

THE NEW COURIER

Nº3 February 2004

Institut d'Estudis Nord-Americans

Monthly Publication

English Summer Camp

Experience nature and learn English this coming summer at La Masella



The Institute of North American Studies and Viajes Cadí offer you the possibility of spending an unforgettable summer, learning and practicing your English at the Albergue Abridall vacation center.

Where?

At Albergue Abridall, a vacation center located in la Cerdanya, at an altitude of 1,600 meters, 17 km from Puigcerdà and the French border, and 51 km from Andorra. This wooded area at the foot of la Tossa d'Alp, near the natural park of Cadí-Moixeró and surrounded by mountains with

peaks of above 2,000 m, makes it an ideal location for a summer camp.

Organization

The English program and classes are organized and given by Institute of North American Studies teachers.

English classes will be divided into two different kinds of classes: academic-based classes and activity-based classes.

Camp counselors, monitors and teachers will organize and monitor open-air activities, such as sports tournaments, games, and workshops,

using English to communicate.

What's included?

12 days / 11 nights, full room and board (Two sessions: July 4-15 or July 15-26)

- English classes
- Sports, games and outdoor activities in English
- A ratio of 1 camp counselor for every 12 campers
- Insurance
- Laundry 1 day a week



St. Valentine's Day

Esther Howland, the woman who produced the first commercial American valentines in the 1840s, sold a then mind-boggling \$5,000 in cards during her first year of business. The valentine industry in the United States has been booming ever since. Today, over 1 billion valentine cards are sent in this country each year -- second in number only to Christmas cards, according to the Greeting Card Association. (The happy day is also celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia).

Who are the lucky recipients of all these cards? Experts say parents are the most popular recipients of seasonal cards, receiving about one out every five.

Teachers, children, wives and sweethearts are also at the top of the list. Around 85 percent of all valentines are purchased by women. In addition to cards, there are millions of boxes of chocolates and bouquets of roses purchased (mostly by men) for the February 14th holiday.

When did the Valentine's Day frenzy begin? As is true of much of history, scholars tell slightly different versions of the history of this popular holiday.

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Take a virtual tour of the facilities and services of Albergue Abridall

www.abrigallmasella.com

Detailed Information will be announced. If you need more information don't hesitate to contact us.

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Film Club, American Independents
"The Believer" directed by Henry Bean
Jubilee Jazz Club - February Calendar

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For quality language Training

The IEN is one of the organizations that are guaranteed to fulfill ten commitments of quality in the teaching of language according to the DURSI (the Department of Universities, Research and Society). The organizations are: the IEN, Alliance Française, ESADE Idiomes, Escola d'Idiomes de la Universitat de Vic, Escoles Oficials d'Idiomes de Catalunya, the British Institute of Barcelona, Institut Français de Barcelona, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Programa d'Ensenyament d'Idiomes de la Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Servei d'Idiomes de la Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Servei de Llengües Modernes de la Universitat de Girona, Servei Lingüístic de la Universitat Rovira i Virgili and UAB Idiomes.

THE 10 COMMITMENTS OF QUALITY:

1. Curriculum that complies with the European Council directives
2. Communicative methodology
3. Reliable, valid and objective assessment
4. Certification recognized by the Interuniversity Council of Catalunya
5. Teaching activities meeting rigorous standards of quality
6. Academic organization through teaching staffs and coordinators
7. Teachers with university degrees and specific training
8. Internal assessment satisfactory to the learners
9. Truthful, transparent and sufficient information about the registration and enrollment process and conditions
10. Rooms and facilities appropriate for educational activity

Academic Information

Official English Exams and Certificates offered at the IEN

UPPER INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH CERTIFICATE (UEC)

The UEC evaluates students at an Upper-Intermediate level. This certificate can be obtained upon the successful completion of at least Upper Intermediate 3 and Upper Intermediate 4 at the IEN. External students or students who have only completed Upper-Intermediate 4 are required to take the UEC Exam to receive the UEC Certificate.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

EXAM FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY IN ENGLISH (ECCE)

The Michigan Competency evaluates English abilities at an upper-intermediate level. The University of Michigan Competency Certificate is roughly equivalent to the First Certificate of the University of Cambridge. This is generally considered the level required to be able to function at work in English, so it is a practical way to certify one's level of English for work or university studies. We recommend this exam for students who are studying in the upper intermediate cycle of the Adult Curriculum.

