

"By the people, for the people" Fortnightly

Sunday 22nd January 2006

Issue No. 09

Democracy is Lovely

By PsychoticMike

Democracy, a noble and honourable ideal that has been sought in Lovely since it's creation, sadly only to fail. Now a new attempt at bringing democracy to Lovely is forming, which seeks more active involvement from the citizens of Lovely during the process of its creation in order to improve its chances of success. The "Democracy is Lovely" project was set up and developed by a group of politically aware Lovelies who - having grown frustrated with the previous failed attempts - have taken these steps to provide a major advancement towards achieving democracy.

Schaferlord, one of these citizens, has taken a more active role due to being a politics student and thus having much background knowledge. He says of the project:

"well those involved took our cue from the Gettysburg address, where Abe Lincoln said: "We here highly resolve that ... this nation... shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish" That sentiment is exactly what we were going for".

Hopefully this inspiration will be used in Lovely, but to achieve a better system, which caters for not only a close majority but which has the potential to satisfy every citizen. The initial focus is one discussion with all interested citizens, on both a forum (http://s15.invisionfree.com/democracyislovely),

and on threads on the Government

(http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307506?thread=2040582)

and Elections boards.

(http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2399969?thread=2040583)

Such debates will initially be to decide on the system of governance, because "we want Lovely to be self governed, as while King Danny is great, it is the Lovelies that make Lovely so lovely so they should have a say in how the country is governed." This feeling is shared by the other founders of the project, as if citizens are going to be able to influence how Lovely is governed then they should be able to add their contribution to decisions on the method of governance that will be introduced then used. Schaferlord went on to describe how "we're trying to do that at "Democracy is Lovely", get some debate going, thoughts throwing about and basically let the people have their say so that "Democracy in Lovely is as lovely as it can be".

There are currently 4 people staffing this project, Schaferlord, me_lkjhgfdsa, Saz and myself. These people, and other trusted volunteers, will be ensuring that ideas are transferred between the threads and the forum, as well as moderating the forum; answering all relevant questions posed by citizens; ensuring that discussions don't overly deviate from the main topic; write articles for this very paper; assist in advertising, and just generally helping ensure that the project is progressing. They will take part in debates, as

they are, and always will be, citizens. The staff will not however, attempt to control the debate or the results, their role is to assist in the debate, and provide facts and examples to help citizens understand the issues. Schaferlord assured that "we value every voice, be it the voice of King Danny himself, a member of our staff, or an average citizen".

This project is not intended as an act against the state system, nor the current elections run by revolutionary1, we merely place a higher value on the principle of democracy than on one specific system. We are perfectly prepared to see how successful it can become, but plan to provide a platform from which any system can later be implemented. The same will apply to any other attempt created, we will provide encouragement and take care to use all possible positives shown in such systems, integrating the benefits of each suggestion into our discussions, whether raised in our own project, or shown in those of others.

We hope our long-term aims will be successful, and we will work with patient dedication to try and ensure that we can achieve an effective and democratic system of government for all citizens of Lovely. We hope you will visit our threads and forum, as everyone's contribution is valued greatly, and remember; in a turn of phrase Schaferlord is particularly keen on: "Democracy is Lovely and so are you".

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Counter-Terrorist Unit opens boards

By Trip (the Light Fantastic), Director of CTU

The Lovely Counter-Terrorist Unit opened its own boards this week off-site. The boards are to be used for more secure methods of CTU conversations about possible threats for Lovely.

However, the boards are also open to all citizens for private and secure chat with each other, and also if they want to inform CTU of any threat without worry of consequences. The Joint-Defence Intelligence Committee has also found a new home under CTU's protection. This means that the Armed Forces can at last discuss their issues in private without fear of a repeat performance of some of the incidents they have had on various boards across the internet. Hopefully, this will offer some permanency for our Armed Forces.

All citizens, politicians and VIP's are welcome to come and chat in privacy at the CTU boards:

http://ctulovely.uni.cc

If you wish for a completely private chat, please notify a member of staff at CTU reception. Anyone wishing to join CTU or wishing to know more can enquire at the website, or at CTU headquarters at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307713?thread=780987

The Lovely Map

First there was map Lovely Map 1.0 which was the paper version on citizen TV. Then there was Lovely Map 1.1 which was the map on the official site. Now there is Lovely Map 2.0! Behold for the new map cometh. So essentially it is a map of the world where citizens can add themselves to the map and more importantly their name. This is a vast improvement from Lovely Map 1.1 as you can actually see where specific citizens are. To add yourself is very simple. Simply go to:

http://www.frappr.com/lovelysmap

And click 'add yourself'. Fill in the form and that is it. If you get any problems click the link that says "Contact Admin".

Upon writing this article we currently have 72 citizens added to the map. This is far short of 52,000, which is what the population count on the main site says. So please add yourself. It does not need to be an exact location, a general area will suffice.

The King's Newsletter

In the unlikely event that any of you have not signed up to the king's newsletter, we will publish it for you here.

16-01-2006

Hello Citizens

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. If you go to http://www.citizensrequired.com you can see the latest edition of Citizen TV. It includes another inspiring citizen movie and instructions on how to make what I've decided to crown the "King's Cocktail!"

As you may have noticed our population counter has been steadily increasing over the last couple of days. This is due to the immigration of a number of Australian and Dutch citizens who, after a recent recruitment drive have decided to become part of Lovely. A warm welcome to you all and I hope you are enjoying being part of our little country.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1932348 http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307712?thread=1933805

If you are a new citizen please remember to set up an embassy in your own home, office or garden. Send me a picture of yourself with a flag claiming the territory for Lovely. To do this all you need to do is send the image to: embassy@citizensrequired.com

In other news the citizen of the year was announced and the winner was ID.

Congratulations to you and all the other citizens who were nominated. As far as I'm concerned you are all citizens of the year because without you, Lovely wouldn't exist. http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1512437

Citizen Hieu has decided to set up a Lovely Talent Contest. So if you are interested in becoming Lovely's first Pop Star then go to the link below for all the information. http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307713?thread=1911286

Finally please continue to send/email me photos and movies about Lovely to citizenty@citizensrequired.com

or post them to

Citizen TV, PO BOX 47089, London, SW18 9AG

Remember it is you, the citizens of Lovely who make our Country great.

See you soon

King Danny I of Lovely

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

"March or die my lovelies!"

By Ambassador Smith

Do you remember Danny Wallace & Jon Bond invading Eel Pie Island in Episode 2 of "How To Start Your Own Country"? Did it look like fun? Would you like to have had a go yourself?

Following on from the Minister of All Things Rocking's "Sushi Recce" before Xmas, I am pleased to announce that the loyal citizens of Lovely will be mounting a re-invasion in early March. We have a flag, anthem and a proper name now! I think it's time the residents of Eel Pie Island found out that they are all Lovelies! I'll be leading the invasion force on the afternoon of Saturday March the 11th.

Every citizen who signs up will get a military title based on how cool sounding their name is. I am "General Jase" and this is the thread were you can sign up and find out more. http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1699691

"Sergeant Saz" is buying a bulk order of combat hats which look like this http://www.partydomain.co.uk/d-commerce/media/large_25268.jpg

Let her know if you want one! If you want a more authentic look, vintage WW2 helmets can be found on eBay. Check out the invasion helmet I won last week:



There are no guns allowed in Lovely and these may frighten local residents, so we will be using an assortment of non-lethal alternatives. Personally, I think I'll go over with a large French loaf. That should keep the locals at bay!

Activities on the island will include putting up Lovely flags, handing out flowers and chocolates to the bemused residents, finding the man with the garden full of action men and leaving him one dressed as Danny, disabling any clockwork defence mechanisms that Trevor Baylis has devised, and of course, general invading of the area. Check out the top secret Lovely Invasion Maps here:

http://img.photobucket.com/albums/v293/mr_jason_smith/eelpieinvasionmap.jpg http://img.photobucket.com/albums/v293/mr_jason_smith/eelpieinvasionmapsupplemental.jpg

After we get bored, or are routed by the local authorities, we will adjourn to the local pub on the mainland, the aptly named "Barmy Arms". We'll probably start off there too...

It should be a great day out! Hopefully, we'll get the best bits filmed and featured on Citizens TV. And I have a loudhailer to play the Lovely National Anthem and a selection of uplifting military tunes to invade by. Check it out:



The Lovely Invasion force currently stands at just over 20. I hope you can join us! p.s. Eel Pie Island is in Twickenham, London.

General Jase

- Everyone's a Soldier Now -

POLITICS

Democracy Making In a number of steps that vary in difficulty

By Schaferlord

Hello folks, as you may of heard there is a new movement in Lovely, a movement set out to change Lovely forever mwahahahaha. Ahem well despite the impression the evil cackle might have given you the 'Democracy is Lovely' has only the one motive and one that is as far away from evil as you can get. The motive: to bring democracy to Lovely and make sure that the democracy is as Lovely as possible. And to do that we're going to need everybody to help out. But enough about the movement/project/group of people with way too much spare time, that's explained elsewhere. This is the time where we show why we're a movement/project/group of people with way too much spare time, and not some random folks screaming at you to come up with an idea for democracy. That's right folks, knowledge is going to be imparted, we're going to give you hints and suggestions about what needs to be considered when deciding on the features that the new Lovely democratic government will have, so buckle in, sit tight and don't worry; I'll be keeping this as simple, concise and light hearted as I can. Lets begin.

"Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." ~ Churchill

Odd quote to start with perhaps. Says democracy's only redeeming feature is that everything else is worse, well that's true for many democracies but that's because they were poorly designed or, more specifically, well designed centuries ago. Anyway the point is that a democracy designed by the citizens of Lovely is bound to be the best and loveliest democracy ever, but there are some things that need to be considered in the designing of democracy.

Representative or True:

Democracy at its most simple is defined as 'Government by the People'. However, this has never actually meant that it's left to the people to govern (well in Athens it did but that's because very few people were classed as "people" for the purposes of governing). Normally it's been the case of the people selecting other people to represent them for the purposes of governance. We need to see if we think Lovely is ready to be the first country to try for true democracy or whether we will stick to selecting representatives due to the logistical difficulties of true democracy.

If we go for true democracy we'll be faced with the mammoth task of working out a system for everyone to have a say and a vote on everything. If representative is the way we go we will have many more decisions to make although these will inevitably lead to the system designing itself for the most part.

A note on parties:

Political parties: they have been hanging about Lovely for a while, some of you like them some of you don't, but they are a feature of representative democracies the world over. I thought it best to explain why they exist, as, should we go for representative democracy, they will more likely than not feature (unless someone comes up with a genius idea of how to get around them during the discussions). Representative democracies work on the premise that the general populace votes people into government to make decisions on their behalf. That is not to say the winner of the election represents the beliefs of the people, a large proportion of the populace might not have voted for them, they cannot represent the opinions of people who agreed with the other guy. Thus they appear in parties, where the people can group together and express more or less what their views as a group are allowing people to choose the party who they agree most with and vote for the views the party says they will represent to be represented in government. At the next

election the voters can decide how well and how far they have been represented and make their next choice based on the results of the last government.

A note on the structure of government:

Ok, another note. Before the rest of it gets explained you need to know about what comprises a government. Two things make up a government: an 'executive' and a 'legislature'. The Executive is the part of the government set to implement or "execute" new laws and policies while the legislature is there to create or "legislate" new law and policy. The legislature is also meant to play a role in maintaining the accountability of the Executive (don't want them to be bad little boys and girls do we).

Parliamentary or Presidential style of governing:

Ok now we have the big decision for the representative government should democracy take that turn in Lovely. What style will it take?

Two choices are available: the parliamentary or the presidential style. The difference between the two is that in the parliamentary system one election takes place and the executive is drawn from the legislature (the biggest party or largest coalition of parties forms the executive) while this means the legislature is more capable of holding the executive in account as the executive is directly answerable to the legislature it does mean the executive would have a large say in the legislating process.

The presidential system on the other hand has the legislature and executive voted for separately in order to stop each unit overtly effecting the actions of the other. Typically this leads to a single party executive (although we could tweak the design) but this is countered by the fact that the legislature is not necessarily going to be comprised in a friendly and agreeable composition.

Names:

We also need to name everything, what will the chamber(s) of the legislature be called, what name do we give the executive, what title will denote those who carry portfolios on the issues (the ones in charge of those issues in the executive) if the executive is to have a figurehead (like the prime minister or president) what should the role be called? This is where all those who find politics boring and over complicated can still have your say. Even if we go for true democracy we need to call the process something, people of Lovely, once again you are called upon to suggest names for stuff.

Other considerations:

Other things to be decided about would be what powers do we give to the government, what internal voting system to use to insure that everyone has a say and most importantly what electoral system to use. I'll leave these slightly more complex issues for discussion and maybe return to explain them in a future article.

EPP Column

Well, a good week for Lovely and the EasyPeasyParty following a fair bit of silence!!

Some good political debates have sprung up over the States system and Rev's new election is getting many responses. I won't be around for a bit as I'm on holiday, Notclive is Acting-Leader.

Sorry there's not much to report from EPP Base Camp but it's been relatively quiet!

Luvs ya!

Babs

FFF Column

By Barc0de

When I was made State Governor of Flatland, I saw it as a tremendous opportunity to introduce democracy to Lovely. It became clear quite quickly that this could not happen for two reasons:

1: The Parties.

Unlike Carpy, Sam and Kieran, I hadn't lost my faith in multi-party democracy. One of the things I love about Lovely is the way the parties get on. I was on very good terms with Rock4babs, Psycoticmike, Home Secretary and Revolutionary. When dark agents within Lovely tried to break us up and get us to fight, they failed.

Where they failed, the states system succeeded. Suddenly all the people listed above were left out in the cold. In Mike's case the party he worked so hard for was ripped from him. I thought I could heal these divisions by promising elections in my state. I started by declaring Mayoral elections and promoting them in the parties threads.

The reactions I got from people I considered friends was the most upsetting thing I have ever experienced here. It really shook me. It was a total rejection of the states system from everyone who had been excluded from it.

2: The Forum

I have never been that big a fan of the parliament forums. I find them hard to navigate and difficult to find all the latest posts. I also noticed that all the governors were being made super-administrators, which I thought was a recipe for disaster after the previous parliament shutdown.

My fears were very quickly realised. I wanted to create a free and open society, but a good friend and GA reporter was having their account repeatedly deleted. At this point I knew the states couldn't work the way I wanted them to. At that point I put it to a referendum of the FFF members. The FFF voted to withdraw from the states system and I resigned as Governor.

The reason I became governor was my belief that the King is sovereign, and the states were a way for people to exercise that sovereignty. But the Kings sovereignty comes from the people, and the people did not want the states.

This is why I am so excited by the election that Revolutionary is running. It allows the people to give the power. Ages ago I tried to set up a parliament based on consensus and discussion, but was dissuaded as it wouldn't "be official".

If elected Prime Minister by the people of Lovely I would have a mandate to make our first proper Parliament. I have the skills and resources to do this. Danny has already pre-

approved a parliament by the citizens. All we need to do is build it.

Democracy will be the greatest thing to happen to this country. It is just a shame it has taken so long.

BARCODE

(FFF president)

Friend Computer's Manifesto

By Friendly Computer XP

Greetings Friendly citizens. Here is Friend Computer's Manifesto for Lovely.

- 1. MANDATORY SNUGGLES FOR ALL!
- 2. All OEDs and other titles to be replaced by Colour Coded Security Clearances. From lowest to highest Infrared, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet, Ultraviolet. All citizens must wear clothing matching their security clearance colour (Black for Infrared and White for Ultraviolet.)
- 3. A proper bureaucracy must be installed immediately. There will be 8 groups of Government:

CPU (Central Processing Unit)

HPD (Housing Preservation and Development) & Mind Control

Int Sec (Internal Security)

Armed Forces

PLC (Production Logistics and Commissary)

Power Services

Tech Services

- 4. All Security agencies to be merged into one IntSec.
- 5. Citizens of Red Clearance and above to be sent on anti terrorist missions as members of Troubleshooter teams as and when required!

6. Cabinet: The following Positions will be given to the citizens listed bellow

Head of CPU: Pscychoticmike (I know he loves paperwork!)

Head of HPD and Mind Control: Peter of Poems/ films/ whatever!

Head of IntSec: Bobness (For being snugly)

Head of Armed Forces: Newton (because I can't find anyone more appropriate)

Head of PLC: General Hunt (He likes moving weapons about)

Head of Power Services: Baby Jesus (Sounds fun) Head of Tech Services: G_C (For being my girlfriend)

Please note that the Computer is your Friend!

Who, me?

By Saz

My political career began as a chance to show that you didn't need to have a strong political background to be involved in Lovely's future. I had initially put myself forward as an election candidate as I felt that I shouldn't dismiss my own voice, and the voices of other politically-unaware citizens, just because I feared the topic. Why shouldn't I run? I believe in Lovely, what it stands for, what it means to citizens and what it can become in the future. It seemed as though others thought this too, and I'm grateful to the supportive comments given by others.

Initially I stood as an independent, having not yet formed any sort of party to back me up. From the recent QT, my own views were highlighted by a fellow candidate and friend, PsychoticMike, and slowly thoughts of a merger began. Of course, it was not a quick decision, we were after all both standing against each other, but as our opinions were similar – we both have worked exceedingly hard for Lovely and its citizens since its creation, and were both keen to make it develop in the future – then why not unite.

Both myself and Mike have essentially "grown up" with many of you, and with the country from the early days before it even had a name, and although thoughts and ideas have initially clashed, our different "Lovely backgrounds" have allowed each of us to get to know and appreciate different aspects of the forum and the citizens they contain.

But hang on a moment! Isn't Mike a rebel? Well... yes. For anyone at all worried about the implications of voting for a rebel, rest assured I would certainly not merge with his party if I thought it would be at all be negative to the country OR King Danny. Mike and myself have discussed this on many occasions, and rebels have moved their focus away from plans of deposing Danny, but instead have been the voice of the minorities, the ones that might otherwise not be heard, allowing everyone to have a say in how their country is run.I sincerely hope that those who supported me during my brief solitary campaign will continue to do so now I have merged with Mike. We will both endeavour, as always, to work on behalf of all of you, though determination and diplomacy and by giving YOU, the people, a chance to be heard.

VOTE FOR ME

By PsychoticMike

VOTE FOR ME, or don't, but please (see, even I can be polite on occasion) at least listen to me ramble about why I think you should.

I've been a dedicated, hard-working member of the online Lovely community for months now, some - including myself - would say the most dedicated and hard-working. My aims have always been the same, to try and help improve Lovely beyond the thoroughly enjoyable state it is currently in, and successfully impose common ideals from the "real world" onto this young country, which could potentially, with the right choices, become something truly amazing.

