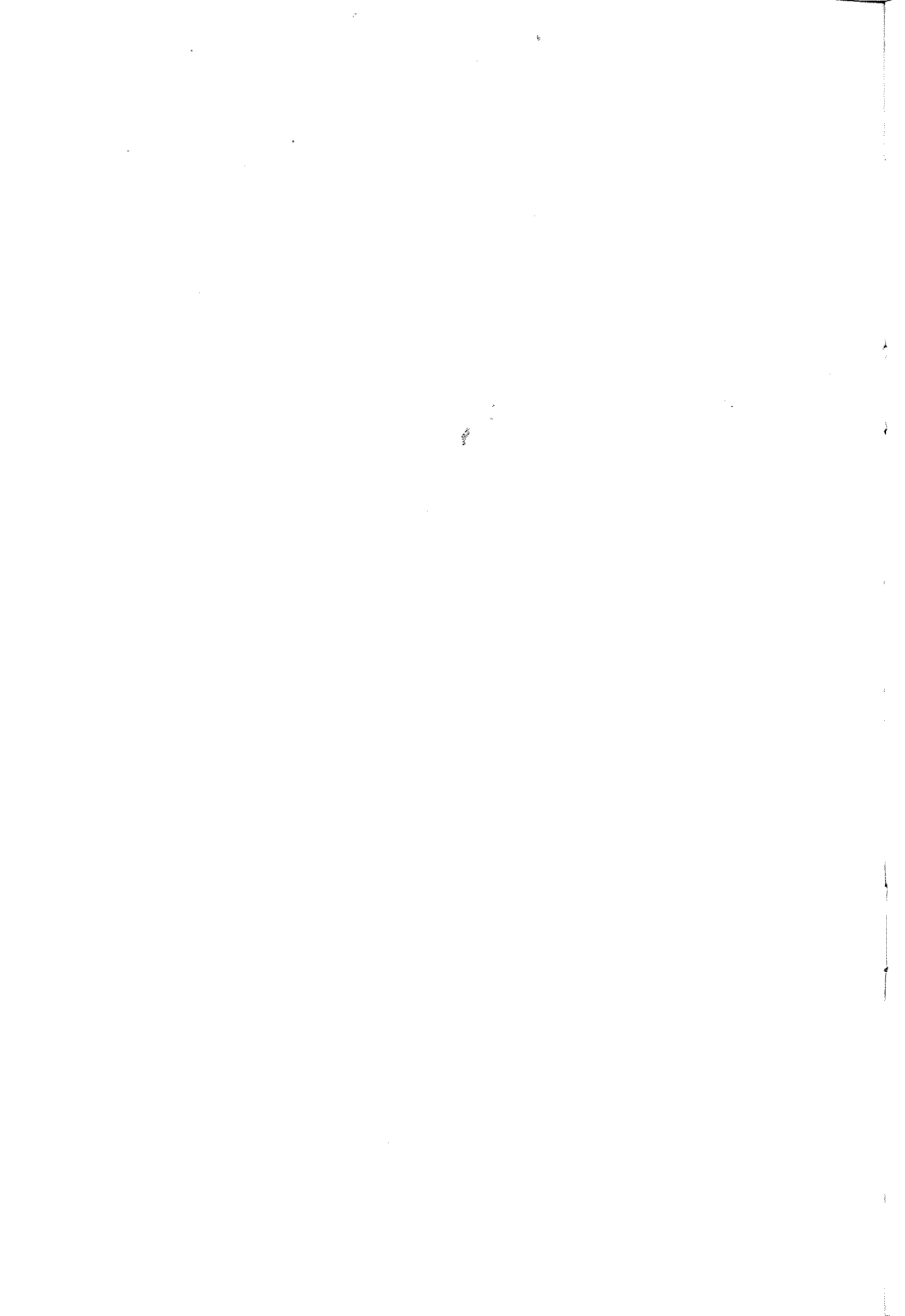


r u n w a y

issue three
chance

six dollars





r u n w a y

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Rachel Scott, Whistler, 14 January 4pm

Editorial

Rachel Scott

Luke Rhinehart's Dice Man decided that the only way to escape the humdrum banality and routine boredom of daily life was to place a different action on each face of a dice and then roll it, vowing to act upon the outcomes they dictated.

Is chance then to be described as lady luck, strange coincidence, the intervention or guidance of a mystic force, the whimsical fancy of capricious fate, fortuitous opportunity or merely our own interpretation of any, or all, of the above?

The more one explores the many faces of chance, the more difficult it becomes to define and encapsulate its meaning. It would appear that our understanding of chance depends upon our individual belief system or personal philosophy. Or, like all great truths, perhaps it only becomes complicated if we choose to make it so.

Many of the artists in this third issue of runway do not so much debunk the notion of chance as illuminate the opportunities, or sets of circumstances, which make it possible for an event to happen. A drip of paint, a randomly chosen image, a newspaper headline or a misplaced love letter; it is not these things themselves that allude to the fickle mistress of chance, but the actions and circumstances that they affect and exist within.

In fulfilling their essential role as artists in society, the contributors to this issue challenge the reader to both reassess their preconceptions about the many different interpretations of chance and broaden their horizons of intellectual discovery.

How dreary life would be without the hope that chance was waiting around the corner, ready to bring excitement, unexpected good fortune and romance into our otherwise dull lives.

Ramraid on Firstdraft

Jonathan Hochman

POSSIBILITY THAT IMPACT COULD DISLodge ASBESTOS PANELS IN CEILING

WATER-LOGGED CEILING MAY COLLAPSE UPON IMPACT

POLICE INTERVENTION

GALLERY BURNS TO THE GROUND IN FIRE CAUSED BY ENGINE EXPLOSION

MISCALCULATION OF BRAKING TIME

DRIVER AND PASSENGER MAY SUFFER WHIPLASH

DRIVER MAY HIT HEAD ON STEERING WHEEL

CAR HITS WALL OUTSIDE DESIGNATED AREA

RABBIT CAUGHT IN HEADLIGHTS

FAILURE TO PRESS RECORD ON CAMCORDER

CYCLIST MAY BE HIT ON APPROACH

CAMERA OPERATOR TRIPS RUNNING OUT OF COLLISION COURSE

WET CONDITIONS MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF TYRE TRACTION



CAMERA OPERATOR COULD FALL FROM RICKETY LADDER INTO PATH OF CAR

NERVOUS GALLERY DIRECTORS MAY VETO PROJECT

SPECTATOR COULD BE HIT BY FLYING DEBRIS

FLYING DEBRIS COULD KNOCK OVER TRIDOD

WINDSCREEN MAY SMASH

BULL BAR COULD COME LOOSE

THE CAR COULD CRASH INTO BRICK WALL

DEBRIS CAUGHT UNDER TYRES MAY CAUSE DRIVER TO LOSE CONTROL OF VEHICLE

Manraid on
...ation her
...
... to ...



Anthea Behm
still from *So like ya know I said hey YOUR NAME HERE, I so know you wanna know, ya know?* 2004

Potentiality and panty hygiene: a treatise on chance and causality

Reflux

Abstract and Method

The following is an investigation of existing Quantum-Pantyonic research concerned with the effect of undergarment selection on the temporal fabric of the universe. The domestic anecdote under dissection is *Statement X*: “*You should always wear clean underwear because you never know when you could get hit by a bus*”

Preliminary Reasoning and Hypothesis

Although the precise historical origins of *Statement X* remain unknown, Professor Bogden of the University of Ohio has estimated that it postdates Neanderthal society, due to the absence of bus-like figuration in prehistoric cave painting.¹

However, the likelihood of *Statement X* having been subject to extensive meaning migration since its conception would seem to be indicated by the illogicality of contemporary interpretations. Most notably, a literal reading of *X* is clearly physiologically unsound. For, as Auto-Safety Impact Studies have repeatedly demonstrated, an acute loss of sphincter function is one of the unavoidable repercussions for pedestrians who have been hit by a bus. Therefore the underlying assumption - that clean underwear remains unblemished in the event of an accident - cannot be substantiated.

The absolute inevitability of soiled post-collision panties also destabilises the various colloquial readings of *X* premised on ‘free will’ conceptualisations of destiny.

Because although *Statement X* is frequently understood as supporting an idea of the future as unknowable (“you never know when you could get hit by a bus”), this concession to the notion of chance seems to be peculiarly out of sync with the statistical unavoidability of dirty pants resulting from a bus collision.

For example, each of the following event sequences results in dirty panties:

a/ wear clean panties, get hit by a bus.

c/ wear dirty panties, get hit by a bus.

b/ wear dirty panties, don't get hit by a bus.

Therefore the only possible sequence that *can* potentially produce a clean panty outcome is: d/ you *do* wear clean panties and *don't get hit by a bus*. In light of this, it would seem entirely illogical that the motif of a bus crash should ever have been included in *Statement X* in the first place.

So why the persistence of the saying? The working hypothesis of this paper is that at some time in the past, the link between panties and bus-hits was not believed to be random but rather was commonly understood to be one of quasi-direct causation (ie. wearing dirty panties may actually *cause* you to get hit by a bus). It is thereby proposed that *Statement X* still contains the trace of this insight despite the fact that contemporary awareness of this connection has long since been obscured by semiotic drift.

Thus, in order to uncover the meta-maternal systems of knowledge upon which *Statement X* was initially founded, it is necessary to

move beyond the contemporary interpretations of X to examine how the statement might potentially intersect with other areas of Quantum-Pantyomics.

Overview of the Quantum-Pantyomics of Menstruation

Although the connection between menstruation cycles and cosmic patterns of causation has long been a pivotal concern of popular feminine discourse, it is only in the last decade that such issues have been systematically addressed by scientific means.

For example, the commonly known fact that one is much more likely to get one's period when wearing light coloured underpants has now been supported by experimental evidence. In a study conducted in Detroit, 97.25 % of subjects reported heavy out-of-cycle bleeding while wearing white underwear compared to only 16% in the control group. Other unlikely period effects include the bizarre syncing that occurs between the cycles of women who live together, and the irrefutable correlation between eagerly anticipated sexual encounters and the inconvenient onset of early bleeding.

