Kaiser Family Foundation study.

The good news is, infants and toddlers don’t need television to distract them. Humans raised children for 50,000 years before television sets and you can do it too. Your children can learn to entertain themselves or play with your supervision.

“When one-year olds are playing with a toy, they can explore it, poke at it, drop it,” says Yale University Television Researcher Dorothy Singer. “They’re learning about space, about sound, and they’re developing sense of competence. Watching a TV show just doesn’t provide the same sensory experience.”

“Would you entrust your toddler into the care of a baby sitter, even for a few minutes, who cannot hear or see your child?” writes Nancy Hall of Yale University’s Bush Center in Child Development and Social Policy. “Would you leave your child in an environment that encourages passivity, limits creativity and results in increased aggressive behavior? Many 1-year-olds are spending time regularly with just such a baby sitter: the television set.”

ADHD affects 12 percent of US school children and has increased dramatically over the past 50 years. Studies show ADHD increased with the introduction of children’s television in the 1950s and then spiked higher in the mid 1980s when VCRs and home video became commonplace. Although the condition is known to be genetic, scientists have noted its rapid spread throughout every social class of children, and guessed that there could be an environmental cause. TV watching is a cause, this study shows.

No child under age two should watch television at all, the Academy of American Pediatrics advised in 1998. Doctors blame TV for increasing aggression and obesity in children, now they add ADHD risk to early TV use.

First published on
The truth is that the Internet has turned the whole world rapidly into a global village and sex had to be a part, if not a big part, of it. People can communicate with each other despite distance, individuals with nothing more than computers and wires, and that even with the entrance of the wireless connection becomes useless lately.

Computer mediated communications rule. The social implications of CMC are vast from the ability to overturn centralize control of information to its potential ability to help people, no matter what gender, race, sexuality or physical appearance to communicate with each other with fewer prejudices and misunderstandings.

Cyberspace created its own culture and ethics, morals and sometimes prejudices that reflect our society. Many have claimed that cyberspace improved the communication between men and women helping them to talk more. Leaving out the comfort of the anonymity the Internet offered, as a principal the majority of the people who communicate through cyberspace are pretty honest, especially regarding sex.

It’s noticeable that one more element that helped was the need of a common language. Even though the majority of users are not native English speakers they use the English language to communicate. That added one more element, the use of a different language that forces you to be precise in what you say, since translating their own language word by word would not make any sense.

There are many places on the Internet for woman and men to socialize and people can get together in various groups to discuss subjects that cover anything from pets, babies to sex and politics. Yahoo has a very active chat space and there are places where people can actually play a role like Multi User Domains and Multi-user shared hallucinations. In short, the net is full of virtual places where men and women can meet and talk.

It is remarkable that coming to sex, even though the number of women is lower to the number of men chatting it seems that women are more ready to identify their preferences. Another remarkable thing is that gay men on the net somehow force their identity while gay women present it in a more casual and matter of fact manner.

Another issue is that over the last year chatting groups 30+ have become more popular and that’s mainly the international hunting for pedophilias through the net. People worry that when somebody identifies his/her self as twenty year olds, it’s more important to them.

It came as a surprise that men participate even in groups that include feminists themes or themes that involve only women; it is like they are keen to listen to the other side. Still women seem more open to sex issues and are ready to share sex experiences and sex wishes with other anonymous chatters.

A man wrote in a survey that “face to face it is possible that I would speculate about any or all of these women as a gender oriented perspective, but online this never occurs and I can strictly relate to them as a person.” I think that’s the proof why some of these chatting pull ended in weddings.

It’s sad but on the net women can be heard more because they can finish what they want to say without being interrupted and men have to listen because they have to deal with a written content instead of a woman.

It’s also strange that even sexist comments and jokes are dealt differently on the net with more humor and in more neutral ways and that’s coming from both sexes. So has the Internet changed communications between genders? I think the obvious answer is yes.

Every day, she looks at thousands of hosted galleries with softcore and hardcore pictures. Her hard drive is full of smut, no matter how hard she cleans it. And somehow she doesn’t seem to get tired of all the porn.

