



EUSJA News

Newsletter of the European Union of Science Journalists' Associations

Spring 2006

Latest news

Finns arrange Eusja celebration

Eusja will celebrate its 35th birthday in Helsinki on the 8 December. Tekes, the Finnish association of Science Journalists, will host celebrations and a miniseminar together with the Academy of Finland, says Vesa Niinikangas, new Eusja treasurer.

Don't miss at the ESOF2006:

● Tuesday 18 July 17:15: EUSJA seminar "Science journalism under the microscope"

● Tuesday 18 July: TELI & Fraunhofer Gesellschaft invite for a reception at the Fraunhofer headquarters

● Wednesday 19 July: TELI Night of Science Writers

● Thursday 20 July: Experience top rank research in and around Munich

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Editorial

35 years with Eusja

This is a remarkable milestone for our community. We are celebrating, this year, the 35th anniversary of EUSJA. This is a very respectable jubilee, since few non profit non-governmental, unincorporated organisations exist in the field of science communication in Europe or even worldwide.

Colleagues from seven science journalist associations laid the foundations of EUSJA in March 1971 creating an umbrella organisation to promote contacts between science writers in different countries in Europe. This was an initial step for a large international network of professionals who were active in the field of communication linking scientists and society. Through several study trips - which became the basis of EUSJA activities. - science journalists were able to get to know each other, become friends and gained personal impressions and useful information from several foreign science institutions. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, EUSJA opened the gate toward the East and now our family consists of 24 science journalists associations from 23 countries.

This year we changed our constitution and from now more than one science journalist association from an individual country can become an EUSJA member. Medical, technical or environmental journalist associations can now apply to join us. At the last Assembly we voted positively for the application by the German science journalist association, WPK to be an official EUSJA member.

With these more flexible regulations, together with the necessity of the preliminary reconciliation of the compatriot associations and the unchanged "one country one vote" principle I really hope the viability and visibility of EUSJA will be stronger.

However, we really need to revitalize the motivation in several member associations for organising EUSJA visits, study trips and events because this is a key of our future.

One tool for strengthening the united EUSJA-feeling is the current WONDERS project which is an interesting European initiative of three non-profit organisations in the field of science communication. (EUSCEA, ECSITE and EUSJA) We gained generous EC funding and I hope all the participating member associations will finish the project at the end of the year well satisfied. In addition EUSJA's bank balance will be happier as the association, as well as individual members, will benefit financially. Our next project is the celebration of our 35 Anniversary at the end of the year. I call upon every association to participate to make this a memorable and successful event.



Photo Kalanders Sempler

Istvan Palugyai.

Istvan Palugyai
EUSJA president

One of the really good things about the annual assembly is that it gives us a chance to speak to colleagues from different countries and to compare notes. But why should it just be delegates who find out what's happening abroad? Now each issue of EUSJA NEWS will carry a number of small reports from activities undertaken by some of our member associations.

... our French journalists love digging - not for stories but fossils!

Each year in July, a small area in a huge gypsum excavation, near Cognac (Charentes, France), is invaded by diggers. The team is made of up to 40 young people, mainly ex paleontology students, helping digging, scratching, preparing, and cleaning fossils. Last summer they were joined for a couple of days by six journalists, members of the French Science Journalists Association (AJSPI).

Jean-Michel Mazin, paleontologist at the University of Lyon, is the boss. He started working on this 140 million years old Berriasian site 5 years ago.

"It was good to get away from our desks and this short field experiment gave us a good feeling of what a paleontology excavation really is. Namely, several hours a day in the sun, crushing rocks, most of the time not finding anything," says Philippe Pajot. "From time to time, you have the chance to find crocodile teeth (crocodile were numerous during the Berriasian age). More often you find a fish scale or a turtle shell, and when you are very lucky you dig out the rough-shape of a skeleton, materialized by a couple vertebrae. But most of the deposit is of alluvial source and contains many very small fossils dragged by water and crushed in very small pieces.



Cleaning sediment before the sieve

"After cleaning and sieving sediment of a particularly rich level, you end up totally soaked, but also with loads of teeth half a millimeter long, bones fragments, and eggs shells. In this rich environment, the paleontologists find roughly 40 000 teeth in every ton of sediment. These teeth belong to 25 species of vertebrates, including many mammals. This is particularly interesting since, in these ancient times, mammals, our ancestors, are not very well known.



