



"By the people, for the people"

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GOVERNMENT EDICT 5

An Official Act by Lovely's Current Government

By Rev

" After consideration the official government of Lovely has decided to ban the cult known as Byluph for treason against Lovely. We call on all loyal citizens to defeat these evil cultists for the good of the nation."

So what does this actually mean? Who are these deranged cultists intent on destroying our way of life? And how can we as responsible citizens wreak terrible vengeance upon their heads? Read this article to find out.

Byluph is a cult started by hippy Harpo/Identitycard07, known for his similarity to crazy nutjobs David Koresh and Charlie Manson. The main aim of this cult seems to be world domination. Since the world currently includes Lovely, this has grave implications for the rest of us. The cult started in November 2006, around the same time the Leafstorm boards were closed forever. This was no mere coincidence. The closure of the Leafstorm boards was definitely their fault. Since then they've periodically caused trouble in Lovely. They've written articles in Lovely newspapers to sow discord amongst the population. They tried to seize control of Lovely in the last elections. They oppose the rule of rightful King Ray. They refuse to return to the Lovely message boards and instead post on their own accursed forum. They even try and tell us not to swear!

So all in all a dangerous bunch of mentalists, clearly working to destroy Lovely from within. But how can we defend ourselves from them? Well ideally I'd like to send in the Lovely Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to lay seige to the cult and hopefully shoot them all to death. But unfortunately Lovely currently lacks a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to do this. Instead I've settled for outlawing this cult and all members. If you see them hungry, do not feed them. If you see them wet and cold, do not offer them shelter. If you see

them on fire, do not piss on them. They are no longer lawful citizens of Lovely.

If you are a Byluph member, fear not. Renounce this evil cult, regain your Lovely citizenship, and rejoin your fellow citizens on the Lovely forum

CURRENT AFFAIRS

KING RAY

An addition, not a replacement

By Schaf

No, I'm not talking about a brilliant puppet series about a submarine or the brutal killer of the best Crocodile Hunter (or at least the most famous) the world has ever seen. That would be a stingray. King Ray is a completely different kettle of fish, in fact you could say he isn't anything related to sea life at all and you'd be bang on the money.

Lovely it seems has a new King. The wind of change is a blowing through this fair and pleasant cyber-land and one of its most notable effects was Ray of RayoftheRovers fame becoming a king, he even had his image upon the spiffing new Lovely Forum, both looking Regal and funky (with an askew crown arrangement upon his head) and very erm, "Naval" when trying to get people to stand for Prime Minister.

For as long as Lovely has existed there has been an undercurrent of discontent with King Danny about the place. As we've gotten into deeper metaphorical waters upon the good ship Lovely these undercurrents; or at least their effects, have become stronger and more notable. Think back to when King Danny appeared on the Graham Norton show and Lovely didn't get a look in compared to his other projects and the outrage people felt until calm waters were found and we realised that much Lovely talk could've been edited out. King Danny has always been a figure who has created somewhat extremist opinions and ideas within our country.

It can't be said that King Danny actively pursues an interaction with the forum based community many of this paper's readers are or at least were members of for a time. This has led to much talk of replacing the King, and Ray has been referred to as King by small members of our community who've deemed him worthy of taking up the King's role in light of Danny's absence for quite some time.

However as time has worn on and hard times have befallen the community with a series of Forum moves following the Leafstorm boards closure which followed a rare appearance by the King which was pretty

much a fight, talk has been steadily increasing about replacing Danny with Ray. This has led to more arguments and bickering not just from so called "Royalists" who like King Danny a lot also, but others who feel that it's not right to replace Danny on a whim. That it will cause arguments and rifts and do more harm than good.

Thus we see the compromise being touted by the supporters of King Ray, not a replacement but an addition, Danny isn't doing all his Kingly duties so King Ray is there to pick up the slack so to speak. Still there are some angered by the move, thinking it is just a step away from replacing Danny. Many more are indifferent but don't want to see a fight created over an issue they don't much care for. It could be noted that Ray has done little as "King" which he didn't beforehand, Kingly duties never being particularly well defined it would be impossible for Ray, Danny or the combination of the both to do everything everyone could possibly think up that they should do seeing as they're "King" which means that dissatisfaction with the King or Kings is likely to continue. Kingship promises to be a contentious issue for times to come.

Below are opinions gathered relating to the coronation of Ray given by people who have things to say about the thing.

