



Voorbereidend
Wetenschappelijk
Onderwijs

Tijdvak 2
Woensdag 20 juni
13.30 – 16.00 uur

Tekstboekje

Eliot's man

I AM amazed that Kathryn Hughes ("A tale of two women", *Review*, 4 October) dismisses George Henry Lewes as a "well-known libertine and womaniser, indissolubly married".

As a young man Lewes, then under the influence of Shelley, had believed that love cannot be constrained, which led more rigid thinkers to imagine that he lived in some sort of sexual commune. His marriage to Agnes Jarvis was happy with three surviving children; then Agnes provided a fourth by Thornton Hunt, a "respectably" married man. Thinking this was a one-off slip, Lewes forgave her and took the child under his wing. Agnes, however, continued the relationship, eventually producing four children by Hunt. Lewes left her when she had the second and it was after this that his relationship with George Eliot¹⁾ began. Because it was considered he had initially condoned adultery, it was legally impossible to dissolve the marriage. Moreover, he was constrained by law to provide not only for his three children, but for Hunt's four.

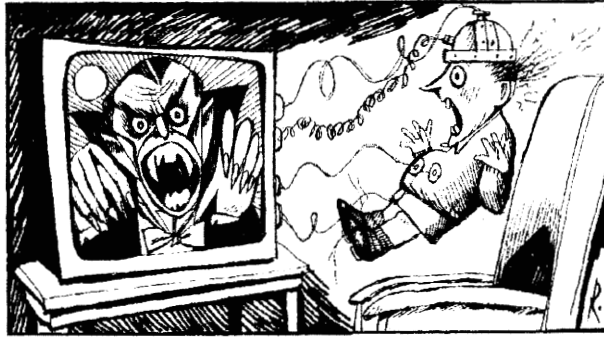
JULIET KEPL
Holm, Orkney

*'The Independent on Sunday',
October 18, 1998*

noot 1

George Eliot: pen-name of the author Mary Ann Evans (1819–1880)

Saving the kids



THE FRENCH look as if they are going to succeed in bullying Holland out of its tentative experiment in liberalising the drug laws. Holland was the only country prepared to give it a try, but such an enormous proportion of the world's law enforcement capability is taken up with drug offences that one cannot help wondering if the whole war against drugs might not be a great mistake.

Cannabis, the drug that Holland was prepared to tolerate in small quantities, has the undoubted effect of making its adherents boring and goofy, but that hardly justifies filling our prisons with them at enormous expense. France complains that the Dutch are corrupting Gallic youth with their cannabis. There is no reason to doubt that Gallic youth is being corrupted, along with the youth of nearly all the developed world, but I do not know why the French blame cannabis.

The obvious villain is television, which feeds them with violence until they think there is something dowdy about a world where people are not always shooting each other.

Perhaps the most pathetic reaction to this form of corruption has been President Clinton's

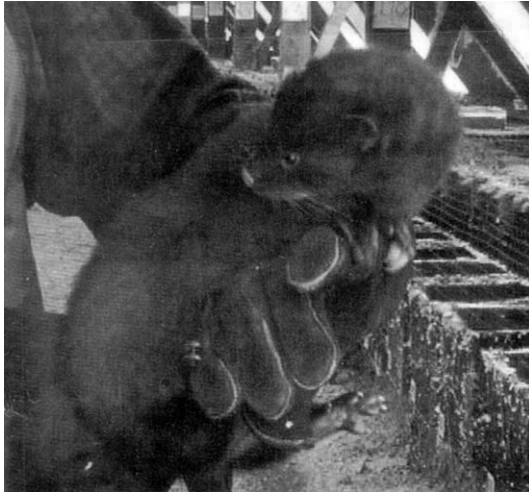
law making it compulsory for all new television sets to be fitted with a "V" chip, which will scramble violent or pornographic material. The idea is that broadcasters will display an electronic call-sign with all offensive material. The V-chip then scrambles the programme until it is deactivated by an adult.

This development has been hailed by Mrs Bottomley, but I wonder how she supposes it will be able to distinguish between an adult and an under-age de-activator. Children are much better at these things.

The new truth about our children is not that they are dope fiends or sex maniacs addicted to violence, but that they are hopelessly unfit. Scientists have discovered they are so inactive that their heart rates are the same from when they get up until when they go to bed. They are not even allowed to use skipping ropes in schools, for fear of litigation if they have an accident.

I do not think they need protection from violence. Rather, they should be given periodic electric shocks as they watch television, to remind them that life is truly full of thorns.

'The Weekly Telegraph', March 27, 1996



Blue Iris farmed mink, United Kingdom, 1998

FARMING LIVESTOCK for nothing but food is the logical extension of the Private Member's Bill by Labour MP Maria Eagle. As a result, farming primarily for fur, wool or skin could become illegal in the United Kingdom. This is in direct contrast to the new European Directive on farm animal welfare adopted last summer by the Council of Ministers which identified fur animals along with cattle, pigs and sheep as part of the established farming industry. If fur farming had been considered 'cruel' or 'unnecessary' the **European Parliament** would not have supported this initiative and the **Council of Ministers** would not have approved it.

