Totally and Completely Random

On Beyond HUDS.

Entrepreneurs are always trying to get one step ahead of the competition and the bar scene is no exception. Beyond the typical Irish pub or classy blue-light lounge, these establishments have put a new spin on the ‘bar and grill.’

A few steps from the Opera metro station in Paris sits Footsie, a café who’s name is a play on words on FTSE, the London stock exchange. Like most cafes, Footsie displays the price of its drinks on a screen above the bar. Unlike most cafes, the screen refreshes every four minutes, with fluctuations in prices based on demand. Customers at the bar are constantly looking at the screens for bargains or arbitrage opportunities.

The screen itself consists of five drink lists: draft beers, bottled drinks, soft drinks, liquors, and aperitifs. If someone were to purchase a Bud Light, the price of Bud Light in the ‘bottled drinks’ section would increase at the same time that one or two other drinks in this category would lower in price. The bar also features a ‘countdown’ clock at the top of the screen which counts down from 240 seconds until the screen is refreshed.

A bit closer to home, the Miracle of Science Bar and Grill in Cambridge, MA displays its menu, not on an updating screen, but on a chalkboard in the form of a periodic table. Thus, for examples, C1 stands for chicken Skewer with peanut satay, Vb represents the Veggie Burger served with pepperjack cheese and jalepeno aioli, and Tc is the turkey Chipotle Chili. Customers of said establishment have commented: “science nerd that I am, the periodic table menu rocks my socks!”

Get out of Here!

Events in Boston

• Boston Pops with Ben Folds: Fri 10/2 8pm.
Boston Symphony Hall
• Rockapella: Sat 10/3, 8p, Berklee College of Music: Berklee Performance Center, Boston
• Red Nose Days-Learn the Art of Clowning from Professionals: Oct 2-5, Ipswich, MA.
An overnight program at Nabby’s Point, you will be introduced to aspects of clowning in this 3 day workshop. Designed for people with very little knowledge of clowning and theater. $260. Register by email: sarahfrenchy@gmail.com

Events on Campus

• 1 Heart 90s-Phoho 90s Dance: Sat 10/3,
Phoho Dhall
• Hungama-a night of Indian Dance: Sat 10/3, 9p-1am

Questions to Ponder

• What is your favorite dining hall food?
• If you could only use one condiment for the rest of your life, what would it be?
• What is the ballsiest thing you’ve ever said to someone?
• What is the ballsiest thing you’ve ever done?
• If you could eliminate one thing from your life, what would it be?
• What is the strangest thing you’ve ever worn? Why?

Command Center

Step out of your comfort zone this week.

Upcoming lev Events

• Lev UC Reps Open Hours: Thurs 10/1, 6-7 (dhall)
• Stein Club: Levtoberfest: Fri, 9-11pm. JCR

Popcorn Facts

• In 1948, 5,000 year old popcorn kernels were discovered in caves in New Mexico.
• It is believed that Wampanoag Native Americans brought popcorn to the first Thanksgiving.
• Popcorn has been sold in theaters since 1912.
• For every $1 of popcorn sold in movie theaters, 99 cents are pure profit.
• During the Great Depression, popcorn was comparatively cheap, so while other businesses failed the popcorn business thrived.
• During WWII, sugar rations diminished candy production. As a result, Americans ate 3x more popcorn than they had previously.
• As the oil and water are heated past boiling point, the moisture in the kernel turns into a superheated pressurized steam, contained within the moisture-proof hull. The starch inside the kernel gelatinizes, softening and becoming pliable. At 356°F, the hull ruptures, causing a drop in pressure inside the kernel and a rapid expansion of the steam, which expands the starch and proteins into foam. As the foam cools, the starch and protein polymers set into a puff.
• Kernels that don’t pop, known in the popcorn industry as old maids or spinsters, are believed to not have enough moisture to create steam for an explosion. Others cite the existence of a leaky hull.
• A popped kernel is known as a “flake”. There are two shapes of flakes: "Butterfly" flakes are irregular in shape and have a number of protruding "wings".
"Mushroom" flakes are largely ball-shaped, with few wings. The kernels from a single cob of popcorn may form both butterfly and mushroom flakes;
Deadline for Leverett House Newsletter submissions is Thursday at 11:59pm. Please e-mail Leverettnews@gmail.com.

Sign Up for an IM Team now! http://leverett.harvard.edu/intramurals/teams.php

Lev had a strong week, with a win in IM flag football and a tie in soccer. Come join us for this week’s games and check out highlights on LevSPN!

Important Campus Dates
• Last day to add/drop: Oct 5th

Upcoming Games
A Volleyball: Tues 9/29, 7pm v. Winthrop
Ultimate Frisbee: Wed 9/30, 7pm v. Lowell
B Volleyball: Thu 10/1, 8pm v. Adams
Flag Football: Mon 5th, 7pm v. Dudley

IOP Study Groups, fall 2009
• Creativity in Journalism, in Politics, and in Life. led by Peggy Noonan - Before entering the Reagan White House, Noonan was a producer at CBS News in New York.
• Faith, Values, politics led by Reverend Leah Daughtry - Most recently, Daughtry served as Chief Executive Officer of the 2008 DNC Committee.
• Eye of the Storm led by Stephanie Cutter - Cutter recently served as Advisor to President Obama. Previously she was Counselor to the Secretary of the Department of Treasury.
• Winning Across Progressive Movements led by Kim Gandy – Gandy served two terms as president of the National Organization for Women. She served as a national officer of NOW since 1987.
• Highest Level (and Highest Stakes) Deliberations led by Brett McGurk – McGurk served on the NSC of President Bush and President Obama, handling matters relating to U.S. policy in Iraq and Afghanistan.
• Organizing for Power led by Gina Glantz – Glantz is the former Senior Advisor to the President of the Service Employees International Union, the largest trade union.

Best of the Q
• you don’t have to study at all during the term: we have no psets, readings that you don’t have to do, and easy labs. however, it’s very hard to prepare for exams b/c you have to learn everything you were supposed to learn in 2 weeks.
• This class is straight garbage, but it’s not much work so you could take it for that reason. Although the paper at the end of the semester might cancel that out.
• Lectures were... unique, sections were awesome. If you want to take this course, don’t take the material too seriously, or you will just be frustrated by the hours during lectures spent watching video clips of obscure TV shows.
• The class is taught badly. The professor is boring. There are too many assignments. The course staff take the course too seriously, in contrast to students who just want to get done with a core requirement. There is too much reading as well.
• Bring something else to do during lectures.
• You don’t read the Quran, you don’t get a contiguous understanding of the history of the Middle East. It’s a non-linear course; it does not go in order, but bounces off random themes and skips about 300 years of history, between 1300-1600.
• This class is not for everyone. Best for girls with a flowery love of St. Petersburg.
• TAKE THIS CLASS!!! YOU’RE NOT TAKING THIS CLASS??? ARE YOU CRAZY!?!?! YOU’VE GOTTEN TAKE THIS CLASS!!!
• As long as you survive those two weeks when you have to write your papers, the rest of the time you’ll feel like you’re plucking on a golden harp at the mountain of the gods. Which is a good thing.

Submit to the Hare Today!
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LevUC Reps
Thursday, October 1 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Lev’s three UC Reps, Luis Martinez, Phillip Morris, and Morgan Lehmann, will be sitting down in the Dining Hall over dinner to discuss what the UC is up to and to discuss any and all ideas that people may have.

This is a real bunny: