

ES

magazine

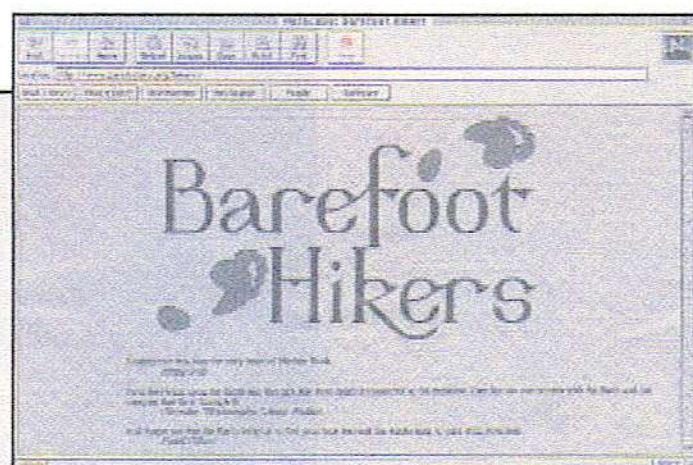
Friday magazine of the London Evening Standard

Weekend Surfing

RICHARD HILL



Fancy visiting these websites?
They are all linked to on my website
<http://www.newsplus.enta.net/esmag.htm>



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Weekend Surfing Going barefoot

Website: **Barefoot Hikers**

Address: <http://www.barefooters.org/hikers/>

'Bare feet are the environmentally sound choice for hiking,' according to the Barefoot Hikers' website. Full instruction is given to beginners. 'Take your time, look around and flex your toes gradually.' Toes gratefully flexed, novices can embark on their first hike. 'It's good to take along a friend,' is the advice. If that's not possible, then go alone and take this introduction along as your companion. 'A website as hiking companion? The soles of your feet and toes are wonderful sensory organs,' the site goes on, 'and the myriad of feeling from earth, grass, moss, pine-needles and mud are wonderful. Put a foot wrong here and the result could be unpleasant, to say the least. After a brisk barefoot hike around Hyde Park, chances are that the wonderfully myriad feelings, adquelling between your toes are not earth, grass, moss, pine-needles or mud. Get out there before the Household Cowsly, or beat a barefoot retreat. **RICHARD HILL**

Eric, the ES Christmas goose has nothing to do with Weekend Surfing. But he's getting bigger, and impinges on my space from time to time. He can go and get stuffed.



Weekend Surfing

Website: **Educating Teddy**

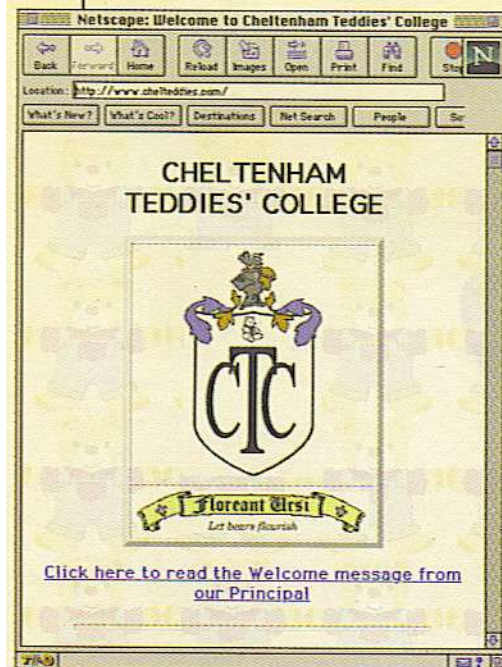
Address: <http://www.chelteddies.com/>

A new academic year can be a clawbiting time for teddy bears. Many will have bearly scraped through their A levels and be looking to the next stage of furthering their education. Claiming to be 'the only school in the world for teddy bears', the Cheltenham Teddies' College offers a wide curriculum in its prospectus including: Furrench, bearithmetic, honeyology, geogrrrraphy and bearobics.