In parallel, the **Council of Europe** has hammered out new and higher standards for fur farmed animals throughout Europe that set the benchmark for the next Millennium. Britain was a major contributor to this standard setting, which involved not just governments and special advisers, but animal welfare experts and farmers.

The Bill, due for a second reading in the House of Commons on March 5, opens the debate on the role of government in animal welfare.

THIS IS a picture you can trust.

It shows a healthy domesticated mink reared on a West Country farm.

The 'animals always look fit and healthy'.

(Dr Georgia Mason, Oxford University, Daily Telegraph, September 1998)

The government has an important role to play but it has a clear obligation to take decisions based on science, not emotion. Already the Dutch Government has endorsed mink farming by setting new, progressive standards that will form the basis of the revised **Council of Europe Recommendation**.

- **92% of British people*** believe money donated to animal welfare organisations should be used directly on improving animal welfare and not high profile advertising.
- **82% of British people*** disapprove of animal rights campaigners who disrupt and interfere with the business of farmers and retailers.

*results of official nationwide survey representative of the UK population, 16 yrs plus, October 97 & 98

De volgende tekst is het begin (ingekort) van het eerste hoofdstuk van 'Frost on my Moustache' van Tim Moore

I'd been up since 4.30 a.m., an awful thing, so awful that it wasn't until I approached Grimsby that my higher brain functions kicked in and I decoded the shipping forecast I'd heard in the car park at Leicester Forest East services. 'Humber, Tyne, Dogger, Force 6, rising Gale Force 8, imminent.' That blurred, churned slather of brown on my left was the Humber, I realised. And swaying on top of it, somewhere down the road at Immingham Docks, was the Icelandic container ship on which I would shortly be embarking on the first leg of my voyage.

So extravagant had been my fatigue that at one point I'd considered protecting myself from lane-wandering collision by putting on my cycle helmet, only refraining from doing so when I estimated this would raise my chances of being arrested. I felt incongruous enough as it was: my red anorak looked all wrong in this shiny new repmobile, as did the rucksacks and bits of partially dismembered mountain bike filling the car's rear half. When I'd hired the car the night before, the bloke behind the counter had looked me up and down uncertainly before pressing a document firmly into my hands with the words, 'And this is what you show the police if they stop you.'

Now, feeling more torn than worn, I drove into the thwarted ugliness of Grimsby's outskirts and realised that I had no idea where the Budget office was. It was 9 a.m. and my ship left at 10. With the first stirrings of panic feathering my stomach, I pulled into a petrol station to ask directions, expecting the old 'Yes, chuck, over to the old scrattling plant, then second left where young Albert Belt had his fall' routine. Instead, the woman at the till just pointed at a big sign about 40 feet away, reading: 'Budget Car Rentals, You Patronising Metropolitan Ponce.'

'The thing to do is to eat, like, twelve Mars Bars,' shouted the minicab driver as the gale that had been imminent announced its arrival by heaving us around the road. 'Fill your guts with something to chuck up.'

The best I could say was that this was perfect Icelandic weather. Next time you watch the BBC weather forecast, check out the top left-hand corner

of the map, and in particular the tight vortex of isobars that invariably blots out Iceland. It's astonishingly windy there. The winters, at least in the inhabited parts (namely the coastline), aren't actually as severe as the country's name implies. New York, for instance, is generally far colder. But the wind ... Every Icelander visiting England for the first time is amazed by the umbrellas. No one in Iceland owns an umbrella. Open one up there and you'll be the hapless participant in a demonstration of why Mary Poppins never visited Reykjavík.

Birna's grandfather, a former whaler and trawler captain, had pulled the strings which had landed me a berth on the *Dettifoss*, a container ship with a capacity of 8,000 tons, ferrying frozen fish out of Iceland and a bit of everything back in. It was a brilliant coup – the *Dettifoss* was not supposed to take any passengers, and the only nautical alternative from Britain to Iceland was a very unDufferinian ferry from Scrabster, up near John O'Groats.

Probably because someone else had organised it, the Britain-Iceland leg was the only part of my Dufferin-trailing itinerary I'd been able to pencil in with any confidence. Afterwards, it petered away into doubt (would there really be a military plane to take me to Jan Mayen from Norway?), over-ambition (every time I told people I was mountain biking across Iceland, they'd repeat these last four words back with incredulous verbal italics) or, as in the unresolved voyages from Iceland to Norway and Norway to Spitzbergen, a simple blank.

So I was hugely grateful to Birna's grandfather. In theory.

I don't do boats. My previous record voyage was Cherbourg-Portsmouth; the only occasion on which I had spent any time on a boat smaller than a ferry I had been extravagantly unwell.

Additionally, I had been stupid enough the previous night to reacquaint myself with Dufferin's account of his crossing from Oban to Iceland. 'I had always heard the seas were heavier here than in any other part of the world,' he begins, and just as I awaited a 'but', he carries on with 'and certainly they did not belie their character.'

