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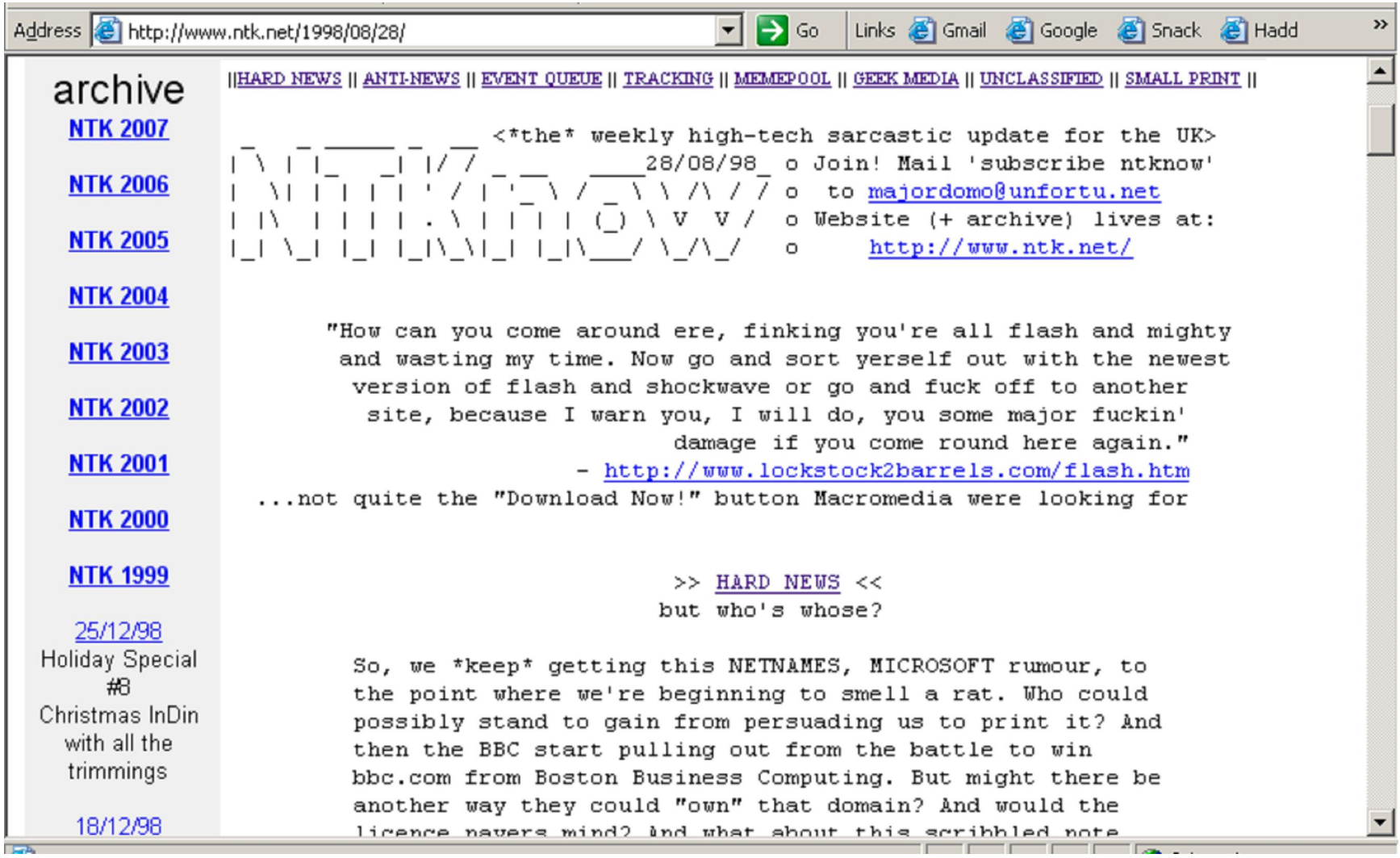

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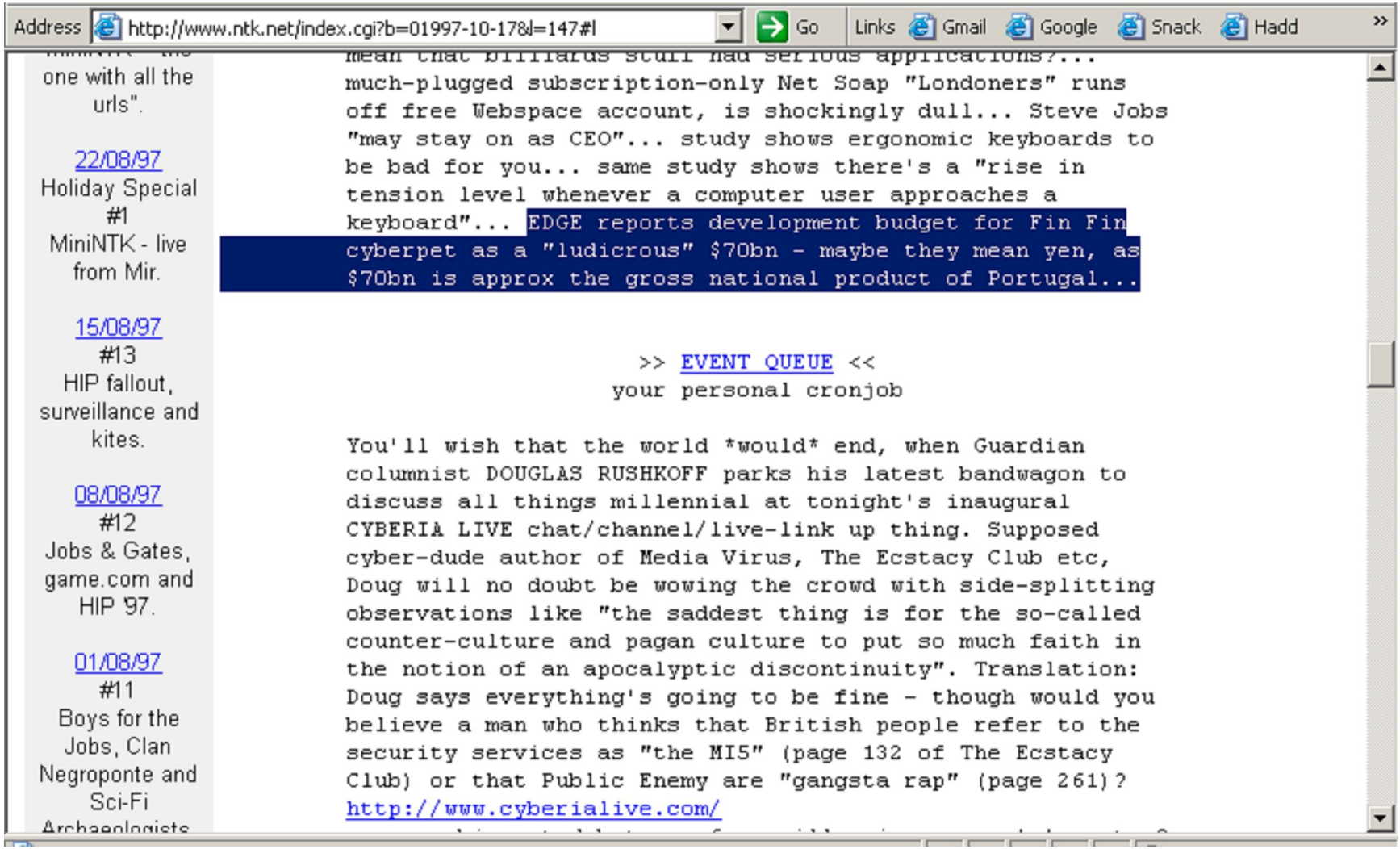

