

Wilko's Diary

Volume II

The Met Office Years

Characters

Narrator

McFly

McFly 2

McFly 3

Dr. Carbon

Offset Boy

Giles 'The Doc' Harrison

Keith Shine

Anthony Illingworth

Stephen Belcher

Rosemarie

Sid

David Grimes

Ross Reynolds

Brian Hoskins

Robin Hogan

Sue Gray

Ellie Highwood

Janet Barlow

Maarten Ambaum

Martin Durkin

Neil Ellis

Dale Cunningham

Curtis Wood

Rob Thompson

Remi Tailleux

Andrew Charlton-Perez

Daisy the Cow

Ken Spiers

Ball of Lightning

Act I

Scene I – I

Time: The real 2007

Place: A departmental meeting room, present day. Scene opens in the McFly's monitoring committee meeting. McFly, Anthony and Keith are sat around a table with a chair for Stephen Belcher.

Characters: The Narrator, Anthony Illingworth, Keith Shine, McFly, Stephen Belcher, Rosemarie.

Narrator: T'was a dark and stormy day....in July. Once again the Met Office seasonal forecast was about as useful as radar is for rainfall measurement. We join our hero, 5th year PhD student Marty Mcfly, in his 10th, but what seems like his 100th, monitoring committee meeting with Anthony Illingworth and Keith Shine. His supervisor, Stephen “Better Late That Never” Belcher, hasn't turned up yet. McFly is currently being grilled about his somewhat unlikely choice of PhD topic: 'The role of Phytoplankton in volcanic eruptions'.

Anthony: ...So, after 5 years of in-depth, state-of-the-art..

Keith: ...and expensive...

Anthony: ...research, have you managed to prove that phytoplankton has a role in volcanic eruptions?

McFly: Erm, well, I've come to the conclusion that phytoplankton are directly responsible for most volcanic eruptions.

(Anthony falls off his chair)

Keith: Would you like to elaborate on that theory for us?

McFly: Erm, well, yes...*(speaking quickly and clearly making it up as he is going along)*...turbulent diapycnal mixing of phytoplankton in the ocean mixed layer modifies surface fluxes above the tropical ocean, which via eddy growth mechanisms lead to maximum entropy creation via the inverse energy cascade. This causes saturation of the moist diabatic lapse rate, which, via a range of tropospheric feedback mechanisms interact with the volcanic ash plumes, *(trails off, not sure where he's going)* erm...erm...PV?

(Spotlight on them, hallelujah sound sample)

Anthony: *(getting back to his chair)* Ah, now that sounds like something we can relate to!

Keith: Rubbish!! Surely the change in albedo will be the greatest factor in influencing the tropical radiation budget?

Anthony: (*loud*) No no no no... PV is conserved, er, to within radar error bars within a volcanic plume so.... (*starts to mumble*) ...quite clearly...

Keith/McFly: (*straining to hear*) Pardon?

Anthony: (*flustered*)...er... (*loud*) PV!! Very Important!!

(*Enter Stephen Belcher*)

Stephen: Right, let's get started! Glad to see everyone on time - I was worried I was going to be late!

Anthony: Well, your student was just telling us about a fantastic link he's made between phytoplankton and volcanic eruptions via the universal solution...

Stephen: The universal solution? What's that then?

Anthony: (*shocked that Stephen doesn't know*) Well, PV of course!

(*Spotlight on them, hallelujah sound sample*)

Stephen: Ah yes! The bible – Hoskins, McIntyre & Robertson (1985). I believe this paper will provide the missing link you have been looking for McFly.

Keith: You should certainly read and reference that in your thesis, it will definitely add value. (*aside to audience*) It certainly needs it!

McFly: But I don't have time to do that! I've been following the strict time guidelines set out in 'How to get a PhD' by S T Rumbold. The deadline for submission of my thesis is tomorrow!

(*Enter Rosemarie*)

Rosemarie: (*sweetly*) Oh, Stephen! I've just heard from the Vice Chancellor – you are promoted to Head of School, effective immediately. You must come right away so we can get you all settled in to your new office!

Stephen: Thanks Rosemarie. (*To audience*) Well that should be easy enough; I haven't unpacked from my last move yet! (*to Anthony & Keith*). I suppose that that means that you clowns are heads of department.

Keith: Oh no, not again!! (“*waa waa waa...*”)

(*Exit Rosemarie and Stephen*)

Anthony: So what jobs do you want?

Keith: Well last time I was in charge of ‘In-House’: I had to worry about the number of staplers and the temperature of the radiators! I want something with more power this time...I'll direct the research of the department.

Anthony: I'll take teaching and academic staff, that sounds like fun..... now who can be in charge of all the really important jobs like carrying milk and mowing the croquet lawn?

Keith: Give those to Giles – he looks like he needs a bit of responsibility.

(McFly tries to edge out of the room)

McFly: I'll just be off to print that paper then.....

Keith: No!! That'll cost a fortune!!! And think of the paper use: at least half the height of Big Ben! Read it off the screen. Or at least print it in yellow first so someone can print over it!

Anthony: I guess that's head of the finances as well for you then!

(Exit McFly, looking haggard from the ordeal.)

Anthony: Talking about PV *(hallelujah plays, Anthony waves it away)* , did you ever hear the story of how Brian came up with the idea?

Keith: Oh yes, sitting in the Tuns wasn't it? He got the idea whilst staring at the patterns in his pint glass.....

(Lights out)

Scene I – II

Time: The real 2007

Place: Brian Hoskins' office, there is a table with a scroll and two coconut halves.

Characters: McFly, Ellie Highwood, The Narrator, Dr. Carbon, Offset Boy.

(McFly knocks on Brian's door)

McFly: Hello? Hello? Brian? Are you there? Please help. I need to understand PV.....before tomorrow.....you are the only one who can help me.....my knight in shining armour! *(getting louder and more desperate)* Brian! Brian! HEEEELLLLP!!

(walks up to the table, finds scroll and reads to audience)

McFly: “Sir Brian has departed this fair land with brave brave Sir Robin of Hogan on a dangerous quest to find the legendary Nobel peace prize...try email”

(puts down scroll & picks up coconuts)

McFly: Hmmm – he forgot his horse. (*Realising his predicament*) Oh no! What do I do now? No one can help me (*starts sobbing*).

(*Enter Ellie – she's pregnant*)

Ellie: Who is that crying – are you a first year?

McFly: No no, I am a 5th year PhD student – I need to find Brian to help me understand this paper before I can hand in my thesis tomorrow.

Ellie: Well, if you hadn't spent so much time in the Tuns you wouldn't be in this predicament. Brian never sat idly in the pub – how do you think he came up with such a genius idea?! Hard work, that's how. When I was a PhD student, we never had Sappo club, pub crawls, formal dinners, 3 pint challenges, barn-dancing, pantomimes or any of these other activities that you waste time on! Sorry, I don't have any sympathy for time wasters. I'm off to watch the official re-branding of Daisy the departmental cow . Now that the department has purchased her back from the A-is for Andy Team, she needs to be re-branded in official Walker institute Pink.

(*Exit Ellie*)

(*Enter Dr. Carbon & Offset Boy – they looking around for Brian*)

Dr. Carbon: Halt!