Crocodile claw fossils.

"The fossils are washed and classified in the field laboratory situated in the disused school where the diggers sleep in two huge rooms. Those who disliked snoring were advised to bring their own tents and to compensate for the hard toil there were plenty of barbecues and much beer drinking.

"After two days of this regime, our intrepid journalists were exhausted, but not the paleontologists who continued to work for the whole month. And although it was good to get out into the countryside our reporters decided they would stick to writing about paleontology, not practicing it!

Philippe Pajot
 <philippe@ozalid.net>



Crocodile fossil.

Photos courtesy of A Devouard/Réa

...whilst our Dutch colleagues will leave their own desks but only to visit others as Elmar Veerman reports

What do your fellow science journalists see when look up from their screens to stare out of their windows? Where do editors of the science tv programmes sit whilst thinking up their next item? We know each other's products, but we seldom see the places our colleagues actually work. At the Dutch Association of Science Journalists, we want to change that. Well, at least we would like to see where others get their inspiration from.

We plan to organise a number of visits to places where science journalists work. Newspapers, radio and television stations, magazines, internet-sites, press agencies and more: the field is diverse. Hosts can show their visitors around at their workplace, tell something about the way they do their job and, of course, offer everyone a drink at the end of the session.

In addition to satisfying the "nosey" side of us we believe this could be a good way for editors to get in contact with new freelancers; for freelancers to get a better idea of what editors want from them and for anyone to spend a nice afternoon with colleagues who work in a different setting.

To be honest, we haven't tried this yet. All we know is that so far everyone we have asked to organise such a behind the scenes tour has said yes. We will start the workplace visits in the autumn and aim to have one every two months. This sort of association does not take up much money and takes little time to organise. Will it work? I'll let you know next year. And if you try it for yourself please report back.

*Elmar Veerman
The Netherlands*



Elmar himself.

CAFÉ CULTURE HITS MANCHESTER

EUSJA's involvement with the WONDERS Science Café project started the carousel with an ABSW sponsored café at Café Muse in Manchester, in the North of England. Originally the ABSW was planning to take part in an event organised by the British Association but as that was cancelled at the last minute we decided to go ahead and do it ourselves.

Frantic telephone calling resulted in our panel consisting of: - Dr Matthew Cobb, an evolutionary biologist; Dr Austin Elliott, a physiologist and Dr Phil Manning, a palaeontologist and dinosaur biomechanics expert. The event was chaired by ABSW chairman, Ted Nield.

We used my daughter, Katy, a student at Manchester University and three of her friends to herd people in, distribute question and feedback forms and carry a roving microphone. And what a good night it was, even though I fell down a flight of steps whilst fixing a huge banner outside. A ripped trouser suit and leg were almost worth the satisfaction of seeing our first Science Café going off so well.

Questions were varied, ranging from: "What is the mechanism for viruses to infect across species, e.g. bird flu?" - "Is it safe to eat chicken?" - "Why do women live longer than men?" - "Since every individual's DNA is unique, what does it mean when scientists talk about decoding an entire species" to "Where's the toilet!?"

We had been warned not to make our café last too long. After a couple of hours we distributed t-shirts and caps issued by the WONDERS organisers and promised to return one day for another ABSW science café.

*Barbie Drillsma
<absw@absw.org.uk>*



Ted Nield with his staff.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO THE UK'S FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE

...but this year we cannot pay for you to attend

However, registration is obviously free for visiting journalists and accommodation can be arranged, quite cheaply on the University campus. The festival this year will be taking place at the University of Norwich in East Anglia from September 2- 9.

You can see the full programme at www.the-ba.net/festivalofscience.

Contact: press@the-ba.net

There is an international airport at Norwich and it is a charming city set in an interesting and picturesque countryside.



NEED A PHOTOGRAPHER IN CHINA?

My friend, Lionel Derimais, a French photographer had the good idea last year to go to China and set up his own small agency. The only Chinese he could speak was reading the menu in restaurants but now he has mastered the language and is doing well in his work. He offers good rates for any EUSJA journalist.

His email address is:
lionel.derimais@gmail.com.
Mention me if you contact him.

FANCY HOUSE-SWOPPING?