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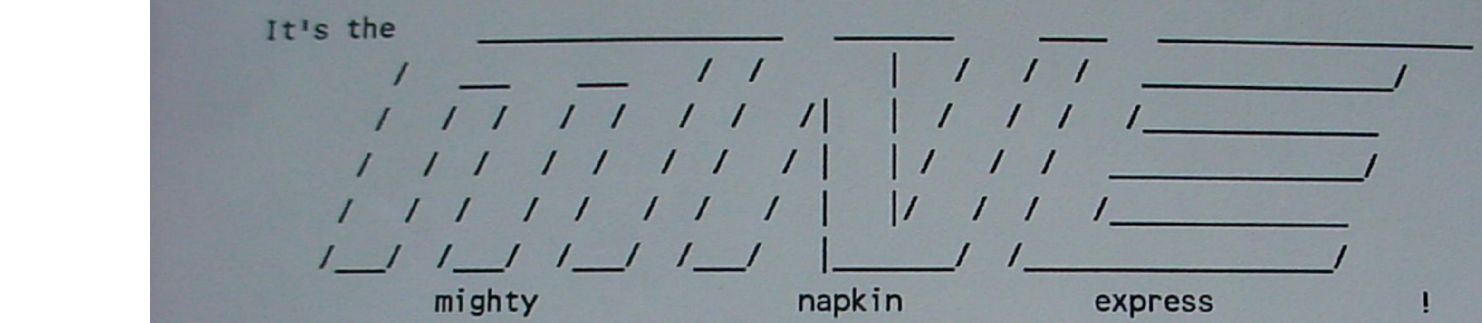
Blah blah waffle waffle drone blah blah...

It's the



mighty napkin express !

Issue 6 week10 In orbit every Monday

Yes, it's time for us to wish us you the 'best wishes of the season' as all the hard-working staff here at the MNE start packing away their things and trying to remember all the different control codes in the various versions of MicroEmacs for the very last time before the Yuletide holiday is upon us. At last Christmas is coming, the department is filled with the pleasant aroma of chestnuts roasting over open heat-sinks, and Edinburgh's very own version of Santa Claus is apparently "making a list" and even "checking it twice", although let's hope he doesn't start making any over-hasty moral judgements like he did around this time last year. As for me and the rest of the MNE team, I'll be heading back down south to my centrally-heated mansion to spend the winter break being waited on hand-and-foot by my family's servants, Ian will

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new year, new lecture courses and lots more really difficult practicals to do. Maybe there will be a few oppurtunities to selotape raisins to our foreheads or to change peoples .login files to .logout but whatever your plans make sure you keep reading the Napkin. We need your attention.

If anyone is worried that they will never see KRI1 again then just remember if you apply now for a PhD you will still be around in September '91 and will be able to do it all over again. I can see those applications flooding in now. The end of the term is traditionally the time for reflection on the achievements of the past ten weeks. If only I could remember their names!

More things I'd quite like to tell you about

Miles Peabody and myself(iank) due to our extensive previous experience of fires have been selected as fire stewards for this side of C floor (ie C10 - C20). This means that on hearing the fire alarm we must check that this area has been cleared and report to the Assembly Controller. Thus it is important to us that you are familiar with the fire routine procedure. The fire routine procedure is posted on the notice board in C17 for those of you who haven't seen it.

All personnel on hearing the fire alarm,should leave the building immediately and go directly to an assembly point,using the nearest available exit.