Recently Saz and I decided that, for the good of the country, we should merge our

candidacies. As the initials didn't look favourable (M&S, bad advertising, S&M, bad advertising) we agreed that I would be the official candidate, though if we get elected, we would work together on a mutual agreement basis, hopefully with the efficiency with which we have for this very newspaper you are reading now.

QUESTION TIME

Q-Time

Question Time is *occasionally* held on the following thread on Wednesdays between 19.00-22.00*

http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307506?thread=1380827&latest=1

Log on during this time to ask you own to the panel members. One member of each political party is invited to attend and answer questions on their party's behalf.

*Check this before attending, as occasionally QT sessions are missed over the holidays

Lovely's future at the forefront of debate

Schaferlord reporting on the latest Question Time session.

It is a long story to explain how I came to be at the first Question Time of 2006 as the reporter for this very paper, a long story filled with peril and exciting twists. However that story is not to be retold now as I went to the first question time of 2006 and must report on it.

So it was on Wednesday 18th of January 2006 that I turned up to witness the proceedings (for those readers who want to read the full question time session as this is merely an overview focusing on specific debates that came out of the questioning, it starts on the following page:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307506?thread=1380827&skip=1440&show=20).

Starting promptly with a question asking about how the panellists viewed Lovely's 2005 and what they looked forward to for 2006 in Lovely, the majority of panellists took the view that 2005 was a good year for Lovely with the Guardian Angel's very own Saz declaring 2005 as "Shiny and new." However Barcode seemed unimpressed with the mere feat of coming into existence and asked "what have we achieved?" and Psychoticmike made mention of some of the major disagreements that the boards have seen as comparable with the meets as the major happenings of 2005 since the actual start of the country, showing that despite a generally good feeling towards 2005 it was not as good as it may have been.

Perhaps a more telling show of this dissatisfaction is what the panellists looked forward too in 2006 with only Saz and ID looking forward to more and bigger citizen meets and the further expansion of the population and the others highlighting things that they felt were missing in 2005. Much was said of the need to develop a democratic government, and both Babs the leader of the Easy Peasy Party and Lord Sam governor of Hoboland

wanting the king to take a more active role highlighting. President Woodrow who represented the Confederation of Independent States (CIS) saw Lovely becoming the United States of Micronation foreign affairs showing how those outside Lovely saw lovely's future.

Debate between panellists turned to the relationships between the rebels of Lovely and the other citizens, with tolerance between both parties being advocated as the course of action in the future. The Kings role in affairs came up once more with some believing it the duty of Lovelies to do the ground work from now on and those who want the king to give his official to support to more things and be more active himself.

The new state system of politics

(http://www.thega.org/11_01_06print_STATE_OF_CONFUSION.pdf_ for more information if you missed it) then came up with Sam the governor of Hoboland claiming that they were the way forward for politics in Lovely and that democracy would not work especially without the King giving anything any official support. Many disagreed with this with Babs declaring that the states system had destroyed what was being built in Lovely and has shown no achievements in the week it has been existing. Mike and Saz both displayed an open mind towards the state system but believing that the events surrounding it coming into existence (notably the disbandment of two of the larger political parties in Lovely) has caused it to be viewed in a negative light which will no doubt hinder any progress the system strives to make. ID pointed out the need for the governors of the states and mayors to leave their posts open to elections to create more participation from the citizens of Lovely however Barcode a former governor claimed that he had attempted it previously and that the failure to be able to do so led to his retiring from the position.

With talk of the political evolution of Lovely the debate progressed once more to King Danny's role in the country, and if he was active enough and should he set up an election himself for it to be supported by the people. Sam claimed that Danny had disappeared and that was reasoning enough for the states to claim sovereignty due to Danny not being there to support the system. However general opinion of other panellists showed that they believed Danny was around, pointing at the return of citizen TV and the few posts of the king in recent months as proof. ID even pulled out a quote from the King saying he looked up the boards everyday although he refrained from posting as not to cause problems.

Revolutionary's unofficial election came up as many of the panellists were standing in the election, and those standing making their stands. Barcode claimed that he would "web skill and server space to give lovely a parliament based on the wishes of its citizens." While Archbishop Josh claimed he would make a website and appoint ministers. Saz seemed to suggest that she would not stay in the role long if she won by saying that she saw he role as being "to try and get official contact with King Danny, and ask if he would back plans suggested by his people if they were pitched properly by the elected official. Sort of like a go between, doing the leg work and filtering out the good workable plans which could improve our country." The Easy Peasy Party would work at making everyone happier if Babs won. Psychoticmike seemed to mirror the respect agenda that has proven popular in United Kingdom politics recently by saying "The first thing I would do as PM would be to encourage civility on the boards. There are no means of enforcement on these boards, other than the moderators, so the only thing you can do is encourage society to accept laws and your judgement. I would do my utmost to ensure that I cater for both the majority and minorities."

All candidates showed themselves to be very eco-friendly although they acknowledged that they couldn't do more anything more than spread a pro environment agenda and encourage the citizens to recycle and be green and use hover bikes as Archbishop Josh suggested. In terms of the foreign policy of candidates who were panellists, all seemed eager to show their respect to other micronations and repair the strenuous relations with the CIS (which had been highlighted throughout the proceedings by President Woodrow's

comments).

Without further incident worth reporting the two hours were up and the session was over. Over all it became clear that from the panellists who represented a large cross section of Lovelies more politically aware citizens that Lovely is in a time of political evolution with many systems being tested and subjected to debate and discussions forming on the precise nature of King Danny's continued role in the country being notable in showing how potent this atmosphere of political change is at the moment.

Learning in Lovely

By Saz

Several months ago, when I first signed up with the GA team, my first ever assignment was to report on the Lovely University. Unfortunately, this coincided with the "University of *** (We really need a name soon)" closing it's doors for the end of what was to be the final term. A reshuffle in citizens, those who no longer (for whatever reason) decided to post on the message board meant that the teachers/professors and many of the students were left without a place to learn.

Very little was said in the months since regarding studies, other than reports by some citizens of their own examinations which were held in foreign lands, such as England, Scotland, Wales and the Netherlands.

Then... a week ago, a new citizen named Ko van't Hek changed all that. In one post made on the 'Science and Technology' part of the message board, he started the Lovely University. Announcing himself the rector magnificus, he introduced the courses he would teach, which included psychology, philosophy, absurdity and Dutch, and invited anyone who wished to join as either a student or fellow teacher.

It wasn't long before the University gained another teacher from New Zealand: Lady Rachel who offered to join and teach French and Chemistry, as well as 'Ministry of Agriculture' who applied to join and teach Dutch, German and Homegrowing, as well as wanting to become the LUs first student, requesting to learn Chemistry.

As easy as that, the LU had found not only several teachers, a prospectus of varied courses and it's first ever student! Ko was delighted at this, and the LU grew with the addition of another student, rowanescence, who showed an interest in the class in absurdity offered by the rector, as well as offering to teach PE, English, Dutch, stupidity, absence, non-absence and the special art of "making dumb forum posts" (a course which this reporter thinks is well known in the land of Lovely).

Music courses were added to the LU by Lady Rachel and Ko, who offered to teach guitar and bass guitar respectively. Citrus-burst immediately signed up to the former course, and more students were soon drawn with the urge to share and learn in Lovely.

Drat_the_Devout signed up to the guitar lessons, and wondered how the courses were paid for, if it was free or payable in IOUs. An official answer from the University has not been obtained yet, but until the transfer of IOUs in Lovely has become a viable option, the University and teachers seem to be offering their services for free. So take this chance to sign up and learn a new skill! Refreshments have been offered by Isabelle Beau from her Belgian Café.

The success of this new University looks to continue, and a list of the varied courses available so far is published below. The GA wishes the University luck in the forthcoming year, and hopes to follow its progress over the coming months.

Anybody wishing to sign up as either a student or a teacher at LU is welcome to post on the following thread:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307884?thread=1932437&latest=1#p23589244

So far the list of courses available are as follows:

| Course | Teacher(s) | Student(s) |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Drama | Ko (LU rector) | Bora_Horza_Gobuchul |
| Science (General) | Franktydu | |
| Physics | Bora_Horza_Gobuchul | Me and asdfghjkl |
| | Franktydu | backwards |
| Chemistry | Lady Rachel | Minster of Agriculture |
| | Bora_Horza_Gobuchul | |
| Psychology | Ko (LU rector) | |
| Philosophy | Ko (LU rector) | Notclive |
| Geology | Bora_Horza_Gobuchul | |
| Maths | Bora_Horza_Gobuchul | Me and asdfghjkl backwards |
| Lazy maths | honestsquirrelman | Marcusmeijer |
| I lo ma o muno vida m | NATIONAL OF A STATE OF | • Lunaco |
| Homegrowing | Minister of Agriculture (A. (L.L. repter) | Cha a mar de la la |
| Dutch | Ko (LU rector) Minister of Applications | Cheerywibble |
| | Minister of Agriculture | |
| | Rowanescence | |
| Franch | • Lunaco | |
| French | Lady Rachel | |
| German | Minister of Agriculture | |
| P.E. | Rowanescence | |
| English | Rowanescence | |
| Absurdity | Ko (LU rector) | Rowanescence |
| | | Honestsquirrelman |
| | | Isabelle Beau (advanced |
| Ct. midit. | D | course) |
| Stupidity | Rowanescence | |
| Daydreaming | Isabelle Beau | |
| Absence | Rowanescence | |
| Non-absence | Rowanescence | |
| Making dumb forum posts | Rowanescence | |
| Guitar | Lady Rachel | Citrus-burst |
| | | Drat_the_Devout |
| Bass guitar | Ko (rector) | |
| 0: 1:11 | Lady Rachel | |
| Circus skills | Arniek Lonslic (luvly's | |
| | anagram of "Kieran | |
| | Collins") | |
| Neuropsychology Cognitive | • Lunaco | Isabelle Beau (beginners) |
| Neuroscience (general) | | course) |
| | | Bora_Horza_Gobuchul |

Students seeking courses:

Franktydu – Brain Surgery, or alternatively Flower Arranging

Should any citizens feel able to teach these courses please contact the Lovely University.