DISTANCE LEARNING

University degrees, like hamburgers and soft drinks, have become one more 'product' which can be franchised to overseas suppliers, writes **Donald MacLeod**

Education goes global



Increasing numbers of students are taking British degree courses without setting foot on a UK university campus

OVERSEAS students now account for almost one in five students at British universities – and the numbers look set to grow even more rapidly in future. While the influx of foreign students and the frantic attempts of British higher education institutions to recruit them have received plenty of publicity, a quiet revolution has gone unnoticed. 5 an increasing proportion of these students are not “at” university in Britain at all – they follow their studies and brave exams and assessment in their home states without setting foot on a British campus.

There have long been pure distance learning packages available to people through the London university external degrees or the Open University. But the mushrooming of hybrid “overseas validated courses”, as they are called, where UK universities franchise their degrees to 6, has been phenomenal. Virtually unknown 10 years ago, they now boast an estimated 140,000 students enrolled at British universities, according to a study by Sussex university’s Institute of Development Studies.

The report by Paul Bennell and Terry Pearce argues this is part of a process of 7 higher education that will have far-reaching consequences for

universities in developed countries as well as the Third World. “Just as the Coca-Cola and McDonald’s corporations award franchises to companies and entrepreneurs in overseas countries to produce their products under tightly defined and rigorously enforced conditions, so too are a rapidly growing number of universities franchising other overseas institutions to offer their qualifications.”

They paint a picture of cut-throat global competition involving private investors and companies as well as universities, and predict potentially dire effects for institutions in developing countries which are likely to 8 British, American and Australian universities promoting prestigious and portable qualifications. “Just as trade liberalisation has resulted in large swaths of the industrial sector being wiped out in many countries, so the threat posed by foreign providers becomes equally real, as higher education becomes increasingly privatised”, note Bennell and Pearce.

9 is involved, although the authors admit reliable figures for UK education exports are not available. The Department of Trade and Industry estimates foreign exchange earnings

from education were at least \$15 billion in 1997, up from less than \$12 billion the previous year – with overseas students accounting for about half of that. Bennell and Pearce estimate that overseas validated courses are now worth \$410 million a year to British universities.

In Britain the growth has been driven by the new universities, which account for two-thirds of overseas validated courses. In contrast, many of the older universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Durham and Edinburgh had 10 of these courses abroad, which the report attributes to “a desire on their part to maintain the international status and exclusiveness of their qualifications.”

For the Sussex researchers the key question is to what extent other countries will 11 attempt to internationalise their education services for monetary gain. “We believe that Australia and the UK are market leaders and that the majority of developed industrial economies will follow their lead during the next five to ten years. There are already clear signs that universities and examination bodies in other countries (most notably Canada and South Africa) are becoming increasingly 12 overseas education and training markets.”

The Sussex report concludes: “Trade in knowledge and expertise will grow exponentially as the pressure on governments to create high-skill societies continues to intensify and trade barriers are eliminated with the enforcement of World Trade Organisation provisions.”

Overseas investors will increasingly establish their own campuses, and governments in developing and transitional countries will encourage them to do so, the authors of the report believe. As business becomes 13, so the advantages – indeed necessity – of international qualifications will increase. People in developing and transitional countries want the competitive advantage of a recognised qualification such as the MBA, while international companies want training and education they understand, especially when integrated production systems straddle national boundaries.

‘Guardian Weekly’, November 22, 1998

Two for joy...



Identical twins

MATT SEATON

reviews

**TWINS: GENES, ENVIRONMENT
AND THE MYSTERY OF IDENTITY**
by Lawrence Wright

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.99, pp175

¹ **T**wins are lucky – at least according to a Zulu saying we were told when we visited ³ South Africa with our six-month-old boy and girl. Lucky, one assumes, because of the implicit fecundity of having a pair of babies at once. Our hands were full, our nights were broken, our old life was in shreds, but we knew what was meant. Kind of.

² But twins have not always been lucky. Since the birth of genetics, twins have been much sought-after by scientists for what they can tell

about the human blueprint. If you are the parent of twins, it is very likely that you will have been asked at least to enter your children's names on a register, or even volunteer them for some study. At other times in this century, participation in scientific research has been rather less than voluntary.

⁴ Josef Mengele's experiments in Auschwitz are infamous. Less well-known, perhaps, is that his great preoccupation, his scientific passion if you like, was twins. Some ⁵ 3,000 passed through the camp and into his hands. Lawrence Wright describes, skin-crawlingly, how the Nazi doctor would pet them, encouraging them to call him Uncle Mengele. It was the affection the vivisectionist holds for his lab rats; only a few score of Mengele's twins sur-

vived his obscene tortures.

As Wright concedes, 'putting aside the circumstances in which he was operating, there would have been much that could have been learnt', but the circumstances dictated everything. Like Stalin's Lysenko, Mengele served absolutely corrupt power. His experiments were grotesque, hare-brained, pointlessly cruel and scientifically useless.