*** The Departmental Committee Report ***

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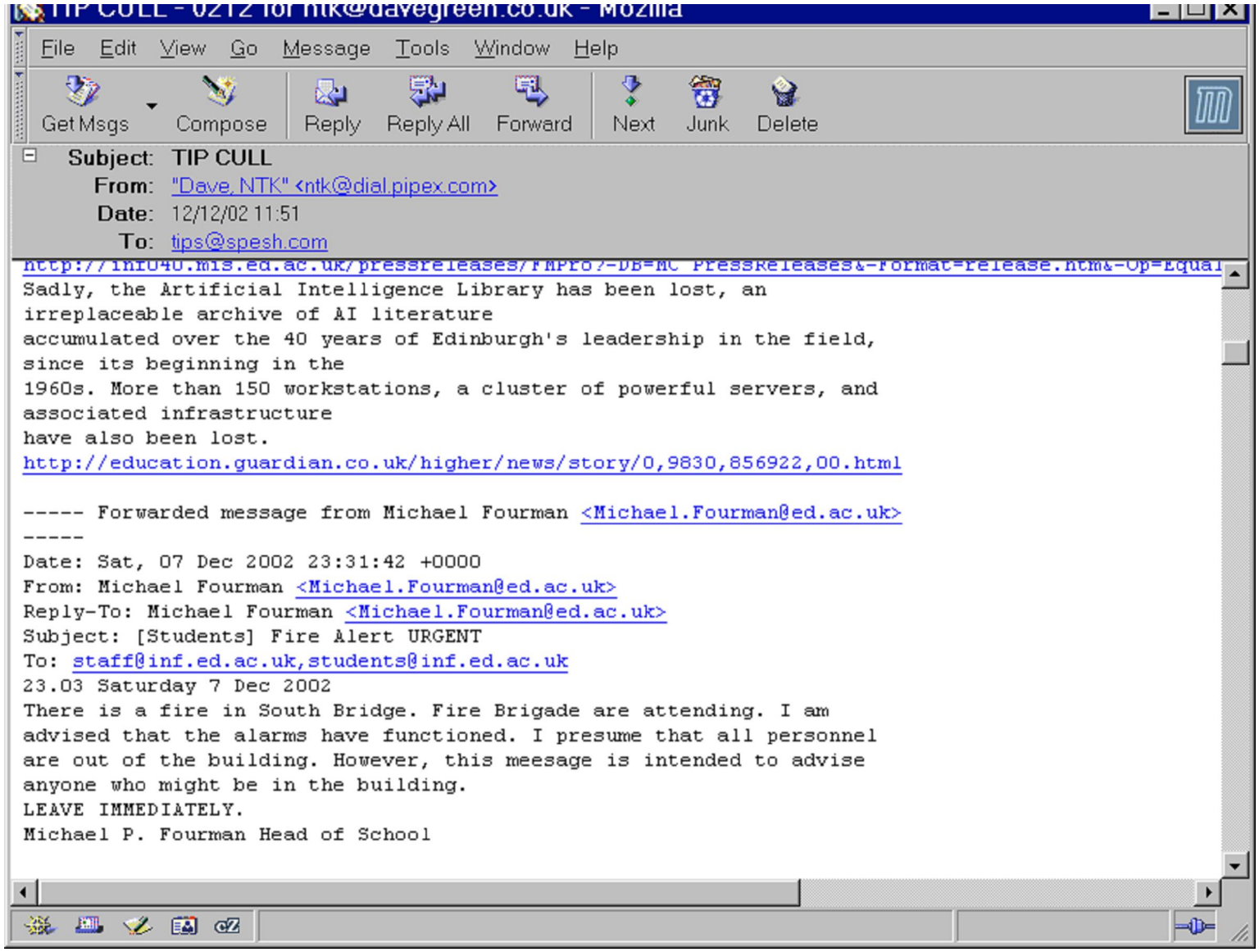

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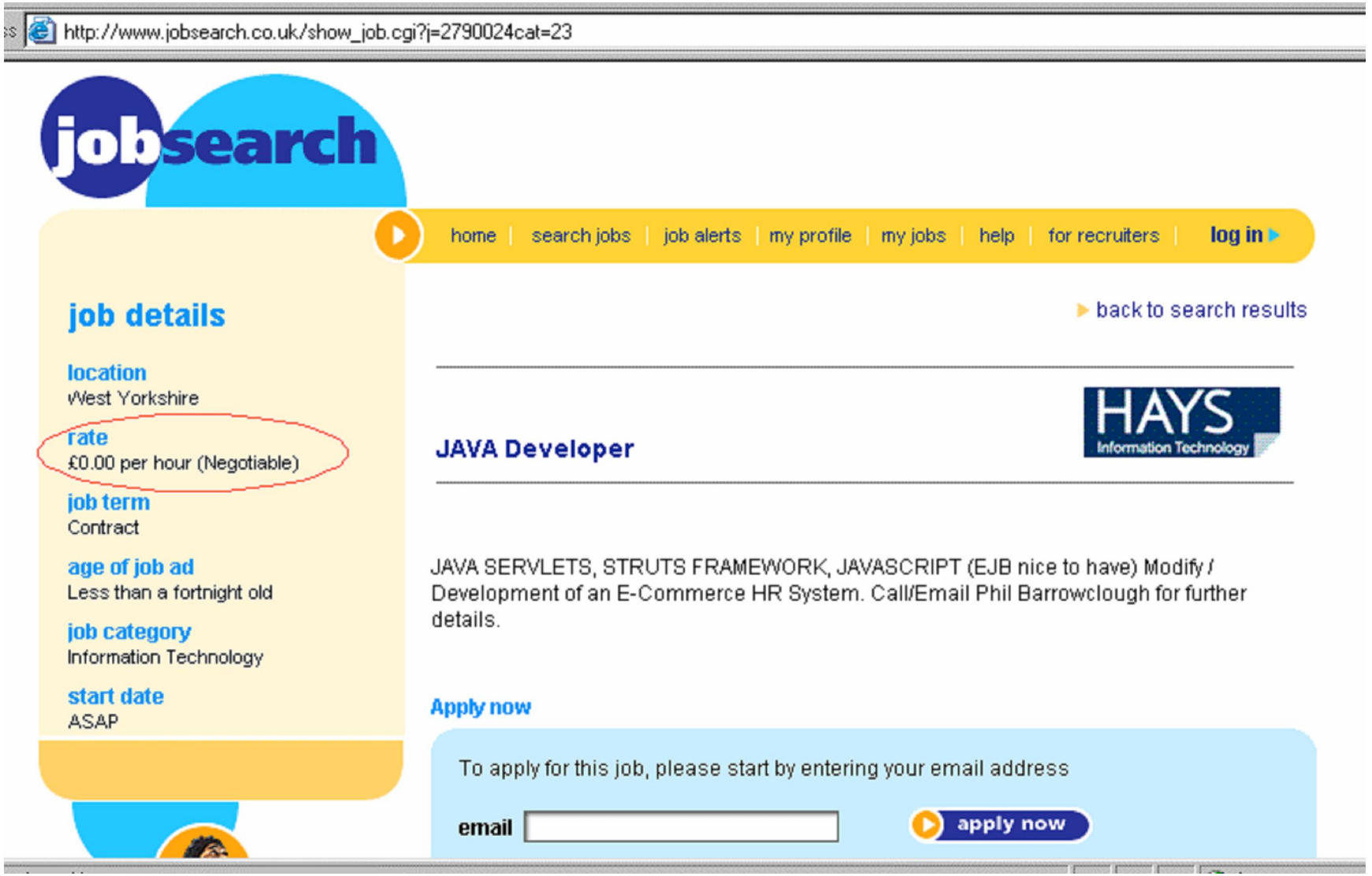

