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Education

## Ig Nobel tour showcases the bra that doubles as a gas mask

The Guardian, Tuesday March 9 2010  
Elena Bodnar

Last October, at Harvard University, I was awarded the Ig Nobel prize for public health for inventing the Emergency Bra, an item of lingerie that, in case of an emergency, can be quickly transformed into two protective respiratory face masks. Don't get too excited, boys: this can be done without removing any clothes. My Ig Nobel nomination came as a pleasant surprise. And I r

(...)a simple and readily available mask came to me after the Chernobyl nuclear accident in Ukraine. I was a young doctor at the time (...)

Books

## Solar by Ian McEwan

The Guardian, Tuesday March 9 2010  
John Crace

2000 He belonged to that Salman class of short, fat, ugly, clever men who were unaccountably attractive to women. But Michael Beard was anhedonic; his fifth marriage

was disintegrating and he should have known how to behave as his philandering had ended the previous four. This time, though, it was his wife, Patrice, who was having an affair with Tarpin, a horny-handed Essex (...)  
World news

## Joe Biden offers Israel full US support

guardian.co.uk, Tuesday March 9 2010  
Rory McCarthy in Jerusalem

The US vice-president, Joe Biden, promised the Israeli government today that it had the strong support of Washington and said the US was committed to preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. "There is no space between the US and Israel when it comes to Israel's security," Biden said, after meeting the Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, in Jerusalem. Their talks

(...)Washington and said the US was committed to preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. "There is no space between the US and Israel when (...)

Politics

## Is the UUP stance really a tactical blunder?

guardian.co.uk, Tuesday March 9 2010  
Henry McDonald

There is an Ulster Scots word that perfectly sums up the psyche of the Ulster Presbyterian. "Thran" translates as stubborn or obstinate and neatly encapsulates the attitude of that tribe at the edge of the union in all matters including politics. The current stance of the Ulster Unionist party in ignoring the pleas from David Cameron, Hillary Clinton and even George Bush that  
Environment

## Don't buy Obama's greenwashing of nuclear power

guardian.co.uk, Tuesday March 9 2010  
Erich Pica for Grist, part of the [Guardian Environment Network](#)

Last month, inspectors found dangerous chemicals in the groundwater near the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor. The situation demonstrates that from the mining of uranium ore to the storage of radioactive waste, nuclear reactors remain as dirty, risky, and as costly as they ever were. If President Obama's recent enthusiasm for nuclear reactors has led you to believe otherwise, you've bought in to the administration's greenwashing of nuclear. From Grist, part of the [Guardian Environment](#) (...)

(...)3bn taxpayer-backed loan guarantee for Southern Company to build two new nuclear reactors in Georgia, inspectors at the Vermont Yankee reactor were finding (...)

Music

## Applause for Alex Ross

guardian.co.uk, Tuesday March 9 2010  
Tom Service

Good stuff from Alex Ross last night at the Wigmore Hall and the Royal Philharmonic Society lecture on the silent(-ish) rituals of the concert hall, an edited version of which you've been reading and commenting on here. There were some other pearls of historical wisdom you won't have heard unless you were there, though (or download the full text here). My favourite phrase, (...)

(...)the Roundhouse's recent Reverb festival, the East Neuk's concerts in nuclear bunkers, the boundary-shattering impishness of Roger Norrington at pretty well (...)

Environment

## I accept George Monbiot's £100 solar PV bet

guardian.co.uk, Tuesday March 9 2010  
Jeremy Leggett

1. Monbiot argues that "either solar photovoltaic (PV) power in the United Kingdom is, as (Leggett) claims, a cheap, efficient technology, or it isn't. If it is, why should we be subsidising it to the tune of 41p per kilowatt hour? If it needs this subsidy, it is neither cheap nor efficient. If it doesn't need it, the feed-in tariffs are even more of a swindle than I (...)

World news

## Biden condemns Israel over homes plan

The Guardian, Tuesday March 9 2010  
Rory McCarthy in Jerusalem

Joe Biden, the US vice-president, condemned a plan by Israel to build 1,600 homes on occupied Palestinian land in an East Jerusalem settlement. The Israeli interior ministry's approval of the plan cast a cloud over a visit to the country by Biden just hours after he pledged strong support for the Israeli government. In an unusually strong statement issued after he arrived

Comment is free

## How to jazz up the party leaders' TV debates

The Guardian, Monday March 8 2010  
Charlie Brooker

So: those televised prime ministerial debates will definitely be happening in the runup to the election. The excitement is hard to contain: three separate primetime shows

on Sky, ITV and the Beeb in which Brown, Cameron and Clegg will get the opportunity to talk and talk and talk and talk and talk. And possibly jig. But mainly talk. Depending on your point of view, this is e Environment

## Firm support for renewable future

The Guardian, Monday March 8 2010

We are very concerned by your report of a possible delay to the introduction of the feed-in tariff scheme due to problems preparing the legislation, and we urge the government to do everything it can to ensure the scheme starts on time next month (Feed-in tariff delay alarms energy sector, 4 March). However, it is inaccurate to say that criticism of the government's feed-in ta

(...)and finite fossil-fuel resources than the hugely expensive and environmentally harmful nuclear option Monbiot appears to favour. Jim Dignan (...)

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