

Rant!
Save the crown!

That's the message from some of Britain's biggest brewers who have pleaded with Tony Blair to save the 300 year-old Crown symbol on beer glasses from extinction at the hands of Brussels-based bureaucrats.

The symbol was first used in 1699 as a guarantee of the size of pints and half pints. But this year it is due to be removed and will be replaced by the EU-wide CE mark guaranteeing the accuracy of measures.

However, there has been no attempt (yet!) to replace imperial measures with litres and half litres, even though wine is now dispensed in metric measures.

The UK has already signed up to the EU's measuring instruments directive, which came into force last October, triggering the phasing out of the Crown mark in favour of the Conformité Européenne logo.

But nine brewing and pub companies have written to the Prime Minister protesting at the EU's interference.

They say the removal of the Crown is a "needless" intrusion" into a system which has worked well for centuries. "We feel that it has been imposed on our industry without consultation and against the wishes of our consumers, this directive is yet another in a long line of examples of excessive interference from Brussels which only serve to undermine support for the EU among business leaders and the wider public."



Editor's Intro

The idea of this two-monthly magazine is based on a mixture unusual/humorous beer stories, drinking jokes, pubs abroad, beer reviews, a forgotten classic album, Arts information, a Rant piece plus some strange science. The 'Nostalgia' article, which will feature anything from the past such as fashion styles, confectionary, comics, toys, etc.. that you might remember or wish to forget. If you'd like to contribute an article email The Editor at the following address:

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Any views and opinions expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Publishers.

Three Tough mice

Three mice were sitting at a bar talking about how tough they were. The first mouse downs a rum and says, "I play with mouse traps for fun. I'll run into one on purpose and as it is closing on me, I grab the bar and bench press it 20 to 30 times." And, with that, he slams another rum.

The second mouse downs a rum and says, "That's nothing. I take those poison bait tablets, cut them up, and snort them, just for the fun of it." And, with that, he downs another rum.

The third mouse downs a whisky, gets up, and walks away. The first two mice look at each other, then turn to the third mouse and ask, "Where the hell are you going?" The third mouse stops and replies, "I'm going home to shag the cat."

A State of the Art Watch.

A confident man walks into a bar and takes a seat next to a very attractive woman. He gives her a quick glance, and then casually looks at his watch for a moment.

The woman notices this and asks, "Is your date running late?" "No," he replies, "I just bought this state-of-the-art watch and I was just testing it."

The intrigued woman says, "A state-of-the-art watch? What's so special about it?"

"It uses alpha waves to telepathically talk to me," he explains.

"What's it telling you now?" she asked.

"Well, it says you're not wearing any panties." he said.

The woman giggles and replies, "Well it must be broken then because I am wearing panties!"

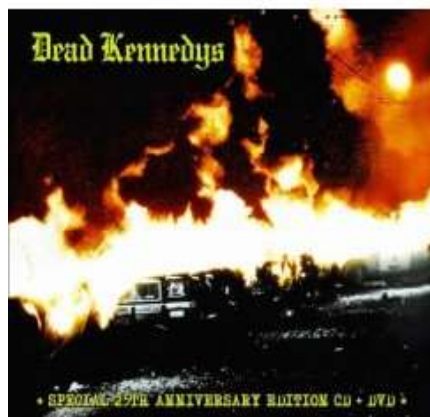
The man explains, "Damn thing must be an hour fast

A Drink of Style and Sophistication.

Beer is the drink of style and sophistication according to new research into Britain's drinking habits commissioned by the British Guild of Beer Writers.

The research states that there are now more than 7.2 million people who want to read more in the media about beer. It purports to shatter the stereotype many have of beer drinkers as overweight, bearded, middle-aged men as half a million of them are women (those must be the ones without beards then!). According to the survey, beer fans are upmarket, affluent, and tend to be aged between 25 – 44. It also says that beer drinkers are people who like to drink a wide variety of beers and are interested in quality beer and new flavours (I assume that those who don't drink a wide variety of beers etc.. are not people).

A FORGOTTEN CLASSIC ALBUM



Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables,

If you want to make an old punk rocker feel positively creaky in the knees, just tell him about the special 25th anniversary reissue of *Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables*, the debut album from legendary San Francisco trailblazers the Dead Kennedys. DK burst on the scene in the late 70's with an innovative and extremely funny

sound. Blending elements of punk, hardcore and rockabilly with lyrical content based on political awareness.

The strange thing is, even though it's a quarter-century old, *Fresh Fruit* sounds remarkably, well, *fresh*, to modern ears. To simply call it "classic" or "significant" would do a major disservice to a record that literally set the standard for politically charged punk rock. *Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables* is, simply put, a perfect punk rock album. It is original, brash, obnoxious, profound and revolutionary--all within the space of 14 songs, two of which happen to be among the best punk songs ever blasted through a set of speakers.

The standout track among standouts, however, is "Holiday in Cambodia." It is not only the best song the Dead Kennedy's produced--it's one of the best punk rock singles ever.

The Manifesto release of *Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables* does come with a bonus DVD documentary called *Fresh Fruit for Rotting Eye-balls* that features extensive interviews with Klaus and Ray about the early days of the band.

The Three Centimetre Tall guy.

So this guy walks into a bar and says to the bartender "Give me two single whiskies"

"Sure" the bartender replies, "do you want them both now or one at a time?"

"Oh, both now" replies the guy, "one's for me and one's for my little friend here" and with that the guy pulls a three centimetre tall man out of his shirt pocket.

The Bartender looked at the little man in amazement and asked, "Can he drink?"

"Sure" replied the guy and with that the three centimetre tall man supped back his whiskey.

"That's amazing" replied the bartender, "what else can he do? Can he walk?"

With that the guy flips a 5p down to the other end of the bar and asks the little fella to get it. Sure enough, he runs down the bar and retrieves the coin, picks it up and jogs back to the guy.

"That really is amazing" replied the bartender, "Can he talk?"

"Of course" says the guy, "Hey Jim, tell him about that time we were in Africa and you called that witch-doctor a wanker..."

Nostalgia

Coupe à la Waddle



A **mullet** is a hairstyle that is short in the front, on the top, and on the sides, but long in the back. The hairstyle was popular from the early to mid seventies to the late eighties/early nineties. Mullets have been worn by both males and females of all ages. The mullet is distinct from the *rattail*,

which consists of a long, narrow "tail" of hair growing from the back of the head.

Urban legends have mullets dating back to 19th century fishermen, who wore their hair long in the back to keep warm — hence the term *mullet*.

The Mullet became popular in the 1970's due in part to the influence of David Bowie, who wore a version of the haircut during his 'Ziggy Stardust' and Diamond Dogs' phases. In the 1980's the Mullet became big and bouffant. And in the 1990's Billy Ray Cyrus's mullet fostered imitation and ridicule. There are a number of stylistic variations on the mullet as well as a large number of whimsical, alternative terms describing the hairstyle:



A skullet is a variation of the mullet style. A skullet is defined by a shaved or bald head with long hair on the sides and in the back.

A reversed variation of the hairstyle is the "frullet" (derived from "front mullet"), whereby the back of the head is shaved, leaving a long fringe hanging over the face in front.

Famous Mullet-heads include Michael Bolton, Glenn Hoddle, Patrick Swayze and of course Chris Waddle.

Giant Guinea Pig as big as a Buffalo.

The largest rodent ever was a giant guinea pig as big as a buffalo, which lived in South America eight million years ago, researchers say journal Science.

An exterminator's nightmare, the creature weighed 72.5 Kgs and was more than 700 times heavier than its modern cousins. It had a voracious appetite and big teeth.

When resting on its hind legs, in the posture used by many of its modern-day relatives, it would have stood taller than the typical basketball player.

This giant rodent grazed on grasses, which it must have eaten in large amounts to support its great size. It had fur, a smooth head with small ears and eyes, and a large tail that allowed it to balance on two hind legs to watch out for predators.

There were a lot of meat eaters around which probably preyed on the slow moving, plant eating giant. Some of the largest crocodiles ever, more than 10 metres long, were in the same location it was found. This weird looking titanic guinea pig also had to worry about large carnivores such as marsupial cats, and huge flesh-eating birds.

Scientists in Germany, Venezuela and the United States who made the discovery have called the creature *Phoberomys pattersoni* - which means "fearsome mouse of Patterson." - some mouse!

Archaeologists are continuing to explore the site in the hope of discovering and establishing the size of the Guinea pig's wheel.

Brewery says The Pope loves its beer.



A German brewery is enjoying new success following a label change, and a "thumbs-up" from a high-profile fan of its beer, German native Pope Benedict XVI.

The Stuttgart brewery

"Stuttgarter Hofbrau" had been struggling to sell its wheat beer until a label-change turned business around. Then, Pope Benedict XVI, formerly Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, reportedly gave his approval to the new brand name. "Papst-Bier" (Pope's Beer).

The brewery has been sending a beer truck to Rome to deliver 700 litres of beer to Pope Benedict XVI.

If anything is a surprise, it's that a man from Bavaria would prefer a beer from Baden-Württemberg! Granted, at least it's a wheat beer, but why not a beer from Munich?

Recent research has shown that the brewery's former name was "Sinner Brewery" (would that be another sinner converted?).