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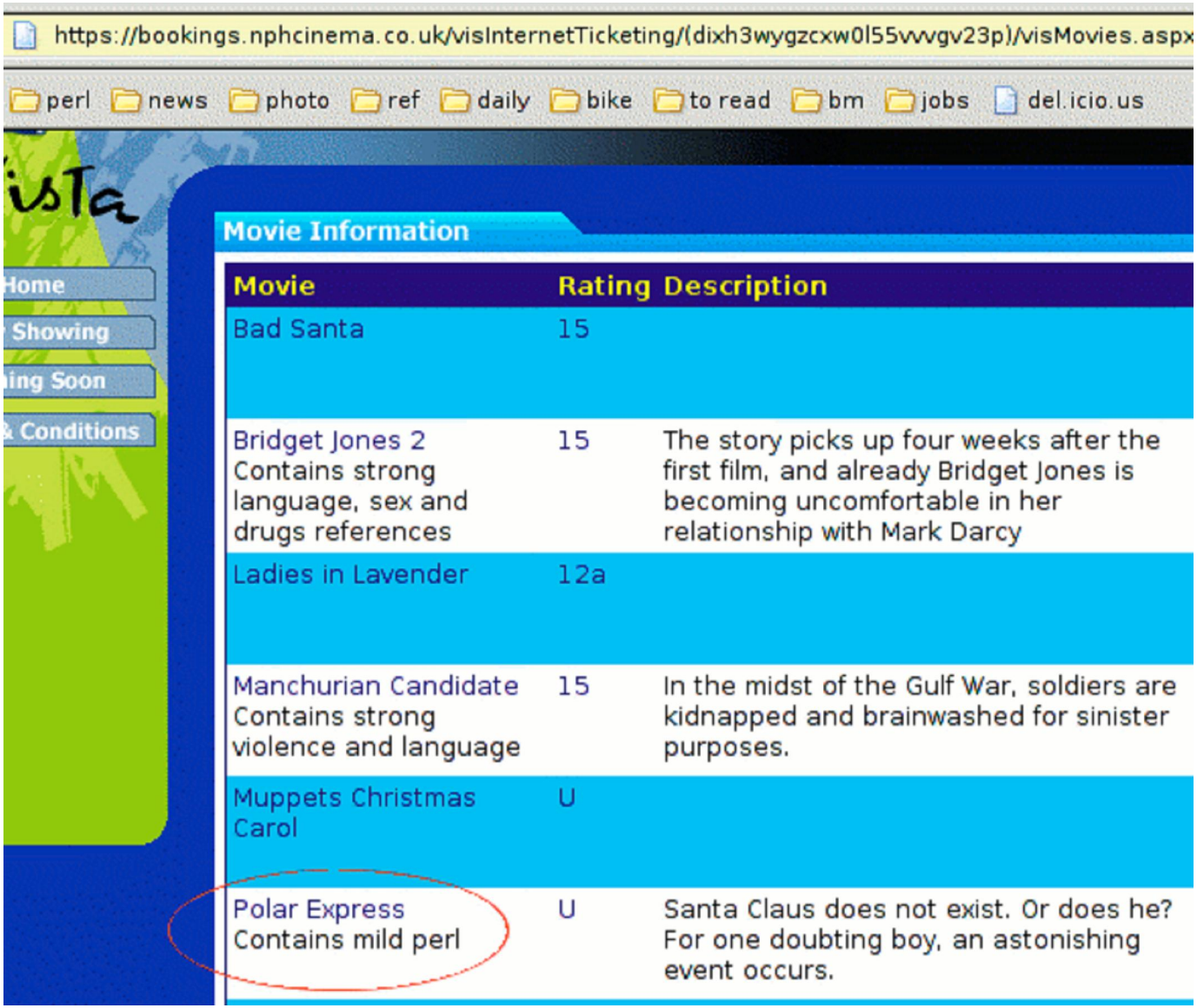