What *New Yorker* staffer Wright shows, much as the British writer Marek Kohn illustrated in his recent book *The Race Gallery*, is that Nazi eugenics damaged the reputation of socio-biology more or less permanently. As the long-running controversy over IQ testing demonstrates, any scientist whose data suggests that a particular human trait is in fact more heritable than the ruling consensus formerly

supposed, is liable to be labelled a Nazi. And not without reason: America has its own history of scientific racism, attempting to justify segregation.

6 In short, society has a very 8 great stake in which way the trend is going in the nature versus nurture debate. Public policy is made and revised, parties rise and fall, even wars are won and lost, depending ultimately on where we place ourselves in relation to this philosophical fault-line. But why are twins so precious to this battle between genetic and environmental determin- 9 ists?

7 The biological reasoning is straightforward: because identical twins are monozygotic – that is, formed from a single egg that split very early in its intra-uterine development – they are assumed to have identical genetic material. Non-identical twins, on the other hand, are dizygotic, growing from two separate 10 eggs fertilised, usually, at more

or less the same time. This means they are only as alike as siblings born to the same biological parents, sharing, on average, 50 per cent of their genetic material.

Theoretically, this allows researchers to test for a vast array of characteristics, compare data with normative populations, and thus draw conclusions about what is and is not hereditary, and in what proportions. Until the entire human genome is mapped 11 and we know all about molecular biology, twins research is an invaluable tool.

And many of its conclusions are startling. Putting aside the obvious areas of inquiry, like intelligence, height or heart disease, who would have guessed that personality traits such as religiosity and political affiliation would turn out to be determined by one's genetic make-up – and not just negligibly, but significantly so?

What Wright does admirably well is distil out of a

voluminous scientific discourse on twins the essential kernel of what should concern us about the way twins research has tipped the nature/nurture debate. Marx believed that men were made by their circumstances, 'though not of their own choosing'; what much twins research suggests – though not unambiguously – is that we are as much made by genes not of our own choosing.

Wright gets distracted with the freak-show aspect of identical twins – the bizarre and improbable coincidences in the lives of twins 'separated at birth', but only at times. His conclusion, which I will crudely reduce to the fact that we remain an unquantifiable mixture of genetic programming, environmental influence and conscious free will, is ultimately reassuring. Provided you're not an identical twin, that is.

*'The Observer Review',
November 30, 1997*

Why there's no place like home for Lord Elgin's looted treasure

1 IT'S TIME to start talking about
the Elgin Marbles again. Or rather
to start talking about the
"Parthenon Sculptures", because
5 the stones in the British Museum
are only a part of a whole, and
much of the rest is still in Athens.
It is time that the sculptures in
London went back to Greece.

2 10 This is an ancient argument.
Ever since the British Museum
acquired the marbles from Lord
Elgin in 1816, there have been
passionate British voices pleading
15 that they should go back to
Athens. But the argument seemed
to be gradually working its way to
a conclusion by early 1997.

3 The Greeks had met most of
20 the traditional objections. A new
modern Acropolis museum to
house and protect them is being
built, the British Museum would
be provided with a full set of
25 casts to replace the originals, and
Britain would not be asked to pay
for moving them. The museum
still disagreed. But public opinion
in this country seemed to be
30 shifting decisively in favour of a
return, and 109 MPs in the last
Parliament – including 10 who are
now ministers in Tony Blair's
administration – signed an Early-
35 Day Motion for restitution.

4 Then, suddenly, the process
jerked to a halt. Almost within
hours of Labour's election victory,
Chris Smith, the new minister
40 of culture, told a questioner that
the marbles were "an integral
part" of the British Museum, and
their return was not on the agenda.
The Greeks were shocked; the
45 British Committee for the Resti-
tution of the Parthenon Marbles
was appalled. And there, for the
moment, things rest.

5 But they won't rest for long. A
50 new edition of Christopher Hit-
chens's book *The Elgin Marbles*, re-
vised and updated, will go on sale
early in the new year. Reading its
proofs – the most convincing
55 case for return since Byron's furi-
ous protests – made me go back
to the museum last week and have



NEAL ASCHERSON

another look. To be honest, I
have always respected the marbles
60 but never loved them. Yes, it's a
miracle that they survive at all,
after 2,500 years. But the mutila-
tion and the gaps, the headless
arms and headless necks, fill me
65 with horror. The Turks, Byzan-
tine-Christian vandals, Lord El-
gin's klutzy workmen and over
two millennia of weather have all
chewed and chipped and scraped
70 away at the great friezes and the
statuary of metopes and pedi-
ments until what remains feels as
much an atrocity as a masterpiece.
Complete, or even less damaged,
75 those solemn processions of
young men and girls, doomed
oxen and raging horses would be
one of the world's wonders. As it
is, I get more out of the vulgar
80 battle of the Titans on the Perga-
mon altar in Berlin. At least they
are mostly there, and you don't
have to struggle with the "how it
must once have looked" enigma.

85 When one nation appropriates
the treasures of another into its
own culture, you have to ask what
the new owners get out of it. It's
been the custom to scold the mo-
90 dern Greeks for their "irrational"
wish to get the sculptures back.
Sir David Wilson, then director of
the British Museum, declared
nine years ago on television that
95 the Greek demand was "cultural
fascism ... it's nationalism, and
it's cultural danger". Leaving

fascism aside (not least because
the Greeks have suffered a great
100 deal more of it than the British),
this implies that British posses-
sion of the Parthenon Marbles
has been a matter of quiet,
balanced appreciation. Not so!