Beer Review Lemon Dream

A Refreshing Spring/Summer 4.5% wheat beer that is medium bodied and well balanced. Brewed by The Salopian Brewery very much in the modern English style – served bright and top fermented. The recipe uses a small amount of fresh lemon to compliment the citrusy flavours produced by the wheat malt, although the effect of adding lemons was not overpowering. Each of the Hops used add fresh lemony flavours to the brew.

Dutch students invent Powdered Alcohol.

Dutch students have invented powdered alcohol, which they say can be sold legally to minors. The latest innovation in inebriation, called Booz2Go, is available in 20-gramme packets that cost 1-1.5 euros (70 pence-1 pound).

Top it up with water and you have a bubbly, lime-coloured and - flavoured drink with just 3 percent alcohol content.

"We are aiming for the youth market. They are really more into it because you can compare it with Bacardi-mixed drinks," said 20-year-old student. The student and four classmates at Helicon Vocational Institute, about an hour's drive from Amsterdam, came up with the idea as part of their final-year project.

"Because the alcohol is not in liquid form, we can sell it to people below 16," said another member of the project.

The legal age for drinking alcohol and smoking is 16 in the Netherlands. The students said a number of companies were interested in commercially making the product .— Would that be because they could avoid taxes because the alcohol was in powder form.?

Art Part

Eduardo Paolozzi – Bunk! Laing Art Gallery.

Saturday 14 July to Sunday 30 September

Bunk! is a series of prints and collages by Scottish artist Eduardo Paolozzi, founder of the Independent Group which is seen as a precursor to the 60's British pop art movement. They are made mainly from magazines given to the artist by American ex-servicemen. They show the artists' fascination with popular culture and technology, as well as with the glamour of American consumerism. Also on show at the Laing Art Gallery is a film made by Paolozzi called The History of Nothing (1960–62). This animated film uses a sequence of collages to create a world which is part human and part machine.

A 12 year old Whisky

A man walks into a bar and orders a 12-year-old whisky. The bartender, believing that the customer will not be able to tell the difference, pours him a shot of the cheap 3-year-old house whisky that has been poured into an empty bottle of the good stuff.

The man takes a sip and spits the whisky out on the bar and complains to the bartender. "This is the cheapest 3-year-old whisky you can buy. I'm not paying for it. Now, give me a good 12-year-old whisky."

The bartender, now feeling a bit of a challenge, pours him a whisky of much better quality, 6-year-old whisky. The man takes a sip and spits it out on the bar. "This is only 6-year-old whisky. I won't pay for this, and I insist on, a good, 12-year-old whisky."

The bartender finally relents and serves the man his best quality, 12-year-old whisky.

An old drunk from the end of the bar, who has witnessed the entire episode, walks down to the finicky whisky drinker and sets a glass down in front of him and asks, "What do you think of this?"

The whisky expert takes a sip, and in disgust, violently spits out the liquid yelling "Why, this tastes like piss,"

The old drunk replies, "That's right, now tell me how old I am."

Alcoholoscopes

This issue....

CANCER (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

Drinking style: Cancer is a comfort drinker -- and an extra wine with dinner or an after-work beer or six can be extra comforting, can't it, Cancer darling? Like fellow water signs Scorpio and Pisces, Crabs must guard against luxury. Cancers are brilliant at ferreting out secret parties and insinuating themselves on VIP lists -- and, in true Hollywood style, Cancers are never really drunk; instead, they get "tired and emotional" (read: weepy when lubricated). But there's nothing better than swapping stories (and spit) over a few bottles of inky red wine with your favourite Cancer. Even your second-favourite Cancer will do. The sign also rules the flavour vanilla, and you'd be adored if you served up a vanilla vodka and soda.

LEO (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

Drinking style: Leo likes to drink and dance -- they're often fabulous dancers, and usually pretty good drinkers as well, losing their commanding dignity and turning kittenish. Of course, they're quite aware they're darling - Leos will be Leos, after all. They generally know their limit, probably because they loathe losing self-control. When they get over-refreshed, expect flirting to ensue -- and perhaps not with the one who brought them. But Leo's not the type to break rules even when drunk, so just try to ignore it and expect a sheepish (and hung over) Lion to make it up to you the next day.

Art Part

Paradise Lost—Laing Art Gallery 28 Jul—4 Oct

British born Chinese artist Gordon Cheung's newly commissioned paintings combine numerous references, collaging the pages of the Financial Times and applying Chinese ink, photographic transfers and spray paint to create a series of virtual landscapes.

The Singing Bullfrog.