Exam Date:

Once a year at the end of May. Exact date is announced in April.

Recommended Level:

Upper Intermediate 2 completed.

Preparation Course:

Five-week intensive course in the Spring trimester.

ADVANCED ENGLISH CERTIFICATE (AEC)

The AEC evaluates students at an advanced level. This certificate can be obtained upon the successful completion of at least Advanced 3 and Advanced 4 at the IEN. External students or students who have only completed Advanced 4 are required to take the AEC Exam to receive the AEC Certificate.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

EXAM FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH (ECPE)

The Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English (ECPE) evaluates English competency at a proficiency level. Proficiency is considered to be a native-like level of English, so the Michigan Proficiency is useful for anyone wanting English level certification when looking for work or for university studies. We recommend this exam for students who have completed the proficiency courses of the Adult Curriculum. The fourth class in the proficiency module is a preparatory course for the Michigan Proficiency.

Exam Date:

Once a year at the end of November. Exact date is announced in October.

Recommended Level:

Advanced 4 completed.

Preparation Course:

Five-week intensive course in the Fall Trimester.

Level Required for Course:

Advanced 4 completed.

TEST OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE (TOEFL)

The TOEFL is the most widely recognized exam for entrance into American

universities and many European programs, including many MBA programs in Barcelona. It is a computer test that evaluates students' levels on a point system. The number of points required for entrance varies depending on the university or program. The TOEFL does not give a certificate; students receive a number score only.

Exam Date:

Tuesdays at 9 a.m.
Thursdays at 9 a.m. or at 13:30 p.m.
From October to June, one Saturday a month

The Library

The perfect place to perfect your English!

The library at the Institute of North American Studies is the only public library in Spain specializing in the United States and US literature. Located in the Institute's annex, the library holds a major collection of

over 10,000 volumes, along with an extensive video library.

In the library you will find a wide range of information on literature, economics, sociology, history, politics, and the arts in America. You will also be able to consult almanacs, directories, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and publishing indexes from the US. There are numerous periodicals and reference materials ideal for anyone interested in finding out about current events in the US or in reading US news reports of world events. This important source of information also includes a lending service for members. You will find newspapers, magazines, directories, and other resources that will allow you to stay in touch with what's happening in the US. To help you find the item you are looking for, the Library uses the latest computer search methods.

The use material in the library is free to everyone. To check out material that can be checked out, there is an annual membership fee of 14€ for IEN students and 50€ annual fee for the general public.



FILM CLUB

American Independents Cycle

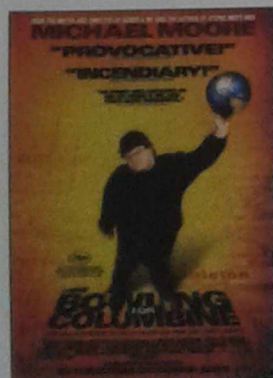
This month we will show:

"Bowling for Columbine"
Best documentary at the Spirit Awards Festival 2003

"The Believer"

Grand Jury Prize winner at the Sundance Festival 2001

BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE



From the opening moments of the new documentary BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE, in which Moore opens an account at North Fork Bank to receive the complimentary rifle they offer, you know that you're visiting Michael Moore's America. Moore, famous to millions for

his films and his television show TV Nation, is America's shabby (crude) political troubadour, and his talent is seeing our country in its most unsettling contexts, a land at once hilarious and terrifying, confusing and confused. It is where Moore flourishes.

BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE is Moore's exploration of gun control, American insanity, and the commercialization of fear. It is also his strongest work since "Roger and Me". The closing scenes, in which Moore interviews NRA President Charlton Heston, is not the incendiary finale one might expect; instead, it is a sad, smoldering moment that lingers indelibly in the memory.