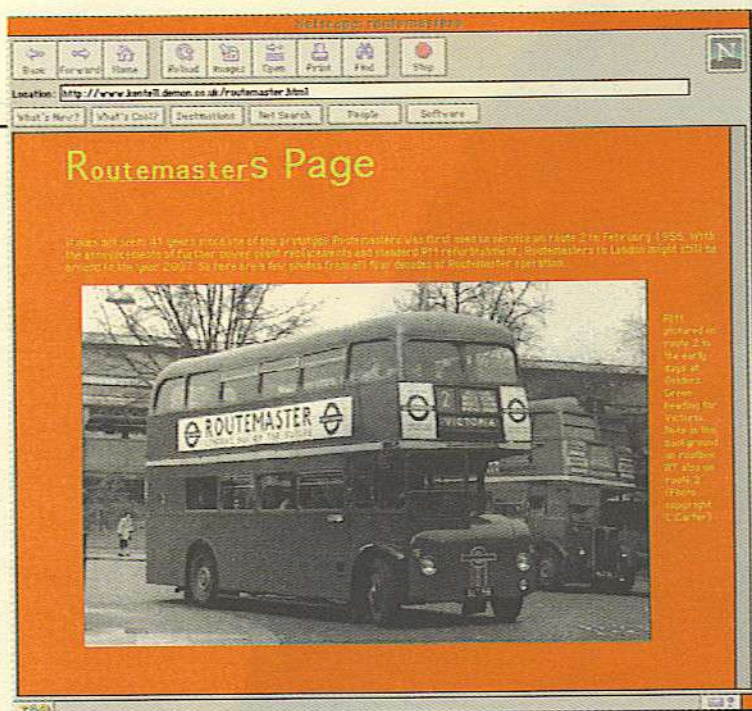
If the college bases itself on the success of the Cheltenham Ladies College, then a fine collection of erudite teddies can be expected to graduate at the turn of the century. But it is not listed among the Government's school-performance tables.

Also, admission is not open to bears of little wetwear (Net slang for the human central nervous system, especially the brain).

RICHARD HILL



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Weekend Surfing Bus stops

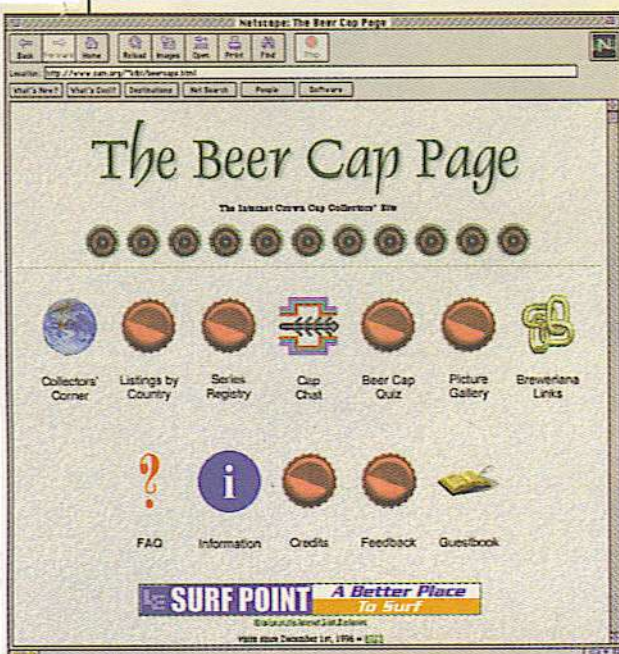
Website: **Bus Stop**

Address: <http://www.kentell.demon.co.uk/routemaster.html>

One of the annoying aspects of surfing the Net is that hours can be spent trying to find a particular Website, then three appear all at once. This bus lane of the information superhighway is saturated with helpful information about London buses.

For example: 1956 – Routemaster first used in service on Route 2 (omits the expected arrival time in Victoria). 2007 – Routemasters might still be around in London (nothing about night buses).