7 105 The marbles were transfigured
into supporters of British 19th-
century imperial identity. They
helped to confirm, for instance,
the idea of Britain as the universal
110 civilising force. The Victorians
disliked comparisons with Impe-
rial Rome – too much crude force
and debauchery. Instead, they
preferred to fancy some conti-
115 nuity with the world of classical
Greece. They imagined this
"Hellenic civilisation" as domini-
on founded on cultural and moral
superiority rather than on crush-
120 ing military strength and modern
industrial technology. (That was a
travesty of history; the power of
Athens rested on victorious war
and the export of high-quality
125 manufactures, not on Socrates
and democracy. But national and
imperial myth is usually made of
travesties.)

8 Then there was the style of the
130 sculptures. The Victorians adored
"naturalism". All other styles
were seen as primitive; art had its
own law of development which
led upwards until it culminated in
135 a photographic realism based on
exact reproduction of the retina-
image of human anatomy. After
all, the art of the Empire's native
subjects in benighted continents
140 always "deformed" natural
objects. The bronze-workers of
Benin, the Canadian tribesmen
fashioning totem poles, the
Bushman cave-painters or the
145 Maori carvers were highly skilled
in their own ways but apparently
unable to produce an accurate
figure drawing or still life. Early
archaeology showed that pre-
150 historic peoples in Europe had
been inadequate in the same way.

Plainly, Victorian Britain con-
cluded, "stylised" art was the ex-
pression of backward, incom-

155 plete minds. Only the classical
Greeks, and by imitation the Ro-
mans, had previously achieved
artistic mastery – exact reproduc-
160 tion. So naturalism seemed to be
the art of imperial destiny, pre-
figured on the Parthenon.

10 And the bodies on the Parthe-
non Marbles – they were pulled
into the Victorian myth as well.
165 Those bodies were young, physi-
cally perfect, mostly naked and
mostly male. They suited the late-
Victorian imperial cult of (male)
youth and strength and decency –
170 *mens sana in corpore sano*. Again, the
pagan and “native” cultures of
the Empire almost all allowed for
customs abhorrent and indecent
to Victorian Christianity, and this
175 moral backwardness was in turn
associated with their inability to
achieve realism in art.

11 In short, the Greek wish to
have the sculptures back is not

180 nearly as weird and mystical as the
British passion to keep them has
been. It’s a bit like attitudes to the
Stone of Destiny. The Scots
wanted it back, on the rational
185 grounds that it had been pinched
from them in the past. But it was
the English who turned out to
have charged the Stone with ma-
gical powers in the Coronation ri-
tual, and it was the Dean of West-
190 minster – not the Scots – who
protested that it had “religious
significance”.

12 But that passion for the mar-
bles is ebbing. I think that it’s no
accident that public interest in
them has declined steeply since
the end of Britain’s colonial em-
pire. The British self-image has
200 changed, and the marbles are no
longer required to prop it up.

13 “Integral” to the British Mu-
seum? As Christopher Hitchens
points out, it’s a striking word. If

205 the sculptures are integral to any-
thing, it is to the Parthenon – and
literally so, for many of the reliefs
were carved into the building it-
self rather than clapped on as de-
210 coration. This means that the
marbles are not isolated “art ob-
jects” on their own, but part of
something else. And that, in turn,
punctures the objection that their
215 return would set a precedent for
the restitution of every “foreign”
vase or statuette in the world’s
museums.

14 The British Museum has cared
220 well for the marbles, on the
whole. It has allowed the British
to draw from them a special sort
of national inspiration. But that
particular inspiration is no longer
225 required. The museum’s moral
trusteeship for the Parthenon
Marbles is over, and they should
now go home.

*‘The Independent on
Sunday’, December 7, 1997*

LEISURE

Sticking up for old boars

Paul Evans

1 **I**N AUSTRALIA arguments
 rage about the proposed
 slaughter of 4 million kanga-
 roos, the world's largest cull of
 wild animals. Farmers complain
 that roos are a threat to crops
 and are spreading disease. The
 often illegal hunting of these
 animals, where the fittest are
 taken, leaves weaker individuals
 prone to viral disease, which is
 affecting millions of individuals.

2 Conservationists and animal
 welfare groups are outraged and
 are calling for a moratorium on
 hunting. One impassioned cam-
 paigner appeared on television,
 arguing that kangaroos belonged
 to the world, and that we should
 intervene on their behalf. But
 before British conservationists
 respond, I would urge them to
 look at what is happening in our
 own backyards.

3 The growing UK hit-list of
 wild animals — which includes
 badgers, deer, grey squirrels,
 ruddy ducks and mink — has
 recently had the wild boar added
 to it. Once as emblematic of
 British forests as the kangaroo is
 of the Australian outback, the
 wild boar became extinct in the
 wild during the Middle Ages.