Narrator: Ahh, I was wondering when these two were going to show up. After being bitten by a radioactive polar bear, Steve Woolnough was transformed into ...Dr. Carbon. Armed only with his croquet mallet (*Dr. Carbon holds it up*), and universal light switch (*Dr. Carbon holds it up*), he fights excessive energy use wherever it is found. With him, is his faithful sidekick Tom Osborne, now re-born as...Offset boy.

(*Dr. Carbon and Offset boy sing the 'Dr. Carbon Song'*)

Dr. Carbon: Let's get these lights off! (*Lights off with universal light switch*) Sir Brian, you think its all over? It is now, you're under arrest.

(*Awkward pause*)

McFly: Errr...He isn't here, who are you?

Dr. Carbon: Offset boy, get those lights back on – my universal light switch only works one way!

(*Offset boy fumbles around - possibly fumbling results in some awkward screams - and switches lights back on.*)

Dr. Carbon: Dr. Carbon's the name, reducing CO₂'s the game. (*As an afterthought*) And this is Offset boy. We're in search of Sir Brian Hoskins for crimes against the climate – his jet setting all over the world gives him a carbon footprint equivalent to a small African country. Look, here it is.

(*Picks up huge black footprint from floor of the office*)

McFly: That's a bit harsh, do you know who you are talking about?

Offset Boy: *(Sniffs loudly)* That's irrelevant, everyone has their part to play in our sustainable future!

Dr. Carbon: Exactly, we must detain this climate criminal.

(Offset Boy sneezes!!)

Mcfly: Are you OK?

Offset Boy: Yes, yes, I just have a little cold. Dr. Carbon doesn't like the heating being on when you can just wear an extra layer. *(Looks down at his jumper proudly)* My mum knitted this for me in 1986... still going strong!!

Dr. Carbon: Enough of your whining – Hoskins may have eluded us this time but we still have important work to do. I've seen Giles Harrison a.k.a the Doc tinkering with the Departmental van, and I wonder if it still passes its emissions test... a little fieldwork is in order: We'll drive to the Tuns and measure its emissions against normalised pollutant climatology.

Mcfly: But what about your impact on the environment??

Offset Boy: Don't worry, we'll plant a tree on the way. The future's bright, the future's offset.

(Mcfly, Dr. Carbon & Offset Boy start to walk off stage)

Mcfly: Can I have a lift to the Tuns? I need a pint after the day I've had...

Dr. Carbon: Car-sharing! Good idea!!

(Dr. Carbon runs back to turn off the lights with his universal light switch.)

Scene I – III

Time: The real 2007

Place: Outside the department, by the van. The van is a flat cardboard cut-out place on the right-hand side on the stage (where the beanstalk was). Open with Giles tinkering with departmental van.

Characters: Sid, Giles Harrison, McFly, Dr. Carbon, Offset Boy

(Enter Sid with van log book and marathon bar)

Sid: Giles, can I talk to you? *(Opens log book)* The records here in the van log book are a bit sketchy, what have you been doing with it? I found a Marathon bar behind the driver's seat with a best

before date of 28/11/87!!

Giles: *(to himself)* Ah, now that's interesting, there must be some residual space-time fluctuations...*(to Sid)* Well it's fascinating really!! I've converted the van into a time machine!

Sid: But isn't that physically impossible? How could you power such a contraption?

Giles: It's amazing how easy it is to create the required 1.21 GW of power when you use the Edwards-Slingo Radiation Flux Capacitor.

Sid: No way! What speed do you have to get up to, to initiate the capacitor? The van doesn't get much above 35mph any more.

Giles: My method is so efficient that you just have to get the van to start. Unfortunately I broke it on my last trip. I was trying to go back to 1500 to set up a longer time series for climate measurements, but the time step I used was too big, so the van blew up due to CFL instability. I'm currently trying to fit a semi-Lagrangian turbo-charger to avoid the problem next time...

(McFly, Dr. Carbon & Offset Boy approach, Giles and Sid see them.)

Giles: Quick there's Dr. Carbon – he can't see us otherwise he'll realise that it was me who has increased the van's carbon footprint by several orders of magnitude!

Sid: But I need to have a word with him about that universal light switch of his - turning the lights off might be carbon friendly, but it's not health and safety friendly!

Giles: No, he can't be reasoned with, he will just bore you to death with stories of how he came from 13 hoops down to win the final of the Reading University inter-mural world croquet championships in 1993. We must flee!

(They run off, dropping the keys to the van)

Dr. Carbon: Here we are. And look someone's dropped the keys! Rookie error – that will save filling out the logbook!

(They all pile in to the van, with Dr. Carbon in the driver's seat.)

Dr. Carbon: Hang on, I can't drive, I never believed in internal combustion engines – only carbon neutral transport!

Offset Boy: Well don't look at me; you never let me drive.

McFly: Oh all right then, I'll drive!

(They all clamber out and rearrange themselves. The van wheezes and doesn't start.)

Dr. Carbon: What? It doesn't work? Maybe it's carbon neutral after all.

Offset Boy: Let's look at the engine. I'm sure we can fix it.

(Dr. Carbon and Offset Boy get out and lift the bonnet to reveal a complicated engine.)

Offset Boy: Wow, it looks really complex. It will take all our combined years of experience and training to fix this.

(Offset Boy and Dr. Carbon look at each other in an ominous way.)

(They start laying into the engine with cricket bat and croquet mallet.)

Dr. Carbon: That ought to have done it!

(They get back into the car. McFly starts car – blinding flash of light. They start drive off – this means they pick up the cardboard cut-out van and walk to the middle of the stage.)

Dr. Carbon: Hang on, we forgot to turn off the lights!

(The graphics show the sun going out, and the stage goes black.)

Offset boy: Wow, I didn't know that worked for the sun too!

(They drive off – they walk off the stage.)

END - ACT I

Act II

Scene II – I

Time: 1985

Place: The car park of The Three Tuns. Car park is on side where conker stalk was. The van is back on this side too. Stage is Tuns. At first, only car park section is lit up.

Characters: The Narrator, McFly, Dr. Carbon, Offset Boy, Giles Harrison, David Grimes, Ross Reynolds, Ken Spiers, Sue Gray, Ellie Highwood, Janet Barlow, Maarten Ambaum, Martin Durkin, Brian Hoskins.

(McFly, Dr Carbon and Offset Boy are in the Met Van, it screeches to a halt. They get out of the van, Dr. Carbon and Offset Boy go to check van emissions, McFly goes into the pub...)

Narrator: And so, our heroes arrive at The Tuns. Although a trip to this fine drinking establishment always feels somewhat like a step back in time, it's never been quite like this before.....

Dr Carbon: Let's check these van emissions Offset Boy, because at the end of the day, it's a van of two halves...

Offset Boy: Is it?

Dr. Carbon: Exactly, and the emissions don't stop till the fat lady sings..

Offset Boy: Or you turn the engine off?

Dr. Carbon: Precisely! It's the bottom of the ninth, both the exhaust pipes are loaded! *(Holds mallet up to mouth)* Mallet, engage emissions monitoring mode!

(Mallet beeps)

McFly: I'll leave you two to it...thanks for the lift.

Dr. Carbon: Offset Boy, get a good hold of the gear stick!

(McFly walks into The Tuns, Brian is sitting at a table staring at his beer, looking forlorn, Giles behind bar, McFly walks over to order.)

McFly: Hi, can I have a WKD please?