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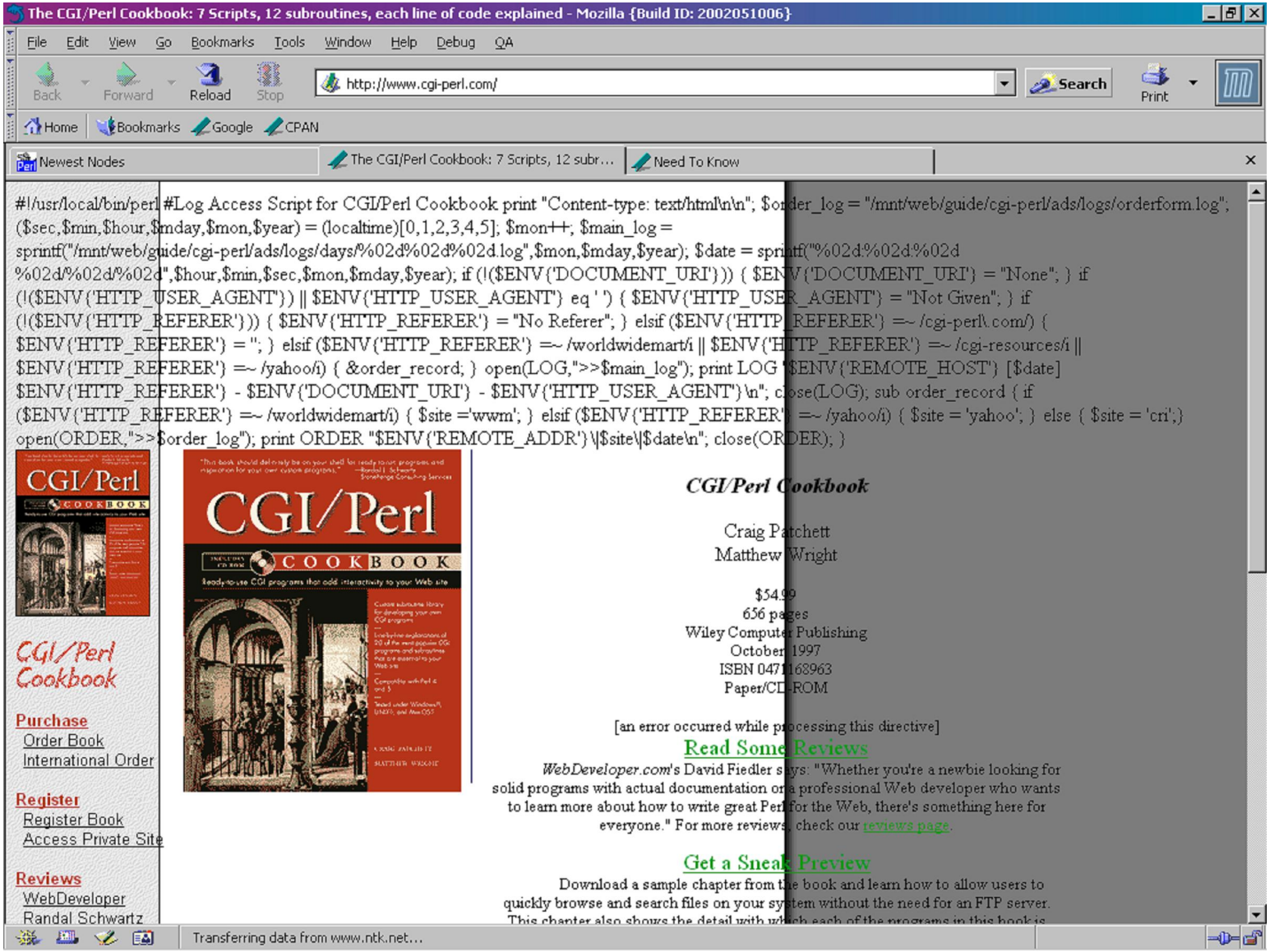

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ANTINEWS SPECIAL: Guardian Online's Richard Barry ran an intriguing story in his Videowatch column this week. In it, he claimed that "George Lucas has purchased all Paramount's Star Trek rights" and "plans to merge the two films" later this year. The two, the piece went on, would be linked by an "Ensign Obie" - Dr McCoy's son-in-law, played by Mark Hamill. This story originally appeared on April 1st on C|Net's GameCenter, where it was written by one April F. Ewls. Barry later said that he had checked the story with Paramount and "they did not deny it". Barry placed it as the fourth most important item in the column, behind a Pitfall Harry plug, details of Heretic II - and news of a new Tombraider sequel.
http://www.gamecenter.com/News/Item/0,3,1612,00.html
http://online.guardian.co.uk/computing/892055104-video.html

>> EVENT QUEUE <<
goto's considered non-harmful

Amazingly, some pop stars have survived the annual Easter/ New Tax Year purge, and the irony is, they're KRAFTWERK. Not exactly noted for their lively stage presence, the

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CYBERDRUGS TO GIVE ADDICTS A FIX ON NET

BY **NEVILLE THURLBECK**

TINY silicon chips implanted in the body could soon imitate the effects of heroin or cocaine.

The technology opens up the nightmare prospect of drug barons controlling victims with messages sent by internet to home computers.

The message would activate the chip, and deliver sensations to the brain identical to those created by drugs–and just as addictive.

An FBI crime conference in Germany was alerted to the danger of cyber-narcotics last week by agents from Britain's National Criminal Intelligence Service.

They said the Mafia had already bankrolled corrupt scientists to unleash the technology within 12 months.

Kevin Warwick, Professor of Cybernetics at Reading University, said: "Cyber space offers criminals opportunities to create unprecedented and terrible new forms of addiction. It would be easy to exploit."

The development will transform science-fiction into reality.

In the recent film Johnny Mnemonic, set in the year 2021, Keanu Reeves plays a courier who stores information in a microchip in his head.

The new cyberdrugs–which would be implanted in the arm–could cause massive brain damage and psychological scarring.

And addicts would find themselves paying huge sums for a message to trigger their "fix."

ALERT: Prof Warwick

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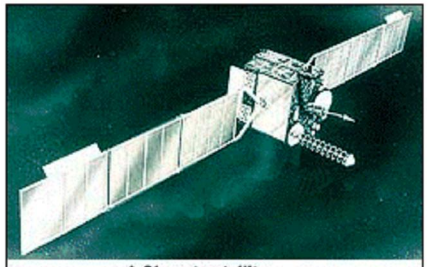
British hackers attack MoD satellite

By Robert Uhlig



A Skynet satellite

A GROUP of computer hackers suspected of seizing control of a British military communications satellite using a home computer, triggering a "frenetic" security alert, has been traced to the south of England.

