Being the world-renowned institution that is The Blowfish, one would think that the staff of this newspaper would know a thing or two about the world. One would be incorrect - until now! The writers at The Blowfish recently decided to splurge on a little thing that we like to call an “atlas,” and man, has it opened our eyes to new things. Have you heard of this thing called paper? It’s pulpy and made from a thing called “wood” which comes from a thing called “trees,” which are apparently what will cure all the ailments of the world.

In the span of a 48 hour period of time, we here at The Blowfish have vicariously absorbed all the knowledge of every country in the world through reading the charts and graphs of the entire atlas, front to back, back to front, upside down to downside up, and then online. Now, seeing as you - the reader - have come to us - The Blowfish - for all your information needs, we’ve decided what international points of knowledge to spread to those who need it. And, seeing as we are your primary source of information, you would probably not know what a “passport,” “airplane,” or “foreign country” is without us. So, without further ado, here is The Blowfish guide to being abroad!
Another Waste of Time.

Slice of Apple Pie
BY JOHN Q. PENGUIN
American

You know, I wasn’t always the suave, worldly, well read, handsome, strong, prolific, svelte son of a bitch that I am today. As surprising as it may seem, when I first stepped foot onto the pristine work in progress campus of Brandeis University, I was just another naive young college student. Well, maybe not just “another” naive young college student. I certainly wasn’t as naive as my roommate, Al Finger. I knew he was a dope the moment I saw him. The day we moved in, I told him that I had a condition where I had to say the word “Ramrod” every fifteen minutes or else I’d get myself from then on. I was free to say things like, “Let’s go and ramrod,” and “I’d sure like to ramrod that bitch” in front of his parents. This dumbass actually believed me until the day he graduated, when I told him it was all a lie.

When you’re a freshman, lots of things confuse you: what to join, where to hang out, what the back a Brandeis Monday is. People throw flyers and condoms at you, and sometimes you actually use them.

Back then, I read every flyer I saw, and I went to every event on campus. I was busy finding my identity. And that’s how I got exposed to “Blowfish Abroad” crowd. Yes, that’s right. For one semester, I studied at a different college. In a different country. What a fool I was! If only I realized how cool I’d be in six short years.

If I knew then everything that I know now, I wouldn’t have done any of that. I did do that, though. I would never do things that I didn’t know I could do then, but I actually can do because I’ve done them (now).

I signed up to study abroad for one semester. So they shipped my ass to Antarctica. It actually wasn’t that bad. At first, I only had to take three classes, with the compromise that I spent the extra time not freezing to death. I made a lot of great friends. At night we would sneak out to the big glaciers and throw penguins at cars that would drive by. Sometimes I wished those nights would never end, laying on a glacier floating out into the sea, cuddling with someone special. Of course, we had to be back in our dorms by 1 AM, before the polar bears would start their rounds.

I was only there for half a semester, before I got fed up. I mean, I loved being a track star there. But I hated the freezing cold when I went running in my short shorts.

According to study abroad rules and regulations, if you transfer in the middle of the semester, you can’t return to your home country, so you have to find another bogus, foreign country to go to. I chose one the only way I knew how: listing them all alphabetically and choosing the first one (all Antarctica).

So Austria-Hungary it was. Unfortunately, I was informed that Austria-Hungary no longer exists, so I just had to rough it out for the remaining time.

After one long semester abroad, I returned to Brandeis a different person for the longer naive and lost, but angry, confused, bitter and pissed. I had wasted one semester of college, and I knew then that I couldn’t let my remaining decade just slip away.

ANOTHER WASTE OF TIME.

ANTARCTICA
Antarctic History

God creates the world, but runs out of warmth, sunshine, grass, and overall happiness before he finishes. The result is Antarctica.

September 17, 1480: The earliest known sighting of Antarctica by a Dutch explorer, who thereby realizes he should have turned left at the Cape of Good Hope to reach the edge of the earth.

July 4, 1776: French explorer Jacques Rivasse becomes the first man to step foot on the Ant- arctica. He is sure that this date will be remembered for his amazing accomplishment, confirming that there is nothing else going on that could possibly be as important as this magnificent event.

December 10, 1863: Antarctica’s penguins, siding with the Union during the Civil War, defeat Colonel Jebbush “Sowmeel” McFlap and his ragtag army of Confederate seals and choosing the first one (all Antarctica).

April 23, 1940: Hitler launches the lesser known “Little Blitzkrieg” against Antarctica, committing an army of twelve soldiers and a task with the task of conquering the continent for the master race. Penguin resistance fighters hide refugees in their birth pouches, adorably.

June 11, 1947: Albert Einstein and Abe Sachar investigate Antarctica as a potential location for the creation of a new Jewish-sponsored, non-Jewish university, but get a little chilly and go with their second choice location in Waltham.

January 9, 1953: Superman sets up his Fortress of Solitude in Antarctica, only to realize that his attempt to stay hidden within a white backdrop never works well when you wear red spandex.

April 28, 1994: I only get a B on my 3rd Grade report on Antarctica, apparently because I “spent too much time on the topic of polar bears eating people.” Fuck you, Mrs. Mohnaghan.