To be sure, Moore's cinematic flaws are still apparent: self-aggrandizing and self-congratulatory. Moore sometimes seems more interested in himself than in the issues. At times, the narrative meanders, and his political points alternate between piercingly salient and questionably dubious. But BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE's strength isn't in its details, but in the larger picture it paints - of a culture in conflict with itself, with the thin veneer of nationalism that covers our deepest, media-soaked fears. It is the perfect antidote to these war-happy times, a piercing interrogation of America and its contradictory nationalistic impulses regarding fear and freedom.

Free! Wednesday, February 11th, at 7:00 PM, IEN Theater

THE BELIEVER



The Believer is the Sundance debut of writer/director Henry Bean. The controversial film is based on a true story of a young Jewish teenager, 19-year-old Ryan Gosling as the young man at war with himself, who leaves behind his religious orthodox background and becomes a menacing neo-Nazi. The film won the Dramatic Grand Jury Prize at Sundance.

Bean was inspired by the book One More Victim, written by The New York Times columnist Marc Jacobson based on an article he had written about the arrest of a young man at a Ku Klux Klan rally in New York who is later discovered to be a Jew. Bean described his fascination with this story as "not necessarily being obsessed about being Jewish but in attempting to understand on a deeper level what it means." He himself is married to the daughter of a conservative rabbi and is interested in "the ways that

conservative religious beliefs must live side by side with secularism in the modern world."

At first, Daniel (Gosling) assumes the persona of a skinhead hooligan, who hates Jews. The thrill he feels when beating up a Hebrew student is ugly enough, but inside the mind of this teenager who says, "The modern world is a Jewish disease", contradictory emotions are at war.

He acts like a racist, behaves like a sadist and thinks like a radical. He's not stupid. He was expelled from school for questioning the meaning of God. He stood at the center of class with his arms in the air, shouting, "Let Him crush me like the conceited bully that He is."

He becomes involved in underground movements and joins training camps in the country where he learns how to kill. In the city, he is taken up by a sophisticated right wing group, lead by a charismatic intellectual (Billy Zane), who are intrigued by this young man with fascist tattoos and ideas that are not regurgitated slogans. Daniel's anger is personal. He tries to pin it onto other people's philosophy, but it doesn't stick. He demands action - "Kill your enemy" - but secretly respects the Torah.

The film is honest and powerful and difficult to watch. It shines a light on the mind of a terrorist, even though Daniel's case is special, and is an undeniably violent movie. It is, however, violence of an intellectual, emotional and, debatably, spiritual nature. Moreover, it's a film about isolation, and an inability to not just understand the surrounding world,

but to comprehend the world within.

The Believer is to be commended for serving as another bold challenge to a woefully stagnant system, and an eye-opening reminder that the concept of "power" is the most foreboding and continuing threat to the idea of artistic "freedom."

Free! Wednesday, February 25th, at 7:00 PM, IEN Theater

Jubilee Jazz Club



February Calendar

February 12th

SHOWING OF THE FILM:

"COTTON CLUB"

Directed by Francis Ford Coppola

February 26th

LIVE PERFORMANCE:

XAVI MAURETA QUARTET
Raynald Colom, trumpet
Xavi Maureta, drums
Tom Warburton, bass
Andreu Zaragoza, guitar

Free! Thursday, January 15th and 29th at 8:00 PM, IEN Conference Room

AMERICAN HOLIDAYS

The Origins of St. Valentine's Day



Cupid

Cupid, the mischievous son of the Goddess of Love, Venus, is supposedly responsible for people falling in love. According to the myths, anyone being hit by Cupid's arrow falls in love with the first person he/she sees. His mischievous intentions have led to some entertaining situations in various legends. Cupid in the Roman mythology has Eros, the son of Aphrodite, as his counterpart in the Greek Myths. The names of both these Gods are used synonymously with the concept of love today. Love Knot
Young women in strict Muslim households used to send their pledges of love to young men through messages woven through the knots of a carpet in an Arab tradition. This tradition of sending messages through the knots gave birth to the concept of love knots that continues to this day.