A security source said that, up to a month ago, the hackers found a "cute way" into the control system for one of the Ministry of Defence's Skynet satellites and "changed the characteristics of channels used to convey military

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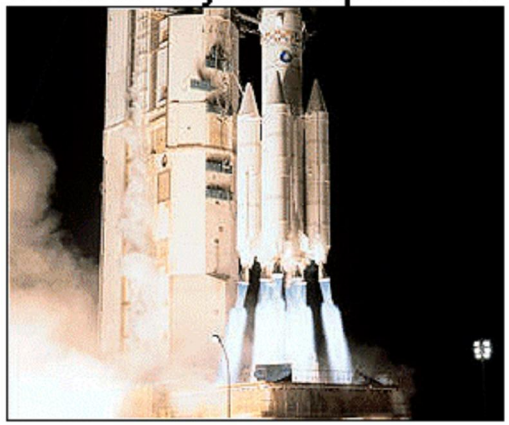
Tuesday, March 2, 1999 Published at 13:53 GMT

Sci/Tech

Satellite hijack 'impossible'



The latest Skynet satellite blasted off on Saturday

A senior defence industry analyst is contesting computer hackers' claims to have altered the course of one of the UK's military communications satellites.

Scotland Yard's Fraud Squad is investigating allegations of blackmail at several international locations after the hackers reportedly demanded a ransom payment to stop interfering with a Skynet satellite.

However, Paul Beaver, group spokesman for the Jane's Information Group, told BBC News Online: "I cannot see how it is possible for someone to hack in - it is a closed loop system, not connected to the Internet.

Sci/Tech Contents

Relevant Stories

27 Feb 99 | Sci/Tech
Ariane blasts off successfully

20 Jan 99 | Sci/Tech
Looking for junk in space

Internet Links

Jane's Information Group

UK Ministry of Defence

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

In this section

World's smallest transistor

Scientists join forces to study Arctic ozone

Mathematicians crack big puzzle

From Business
The growing threat of internet fraud

Who watches the pilots?

From Health
Cold 'cure' comes one step closer

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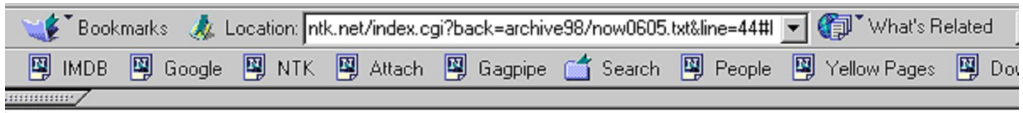

ICE-style security software that comes back down the phone line to attack hackers' computers? Just how closely did the LA Times, CNN, and New Scientist question the FUTUREVISION GROUP about their supposedly quantum-based "self-healing" Lightning Server? Well, it "debuts" at next week's TechNet '98 show in Washington - hey, maybe it really is a genuine breakthrough cleverly disguised by an appalling website (you naturally assume it's an art student prank) plus impenetrable journo-frightening jargon ("Using the UGEM generalization of Godel's Incompleteness Theorem, precisely partition any continuous NP-Complete problem into decideable [sic] and undecidable components" - yeah, *right*). Oh, and we know this was on slashdot a while back, but they gave it quite an easy ride, with comments like (paraphrase): "Hmm, a revolutionary new non-local computing paradigm and security implementation? Well it won't affect me, I run Linux..."
http://www.newscientist.com/ns/980530/nhackback.html
- and they fell for the Nortel story too! Chortle!
http://www.fvg.com/PublicHtml/UGEM-C.HTM
- sexy brochure pictures, too
http://www.afcea.com/TECHNET98/
- from the (scary) folks who also brought you milcom98

>> MORE ANTI-NEWS <<
berating the obvious

DEJANEWS beta-tests it all - www.ntk.net/doh/deja980605.gif ... WIRED strapline: "The New Economy" (again)... "Videos good for children" - says DISNEY... TELETUBBIES outselling Godzilla merchandise 3-1... open government site features BT banner ads - http://www.open.gov.uk/index/orgindex.htm ... Times INTERFACE runs article on "the Lara Croft phenomenon"... NEGROPONTE's column still e-mailed to "lr@wired.com" - does he have to forward it every month?... POURNELLE estimates Byte column would cost $500,000 to fund independently; $1,000,000 ensures he'll never write it

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Danny O'Brien's token homepage

You should not be here

This page is jam-packed with very dull and possibly out of date information about me. If you'd like to see more regularly updated, brightly-coloured Danny-related facts, you should go to Oblomovka, which is one of those lousy goddamn blogs.

Current projects

I know what you're thinking. You're thinking "What's happened to NTK?" Well, at time of writing, NTK is on a semi-permanent holiday, like King Arthur or Marc Andreessen. The interval between issues is expanding at an exponential rate, which means that you were due another one in around 2012. As it happens, around 2012, I started Anno NTK which is *technically* another batch of NTKs, but is in fact the ones from fifteen years ago re-sent with even more meta-sarcastic comments at the top. You can only get it in email, because.

I work for the Electronic Frontier Foundation (style note: when you say "the EFF" you should say "EFF" like you're supposed to say "iPhone" not "the iPhone" or "my iPhone" or "this is 2038, what the hell is an iPhone?" Say "what the hell is iPhone?" instead and say "He works for EFF.") I was EFF's chief (ie only) Activist from 2005-2007, and then its International Outreach Coordinator from 2007-2010.

As part of my own international outreaching, I helped to set up Open Rights Group. ORG does amazing things in the area of digital rights in the UK, and does it all dependent on donations from individuals. Please consider joining them or EFF today.

