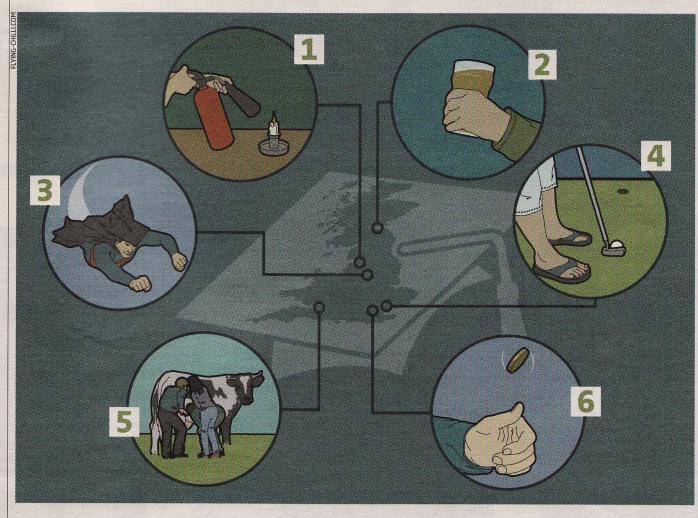
First up

Welcome to...

Britain's most dubious degree courses



With students starting back at university for the new academic year, what weighty subjects will they be wrestling with? Our rigorous, in-depth research has turned up these odd-sounding courses

Fire Safety BSc Preston "Don't play with matches" is the mantra of students following the University of Central Lancashire's degree in Fire Safety. They're a sensible bunch who keep to themselves, spending quiet afternoons discussing chemistry and transfer processes. It's only at the rare get-togethers with students from the University of Leeds' Fire and Explosion course that sparks fly.

Prewing and Distilling BSc Edinburgh If only every degree required a working knowledge of all things alcoholic. At Heriot-Watt University, drinks with your tutor are an everyday rather than an annual occurrence. Some students might have trouble with the biochemistry bits, but the oncampus brewery should help to take the edge off.

Global Hazards BSc Derby If Clark Kent hadn't opted to go directly from high school into a career in the media, this would almost certainly have been his degree of choice, as it covers everything from industrial accidents to supervolcanic explosions.

Golf Management BA Guildford Students on this "course" enjoy uninterrupted access to Guildford College's championship-standard 18 holes, driving range and putting green. Annual fees are a measly £1,325, so, if you like the sound of a golf club with no dress code, this is the course for you.

Dairy Herd Management BSc Bristol Fans of Rawhide or City Slickers will know that working with cows can be more fun than it sounds. However, this degree at the University of the West of England is less "yee-ha!" and more Yahoo.com, grooming students for the dairy industry of the 21st century. Cowboys and cowgirls need not apply.

Decision Science BSc London Anyone who may be considering going to university but is unsure about their options, look no further. This course at the University of Greenwich develops students' analytical capacities and teaches valuable decision-making techniques. Now, are you going to have Pot Noodle or cheese on toast for dinner? *Joanna Caird*