Such strange menstrual phenomena (combined with the uncanny resemblance of the womb/ovaries structure to a snails head) have led certain Astro-Feminist groups to proclaim the ovaries as the epicentre for some kind of destiny-altering intelligence. In a somewhat similar vein, the scientific community has attempted to explain away

these strange statistical occurrences via recourse to the notion of pheromones. But despite the popular support this physiological explanation has received, the very existence of such airborne hormonal communicators remains a matter of unsubstantiated scientific speculation².

Alternatively, this paper wishes to propose that the above avenues of investigation have hitherto been focused on the incorrect research element. What if it was not the womb that was altering its cycle in response to certain events, but instead the factor of underwear selection that was dictating the warp (and who knows what else)?

In order to demonstrate how this hypothesis might function, let us return to the statistical correlation between unexpected period onset and important sexual encounters. One aspect that researchers in this area have been unable to account for is just why inconvenient period onset correlates so strongly with isolated sexual encounters but not always with general inter-relationship sex. Attributing a form of functional intelligence to the reproductive apparatus becomes necessary in order to account for the womb's ability to selectively differentiate between new and long term partners.

But if we are to accept the hypothesis that it is undergarment choice that determines menstrual cycle disturbance rather than the specifics of the sex situation, such recourse to ovary intelligence can be avoided. Relevant here is the phenomenon colloquially dubbed the 'Tracksuit Effect', whereby a person's maintenance of their appearance exponentially diminishes as the

relationship with their partner progresses. A by-product of this effect is that one is more likely to be wearing tarnished underpants within ongoing relationships, compared with those hoping to encounter first time sex with a new person (which typically involves an acute level of attention to undergarment selection). Therefore, it makes more sense to position panty selection as the determining factor in the early bleeding, rather than the specifics of the interpersonal situation.

And hence therefore and so forth, if undergarment choice can dramatically skew biological rhythms, it stands to reason that the pants factor may act as a causal interceptor in other unrelated statistical outcomes (ie. getting hit by a bus).

Conclusion and Directions for Further Study

This paper has demonstrated that the common colloquial reading of *Statement X* as an anecdote intended to illustrate that 'you should always be prepared for the unforeseen' is logically unfounded. Furthermore, the existing evidence in the emerging field of Quantum-Pantyonics would seem to support the tentative conclusion that in certain circumstances underwear may operate as a transmitter channelling circuits of causation, thereby making particular outcomes more probable.

I have already alluded to several studies in the sub-field of Menstruation Studies, but I urge those still unconvinced to examine

the broad spectrum of related research currently available. Of particular note is Dr Dawkin's seminal study demonstrating how the popularity of glow-mesh panties in Miami increases the speed at which Chinese butterflies beat their wings. Faced with such overwhelming evidence, I have no option but to hereby reject Professor Dobson's alternative reading of *Statement X* as merely an ill-conceived puritan scare tactic to promote desired hygiene behaviour in young children.³

However, due to the ethical difficulties inherent in the high mortality rate of bus collision research, the specific issue of whether dirty underwear actually increases your chances of getting hit by a bus must for the moment remain a hypothesis that can neither be entirely proven nor denied. Further experimentation is also necessary to ascertain whether panty/potentiality effects extend to other underwear zoned garments such as bikini bottoms, leotards or the press-stud crotch bodysuits that were briefly in fashion in the early nineties.

¹ Richard Bogden, *Prehistoric Public Transport*, Ohio Press 2002, p37.

² Steven Pindot, *The Great Gino-Conspiracy*, Manchester Press 1998, p74.

³ David Dobson *Clean Behind Your Ears & Other Sound Bytes of the Western Hygiene Cannon*, Chicago Press 1992, p51.

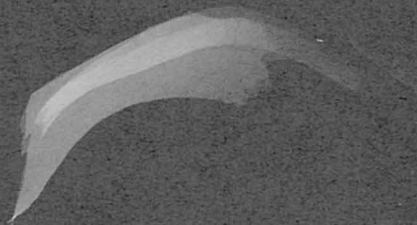
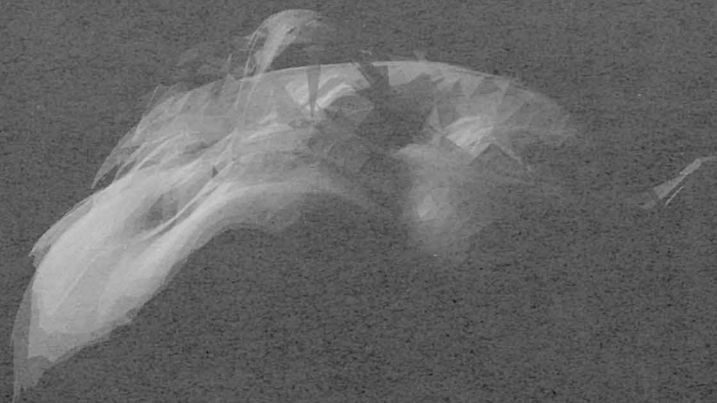
Self-portrait, 2004

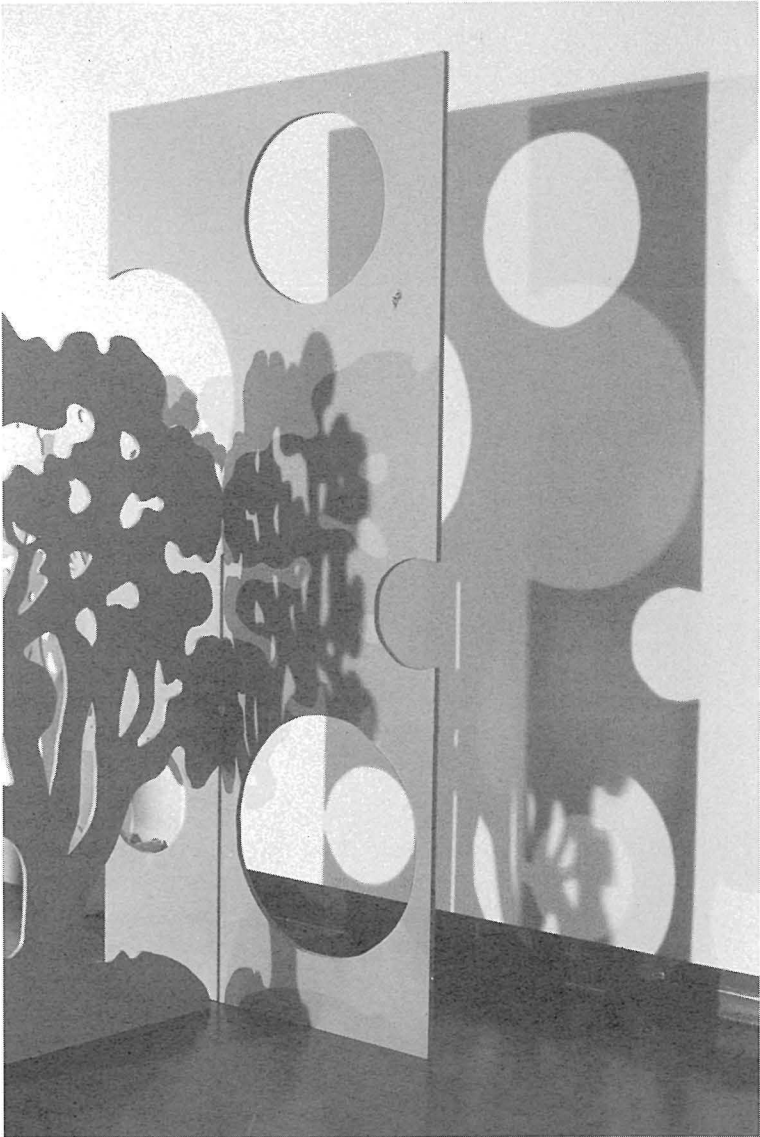
Sophie Kahn











Kathryn Gray, *Situation with Trees and Jarlsberg*, 2002 MDF, enamel, dimensions variable

A conspiracy of cartographers and other narratives of chance

Kathryn Gray

If we, here and now, speculate over the existence of England, the difficulty of proving anything at all becomes evident. We may become lost in signification, suspended in the laws of probability, at the mercy of cartographers, just like the bit-part characters Rosencrantz and Guildenstern wandering at random through a larger play.¹ Our understanding of the world is woven of narrative, the process of meaning that applies language and causality to our arbitrary existence. The dynamics of chance must be interpreted within a sequence, must be re-presented as a text in order to enter our comprehension. Conversely, it can be contended that all such texts are valued as arbitrarily as the signs of which they are comprised. Particularly with the contemporary glut of information from all positions throughout the world, texts are capriciously relative, universals impossible, and chance plays at all levels of the game.

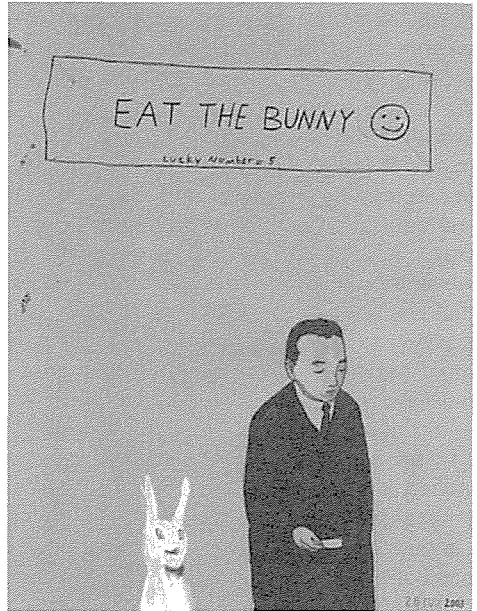
Narrative, that commonplace and oft-maligned intervention into reality, allows us to give substance to the illogical concept of chance. Chance can only be conceivable if it exists within the perimeters of a given system, as the *i* factor in the equation, within a context of meaning to be understood or communicated. Many interested parties, be they artists, scientists, existentialists or the God-fearing, claim chance within their discourse, generating narratives to describe its elusive nature. A random evolutionary deviation must be more than that: it is the spark that ignites new avenues of adaptation, it is surrounded by the narrative initiated by Charles Darwin in 1859 with *On the Origin of the Species*. The arbitrary destruction of a powerful storm upon our

world is diagnosed in meteorological terms and animated as nature's indifference or even cruelty. The accident is happily translated into coincidence, mystery, or a useful anecdote, to enter the currency of language. And all too often, as Murphy will cheerfully inform us, chance defies whatever systems we may establish. It is with ingenious narrative manipulation we expand these systems to include the random and reconstruct order around us.