Giles: Ah, one pint of WhiteKnights Decimator scrumpy coming up!

McFly: Eh?! Scratch that, I'll have a Smirnoff Ice, please?

Giles: One Smirnoff scrumpy, coming up. No ice I'm afraid...

McFly: No no no! Do you have anything that's not scrumpy?

Giles: We do a nice pint of Old Ian James' Beard Brew?

McFly: Do you have any wine?

Giles: Blue Nun or Babycham?

McFly: Forget it, I'll just have a coke.

Giles: Is a Tab alright?

McFly: What? I'll just pay for it now please.

(Giles hands over enormous bottle of Tab Clear. Doctor Carbon and Offset Boy rush in.)

Dr. Carbon: I didn't see any recycling bins outside!

(Dr. Carbon gesticulates wildly with his mallet and smacks Offset Boy in the face. Offset boy falls over. Ridiculous) frying pan noise.

Dr. Carbon: *(Turns round)* Get up Offset Boy! CO₂ levels are well behind at the break, here.

Offset Boy: What break Doctor Carbon?

Dr. Carbon: Shut up Offset Boy! Timmy the Mallet is registering pre-nineties CO₂ levels!

Offset Boy: Give it here, have you calibrated the internal gas spectro-radiometer? *(Grabs the mallet off Dr. Carbon)*

Dr. Carbon: What?

Offset Boy: The sucky air bit!

Dr. Carbon: Ah, why didn't you say so! You do it Offset Boy!

(Off-set Boy start fiddling with the mallet)

(Dr Carbon snatches Timmy the Mallet off Offset Boy, knocking him flying. Ridiculous crash noise. Dr. Carbon holds mallet up to his ear)

Dr. Carbon: *(In Australian accent)* What's that Timmy? PM10 levels are way offside! This pub is full of aerosols *(arseholes)*!

McFly: Everyone's smoking in here! What happened to the smoking ban.

(Enter David Grimes, Ross Reynolds. They dressed as punks with mohicans. They come to the bar and

turn round.. McFly looks at each person in turn...)

McFly: Wait a minute... CO₂ at pre-nineties levels! (*Horn sting*) No smoking ban! (*Sting*) Babycham in the Tuns! (*Sting*) (*Looks at DG.*)

McFly: That's David Grimes! (*Sting*) Ross Reynolds! (*Sting*) And is that Giles?...behind the bar? (*Sting*) And... Brian Hoskins? But he looks exactly the same. (*Hoskins looks exactly the same.*) (*Tuba*)

(McFly finds a copy of the Reading Chronicle on bar. Opens up paper, on the front cover: Old coke: the new new coke! Back page: Wrestle mania debuts something about Hogan (Robin) and Mr T. The paper is shown on the screen with the date 1985.)

McFly: (*Slowly looks up. Shocked look.*) 1985?! We've gone so far back in time we're not even in AD anymore! We're now in BT! Before TAMSAT!

Grimes: (*overhearing*) What's TAMSAT?

Reynolds: Never mind that David, we've got more important things to think about. Our research on the effects of widespread Mohican hairstyling on urban airflow patterns is at a critical juncture.

Grimes: Yes and we've only got one more session left in the wind tunnel to put these babies through their paces (*patting mohican*). You know, sometimes when I'm strapped into that harness with the wind in my hair, soaring majestically over the scale model buildings below, I get such a feeling of peace that I even start to question the nihilistic values of punk.

Reynolds: Pull yourself together David. We all miss the 60s but those long flowing hippy locks kept clogging up the wind tunnel. You have to move with the times. There's no such thing as time travel!

Audience: Oh yes there is!

Reynolds: Oh no there isn't . Come on let's go.

Grimes: Sometimes I worry that all these wind tunnel experiments are doing long term damage to our hair Ross.

Reynolds: Oh I'm sure we've got nothing to worry about there...

(Exit Grimes and Reynolds)

McFly: (*to audience*) Of course, Giles must have been working on a time machine! I vaguely remember an e-mail about that from Caroline...I wish I read through my spam e-mail more thoroughly. The title said something like "Keep away from the van, it's a time machine!" so I just ignored it.

(Enter Ken He goes to the bar, dressed as Bryan Ferry – he looks glum. McFly stares at him in astonishment.)

McFly: Ken?! Why do you look like Bryan Ferry?

Ken: Are you one of those pesky PhD students?

McFly: I guess so... What's wrong Ken?

Ken: I've only gone and got the wooden spoon in the current weather game again...

*(Ken turns round on the bar stool, mike/wooden spoon in hand. Spotlight on Ken. **Radiation fog song** (tune of Yesterday). Sighs wistfully.)*

Ken: If only I had some sort of a book containing all my measurements from the field site over the next twenty-two years exactly...

McFly: Funny you should say that. *(To audience)* Hmm, maybe I could do a good deed here... *(To Ken)* Hold that thought, I'll speak to you later.

(Exit Ken)

(Enter Sue, Ellie and Janet. They giggle as they enter the room dressed as schoolgirls, leg warmers, loads of dayglo scrunchies and perms, bad makeup, and massive fat school ties.)

(Enter Ambaum. He stands near them at the bar.)

Sue: *(To McFly in a cockney accent)*. Get us a pint, sweetheart!

Ellie: *(Spoken as Christian Slater in Austin Powers.)* Yeah, a pint of laaarrrgeer and some sherrrberrrrt.

McFly: How old are you girls?

Janet: *(Spoken in a Sean Connery voice)* I'll be sheventeen in 1987.

Maarten Ambaum (Biff): Hello ladies, my name's Maarten Ambaum, but you can call me Biff. Would you ladies like a drink? *(Puts on glasses, sees Sue.)*

(Bonnie Tyler – Hero, plays in the background)

Sue: Alright darling, my name's Sue, these are my friends Janet and Ellie.

Sue, Ellie and Janet: *(Giggle)*

Sue: Biff, you're so cool!

Maarten Ambaum: No sweet-cheeks, I've just got low entropy. Three pints of Babycham and an Amstel please, landlord.

(Enter Martin Durkin. He's holding massive super-8 style video camera. He's dressed really yuppy-ish, braces, big teeth and stuff.)

Martin Durkin: *(To audience)*. Hi, I'm TV's Martin Durkin *(boo!)*, you may remember me from such 6th form media studies projects as: 'Nuclear bombs – nature's great leveller', and 'Hitler – was he just

misunderstood?

Martin Durkin: *(To McFly et al.)* I'm currently working on a new project called 'Passive Smoking – the elixir of life'. It's intended to provide a balanced view of the dangers...*(to audience under breathe)* and benefits...of passive smoking, and really open the debate to both sides. Would you gentlemen agree that it would not be outrageous to say that there is no evidence that smoking is not bad for your health?

Dr. Carbon: Well I've always said that you've got to be in it to win it...

Offset Boy: Doctor Carbon! Don't you see who that is? It's the teenage version of our nemesis Martin Durkin, maker of 'The Great global warming swindle'. Don't say anything, he'll quote you out of context and sell it to Channel 4!

Martin Durkin: So you would agree that there might not be no positive health impacts from exposure to passive smoking.

Dr. Carbon: Those passive smokers, they go down like a sack of potatoes...

Offset Boy: No Doctor Carbon, no! At least put some make up on before you go on camera!