State Universities The State of Home – University College Lovely

Coincidentally, around the time of writing this article, the state of Home announced the opening of The University College Lovely. Boasting its own park and lake within the grounds, the 5 campuses are located in different parts of Home's capital city. Each has its own restaurant and leisure facilities available to all students, and the nightlife is billed as exceptional with Art lounges and nightclubs.

There are apparently "loads and loads" of courses available to study at the UCL, however at the time of publishing no information was available as to what they were.

Students wishing to apply to UCL can do so at: http://www.theparliament.org.uk/forum/viewthread.php?tid=35

Law Courses

Prof. Kieran Collins has announced the opening of the Law School at the University of Flatland where he is dean. The Law course will follow a similar format to one taught at Edinburgh University in Scotland. Students wishing to study Law are advised to apply at:

http://www.theparliament.org.uk/forum/forumdisplay.php?fid=21

Moon Tickling

By ID 06

A new phenomenon is sweeping Lovely, a seemingly bizarre and pointless activity known as "Moon-Tickling".

Many Citizens will have read King Danny's book "Yes Man" which includes a story about his going to Amsterdam, and trying a "Psychotropic Mindbomb" (whatever one of those may be). It seems that the following morning he had little memory of the previous night's events, but he had a disposable camera, which included a photo of Danny lying down in the middle of the road, and trying to tickle the moon.

We here at the GA do *not* condone this behaviour at all, being doubly dangerous for the Lovely individual. Firstly, we don't know what a Psychotropic Mindbomb actually is, but it sounds like it might cause one to get a self portrait made with an imaginary small dog on one's shoulder. Secondly, the middle of the road, while being safe in the musical sense, is not the safest place for a person to be lying down, as most traffic can be dangerous if it comes into contact with one's skin.

However, the actual act of tickling the moon is safe indeed, and may well have an interesting historical precedent in the ancient craft of "Calling Down The Moon". A very good friend of mine tells me that he once visited the Witchcraft Museum in Boscastle, Cornwall, and met its curator Cecil Williamson, who told my friend all about it. If someone

wants to Call Down The Moon, they must stand on a coastal clifftop on the night of a full moon, where the Moon's reflection makes a sort of path of light reflected on the sea. By concentrating on the full moon and beckoning it down the pathof light, one might (according to legend at least) have the Moon appear directly in front of one, and it would answer any questions asked.

Apparently this process would be done skyclad, and possibly with help from a few herbs or fungi not unrelated to the psychotropic mindbomb.

But what of this new Moon-Tickling craze? The first Full Moon of this year occurred on the night of Friday 13th January, and it is known that several Citizens attempted to Tickle the Moon. One of them was myself. I lay down on the pavement at the junction of Charing Cross Road and Oxford Street with my good friend Madamofmercury, and we reached up to the Full Moon and tried to tickle it, while shouting "Tickle the moon!" Tickle the moon!" This last part was mainly to ensure that the 100s of passers by would know we were there and so would avoid trampling us. According to other Citizens who witnessed the event, one passer by actually lay down by side us to join in, but then got up when he realised he didn't have a clue what we were doing. We were tickling the moon.

The Moon-Tickling thread is here:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307507?thread=1825742

The next Full Moon is in the early hours of the morning of February 13th. If you wish to tickle the moon that night, please do not lie down in the middle of any roads, and if you insist on indulging in a "Psychotropic Mindbomb" once in a blue moon, please ensure that you keep your small dog with you at all times.

Oh No! Not another Music Game thread!

By Veer soon for Marmalade

Picture the scene: it's past twelve on a weeknight, there'll be angry builders 'phoning me in the morning if I'm late for work, yet here I am, slaving over a hot iMac, frantically searching for a tracklisting of "Tales from Topographic Oceans". How can this be? Is this really what I expected joining Lovely would be all about? Have I gone completely mad? Well, quite probably that last one...but to see how I ended up in this predicament, we need to step back seven weeks to the beginning of December....

flobbalobba-flobbalobba (don't adjust your monitor; it's just a flashback)

I was quite content whiling away the darkening evenings before Christmas occasionally contributing to the various music game threads on the boards. This generally meant working my way through the "E" section of my music collection for the "Music Game" ('specially useful are "Eloise", "Everywhere" & "Electrolite") and trying to give obscure songs a deserved mention on "Another Music Game". Then the erstwhile ID05 started the imaginatively titled "Yet Another Music Game" with the message:

"Try to name a song title which is *exactly* one letter longer than the previous song title. Spaces and punctuation do not count, just letters (and numbers for pedants)

Whoever fails to get it exactly right has lost and must then start the next game, with a song

title of three letters or less."

Ah! Music to my ears! As a big fan of bands with a predilection for long song names I knew this would be the thread for me. The Flaming Lips, The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band and Half Man Half Biscuit (where my citizen name comes from, fact fans!) should, between them, have penned more than enough wordily-titled tunes to keep me ahead of the game. And so, with "If" by Pink Floyd, we were off.

How far can it go, we wonder? Posting was fast at first – and the initial attempt, involving almost ten citizens efforts, got us to the thirty-six-lettered Gabriel-era Genesis ditty, "Here Comes The Supernatural Anaesthetist". It was then though, that a miscreant apostrophe brought the whole endeavour tumbling down...we had our first taste of the trauma this game could cause.

During this first try however, ID had mentioned "Several Species Of Small Furry Animals Gathered Together In A Cave And Grooving With A Pict" - again, by Pink Floyd. He'd mentioned it, in the quite reasonable belief that we'd never get to a stage when it could be legitimately deployed in the game. But in my mind – and maybe a few others – this set a target to aim for, something to strive for. There had to be some way of knowing we'd achieved the unthinkable and mastered this new and challenging game...didn't there?

Now whizz forward (don't forget to clean up afterwards) to the present day...and we're in the rarefied atmosphere of the high fifties. Sterling work by Citizen Alison has uncovered "I'm A Fly In A Sunbeam (Following The Funeral Procession Of A Stranger)" by The Flaming Lips (56 letters). I had a 57 less than a week ago, but never thought we'd get this far, so didn't write it down. Others have got a 58, 59 and maybe even a 60 ready to post...everyone's counting on me to remember.

What could it have been? Emerson, Lake and Palmer, Focus, Camel, The Moody Blues, YES, Jethro Tull...how many prog-rock discographies can there be on the internet? I think I've read almost all of them! I've speed-read the Guinness Book of Hit Singles; gone through iTunes with a fine tooth comb; googled for all I'm worth.

What did I find? ANOTHER 56-letter song! And surely a pub-quiz winner for someone out there: did you know that the longest name of a song that has made it in to the UK Chart is Rod Stewart's "You Can Make Me Dance, Sing or Anything (Even Take the Dog for a Walk, Mend a Fuse, Fold Away the Ironing Board, or Any Other Domestic Short Comings)"?

Fortunately, someone's now saved my blushes and found a 57 - well done LIB3RTINE. But we're stuck again, so I'm sending out an SOS! Don't be a stranger! Do you know of a 60-letter song title (*NOT COUNTING PUNCTUATION*)? Don't keep it to yourself; help the rest of us (including Citizen Alison, McFarlmo, Status Frustration and ironstein) get on with our lives, and post it on the "Another Music Game" thread at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1606764

Thanks!

SOCIETY

Jonni Shirtguy's Shirts!



Greetings you good good people of Lovely. Please allow me to introduce myself I am Jonni Shirtguy.

Hi, hope you are all well, if not please do get well soon!

As anybody that I met at the Lovely Christmas party maybe aware I like to wear shirts that are well... loud, different, strange, unique, weird, random and sometimes described as garish (I have to say I do consider the last one an insult plus I can't spell it) also my friends have also christened any shirt that nobody would be seen dead in Jonni Shirts. So see how many you can spot!

Why I am I here? Well it's a chance for me to tell you all about me Jonni Shirtguy and my collection of Shirts, hopefully I will be telling you about one of my shirts every now and again say every fortnight. Hopefully I will be able to include some pictures or maybe even a link thus allowing you to check out my wardrobe (I had to specially design and build it to give my shirts enough room its two tiers and I am very proud of it).

Well I guess if you are going to allow me to talk to about myself and my shirts I should really tell you about myself. You as some of you may already realise my name is Jonni or I also respond to Jon (work), Jonathan (parents or when I am in trouble) and occasionally Jack (Osborne) but that's for another time. I live in a mid terrace in Preston with my house mate your friend and mine the one the only Cheerywibble!

Preston is up North and is near Manchester, some hills and a couple of ponds aka the Pennines and the Lake District and Blackpool isn't that far away either. Possibly an interesting facts about the city Preston was that it was a possible holiday destination selected by King Danny in Join me but he never came also Jon Bond worked in Tescos (I did say possibly interesting did I not?)