4 A small number remained in
 fenced enclosures around the
 country as a beast of the chase,
 but although notoriously
 difficult to keep fenced in, they
 never managed to survive in
 sufficient numbers to breed in
 the wild.

5 In recent years, wild boar
 numbers in captivity have in-
 creased, due to their emergence
 as a novelty food item. During
 the great storm of 1987, winds
 and fallen trees broke fences on
 wild boar farms in the south of



England and some escaped. For
 the past 12 years or so they have
 re-colonised woods, minding
 their own business and breeding
 successfully again.

6 The Ministry of Agriculture
 estimates there are about 120
 wild boar at large in the south of
 England. However, organisa-
 tions concerned with pig-
 breeding claim there may be
 hundreds more roaming the
 countryside and that they pose a
 threat to domestic pigs through
 disease, and a risk to public
 safety. The government has also
 been warned that the population
 could multiply five-fold in the
 next five years.

7 Genetically, wild boar are
 quite distinct from domestic
 breeds. They are large, powerful
 animals, and can be dangerous if
 cornered — although there have
 been no reports of anybody
 being attacked. Nevertheless
 farming interests are calling for a
 cull, using high-powered rifles.
 Although the Government has
 not yet decided what to do, the

anticipated slaughter has been
 described with relish by one
 newspaper as the “biggest wild
 boar hunt in England since the
 Middle Ages”.

8 Many European countries
 have large populations of wild
 boar living close to large popu-
 lations of people, but then they
 have more forest than we do. The
 reason for this is that wild boar
 are nature's ploughs — they
 liberate dormant seeds of
 wildflowers, reduce bracken and
 give the processes of natural
 regeneration a kick-start. If we
 care about our woodlands, we
 should be encouraging their
 return and allowing them the
 freedom to recolonise woodland
 further afield.

9 The hysterical pig-sticking in
 the press is being whipped up by
 the ignorance and self-interest of
 the land-owning and farming
 lobby, which sees anything wild
 as a threat to their livelihood.
 And, as in Australia, theirs is a
 livelihood the rest of us pay
 dearly for.

*‘The Guardian Weekly’,
 November 22, 1998*



NEW FILMS

Nowhere (18)

Director: Gregg Araki

Starring: James Duval, Rachel True, Nathan Bex-ton, Shannon Doherty

One-man film factory Gregg Araki returns to the nihilistic landscape of *Totally F***ed Up* and *The Doom Generation* with another hallucinatory journey through an LA underground inhabited by young ambisexual drifters, sado-masochists, druggies, airheads – and, this time around, a few aliens for good measure.

It's good to see the elegantly wasted James Duval, as alienated teen Dark Smith, returning to his low-budget roots with Araki after a starring role in *Independence Day*. Intoxicating stuff.

Red Corner (15)

Director: Jon Avnet

Starring: Richard Gere, Bai Ling, Bradley Whitford

Richard Gere usually exercises a bit of discrimination when choosing his projects, but his very public pro-Tibet stance must have blinded him to the failings of this clunking piece of anti-Chinese propaganda.

In Beijing to sell trashy American TV programmes to a Chinese network, Gere finds himself framed for murder and railroaded by the brutal legal system. But the insights *Red Corner* offers into the Chinese brand of totalitarianism are swamped by the clichéd depiction of ruthless party cadres (they practically say "We have ways of making you talk") and repetitive courtroom scenes, which mostly revolve around the issue of whether Gere can hear the simultaneous translation of proceedings through his headset.

Dad Savage (18)

Director: Betsan Morris Evans

Starring: Patrick Stewart, Kevin McKidd, Helen McCrory, Joe McFadden, Marc Warren

Patrick Stewart sheds his *Star Trek* image to play Dad Savage, a tulip-growing, Country & Western-obsessed East Anglian crime boss who turns very nasty indeed when two of his employees try to run

off with his life savings.

Strikingly shot in the bleak expanses of the Lincolnshire fens by first-time director Betsan Morris Evans, this is an original stab at re-inventing the British thriller. There are strong performances, but a *Usual Suspects*-inspired structure of flashbacks within flashbacks conspires to make a raw, brutal little story frustratingly hard to follow.

The Taste of Cherry (PG)

Director: Abbas Kiarostami

Starring: Homayon Ershadi, Adolhossein

Bagheri, Afshin Bakhtiari

The joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, and it's not hard to see why. In précis – an Iranian man drives around the outskirts of Tehran looking for someone to help him commit suicide – it sounds like the average multiplex-goer's worst nightmare of an art movie.

But thanks to highly naturalistic performances and the purity of director Abbas Kiarostami's shooting style, it's a hypnotic and ultimately moving experience, so long as you can adjust to the pace.

Hurricane Streets (15)

Director: Morgan J Freeman

Starring: Brendan Sexton III, Shawn Elliot

Brendan Sexton III, who made an impression as the high-school bully in *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, is touchingly awkward as Marcus, a 15-year-old on the mean streets of New York, whose criminal lifestyle is offset by an almost saintly care for the no-hopers in his gang.