(Off-set Boy drags Dr. Carbon of stage. Durkin follows, asking questions. McFly shrugs and wanders over to Brian Hoskins, who is staring into his pint.)

McFly: *(To audience.)* Now's my chance to ask Brian just what the Hoskin's McIntyre Robertson paper is all about!

Brian Hoskins: *(Muttering audibly to himself)* Hmm, PS? No, they've used that. PT? No, that's potential temperature. PU? Sounds like a bad smell. Hang on...its on the tip of my tongue....P.....

McFly: *(butting in)*....Ahh Brian, I need to talk to you.

(McFly holds the paper up, it's about a foot thick, and then slaps it down on the table, spilling Brian's pint.)

Brian Hoskins: Oh no! My pint of Old James' Bearded Brew has gone everywhere! And I've completely lost my train of thought too.

(Brian grasps the paper and mops up the beer with it. He snaps his fingers at Maarten)

Brian Hoskins: You! Foreign exchange student!

(Maarten runs over)

Brian Hoskins: Throw this in the bin for me!

(Maarten takes the paper, and looks at it. He looks interested and wanders off reading paper, adjusting his glasses)

(Enter Dr. Carbon and Offset Boy followed by Durkin.)

Dr. Carbon: Come on McFly, let's go back *(pause)* back to the future!

Offset Boy: Do you not mean present?

Dr. Carbon: Whatever. OK Durkin, this game's being called off due to bad light!

(Dr. Carbon turns off the lights with the universal light switch. Engine noises and flash of light.)

Scene II-II

Time: The alternate 2007

Place: Outside the department. The van is on the right-hand side of the stage and the Met Dept is on the screen. The label says 'Meteorology' but goes all wavy and changes to 'The Biff Ambaum Centre for Theoretical Physics'.

Characters: McFly, Sid, Daisy the Cow, Dr. Carbon, Offset Boy, The Narrator

(Sid walks past with Daisy the Cow.)

McFly: Where are you taking Daisy, Sid?

Sid: Professor Sir Biff Ambaum has decreed that Daisy the Schrodinger's Cow is to be hooked up 24 hours a day to a milking machine for making Edam cheese.

Daisy: Moooooooooooo!

McFly: Professor Sir Biff Ambaum?

(McFly turns around to look at department)

McFly: What's going on? What's happened to the department? What are we going to do?

Dr. Carbon: Don't worry McFly, it's a panto of two halves, and now we have the interval to come up with a plan.

Narrator: And so the first half of our adventure grinds to a halt. And unless the Universal Studios copyright infringement lawyers are even quicker off the mark than normal, we'll be back with the second half very shortly. If you don't understand the Biff jokes, maybe now would be a good time to ask a friend....

(Dr. Carbon turns off the lights with the universal light switch)

**END - ACT II
INTERVAL**

Act III

Scene III – I

Time: Alternate 2007

Place: Inside the department in the (now Physics) coffee room.

Characters: The Narrator, McFly, Dr. Carbon, Offset Boy, Sid, Maarten Ambaum, Ken, Remi, Andrew Charlton-Perez, Brian Hoskins, Giles Harrison.

Narrator: Welcome back! We rejoin McFly in the coffee room of the Met Department which has now mysteriously become the Biff Ambaum centre for theoretical physics. McFly is beginning to suspect that his trip back in time has caused some unfortunate space-time continuum riftage.

(Enter McFly on his own)

McFly: This is strange, it's eleven o'clock, where is everyone? *(Wanders over to the charts wall)* Where have all the weather charts gone? *(Walks over to the fridge)* There's no milk either, and *(pause for dramatic effect and then shouts)* where's all the chocolate gone? *(Da Da Daaaaa!)* What's happened to this place?

(Enter Dr Carbon, waving a little piece of paper, followed by Offset boy)

Dr Carbon: You should have put this straight in the recycling bin McFly, not just have left it on the floor of the van.

McFly: OK, sorry, give it here I'll put in the bin. What it is anyway?

McFly: *(Reads it out note to audience)* "Note to self, when using the van for time-travel, DO NOT disturb the space-time continuum, it may cause irreparable damage to the present day. Things to avoid: interacting with people, moving objects P.S. Don't forget to buy more kinder eggs and frozen peas for new experiment."

McFly: Hmm...that's got to be from Giles. *(Screws up note and throws in recycling bin)*

Offset boy: Well you've done it now haven't you.

McFly: Done what?

Dr. Carbon: You're in a worse predicament than Curtis was when he got wired in the final of the croquet tournament this year.

Offset boy: Well at least Curtis got to the final, how far did you get this year Dr. Carbon?!

McFly: I haven't got time for this you guys, I still need to find Brian. I've got to reference that damn paper for my thesis!

(Enter Brian dressed as a hobo. He is followed by Sid a few seconds later.)

McFly: Has anyone seen Brian?

(Comedy sketch follows, Brian (located behind McFly) is rummaging in the bins, Every time Marty looks round Brian has his head inside the bins so McFly doesn't spot him. He takes it out when McFly faces the audience, and keeps switching between bins when Marty isn't looking.

Audience: He's behind you

McFly: Oh. Hi Sid, is Brian around today?

Sid: He'd better not be, I told him yesterday he wasn't welcome.

McFly: huh?

Sid: There he is, the dirty scoundrel. *(shouts)* Oi! You! get out of that bin. I've told you before!

McFly: Hey, don't talk to him like that, Brian is the Messiah of meteorology!

Sid: He's not the Messiah, he's a very naughty boy, now bugger off!

(Brian gets chased off stage by Sid, who now has a broom)

(Enter Maarten – dressed in his ceremonial Knight robes, enter Giles, Rob, Curtis, Ken.)

Narrator: People are starting to arrive in the coffee room for the initiation of the three new lecturers. And here are the lecturers now.

(Enter Remi and Andy)

Maarten Ambaum: I, sir professor Maarten 'Biff' Ambaum declare this initiation ceremony open.

Ken: *(with logbook sticking out of back pocket)* Step forward, Remi Tailleux *(Struggle to pronounce it)*

Maarten: Do consider yourself worthy of this mighty physics department?

Remi: Yes, sir, I've done all this research on...

Maarten: *(interrupting)* Never mind that. To prove your worth, you must bring me the extra hot spicy chilli that grows at the bottom of the north Atlantic, guarded by the giant man-eating octopus

Remi: *(looking confused/scared)* Sacre bleu!

(Exit Remi)

Andrew Charlton: Laughs.

Ken: Step forward, Andy Charlton- *(hold end of word, extend scroll)* -Perez.

Maarten: Do you consider yourself worthy of this department.

Andrew Charlton: Yes, and look - I've been here for a long time, so there's no need to bother with an initiation for me

Maarten Ambaum: Wrong! Your task is to bring me a piece of polar stratospheric cloud from the depths of the polar stratospheric vortex...and almost certain doom.

Andrew Charlton: Oh, I knew I should have stayed in the USA...my wife's not going to be happy about this.

(Exit Andy Charlton - walks despondently off-stage)

Ken: Step forward, Dan

(No-one moves forward, everyone looks around)

Ken: Dan...

Maarten Ambaum: Where is he? How dare he not turn up? *(creepy voice)* Where are you? Don't be scared. We're a very friendly department.

Offset-boy: *(Nudging Dr Carbon)* Go on, you tell him.

Dr Carbon: You're the sidekick, you get all the rubbish jobs, you tell him!