Ok then the all the formalities out of the way on to the important stuff the shirts! I hope you don't mind I thought I should start with my first shirt - I should confess it's not the first shirt I every owned but it's the first shirt I bought that led me on the road to shirtguyness (is that a word because it now has a big red line under it? Oh well I declare it a word you hear!) My first Shirt was a mambo Fish and Chip shirt! It was part of the mambo loud shirt range some of which are available on E bay (other web based auction sites are available but I don't know of any) Why is it called that I hear you asking yourselves. Why? I will tell you why because it has fish leaping of plates of chips in a cartoon styley on it that's why.

Yes that's right giants fish leaping of plates of chips. I have seen this in a couple of other colours but I do feel mine is by far the best! It's a very nice royal blue, then orange fish arranged in stripes six-inch'ish or approx 16cm or I don't know 160mm? high. Anyway as you may have guessed these fish (they have eyes and smiles n stuff) are leaping of the plates of chips (to aid the whole description thing the chips are yellow chippy colour and the plates are white and ovalily) with like turquoise swirly thing and white dots to represent salt I believe behind them, they are leaping upwards towards another chip on a fishing hook that hanging from the plate above. At the same time it appears that the knife, fork

(both silver) and salt shaker (whiteish) have been sent flying! All this is repeated in a vertical stripy formation all around the shirt.

I purchased this shirt when I was 16-17 from free spirit in the Trafford centre in Manchester can't actually remember how much I paid but that's not important.

It's great! I do still wear the shirt but haven't for a while (I am twenty-four and have grow a little in places ok!)

I could really do with some I remember as if it was only yesterday type music for this bit, so please do feel free to sing, hum or whistle for a moment. Thought I could give you a jolly antidote about my experiences whilst wearing loud shirts.

Ok are we done?

Well this one time at...
(No that's never going to work)

Well was once wearing this shirt on a Red bull and Vodka Fuelled evening in The Adelphi when I was 17 and 3/4 ish (The Adelphi has been my local since I was 16 even though I used to live 15 quid in a taxi away but now own a house 8 min 23 seconds away I reckon. Pure coincidence! as I am sure you can imagine) I do recall it was double vodka for the price of a single an offer not to be sniffed at I can assure you. Anyway having taken full advantage of the offer we headed to another pub the Greyfriars, which is very cheap! Anyway I confidently made my way to the bar and proceeded to lean on it, unfortunately I missed said bar by a good foot and found myself on the floor. I feel as a direct result of the incident I was ejected. I am sure this has happened or will happen too most of you perhaps even all of you at some point in your lives. However allow me to continue The Greyfriars was also frequented by my parents on a Saturday lunch time when Preston North End play at home anyway, never being somebody to turn down a free lunch I returned to the establishment the following Saturday (readers should note this was actually the next day) believing that any previous incidents would be long forgotten. Well anybody that has ever been informed that you are barred from an establishment will be aware that it is slightly embarrassing, those of you have been given this information in front of your parents we have some grasp of the feelings I endured. It appears they remembered me because of my shirts DOH!

To be honest that is probably the worst thing to happen to me as a result of my view of fashion and passion or all things random and alternative. Please believe me though a lot of good things have come from it to people always remember meeting me, I get recognised and served quick in pubs and clubs. I am a well know chap about town and I assume I am popular it certainly feels that way!

Oh I should probably explain the Shirtguy thing I am told it's the nickname bestowed on me by anybody that hasn't had the pleasure of meeting me yet. Bet you can't guess where the Jonni bit comes from.

The shirt thing has also allowed me to get away with wearing a lot of stuff in public I probably shouldn't have such as:- White suit, spats, Tuxedo shirts, Pink shirts, Sarongs (beach party in the pub), Grass skirts (it was a wedding), a sandal and jeans combo, my personal favourite a suit jacket Hawaiian shirt and shorts combo (did get strange looks of the bouncers for that one)

Anyway I thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to ramble on at you. I have never written for a national paper before never actually written for a paper of any type before actually if I am honest anything that has been read by anybody other than a teacher

every am getting slightly scared now! Any feed back would be appreciated I do have a couple of threads on the board check them out five favourite things and who would you give your last rolo to? Both on general chat. Was also considering setting up a thread to allow you to ask any questions hell could even offer some fashion tips although I am completely unqualified to do so.

Hope to see you on the boards I have always believed "if you feel good you look good" hope it helps.

Coming soon: The playboy shirt

Have I mentioned Cheerywibble and myself are trying to organise a meet in Preston on the 11th or 12th of Feb check out the thread on general chat come along it will be swell! You more than welcome to crash on the floor or settee at mine. Also I am trying to organise a semi-invasion of the Leeds/Reading festivals by the people of Lovely like a two pronged attack with flags n Lovely campsites and mass support for a random band by the good people of Lovely.

Thanks again you're all Lovely

Jonni Shirtguy xXx

A short newcomers guide to Lovely

By Babs

Well, welcome to Lovely newcomers! You could say I'm a bit of a newbie having only joined the GA writing squad this week. I suppose I'd better introduce you to some important people.

PsychoticMike - Be nice! One of the most politically active people in Lovely, and a Bar owner!

HomeSecretary/HS - Presenter on Question Time and Chairman of the Glories Party **Nathalie van Dantzig** - Editor of these holy pages we call the GA

Isabelle - Cafe Owner and a good friend to have.

BJC - Her knowledge of the threads is unbelievable

Kieran - Radio Lovely Founder and State system Admin.

SDL Dan - TAS founder.

You know the 17 parts of Lovely's Messageboards, well dont forget about the secret ones...but you've got to find something yourself!

Some abbreviations for you!

FFF – FluffyFriendlyFederation (a political party)

EPP – EasyPeasyParty (another one)

QT - Question Time

TAS - Tea Appreciation Society

PPB&G - Pyschopotato's Bar & Grill

TAGGFC - Talk A Good Game F.C.

CTU - Counter Terrorist Unit

LA - Lovely Army

LAF - Lovely Air Force

You've managed to join at a difficult time in Lovely's history but I'm sure you'll love it. Be Nice. Dont Spam. But most of all - Have FUN!

UNRAVELLING THREADS

A Thread Review By; A. BISCUIT (BJC)

Something old, something new, something popular and maybe, if you are very good, something blue (all post numbers are as of 10/1/06):

Something **old**....the oldest, still active thread...regularly posted on by more than a few citizens

- DISCUSSION TITLE: PIRATES WANTED
- FOUND IN: GENERAL CHAT
- LINK: http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=740656
- NUMBER OF POSTS: 15733

Message 1 - posted by Captain Jim Silvers, Aug 3, 2005

As my old man used to say, and he said it many times. This new country be needed a pirate crew to sail off and find treasure, and maybe some good islands for invading.

Ahoy Me hearties!!..Ye be minded that remarkably this thread is still actively running as a pirate adventure thread, aarh! There has been a fairly regular crew, but the recent departure of cap'n pirate pixie now sees Lady Marie as cap'n. In common with many threads it has had its share of spammers and spoilers but in true pirate style it fights back and continues to thrive. That be dragons..or indeed wenches and swashbucklin' aplenty..climb aboard if ye dare..

Something **new**...well it would be impossible to review the newest thread as they are being started all the time and there would be little to read, so here is the closest I can find to a 'new' thread...

- DISCUSSION TITLE: REALLY NEW
- FOUND IN: NEW IDEAS (of course)
- LINK: http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307507?thread=1884250
- NUMBER OF POSTS: 12

Message 1 - posted by identitycard06, Mayor of Spexico City, Jan 6th, 2006 got anything thats *actually* new?

What was its originators hopes and fears for the future of this thread? (places new question in front of ID06)

idcard (06..new for...06): "I hoped originally that it would kickstart a new avalanche of genuinely new things in Lovely. But I suppose that will take more than just a thread, maybe it (will fail) because nobody has anything new to say"

At the moment it only has three posts relating to the concept of 'new', so come on citizens new and old, what's your interpretation of 'new'?

Something **popular**.....hmm...a toughie....I based my decision on the variety of citizens posting....many threads are hugely popular but only posted on by a relatively small cross section of Lovely, there isn't a right or wrong choice here, so this is mine.....

DISCUSSION TITLE: WHAT'S YOUR CLAIM TO FAME

FOUND IN: GENERAL CHAT

• LINK: http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=903708&skip=0&show=20

NUMBER OF POSTS: 3777

Message 1 - posted by the(insatiable)timesprout, Aug 28, 2005

The more obscure the better. I'll kick off with:- I went to junior school with the father of the boy that plays Charlie in Charlie & The Chocolate Factory.

Self explanatory really.....so what's yours? There are too many diverse and incredible claims on here to choose a favourite and some could instigate long overdue libel/abh suits so I shan't go into too much detail....but it seems that amongst Lovelys' citizens we have some unwashed hands and cheeks and more than a few biro inscribed artifacts. A major bonus from the instigation of this thread was the hugely successful raffle at the Xmas party, where some Claim to Famers were able to offer memorabilia for prizes....including the much coveted Michael Palin signed photo. Peruse the 3777 posts and enjoy......

Something **loooooooooo**.....(bonus review)...with thanks to ID06s' statistical genius and perspicacity, i was able to find the longest thread with no effort whatsoever on my part....

DISCUSSION TITLE: THE PERSON ABOVE YOU GAME

FOUND IN: GENERAL CHAT

LINK: http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=931428

NUMBER OF POSTS: 32116

Message 1 - posted by SamSmithIsNotGay, Aug 31, 2005

A fun game for all. You say something about the person who posted just before you.

Example:

SamSmithIsNotGay: Hello! This is the start!

JokeGuy: Is not gay. PieBald: Tells jokes.

Your Name Here: Has no hair.

