

The Sun stole my voice – by the 7/7 victim whose iconic image was hijacked by politics

Nicholas Lezard – what does coke mean now?
Stephen Moss – the life of a child prodigy

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Brainwaves

The Kiosk of Regrets

Concept An interactive archive of remorse

Creators Jane Mulfinger, Graham Budgett and Carl Magagnosc

If you happen to be in Cambridge Market Square this week, you might spot a little kiosk housing a keyboard. Step inside, and tell the computer something that you regret. It could be banal, profound or just plain strange. The computer will record your contribution and provide you with a list of similar regrets from other passers-by. The list already includes many bizarre and heartfelt confessions. "I don't know what my life would be now if I had married her, but I wish I had taken the chance to find out," writes one anonymous correspondent. "I regret getting a tattoo of Jack Nicholson on my buttock," adds another.

The Regrets project is the brainchild of artists Jane Mulfinger and Graham Budgett. They have teamed up with Carl Magagnosc, a software engineer, to create the complex algorithms needed to sift and sort their remorseful data into a meaningful archive.

The inspiration for the project was a simple one. It is intended as a reassurance to the petitioner: a reminder that he or she is not alone.

"The idea behind the work is that this is common to many, many people," says Mulfinger. "We feel that regrets can actually be a very positive thing, and that we use them all the time to determine how we will act in the future, correcting ourselves."

As well as their kiosk, the Regrets team have created mobile stations that can be carried around the town in backpacks – allowing contributors to literally unload their troubles on to someone else's shoulders. According to Mulfinger, the results so far have been surprisingly poetic. "The phrases that people come up with are very concise. They feel like the tip of an iceberg; there's a huge narrative unfolding underneath." *Paul Arendt*

A selection of regrets gathered from the kiosk and mobile units will be projected on to the Cambridge Guildhall between 7pm and 9pm on November 19.