Maarten Ambaum: You in the spandex suit. Do you have something you would like to share?

(Offset boy shoves Dr. Carbon into the centre)

Dr. Carbon: Umm, well, as part of our efforts to reduce the department's carbon footprint, we decided that flying should be prohibited and that all members of staff should find more environmentally friendly forms of transport. We found that the only truly carbon-neutral form of transport that could possibly be used to cross the Atlantic was by sea turtle. So Dan is..

Maarten Ambaum: on a sea turtle?? So where, may I ask is our new lecturer at present?

Dr. Carbon: *(sheepishly)* Well, when I last checked the GPS, he was trapped in a re-circulating eddy in the Gulf Stream somewhere off Nova Scotia....I'll go check again. Dr Carbon and Offset boy run off.

(Remi returns clutching his giant chilli, looking bedraggled, exhausted and covered in seaweed, closely followed by Andy who is covered in Icicles and is shivering, clutching a jar with cotton wool (the cloud) in it. They give the chilli and the cloud to Maarten.)

Maarten Ambaum: What took you so long? Go and get working! Everyone back to work. This is not a coffee break!

(Exit everyone except McFly and Giles)

Giles: Hello McFly! How's your physics PhD on quantum solid state "laser" relativity coming along?
(Do the Dr. Evil inverted comma gesture and voice)

McFly: No no no, you must be confused - I'm a meteorologist. I'm studying the role of phytoplankton in volcanic eruptions.

Giles: But you can't be doing a meteorology project. The meteorology department was closed down ages ago when Maarten Biff Ambaum convinced the Vice-Chancellor that Meteorology was just a branch of physics anyway.

McFly: So how did Maarten-

Giles: *(pointedly inserts)* ...Biff...

McFly: ...Ambaum, get to be head of department? And Biff? Isn't that a printer?

Giles: What are you talking about boy. Don't you know, Maarten got his big break when he discovered PV whilst staring into his pint at the Tuns whilst he was an exchange undergraduate student here, in 1985.

(Exit Giles while shaking his head and mumbling...)

Giles: What do they teach students nowadays.

(McFly is now in the middle of the stage by himself)

McFly: Oh, no what have I done?

(Enter Dr. Carbon and Off-set Boy - running)

Dr. Carbon: Marty, you fool, you've changed the course of history! Did you not even consider the dangers of the butterfly effect and chaos theory. Have you learned nothing from watching the ECMWF ensemble forecast in weather and climate every week? Have you not even seen Jurassic park?! We have to go back to 1985 and perturb the initial conditions back to their previous state, or else we'll be stuck in this nightmarish ensemble member forever! But we've got to be careful not to encounter our other selves, or the universe will implode...probably."

Offset boy: We need to get you a disguise. Let's go see what we can find in the shiny new panto props cupboard!

McFly: Wait, isn't that Ken's field site...

Dr. Carbon: ...Atmospheric observatory!

McFly: ...Ken's atmospheric observatory logbook sticking out of his back pocket? If I take that and give it to him in the past, he'll avoid 22 consecutive years of weather game wooden spoons and I might not ever have to hear him sing again!

(McFly creeps over and yanks Ken's logbook out of his back pocket without him noticing.)

Offset Boy: To the props cupboard!

(Exit McFly, Dr. Carbon and Off-set boy. Dr. Carbon switches off the lights with his universal light switch)

Scene III - II

Time: The alternate 2007

Place: A PhD office...by the panto props cupboard. McFly, and superheroes are rifling through the costumes. McFly holds the Willy Wonka costume up to himself.

Characters: McFly, Curtis, Rob Thompson, Dr. Carbon, Offset Boy, McFly 3, McFly 2, The Narrator.

McFly: Here, what about this?

(Enter Rob T and Curtis)

Curtis: I'm pretty sure one of these is my new office Rob... Hang on, what's going on here? Looks like some of the inmates have escaped from the psychology department again.

Rob: Look Curtis, he's wearing your Willy Wonka costume from 'Charlie and the Climate Factory'.

Curtis: He can't pull that off, he hasn't got my legs! PhDs nowadays, they really have no idea 'What Not To Wear' do they Rob?

(What not to wear, with Curty and Robannah' logo flashes up on screen)

(McFly looks down, and then starts taking off the Willy Wonka costume eg. hat, jacket)

Curtis: *(pulling something else out)* Here, try this, it will go really well with your skin tone.

Rob: *(Grabs the outfit off Curtis and puts it back)* No, no no, it'll make your thighs look enormous!

Curtis: *(finds the goose outfit)* Here, go and put this on

(Exit McFly)

(Enter McFly 3 with the goose costume one – come on pretty much straight away)

McFly 3: “Uh, *Guys, I don't think I'd blend in very well with the 80's crowd in this*”

(Rob T plonks a mohican on his head)

Rob T: Here how's that then

Curtis: It's a bit Ross Reynolds, isn't it?

McFly: Seriously I'd rather be dressed as an oompa loompa!

Rob and Curtis: Ahhh, now you mention it, here's the Anthony Illingworth oompa-loompa costume from Charlie and the Climate factory panto 2 years ago *(Pulling out the oompa-loompa costume)*. No-one would recognise you in this! Go and put it on.

(Exit McFly 3)

(Enter McFly 2 with oompa-loompa costume on – again, come on pretty much straight away)

McFly 2: Right, this'll do. *(To Dr Carbon and Offset Boy)* Come on guys, let's go to Reflex! Sorry, I mean the real 80's and save the day.

(Exit McFly. Dr. Carbon and Offset boy go to follow him, but are stopped by Rob and Curtis....)

Rob and Curtis: “Stop, fashion police!

Rob: Where do you two think you're going dressed like that!

(They start to drag Dr C and Offset Boy off-stage, Dr C reaches back at the last moment to turn out the lights)

Curtis: *(From the darkness, hear Curtis' voice,..)* Ooh, you're a fast mover! *(Giggles and fumbling sounds in the darkness.)*

Narrator: And so, McFly heads once again to the 1980s to meet his destiny, and possibly himself. Now I don't know about you, and it has been a long time since I read 'General relativity for Dummies', but I couldn't help noticing some rather gaping plot holes in that last act. I mean if this is now a Physics department then why are the new lecturers being given meteorological quests... And why are the previous panto costumes still the same . And if Dr Carbon and Offset boy are from an alternate reality, how can they possibly have banned lecturer air travel in this reality, and what's more.....

(Dr Carbon and Offset boy creep up behind narrator, gag him and drag him off the stage)

END - ACT III

Act IV

Scene IV - I

Time: 1985

Place: Inside the Tuns. McFly arrives in the Tuns disguised as an Anthony Illingworth Oompa-Loompa. The last part of Scene 4 is re-enacted, with the “duplicate” McFly spilling Brian’s pint. The duplicate McFly leaves, along with Dr. Carbon and Offset Boy. Maarten “Biff” Ambaum is left reading Brian’s PV paper, with Brian trying to clean up the spilled beer.

Characters: Giles, Grimes and Ross; Sue, Janet, Ellie, McFly 2, Brian Hoskins, Maarten Ambaum, Martin Durkin, McFly, Dr Carbon, Offset boy, Neil, Dale.

(McFly 2 watches from the right hand side of the stage.)

McFly: *(butting in)*....Ahh Brian, I need to talk to you.