But despite raw performances from the young unknowns, gritty detail and a sheaf of awards from the Sundance Film Festival – the film never steers sufficiently clear from the usual kids and crime clichés.

John Wrathall



Slow death: Napoleon was given tiny doses of arsenic

Vengeful count killed Napoleon

by Hugh McManners
Defence Correspondent

1 FRANCE'S greatest general, the Grand Emperor Napoleon, died a sordid and agonising death at the hands of an aristocratic and expert poisoner, according to new research by a British military historian.

2 The poisoner has been named as a French nobleman, the Comte de Montholon, a Bourbon royalist who posed as one of Napoleon's closest staff and was a beneficiary in his will. The assassination was part of a plot by the Bourbon royal family to remove Napoleon as a threat to the throne.

3 "Until now, the poisoning of Napoleon by a Frenchman has been only a theory, which the French have resisted very strenuously," said Colonel John Hughes-Wilson, who is the European co-ordinator of the International Napoleonic Society. "But we are now certain that de Montholon was the only person who had the motive, method and opportunity to kill him, and we can say exactly how he did it."

4 The solving of the case will not be welcomed by many French historians, who refuse to believe that one of their countrymen could have killed their greatest soldier and emperor. In the past, doctors and historians have attributed Napoleon's death to more than 30 illnesses, including syphilis, scurvy and hepatitis.

5 Analysis of hairs shaved from the emperor's head just after his death show the presence of arsenic, which has been explained variously as coming from the food or water, his medication and haircream, and even the wallpaper in his house.

6 But forensic tests on the hair samples at Harwell Nuclear Research Laboratory in Oxford prove he ingested varying amounts of the poison each day over the six months before his death, tying in with the diary accounts of Napoleon's illness by eight witnesses.

7 Hughes-Wilson claims in the Royal United Services Institute journal this month that de Montholon's poisoning method was widely used in the 18th century by the French aristocracy. The method involves giving tiny doses of arsenic over a long period so that its use is undetectable. The first stage is the "cosmetic phase", which is intended to make the victim ill. Unwitting doctors then treat these symptoms using medication that in the second phase of the poisoning causes the victim's death.

8 Eyewitness accounts say Napoleon had been intermittently ill since 1816, suffering stomach bloating, diarrhoea and vomiting, thirst, weakness of the legs, nausea, a dry cough and hot intestines, all classic signs of arsenic poisoning.

9 Hughes-Wilson said the poisoning might have started even earlier, during the Waterloo campaign, several months before Napoleon's second exile to St Helena. He argued that although de Montholon did not serve on Napoleon's staff at the time of Waterloo, a second Bourbon agent may have started to poison him in a co-ordinated assassination attempt. Some witnesses described the general as pale and listless during the battle.

10 He said it would have been important that Napoleon appeared to deteriorate naturally over a long period. "To kill him outright would have meant a revolution in France, because the French army and people were still loyal to Napoleon."

11 In the hours preceding Napoleon's death on May 2, 1821, he was given medicine for thirst and constipation, Hughes-Wilson said. The autopsy revealed a heavily corroded stomach and a complete absence of body hair, consistent with arsenic poisoning. Cancer was, however, recorded as the official cause of death.

12 De Montholon had a personal motive for murder, said Hughes-Wilson. He had been sacked from a lucrative post after he married against the emperor's wishes.

*'The Sunday Times',
December 21, 1997*

Hepatitis A Vaccine, Inactivated Havrix®

See complete prescribing information in SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals literature. The following is a brief summary.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: *Havrix* is indicated for active immunization of persons ≥ 2 years of age against disease caused by hepatitis A virus (HAV).

CONTRAINDICATIONS: *Havrix* is contraindicated in people with known hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine.

WARNINGS: Do not give additional injections to patients experiencing hypersensitivity reactions after a *Havrix* injection. (See CONTRAINDICATIONS.)

Hepatitis A has a relatively long incubation period. Hepatitis A vaccine may not prevent hepatitis A infection in those who have an unrecognized hepatitis A infection at the time of vaccination. Additionally, it may not prevent infection in those who do not achieve protective antibody titers (although the lowest titer needed to confer protection has not been determined).

PRECAUTIONS: As with any parenteral vaccine (1) keep epinephrine available for use in case of anaphylaxis or anaphylactoid reaction; (2) delay administration, if possible, in people with any febrile illness or active infection, except when the physician believes withholding vaccine entails the greater risk; (3) take all known precautions to prevent adverse reactions, including reviewing patients' history for hypersensitivity to this or similar vaccines.

Administer with caution to people with thrombocytopenia or a bleeding disorder, or people taking anticoagulants. Do not inject into a blood vessel. Use a separate, sterile needle or prefilled syringe for every patient. When giving concomitantly with other vaccines or IG, use separate needles and different injection sites.

As with any vaccine, if administered to immunosuppressed persons or persons receiving immunosuppressive therapy, the expected immune response may not be obtained.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: *Havrix* has not been evaluated for its carcinogenic potential, mutagenic potential or potential for impairment of fertility.