The Man who would be King

By Giddsey

Once upon a time in a country far, far away, lived a man named Ray. Ray was an amiable type, bright as a button and generally a nice bloke. He joined the country of Lovely back in the day, becoming one of the founder members of this great nation. Under the pseudonym Ray of the Rovers, a reference to Ray's home town and total football abilities, Ray became a committed and active citizen of Lovely. He was a regular citizen posting on the message boards and Ray always liked to meet other citizens and promote the country. Everywhere Ray went, the spirit of Lovely went with him. His friendly generosity made him a favourite at Lovely Meets and his inoffensive, interesting and funny chat on the message boards saw his popularity grow.

So there we were, a happy go lucky country with committed citizens and a feeling of optimism that filled the air of Lovely itself. Ray chatted to nearly everyone who posted on the boards. He was never rude, stayed out of trouble and became the epitome of the citizen that King Danny, founder/inventor/King of Lovely, wanted. Ray had shown he was Truly Lovely.

Time moved on and the country of Lovely was growing ever bigger with the website attracting citizens from around the world to this experimental new country. The message boards had never been busier and it was a time of massive growth for the nation.

Then it all went tits up. The message boards were becoming a place for debate about what a country was? Whether we were actually a country or not? Should we have a Government? An Army? A Pub? The conversations turned into debates with no holds barred comments from pro-active citizens already starting to rebel against the system. The debate ended with conflict between the message board moderators and the actively posting citizens. This in turn ended in the death of the original Citizens required message boards.

During this time, Ray of the Rovers kept a level head and carried on regardless. He chatted merrily away to many a citizen, always making them welcome and chatting to anyone and everyone. Ray promoted the country through messages and meets. His chat was appreciated by all, and what's the betting that Ray never once got moderated for being offensive or swearing? He truly was the epitome of Lovely.

After a short while in the wilderness, the citizens found themselves redirected to a new message board, sanctioned by King Danny. The Leafstorm boards were a welcome change to the moderating hell that was the BBC. It seemed the country had moved on. King Danny had started to trust his citizens a bit more and initially welcomed the debates that were being bandied about the country. The debates turned into arguments at times and swearing was definitely more of an issue now. The moderation process however was pretty good. We had citizen Mods who knew better the ins and outs of running a message board that claims to be a country. The Citizen Mods seemed fair and the Lovely Host – provided by Leafstorm – was very good indeed. The Lovely hosts moderation offered no explanations and didn't need to, the rules were there for everyone to read.

Eventually the boards started to become more and more diverse. Many citizens were beginning to feel uncomfortable in the new era of Lovely. The arguments seemed to be more often and go on for longer, there was accusations of bullying, election scandals and the debate on who's a welcome member of this country, who's not, and who decides this, raged on. Then came the fateful day when the Leafstorm Boards closed.

You all know the history, and to sum up for those who don't, it basically involved a message from a Joinee/citizen, an offensive, (to some including the King), message about goats and a massive argument featuring actively involved citizens. The be-all and end-all of it was the closure next day of the Leafstorm boards. Lovely had been cancelled, again. A reasonable explanation for this has never been given. Certain citizens

have provided their own explanations, but that's all they are, their own version.

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Now was the winter of our discontent. The country was truly going down the pan. It seemed the King was upset with his citizens. He found some of them to be offensive and not what 'Lovely' stood for. King Danny hadn't expected this when he started the nation. He truly believed we would all 'be nice' and be good' to one another. Trouble is, you can start a country, but you can't choose your citizens. Many citizens had become part of Lovely and refused to believe they were doing anything wrong. They lived in the country, giving them all the same rights as the other citizens. Anti-Danny feelings were starting to spring up all over. It was the first time in the country's history where the King's head was called for.

The citizens found themselves spread over a number of message boards during this time. The Sanctuary, Parallel Lovely, Refugee camp, then Lovely Home. These boards sprung up under the guidance of some citizens who felt we needed a place online to chat, arrange meets and generally keep the country going, with or without Danny. With the split of citizens around a couple of boards the rot set in. It seemed as if this once great nation was being torn apart at the seams by citizens with the view that 'their way' was the only way. In fighting developed and Lovely now had fewer citizens using the message boards than ever before. Cliques had formed and it seemed that certain citizens didn't like the new era of what they deemed to be offensive and rude posts. These citizens left the now crumbling society.