(McFly holds the paper up, it’s about a foot thick, and then slaps it down on the table, spilling Brian’s pint.)

Brian Hoskins: Oh no! My pint of Old James’ Bearded Brew has gone everywhere! And I’ve completely lost my train of thought too.

(Brian grabs the paper and mops up the beer with it. He snaps his fingers at Maarten)

Brian Hoskins: You! Foreign exchange student!

(Maarten runs over)

Brian Hoskins: Throw this in the bin for me!

(Maarten takes the paper, and looks at it. He looks interested and wanders off reading paper, adjusting his glasses)

(Enter Dr. Carbon and Offset Boy followed by Durkin.)

Dr. Carbon: Come on McFly, let’s go back *(pause)* back to the future!

Offset Boy: Do you not mean present?

Dr. Carbon: Whatever. OK Durkin, this game’s being called off due to bad light!

(Dr. Carbon turns off the lights with the universal light switch. Engine noises and flash of light.)

Brian Hoskins: Oh what’s going on now?! Is it a power cut or something...what else could go wrong!

Maarten Ambaum: Hang on I’ll just find the light switch.

Sue: *(Screams)* Ohh Maarten! *(Maarten has just pinched her bum – though you don't see this)*

Giles: No no its behind the bar..I've got it!

(Lights come back on...Maarten is caught red handed and sheepishly returns to his seat and reading the paper.)

(Maarten sits at the table examining the PV paper that Brian used to mop up the beer. Brian is in a corner sulking. Sue, Janet, and Ellie are standing near the bar. Giles is behind the bar. Martin Durkin is wherever we left him. Grimes and Reynolds also standing somewhere.)

McFly 2: That's where it all went wrong! I spilled Brian's pint and now he'll never discover PV. I have to set this right, otherwise that nerdy exchange student Ambaum will grow up to destroy Meteorology and turn us all into ... *(horror)* physicists!!

(The entire pub, except for Maarten, stops whatever they're doing, shivers and shudders noticeably, and then returns to whatever they were doing as though nothing happened.)

McFly 2: I know! I should buy him another pint; maybe he can still discover PV!

(As McFly starts towards the bar ...)

Maarten Ambaum: *(Reading the paper)* This paper looks really promising; if I only had some way to visualize the extremely abstract mathematical concepts in here. I need a fluid ... where could I find one in a place like this? Ah, perhaps that purveyor of alcoholic delicacies could assist me.

(Maarten starts towards the bar. Maarten and McFly meet at the bar, where Giles is pulling pints. As they both walk towards the bar, Sue sneaks up behind Maarten.)

McFly 2: *(Aside)* Oh no! I can't let Maarten buy a pint! If I do, he'll discover PV first! I need some way to distract him ... *(he notices Sue behind Maarten)*. Ah, perhaps this is one time when my knowledge of the future might come in handy!

MaartenAmbaum: *(To Giles)* Pardon me, good sir ... would you happen to have a fluid I could use to model some differential equations?

Giles: What's that?! That sounds like physics to me!

(Again, everyone in the pub stops whatever they're doing and shudders before resuming.)

McFly 2: *(puts his arm around Ambaum)* You don't need physics, my friend, with all of its equations and formulae. Come on, I'll show you how to make two plus two equal four ... *(he spins Ambaum around and Ambaum and Sue lock eyes. They stand mesmerized in each other's gaze. Cheesy music?)*

McFly 2: *(turns back to Giles)* I'll take that pint, please.

Giles: Is that you, Anthony? That's quite a tan! Where have you been to this time? Was there a conference on the Sun?

McFly 2: *(Aside)* Anthony? Why would he think I'm Anthony? Oh right, the costume! I'd better think of something intelligent about radars, and quickly! *(To Giles)* Uhm ... I was trying to measure the ... radar ... reflectivity of a ... really bright band over ... uh, the Arctic ... and the albedo of all that snow ... uh ... I didn't even think to take any sunblock.

Giles: *(Gives him a strange look)* You discovered a bright band in the Arctic?! *(Loudly)* Everyone, attention please! *(Everyone in the pub looks up)* Anthony has done it again; he's discovered bright bands in the Arctic!

McFly 2: *(Quickly)* No, Giles! Hush, hush!

Giles: *(Winks at McFly knowingly)* Ah, I gotcha! Top-secret stuff, eh? Right, I'll get you that pint then, but you should definitely pick yourself up some aloe vera for that burn. Wouldn't want you ruining those youthful good-looks of yours.

(Giles gets McFly a pint. McFly takes the pint over to Brian, who's still sulking in the corner. As McFly approaches Brian, Martin Durkin perks up, grabs his camera, and heads over towards Brian and McFly.)

McFly 2: Here you are Brian. I hope this brightens your spirits.

Brian Hoskins: *(Noticeably more cheerful)* Thanks, Anthony! That's really made my day. And, may I say, what a fetching tan! *(Brian looks into his pint.)* I was deep in thought when that idiot student spilled my last pint. Now, where was I ... hmmm ... "P ... A?" "P ... B?"

McFly 2: *(Aside)* Yes, I've done it! He'll get there eventually!

(Martin Durkin barges in to their table with his camera.)

Martin Durkin: Excuse me! I'm TV's Martin Durkin *(to the audience, proudly)* you may remember me from such scenes as act 2 scene 1 from this pantomime ... *(back to Brian)* I'm doing a piece on the health benefits of passive smoking. Care to comment, anonymous pub-goer?

Brian Hoskins: Ah! Paparazzi! I can't stand being interviewed! That's why I went into research; so I would never become world-famous! Get out of my way, you soul-crushing fiend!

(Brian stands up quickly and, in a rage, spilling the pint. Durkin leaves in a huff. Brian stands among the wreckage.)

Brian Hoskins: *(To McFly)* Oh, I'm really sorry about that. One of these days I'll learn to control my anger, ... Oh, and now I've lost my pint as well!

McFly 2: *(To audience)* Oh no! And he was so close, too! Maybe I won't be able to change the past and save the future. I suppose the Met Department is doomed to a life of obscurity and ... physics!

(Again, everyone in the pub stops what they're doing and shudders before resuming.)

Ken: Will you stop saying the 'P' word...its giving me the willies! I need to concentrate on my next entry for the current weather game.

McFly 2: Ah yes that reminds me..you may have this...even though there probably isn't a weather game anymore anyway....here's the answers to the weather game for the next 22 years precisely. *(To audience)* At least someone will be happy.

Ken: What are you talking about...the weather game will go on forever!

(Maarten and Sue un-transfix themselves. Maarten returns to the bar.)

Maarten Ambaum: A pint for me and one for my lady, please ...

Giles: Lady? *(Looks at the chavvy Sue.)* Oh, right.

(Giles gets Maarten the pints. Maarten and Sue return to their seats. Maarten stares into his pint.)

Maarten Ambaum: Hmmm ... looking into this thick, opaque, viscous, brown fluid, I can see everything clearly. "P ... A?" No, I'd need to be head of department to have one of those. "P ... B?"

McFly 2: Oh no!

(Neil and Dale enter in 80s yuppie attire. They're holding their phones behind their backs.)

Neil: Dale, have you seen my new portable telephone device? It's the latest model, completely state-of-the-art. *(Brings out his phone, which is an actual brick with a Pukka Pad hanging by a piece of string or something.)* They've increased the range to 25 meters!

