

**Graduate:  
First class News****Can lucky pants swing an interview your way?**

More than half of interviewees admit to wearing lucky underwear in the hope it will help them land a job, a survey revealed this week. A poll of more than 3,000 workers, conducted by employment law firm Peninsula, found that six out of 10 said they couldn't leave home on that important day without wearing their favourite briefs. Peter Done, Peninsula's managing director, stated the obvious on the Onrec website, when he said dressing smartly and selling yourself would get you a job, not wearing "union jack underwear". He added that one surveyed employee was so superstitious he refused to wash his lucky underwear - clearly someone to avoid on hot days.

**Bocconi University's tasty new course**

Bocconi University in Italy announced last week it is to launch a new master's in fine food and beverage in collaboration with ALMA, the international school of Italian cuisine, and the University of Gastronomic Sciences. The programme, which begins in January, will be taught in English and based at Bocconi's Milan campus. It will combine general management training with specific skills needed for the food industry and will include tasting sessions and the possibility of spending time at the ALMA school in Parma, which is directed by Gualtiero Marchesi, the first Italian to be awarded three Michelin stars. Delicious.

**Scholarship offer is a Cypriot delight**

If it's money that whets your appetite, the hedge fund firm IKOS is offering a scholarship to study a one-year MBA at Cranfield School of Management. The scholarship covers all tuition fees for the full-time course and helps towards living costs. However, the scholarship is only being offered to Cypriot nationals who will be offered "incentives" to return to work in Cyprus at the end of the course. All this has been made possible by Cranfield alumna Elena Ambrosiadou, co-founder of the IKOS hedge fund group. The deadline for applications is July 14.

**Student's idea not so birdbrained**

Ever wondered if canaries get bored flitting around their birdcages all day? It seems they do, which is apparently why student Graeme Plunkett created a cage that would provide a "stimulating setting" for his bird, Pepperpot, for his degree show. The cage is fitted with sensors that play music when set off. "The sensors in the cage set off a variety of musical sounds, simulated birdsong and other noises," says Plunkett, a student in time-based art at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design at the University of Dundee. Apparently scientists have been exploring the idea of creating stimulating environments for animals in zoos. Whether Pepperpot believes it to be a birdbrain idea, we'll perhaps never know.

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