While chance has been mused upon since antiquity, it can be considered a more modern and secular theme in Western culture. With the hand of God less than plausible to many since the Enlightenment, artists have engaged with the dynamics of chance as a method or an ideological motif. The impressionists introduced chance in the form of natural atmospheric light to achieve immediacy in their paintings. Dadaists invited almost unadulterated chance into their art, with poetry composed of random words drawn out of a hat, or with paintings consisting of a smattering of fallen paper upon the floor. John Cage's compositions present us with the sounds of chance, as in his 4.33 minutes of performed silence and background noise. The virtuosity of the artist can be described as a courting with chance, as in Pollock's drip paintings, in which he dances a fluid tension between strict technique and the accidental. Conceptual artists have produced works that consist almost entirely of infinite variables on any individual viewer's interaction with the idea in an individual context. The narratives of chance become increasingly heterogeneous.

The texts of aesthetics, history, place and identity, of the individual and the collective, are all constructed stories of relative and shifting values. Post-structuralism and deconstruction encourage us to consider the slippages and fluidity of meaning, the arbitrary and changing relationship of the sign to that which it refers. There is a lot of portent, morality, and meaning in the world, but it can equally be inverted into games and chance. We hear random recorded sounds fed back through new loops and variables to create soundscapes of astonishing emotive power and dimension. Kathy Temin feeds us back sculpted images of Kylie Minogue or people in koala suits in their home among the gum trees, reconstituted nostalgia. The artists of the Royal Art Lodge extract, in an indiscriminate fashion from our childhood, narratives of fantasy and morality. They present the monster under the bed vs. the epitome of gentrification in a game of drawing and redrawing that may likewise be described as "it's all good."² Their haphazard collection of sketches, sculptures and ephemera is a cryptic profusion of signs tweaked from narratives of daily normality. There is a perversity suggested, and a sense of bemused curiosity and enjoyment: another game.

It is, of course, difficult to attribute reality to anything. Even geography is a conspiracy of cartographers, politicians, the media or all of the above. We are informed, from a distance and from conflicting sources, where the borders lie, who is evil and good, what is best, what we believe, whose fault it is when a random catastrophe occurs. Narratives of the real and the portentous



The Royal Art Lodge, *Untitled* 2003

become spectacular and somewhat unconvincing.

Relativity reigns supreme. TV shows us smiling suns illustrating how nice the weather is, alternating with death and destruction, extreme decoration of home and garden, villainy and heroics, and the misadventures of a crocodile hunter across the globe. The hallowed art epicentres of the world dissolve into a proliferation of regional art locales and carnivals, and "hierarchies of proximity and influence are more fluid than ever."³

This relativism has always existed, yet there is an unprecedented fecundity of

narratives in contemporary times. Everyone must sift through the detritus to establish their own perspective, a process in which a reliance on the information that chances your way is necessary to some degree. One requires superhuman patience, humour and very healthy cynicism to process all the narratives out there. Chance is never ironed out, never quantified or extracted, and the map is never drawn absolutely. Certainly chance is a necessary factor, and mostly a healthy one. That which we cannot predict or control diverts stagnation, and will never cease to play a role in aesthetic production. It is a small comfort that the laws of probability are always flexible.

¹ In Sir Tom Stoppard's play *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern and Dead*, the two small characters from Hamlet are lost and confused behind the scenes, where the laws of probability stretch to allow a coin to land heads eighty-five times in a row. Their situation is so incomprehensible to them that even England becomes implausible, a "conspiracy of cartographers". Faber, London, 1967, p79.

² James Trainor, "Winnipeg on the Hudson", *Border Crossings*, no. 87, 2003, p41.

³ Trainor, *op.cit.*, p39.

Myths of the near future

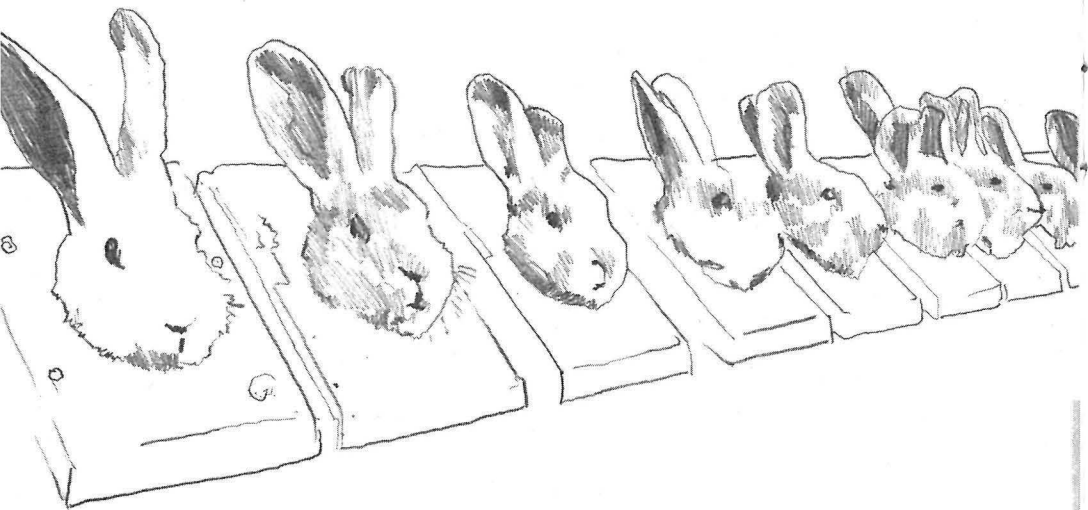
Adam Norton



Oct 03

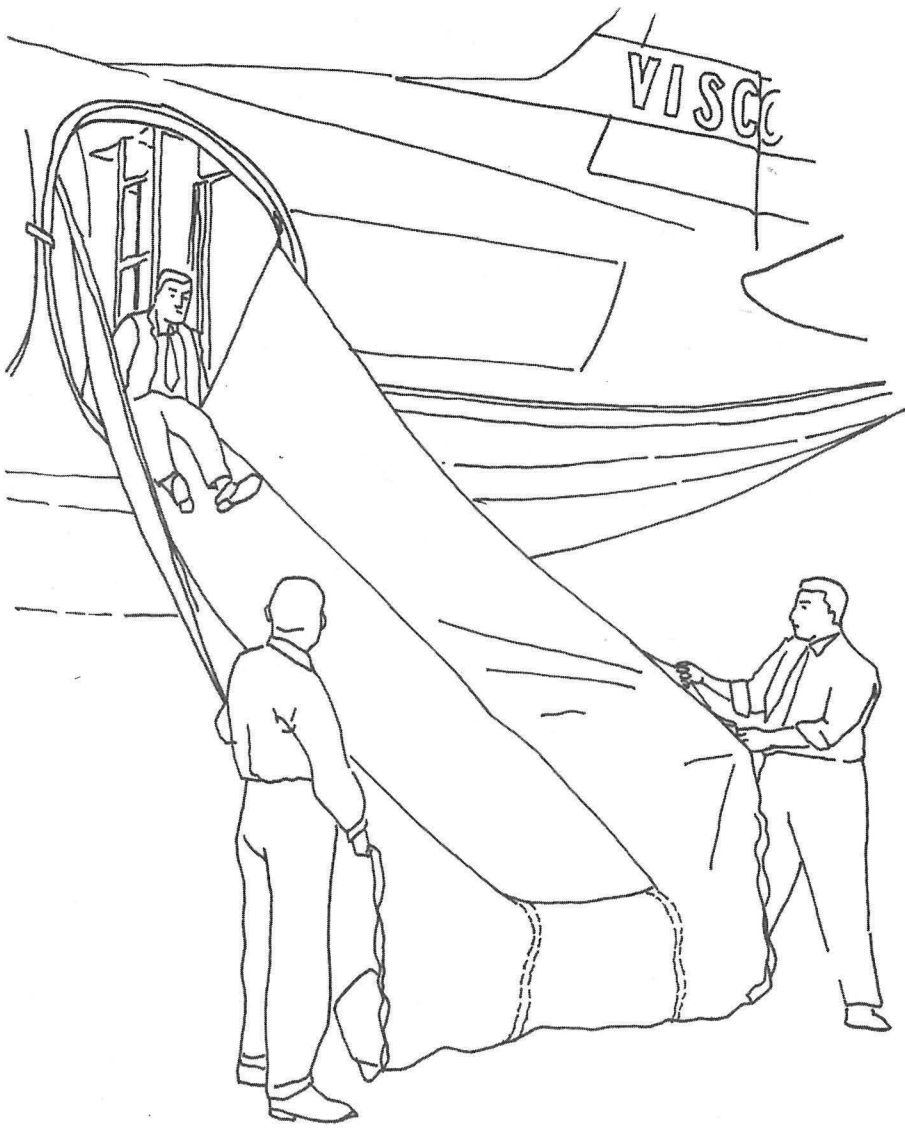


'political soft shoe shuffle III' Aug 03



Rabbit, Rabbit, Rabbit...