Dale: Neil, come on now, you think that's impressive? *(Dale brings out his phone, which is an even larger brick.)* Mine does 30 meters! And all you have to do is add this attachment. *(He pulls out a helmet with a satellite dish attached to it.)* Wait ... wait ... I've just gotta line it up? Which way is west? Azimuth 105 degrees ... range increasing ... transmitting ASCII art now.

(Neil's phone rings.)

Neil: Ah, my phone is ringing! Whose number is this? I'll just look it in my address book! *(He starts flipping through the Pukka Pad. When he finds Dale's entry, he stops.)* Dale, you prankster! *(They both laugh.)*

Maarten Ambaum: "P ... C?"

Dale: Hey, PC! Isn't that this new personal computer fad I've been hearing about?

Neil: Personal computers? No, those will never get off the ground. Why would anyone need a personal computer when we have massive servers that fill an entire room and also serve as the central heating system? Now that's efficiency!

Neil: Speaking of inventions, I've just come up with a new drinking game! It's called the three-pint challenge!

Maarten Ambaum: "P ... D?"

Dale: Sounds great, Neil! How does it work?

Neil: All you need are three pints of beer, a frisbee, and two straws! Then you see how quickly you and a friend can drink all the beer.

Dale: Wow! I'll get us some pints then.

(Dale wanders over to the bar and Giles starting pouring him pints.)

Neil: Now we need a frisbee ... *(loudly)* anyone got a frisbee?

Ross: No, but I've got a yo-yo!

Grimes: No, but I've got a pair of hot pants!

Ellie: No, but I've got some fluorescent leg warmers!

Martin Durkin: No, but I've got an inflated sense of self-importance!

Janet: No, but *(singing)* I've got my M-T-V!

Maarten Ambaum: "P ... E?" No, I never liked that at school.

Giles: Hang on a sec ... I've got one here you can use! *(He throws a frisbee over to Neil.)*

Neil: Right. All we need now are two straws. *(He looks around the room.)*

Maarten Ambaum: "P ... F?"

Neil: *(Notices Maarten)* Ah, mind if I borrow this, mate? *(He snatches the beer-sodden paper and somehow manages to make two straws with soaked paper.)* Now I just need some volunteers. *(He sees McFly and Brian, who are still looking depressed in the corner.)* You look like you could use a pick-me-up! *(Neil drags McFly and Brian over to the table; Dale returns with the three pints and empties them into the frisbee. Neil gives McFly and Brian the straws.)*

Brian Hoskins: Hang on! How will we be able to measure our performance with sufficient precision? All of our analog timepieces have a resolution of only 1 second! And I doubt that any of them are properly calibrated.

McFly 2: What do you mean? I have a digital watch.

(Neil and Dale gasp. Everyone in the pub stops.)

Maarten Ambaum: "P ... G?" No, this panto is rated at least 15.

Neil: A digital watch, Anthony? I'd gladly trade in my Atari for one of those. You must be withholding more money from your students than I thought if you can afford to buy a digital watch with their research grants.

McFly 2: Uh ... yeah. I mean, what are students for, right?

Neil: I'll take that off you then. *(McFly gives him the watch.)* Let's go. On your marks; get set; ... go!

(McFly and Brian both start drinking. Several seconds later, Brian stops and glances into the frisbee.)

Brian Hoskins: Ah yes ... now I remember. "P ... A?" "P ... D?" "P ... G?"

Maarten Ambaum: "P ... H?" No, no, think physics, not chemistry!

(McFly continues drinking, oblivious to what's going on.)

Brian Hoskins: No, no; that doesn't sound right. The patterns in this beer; they're circulating around and around ... so mesmerizing ... like that milk in my coffee the other morning. Streamers breaking off; filaments forming and moving towards the extremities of that disc.

Maarten Ambaum: "P ... I?" No, no, I've been reading too much Agatha Christie recently.

Brian Hoskins: Why, it's almost like they're vortices! That's it! "P ... V!!"

(At that moment, McFly finishes drinking. Hallelujah plays! Brian jumps up and down, shouting things like "Eureka!" and then runs out of the pub. McFly staggers about.)

McFly 2: Did we do it, Dr. Carbon?! Did we save the Met Department?! I don't want to do physics ...

(everyone shudders again)

Dale: Dr. Carbon? Who's Dr. Carbon? *(Gives McFly a bemused look.)*

McFly 2: Oh, uh ... *(Aside)* I can't stay here too much longer without revealing my identity. I've got to get back *(pause)* Back to the Future!

(McFly stumbles rather drunkenly out of the pub.)

Dale: *(to Neil)* I think Anthony's had a bit too much sun.

(There are sound effects of an engine trying to start and failing miserably. McFly returns to the pub. Giles is walking around, collecting empty glasses.)

McFly 2: *(Aside)* Oh no! The van won't start! The engine has no power! If only Giles were here, he would know how to fix it!

(At that moment, Giles walks past.)

McFly 2: A-ha! Of course!

(McFly grabs him and pulls him into a corner.)

McFly 2: Giles! You've got to help me! *(He pulls off his mask. The next sentences are spoken quickly.)* I'm not really Anthony Illingworth; I'm a Meteorology Ph.D. student from 22 years into the future. I got back here to the past/present in a time machine that you will/did invent in the future/present and which now/then won't start/is/was broken. If I can't get back to the futuree/present then I'll be stuck here in the present/past. You've got to help me fix this van/ time machine!

Giles: Okay/ fine. Let's take a look at it!

(Exit McFly and Giles)

Scene IV - II

Time: 1985

Place: Outside The Tuns – the van is to the right of the stage.

Characters: Giles, McFly 2, The Narrator.

(McFly and Gile approach the van)

Giles: So this is it, eh? I really build this time machine in the future?

McFly 2: Yeah, you're an electrical genius Doc!

Giles: Electrical genius? That doesn't sound like me! You must be pulling my leg.

McFly 2: No, you really did! This was your crowning achievement ... or will be, anyway, once you build it.

Giles: This doesn't look like a time machine; it just looks like a rusty old van. Wait a second ... this seems awfully similar to the plot of that hip new movie, 'Back to the Future'. Are you sure you're not still drunk from that three pint challenge with Brian? This is nothing more than a derelict.

McFly 2: No, no, it really works!

Giles: How, exactly?

McFly 2: I ... I don't know! You never explained it to me in the future. Supervisors always hoard their best research for themselves; they never share it with their students.

Giles: If I know myself, I would never have built this thing without some kind of manual. There must be some technical specifications in here somewhere.

(McFly and Giles hunt around inside the van.)

Giles: Ah ha! Here it is. *(Giles returns with a paper from the back of the van.)* Bennett and Harrison, 2007. Who's this Bennett and why is he the first author on my paper? Is he my supervisor in the future?

McFly 2: Well, not exactly ...

Giles: Well, whoever he is, let's see what we can learn about this van.

(McFly and Giles flip through the paper.)

Giles: Hmmm ... it says here that we need 1.21 gigawatts of energy to fill the Edwards-Slingo radiation flux capacitor.

McFly 2: But where could we possibly find that amount of energy?

Giles: Well, that's precisely the amount of energy that we could get from ball lightning!

McFly 2: You don't really believe in ball lightning do you, Giles? Even if it did exist, the chances of a ball of lightning appearing at this particular time and space are ... are ...

