

Classical Spam

We have all sat down to read our emails only to find our inbox is bursting at the seams with junk mail and spam. Whether offering us herbal Viagra or asking to rest huge sums of money in our account, these irritating wastes of time have plagued the internet since its first days. A more serious problem to the web community is that of piracy. Each year millions of pounds worth of software, music and DVDs are illegally copied and distributed. August saw these two internet menaces combine forces in the name of classical literature.

A number of businesses, civil servants and general members of the pub-

lic this month received a spam email entitled 'Month of the Written Word'. Whilst this email contained no words, attached was a pdf containing a classical text. As far as the police can tell the books were scanned from originals and emailed out seemingly at random. As of yet they have no leads as to the perpetrator of this crime.

Despite the obvious links to the Society of Antiquities the authorities have cleared them of any connection after a through search of their computer systems. It seems that the society has a cyber guardian angel, or devil depending on your point of view.



Novus Novum Castellum

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Businessman's Death Still Shrouded in Mystery

Whilst the city is still reeling over the death of prominent businessman Samuel Cleveland the Police have had every available man investigating the case. Despite the effort expended in trying to find a lead the local constabulary has had to admit that it still has no lead. Searches of the house where his death occurred provide a clear idea of how he was killed but give no indication of why or by whom. The attacker simply forced the three dead bolts on the front door, encountered Mr. Cleveland in the hall and killed him.

Currently the police are pinning all their hopes upon getting access to his work files which so far have been unavailable until they

could be signed for by his business partner, Paul Goat, who is currently on holiday in Australia. If there is no indication of a suspect or motive from these records the police are planning to resort to door to door enquiries which have proved less than successful in the past.

In an attempt to save face a statement had been issued by the Chief Inspector in charge of the case. In the speech he said that the assailant must have been about five and a half foot with exaggerated musculature. If such an individual is encountered by the public they are advised not to make contact and leave the area as quickly as possible before contacting the police. So it is a bad time to be a bouncer!

The Hounding of the Hunt

Despite the recent laws past and the weight of popular opinion some people still enjoy the pastime of fox hunting. One such group is The League of Northern Huntsmen and Houndsmen which is chaired by local aristocrat Richard Obsert Lumley. Due to the high number of influential individuals involved in the society it normally receives relatively little policing and enjoys many freedoms denied to other groups; that ended this month!

All six hunts organised for August were accompanied by a detachment of police enforcing the letter of

the law with great vigour. Jumping on the band wagon the anti-hunting lobby also made an appearance in the form of a peaceful protest at the last two meetings as well.

There seems no explanation as to this current crackdown on north east hunting, but if it continues the sport could very well become endangered. Lord Lumley has vowed to find those responsible for this persecution and see to it that his group can once again hunt in peace. The question is simply whether he can do it before the organisation dies.

Celebrity Round Up

Celebrity psychologist Arcus Masterton has returned to a quieter life in order to concentrate on his practice in Sunderland. His hit show *'The Ties That Bind'* focused on the breaking of obsessive compulsive behav-

our and received critical acclaim as well wide spread popularity. Stating that he needs to spend time doing psychology again before he does any more media programs he has retired into relative solitude in his home town.

Faith to Faith Meeting

The interfaith conference scheduled for the beginning of next month is in the final planning stages and is already being hailed as the most ambitious bridge building event the UK has ever seen. The event which already has the support of the Catholic and Protestant Church as well as the local Wicca and Muslim communities, aims to find ways for the diverse faiths of Newcastle to put aside their differ-

ences and work towards the common good. If all goes as planned there should be six hundred representatives, covering just about every faith imaginable, will be crammed into the Civic Centre for a day of brainstorming and group discussion. It has also been announced that the final key note speaker will be the Bishop of Durham who is said to be a keen supporter of the project.

Double Lottery Win for Factory Worker

Andrew Phelps, a former production supervisor at the Nissan car works in Sunderland is celebrating a unique win this week after winning a National Lottery jackpot two weeks in a row. Mr Phelps first won £208,994 for matching 5 balls plus the Bonus Ball in last weeks draw, and matched the feat again when he bought another ticket which netted him a further

£165,183 in the following draw.

When asked the secret of his number picking, Mr Phelps laughed and commented that he just had a knack for numbers. A spokesperson for Camelot said they were "unable to comment on the specifics of each payout without the winners permission" and "winning two jackpots in a row had never been done