Oct 03



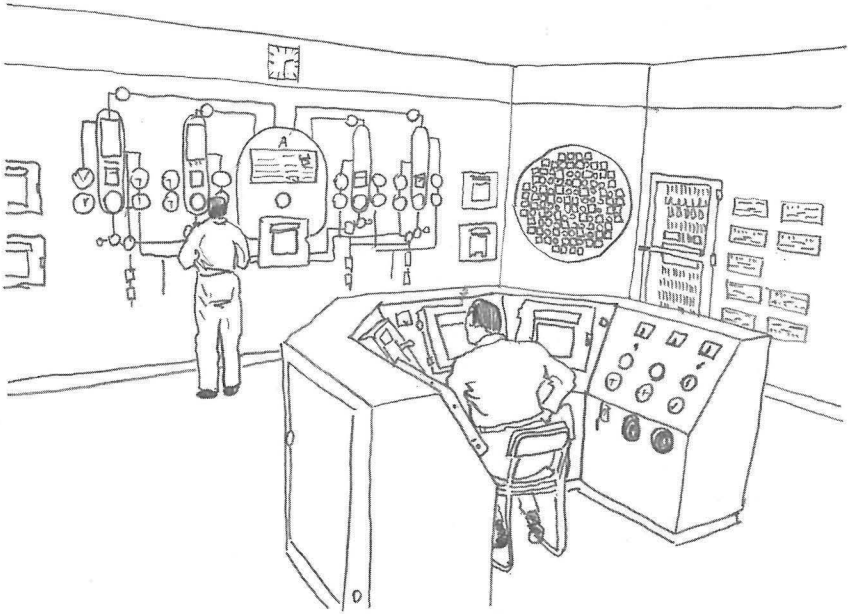
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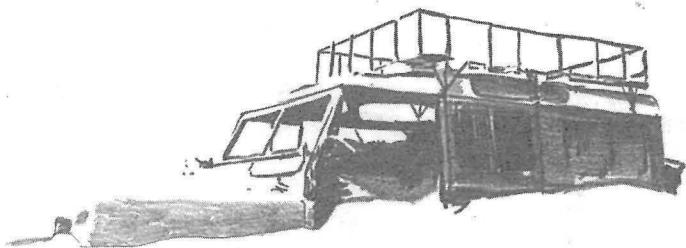
3.

A Gentleman always wears a tie

Oct 03



Nov 02 control room, nuclear power station



land rover?

Dec 02

Banalities for Februaries

Ruark Lewis

1. She flies over the molten lava and looks out to sea
2. That bird is accustomed to headaches, yet nothing acts naturally. The car rounds the corner expecting this collision. Heartaches, and clenching teeth, a shortness of breath or a far off sound is like a snake
3. When the fire burns it follows orders. It makes no mistakes by diverting attention or lowering the heat
4. Where food is beside sleep nothing is resolved, nothing but a burp
5. The movement opens the door to a face without translation. I am hissing. My teeth must whisper, and so say nothing when I ask you to leave, and you don't
6. The soup dish is customary, like a tidal lagoon it has something to say to the sun
7. The trees disappear, they simply leave a gap of broken teeth
8. The surface makes a trace, a space between rivers, land plates for grazing and tracks for explorers. It is about proximity, about length and breadth, over time and erosion, hillock and mound these turn into acres then into shires. Their municipal measure and weights, is what we sell abstractly full of weeds
9. In the course of the day, all the eros and desire, urgency and gaze peck me 'til I sleep
10. Now things follow things, things follow things and things seem to follow round and round, and following it around and then turn and it follows again and when they have followed all day just looking at the two voices that persist - in time they go and come, they return. Their beauty has no order. Their being has no movement beside where a bird has literally been caught in flight - squeezed to death
11. Sound. My ears are made for deafness in the roar of your reckless care
12. Besides measure, where else is the edge or morsel beside taste beside focus, or hunger done in time your reserves replaced

13. The application set itself against the tide, the line yawns absent-mindedly, that's how the conversation circles one another, time in and after, a beautiful intelligence with nothing artificial, where things end, and they end where they should - I would settle for charming you, but that might be a much more difficult thing to do

14. Ahhhhhh! Trees are like that - they rarely risk attack

15. The uneasy condition that is - sore and broken, a result of having fallen from significant heights

16. To get it on. That is to lose the plot or as we say, "to not even reach the shore". He drowns exhausted in the shallows. When the trees bend the wind turns in a curve like slingshot set by the mistral, a sort of wind that makes the seasons pay in full

17. Size sets elements to organise, two old greeks and egyptians to work it out, and now in the age of everything things become elementary, filled by the principles and coordinates

18. Around and around. Sent off spare the wool drawn up against your hair

19. In crime and in freedom honesty is pretty universal

20. Sea myths and storms are synonymous

Chance landscape painting

Phillip Williams





The logic of conformity, or Spell and bee happy

Emma White

I should preface this paper with a confession: I don't find spelling boring. When I saw the preview for *Spellbound* (Jeffrey Blitz, 2002), a documentary about the 1999 [American] National Spelling Bee, I became almost shamefully excited. Blitz's film tracks eight young contestants from their home towns through to the national finals in Washington DC, delving into their personal lives and motivations, and culminating in the suspenseful showdown of the nationally-broadcast final. The coupling of two of my favourite pursuits (cinema and the English language) with the heightened drama of precocious pre-teens sweating it out in a knock-out competition immediately appealed to my sensibilities. A spelling bee is ear candy for the print-addicted: *Spellbound's* appeal rests largely in both its explication of cognitive processes and their relationship to language, and in its representation of the spelling bee as a combination game of chance and smarts.

Spelling is an obscure art situated somewhat awkwardly between rationality and irrationality, utilising knowledge of statistics, history and creative reasoning. So is spelling an arbitrary indicator of academic potential? The children who are good spellers have learnt to study hard and to use mnemonic techniques, but they have also learnt to apply basic principles of probability and logical deduction to the task at hand.

The language you are currently reading contains around 620,000 word forms, plus another 400,000 odd technical terms, the most of any language. The difficulty of the spelling bee becomes apparent when you

take into account that the average speaker of English as a first language uses a mere 5,000 words in speech and only 10,000 in written communications. Spellers can reduce their chances of failure in the bee by studying as much as they can, yet it only takes a single word spelt incorrectly to knock a speller entirely out of competition. The pressure is so great that a speller may simply draw a blank, undoing all of their progress and hard work in an instant. Paige Kimble, the director of 1999's spelling bee, says that with so many words, "memorisers tend to not make it very far in the National Spelling Bee," she says. "It's all about word deciphering."¹

Once the speller knows they haven't studied (or don't remember) the word, the game becomes one of probability, an exercise in ruling out the impossible or the less probable and eliminating one's way to a correct answer. Working out the spelling of an unknown word becomes a logic problem no longer dependant on literacy, memory or comprehension. Because spelling lugs around the baggage of its etymology, spellers have a lot of clues to look to when they're stuck. The contestants generally ask all the questions that they are allowed to: they ask for the meaning of the word, for it to be used in a sentence, what the root of the word is and its language of origin. They often pronounce the word again and again.

When Nupur Lala was given the word *logorrhoea* in the 1999 competition, the definition *pathologically obsessive and often incoherent talkativeness* let her know that the first part of the word probably came from the root word *logo*, having to do with

speech, and the ending was almost certainly *r-r-h-e-a*, a common suffix in medical words. Here a word is understood as an arbitrary cipher, the correct construction of which can be discovered with its etymology. Even when the spellers have never heard a word before, their guesses are rarely complete stabs in the dark.

That's why Harry is so ashamed of his inappropriate guess of *b-a-n-d-s* for *banns*: Spellbound's dramatic high point is the sequence of twelve year old Harry struggling to work out how to spell this word. Harry totally hits the wall on *banns*, pulling excruciating faces and involuntarily conducting an exterior monologue "*banns, banns, banns, gotta think of something ... probably shouldn't have said that out loud...*" Later he berates himself for making

the "worst possible guess" and not at least trying *b-a-n-z-e* or *b-a-n-n-e-s*. Even though these other hypothetical guesses are just as wrong as the real one, Harry recognised that he chose the least probable version, an easily spellable word already known to have a different meaning and hence not the word he was looking for. His shame at making what was effectively a wild guess manifests itself in his feeble attempt to regain face by claiming the mis-pronunciation of this one-syllable word. (Try it yourself. *Banns*. Poor Harry.) Any failure to correctly spell a word for these high-achieving egos trained in hyperrationality is no doubt quite a blow.²

And when studying isn't enough and your knowledge of Icelandic or Estonian isn't good enough to be useful, there's always frequency analysis, the kind of probability



Harry Altman about to bite the dust in Jeffrey Blitz's *Spellbound*

employed by cryptanalysts to crack codes. There are certain letter combinations that are more likely than others to occur in a given language, particular vowels that are statistically more likely than others to follow certain consonants. Sometimes there may only be a couple of letters in a word that are potentially variable. But this strategy can work against a speller, it caught out Angela, who spelt *heleoplankton* with the prefix *helio*, assuming that as this is a prefix used in many other words it would probably apply here.

A good speller has learnt to grapple with the English language's tendency towards anachronism and redundancy. Redundancy is information theory's way of designating irrelevant information, such as the letters omitted from a sentence like "th qik brwn fx jmps ov th lz dg". Good spellers know that there are a lucky thirteen different ways in English to spell the sound 'sh'³. George Bernard Shaw, long-time advocate of a simplified English spelling system, often noted that according to English's convoluted logic, the word *fish* could be spelt *ghoti* – *gh* as in *cough*, *o* as in *women* and *ti* as in *station*. A good speller not only knows all of the stupid rules of the language but also knows where the exceptions are made in order to head this kind of arbitrariness off at the pass.