Giles: Approximately 1 in 134 million, 938 thousand, 345 ... plus or minus 2 percent.

(Suddenly, someone dressed as a camp ball of lightning runs down the aisle, touching various members of the audience and making electricity sounds, like "Bzzzt!" The ball of lightning creeps up behind McFly and Giles, who remain oblivious. He crosses his arms and taps his foot in an impatient, camp manner.)

McFly 2: Where could we possibly find a ball of lightning?

Audience: Its behind you!

(McFly and Giles spin around, at which point the ball of lightning shocks Giles, whose hair falls out. The ball of lightning then wafts around the room.)

Giles: Ah! My hair! Shocking!

McFly 2: Don't worry, Giles. *(With a knowing wink at the audience.)* I'm sure it'll grow back!

Giles: We need to trap the lightning and get it into the van.

McFly 2: I think I have just the thing! *(McFly returns with a large bug net from the back of the van.)* Anil uses this to keep the undergraduates away during his chocolate shopping runs.

Giles: Great! Let's catch it!

(A chase scene ensues, as Giles and McFly try to capture the ball of lightning in the net. The song "Goodness, Gracious, Great Balls of Fire!" by Jerry Lee Lewis plays in the background. Eventually they capture the ball of lightning and throw it into the van. The van's engine starts immediately.)

McFly 2: Excellent! Thanks for your help Giles; *(tapping Giles' bald head)* shame about the hair. Now, it's back to the future and the Met Department! I just hope everything's back to normal ...

Narrator: Didn't Giles get struck by lightning in the last panto...what are the chances of that! So as our hero heads back to the future one more time, has he jolted reality back into its previous ensemble member...or at least into the same cluster, or has he in fact made things even worse? Let's find out.

Scene IV - III

Time: The real-ish 2007

Place: The coffee room

Characters: McFly, Rosemarie, Stephen Belcher, Ross, David Grimes, Anthony Illingworth, Keith Shine, Sue, Janet, Ellie, Brian Hoskins, Dr. Carbon, Offset Boy, Robin Hogan,

(A wine reception is taking place in the Coffee Room. Stephen Belcher is there, along with Ross, David Grimes, Ellie (now pregnant), Giles, Sue (now pregnant), Janet, Maarten, Anthony, Keith, who are all now Heads of Department. Rosemarie is standing next to Stephen, while the other nine are all in a row facing the two of them.) McFly has changed back out of his Oompah loompah costume.

McFly: Wow, this looks like some kind of awards ceremony. I wonder what Stephen's being promoted to now ...

Rosemarie: Myself and our nine heads of Department here would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment, Stephen. Vice Chancellor is an important position in the University. And you'll be in charge of the popular new cross-campus super-highway, with all of the funding it entails.

Stephen: *(Dejected)* Yeah ... uh, great, thank you.

McFly: Nine heads of Department and a cross-campus super-highway?! I guess everything's not quite back to normal. It'll do, though, just as long as my Ph.D. is still here.

Ross: Congratulations ...

Grimes: on ...

Ellie: becoming ...

Keith: the ...

Sue: Vice ...

Giles: Chancellor ...

Janet: of ...

Maarten: Reading ...

Anthony: University!

(Stephen shakes hands with each of them, looking very unhappy.)

(Brian and Robin enter with the Nobel Peace Prize. Trumpet fanfare. Robin is banging two coconut halves together.)

Rosemarie: Sir Brian and Brave, Brave, Sir Robin of Hogan, you're back! Now I can finally stop chasing away those journalists and autograph-seekers! Did you succeed in your quest for the Nobel Peace Prize?

Brian: Yes, we did! *(Holding up the Nobel Peace Prize)* This one's going straight up on the Coffee Room refrigerator!

McFly: *(To the audience)* He's Sir Brian again! I must have fixed something at least, even if there are now nine Heads of Department.

(Dr. Carbon and Offset Boy enter, running and out of breath. Dr. Carbon runs up to Brian.)

Dr. Carbon: Brian Hoskins! Finally, I've found you! I have a warrant for your arrest on charges of excessive carbon emissions. All those flights and conferences have finally caught up with you, Sir Brian! Grab him, Offset Boy!

(Offset Boy tries to grab Brian, but Brian artfully dodges him.)

Offset Boy: He's too slippery, Dr. Carbon! I can't compute the proper offsets for his movements!

Brian: Now see here, Dr. Carbon! Brave, Brave Sir Robin and I have made a commitment to carbon neutral travel! We've travelled entirely by banging two halves of a coconut together!

Robin: *(Indignant)* We? What do you mean we? *(Holding up the coconuts)* I don't seem to remember you banging any coconuts, Sir Brian!

Dr. Carbon: *(Clearly deflated)* Well, I guess we'll have to let you off, then. But see that you keep banging those coconuts together, Brave, Brave Sir Robin, or it will be curtains for your travel budgets!

Narrator: *(To audience)* So Sir Brian has successfully discovered PV and found the Nobel Peace Prize; Meteorology is once again the pearl of the University; and McFly has his old Ph.D. back! Everything is back to normal. Except ... he never did get his head around Hoskins, McIntyre, and Robertson, did he....

(McFly runs towards Brian)

McFly: Brian, Brian! Can I just have a moment of your time, please?

Brian: Rosemarie! I thought you said you chased away all the autograph seekers!

Rosemarie: *(Herding McFly away)* Oh, I'm terribly sorry, Sir Brian! I guess I was just too busy preparing this wine celebration for Stephen. *(To McFly)* Now away with you; Sir Brian has to be off to his next engagement.

Brian: Yes, Brave, Brave Sir Robin and I must travel to each of the countries that contributed to the IPCC report to give them a glimpse of the Nobel Peace Prize! Better get those coconuts warmed up, Robin!

Robin: *(Visibly dejected)* Yes, Sir Brian.

McFly: But how will I ever be able to understand and reference that paper in time for my submission deadline?

Brian: *(Over his shoulder as he leaves with Robin)* Don't worry about it. The truth is that no-one else has really read it either. Even I don't really understand the second half any more! Just reference it and the examiners won't dare ask you about it at your viva for fear of showing up their own lack of knowledge.

(Exit Brian and Robin)

McFly: Well, I guess that's everything sorted then.

(Dr Carbon turns off the lights in an anticlimatic manner)

Screen: The End? *(Pause)* The End? *(Pause)* 2 Weeks Later...

Epilogue

Time: The real-ish 2007

Place: Outside the department.

Characters: Giles, McFly.

(Then, a "future" version of Giles appears from backstage. He grabs McFly.)

Giles: McFly! I've found you at last!

McFly: Ah! *(He spins around to face Giles.)* Giles?! Is that you?! You look so much older ... and futuristic.

Giles: Yes, it's me. I've come back from the future. Something you did back in the past has altered the future terribly! Stephen has been promoted so many times that he's now 'Supreme Master of the University', and the Heads of Department are multiplying so rapidly and require so much office space that the Ph.D. students have been reduced to one corner of a desk apiece! You've got to come with me; we have to save the future before it's too late! To the van

(The van now flies! Actual van prop is waved around a bit then goes offstage...replaced by a flying van in the back-drop.)

McFly: Oh well, at least time travel is easier to understand than PV!

END - ACT IV

(Everyone on stage)

*Sing the **Timestep***

END - THE PANTOMIME!