A man walks into a bar and asks the bartender, "If I show you a really good trick, will you give me a free drink?" The bartender considers it, and then agrees. The man reaches into his pocket and pulls out a tiny rat. He reaches into his other pocket and pulls out a tiny piano. The rat stretches, cracks his knuckles, and proceeds to play the blues.

After the man finished his drink, he asked the bartender, "If I show you an even better trick, will you give me free drinks for the rest of the evening?" The bartender agrees, thinking that no trick could possibly be better than the first. The man reaches into his pocket and pulls out the tiny rat. He reaches into his other pocket and pulls out a tiny piano. The rat stretches, cracks his knuckles, and again proceeds to play the blues. The man reaches into another pocket and pulls out a small bullfrog, which begins to sing along with the rat's music.

While the man is enjoying his free drinks, a stranger confronts him and offers him £100,000 for the bullfrog. "Sorry," the man replies, "he's not for sale." The stranger increases the offer to £250,000 cash up front. "No," he insists, "he's not for sale." The stranger again increases the offer, this time to £500,000 cash. The man finally agrees, and turns the frog over to the stranger in exchange for the money. "Are you insane?" the bartender demanded. "That frog could have been worth millions to you, and you let him go for a mere £500,000!"

"Don't worry about it." the man answered. "The frog was really nothing special. You see, the rat's a ventriloquist."

Hard sell for Oysters



An Australian oyster farmer said he was facing "stiff" opposition, as he tries to sell shellfish infused with the anti-impotence drug, Viagra.

George May apparently came up with the idea of adding Viagra to the fishy aphrodisiac after he had prostate cancer surgery that could have left him impotent.

In a patented process, the oysters are reared in a tank of normal water, and transferred into a solution of Viagra,

where they absorb the little blue pill's active ingredient.

Pharmaceutical company Pfizer, which makes Viagra, said it was a prescription medicine which was not to be used frivolously, and has served papers on Mr May aimed at stopping him using the trademarked name.

Meanwhile, food safety experts said it would be "hard" to get the oysters on the market because they had been contaminated, albeit deliberately.

Beer Review

Ginger Marble

Ginger Marble from Marble Brewery, weighs in at 4.5% ABV and is brewed with real ginger to produce a pale orangey amber coloured beer, which is hazy and slightly opaque when you hold it up to the light. It is a refreshing beer which makes your lips tingle after each mouthful.

The aroma is predominantly ginger (as you would expect) with evidence of other spices, hops and citrus. Of course, this is only a beer for those of you who like ginger. Anyone who doesn't like ginger will not like this one at all!

Mooring Mobiles.

Forest guards in western India are using mobile phones with ring tones of cows mooing, goats bleating and roosters crowing to attract leopards that have wandered into human settlements, officials said on Monday.

The wild cats in the state of Gujarat often roam into villages near forests in search of food, say officials, adding that this results in attacks on people.

But rather than use methods such as live bait like goats tied to trees to lure the leopards, which then fall into large pits dug by guards, officials say they have found a safer method to trap the cats.

"The moos of a cow, bleating of a goat from the phone has proved effective to trap leopards," said D. Vasani, a senior forest official in Gujarat. "This trick works." - The leopards were unavailable for comment.

Vasani said forest guards have downloaded the sounds of over a dozen animals as ringtones on their mobiles, which they attach to speakers and fix behind a cage.

They then play the ringtone continuously for up to two hours until the curious leopard appears and moves into the cage looking for its easy meal.

Five leopards have so far been lured from villages since the new ringtone method was introduced a month ago. The cats have all been released back into forest areas.

Wildlife activists welcomed the new initiative saying that previous methods of trapping the cats using pits often resulted in the animals getting injured (now they just get deafened).

A similar method has been used in the U.K. to remove unwanted visitors to funfairs by playing Cliff Richard records.

Hell Hunting in Tallinn



Slap bang in the middle of Tallinn Old Town, only a few steps from other bars and restaurants. The Hell Hunt was established in 1993 as the first English style Estonian pub. The Hell Hunt (though to Estonians the two words actually mean "Gentle Wolf") is up a side street running from the main square. It used to be a large house and the ground floor has been converted into a bar with the brewing area behind the pub. The interior consists of a large

stone fireplace in the corner, stone pillars with an assortment of pictures on the basic painted walls. Due to the historical nature of the building, the ceiling cannot be altered but has been covered with the original stained glass house doors, a lounge room with settees and armchairs, and an separate eating area or you can just eat at the bar. With its no-nonsense atmosphere, it pulls in locals by the droves. So if you can pick your way down to Pikk Street, you'll find friendly, efficient, English speaking staff, waiting to serve you up some good food and good beer.

Beer Quote.

I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts, and beer. Abraham Lincoln