“She” is known as the WebMistress, the one who posts mostly on Belgium’s most popular website about porn: www.wilt.be. The WebMistress was there right from the start, in April 2004. And although the other contributors come and go, she’s still around to post news about sex, links to new porn-related websites and reviews of erotic art online. Judging from the mails she gets, most wilt.be visitors like to see her as some kind of a dominatrix, clad in black leather from head to toe. She thinks these mails are funny, and replies to all of them. Not often friendly, though. She doesn’t need to be.

She clearly isn’t doing it to get attention from submissive admirers. But what is driving her then? The money, of course. She saw Danni from Danni’s hard drive at a conference years ago, and heard her say: “My business was profitable from day one.” She also heard about porn being the number one business on the internet. And she noticed that new technologies, like using SMS services for micropayment, or using Flashcom servers to link IVR systems to live video of webcam girls, were always tried out first in the online adult industry.

And yes, the porn got harder and harder. The first half year, Wilt.be only posted links to “softcore” sites, and put all the money-making hardcore stuff in a separate section of the site. But after a while, soft and hard kind of blended. And although videos of people fucking each other in every possible body orifice rarely shocked her, she started to see who the big names were. After Jenna Jameson, things got a lot easier for porn stars. So you had to try and see the difference between a nice young woman who was spreading her legs before the camera, and the next Jenna Jameson. Or Aria Giovanni. Or Lubia Shumeiko.

Because big names make people click. And quality productions make people buy. Although “amateur” is a popular genre, and “gonzo” porn films are the equivalent of reality television, a bad production makes everyone nervous. You can see it from the first frame if the photographer or director was a professional, or just a pervert with a camera. That’s why WebMistress only has to look at trailers for porn movies to know. And she’ll only look long enough at a photo gallery of some model’s nude pictures to grab a picture for the thumbnail that goes with every post on Wilt.be.

Where does she draw the line? It used to be “personal taste”, but since tastes differ, she changed it into “as long as it’s well-made AND legal”. Which means: no depictions of sex with people who are too young, too drugged or too scared to actually approve being filmed or photographed while getting fucked. And no animals of course, since hoofs or paws are unfit to sign a porn contract.

Does she ever get excited herself, you might wonder? Of course she does. She is, after all, only human. Although most of the time it happens by accident. In the middle of all the smut, she’ll stumble upon a gem of well-made porn, building up tension so slowly that even she finds herself gazing at the page, or putting the windows media player on an infinite loop until she’s satisfied.

And when she gets tired of it all, she quits for a few days. But porn is everywhere: it’s in her news feeds, people mail it to her, there are “submissions” by wilt.be community members. So she takes care of it. It’s what she does. She’s the WebMistress. I don’t think she’ll ever get tired of it: www.wilt.be.
Yang Zili in China, Truong Quoc Huy in Vietnam and Arash Sigarchi in Iran are just three of 61 cyber-dissidents and bloggers currently imprisoned worldwide because they expressed themselves a little too freely according to their countries’ overtly strict censorship laws.

On Tuesday, thirteen of the worst offenders were named by human rights group Reporters sans frontières and, for 24-hours, the online community has been urged to register their opposition to censorship with a simple click. The 13 “enemies of the Internet” are, alphabetically, Belarus, Burma, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Freedom of expression is the cornerstone of Ovi magazine and we believe that everybody should have the right to express an informed opinion without fear of imprisonment, censorship or personal harm. We have heard stories recently of Finns having their lives threatened by fellow Finns because of their out-spoken opinions, which shocked and saddened everybody at the magazine. Many of the contributors at Ovi have worked in various media that also wanted to curtail their views, which is one of the reasons we now exist.

Every month we analyse our site’s statistics to improve our content, but one of the most interesting results is the countries from which our readers originate. After seeing the ‘Dirty Baker’s Dozen’, I was curious to see if any of those countries have visited Ovi over the past seven days. I was surprised to see three: China, Iran and Vietnam. Whether the visits have come from the fascist net administrators of those countries fuming over our opinionated content or from the online resistance fighting them, we welcome you all.

When you read how much effort goes into keeping the population of these thirteen countries offline or controlled you don’t know whether to cry or scream. You would think that China is the worst offender, but when you read that computers in Burma’s Internet Cafés automatically execute screen captures every five minutes and Syria systematically tortures and subjects cyber-dissidents to inhumane conditions, you don’t know how to react.