The Feast of Lupercus

The first interpretation has this celebration originating as a pagan tradition in the third century. During this time herds of hungry wolves roamed outside of Rome where shepherds kept their flocks. The God Lupercus, it was said, watched over the shepherds and their flocks and kept them from the wolves. Every February the Romans celebrated a feast called Lupercalia to honor Lupercus so that no harm would come to the shepherds and their flocks. Also during Lupercalia, but in honor of the goddess Juno Februata, the names of young women were put into a box and names were drawn by lot. The boys and girls who were matched would be considered partners for the year, which began in March. This celebration continued long after wolves were a problem to Rome.

St. Valentine's Day

The eternal lover that gave us the famous word "Valentine" and originated the tradition of writing love letters on this day is believed to be Bishop Valentine. He was a priest in Rome when the city was ruled by 'Claudius the Cruel'. In spite of the fact that Claudius had forbidden Christian conversions and Christian marriages, the Bishop refused to surrender to Roman Gods and carried on his religious duties in secret. He was imprisoned for disobedience, but even in prison he converted the convicts. While he was in prison, the jailer's daughter became his friend and was

The Supreme symbols of this season

Hearts

To someone who is loved, there is no symbol as important as the heart. To give someone one's heart means to give to him or her one's whole being, for the heart is at the center of one's existence. The heart stands for the most profound and noblest of human emotions - that of love. Through ages, it has inspired millions to rise above the mundane cares and to get lost in the thought of their beloved. Thus a heart, pierced by the cupid's arrow, has become the most famous of the valentine symbols.



loyal to him through his ordeal. When Claudius came to know that imprisonment had not broken his enduring Christian spirit, the bishop was executed. However, on the day of his death Valentine wrote a note to his friend, 'the jailer's daughter' and signed it 'from your Valentine'. This man who died for his beliefs, for his enduring love of the Christian God, was chosen as the patron saint of lovers. February 14th has since been celebrated as Valentine's Day. Romantic souls all over the world have preferred to focus on the romantic twist of this tale, the story of the man who united lovers in the holy bond of marriage; a man who loved his jailer's daughter and started the tradition of writing love notes.

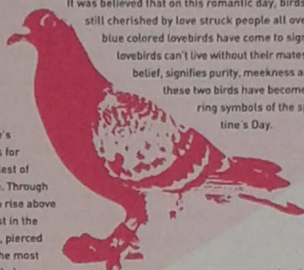
February 14th

The Day the Birds Began to Mate

The Europeans also believed that on February

Love Birds and Doves

It was believed that on this romantic day, birds found their mates. This belief is still cherished by love struck people all over the world. The sweet little blue colored lovebirds have come to signify that belief. It is said that lovebirds can't live without their mates. A dove, in the Christian belief, signifies purity, meekness and innocence. Hence, these two birds have become the most endearing symbols of the spirit of Valentine's Day.



14th, the birds began to choose their mates. In fact Chaucer, in his "Parlement of Foules," wrote: "For this was Seynt (Saint) Valentine's Day when every foul cometh (comes) ther (there) to choose his mate."

The Christian tradition of drawing names on St. Valentine's Eve continued in England and other places. The tradition of birds choosing their mates on St. Valentine's Day led to the idea that boys and girls would do the same. When a boy drew a girl's name, he wore it on his sleeve, and attended and protected her during the following year. This made the girl his valentine and they exchanged love tokens throughout the year. Later this was changed to only men giving love tokens to females, usually without names but signed "with St. Valentine's love."

St. Valentine's Day was mentioned by Shakespeare. The poet, Drayton, wrote verses entitled "To His Valentine," in which he expressed the idea of the birds' mating on St. Valentine's Day.



Roses

Poets and scholars have likened the beauty of their sweethearts to that of roses. The rose, as the queen of flowers, symbolizes peace and war, love and forgiveness. Valentine's Day is a time to send flowers and gifts to your loved ones but beware! Some of these beautiful messengers may transmit wrong messages. Take the most common flowers, roses for instance. There are formal meanings of different colored roses in some cultures. Each of these meanings is still used in society today, so choose your color with care. White roses are for true love and purity of the mind. Red roses are for love and passion. Yellow roses are for friendship. Black roses mean farewell. Pink roses mean friendship or sweetheart.