We are looking into the possibility of having a small classified advertising section in EUSJA News and one thing which could start it off is if any of our members would like to swop (exchange) flats, houses, boats etc., with others. This house swop business is a very good way of having a cheap holiday in another country. Please send in any comments or suggestions to EUSJA News.

AAA SCIENCE JOURNALISM AWARDS

The AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) has a new category in its annual science writing awards. This is an international category offering big cash prizes for the best entries submitted on Children's Science News.

The deadline is August 1st and details are available on: www.aaas.org/SJAwards

ONE PERSPECTIVE ON EUROPE

Each Thursday the BBC's Europe Editor, Mark Mardell runs an excellent page on the BBC's website giving his views on what's going on in Europe.

It's well worth a look – <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

Do let us know of any other good sites looking into the European picture.

Melbourne launch for World Conference

It's just under a year until Science in Melbourne 2007 – the 5th World Conference of Science Journalists.

To mark the occasion, the Toronto Star's Peter Calamai recently joined a panel of Australian science journalists at the Melbourne launch of the Conference, hosted by the Victorian State government. Discussion was lively as the panel attempted to explain the meaning of 'story' to an audience including scientists, business people and politicians.

The launch saw the release of the conference sponsorship kit, and marked the 'end of the beginning' according to conference director, Niall Byrne.

"A hotel has been chosen: the Grand Hyatt in central Melbourne. We have seed sponsorship from Australian State and Federal governments, and strong interest from across the world – including several Canadian agencies. And over the next few months the program will come together as we pull together the ideas we've received from across the world. But we are looking for more ideas and comments. Every suggestion will go to our program committee – for review by working journalists."

"Fortunately we have a fantastic mix of people on our committees – many of whom contributed to Montreal. We have representation from eleven countries, including Canada, Colombia, the UK, the USA, Germany, Hungary, Nigeria, Japan, New Zealand, Egypt and Finland.

"Montreal was a watershed in creating a global community of science journalists," Niall says.

Now the mantle has passed on to Melbourne he believes that the conference has three important jobs to do:

- building the science journalism community in Australia - helping writers, editors and media owners to see the value in good science reporting across the major media;
- helping to maintain and grow a global network of science journalists and enhancing the quality and breadth of science reporting;
- bringing Australian science and scientists to the attention of a global audience.

The 5th World Conference of Science Journalists will be held in Melbourne from 16 to 20 April 2006. For more information or to submit your ideas please visit www.ScienceInMelbourne2007.org or email Sarah Brouker – sarah@scienceinmelbourne2007.org.

Stories down under

What's special about science journalism in Australia? We asked Leigh Dayton, science writer for Australia's national newspaper, The Australian.

Leigh says, "Australia has a geological history that left it sailing off on its own. The continent is a scientific laboratory everywhere you look.

Plants, animals and people have all proceeded down different evolutionary paths than those followed by their northern hemisphere 'cousins'.

Look up. The skies are different, so is the climate.

Critical data about many of the hottest scientific questions today – from human origins and migrations to 'management' of global warming – may well be answered, courtesy of Australian researchers and the land itself."

In 2007 we can promise that as well as the network and professional development you expect at a conference, the event will be rich in stories – about the land, the sky, the animals, and the people of Australia.

Images:

Tammar wallabies – bottom image shows a young joey in the pouch (less than a month old)

The Tammar wallaby is getting his genome sequenced. The results will help us understand how a baby wallaby – the equivalent of a 40 day old human embryo – can breath unassisted.

It may also reveal more about the fate of the human Y chromosome.

Find out more in Melbourne in 2007.



Photo credit:
Australian Genome
Research Facility
/Vicki Crowley Clough

Welcome to Munich and Esof2006

Right after the soccer world championship in Germany ESOF 2006 in Munich is approaching. It is the most prominent event for European science and for the science journalists.

ESOF takes place from 15 to 19 July — but the science journalists should by no means miss the 20th of July!

And be it only for the sumptuous TELI Night of Science Writers on the evening of 19 July, where all EUSJA journalists are invited and very welcome to celebrate a night of networking, joy, music and dance in one of the most famous clubs of Munich.

TELI Night of Science Writers

Thanks to EUSJA's former finance minister and new communications director, the trumpet player Kaianders Sempler, the famous big band "Märta and the Cadillacs" from Sweden will appear on stage — even though the Scandinavians celebrate their usually unimpeachable summer holidays. Maybe even Werner Hadorn, former president of EUSJA, will appear as special guest star on his clarinet. Here you will meet not only the friends from

EUSJA, and of course from the German TELI and WPK, but also many friends from the World Federation of Science Journalists.