Simple as that. Ready, go!

BJC: Is a game BJC: Is correct

BJC: Needs to tell us about this thread...

BJC: Is correct.....another contender for popular thread as during its time this thread has been posted on by a huge number of different citizens, occasionally lapsing into conversation but what the hev!

BJC: needs to tell us more..... BJC: needs to help out here....

BJC: forgot to tell us to go join in.....but please be nice....

Well, have you been good? Hmmm....well then I shall give you a peep into another side of Lovely life, with something ever so slightly **blue**...(not yellow!!)

DISCUSSION TITLE: STRIP CLUB

FOUND IN: *PRIVILEGED INFORMATION....OVER 18S ONLY*

LINK: *SECRET PASSWORD*
NUMBER OF POSTS: 19901

WINNER OF COMEDY THREAD OF THE YEAR ..LBC AWARDS

Message 1 - posted by Archbishop Josh, Aug 20, 2005 pretty self explanatory if you ask me

Pssst! Wanna know what it's all about? Come a bit closer.......a fully kitted out joint with a pole, a well stocked fridge and velour upholstered chaise lounges, latterly a playground during the day but once darkness falls (outside) a regular group of middle aged 'should know betters' strut their stuff on the well polished stage... regular theme nights include westerns, yes THATS why some citizens change their names so frequently....be warned that all newcomers, though welcome if over 18, are required to perform as part of their membership to the club..which has strict rules...the main one being 'innuendo only'...(wink wink nudge nudge)....say no more.....not that I'd know ..of course.....

ENTERTAINMENT

Silent Pete's Reviews

FILMS:

Pleasantville (1998) -

Directed By: Gary Ross

Starring: Tobey Maguire, Reese Witherspoon, Jeff

Daniels

More Info: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120789/

Amazon Link:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00004D36B/qid=1137767658/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_10_1/203-

2714695-0045529

Chariots Of Fire (1981) -

Directed By: Hugh Hudson

Starring: Nicholas Farrell, Nigel Havers, Ian Holm More Info: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0082158/

Amazon Link:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/B0007G9JTA/qid=1137767862/sr=2-1/ref=sr_2_11_1/203-2714695-0045529

The Terminator (1984) -

Directed By: James Cameron

Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Michael Biehn, Linda

Hamilton

More Info: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0088247/

Amazon Link:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/B000A7IH1W/qid=1137768121/sr=2-1/ref=sr_2_11_1/203-2714695-0045529

Primary Colors (1998) -

Directed By: Mike Nichols

Starring: John Travolta, Emma Thompson, Kathy Bates

More Info: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0119942/

Amazon Link:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00079FGXK/qid=1137768364/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_10_1/203-

2714695-0045529

Dead Mans Curve (1998) -

Directed By: Dan Rosen

Starring: Matthew Lillard, Michael Vartan, Randall

Batinkoff

More Info: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0123034/

Amazon Link:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00077286A/o/qid=1137768557/sr=2-2/ref=sr_bt_2/203-

2714695-0045529

Man On The Moon (1999) - 🏰 🏥 😅 😅 🗸 🗸

Directed By: Milos Forman

Starring: Jim Carrey

More Info: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0125664/

Amazon Link:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/B0007Q6RI6/gid=1137768768/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_10_1/203-

2714695-0045529

Rating: 5 thumbs up, 3 smileys, 4 laughs

Fahrenheit 451 (1966) - 1000 -

Directed By: François Truffaut

Starring: Oskar Werner, Julie Christie

More Info: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0060390/ Even More Info: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0360556/

Amazon Link:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/B0000DCXS3/o/qid=1137768957/sr=2-1/ref=sr_bt_1/203-

2714695-0045529

OTHER STUFF:

The Corporation (DVD) -

Amazon Link:

<u>2714695-0045529</u>

Turkey Salad Sandwich From The Shop Up The Road -

Private Eye (#1149 Jan6-Jan19) -

Website: http://www.private-eye.co.uk/

Meaning Of Liff (Book) -

Douglas Adams, John Lloyd (Pan Books, 1983)

Amazon Link:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/0330281216/qid=1137769524/sr=1-2/ref=sr_1_2_2/203-2714695-0045529

Slippers I Got For Xmas -

Dizzy Spell That Came From Nowhere

A LOVELY MAZE

By Saz

CAN YOU REUNITE KING DANNY WITH HIS CROWN?



Bands to Watch out for in 2006

By Bear

We'll start with a really new band, they come from the land of Celine Dion, all you can eat buffets, gaudy neon lights, Black Jack, Cactus and Killers. Yes like The Killers these guys, Panic! At The Disco, come from Las Vegas, Nevada. They have a mix of rock and some electronic sounds in their music which works very well surprisingly. They have an angsty style of singing with some comments on the way people act in this age around others. Their theme seems to be a bit about people hang back and let things happen without intervening. Such as in "I write sins not tragedy" where the Groom about to be married finds out about his future Wife's sleeping around. Their also seems to be a lot about what must be done to get famous in their songs about how the media influences their popularity and the critics affect the lives of people who want to be musicians. I suppose when you've grown up in a place like Vegas with all of it's corruption, sex on display and money thrown away on gambling you've probably heard all the bad stories and want to tell the world. Panic don't even seem to have their own website and biog they're that new but look them up soon.

In summary, if you want a bit of angst rock with a bit of electronics thrown in these guys are well worth a look. Their Album "A Fever You Can't Sweat Out" has just come on iTunes and will soon be out in CD format mid February. Songs to check out; 'I Write Sins Not Tragedies' and 'Time To Dance".

Next is another American band who are a bit more well know. Fall Out Boy, they come from the home of the Bulls, the windy city a place where every St Patrick's day they die the river green, Chicago. It was hard to get into the music scene from where they grew up as they didn't have anyway near the amount of venues as New York or LA but this made them try harder. They have gone off in their own direction a bit as with out the influences a bigger scene would have had on them they've grown more organically taking aspects from many a musical Genre. The have aspects of rock, emo, pop and punk but something that come through in their songs is their sense of humour. In their opening song of their latest album they say to put the record down, that they're not worth the hearing we'll lose. 'We're only liars but we're the best' being one of their lines in the ridiculously long titled son 'Our Lawyer Made Us Change The Name Of This Song So We Wouldn't Get Sued' Their humour show's through in their music especially when they name a song 'I Slept With Someone In Fall Out Boy And All I Got Was This Stupid Song Written About Me'

In summary if you want to listen to a band who have a mix of lots of rock-type music and a dark sense of humour in the songs try Fall out Boy and their latest Album in shops now "From Under The Cork Tree". Songs to Check out; 'Dance, Dance' and 'Sugar, We're Goin' Down'

The last band I'm going to talk about today are one you should definitely of heard of. They come from a town famous for The Full Monty, Steel and a football team named after a day of the week. Yes the Arctic Monkeys come from Sheffield and I want to talk about them. They're quite a young band who've been using the more modern way to get noticed. They gave away free MP3s on their website to get well known. Their first CD release, Five minutes with Arctic Monkeys, is highly sought after and going for upwards of £70 on Ebay at the moment. Considering it's only a 2 track single CD that is amazing. The attention these guys have got is just phenomenal their second release the first major CD release went straight into number one. Their songs are mostly about the Saturday Night and Sunday morning culture of people in the UK, the gig scene 'Fake Tales of San Francisco' the Club Scene 'I bet you Look Good on the Dance Floor' and 'From Ritz to the Rubble' the fighting 'Riot Van' the dark side of going out 'When the Sun Goes Down' and the Chav's, Ned's or Scallie's (depending on where you are in the country) hangouts 'A Certain Romance'. Their lyrics and rhyming are just so fresh and original where they come up with lines like 'I'd love to tell you of my problem, you're not from San Francisco you're from Rotherham' they are just in a different league. They were snapped up for the NME tour this year and i'm so glad I got tickets for it.

In summary if you want to get into the next big British Band, get into the Arctic Monkeys. Their Debut album 'Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not' comes out on Monday 23rd January but I got mine delivered early today and it's great. Songs to watch out for; 'A Certain Romance' and 'When the Sun Goes Down'

Until next time, Happy Listening, I'm off to the Babyshambles gig to see if Pete Docherty turns up.

Music review

The Sketch Outfit (local band)

By Clifford

Location: Hampshire

Genre: Rock

The Sketch outfit are one of the hottest new bands to emerge from the fiery depths of Fleet, Hampshire. Some of the members already have a lot of experience of being in a band as some are old members of the local band In the Dark which folded to make room for the brilliance of The Sketch outfit. I have seen the band play live on numerous occasions and they are incredibly good there music has great rhythm which works very well with the lyrics that they produce. The sketch outfit put on amazing stage shows that really have the audience captivated.

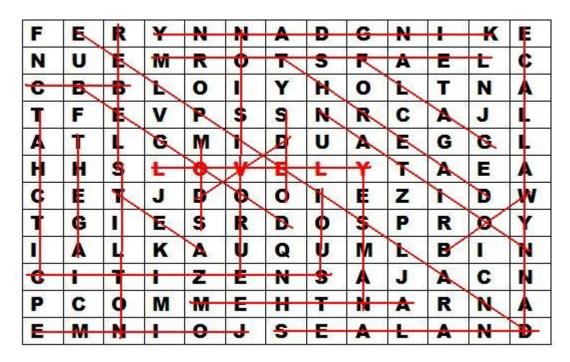
Visit their website: http://www.thesketchoutfit.co.uk

A LOVELY WORDSEARCH

The Answers

By Mcfarlmo

Did you find them all?