Unlike China, Saudi Arabia does not hide its online censorship, Cuba has less than 2 per cent of its population online and Turkmenistan has less than 1 per cent online, while Iran boasts of filtering 10 million “immoral” websites - we hope that Ovi magazine is one of those. Uzbekistan’s President Islam Karimov blocks access to most independent websites and Tunisia’s President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali’s Internet policies are among the most repressive in the world. North Korea is North Korea and is the world’s worst Internet black hole, but you can help the North Korean journalists who run the www.dailynk.com website.

Apparently, the Vietnamese government is negotiating admission to the World Trade Organisation and it is easing up on its control...slowly. This year, ten people were arrested for Internet content and four are still detained. Hopefully it won’t be long before Vietnam can join Libya, the Maldives and Nepal as a country that has been removed from the list of Internet enemies.

Finally, we have China. 52 people currently imprisoned, the world’s most advanced country in Internet filtering, few of their 17 million bloggers dare criticise the government, armies of moderators clean up blogging content and they have Yahoo! and Google kowtowing to their demands. Yahoo! was the first to agree to censor its search engine to satisfy the Chinese authorities and they have been collaborating for years with the Chinese police.

Ovi magazine is a keen supporter of Reporters sans frontières and other human rights groups that fight these countries, not only against their online censorship, which is why we carry them in our Partner’s Page. You can join the 24-hour campaign by visiting the Reporters sans frontières website and clicking on an interactive map of the world to help make the Internet black holes disappear, plus, you can record a message for the founder of Yahoo!

Go there now... www.rsf.org/24h
I’m not going to say anything more about the act itself. I have said enough over the last few days, including my first article for the new year, but just to reiterate once more: I’m angry. Really angry!

During the past two days I have received a number of mails from people I know and people I don’t know that contains either a link to the video of Saddam Hussein’s hanging or the video itself. I didn’t watch it! I would never watch something that embarrasses me as human being. And capital punishment does embarrass me; it doesn’t matter how guilty is the criminal.

As a principal I’m against capital punishment in the same way I am against the Sharia laws because I find them brutal, barbaric and against every fibre of human logic. Capital punishment is the revenge of the mob and I like to think that we are not a mob anymore but a democratic thinking public. I feel embarrassed that in some American states there is still capital punishment and often I prefer not to think about it. But what happened over the last few days moved it to a new dimension.

Who told you that I would enjoy watching a man, doesn’t matter his crimes, to be punished in that way? This is cannibalism, if you haven’t understood what you doing. Exercising capital punishment, the Iraqi government committed a crime equal to any murderer and I feel that they should be punished for that. What was suspicion till now they made it true; they were in a hurry to kill Saddam Hussein because they could cover up their own dirt and guilt. In doing so, they created a martyr and more guilt.

I’m not defending Saddam Hussein. I’m defending my right to live in a civilized society with sense of justice. The practice of capital punishment shows an angry mob looking for revenge or a dirty regime covering up for the ‘biggest plan’, yet what is this biggest plan? The trichotomy of Iraq? The establishment of a new regime? The balance between the local powers? Whatever it was they failed because they proved to be a brutal and barbaric regime.

What about all the people who watched the video? Do they feel satisfied? Were they happy watching somebody’s final moments on the gallows? The video clip has become one of the most popular on YouTube, the site that broadcasts video clips on the Internet, which begs the question: Why can’t all these people see that this was cannibalism?

Too many questions? Well I have one more for you. After seeing Survivors and Idols, are we going to see Capital Punishment TV? It seems that’s how far the world is going. And since we are the media, I have some questions for them as well. Most kids go to bed around nine o’clock in the evening, just when the main news on television begins. For two consecutive nights, all these kids have seen is a man preparing to be hanged!
Language on the public media
is limited to soap-scrubbed words.
I must rush to my encyclopedia
To find proper reference to turds.

Nastiness is smoothed by overt beeps
Whenever drama asks expressions
That convey violence that sleeps
Under the surface of suppressed aggressions.