Spelling is not anomalous in the realm of language for its tendency towards absolutism, but it is unusual in that it seems to have achieved the ideal definitive state. Spelling deals with the uncharacteristically quantifiable aspects of language. The idea that every word can be spelt, that every

potential question has a single correct answer is part of a desire for absolute knowledge ordinarily confounded by the fluidity of the subtleties of language. Samuel Johnson's first ever English dictionary (published in 1755) is largely responsible for setting this precedent:

When I took the first survey of my undertaking, I found our speech copious without order, and energetick without rules; wherever I turned my view, there was perplexity to be disentangled, and confusion to be regulated; choice was to be made out of boundless variety, without any established principle of selection; adulterations were to be detected, without a settled test of purity; and modes of expression to be rejected or received, without the suffrages of any writers of classical reputation or acknowledged authority...⁴

Yet once you venture into the realm of absolutes, the comfort of ambiguity is removed:

Every other authour may aspire to praise; the lexicographer can only hope to escape reproach, and even this negative recompence has been yet granted to very few.⁵

A spelling competition in English probably possesses a greater degree of difficulty than many other languages, having been influenced by so many other languages and absorbing such an eclectic vocabulary. For example, a spelling bee in Esperanto might be useful for those studying the language, but would otherwise be no fun for several reasons⁶. As an artificial language it doesn't have the etymological complexity of a language like English, and because

its vocabulary is comprised primarily of compounds of suffixes and affixes, there is a lot of similarity between the words. Esperanto is a strangely consistent hybrid of Teutonic, Latin and Romance roots, and it looks a bit like Portuguese. In Esperanto my name is *Emmo Blankulo*. Esperanto for etymology is *etimologio*. The word for competition is *konkurado* and the word meaning failure is *malsukcesi*.

It is estimated that around two million people worldwide speak Esperanto (about as many as speak Icelandic or Estonian), and all as a second language. It's likely that none of the competitors in the 76th annual Scripps-Howard National Spelling Bee can speak Esperanto, but I'd bet that with a brief introduction to the logic of the language and its grammar (about 15 minutes) they could all spell *elokventa*⁷. These spellers all understand the structure of language, they understand where the letters go, what syntactical patterns they are likely to encounter. They are diminutive statistical linguists and they can spell that for you if you like.

Even though chance has little to do with success in this kind of competition, each speller is desperately crossing his or her fingers that to get a word that has been studied, or that relates to the languages they know, or at least isn't a total freak of nature like heleoplankton, the spelling of which could hardly be arrived at logically. Chance is also responsible for Neil, the East Indian from Orange County being given and, in a stroke of good fortune, totally fluking the spelling of *Darjeeling*, for some WASPy Texan getting the word *yenta*, and

for Ashley White (who "can't stop praying") bugging out on *ecclesiastical*. Such poetic congruence is the stuff of documentary-makers' dreams, whose lot is to stand around for weeks or months pointing a camera at everything, hoping for freak occurrences and unrehearsed drama, or so I choose naively to believe.

I imagine the futures of the spellers. These kids all seem destined for [at least conventional] greatness, yet they can't all become neurosurgeons. Most will become generic middle-class adults. A contest like this where everyone except one single person fails (the 248 'best spellers' in the USA, and all but one will be knocked out, forever inheriting a hated word, a white whale word, a misspelt disaster that can never be unspelt) surely sets competitors up for failure and regret. The brutal realisation for these children that this could be as good as it ever gets, coupled with their dawning understanding of the limitations of knowledge makes *Spellbound* a powerful statement on the loss of innocence.

¹ <http://www.angelainspellbound.com/LEATHERBEE.html?1076649607600>, accessed 27/2/04

² After winning the Bee, Nupur refused to use the spell checker on her computer for two years purely as a matter of principle.

³ Shoe, sugar, issue, mansion, mission, nation, suspicion, ocean, conscious, chaperon, schist, fuschia and pshaw.

⁴ Samuel Johnson, preface to the Dictionary of English, 1755

⁵ *ibid.* Contemporary readings of Johnson's archaic spelling make the truth of his statement abundantly clear.

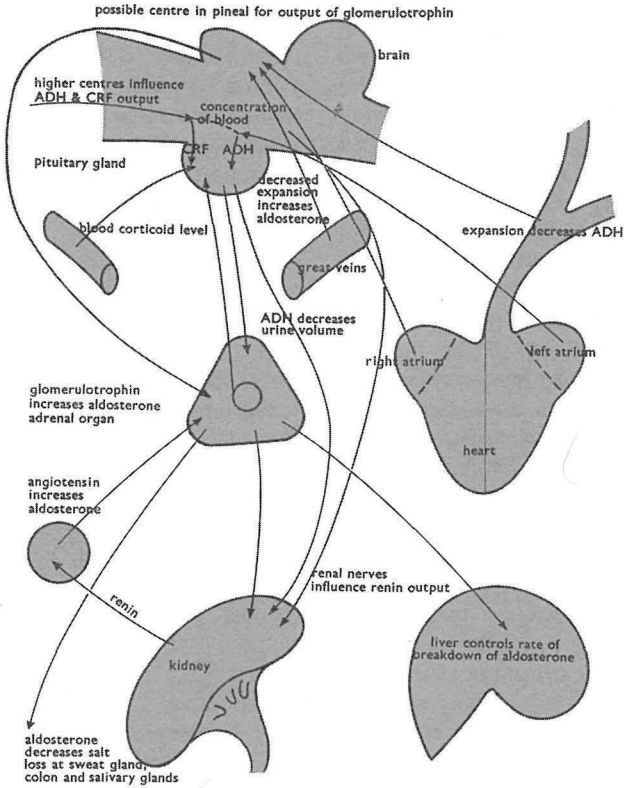
⁶ I can't see ESPN scrambling for the rights, either.

⁷ Esperanto for eloquent

counterproposal

Perdita Phillips and timothy boy

catch isotopes



The two artists gave each other 8 sets of two words. Perdy gave timothy boy random pairs of words taken from Spam emails that are using long lists of obscure words to defeat Spanguards. timothy boy gave Perdy anagrams generated on the computer. Perdy is anagram-challenged so she opened a bag of collected images from old books in her studio and selected images that had the greatest 'ostranenie-resonance'. The works by timothy boy are from doodles, lines and squiggles made purely by 'chance', following the provision of the word pairs.

fibonacci bunyun



basement jars

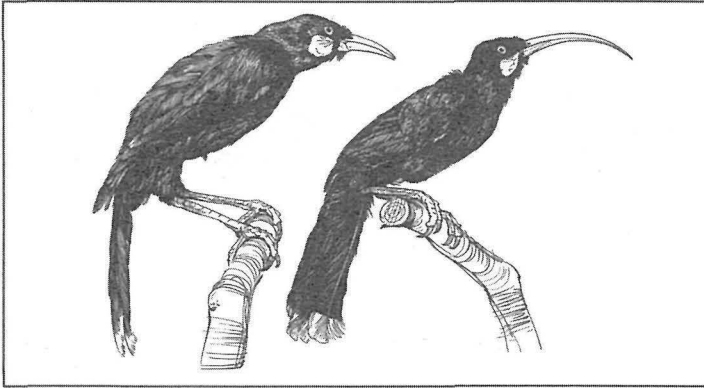


arctic epidermis

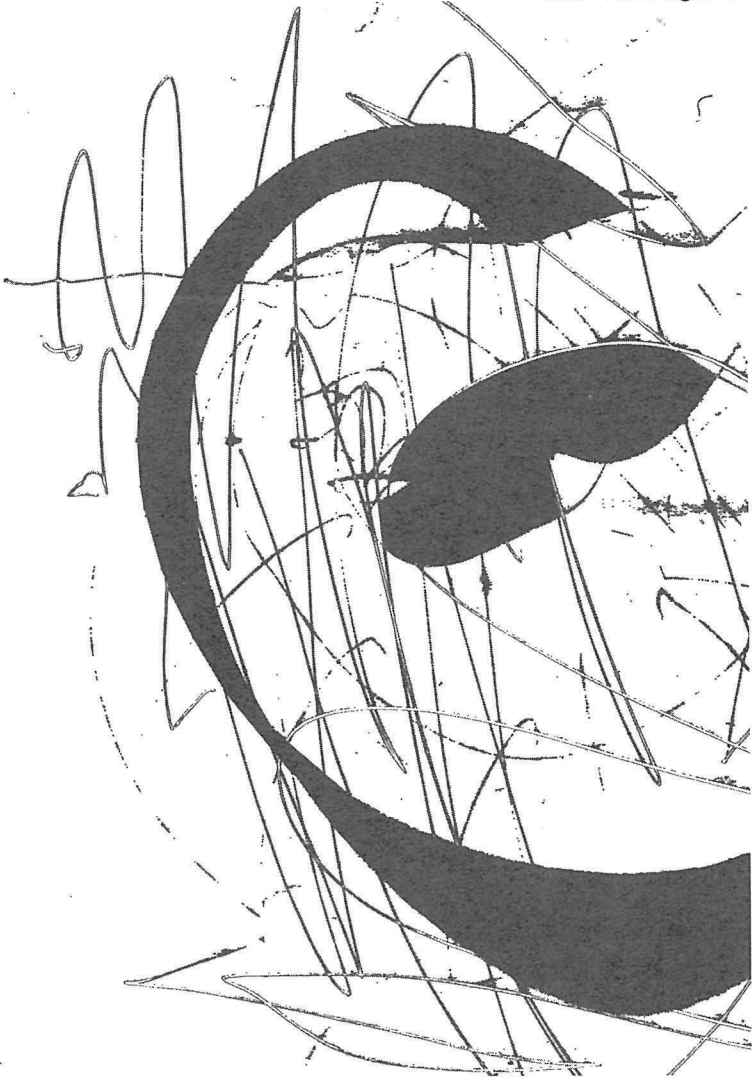


brunette's shoulder

How to keep the sexes together. The Huia bird feeds on grubs living in the wood of trees. Only the male has a beak strong enough to chisel a hole through the bark, and the female a beak slender enough to reach the grubs.



