

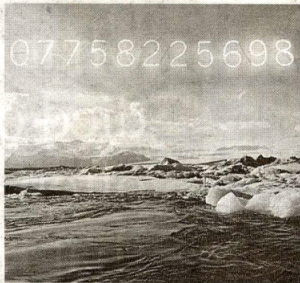
didyousee?

Cold callers

Forget Charles Clarke and his ID cards — it's communication technology that has really changed the concept of privacy. Since the dawn of affordable mobile phones, we have been increasingly obliged to be contactable wherever we go. Even that chap on Mount Everest felt obliged to call as he neared the summit. "It's cold," he explained.

And now even inanimate objects must be accessible. As part of her final-year art project, a student at the Slade School of Fine Art in London has fixed up the Jokulsarlon glacier lagoon in Iceland so that we can ring to hear it melting.

Her installation, facilitated by Virgin Mobile and at the Slade gallery until June 13, features a large neon sign of a mobile phone number which links to a microphone with a mobile-phone interface attached to the glacier. Only one person can call at a time. "There's an immediacy, a directness. I



could provide access to ... the vanishing away of the world," says the artist, Kate Paterson.

The microphone is embedded in the melting ice itself, meaning, presumably, that one will disappear along with the other. No doubt the immediate threat of climate change will then seem more tangible to callers: "This number is currently out of service."

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