Recipe: Valentine's Day Sugar Heart Cookies

- 3 1/2 cups sifted flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tablespoon (soup spoon) milk
- 2 tablespoons yogurt
- Grated peel of one lemon
- Colored sugar for decorating

Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Cream together butter, sugar, yogurt, lemon peel and beat well. Add eggs, one at a time, and then add the milk.

Gradually, add the sifted dry ingredients, scraping the bowl with a rubber spatula as necessary. Beat only until thoroughly mixed.

Separate dough in half.

Wrap each batch with foil or plastic wrap and chill in refrigerator for 3 hours or longer (DO NOT place dough in the freezer).

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

Place one batch of dough on lightly floured pastry cloth. Turn dough to distribute flour on all sides and roll out to desired thickness.

Cut out the cookies using a heart-shaped cookie cutter.

Transfer cookies to ungreased cookie sheets.

Sprinkle the tops of the cookies with colored sugar.

Bake cookies about 8 to 10 minutes or until they're lightly browned.

Transfer cookies to racks for cooling.

St. Valentine's Crossword

*Answers next month

Across

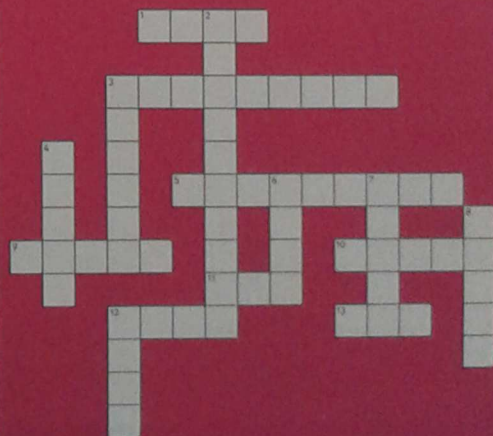
1. the most common flower given on this day
3. this day is named after St.
5. brown candy made from butter sugar and cocoa
9. main body organ that pumps blood
10. almond
11. the colour used for Valentines
12. a small arrow
13. Opposite of old

Down

2. someone you like a lot
3. prudence is the better part of
4. person you love
6. valentine's day
7. italian for love
8. fortune telling cards
17. poor Bob he got a John letter yesterday

Answers January's Crossword

Across: 1. reliable, 7. offer, 8. apologize, 9. ad, 10. fluently, 11. inter, 12. product, 13. ask, 14. scene, 16. grumble, 18. campaign, 21. warm, 22. responding
Down: 2. explain, 3. leisure, 4. complaint, 5. trademark, 6. being, 15. cola, 17. brand, 19. miss, 20. nag



TEACHER'S PROFILE

This month we've talked with John Bauer



Where were you born?

I was born in Berwyn, Illinois, just outside of Chicago. Berwyn is known as "Tree City USA", which is pretty funny considering that it doesn't have that many trees and is quite ugly.

Cultural note: Chicagoland, which includes the city itself and its suburbs, suffers from an inferiority complex. It's called the "Second City" because since time immemorial it has trailed behind New York in political, economic, and social importance. Chicagoans have compensated for this by heaping outrageous, grandiose claims on anything at hand. For instance, Chicago used to have the world's tallest building (the Sears Tower), but it also has the world's tallest church steeple, largest post office, largest office building, longest continuous city street, and longest con-

tinual public access lake front. Thus an ugly town with few trees can be called "Tree City" without anybody raising a fuss.

What was Berwyn like and how has it changed?

Well, I only spent a day or two in Berwyn before my family moved to Riverside. Riverside has a much better claim to the "Tree City USA" title than Berwyn, because it has many, many beautiful oak and elm trees, as well as wide, curving avenues, beautiful parks, and elegant Victorian mansions. It's a very well-known town in architectural circles because it has quite a few Frank Lloyd Wright houses and was designed by Frederick Olmsted, who also created the plan for Central Park in New York City. However, I only lived there for two months.

I spent the rest of my younger years in Western Springs which, of course, neither has springs nor is in the west.

Cultural note two: In the Chicagoland area, the names of towns are almost always named after the places that were destroyed in order to create them. So, for instance, Forest Park has neither a park nor a forest, though it once did. Glenview has neither a glen nor a view. Lake Forest is on the lake but it doesn't have much forest left, and, of course, Chicago itself, which means "stinky onion" doesn't have any stinky onions. Land of Irony. Anyway, it was a nice place to grow up.