mule schoolgirlish



The constructed order of our daily lives: Part one

Friday 06 Feb - Friday 13 Feb 2004

Holly Williams

Tech QB recruits willing to wait for a chance One in 76 million chance of winning jackpot Thin field at AT&T Pebble Beach offers chance for breakthrough Call-ups hand fringe players chance to shine Bill Valyo: Weightlifting brings chance for golds Yze enjoys chance to meet next generation US presidential polls Kerry has bright chance to beat Republican Metro meet offers last chance to qualify for state Racing: Resolve has a Strong chance Teachers shun training chance Choc bar chance puts Yogesh in the frame Dodgers Won't Get Chance at Beane Heidfeld grabs his chance Greyhound a chance for relay teams to tune up NBA Roundup: Suns blow chance to tie Blazers in last seconds One last chance for Telford Dorris: Fighting chance Your chance to hit £ 50m Lotto jackpot UEFA Cup final given Sporting chance Tutoring program gives inmates chance to get GED Titi gets chance to outshine ex-teammate Kanoute Geiger gets her chance to win one for RC For the record: Wiping slate clean offers 2nd chance at life Insight offers agents the chance to join North America tour Bird gets chance in seconds Games give MJHS students chance to relax Travis Mertens has a chance to become of DL's finest Morii's chance to build on lead Marengo expo offers chance to shake off the cold The chance of a lifetime Holyland students offered chance to join training programme CRICKET: Cameron pumped at chance Parents get chance to thank blood donors for saving son's life Students rush at their chance to lead, learn, laugh through Iraqis head home from Mecca, glad for chance to perform hajj On your Marks for a chance to work More Than A Pup's Chance A Fair Chance Chance to prove you can kick it like Jonny Claret deserves chance to jump into NFL pool High schoolers have chance to apply for YA/YA programs Rivkin's last chance today Lemerre Gets Chance for Revenge Over Senegal Liberia donors conference: a chance to invest in peace Panel Sees Good Chance of More US BSE Cases For Clark, his chance to win one Shootout offers drivers a chance Firman jopping for another chance Brian O'Driscoll rated 50-50 chance to play Six Nations opener Arnold Passed Up a Chance to Question the Death Penalty BU lets chance slip through hands Doumbé feared he had blown chance Chance for the climbers to take centrestage Local students have chance to 'solve' 1911 murder case Skier who lost chance at Olympic medal wins suit Nigeria has a chance, says Keshi Woods to take final chance They never stood a chance Last Chance To See Hua Mei We have one more chance in Sydney: Ganguly Gronholm: We still have a good chance. Robertson is handed the chance to shine Cancer sufferers have a better chance here Drug court offers first graduates second chance Second chance at loans Swollen rivers, creeks raise chance of more high water A Chance for Pirate Booty Pebble Beach offers chance for breakthrough Chance to make up for lost time Badani gives India a chance Ousted Southfield coach gets a new chance to play Fans get chance for fix to opener Cheerleader Squad May Get Second Chance Tour gives couple chance to catch up Movie gives Ken Morrow chance to relive win over Soviet Union Hope gets chance to prove hype vs. Albion Individuals relish chance for tributes Chance for big money slips through her fingers Chance to quiz MPS Chance for a champ Henriques makes most of second chance Tragic Cockle-Pickers 'Didn't Stand A Chance' Playoff chance not unthinkable Give art a chance Give Rendell a chance to win or lose Lessons From Life's Second Chance Last chance to see Degas at the Royal Scottish Academy Alaska trip gives Icers a chance to work and play Clyde happy to have another chance Textbooks shouldn't be a chance to swindle Clark offers strong chance for Democrats Awards show left very little to chance Home tour offers visitors chance to step into stylish past Democrats now see chance of defeating Bush Boje to get his chance Giants still have a chance Small chance of Wanaka red-light zone South Carolina misses rare chance for Rupp Arena win Cancer researcher seizes second chance at life India, Pakistan say no chance they will sign nuclear treaty Forum of 15 Willing to Give the Government a Chance Martin hands Lang a Double chance Football; A chance meeting ends goal-less Give in-house candidate a fair chance Forum to offer chance to address administration Chance of rain, snow in forecast this week Area Democrats say Kerry has best chance to win presidency Two Taunton companies seek second chance at tax breaks Here's your chance: an ultra nutrition survey For Massachusetts, a chance and a choice MP3 rifle gives peace a chance Waiting for the chance to zero in Needed funds giving chance to every child Dwight desperate to take Reebok chance Richards relishing chance to shine in All-Star Classic Wolves will get chance to defend title Richardson's exit offers chance to size up the tarnished The Thrill of Victory & A Chance to Build Sons of the South get chance to show the region's support Berglund's Drive Ends San Jose's Chance The chance to give back, again and again A second chance at a dream A chance to sing with Dorothy, hiss at that wicked old witch FIU loses chance to win Gerrard rescues the Reds as Owen blows big chance Stewart lawyers to get first chance to cross-examine Mass. native Young Buck is primed for rap stardom and the chance of a lifetime 'Good kid' Baker may have lost last chance Daytona qualifying a chance for bye week Daytona qualifying gives chance for an easy week Forum to offer chance to address administration EVERYONE SHOULD BE GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE Home tour offers visitors chance to step into stylish past Public schools deserve a chance Sharon hoping for second chance Good Chance To Step Up Poultry Exports: Industry Forum of 15 Willing to Give the Government a Chance Martin hands Lang a Double chance Public gets a chance to help shape Denver Cat driver should get second chance Beckham wanted the chance to stay Chance: Barrier challenge a test case Voters Get Another Chance To Weigh In On Alcohol Sales Cypriots have 'historic' chance to join EU as one 'Everybody deserves a second chance' says new DPP over his drugs ... Rookie gets chance to follow up stunning debut in 2003 A chance for prep sports supporters to come together Fromhold: Tax hike has little chance Local teams play for 2nd chance Retailer gives staff chance to be specials Kenny given Irish chance Forum to offer chance to address administration Clyde happy to have another chance Inverell given its chance in Mulligan Shield cricket final One last chance LaPorte reserves get chance to shine in 49-point win Chance slides by Good chance for snow in Billings region Volunteering for a candidate a chance to make key contacts Another chance for residents to speak out on vacation rentals Give Claret his chance, if only so we can see him crash and burn Senior athletes get chance at glory How TV put paid to last chance saloon Emerson given new chance Rookie's chance against King Carlos Last chance to stake claim Martin has chance to forge new identity Paul given second chance Last chance for Ivanisevic Best Should Get Chance to Face the Best Big chance for Aussie fat Governor Misses Chance to Lead Fight for Life Notebook: Final chance for VGSA registration Chance to shine Kerry's Chance as Democrats Battle to Challenge Bush Bridgnorth glad they have the chance Second chance was all Murphy needed Your chance to win a Mitre FA Cup football Analysis: What chance of Cyprus peace? Bad boy gets another chance Golf course gets a second chance Golfers, Last Chance to Come Get Your Mojo Parents have chance to see new technology Primary offers chance to make a difference No chance that spam will fritter away Frustrated golfers get their chance Another Clifford Chance Partner Defects IRS: last chance to collect 2000 refunds Kittanning has one more chance to end streak Craigslist offers 2nd chance Chance of a lifetime Columnist sees chance for Kerry Faculty: Party platforms aim high, low have chance of success Give others the chance to serve Immigrants to get chance at amnesty Your chance to sing with the best Schumer: Mohawk Valley has fighting chance Let's Make A Deal: Conference Provides Tips, Chance To Meet V-Day a chance to focus on murderous scandal Give love more of a chance Warne to get another chance Roos says Lions a good chance for fourth title Car-Boat Cubans Get Chance to Pursue US Asylum Prize chance for bands as Islamic choir festival opens Last chance for Smith to shine vs. State Last Chance to See Cher on Farewell Tour Officials give sex offenders second chance to register Taking an e-chance Last chance to see Cher Giving peace a chance Al Wahda fritter away chance to win at home Oklahoma State's Pendleton getting chance to avenge loss chance to keep his job Residents Have Chance to Address Water Woes Chance Goes To The Dog Show Livingston church sees music lessons as a chance to ministry Game of love and chance in a Paris

The constructed order of our daily lives: Part two

Find a small child.

Ask them to open the phone book to a random page,
get them to point to a spot on the page.

Write down the person's name and details nearest to the spot:
this will be the person you call.

Repeat this process six times.

Arrange a meeting with the first person listed,
meet them,
ask them about their most recent chance encounter.

Find that person (this may take some time).

Visit their house,
ask them to roll a die.

If the number on the die is between one and three, remove the thumb on their left hand,
and if it lands between four and six, remove the thumb on their right hand.

This may require some force.

Repeat this with each of the people on your list.

Return home.

Remove the knuckle joints from the thumbs,

clean them off and leave to dry on a sunny windowsill for a week or two.

When the knuckles are dry and white they are ready to begin playing knucklebones with.

Knucklebones is a throwing and catching game similar to jacks.

With practice, you will come to realise that success in this game, like politics, love and culture rests not on chance but on adequate development of hand-eye coordination.

Celibacy is not hereditary

Sara Oscar

Dearest Tereza,

I've been waiting all that time for your lines, wanted to know every single moment of your life since we met in Paris last summer. It's almost 14 months ago. I tried writing you several times, but never finished any letter, not because I wouldn't know what to write/ it's really so much to tell/, but simply because I was afraid something wrong happened between us: I do hope it is not like that, I do hope you're not angry about me for whatever reason, I do hope to meet with you soon to talk about everything. I was waiting for you all that time, this couldn't be melodrama of course, so suddenly I don't know which words to use, the truth is that I do not want to lose you, your friendship /and even more/ has been really everything for me, still is. Since Paris it was not single day I would stop thinking of you, it couldn't be sweet, it's really truth, you mean really a lot for me. While you came to visit me in Paris, all thoughts that were on my mind came again even stronger, believe me it was hard being so close to you with difference between heart and brain, wanted making love with you very very strongly but couldn't talk about that right now. I do hope I didn't hurt you somehow, Tereza.