So now I wonder what I have done
To my computer when I disturb its sleep.
I click its switch to start its run
And, nastily, it responds with a beep

Unwarranted Anger
By Jan Sand
How can I play hide & seek when 21 children die every minute?

Who'll play football with me when 21 friends die every minute?

If I close my eyes and count to a 100, 35 children are dead.
Ulkoistaminen on liiketoiminnasta kaikkeen ihmislle tärkeä järjestely, joka tulee mahdollisesti ajan laskua. Liiketoiminnassa se merkitsee kustannusten laskua, mutta myös vastuun siirtoa, moraali ulkoistamista. Mediakasvatuksen voi nähdä median nokkelana tapana ulkoistaa oma vastuunsa sisältöä mahdollisesta haitallisuudesta, siirtää ongelma valtion, koululaitoksen ja vanhempien harteille.

Mediamuffinssi on opetusministeriön käynnistämä kansallinen mediakasvatushanke, joka luonnollisesti tätä tarkoittaa. Sen tavoitteena on auttaa lapsiä ja lasten saamaan kykyä ja taitoa mediaavustamaan niin, että he ymmärtävät sen vaikutuksen ja vaatimusten mukaan oman ihmisten avustukseen.


Mediamuffinssin oppimateriaalista on olemassa paljon oppimateriaalia, joka auttaa lapsia tietää, miten liiketoiminnasta ja vastuusta on tärkeää. Oppimateriaalista on olemassa paljon erilaisia tapoja, joilla lapsi voi oppia vastuusta ja ymmärtää sen merkityksen.

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That’s what they said:
“TV is bad!”

By Jane Eagle

Television is actually the mirror of our world. So they share the same properties. As our world has the fonts to be Utopian, television can be educational and extremely recreational. Yet Bush rules the Earth (or the Aliens) and TV is watched with cookies and the fear of getting an imbecile.

Jane E.

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Jane E.

Television is for appearing on - not for looking at.

Noel Coward

– You too have noticed dear Noel how everyone’s craving for their 15-minutes of fame…

Television is a device that permits people who haven’t anything to do to watch people who can’t do anything.

Fred Allen

Television has proved that people will look at anything rather than each other.

Ann Landers

I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.

Groucho Marx

– Peaanuts to you!!!

Television is democracy at its ugliest.

Paddy Chayefsky

– Hence anarchy as Aristotle would say…

Television is the triumph of machine over people.

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Jane E.
The very same survey proved that radio is something more romantic in the media world. When it comes to careers the majority of the media students put radio first, newspapers second, magazines third and far behind in fourth, television. I suppose when you are a student you are dreaming to be Clark Kent in Metropolis, choosing radio and newspapers as the first choice these kids show that they are ready, since radio and daily newspapers are hard work.

Another interesting part of the survey is that the majority of the participants enjoy music, even during informative programs they want music breaks, while they hate the advert breaks and the stations’ self-promotional jingles. They are interested in sports but only as a part of an information program and not as a whole sports program. When do they listen to radio? Most of the time it is while they are on the move, but most popular is while they are driving; somehow it seems that driving and radio go together. Obviously that expands to everybody since the best hours for the radio are traffic hours. It’s common in a lot of radio stations to have short traffic news and in many capitals there are even helicopters hired by radio stations to fly over the city and give live news on the traffic.

In a survey between media students about how they want a radio show the students answered that they want a show that can criticize life and events, be sensitive to people and their lives, help the imagination, give a chance for a conversation and other opinions, give information, play refreshing music, be independent for advertisers and bosses and finally do something for the common good.

Buses, train, metros are full of people listening to their Walkman, iPod and other devices that have a multitude of other names - lately even mobile telephone companies have added radio to their services. It is transportation again. A lot of people using radio as an escape mode in their work, especially when they do manual work that doesn’t need any thought. Many listen to the radio while doing a sport or when they want to have a rest away from the colorful bombardment of the television.

This is very hopeful for people like me, who grew up with the radio and are still listening and doing radio. The truth is that radio is romantic and you have the sense of participation in the events. After all, it is much easier to call a radio show and ask for a song and take part in a conversation than doing the same with any other kind of media.

