

Weekend FT. 15.06.07

the business

A man in a dark suit and tie stands with his arms crossed against a stone wall. The wall is made of large, irregular stones in shades of brown and grey. The man is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The overall tone is professional and serious.

Stand and deliver

John Malkovich takes the direct approach

A bit rich

Tax dodgers keep out, says Monaco

Grudge match

David Lloyd hits back at old adversaries



Snowballs can be cool

It's the Bar Show this Tuesday and Wednesday, a trade fair cum bartenders' forum at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London. This is where the people who mix your drinks mingle and concoct new ideas. Naturally, *the loop* wanted to honour the occasion somehow and so threw down the gauntlet to cocktail maker and drinks historian Angus Winchester. His brief: cool the Snowball. Make this naff drink hot.

It's a classic cocktail, says Winchester, although whereas the traditional Snowball mixes advocaat and lemonade, the *Savoy Cocktail Book* suggests the addition of crème de menthe, sweet cream, dry gin, anisette and crème de violette. Sounds even worse.

Here then is his new improved recipe - the Turbo Snowball. Put in a shaker: 50ml advocaat (Warninks is good), 25ml gin (his choice is Tanqueray: "not too much juniper"), 12ml lime cordial (Roses, of course). Shake. Pour over crushed ice: "It cuts some of the sweetness, without numbing the mouth like cubes." Then top up with champagne - "It adds extra dryness and strength." The trad Snowball has a slice of lemon and a cherry: lose the lemon, keep the cherry. Serve in a tall glass (highball, flute) and enjoy.

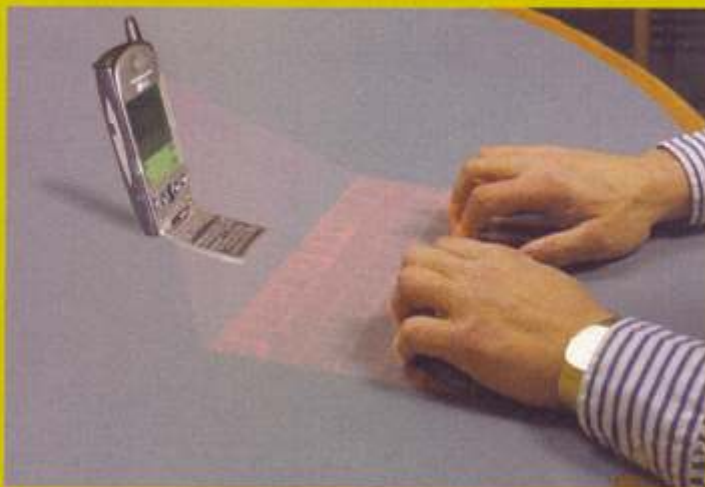
The Bar Show, 020 8948 5522

Believe the type

Virtual keyboard will put technology on tap-tap

The trouble with technology getting smaller and smaller is that the human body hasn't kept up. It's little use having a laptop you can tuck in your shirt pocket when the keyboard is so small you can't squeeze your fingers on to the keys.

So thumbs up to the VKey virtual keyboard from Virtual Devices Inc. Due to go on sale later this year, the VKey is no bigger than a pen when not in use but contains a little light that unfolds to project a full-size image of a keyboard on to any flat surface. Built-in cameras monitor your finger movements to see which letters you are "typing" and transmit this information back to the device it is plugged into, such as your mobile phone (below). A great excuse to spend the morning idly drumming your fingers on a desktop. *David Baker*
www.virtualdevices.net



E-ssential listening

Pop records extol the "joys" of Ecstasy

The growing popularity of Ecstasy in the US has seen a rash of records celebrating the drug, with rap artists among those advocating the pills. Judging by the airplay such records are receiving, the broadcasting authorities either don't know or don't care. Here are some of the best current lines:

Green Velvet: "La La Land"

"Somethin' bout those little pills unreal the thrills they yield until they kill a million brain cells... I hope that I have enough change so I can make my brain rearrange"

D12: "Purple Hills"

"I've been so many places, I've seen so many faces... I climbed the highest mountain, once or twice

but who's countin', But nothing compares to these blue and yellow purple hills"

Fat Joe featuring Ashanti: "What's Luv?"

"... Please believe, You leave with me, We'd be freakin' all night like we was on E..."

Ja Rule/Case: "Livin' it Up"

"Love you so sexy, I just want you next to me, Your whole vibe, like you high on Extasy, 'Cause ain't nuthin' but an E thing baby"

New Order: "Here to Stay"

"Who is this man that follows me... he'll get you flying"

Missy Elliott: "4 My People"

"This is fo' my people, my party people, This fo' my people, my Ecstasy people"

Paul Myerscough