The trouble you will always have with message boards run by citizens is the issue of moderating. Who should moderate? What should they moderate? On all forums run by a citizen, the general rules and tone was set by what they did and didn't allow to be posted. This of course wasn't all down to them. Many posts that would have been reported to a moderator were not reported in this time of apathy, and the citizens running the forum couldn't really be expected to trawl through the posts made looking for what 'might' be deemed offensive. The majority of citizens left at this point were posting on Lovely Home.

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So now we arrive at the latest attempt to Re-unite Lovely – Lovely-Reunited. This is a message board set up by citizens. Initially the signs were good. Some of the citizens who had left the old message boards started to reappear. The spirit of Lovely looked like it was returning. The board had been designed to give a home to all citizens. It Features a detached home for all the previous forums to post in the style their forum of choice took on. The main board was for everyone and all were invited by admin to become a moderator of all or sections of the board. So there we were trying to re-unite Lovely and guess what? The inevitable happened. Citizens started to drift away again, this time not bothering to say why. We had come to a standstill. The citizens who mainly posted on the boards were accused of being immature, offensive and not really that 'lovely' at all. By this time, Danny's head had been called for many times, mainly by one citizen convinced a new King was the answer to Lovely's problem. But many disagreed. They wanted Danny as King, he was King. He was their leader, a figurehead, the founder of Lovely. "What do you mean Ray should be King?" they cried. "We have a King!" they cried. "Danny is our Leader! They cried. Slowly, but surely though, the efforts of one citizen had sparked an interest in a new King. "But who should be King?" they cried. "Yes Ray would be a great King!" they cried. "Ray is our leader!" they cried. What followed were more arguments on the subject of the King.

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It's now August 2007, and Ray of the Rovers has been declared King! Mainly by one person, but now backed up by others, King Rays picture appeared in all his regal glory. It's widely regarded now that Ray is the peoples King. Fed up of Danny's apparent apathy the 'Peoples King' was a welcome return to some of the inventiveness and humour that had long since disappeared in Lovely. Danny is considered King by most Lovelies, but those who know him well consider Ray to be a much better King. Ray is far more committed to Lovely and understands the people, gets on with the people and really is a breath of fresh air compared to Danny.

In all of this, the idea of having Ray as King was meant to be fun. It was supposed to breathe a bit of fresh air into this stale country of ours. I know not everyone agrees with it, but it's supposed to be a laugh. Remember that sensation, laughter? It used to be rife.

Thanks to Ray of the Rovers for his permission to print this and thanks to all who read it. The King is dead! Long Live King Ray!

Giddsey.

Lovely Day!

By Schnips

So, 1 st of September people are gathering to celebrate Lovely Day. However, we have had a few snags...

No-one local can organise the event, so I offered my services of making phone calls. This was going well, until the pub Wommie recommended said they are already booked that day...

So now we are looking to have Lovely Day somewhere else, no Greenwich meet but maybe a more central location like Bath or Oxford ?

If anyone has any ideas or are willing to be a better organiser than me please let us all know:

<http://z7.invisionfree.com/citizensrequired/index.php?showtopic=13&st=180>

Catwoman.

Election Time is coming

By Schaf

Welcome to August, the time of elections (along with February the other time of elections). PM voting time is a coming, and Love isn't standing again due to becoming a "special envoy" to Finland .

In recent times the boards have been prone to flurries of activity as those lining themselves up for becoming Prime Minister and those who are about and want to take part in a flurry of activity have gone about doing there thang to try and get people to vote for them. In this issue no doubt you will get a pitch or two from various candidates (including mine) and the forums have many threads with ideas and such.

Neo got the jump of everyone starting campaigning before anyone else expressed much interest in the job and started to gather quite a head of steam with his exuberance and tireless need to tailor his vision for Lovely

in response to what people were saying. He is complementary of the current administration and has a wide range of ideas for improving Lovely new ones being made all the time. He is however the only candidate to have voiced a dislike of the notion that the current government will hold a preliminary vote to narrow the candidates down to increase legitimacy.

Loki (myself) then jumped in worried that Neo would run away with the election if I didn't post something hideously longwinded and barely read. More on my views in this paper somewhere else no doubt.

LM1 formerly known as Lord Monty then jumped in with his experience at being a Law Lord and redrafting the constitution (though as of yet not officially passed as law by any administration that I know of) and offering perhaps the most consistent and definitely the most complete new design for how government and Lovely works of any candidate.

HS was called upon to stand by a vocal proportion of those taking part but instead has offered his assistance to those who want it and luck to all. Currently it is between Neo and LM1 for getting HS' seemingly influential backing.