Coming now to the adverts, it seems that this is an issue in all the media, often people complain about adverts, but perhaps it is not a case of quantity but quality. In a radio station playing music for young people the quality of the adverts should somehow match the style of the station; I think the adverts on MTV fulfill this idea.

Advertizers from the other side have to remember that they are sponsoring something that entertain and informs the public, not something they can manipulate. Over the last thirty years big companies all around the world sponsor all kinds of events, from sports to theater, music to painting exhibitions. When they sponsor a painter I don’t think they even dare ask the exhibits to be all painted in purple, for example, just because that’s the color of their logo. By trying to manipulate what a radio station broadcasts they are doing exactly the same.

The Internet certainly gave a sense of freedom to the radio as much to other media and I think that soon it will become the next step in the radio evolution. Here in Ovi magazine, Asa and I have a weekly radio show that we try to improve week by week. The radio show is broadcast live from a Helsinki local radio station and to our amazement we found that since we put the recorded show online another number of listeners appeared. And this time our listeners were more global. Perhaps we will never see that perfect radio but there is one thing that makes it perfect comparing to other media, it is romantic to make a radio show and nothing can replace this feeling at least for the people like us who are involved.
Have you heard of the latest historical epic to emerge from Hollywood? It is called 300 and it is a retelling of a battle in which a small Greek army resisted a Persian invasion. I know you would usually expect Thanos to jump at an opportunity to highlight Iranian stupidity and paranoia, but this time I felt it my responsibility as a movie lover and Brit to write about this issue.

I’ll begin with the movie aspect of this fresh saga, although this will contain a revelation that may shock some of Ovi’s more impressionable readers. Ok, here goes: Cinema doesn’t reflect reality. There, I said it. It is true. Promise. Have you seen a Man of Steel flying around saving the day recently? Has Jabba the Hut ever slithered past you in the street? Has a planet full of apes been discovered? Do DeLoreans travel in time? Do toys come to life? Well, you get my point.

Hollywood has never been interested in truth because it is simply boring and if you are somebody who treats the latest blockbuster as a history lesson then you will probably be thinking, “Hey, what’s the problem? I thought Persia and Iran were two separate countries!” Hollywood lies, which is also known as creative licence. The latest example that crossed my path was in The Dirty Dozen and the portrayal of hand grenades being packed full of enough explosive to destroy a radio mast. Err, no they can’t.

Come on, who was surprised that James Cameron didn’t decide to blame the Titanic’s tragic end on time travelling alien terrorists? Remember that Disney decided to change Victor Hugo’s Hunchback of Notre Dame into a happy ending and received extensive grief, except from the kids who only cared it was a poor effort by the studio. People lose in life, but win in the movies; that is why we have movies.

Javad Shamqadri, a cultural advisor to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, said it was “plundering Iran’s historic past and insulting this civilization”. I am guessing that this means that the movie won’t be distributed throughout Iran’s cinema chains, although I don’t remember Iran complaining about the “fictional” Schindler’s List, since the Holocaust never happened according to them.

The daily newspaper Ayandeh-No proclaimed “Hollywood declares war on Iranians” and went on to write: “It seeks to tell people that Iran, which is in the Axis of Evil now, has for long been the source of evil and modern Iranians’ ancestors are the ugly murderous dumb savages you see in 300.” Well, if you put it like that. The only dumb thing they are doing is paying lip service to this movie and putting the thought into moviegoer’s minds.

Anyway, hasn’t Iran learnt by now that, unless you are American, you don’t stand a chance of a fair portrayal in a Hollywood production? Take a look at the British in movies and then take an even closer look. My British ancestors, sorry, I mean my English ancestors are all depicted as cold-blooded murderous bastards, especially when Mel Gibson is involved - Exhibit A: Braveheart. Exhibit B: The Patriot.

If we, the English, aren’t killing children or slaughtering poor Scots, then we are playing upstairs and downstairs in Jane Austen country with Hugh Grant and Emma Thompson riding horses and shouting ‘What Ho! America loves Scotland, Wales and Ireland - I would hazard a guess that many Americans think it part of the UK – probably because they are seen as kindred spirits also in a light against the English. I just don’t understand why we always seem to receive the sharp end of the camera lens.