Advertisements

Lady Heather, requires the following staff members for her Country Manor:

Positions:

- Head Cook/Chef and kitchen staff
- Ladies Maid
- Butler
- Housekeeper and housekeeping staff
- Steward
- Grounds keeping staff
- Blacksmith and stable staff

The Following positions have already been filled:

- Head Gardener Chief of Air Staff Lozz
- · Head Footman Ray of the Rovers

In due course there may be further positions available, also if anyone can recommend anyone who would be suitable for any of the above positions or would like to apply for one yourself please apply with the post you would like to hold please contact me on this thread: http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1893391



http://tinyurl.com/chh6n

OPINIONS PAGE

Freedoms and Responsibilities

By TheArtist (Marquis de Beau)

There has been a certain degree of anguish in some quarters of the Message Board recently. People posting really obnoxious threads and posts; and people causing upset in more subtle ways too.

There are some very difficult but important issues at stake here. First of all there is freedom of speech: we all want to preserve our right to free speech, but at the same time we have to recognise that we all have a responsibility to respect each others' rights and feelings. As long as such respect is maintained, freedom of speech is not a difficult concept to maintain. If, however, an individual chooses to post vindictive, insulting and upsetting messages, particularly if they are unprovoked, I think they have waived their right to free speech in favour of the right of others to be spared their outpourings.

We are a fairly large nation now: ok, only a small proportion ever post on the Message Board, but there are still a few hundred regulars, and this has increased recently with an influx of Dutch and Australian citizens. In any population, there will always be a range of views and types of humour, perhaps more so in such an increasingly international mix. Most of us can appreciate a certain degree of darkness in humour, although the degree of what is still seen as funny is bound to vary from one individual to another. But to post whole threads dedicated to hatred of nations, or to making fun of people who are

perceived as "different" because they have disabilities, this is likely to have rather limited appeal, and is far more likely to offend the vast majority.

There is always a place for shock tactics; surprise is a necessity in life, it makes things more interesting. But it has to be used sparingly to be effective. There is a delicate balance to be struck in the use of challenging humour, and a sledgehammer approach is definitely not the way to go.

I hope no one thinks I am trying to preach or tell people what to do; that is certainly not my intention. Nor am I calling for any kind of puritanical "keep it clean" campaign – definitely not! But there is a middle way here, where people can push the boundaries, perhaps, but stay within the limits of good humour. I just want everybody to consider the feelings of others before hitting the "post" button, nothing more.

© 21st January 2006 TheArtist (Marquis de Beau)

Where's the humour gone?

By HM Bobness

Hello fellow Citizens. I write my latest article in an attempt to get you as individuals involved with The GA's next Issue.

Firstly I would like to post you all a question – where has the humour gone?

I remember lovely as a place where, on one thread, you could be involved in a deep political debate with someone yet on another you could be talking about giant squid attacks with exactly the same person. Unfortunately, this seems to have disappeared from the boards over the past few weeks.

One of the main humorous institutions left in Lovely, our Riot Squad, are completely missinterpreted and accused of destroying threads and charging around like madmen (and women). Yet if you actually read what they get up to, you'll find a rather mad bunch who are totally unable to boil a kettle, let alone enforce the law and heartlessly destroy threads.

We seem to be entering a new, humourless and altogether more serious stage of our Nations life, and I for one don't like this.

I am therefore challenging citizens to e-mail us their all time favourite moments or threads from Lovely and prove me wrong. Show me there is still a funny side to this place. I want the wild, the weird and the just plain crazy.

The best of the entries will be printed in the very next edition of The GA. If you fail to take me up on my challenge then I will be forced to write another article next time describing you all as Baboons!

Ellie x

(Entries to 'mailroom@thega.org')

Letter to the editor

Dear Sirs,

As you are aware I am not fond of sharing my opinions, preferring to keep them to oneself unless canvassed, as any Gentleman should. However, on my recent strolls through Lovely I have been APPALLED to see widespread substance abuse, and lately to find that abuse being condoned and practised by our very own Regent. This substance of which I speak is one I hold very dear to my heart, and is of course that finest of beverages - Tea.

For the inerudite among your readers, and it appears among the populace of Lovely as a whole, Tea is a concoction of whole leaves brewed in a pot in fresh boiling water, then poured through a strainer to collect the leaves. Tea is NOT crushed leaves in a paper bag dunked in a mug, of all places. To call such an abomination "Tea" is an affront to any decent thinking citizen, and as you may recall, led to the downfall of the Great British Empire (may god bless its soul).

If we allow this abuse to continue, and for the monstrosity that passes as tea to percolate throughout our land, I fear the great nation of Lovely will fall in to irreparable decline. I implore you to encourage your readers to give up this obsession with inferior libations. I myself will be dictating a letter to the King himself, to berate him for his poor taste and liberal ways. If action is not taken I fear I will have to start a committee to prevent further ruination.

Yours Brewingly,

Colonel (RetD.) Oswald T. Disgusted of Onebridge Tells

Things I have learnt from the King

By Amber Prophet

After watching the most recent episode of Citizen TV and especially the Public Information broadcast I started to think about what I had learned from being a citizen. I was particularly interested in the latest broadcast because, as president of the TAS, the making of a cup of tea was relevant. We needed to know which way of making a cup of tea is the Royal Way. Now anyone who has been into the tearoom knows, or should know, that we welcome all appreciators of tea and accept all ways of making it – milk, sugar, lemon, marmot – all are fine. But I was still curious to learn which way had Kingly approval. I was not disappointed. So I have decided to make a list of other things that I have learnt from the King.

- The Kingly cup of tea includes a teabag, taking out of teabag before the adding of copious amounts of milk and a mighty fine mug.
- 2. Becoming a member of the United Nations is open to all peace loving States, which accept the obligations contained within the United Nations Charter (hmm understandably I'm a bit sceptical about this one).
- 3. Tequila is an evil drink (I have been known to talk on this subject at some length and have been successful in *cough* always *cough* avoiding its siren call).
- 4. Whiskey straight up can cure Kingly sickness (or so he told me at the Christmas party. Who am I to gainsay the word of the King?).
- 5. Since the first McDonald's restaurant opened in 1969 in a diner just off California Beach, the, McDonald's corporation has sold in excess of one million hamburgers.
- 6. Do not take strange drugs in foreign countries.
- 7. Saying Yes More is A Good Thing although people can take advantage of it (yes you know who you are, deliberately asking me Yes/No questions and telling me off if I say no).

....BACK PAGE NEWS.....MIGHTY TAGG....SINK VILLA.....

By Giddsey

Villa 1-2 Tagg

Come on you Tagg. We are Tagg, we are Tagg, we are Tagg. Well played boys, back on track.

Coach giddsey was over the moon with his teams performance against Villa. Two new signings graced the pitch for their debut, and wow what an impact!

After going down to an early goal, that was put in the back of our net whilst all the Tagg players were signing autographs for fans, Tagg seemed to spring to life. The first goal was started by Honor Rubble in her own half, back heel to Lampard, LL sends a pinpoint pass to Jamies right boot, Jamie juggled the ball and lashed it far right wing for new signing Ray of the Tagg. Ray's deft control left him free to bend a curling drive to Rock4babs. Then the genius of Taggs very own Ronaldiho was obvious for all to see. Swiftly trapping the ball, Rock4babs done a triple step over followed by the infamous toe-plonk, and voila! 1-1.

Taggs second came from Ray, simply done he ran 60yrds past 6 players and was then tripped by a forlorn Mellberg. Ray took the penalty and stuck it away with aplomb. 2-1 Tagg.

The cheers from the crowd were only match by the noise from the after match party in Taggs dressing room. BTW HR, you owe me a new tie!

Well played lads, looks like the gloves worked.

See ya in the bar. Coach Giddsey

Fixture date change:

Tagg v Fulham

moved to Monday 23rd Jan.Ok lads gather round.

forms the 'Rubble Huddle'

Alright, alright not that close. Listen the cameras are coming. Sky are covering the game on Monday so, make sure you are ready.

Jamie, do you have the calm temperament needed to see off Colemans Fulham? Ray of the Tagg, Can you cut it in front of the cameras?

Rock4babs, are you a one plonk wonder?

Lampard and Rubble, look after the lads, take the pressure off in your own inimitable style.

See you at training. coach giddsey

To apply for a place at Tagg FC, find us in sports messaging on the boards. Don't be lazy have a look!

Why I like the sports threads in Lovely

By LadyMarie

Well apart from being a huge football fan and giving the guy's in the Predict the score thread a run for their money...yes...me...a...qirl...*points at self*.

One of the biggest reasons (and thanks for the idea Giddsey)...is that considering football is supposed to be a 'mans game', it is one of the few places on the boards where gender doesn't come into it. I mean I never get laughed at for my typically girlie views on football...and hardly ever get laughed at if I am wrong... no I am only joking.

Right well what to say I will start with the fact that T.A.G.G. FC have currently got three...yes count them three girls playing for them which is more than the Men's England team have hey, But back to the subject in hand dare I say it there is no sexist atmosphere on the sports threads which when you think about it is probably the one place on Lovely you would expect there to be. I have always been made to feel very welcome in the sports threads I post in, and that my opinion however rubbish it can be at times is worth something.

We have a lot of threads going on there now which I am sure Lars or Giddsey will have told you about at some point but I could do with a few more football loving girls on there I can get a bit outnumbered at times not a bad thing I must say but hey, you can never have too many people on there and the conversations can get a bit crazy at times also I have to say well done to Lars, Giddsey, Jamie and Dizzy and myself for getting the two main sports threads I post on into the top one hundred threads lists...take a bow guy's you deserve it.

