PHYSOC presents

JEREMY

Semester 1, Issue 1 WEEK 4

In this issue...

Facebook not fulfilling your procrastination needs?
Check out How Stuff Works
http://www.howstuffworks.com

Public Record Office Victoria,VPRS 12903 P1, BOX230-05 © State of Victoria

New theory of gravity: 'A wizard did it'

James Colley reports on a breakthrough

In a report released last week, co-signed by every currently working physicist, Science as a whole has given up on the pursuit of a quantum explanation of gravity - and has decided instead that a Wizard did it.

"It was a huge weight off my back when I realised it," said Wizard enthusiast Jarred Baker. "It was so obvious. Gravity isn't the result of any Graviton, or some mystical configurations - the answer is much more obvious: Gravity is the will of a Wizard."

This revolutionary breakthrough finally solves the underlying issue of finding a quantum theory of gravity - meaning thousands of physicists are free to see their wives, husbands and children again.

"I really have missed Benny," said eminent physicist Maria Shaw. "Last time I saw him he was just learning how to play catch. I think he's married now. I wonder if his sister is still alive."

Critics of the discovery have claimed that, while the evidence is strong, it is too soon to decide specifically which of the seven spectral wizards we are currently aware of is to blame - Indeed, this may be the work of one of the as yet undetected Elemental Wizards.

Spectral Wizards are notoriously hard to track down in particle physics, as they cannot be viewed directly. "We aren't really seeing the wizards per se," said Mr. Baker, "it's more that we measure the effects of their wizardly powers.

"It's been a long process [developing the theory] this far. We all know the story of Newton having an apple thrown at him for angering a gypsy. If only he had concentrated on the gypsy itself, and not waffled on about forces, he might still be alive today."

Continued over page

LESS

TORQUE

MORE

ACTION

Did you miss out on a Physoc shirt? Email us with your order. They're still $12/$10 ACCESS!

JEREMY

Professor Geraint Lewis' other middle name?
One proposed name for the first transuranic element?
Send your conspiracy theories to us at usydphysoc@gmail.com

Oh yes.

We are.

See the back page for Physoc's timetable!

'A wizard did it'

Continued from front page

Unfortunately, a living Newton would be 377 years old - and riddled with various horrific diseases. In fact, many necromancy experts have suggested that if Newton were alive, he would almost certainly be spending every waking moment praying for the sweet release of death.

"This study has over twelve varying consequences to the world of physics," said consequence expert John McKinnon, "this will affect everything from the falling of objects to the raising of objects."

However, Mr. Baker urges young physicists to proceed with caution. "There are still a lot of questions left in Physics that wizards simply cannot answer - for example, what manner of Ghost controls electricity? How do we appease him? Should we sacrifice a virgin?"

Nevertheless, this is a major boon for modern Physics. CERN has already deployed their Special Forces unit to track down and kill the Gravity Wizard - for there are fears that his high energy levels may create a black hole.

From the quantum (soap)box...maybe

A message from Physoc president **Jess Bloom**

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Is it Tim Bedding dressed as Astroboy, accompanied by two teletubbies in complementary colours (unless you're Janek Savage and can't see purple)? Actually, no – it's a rogue star (which is the kind of thing that gives Iran nuke-envy), which is set to collide with our solar system. Really! I know, because I went and looked at the ABC Science News website – nothing can stop me now. Apparently, the star will interact with the orbits of several nearby bodies, causing showers of comets and asteroids.

I like comets. They are very pretty.

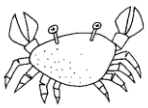
Unfortunately, in a tragic piece of fine print, this collision is due to take place in 1.5 million years, by which time I probably won't care. Such is life, eh? On the plus side, my Nanoscience assignment will be well and truly over by that point, for better or for worse...

So how has this semester been treating you? Do you oscillate back and forth between Carslaw and Physics like a low-energy electron trapped helplessly in a potential well, or have you broken free and tunnelled out? Hopefully the latter. But not in a scary, The Descent-style horror-spelunkian sort of way.

Cheerfully, with a view to exploring the world outside the lab, and realising that your true destiny lies rather more in the upwards direction – in Manning bar. Just be careful not to get sidetracked and end up at Hermann's, mmk? That's where the Engineers go...