Chez has become the surprise package of the election, one of the earliest to express interest in the post, proposing to stand alongside former Deputy Prime Minister Saz who would regain her old office (though it does smell of Rev now). Then there was silence on the two standing, Saz publicly dropped out of running for any governmental position and many presumed Chez would also not stand for election. But Chez has turned up recently offering shits and giggles, making her somewhat of a dark horse as getting stuff did allow DB and Love to take power, and shits and giggles are easy to dispatch to the country. I have a shit most days and giggle on a semi-regular basis.

Cog also stands, hoping his meganess of ability will persuade the voters to flock for him. No other candidate has displayed any meganess of ability which suggests that those who want meganess in their Prime Ministers will go for Cog.

Prestons Child is the final candidate standing at time of writing. He offers a unique take on bettering Lovely and "recapturing the glory days" (somewhat of a recurring theme with many candidates admitting Lovely isn't as good as once it was) by displaying an aggressive policy of domination within the micronational world (as opposed to many other candidates who wish to separate Lovely from the Micronations). He also claims to be better than David Blunkett.

So there you have it, there will be votes soon, and more people may stand. Neo had a letter in the last GA and there will be stuff here about

candidates, or check the boards for the latest action and unexpected news such as Loki having faceAIDS.

CULTURE AND SOCIETY

On the Relaunch of the GA

By Preston's Child

Guardian Angel is back?
What a surprise!
Now let's Dance!

Lost Citizens

The number of citizens on the boards has been declining steadily since they were set up just over two years ago. This is a sad fact, and one that many have tried to explain. As an attempt to finally unearth the reasons behind citizen emigration, the GA invites everyone to write in and give us their side of the story. Here are the first two responses, we hope to receive many more.

Maggot:

" I just don't post coz I have better things to do than forums"

Rev:

" I haven't been driven away yet, but that's not going to stop me from inflicting my opinion on you!

I think Lovely is a stupid idea, and only worked as long as you could suspend your disbelief (a bit like watching professional wrestling). There was a balance between chatting, being nice, crazy stuff and serious national stuff which kept the boards interesting. But that could only last so long without a new series or something to sustain it. After a while people started leaving, the people who really believed in the country first, then others. Now the majority of people on the boards weren't that fussed about Lovely in the first place and only use the boards for a place to chat, which has unbalanced the forum. The country side of things has effectively died, which stops new citizens and relapsed citizens from sticking around. Without the balance between chatting and national stuff and everything else, the boards seem boring to people."

Opinions collected by Schnips

Lovely Roadmap 2

Off the Beaten Track

By ID07

Following on from last issue's rough guide to Lovely forums and websites, here's a look at a few other places where Citizens are (or were, at least).

First is <http://www.bebo.com/> where quite a few Citizens past and present have accounts. I've deleted mine, so I don't know what it's like these days, but names I remember seeing there include Citrus & Gaz. I suggest you ask Gaz for more details.

Secondly, the mighty Myspace. Relevant Myspace Groups include "Lovely, it's a really cracking place" <http://groups.myspace.com/kingdannyrules> where the 364 members include Milky, SDL DAN, Meep, Badly Drawn Girl, Schaf, Marie, Mcmo, Jonni, Carpy, Mooseade, and probably many others we know too. Then there's the "Radio Lovely" Myspace group, with 23 members including Status, Bear, PAsTA, Rob & Stacey.

<http://groups.myspace.com/radiolovely>

Apart from those groups (which are actually very quiet, Radio Lovely has had no posts in over six months) there are many other Citizens past and present on Myspace, posting bulletins and sending each other messages, including Ray, Hobo, Pillock, & Reblet. Many of them can be found among the 1168 listed "friends" of Lovely, <http://www.myspace.com/citizensrequired> but that list also includes a lot of randoms who have never heard of Danny Wallace and are not Citizens. Just to give you an idea of who's currently active on Myspace, over the last 5 days I've seen bulletins from Chaos, QoR, Trip, Ollie, Gaz, WEG, & Jonni.

Thirdly, the forum on Danny Wallace's site www.dannywallace.com often has posts from me, Neo, Peachy, Rev, Love, Tony Hodges, and the King himself - it's easily the best way to communicate with King Danny, and get a reply too (no really - ask Neo).