After that, I worked at co-ordinating Internet Advocacy at the Committee to Protect Journalists. If you're in trouble for committing acts of journalism, let CPJ know: they may be able to help. They're a damn sight more effective than most committees, let me tell you that.

After my brief foray in the world of defending journalists, I rejoined EFF in 2013 as their International Director.

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by Anno NTK

In the late Nineties, embittered by a whole *three* years of mainstream Internet hype, exploitation and ineptitude, a weekly email newsletter appeared. It became a living testament of things that were useful or interesting and which happened to the UK tech community. Then, after a bit, it stopped.

For nostalgic purposes only, we are resending out those old "NTK"s, as they were called, 15 years ago to the week. Subscribe below, and we'll send you each historical replica in turn, soaked in tea and burned at the edges.

View the Letter Archive

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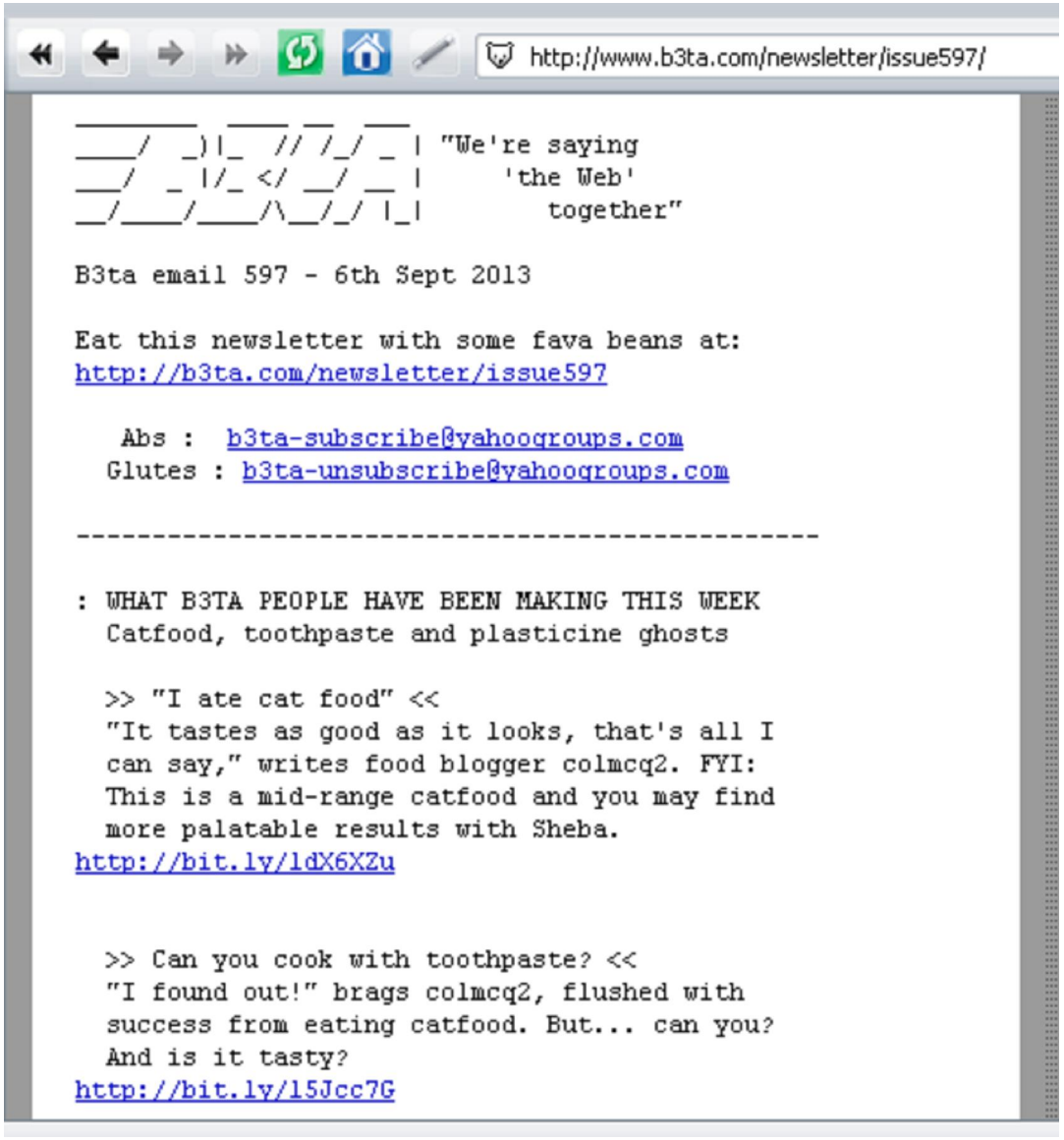