Highly interesting study tours

But most important are a number of highly interesting study tours to some of the most prominent science institutions of Germany around Munich on 19 and 20 July. TELI, and especially Axel Fischer, has been working hard to organize different tours for a variety of science topics.

For example to Campus Garching with the Research Neutron Source FRM-II, the Max Planck Institutes for Plasma Physics, Quantum Optics, Extraterrestrial Physics, the European Southern Observatory, and the Department of Informatics of Munich's Technical University.

Beer and science

A beer study trip is a must for any serious journalists visiting Munich and we will be touring the Munich Technical University's Chair of Brewing Technology, the WZW Centre for Food and Life Sciences and the world's oldest brewery in Weihenstephan.

A full day trip will go to the medieval city of Augsburg not only for a sightseeing tour including the visit of the legendary "Fuggerei", which is said to be the oldest social settlement in the world. Visits are organised around materials and environmental research at the Institute of Physics of the University of Augsburg, the Centre for Machine Tools and Industrial Management, a centre for mechatronic systems, and the UPM-Kymmene Augsburg mill.

Rocking Science Journalists at Teli Night Party

The Swedish rock'n roll band "Martha and the Cadillacs" will perform at the journalists party in Munich on the evening of July 19. Among the musicians are three active science journalists, one former journalist (nowadays heart surgeon), one professor of political science, one physiotherapist, one psychiatrist, one artist and one TV-editor.



Not to forget the tour to Grosshadern Hospital and Campus Martinsried, where besides the university centres for neuropathology and prion research also the two Max Planck Institutes for Neurobiology and Biochemistry will be visited.

The technology freaks may be pleased by visits at the research centres and museums of Siemens and BMW. The whole study trip programme is accessible via the ESOF-web page at www.esof2006.org (upper right corner).

Hotel rooms and registrations

TELI can offer to EUSJA friends a number of centrally located hotel rooms for the duration of ESOF and the journalists' programme for the special price of just 65 EUR per night, which is even below the special rates which ESOF can offer.

Registrations for the study tours as well as requests for the hotel rooms will start about end of June. Check regularly the latest news on the web page! An alert will come in time through the EUSJA list.

Science Journalism Under the Microscope

Science Journalism Under the Microscope is the EUSJA contribution to ESOF. The seminar takes place on Tuesday, 18 July at 17:15 hours in the Forum at the Deutsches Museum, cinema 1.

Hans Peter Peters, Peter Weingart, Bill O'Neill, Kaianders Sempler and Hanns-J. Neubert will discuss questions like:

What kind of research results are newsworthy?
Are journalists the most rigorous peer-reviewers?
Do journalists really get the point?
Do they have any role in scientific controversy?
What are the constraints journalists are working under?
How can the relationship between scientists and journalists be enhanced?

Come and join the seminar in numbers! A hot discussion with scientists in the audience is expected.

Joint stand

And we plan to introduce a novelty: Besides the stand as partner of the WONDERS-project at the exhibition of ESOF, EUSJA will eventually have a joint stand together with the two German EUSJA members TELI and WPK. It is not clear until now, if we really succeed in this, but WPK is trying hard to make it real.

Mentoring project for science journalists in Africa and the Middle East

As you all know, EUSJA is also member of the World Federation of Science Journalists WFSJ. So it may be interesting for you to know, that WFSJ starts its most ambitious mentoring project for science journalists in Africa and the Middle East the week before ESOF with a briefing seminar for the mentors of the first 60 journalist from that region. The mentors come from Canada, France, Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. A lot of effort has not only been put in by Jean-Marc Fleury of WFSJ, but also by TELI's Axel Fischer, who took over the local organisation and budget administration, and by Hajo Neubert (TELI) and Dagmar Röhrlich (WPK), trying to get the thing funded. Besides, this is the first project, where the two German EUSJA member are jointly involved.



Hajo Neubert

Photo Kaianders Sempler

So, July will be a vibrant month for science journalists on a visit in Germany. And it will be worth every minute coming to Munich from 15 to 20 July.