December 22, 2002: A massive PETA protest against the baby seal clubbing takes place. Realizing their error, the hunters decide to club PETA protesters instead.

March 7, 2005: The continent is invaded by a large force of cameramen, led by Morgan Freeman, who uses his narration powers to conquer the icy plains and make $500 million domestic in the process.

Present day: Massive amounts of polar bears leaving Antarctica on melted-ice rafts create illegal bear immigration problem in Chile.

Tomorrow: Scores of annoyed readers, who assume they’re smarter than we are, tell us that polar bears don’t live in Antarctica.

October 9, 2167: Antarctica? Oh, you mean the great Southern Ocean.
The growing pollution crisis in China has recently reached its peak, as all of downtown Beijing has fallen victim to whitewashed Julia Roberts "Kevin Kline" life version of The Mist, except with health eating leukemias instead of flesh eating mothballs. "Abhorrent amounts of pollution have raised serious concerns between ourselves and our kin - both from foreign nations - who worry about the health of their athletes, in the upcoming Olympics - and the Chinese themselves, who would love to be able to safely walk the game without the use of bio-hazard suits.

China, home to over one billion people, did not mind the pollution at first. "Sure, removing the bones of what I hope was a fish from my drinking water can get annoying," said one citizen, "but if beans have living fish in my drinking water. Thanks to pollution, I know that the ugly swimming organisms alive in me are in my in-". Yet despite the loss of healthy organisms, recent tests conducted by All Scientists Think Humanely, Meanly, and Altruistically (otherwise known as ASTHMAs) have shown a unusually high rate of chloride, lead, sulfur, and poison in the drinking water, while the air quality is "piss poor," with nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, traces of pro's, and other entire laps of crap floating around the atmosphere.

Hooray pollution indeed.

A GUIDE TO TOURISM IN THE WORLD'S PRECIOUS CITY

The U.K. is home to hundreds fabulous tourist locations, ranging from Big Ben to that place where David Beck- ham was seen taking a piss. But where to begin?

British Museum - England was once the finest country in the world, an empire that could rival that of Mars. Come here to see all the shit the British stole from the other countries before America invented independence.

Tate Modern - The second most visited attraction throughout the entire United Kingdom is a renovated, semi-empty factory. Take a visit and ponder that fact while blankly staring at "real" artwork. If you don't get it, it's because you're not cultured enough.

Oxford University - English graduates everywhere were bullied upon hearing reports that their beloved Big Ben was ar- rested last night. "Just don't understand," said Emma O'Connors, aU.K. lawyer. Following the Operation Cains, China was forced to industrialize in order to supply Great Britain with the exorbitant amount of opium and where that its oppressed lower classes came from. Once China industrialized (it led to a growing automobile, aerosol, and lack of breathing secrecy), the problems started to become apparent. "China was once the nation that produced sunshine, puppies, happiness, and General Yum Yum's chicken," remarked Brandeis University's top history professor at the time, Michael Avar Heyer. "After 1980, the smog began to battle the sunlight for its piece of the pie, the factories began to use puppies for fuel and happiness for cheap labor, and General Yum Yum changed his name to General Too. I guess you could say nothing really changed, because the chicken is still delicious. That is, everything aside from the chicken, that all changed.

As the Olympic Games are months away, the international community is more and more worried to unveil the dearth and depression of the Chinese environment. We really screwed up big time," said a paranoid United States, "I mean, first, we lost their domino to Communism. Then, our businesses exported their factories to China. Now, their environment is worse than ours! Actually, on second thought, we may come off looking good for once.

Hooray pollution indeed.

China (48°)

Photo Poll:
Which Candidate Are You Voting For?

- Jason Tsai
- Wen Jiabao
- Wen Jiabao
- Wen Jiabao
- Wen Jiabao
- Stan Li
- Wen Jiabao
- Stephanie Chen
- Wen Jiabao

United Kingdom

Londoners Terrorized by Mysterious "Ben"

English residents everywhere were baffled upon hearing reports that their beloved Big Ben was ar- rested last night. "Just don't understand," said Emma O'Connors, aU.K. lawyer. Following the Operation Cains, China was forced to industrialize in order to supply Great Britain with the exorbitant amount of opium and where that its oppressed lower classes came from. Once China industrialized (it led to a growing automobile, aerosol, and lack of breathing secrecy), the problems started to become apparent. "China was once the nation that produced sunshine, puppies, happiness, and General Yum Yum's chicken," remarked Brandeis University's top history professor at the time, Michael Avar Heyer. "After 1980, the smog began to battle the sunlight for its piece of the pie, the factories began to use puppies for fuel and happiness for cheap labor, and General Yum Yum changed his name to General Too. I guess you could say nothing really changed, because the chicken is still delicious. That is, everything aside from the chicken, that all changed.