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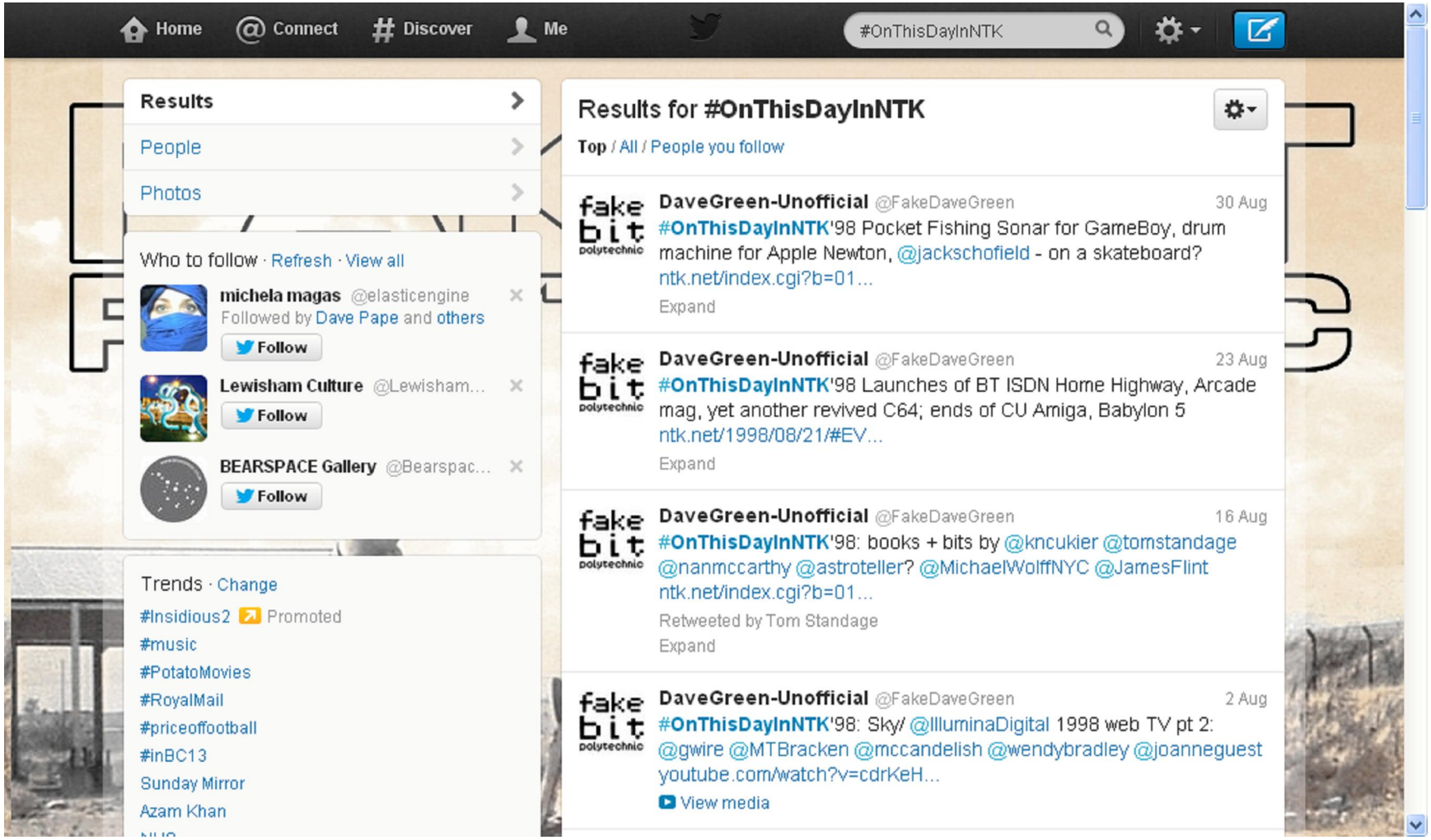

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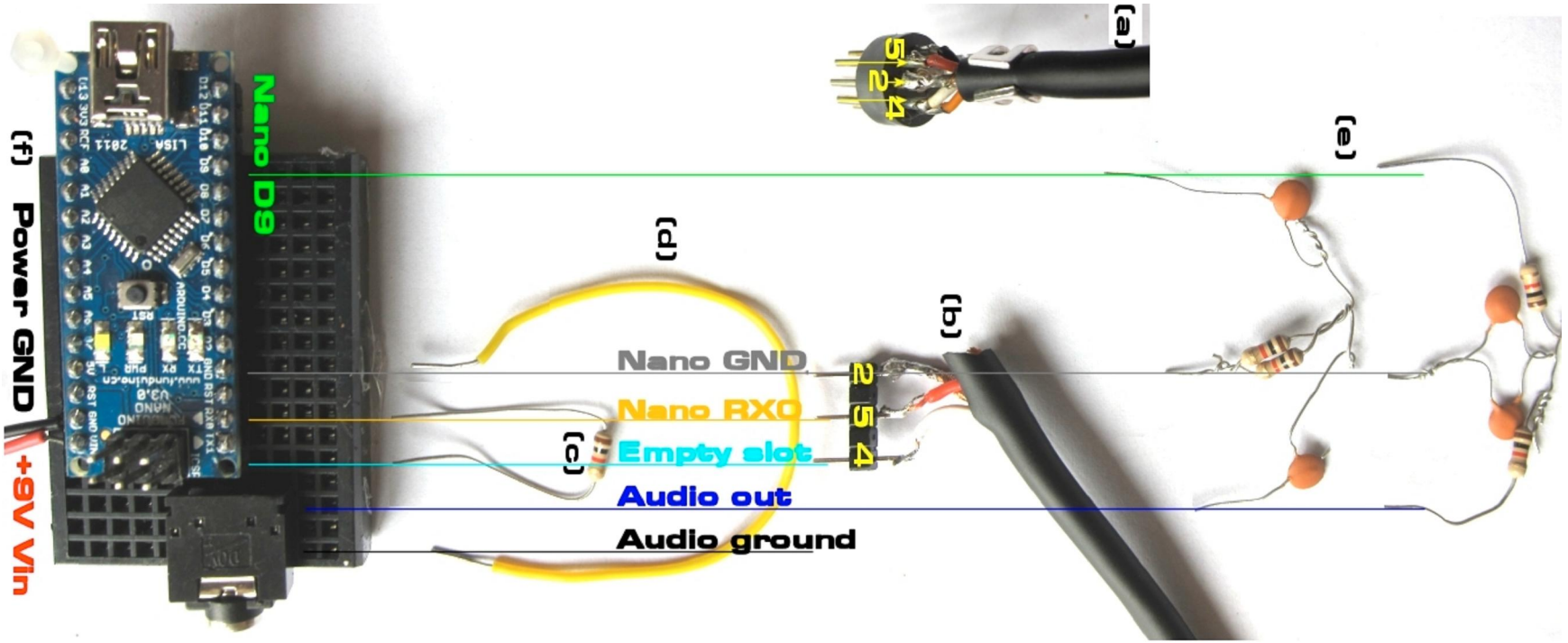

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