Hanns-J. Neubert
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E-Mail: hajo.neubert@teli.de

Don't miss the ESOF2006 highlights:

- Tuesday, 18 July 17:15: EUSJA seminar "Science journalism under the microscope".
- Tuesday, 18 July: TELI & Fraunhofer Gesellschaft invite for a reception at the Fraunhofer headquarters.
- Wednesday, 19 July: TELI Night of Science Writers.
- Thursday, 20 July: Experience top rank research in and around Munich.

And some extras for the connoisseurs:

- Monday 17 July 14:30-17:00: WPK seminar "Between business and bribery: how independent is science journalism?" Forum am Deutschen Museum, room "Solaris".
- Tuesday 18 July 14:30-17:00: Quality science journalism seminar "Is a new style needed?" Forum am Deutschen Museum, room "Helios".

Why bother with blogs?

**“What use is electricity?” someone once asked Michael Faraday.
“And what use are babies?” Faraday replied.
And what use are blogs? Natasha Loder explains.**

In the early to mid nineties, I had a friend called John Baines who wanted to start a company that created websites. It was the early days, when it could take minutes for a browser to download the most basic webpages. But John could see that the web had incredible potential, and he wanted to be part of it. The point of the web might seem obvious today but it wasn't then. So John spent most of his time trying to convince potential clients that a website was a useful thing to have and not a passing fad. He was confronted with a wall of scepticism.

Faced with something completely new people found it easier to dismiss novelty than to expend any effort trying to adapt. It was the same with email. “Why do we want email when we have faxes?” one co-worker complained to me one day in 1992. Lets face it, it was probably the same with the printing press, “but Johann, we have quills!”

So when people ask me what the point of a blog is, I find myself getting irritable. Technology is what you make of it. It is like asking what the point of a car is. Blog software offers a simple way of publishing a website, with material appearing in chronological order. It is so easy to use anyone who can load a webpage and use a keyboard can create something that looks good. There is no need for HTML scripts, special software or to register a domain. It has democratised the web. And while that does mean that a lot of teenage girls are writing about what they had for dinner last night, it also gives web publishing access to Chinese dissidents, bombed Iraqis and groups of people worried about bird ‘flu.

Easier to maintain

After reading some posts grumbling about blogs on the ABSW email list, it took me a while to decide whether I could really be bothered to write this article. Why should I care if British science writers stay stuck in the last decade unable to master one of the most innovative publishing technologies since the invention of the web? Lets just say my better nature won over and leave it at that. I started a blog because it was an easier to maintain than a website. By clicking a few buttons I can link to my latest published material.

To be honest, my blog is largely an open-access clippings library with overmatter that didn't get published with the original article. I consider it a public service extension of my job as a journalist. I've also started adding audio files of interesting briefings and lectures I've

been to. These are a bit of an experiment, they might not be useful but podcasting is another technology I want to be in command of so that is enough of a reason in itself.

In the last few months, I've come to appreciate the power of a blog. When my father died in August, I knew I'd have to ring up a lot of people to tell them. And it would be hard to listen to their shock and grief when I was dealing with my own. So I decided to put up a webpage, and the quickest way of doing this was to create a new blog with a single post. It took me moments to create, using a tasteful black template. I emailed my close friends the URL <http://johnloder.blogspot.com> and nothing else.

The blog really said everything that I needed to say but couldn't. My mother took the more traditional route and called everyone. But then something strange happened. Soon absolutely everyone was visiting the blog. And they were leaving comments too. Tributes to my father, first a trickle and then a flood. So many people wanted to remember him. When I closed the blog to comments a few weeks ago there were 145. This website is the most wonderful tribute to my father. I could never have predicted this would happen, but because I understood the technology I was able to take advantage of it at the right moment. Its like being able to drive a car. Useful to know how, even if you don't own one.

By-passing the print media

The second thing that happened was that I had a good story about a geophysicist who had been refused a visa to Pakistan to take measurements after the earthquake. I wanted to get news out as quickly as possible, in the hope that the visa office might change its mind. But every traditional outlet was in no hurry to publish. Even Nature wanted to wait for a week. Too late for me, my scientist would be heading back to another job in the Andaman Islands.

So I added the story as a post on my regular blog and emailed a link to everyone I could think of. Physics Today linked to it. Then Geoscientist did a feature on its website. The BBC interviewed him. Nature was forced to print an online version the next day. Then the visa materialised via a mysterious intermediary called “Peregrine”, with a cut-glass accent. Sadly, the visa missed my geophysicist by hours. If I hadn't wasted half a day trying to get the traditional media interested, he might be taking measurements now.