Fourth, Facebook has grown immensely from 5 million users in late 2005, to 10 million in late 2006 (that's when I joined, and Bo was the only Citizen I recognised at that time). Facebook currently has over 30 million accounts. Never a day goes by without some daft interaction between Citizens on Facebook. The other day I was simultaneously asked by Schnips to help her fight Marie, and was also by Marie to help her fight Schnips. I turned them both down, and later also turned down Marie's request to help her fight Rev. Scrabble is fun, I'm currently playing games

against Marie, Nat, & Hazel, and have previously lost or won against PAsTA, Saz, Nico, Jase, & Gaz. Then there's daft things like Aquariums (thanks Carpy, Wommie, Saz, Kazzzz, etc) and causes <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/?pwstdfy=fc1f47e9d3baf2c31b07a8856f320482>

Facebook groups cover a myriad of topics, including:

Danny Wallace must be defeated

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2416879882>

I love you! But not in a lesbian way.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2357929309>

We control the Amber Prophet

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=3242050170>

The Nation Of Lovely

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2244629525>

(this is the Dubai-based group of Citizens, plus the usual people have joined)

The Kingdom Of Lovely

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2334803123>

Beyond Stilton

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2355613243>

Lovely - Citizens Required

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2204760722>

Join Lovely under King Danny I

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2909755401>

And finally, this group has only one member:

Citizens of the Kingdom of Lovely

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2260804663>

Travis In Sherwood Forest

30th June

By Lady Heather

Glastonbury's been and gone and only a few Lovelies managed to attend and by all accounts it was worth it, even though it is said you need more than the weekend to see all that goes on. Fact: Millets had sold over 13,000 pairs of patterned wellies at Glastonbury. 13,000 pairs!!!!

It's Friday and having attempted to watch the sunrise for the umpteenth time this week I'm sleeping in, or was trying to. I wake to the familiar sound of a text message followed by my phone falling off of my bedside table having vibrated itself thus. So I sleepily drag myself to the other side of the bed and lean down to pick up my phone and attempt to open my eyes enough to read said message. Then thought to myself 'just because you are on lunch doesn't mean I have to be awake does it?' turns out I do...never mind. I discovered at that point I'd slept through 3 phone calls, all from mum and one of which was at 8am, that's just serious wishful thinking. I reply to the text, reach to turn my laptop on and answer my now ringing phone. Turns out Mum has bought me some cool wellies for the gig tomorrow.

6pm on Saturday and the gates opened. The weather seemed to be holding out so all were happy. We got a good position near the front and refused to let any tall people stand in front of us! Then came the wait, the first support act was almost an hour late coming on so mum and I sent dad for drinks. Eventually the skinny figure of a guy with a guitar wandered to front and centre. Irish fellow, funny, he really should have stuck to the funny because his music made a large majority of the crowd bored and the remaining ones want to kill themselves.

Second on to support were The Hours.

They really lifted the crowd , a small amount of moshing ensued and much happiness and although the rain didn't dampen spirits, a small group of drunken/stoned guys were making a nuisance of themselves. Three times they had been asked by the security team to calm down and still they continued. They finished with Ali in the Jungle and did some new tracks from the new album Narcissus Road.

Finally the reason we had come for TRAVIS! The afore mentioned drunken/stoned guys were finally made to leave by the security team; although when one guy refused to leave Fran after asking the guy to leave as he was ruining it for everyone else down his guitar and leapt off stage and tried to remove him personally! The only thing that stopped Fran from doing so was his manager. Eventually the guy was manhandled out with some help from the crowd. With that it began! There were classics such as 'Turn' , 'Why Does it Always Rain on Me?' , 'Love Will Come Through' along with an acoustic busk of 'Flowers in the Window' plus some tracks from their new album 'The Boy With No Name'. My favourites being 'Closer', 'Selfish Jean', 'Battleships' and one beautiful song Fran wrote on "becoming a papa" called 'My Eyes'. They ended a wonderful night with

'Sing' during which everyone started pogo-ing and even thought I had been singing throughout and had a sore throat at the end of it I would have done it all over again right that moment! I fantastic evening and I would recommend anyone to go and see Travis. They put on an amazing show and provide such an atmosphere.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Lovely: Emerging Nation

The Lonely Planet Guide to Micronations

By Neo

In September 2006, the famous travel guide producer Lonely Planet broke ground by publishing a book that explored the world of micronations. In all, 54 micronations are explored, in the full-colour illustrated guide on glossy paper. Ranging from the Hutt River Province in Australia , to the disastrous events surrounding Freedonia, the book is an invaluable insight into this mysterious and misunderstood world – one of which you and me are both part.