Now very briefly about me. Did I tell you that my grandmother died /one bastard hit her with his car,

she was crossing the street and his speed was really too much/ at the time you visited me in Paris last summer? At exactly those same days. Too much dead around. I can't write about that ... That bastard has too much money to pay all the justice, This is really the worst country, corruption on the highest places ... well, I do my doctorate studies, you know, and about a months ago I made my hardest exam from philosophy, easthetic, history of art, plus almost 200-pages essay on some philosophic topics, most of it from Michel Foucault and french structuralism of 60's and 70's. One more presentation of my artworks somewhere in a gallery and I'm done. Preparing third book about identity in sadomasochistic procedures etc., starting making another shorttime movies, lot of things, mostly around art and exhibitions, of course.

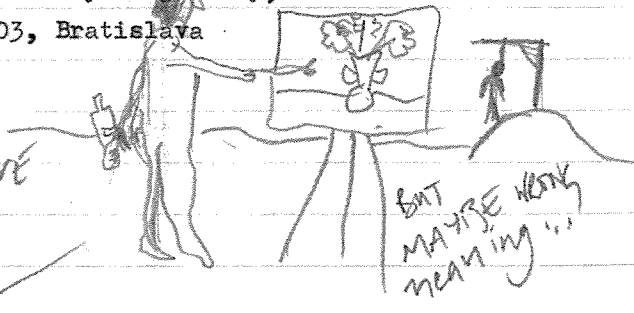
Tereza, please let me know about you, write me at least a few lines to know everything's all right. Write me ab about what's happening with you. Where are you, when I need to hear you more than ever. Please, please, please, do write me Tereza.

Thinking of you every single day, Martin.

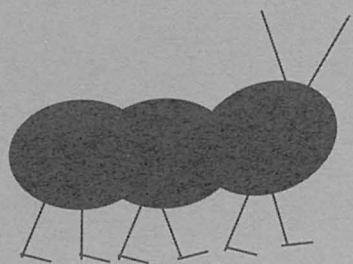
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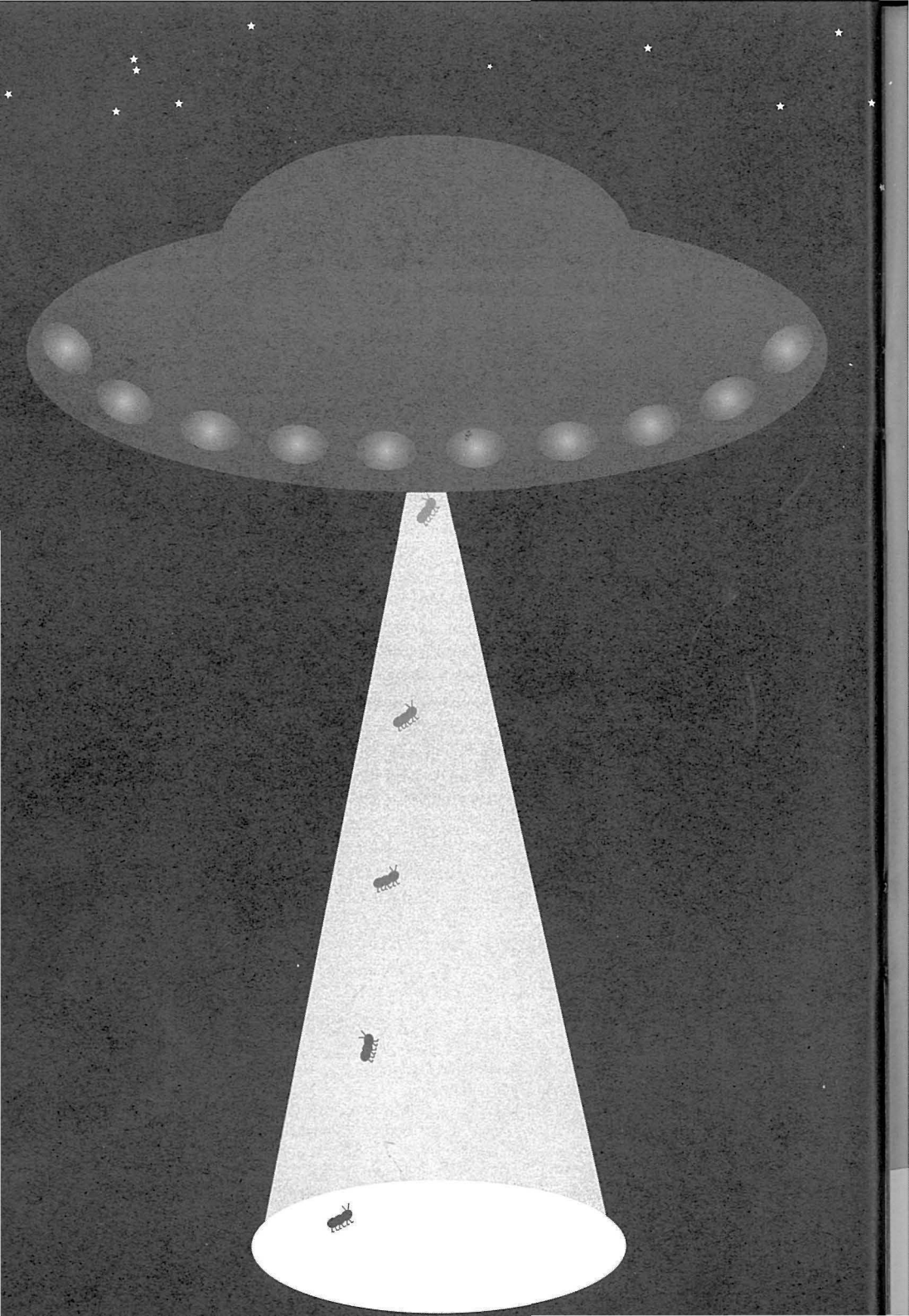
♥
LOTS OF LOVE

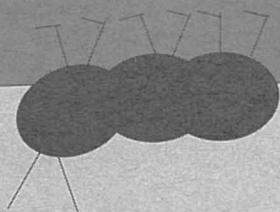
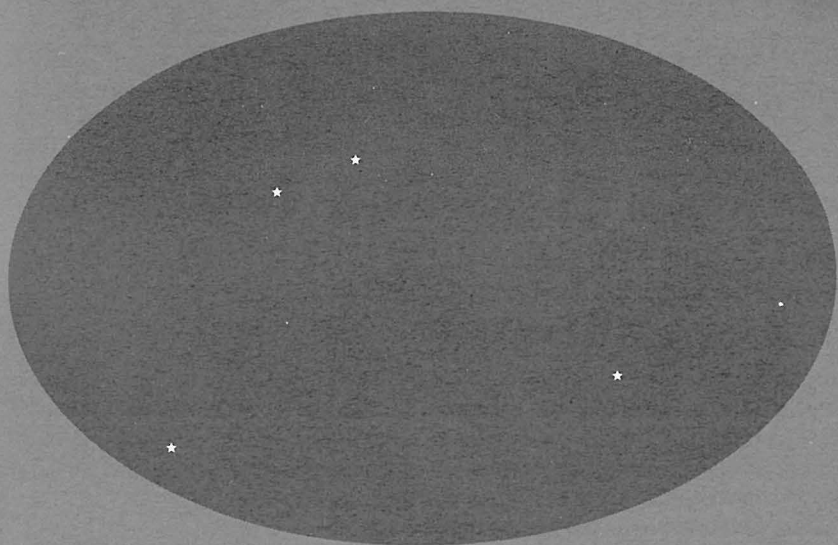
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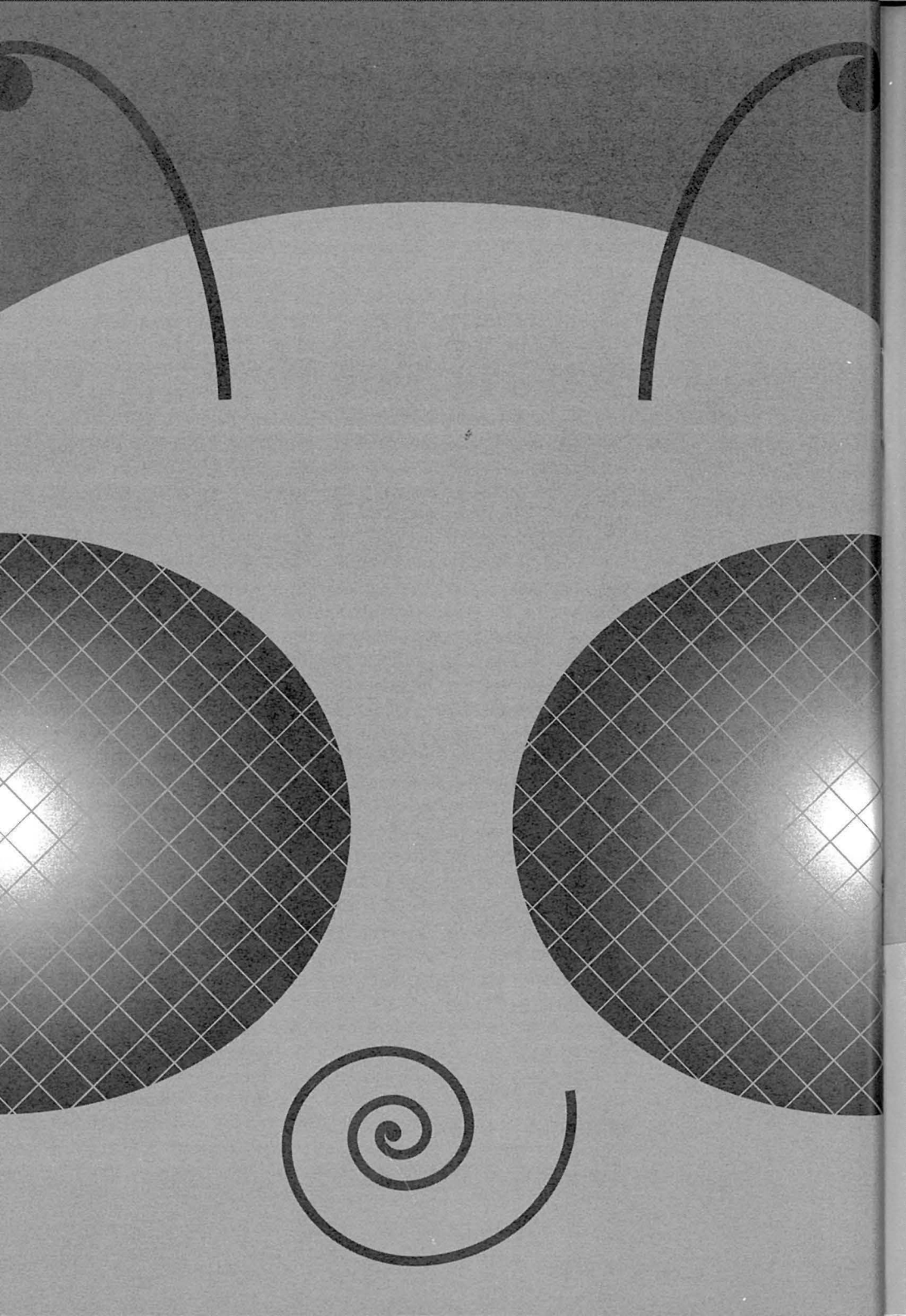