So don't ask me why you might need a blog. Figure it out for yourself. Ditto, VOIP, RSS feeds, podcasting and wikis. As for my friend John Baines, his company took off and he got the job to design the first Levi's website and much more besides. He is now incredibly successful.

Technology can either be your future, or your route to extinction. You decide.

*Natasha Loder
Science and Technology Correspondent at The Economist.
<http://natashaloder.blogspot.com>*

And once you're blogging, have a look at RSS

Charles Arthur describes techniques for keeping ahead with development in science, while "boiling out the excess."

I don't gather news in the way that I used to. After 20-odd years in journalism, the past 11 in national newspapers (The Independent and then The Guardian), I've discovered the most efficient means yet of finding out what my readers think is interesting (which can always be a shock to journalists) and of picking out the most relevant events going on right now.

This magic bullet - although like bullets it may ricochet unpredictably - is the combination of a web technology called "RSS" (or, as Microsoft more usefully calls it, a "web feed" - for RSS comes in many varieties) and an allied product called an "aggregator".

RSS is to web pages what MP3s are to music files: a way of boiling out all the excess, leaving you with just what's new. (The BBC has a good explanation at <http://tinyurl.com/6oark>.) It can carry text alone (with hyperlinks), pictures, sounds (hence "podcasts" - web pages consisting just of sound files) and even video.

Almost every blog and commercial web page now offers an RSS feed. Viewed as a web page, RSS looks like undifferentiated text. The key to making them useful is an aggregator, which understands (rather like an MP3 player) how to make sense of it. The Guardian's Newswire RSS reader (guardian.co.uk/newswire) for Windows, or Rancho Software's NetNewsWire (rancho.com/netnewswire) are possibilities; you can also have web-based readers, if you're sure you'll always be online.

Those pull out the text, and show only what text has changed on the page - no spurious adverts. More powerfully, you can search across all your feeds for particular topics; I have a constant search for "cochlear implant", another for "nanotechnology" (two topics I find interesting). I have nearly 600 "feeds" in my aggregator: that's 600 web pages I'm effectively polling for new information every half an hour. There's lots of overlap, sure; but news is a prism. Sometimes you get a better view from a different place.

Keeping in touch

But what difference do web feeds make to my life? By adding feeds to my aggregator, I can keep in touch with

what readers are thinking about, what their concerns are, what they think of our work. People are more prepared to blog their displeasure or approval than to email it: a post on your own blog is sure to appear, while an email to a monolithic organisation could never see daylight.

Equally, by finding researchers' blogs (of which there aren't enough; or perhaps you could tell me where they all are) I can find out what the hot and emerging topics are. Though scientists were at the forefront of internet adoption, I feel they've lagged in adopting blogging.

But web feeds are going to change journalism, and PR. If I can learn of a breakthrough on a blog about a conference, I don't need a PR person to mediate it. If a blogger can reach a worldwide audience without a journalist writing about them, that changes things too.

Right now I'm concentrating on staying ahead of the latter curve. But science journalism is going to go through another upheaval in the next few years as research becomes much more visible to journalists and readers alike.

Charles Arthur

My science web feeds:

Technology Research News
<http://www.trnmag.com>

Eurekalert Breaking News
<http://www.eurekalert.org>

Alphagalileo
<http://www.alphagalileo.org/>

Google News: nanotechnology
<http://news.google.co.uk/news?hl=en&ned=&q=nanotechnology>

Smalley's Research Watch
<http://www.trnmag.com/researchwatch.html>

Nature's Nascent Blog
<http://blogs.nature.com/wp/nascent/>

The H5N1 blog
<http://crofsblogs.typepad.com/h5n1/>

RealClimate
<http://www.realclimate.org>

The Scientist: Daily News
<http://www.the-scientist.com/news>

Charles Arthur edits the Guardian's Technology supplement (<http://technology.guardian.co.uk/weekly>) and blogs at <http://www.charlesarthur.com/blog/>

