



# hi! monkey

not just for fools

let's take a quick look at april's holiday line-up, shall we? we've got easter smack-dab in the middle of passover, which ends the day after earth day on orthodox easter. oh dear! this conflicts with my tradition of donning shiny tap shoes and belting out 'on the good ship lollypop' to commemorate shirley temple's birthday then dashing off to posh soirees on st george's day, closely followed by partying the night away with my pagan pals at a big boisterous beltane bash

of course, we can't forget april 1, now can we? despite actor and notorious prankster george clooney's assertion that only amateurs pull pranks on april fools' day, it's still the day when everyone turns into a prankster and no one is safe. countless computer mice will have sticky tape stuck over their tracking balls and no end of evil things will be done with cling film and bathroom fixtures.

i like a good april fools' day hoax. particularly the ones that get my brain going. you know the kind: an inventive story that everyone falls for, and it's so good that you wish with all your heart that you had created such a tasty morsel of silliness. who can forget the bbc's insightful television documentary on the swiss spaghetti harvest in 1957 or the web coverage of the controversy surrounding the eu's imposition of safety regulations on a centuries-old gloucestershire sporting event? what about bmw's print adverts for their latest revolutionary innovations? on my side of the pond we've been treated to the exquisite, in-depth reporting on the maple tree crisis and

lunar advertising by national public radio. these hoaxes are so clever that you want to believe them.

in 2000, veteran npr reporter and respected author jacki lyden exposed a new teen fashion trend - the navelectomy - that started, like many fads, in southern california. on my weekly pbc-tv show 'celebrity primate chat' senior npr producer and fellow panda aficionado, kitty eisele, revealed that this story attracted quite a bit of attention from listeners. as a good interviewer, i needed to know why. because of the absurdity of it? "no," confides kitty. "to express outrage that such a surgical procedure is available to teens without parental consent. well, that and the math errors."

next thing you know people will believe that the 1975 film monty python and the holy grail was released in the czech republic on 1 april 2000 and that a tony award winning musical based on the film is a broadway smash that's on it's way to london. talk about absurd! what's next? terrycloth monkeys who write? ■

## monkey magic...

george clooney: [tinyurl.com/9bt82](http://tinyurl.com/9bt82)  
 bbc hoaxes: [tinyurl.com/3f5gg](http://tinyurl.com/3f5gg)  
 npr hoaxes: navelectomy: [tinyurl.com/cvm5y](http://tinyurl.com/cvm5y)  
 maple tree crisis: [tinyurl.com/e24or](http://tinyurl.com/e24or)  
 lunarcorp lunar advertising: [tinyurl.com/cf8hj](http://tinyurl.com/cf8hj)  
 spamalot: [www.montypythonsspamalot.com](http://www.montypythonsspamalot.com)  
 bmw technological advances: [tinyurl.com/dbedk](http://tinyurl.com/dbedk)  
 billie holiday imitation: [tinyurl.com/8fvzv](http://tinyurl.com/8fvzv)  
 museum of hoaxes: [www.museumofhoaxes.com/kaycee.html](http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/kaycee.html)