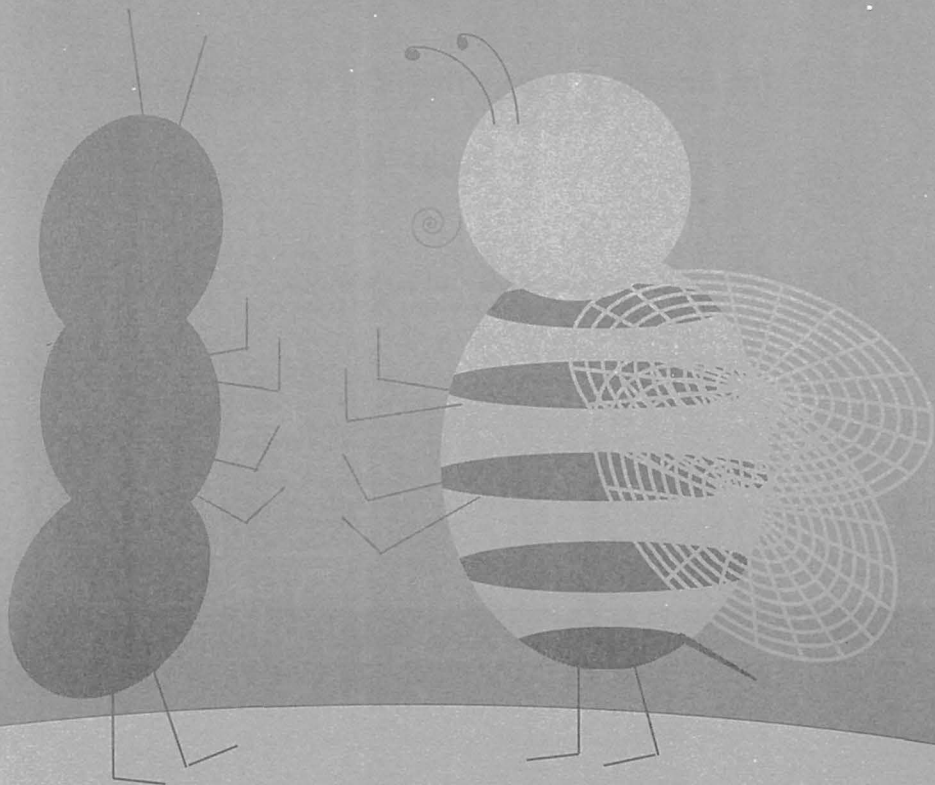
ant and bee and the ABC











to bee continued....

Finalists: the Shiaffo D'Anagni Travelling Arts Schorarship

Tori Lawson

The Schiaffo d' Anagni Travelling Art Scholarship

2004

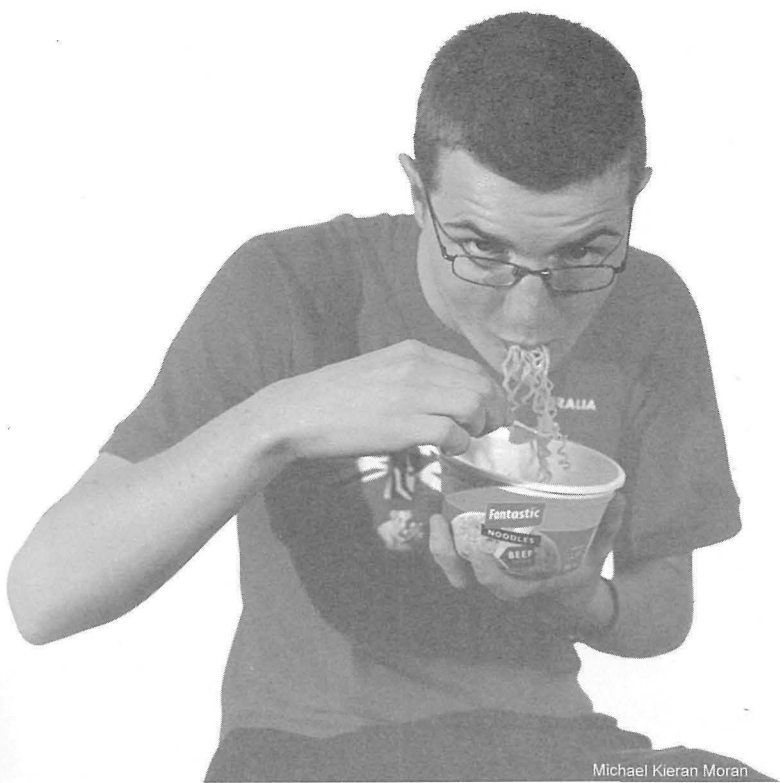
The Schiaffo d' Anagni Travelling Art Scholarship was formally announced on the 5th of September 2002

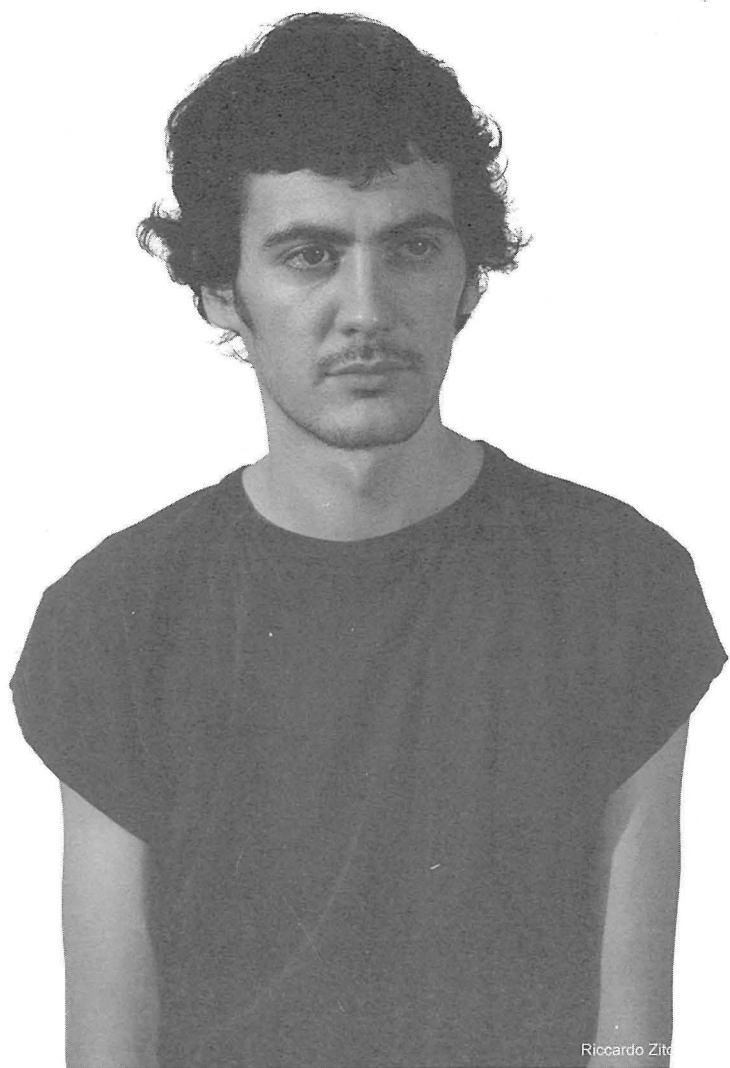
Begun by a group of young photomedia artists, it was created to address the continual absorption of Australian artists into the European and American artistic community and the subsequent colonial and imperialist implications.

The prizewinner will be encouraged to exhibit along existing channels and to create a presence among the Australian artistic community. They will also be expected to travel to alternate destinations around Australia for one year. The first being prearranged in Mudgee to stay in a local caravan park. At the end of one year they will also be expected to show at an Australian venue of their choice.

The winner will be announced in early 2004 in local newspapers around Australia.

Schiaffo d' Anagni
Travelling Arts Scholarship
Finalists







Calling for Applications

The Schiaffo d'Anagni Travelling Art Scholarship

2004

The Scholarship is being generously funded by anonymous local businessmen and will continue to run in perpetuity. The prizewinner will be expected to use a significant portion of the prize money to travel to alternate destinations around Australia for one year. Mentors will be provided and their use will be encouraged to gain introductions to significant galleries and artistic spaces.

APPLICANT'S DETAILS

surname _____ given names _____

address _____

state _____ post code _____ telephone _____

email _____ url _____

abn _____

note: if you do not have an abn, 48% of the scholarship must be withheld

DETAILS OF SUBMITTED WORK

each applicant must submit three completed artworks in any medium for consideration by the committee. Please provide details about the work below.

1 title _____

medium _____

dimensions (cm) h _____ w _____ d _____

other (eg. duration) _____

2 title _____

medium _____

dimensions (cm) h _____ w _____ d _____

other (eg. duration) _____