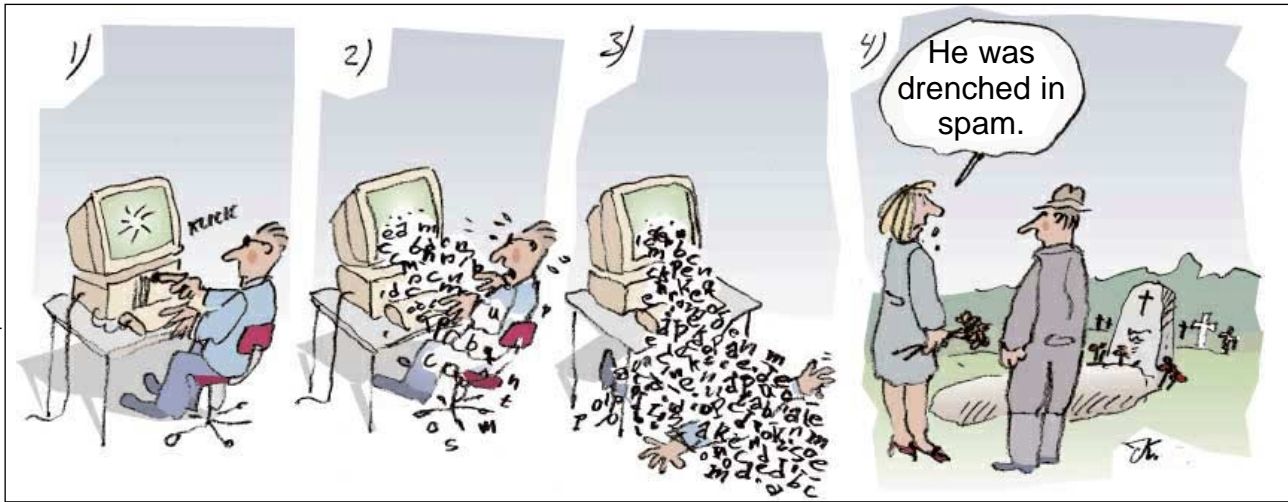
Pull out quote: News is a prism.



JOHN VON NEUMANN'S HUS
BATHORY UTCA 26
BUDAPEST

NOV 05 *JK*

Highlights of Europe: mathematician John von Neumann's house in Budapest.
Drawing by Kaianders Sempler 2005



Over one trillion text messages

(SMS) were sent in 2005, of which more than 12 million were sent in China alone during the Lunar New Year holiday. Just over three billion per month were sent in the UK. (It sometimes seems that we nearly reach that number when we arrange board meetings and lose each other in unknown cities – Ed.)

This issue of EusjaNews has been edited by *Barbara Drillsma and Kaianders Sempler*

FREELANCERS NEEDED FOR NEW AFRICAN MAGAZINE

Linda Nordling, editor of Research Africa, is looking for freelancers. Research Africa is a new science policy magazine in Africa. If you are interested please contact Linda at: LN@ResearchResearch.com11

The **leprello**, the Eusja information leaflet, folds twice. It can be ordered from Eusja secretariat.



LA PETITE FRANCE - NOV 2001 - STRASBOURG - JK

What is Eusja?

Eusja is a not-for-profit umbrella organization for national science journalists' associations in Europe. Eusja has today (October 2005) 23 member associations. The Eusja secretariat is situated in Strasbourg, France, where the national delegates meet once a year at the general assembly.

Contacts

You will find our website with contacts, resources, mailing-list etc at <http://www.eusja.org>
There you will also find links to the member reports from and

What do we do?

Eusja acts as a network between science journalists throughout Europe. Our aim is to facilitate gathering of information, promote discussions on topics related to journalism and to open a forum for broader reporting on European science.

Study trips in Europe

The national associations in co-operation with Eusja regularly organize international study trips in their countries for science journalists. The aim is primarily to visit interesting science and research institutions that would otherwise be closed to journalists, but also to bring science journalists from different countries together. Four to five events take place every year, where one or two journalists are invited from each country.

East-West exchange

Eusja also promotes and finances exchange between science journalists from eastern and western Europe.

Who finances Eusja?

Eusja is financed by its member associations, but receives website and secretariat facilities from ESF – the European Science Foundation – in Strasbourg, France. Eusja is fully independent of any political and/or parties or interests.



EUSJA

– European Union of Science Journalists' Associations.

“Your network to science reporting throughout Europe.”

www.eusja.org



PALAIS DE L'EUROPE - STRASBOURG - 2004

Eusja 2006

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