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Hooray pollution indeed.
Why Not Try... France

During World War II, back when we didn’t like them, Japan revealed their secret weapon to an unsuspecting world: a boy robot, with seven unique powers and 108,000 horsepower. They named him Astro Boy, but he ultimately proved disadvantageous to the Japanese military. When the atomic bombs fell, he was busy learning about what feelings were and trying to be a real boy. After the war, Japan’s economy was poor, mostly due to the difficulty of establishing any kind of long-lasting business when your buildings are constantly being crushed by giant men in foam dinosaur suits.

Japan’s economy saw a huge burst during the 1980s. While America companies were fascinated with a tiny ball bouncing off of two rectangles, Japanese companies were busy developing actual video games. By the end of the decade Japanese videogame artists had developed software featuring an ape throwing some barrels and circle-man eating some smaller circles. Within ten years, the Japanese had developed every video game worth developing. But they continued to develop new and better games anyway, just to spread joy and happiness, and to provide future Brandeis students with their only childhood friends. And to entrap companies were fascinated with a tiny ball bouncing off of two rectangles, Japanese companies were busy developing actual video games. By the end of the decade Japanese videogame artists had developed software featuring an ape throwing some barrels and circle-man eating some smaller circles. Within ten years, the Japanese had developed every video game worth developing. But they continued to develop new and better games anyway, just to spread joy and happiness, and to provide future Brandeis students with their only childhood friends. And to entrap Japan’s youth in the thrall of the glowing television screen and joystick.

Politics in the 1990s were controlled mostly by various warning sects of Poke-mons and robots that, though possessing separate individual powers, were able to interlock and develop into one larger super robot. Currently, President Megazord is presiding over the largest period of economic growth in Japan’s history.

Russia

Russia, which for years was feared as one of the most powerful countries in the world, due largely to an enormous nuclear arsenal, is now feared for its state of constant economic turmoil that could throw the entire world economy off balance, as well as its enormous arsenal of tall, blond boxers who Rocky’s really, really going to have to train hard to beat. In former years, Russia was known for its strong literary history, including writers like Gogol, Dostoievsky, and Mickey Spillane. Russia was one of the last countries in Europe to drop the feudal system, which accounts for the generally downtrodden state of the peasants... scratch that, comrades... scratch that, citizens... yes, citizens. After a revolution or two, the Russians found themselves in a firmly Communist society that incorporated many other republics under the title of the USSR, or CCCP to the illiterate. After only six decades of authoritarian rule, however, Russia suddenly decided to drop Marxism without warning, effectively breaking up the USSR. Fans have since only been able to speculate as to the future of the group. While some say Russia’s solo work with new front-man Vladimir Putin is just as good as the old stuff, most purists still long for a true reunion, bringing together classic members like Josef Stalin, Mikhail Gorbachev, and of course, David Lee Roth.

Canada

Canada should not be included in our section on “countries”. Ask any Canadian about his home, and if you can stop laughing at his perverted “English” long enough to hear what he is trying to say, you will probably hear some heretic story about free health care, economic prosperity, legal marijuana, gay marriage, and an alarming lack of violence. Clearly, every Canadian is a liar. Canada is just not a real place. Look it up in the Encyclopedia Britannica (under ‘c’): “Canada is... not... [a...real]...country..." Canada does not even have a US Constitution or a President Bush. I could go on forever about this, but I will limit myself to ten complaints, as follows.

From: America

To: Canada

Subject: Airing of Grievances

1. You’re a bunch of
2. Pot-smoking
3. Draft-dodging
4. Moose-riding
5. Moose-loving
6. Moose-eating
7. Lying
8. Pot-smoking
9. Draft-dodging
10. Hippies

While many are quick to make fun of France as a country that easily surrenders, as seen in World War I and its popular sequel World War II and World War with a Vengeance, ignoring many of France’s other victories would be down right negligent on our part. Or as the French would say, it would be down right negligent on your part. Here are some (read: all) of the victorious French wars:

Crimean War: In what many sources, namely Wikipedia, call the first “modern conflict”, the French, along with their British allies, roundly defeated Russia in an extremely important war. In fact, the war was so important, that most people don’t even know what it was about. Most accounts, however, reference the tragic events of the 952 All World’s Fair of European Powers in which a Russian noble offended the French delegation by insisting that Jerry Lewis is nothing more than a cheap slapstick comic.

Pastry War: Yes, this is a real war. France, unhappy with the treatment of one of it’s pastry cooks in Mexico, declared war on the entire country and won. No joke required.

French Revolution: Since France was technically at war with itself, France was able to walk away with a victory. In a truly spectacular battle, thousands of Frenchmen attacked another group of Frenchmen, which ended up being a complete victory for the French, and a huge loss for the French, as well as a major victory for Germany somehow. In the end, France conceded defeat to France, as France celebrated the victory over their vicious enemies, the French. Yes, the French Revolution will go down as one of the greatest military victories for France, and one of the bloodiest, shameful defeats for France both of which would last up through the third De Gaulle administration.

American Revolution: While many credit George Washington for the unlikely American victory over the British, it was the only with the support of General Lafayette, the famous French general, that the Americans won. Lafayette, feeling sympathetic for the plight of the Americans, committed thousands of dollars and hundreds of wine and cheese hor d’ourves. After the Americans won, the French were happy to go back to hating us, a tradition that continues to this day.