I bought the book on Amazon.co.uk last month, and read the book in a few days. Included between pages 28 and 33 is a glossy guide to Lovely, complete with the declaration of independence, information about the citizens, the websites, all of the events of the series and even the beginnings of democracy in Lovely. It is a gleaming testament to our nation, listed in the first section of the book, dedicated to possibly viable and definitely serious new country projects. Except the one with the goat as president...

But what catches my eye in this book is not the article itself, it is the constant praise of our nation, the repeated lauding of Lovely, taken to the point that King Danny Wallace wrote a review that appears for all to see on the back cover! The book argues why, with a population "in excess of 55,000," we cannot be considered a real country. It calls us "the shining star of modern micronations," and asks, in no uncertain words, if Lovely can become the "greatest micronation ever." However, the writers obviously have their own opinion of Danny's motives, saying that Lovely is both "an emerging nation," but also, "a publicity stunt, an idealistic experiment in nationhood and an educational exercise in civics." Danny, however, steals the photo opportunities – all of them – to characteristically raise his eyebrow and, well, have spiky hair. His one-dimensional and frankly unfunny demeanour negates what seriousness Lovely may have been attributed with in the guide, but, nonetheless, he is credited with helping other nations grow.

The book details events in Sealand among others, with maps and a detailed profile of each micronation, as appropriate, with each entry. Ironically, given the "cybernation" nature of Lovely, the book attacks online micronations in a two-page spread entitled, "Cyber Nerds Unite!"

Overall, I believe that if it were not for the premature closure of citizensrequired.com, we'd have a lot more citizens and a much bigger profile than we do. Certainly, The Lonely Planet Guide to micronations is a serious stepping stone to success for Lovely, for many reasons.

Neo

ENTERTAINMENT

Guest Weather

This week brought to you by Dave , in Westward Ho! where the weather for the forthcoming week will be as follows:

Wuhhhhh ticca ticca leffha GINGER NUT ubbubbub buububu RAIIIIN... gna gna llliiweeep ni! RAIIIIINNNN.... uh wagga TIIIIINY LITTLE PONIES CLIPITY CLOP pewww BEWARE THE CLOUDS... hja lkayip rahhhh.. QUIDDITCH!

Horoscopes

Astrologer's Special

By TheTomHenry

Aries

Your weekly horoscope in the local paper goes down badly. The editor realises that you use it to spread vicious rumours about your fellow astrologers and sends you bedwards without any supper.

Taurus

Thursday's horoscope is written without the normal poetic flourish as you arrive to work with a hangover. You advise Aquarians that "they should go into their boyfriend's office and give them an Alka-Seltzer " in the hope that Denise will get the point. She does not. Hitting a pedestrian on the way home cheers you up no end, however.

Gemini

A failure from you this month. Your horoscope, which you always do in your neatest handwriting, again fails to capture the imagination of Hathersage general public and the acting editor calls you into his office. This is not the sexual advance that you have been hoping for, nor will he give you a pay rise or words of encouragement. It is a dressing down in which you are called "a dirty southerner", "a bell-ringing, Brie-eating, hippy-sucking tree-hugger that constantly smells of Leighton Buzzard" and, what he considered most insulting of all, "a female". He will later take back the female jibe. Suzanne in accounts overhears everything, and tells the office in her normal excitable gibbering way. You go home ashamed and embarrassed. Walking home along the main road, you are hit by an astrologer from a rival newspaper.

Cancer

Having applied to work as a reporter from What Caravan Magazine, you are surprised to be asked to write a weekly horoscope. You never even realised that What Caravan had a weekly horoscope. Eventually you grow to like your new role finding out what the stars hold in store for all the caravans reading your column.

Leo

A good one from you this week. Give yourself a pat on the back.

Libra

After last month's controversial horoscope in which you confuse the work of the Inland Revenue with the work of the Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, you are hunted down and killed behind the bike shed.

Scorpio

Did you ever really want to be a horoscope-maker anyway? Okay, you're successful, you're good-looking, your breasts are pert – I know, I've been looking through a telescope – and you're just about the right side of 30, but are you really happy? I mean, are you? Why not run away with me? We can go travelling. You always wanted that. But no, you and your pushy mother telling you "Cathy, you need a sensible income". The bitch. I pissed in her strawberries when I met her at the village fete, you know.

Virgo

Monday's column will contain exactly 1,623 consonants. Pleased with this, you completely forget to mention Libra. For a while, you are worried, but you know that Librans are too gentle a star-sign group to come round your house and cut off your ear.