By Asa Butcher
Radio buttons

By Thanos Kalamidas

Usually I write an article and then I think of a header, but this time it started a bit differently. I have an idea on what I want to write about and then the title came alone without any second thought. So, radio buttons and there are a lot but the ones who have made the best use of all these buttons are politicians. Politicians of every color from deep red to total black and every side from left to right.

I think the first people who really understood what the radio can do if you press the right buttons were the politicians with first two megastars, Winston Churchill and the notorious Joseph Goebbels. The Nazi propaganda master used the radio to promote and mislead the German public years before the beginning of WWII. He realized soon enough that radio can reach far more people than any other printed media and in the most far away places of Germany. His constant bombardment of false messages and lies worked perfectly for the Nazi party until the first years of WWII. Then the allies showed their real talent taking over.

Winston Churchill’s radio messages have been documented and they are already part of history. His famous “We will never surrender” speech is a lesson not only of a brilliant strategist and propagandist but as a lesson for marketing on how to use the radio and the words to inspire the masses. The BBC became radio free Europe since the rest of Europe was occupied and anybody who could had escaped to the UK. The ally secret services used radio to transmit messages to the occupied countries, the resistance, especially in France and to spies who worked undercover in the occupied countries. Most of these are known not only from the history books but even from the bestselling paperback spy novels.

The Red Cross used the power of the radio a great deal looking for missing people, soldiers or just civilians. It continued after WWII during the Cold War. During the Cold War the radio waves war became tenser. American stations all around Europe transmitted programmes in Russian and German for the East Germans and any other language from the countries that belonged in the Warsaw Pact.

I remember from my childhood in Greece that we had three or four radio stations based in the American bases transmitting anti-communist propaganda in Greek, Albanian, Bulgarian and Yugoslavian. Not that the other side was standing there doing nothing. Radio Albania was famous and a big laugh then with all the wooden language and the cliché slogans for the monstrous capitalism and the American and British capitalism.

I remember a joke during the Cold War period. The General Secretary of the USSR Leonid Brezhnev was visiting the USA and President Richard Nixon. During his visit Nixon invited him, in the spirit of friendship, to join him one morning for some jogging, which was supposed to be Nixon’s morning habit. Since both of them weren’t very young and not exactly fit the jogging finished after once round the White House.

Only hours later, all the American radio stations were transmitting the following: in a race that took place in Washington D.C. between President Richard Nixon and USSR General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev, the American president won while his Russian rival finished last.” On the other side of the world all the Russian stations were transmitting the following: after provocatively challenged, the General Secretary of the C.P. of USSR took part in a race around the White House where, among others, the President of the United States participated.

After a difficult ending, our General Secretary came second, but the American president was only one position before the last.” The funny thing was that somehow they both said the truth. That just shows a taste of the power radio used to have.

Nowadays it seems that television enjoys this glory but still nothing has managed to beat the power of the radio, at least with the morning programs when most of the people are in their cars. Perhaps that’s why the American president still addresses his citizens weekly from the radio and before elections the media that somehow monopolizes the biggest part of the adverts is the radio.

So as you can see/hear, radio can be one of if not the most powerful weapons of mass distraction!
And then it’s coming back...

Satellites

Transmitting sounds

Radio waves

Messages

Hello, can anybody hear me?

I’m dead million of years now!!!

I'm dead million of years now!!!

Comments
Rock journalism is people who can’t write interviewing people who can’t talk...

Comments
...in order to provide articles for people who can’t read....

City of Helsinki
Cultural Office

Tilaa YDIN, sitä eivät lue kaikki... vielä.

City of Helsinki
Cultural Office

Oxter Web
We provide professional solutions for business and personal needs
From, 8 Euros a month
Domain names, Free set up, and much more

Lähiradio 100,3 MHz
Tune in to listen:
Contact with Raymond Enäkä on Mondays 22-23.00
Multicultural programmes in many languages on
Wednesdays 12-14.00 and on Sundays 11-14.30.
It’s fun to do radio programme.
Airplay available at reasonable rate 42€/ per 1/2 hour.
Lähiradio on the radio. Omsa sinulla senäke?

We have moved! Our new address is: Hämäntie 32, 00530 Helsinki.
Tel. 09- 701 3300 lahiradio@xara.inet.fi
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