News-y Stuff:

This has been a happy semester so far for Physoc (or perhaps that should be *Physoc*). We had a great O Week, selling all of our t-shirts (more on order soon for those who missed out), and driving our nice neighbours at the Maths society more than a little mad with our constant dancing. Who said Physicists didn't get enough exercise?! Our BBQ was, as promised, very, very high, and also included many sausages, which were eaten by many guests. We're counting that one as a win. We also had a fantastic start to our Physoc lecture series, with Vic making unexpected sense! He he… For those who missed last Thursday, you can make up for it and still be our friend coming to NEXT Thursday, when David Reilly will be speaking about quantum mechanics (see the back for the rest of our calendar girls). I'm loving it…



Meet the FIRST YEAR REPS

For more information, check our website at:
http://www.physics.usyd.edu.au/physoc/

Rob Thomson

I'm the really annoying, high pitched, red head (*'Ranga'*) who now stands up in first year lectures and guilt trips you ALL into attending the wonderful Physoc events! I am currently studying a Bachelor of Science (Adv.) and hope to major in physics and neurosciences. I began studying physics as a small person for 2 main reasons;

1. I endeavour to one day have Einstein's amazing hair style, and

2. I believe, even though it cannot be proven, that I am a descendant of Mr Joseph John Thomson, aka "Mr. Electron," and have dedicated my life to renaming the electron the 'thomsonotron.'

My childhood dream of becoming a 'checkout chick' was dashed when I accidentally passed my HSC, although if you ask my mother she still insists that her "darling little Robbie is going to one day grow up as a big boy cashier." I'm still 17, however you're all invited to my 18th in April!* I currently work 2 jobs; one at a paintball centre and the other at an Italian restaurant. So, if you are looking for an idea for a Christmas party or just feel like a pizza, I'm your guy! I like long walks on the beach, and picnics in grassy knolls. If you want to know more just ask! (Although I highly doubt anyone really cares about lil' ol' me)

*Conditions apply.

Unfortunately, we are not yet able to present any further information on our other First Year Rep, Jayden. Ordinarily we'd just make something up, but a libel lawsuit would really put a dent in our productivity.

On the plus side, Jeremy is now completely Mac-compatible. You don't even have to buy a new copy.

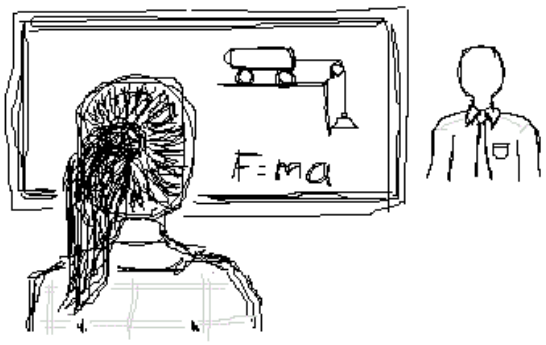
Jayden

JEREMY

The history of my education
(in Microsoft Paint Format)

high school

Of course I understand physics.



first year

I don't see why everyone thinks it's so difficult.

---

second year

Although, on the other hand...

third year

fjkhskdjfhdskjfhkdsjfkhsdjkfhsjdfhkjsjkhd

Write to us!

We at Jeremy love community content. This issue's front page article (thanks to guest writer **James Colley!**) signifies the end of an era when all articles are written by exec members in between lectures – and you can write for us too!

Send your articles, rants, letters and amusing lecturer quotes to usydphysoc@gmail.com

JEREMY

"Stuff you can't Google"

A new section featuring *Things That Only Make Sense To Physics Students at Usyd (and maybe not even then)*!

This week we pay tribute to two beloved lecturers. You really are like superheroes to us.

Physoc Lecture Timetable

Week 4, Thurs 26th March, 12pm – **Dr. David Reilly** on QUANTUM PHYSICS

Week 6, Thurs 15th April, 12pm – **Dr. Michael Biercuk** on QUANTUM PHYSICS

Week 9, Thurs 6th May, 12pm – **A/Prof. John O'Byrne** on ASTRONOMY

Week 11, Thurs 20th May, 12pm – **Prof. Bryan Gaensler** on ASTRONOMY

Week 12, Thurs 27th May, 1pm – **Prof. Dick Hunstead** on EXAM TECHNIQUE (note different time!)

All lectures will be in LT5 of the Physics Building, except for Week 6 – that one's in Slade.

Keep an eye out for the posters!