The site is also packed with fascinating pictures of Routemaster buses. Each is unique: one is big and red with the number 2 on the front, another big and red with 609 on the front. The third, which is also big and red, has 405B on the front. **RICHARD HILL**



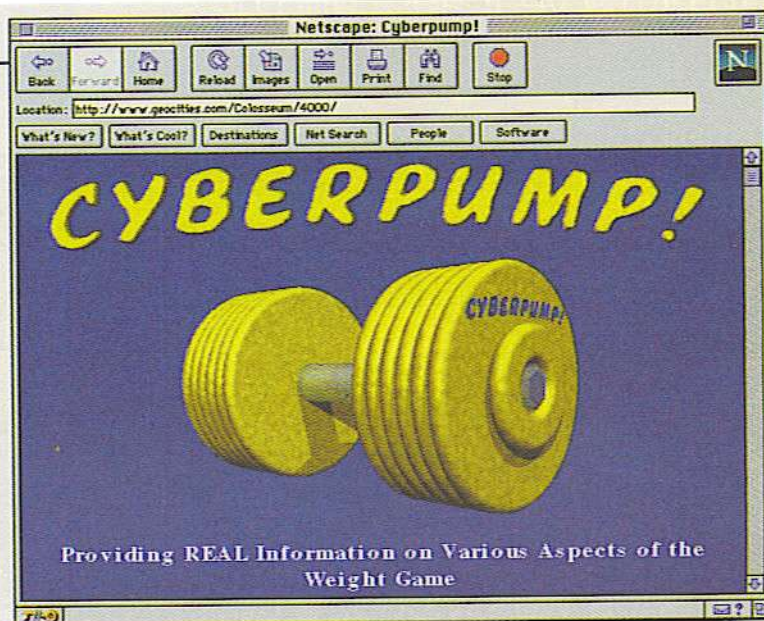
Weekend Surfing

Website: **The Beer Cap Page**
 Address: <http://www.cam.org/~kibi/beer caps.html>

Welcome to the world of beer-cap collectors, described on their Website as 'a multi-faceted art form worthy of serious study'. Hey! Right! Günther Offermann of Hamburg, Germany, for instance, has 85,546 different crowns from 173 different countries, while Victor van Gorkom claims: 'I'm the biggest collector of crown caps in Holland. I have more than 32,000 different crown caps in my collection.' James S. Roberts from Alaska, who has only recently found this site, writes: 'This is truly

an amazing discovery. I've been collecting caps for about three years, glueing magnets to them and then putting them on my refrigerator. I thought I was nuts!' These dudes sure have bottle – but also, perhaps, lost marbles, including the webmaster, who resolves the vexed question of how to remove beer caps without damage. He ingeniously suggests: 'Prying the cap off with a bottle opener.' **RICHARD HILL**

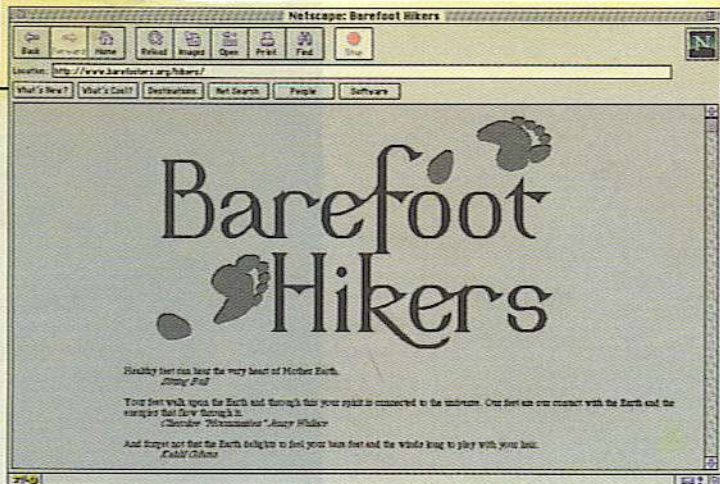
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Weekend Surfing Muscles

Website: **Cyberpump!**
 Address: <http://www.geocities.com/colosseum/4000/>

Check this blazin' site to work out how pumpers get their kicks, squats, pullovers and crunches. This is where you will find awesome regimes of self-inflicted pain for those in pursuit of perfection. Striving for sharp skeletal structures, and moulding themselves into a mighty muscular magnificence, this is where Adonis and Adoness wannabes can chisel their torsos into terrifying figures of beauty and power. It's where muscles stretch and sinews cry until they can take no more. Where veins stand out and eyes pop like... like... well, like Popeye (only without the spinach). No pain, no gain, no strain, no sprain. Personally, I'd rather stay in bed. **RICHARD HILL**



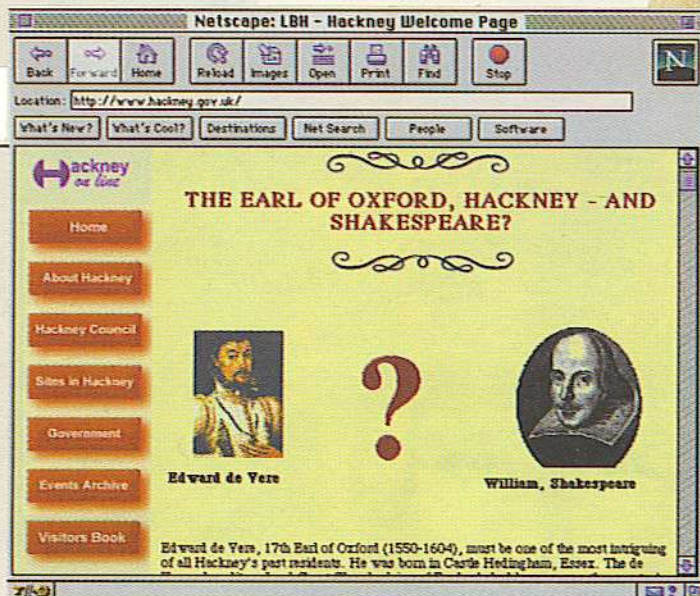
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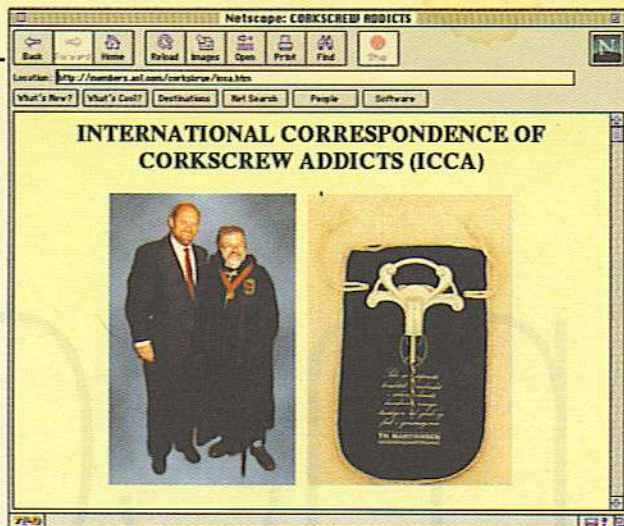
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Weekend Surfing Looney Idea

Website: **LBH - Hackney Welcome Page**

Address: <http://www.hackney.gov.uk>

'Apart from the known and the unknown, what else is there?' wrote Harold Pinter. What is known is that Pinter attended Hackney Downs School. What is also known is that school inspectors now run all Hackney's schools. What is less well-known is that in 1920, according to Hackney Council's website, 'a teacher with the unfortunate name of John Thomas Looney published a book arguing that Edward de Vere (one of the most intriguing of all Hackney's past residents) was the true author of the works of Shakespeare'. The website goes on to say that 'Shakespeare' was a very common name, spelt in many different ways. Perhaps this explains all the spelling mistakes on the site. Mistakes such as: reseach, stretch, separate, minicipal, amalgamted, leafleats, openning. Maybe education has never been the council's strong point. Could do better. **RICHARD HILL**



Weekend Surfing Corkscrew addicts

Website: **International Correspondence of Corkscrew Addicts (ICCA)**

Address: <http://members.aol.com/corkskrue/icca.htm>

Definition: 'Corkscrew'; *noun* – a device for drawing corks from bottles, consisting of a pointed metal spiral attached to a handle; *adjective* – resembling a corkscrew in shape, spiral; *verb* – to move or proceed on a repeatedly curving course, *presumably till one disappears up one's own bottle top*. This is the coolest website for corkscrew connoisseurs. The first meeting of the ICCA was hosted by Dr Bernard Watney in 1974 at the Guinness Brewery in London, where it was decided that the leader should be called a 'Right' so-and-so in his own right (no evidence exists of any female Rights), thus Brother Timothy is Just Right and the late Dr Homer Babbidge is All Right. The definitive Internet guide to all things corkscrew. **RICHARD HILL**