Sagittarius

You're too busy with sex and drugs this week to bother with horoscopes this week. Lucky girl.

Capricorn

This week, after reading this astrologer's horoscope for other astrologers, you decide to write a horoscope for other astrologers. An astrologer, also a Capricorn, follows your lead of writing an astrologer's horoscope for other astrologers, decides that he too will write a horoscope for other astrologers. A third astrologer, a Gemini, reads your reader's horoscope for other astrologers and writes a horoscope for other astrologers. This is where it all falls down. Despite the Gemini-astrologer writing the piece in her best handwriting, it fails to capture the imagination of the Hathersage public...

Aquarius

Well, you're not an astrologer at the moment, but thankfully a position will come up when a Scorpion resigns on the village local.

Pices

Your drug-fuelled orgy at the astrologer's ball will come to a sticky end.

The Arcade

By HS

Since moving to the new Lovely Reunited forum many of us by now have taken the opportunity to visit the Arcade. With games ranging from console classics such as Legend of Zelda to brainteasers such as Hexxagon there is something for everyone to choose from.

Congratulations to those with the highest scores so far:

Game Leader Score

Putter Nutter Lord HS 45576

Chuck Norris @ 35187

Bike Stunts Marie 143390

Chocolate Machine Bovinejumpsuit 2169

AMG Drift Competition An Evil Penguin 445

Curveball Crotch Stapler 28490

Tower Defence Loki 72

Bend it Like Gareth Bale Lars 7

Legend of Zelda Marie 1910

Space Invader @ 50070

Asteroids TheMilkMan 49700

Simon @ 34

Snake @ 2116

Flasteroids Razerbug 159400

Tetris Jenny 33160

Hexxagon Lord HS 43

Tell Tale

By Revolutionary1

While this story is true the names have been changed to protect the innocent.

My friend's mother knows this couple called the Johnsons. They do volunteer work for a local charity, looking after disabled kids, taking them on daytrips, that sort of thing. This story is about one such trip, with Kevin, a kid with Down's syndrome.

The day started off well, they drove down to Flamingo Land . They got there, it was sunny, they went to see all the animal enclosures, and went on a few of the rides. It got to midday and the Johnsons wanted a break, so they went to the coffee shop. Kevin didn't want a break though, he wanted to have a look round by himself, so the Johnsons agreed to meet him 15 minutes later. They figured he wouldn't be able to get in any trouble in that time.

When they found him 15 minutes later he was soaking wet. His clothes, his backpack, everything. They were naturally concerned about this, but he said he'd been on the log flume, which seemed to make sense. So they carried on with their day and Kevin soon dried off in the sun. They went on a few more rides, wandered around and had a great day, though Kevin seemed a bit distracted.

At the end of the day, they got back to the car, opened the boot and put their stuff inside, except for Kevin who insisted he kept his backpack with

him. So they drove home, got back pretty late, got out of the car and noticed that Kevin's bag was moving. They then found out the truth about what had happened in that 15 minutes.

Kevin had broken into the penguin enclosure and kidnapped a penguin. He'd been keeping it in his backpack. It cost the Johnsons £600 to send the penguin back to Flamingo Land safely.

OPINION

PC statement

Once again I'm in the running
Not a chance to win but hey whatever
My policies are the same as last year
so vote for me if you want the PCPM

Statement by Lord Montague

Lovelies,

As you may be aware, I was once known as Lord Montague but I aim to start afresh now as I'm well aware that Lord Montague was not a nice character.

I'm fairly liberal in nature. I don't want to see a Government meddling in every little aspect of a citizen's life. A citizen of Lovely is entitled to freedom and individuality. That is what makes Lovely what it is. Individuality. I know from when we did micronations the uniqueness of Lovely. We Lovelies are completely different from them, hence our problems with that side of Lovely. So let me make a pledge to you all. If you support me, I will work tirelessly to STOP micronational intrusions into the country. Those within the country who want to play micronations can do that but they will not do so at the country's expense.

I believe that this is why I'm coming into conflict with Neo a bit. He has professed himself to wanting a Totalitarian, Authoritarian and Nationalistic Lovely. That is not at all what I want. Totalitarianism, Authoritarianism and Nationalism all lead to uniformity, and that just simply isn't Lovely.

As for another of my opponents in the election, Loki, I can't disagree with a lot said. I'm finding that I have a lot in common on my viewpoints with Loki, so if you can't stomach the idea of voting for me, at least vote Loki.