Pregnancy Category C: Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with *Havrix*. It is also not known whether *Havrix* can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or can affect reproduction capacity. It is not known whether *Havrix* is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, use caution when administering *Havrix* to a nursing woman.

Havrix is well tolerated and highly immunogenic and effective in children.

Fully inform patients, parents or guardians of the benefits and risks of immunization with *Havrix*. For persons traveling to endemic or epidemic areas, consult current CDC advisories regarding specific locales. Travelers should take all necessary precautions to avoid contact with, or ingestion of, contaminated food or water. Duration of immunity following a complete vaccination schedule has not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: *Havrix* has been generally well tolerated. As with all pharmaceuticals, however, it is possible that expanded commercial use of the vaccine could reveal rare adverse events.

The most frequently reported by volunteers in clinical trials was injection-site soreness (56% of adults; 21% of children) headache (14% of adults; less than 9% of children). Other solicited and unsolicited events are listed below:

Incidence 1% to 10% of Injections: Induration, redness, swelling, fatigue, fever ($>37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$), malaise, anorexia, nausea.

Incidence <1% of Injections: Hematoma; pruritus, rash, urticaria; pharyngitis, other upper respiratory tract infections; abdominal pain, diarrhea, dysgeusia, vomiting; arthralgia, elevation of creatine phosphokinase, myalgia; lymphadenopathy; hypertonic episode, insomnia, photophobia, vertigo.

Additional safety data

Safety data were obtained from two additional sources in which large populations were vaccinated. In an outbreak setting in which 4,930 individuals were immunized with a single dose of either 720 EL.U. or 1440 EL.U. of *Havrix*, the vaccine was well-tolerated and no serious adverse events due to vaccination were reported. Overall, less than 10% of vaccinees reported solicited general adverse events following the vaccine. The most common solicited local adverse event was pain at the injection site, reported in 22.3% of subjects at 24 hours and decreasing to 2.4% by 72 hours.

In a field efficacy trial, 19,037 children received the 360 EL.U. dose of *Havrix*. The most commonly reported adverse events were injection-site pain (9.5%) and tenderness (8.1%), reported following first doses of *Havrix*. Other adverse events were infrequent and comparable to the control vaccine Engerix-B® (Hepatitis B Vaccine, Recombinant).

Postmarketing Reports: Rare voluntary reports of adverse events in people receiving *Havrix* since market introduction include the following: localized edema; anaphylaxis/anaphylactoid reactions, somnolence; syncope; jaundice, hepatitis; erythema multiforme, hyperhidrosis, angioedema; dyspnea; lymphadenopathy; convulsions, encephalopathy, dizziness, neuropathy, myelitis, paresthesia, Guillain-Barré syndrome, multiple sclerosis.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has established the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) to accept reports of suspected adverse events after the administration of any vaccine, including, but not limited to, the reporting of events required by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986. The toll-free number for VAERS forms and information is 1-800-822-7967.

HOW SUPPLIED: 360 EL.U./0.5 mL: NDC 58160-836-01 Package of 1 single-dose vial.

720 EL.U./0.5mL: NDC 58160-837-01 Package of 1 single-dose vial; NDC 58160-837-02 Package of 1 prefilled syringe.
1440 EL.U./mL: NDC 58160-835-01 Package of 1 single-dose vial; NDC 58160-835-02 Package of 1 prefilled syringe.

Manufactured by **SmithKline Beecham Biologicals**
Rixensart, Belgium
Distributed by **SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals**
Philadelphia, PA 19101
BRS-HA: L5A
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The Deficit in Civil Society (*Foundation for Civil Society*, £12) confirms what many on the left have been saying for years. Institutions promoting social cohesion, such as trade unions, the church and, more bizarrely, the Brownies (although the left has been a bit quieter about the Brownies), are in decline. Unfortunately the paper doesn't actually go much beyond proving this decline and offers no ideas for restoring civil society to its former glory. Still, as it is only the first paper from this newly established society, perhaps they are saving the good stuff back for future publications.

Legal Aid: Striking the Balance or Striking out the Poor? (*National Consumer Council*, £12) argues that government plans to end free legal aid are based on "myths and guesswork" and should be rethought. It disputes the government's claim that the changes will save taxpayers' money, that the legal aid budget is spiralling out of control and that large numbers of weak and trivial cases are funded by legal aid.

THINKER'S
CORNER



Welfare to Work: the America Works Experience (*Social Market Foundation/The Trident Trust*, £10) considers how useful the American experience could be for the UK. The author, Roderick Nye, concludes that a pilot scheme based on private sector-led work placement and workplace skills development could play a part in reducing long-term unemployment.

The Americanisation of the NHS (*Health Policy Network*, £10) adopts a compare-and-contrast technique, pitting the NHS public service model (generally good) against the American market system (generally bad). It cites ways in which the NHS is being wantonly privatised by the Conservatives. Readers "who value the NHS" are urged to promote public debate on the issue and vote against the Tories, in order to prevent any further erosion of the NHS's basic principle of universal care free at the point of delivery.

Please send any relevant reports to Caroline Daniel at the NS

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