What would you recommend visiting?

If you are in the pure-tourist mode and just want to see the sights, I strongly recommend taking the Chicago River Architectural Tour, which I hear is tremendously interesting. It highlights the most famous buildings in Chicago; the ones that helped make it the capital of modern architecture. I would also recommend visiting the Lake, especially at North Avenue where there is a nice beach and a very funky building that looks like a boat (Chicagoans love kitsch, by the way). You should also take in a baseball game at Wrigley Field. And be sure to visit the Art Institute, where you can see one of the world's best Impressionist painting collections. However, if you travel to understand the local culture, you could go to the south side to hear some really awesome Chicago blues (Chicago is the "Home of the Blues") at the Checkerboard Lounge, formerly owned by Buddy Guy. You could also visit the Green Mill, which was once Al Capone's speakeasy.

Why did you decide to leave the US and move to Barcelona?

When I married my wife, Doña Isabel C--, it was understood that, just like any other good Catalan woman, she didn't want to die in the US. I didn't complain. And so, to make a long story short, here we are.

Have you always been a teacher?

I was always the worst kid in class. I drove my teachers nuts. However, in an ironic twist of fate, I found, from a young age, that I liked working with kids. No matter what I did to try to find work in other fields, I always found that Fortune conspired to block my path. So, at the age of 28, I finally stopped resisting and got my teacher's license. I've been a teacher ever since.

What do you like best and least about Barcelona?

I'm pretty much of a tree-hugging nature freak, so I'm not overly partial to megalopolises. That said, what I like most about Barcelona is its geographic position: along the Mediterranean, cradled by mountains, with very mild, sunny weather. I also like the cosmopolitan aspect of the city and its devotion to the arts. What I don't like is the graffiti. It seems to me that the people who do this are wanna-be's who are imitating some very questionable notion of what American gangsters do. But all they end up doing is degrading the atmosphere of their city, which is a true pity, because it is one of the most beautiful megalopolises on the planet.

February Activities

DINNER IN ENGLISH

Restaurant
**The Chicago
Pizza Pie Factory**
About 15€

Thursday 5
22:30 PM

FILM CLUB

"Bowling for
Colombine"
Directed by
Todd Haynes

Wednesday 28
8:00 PM
Theater

BASIC DINNER

Restaurant
**The Chicago
Pizza Pie Factory**
About 15€

Thursday 12
22:30 PM

14 Saturday ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB

Film
"The Cotton Club"
Directed by Francis
Ford Coppola

Thursday 12
8:00 PM
Theater

FILM CLUB

"The Believer"
Directed by
Henry Bean

Wednesday 25
7:00 PM
Theater

JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB

"Xavi Maureta
Quartet"
Live performance

Thursday 26
8:00 PM
Theater

MONTHLY REGULAR EVENTS

Twice a month at 7:00 PM

FILM CLUB in the IEN
Theater:
American Independents

Every other Thursday
at 8:00 PM
JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB.
Concerts and lectures.

Once a month at 10:30 PM

BASIC DINNER
[for Basic 1 through
Pre-Intermediate 2]

DINNER IN ENGLISH
[all other levels]
Practice your English in a
natural setting while you

eat, drink, and socialize
with IEN teachers and
fellow students! Tickets
are available at reception
desk (approximately
20.00€).

Past Events



Here is how we danced and had fun at the Lindy Hop demonstration.

On January 14th, we began the new trimester and learned about the dance the Lindy Hop. Gloria, the dance teacher for the new IEN course, and her team gave us a fantastic demonstration of the popular dance of the 30s and 40s. If you haven't signed up for the course yet, what are you waiting for? Come and dance in English with us!

What activities would you like to see? Do you have other opinions or contributions? Write us at:
The Courier Via Augusta, 123 T. 93 240 5110 e-mail: info@ien.es

Sources: www.filmfestivals.com <http://www.filmfestivals.com>
<http://www.d.greetings.com> <http://www.d.greetings.com> "Valentine" by
Daniel Santiz, UFM 2003, "Mixed Reviews"