So anyway I think that's about it for now other than the guys in the sports threads don't make me make all the brews like Biff, Rev and Toaster do in the Riot Squad thread, also another fave thread of mine but that's a different story (thanks for that guy's no really...thanks).

That leads me to finish this with saying that although all the fantasy actions and threads on the boards are some of the funniest things I have taken part in on Lovely it is good to have the normality of the sports threads to go to and that is not saying that they aren't fun coz they are and if you want to find out how much fun they really are come and join in.

But that's it now I think I have bored you enough for one day so if you got this far down thank you for your time and patience and direct any complaints to Saz she made me do

So thanks and goodbye or see you next time. LadyMarie

chatSPORT

By Lars_Dudley

Well, I already have a football show in Lovely with the one and only, Giddsey. Seems like a column in the GA every now and then was the logical step forward! Unfortunately, there's no Giddsey in this article. So if you're reading this now and was expecting Giddsey, then I'm sorry to disappoint but at least I've just saved you from wasting a couple minutes of your life!

I'll attempt to post a decent article seeing as I've had my arm twisted!! If it goes well then I'll try and keep it up 'regular like', which will probably be every fortnight. I welcome all comments or complaints about any of my articles and will feature some of them in my articles and discuss them if I feel like it! Sort of like a phone in, only a bit slower! The address to send the comments/complaints to is anime4evauk@hotmail.com. Alternatively, I am on msn most nights. So if you fancy a 1-on-1 interview, or just some general banter, feel free to add me! I'll put up any comments about what I've written or if you have any points that I think are interesting! As funny or as controversial as you like. Please do make sure though that the subject of the email is chatSPORT or I will delete the email without reading it.

Ok, first off, I'd like to point out that there are a number of football fans in Lovely, some of whom regularly post in the various threads on the Sports section of the Lovely message boards (thanks to all those who have helped get The Lars & Giddsey Show and the Predict The Score threads into the top 100! Especially Giddsey, Lady Marie, Jamie and Dizzy). Giddsey does a wonderful article in The GA following his team Talk A Good Game, or T.A.G.G. FC, but there isn't really a place in Lovelys greatest newspaper where you can keep up to date with the latest that's happening in football outside of Lovely! Like the back page you see on every other newspaper! Lots of things are happening in the "outside" world at the moment, including the transfer window, but the main feature in the newspapers recently has been the sabotage of England's chances for winning the World Cup by the press. Some may say that it was a good thing. That is has brought to the attention of the fans (and the FA) that Sven is only interested in money and not the England football teams chances of claiming, what I think, is the worlds greatest sporting trophy. That it has brought to the attention of the FA that Sven is looking to leave if England were to capture this illustrious prize, which gives them extra time to prepare for such an occurrence. Even that it, from a press point of view, can be done to find out something they're not supposed to know in football and that perhaps it can be done in the future to find something that is important relating to something bigger.

I, personally, think that the English press are too big for their own boots. They have attempted to compromise what could be England's year just so they can wave their finger in the direction of Sven and to be able to say "we told you so" when, or indeed if, England are knocked out of the competition later this year. It sickens me and I'm glad that the press in Lovely aren't half as savage as they are! Not even a fraction as savage! I am proud to be part of a country where this doesn't happen. I'd like to hear from as many people as possible about your thoughts on this topic as indeed I'm sure a lot of other Lovelies will be glad to discuss! I'm going to name this section in the future, "Lovely's View!". Do you think it is a disgrace that this has happened? Or is it all Sven's fault for being so dim? Or do you

think he just say what we were all thinking anyway and so it shouldn't matter? Or do you think that it was the right thing to do, just at the wrong time? Send your comments to anime4evauk@hotmail.com.

This next section is my Lovely sports stats, or as it will be known as Statto's Corner! Each article, I will post a couple football stats that you may or may not have known! I have enough to write an encyclopaedia with (not that I'm big headed or anything!!) but if you have any interesting stats you think I should post or that you would like to share with all the Lovely's, then please feel free to send them in! anime4evauk@hotmail.com

Did you know...

- The Italian Turin based titans, Juventus, actually wear a black and white striped kit because they were founded by a Nottingham County fan back in the early 1900's! Also, ironically, their nick name is 'The Old Lady' even though Juventus actually means 'youth'!
- · Wolverhampton Wonderers are the only English team to score over 7000 league goals and were also the first team to be given the title of European Club Champions! *stat provided by Lady Marie! Thanks!
- · Prolific goal scorer and England international, Wayne Rooney, has never scored a goal for Manchester United with his head!
- · George Best is the only European Footballer of the Year to have played in the Scottish Premier League! The team he played for briefly was Hibs!
- · With all the talk of Rooney's temper possibly being the undoing of England (even before the Sven/News Of The World incident!), at least we know he can't be the youngest player to be sent off in a World Cup! The youngest player to ever be sent off in a World Cup international was 17 year old Rigobert Song in 1994!

Back on the subject of England managers and the English press, am I the only person in the country who's surprised that they haven't yet done a story on themselves and how the English football fans are sick of their lack of respect towards almost everyone. I'm not going to sit here and lie and say that the transfer rumours they put in the papers aren't amusing! Or that some of the stories they make up don't make an interesting read! Because sometimes its great to be able to just turn the paper over and read the headlines on the back page! But, (and this is a big but!) is it worth having those stories if it means that we could have even more pressure on the players going into a major competition, which we stand a good chance of winning? And is it just the press who are to blame, or are the whole media industry at fault too? In my view, these womens magazines disguised as newspapers are a load of rubbish, and not about the news at all but more about their personal gain. The media on the other hand (such as radio programs, TV programs, news channels) are completely different. For example, I have never seen a story on Sky Sports News that's made me turn over in disgust because of the absolute drivel that's being served to me as news! I hope that Lovely never becomes as "celebrity" obsessed, money grabbing, sell out, copy cat stealing, lying, and down right corruptive as papers such as the News Of The World or The Sun. Newspapers which are just Heat magazine for people who are too embarrassed to actually buy Heat magazine. This article (if I keep it up regularly) will not be like those wastes of a tree newspaper articles. Keeping in with The GA's motto, a paper for the people, by the people, please send me any comments or suggestions you have! I honestly do want to hear our nation's opinion on this, rather than just a handful of citizens that visit the Lars & Giddsey show to discuss topics like this. Moving along, I'd like to talk about Andy Johnson and his prospects of being the surprise inclusion in the England squad for Germany06. I think that although it's important for Andy Johnson and Crystal Palace that they get back into the Premier League this season, is the fact he is playing in the Championship damaging his career in such an important year for England? Don't forget, last season he was the top English goal scorer, albeit over half of

his 21 goals came from the spot. I don't think it's fair that such an exciting talent has been bullied by Ian Dowie and the Crystal Palace board to have been forced into giving up an opportunity as great as representing your country in a World Cup. With exciting young talents coming through like Theo Walcott, Dean Ashton, Carlton Cole, Darren Bent, Bradley Wright-Phillips and with Rooney, Owen and Defoe still being so young, could this year have been his only chance to play in the biggest of all major tournaments in football? For me, he should have moved at the start of the season when he had the chance. Last season he was a much better player than Crouch, and Crouch is now an almost certainty for the World Cup squad and I think it should have been Andy Johnson there, not Crouch. All credit to Peter though; he has performed superbly for Liverpool this season. If any Lovely's agree or disagree with me there, please let me know!

Well, that's about it this time! I hope you don't feel like punching me in the face next time you see me but I'll hold no grudge if I get a bit of hate mail!! Any mail is good as long as there's no virus attached or you're planning on selling me some "wonder pills"! If you don't have msn but would still like to chat, I am around most days on the message boards, usually on the sports threads of course! Feel free to say "hi" or hurl abuse in my direction, whichever suits...! 'Til next time..!

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Editors Comments

All right. Let's get back to idealism. The past few weeks things have been very depressing around here. Arguments everywhere, people not talking. Or shouting. I have to admit it got to me. But someone reminded me tonight to get over myself. And I am going to.

What's more I think you lot should as well. What are we whining about? We are all in this together. We are all trying to make it work aren't we? Well, most of us are. What is it we want? A land of opportunity. An alternative to wherever we are now. Somewhere that works. Well we can have it. Right here right now. Well maybe not right now, but soon enough. Whether you believe in Rev's elections or Democracy, true or representative. We are all nice, we are all trying. We can make it work.

Just look at this place. Isn't it amazing? This may be the new found optimism here but don't you think we are unbelievably lucky? Apart from anything else, what were the chances of life ever evolving in the first place? So what if we're having petty arguments over topography. Who cares? We have a unique opportunity here and we should use it. We should make it everything we want it to be and more.

Don't you remember the good old days? The time when Lovely was young and everyone was signing up for everything. Anything was possible. Well we may have become a little jaded. Maybe a little more realistic. But there are new citizens from foreign shores turning up right now. HTSYOC fresh in their minds, brimming with idealism. Let's join in. Let's win back our dreams.

We are being offered the opportunity to build a community from the bottom up. To make it everything it should be. To me that means democracy. Real democracy, not the half-hearted kind we put up with out there in the real world. I think it probably does to most of you. So let's do it. No complaining, no giving up, no passing the buck. Not even appointing someone to pass it to. We are all responsible. We are all to blame. We are all capable of making great things happen. I intend to see just how great. I intend to get stuck in and try it myself. How about you?

Nathalie van Dantzig

Editor