But here are my proposals that I wish to enact if I'm granted the right of becoming PM:

1. A new constitution based around the original new proposals I made to Love's Government. This new constitution will not be a set of rules but a deal between the Government and the People. It will allow for greater citizen participation in Government as well as binding the Government to a certain set of rules that it cannot break. Hopefully, it will give us all what we want.

2. A complete halt to micronational intrusion into Lovely society. Already I've aimed to try and stop micronational intrusion by telling micronationalists that Lovely is not a micronation and also advocating to ISIT the reduction of Lovely's influence in micronations; both of which have been successful in reducing unwelcome intrusion.

3. A new and complete system of Cabinet, with two new super ministries created: The Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In these two new ministries, there will be other ministries which will focus on more specific things.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and I hope you can vote for me when the time comes,

Monty.

Letter to the people

Hello readers of the Guardian Angel. How are you? I care, really I do. I'm not some heartless politician. I have a heart. I keep it in a jar under my bed.

Anyways I'm not just writing to the newspaper to enquire into your wellbeing though it is a subject that is close to my heart. I am appearing in these pages to inform you of the reasons I think you should vote for me in the next general election (which is this month). You don't have to agree with my reasoning (but I'd appreciate it if you still vote for me) I'd actually love to discuss things with anyone cos I'm all sad like that.

Moving on why you should vote for me? That's what you want to know isn't it? What am I going to do for you? What am I going to do for Lovely?

Short answer, not a lot. The government isn't here to do things, it has no support, funding or infrastructure, and the government is reliant on the cooperation of the citizens to do anything. As elected figurehead I'll offer some sort of directing notes from time to time, be the scapegoat and take a disproportionate amount of the blame and possibly feel the obligation to

do more for Lovely, but that's it. I'll be more or less the same as the rest of you.

Since I'm accepting that government can't be structured to successfully undertake any projects just because it's government (things will be successful if lots of people help and volunteer and assist, that's what people should be doing off their own backs). I will basically just have a laugh with it. It'll be a bit of fun and hopefully spark some conversation and happenings on the forum.

To fully explain this, behold my current list of ministerial posts and naff explanations of what they are. All are still open though some have already had applicants apply for them who are in the hot seat for getting them.

Funkadelic Secretary – to deal with all the funky issues.

F.L.O.A.S.T. (Food for Lovely Organisation Associated with Serious Tuneage) Minister – To deal with the dietary and musical needs of the country.

Prankmonkey Minister – To handle the government approved prankmonkeys and other degrading and drunken antics.

Secretary for Micronational affairs and Imaginary creatures – To deal with Lovelys Micronational presence and any issues with the Imaginary creatures that roam our fair land and our National Zoo.

Minister for Innuendo, Smut, Abuse and Polite Discourse – To manage the various methods of communication that are enacted in the country.

Minister for Mapping, Transport and Diabolical Evil – All National Maps, Public Transport and Evil Schemes will be under this Minister's remit.

Minister for Media and things beginning with Q – Our media doings and all things beginning with Q will be dealt with here.

Minister for Street Cred, Youthful Exuberance, Culture and Swear Words – Keeping it real is what it's all about here.

Minister for Hats, Shirts and Potted Plants – All hat, shirt and potted plant policies will be handled by this Minister.

Press and Poetic Imagery Officer – Insuring the government's iron fists have velvet gloves.

Minister for Spork and Rusk Security, Miscellaneous explosions and unlawful killings of prominent individuals. - Will deal with our security and defence policy and work closely with the Micronational and Imaginary Creature office to secure our position in the world.

Minister for Odd socks, Pineapple Jelly and Non recycleable metals - Dealing with such things

Minister for Common Sense, Safety Tips and Sexual Healing - The well being of the country will be in your hands.

The main task of cabinet posts is to semi-regular announce something kinda official sounding about your remit so that people can react to it, and be open to having stupid questions asked at you in the thread that will be the offices for your department so please tell me if your interested or have other ideas of Ministries your game for heading.

Now to address the other issues I'm sure you have.

King Danny is my King, King Ray is my friend who seems very popular all of a sudden, I'm not against his Kingship but he isn't going to replace King Danny and he'll need to be more specific a King (people's King also sounds naff and make it seem like he is better than me if I were to be Prime Minister so that's off the list).

I'm not that interested in micronational things but some are and are patriotic enough to want to represent Lovely, I understand we're winding down at the moment which saves me bother but there'll be some minister who is interested looking over things and stuff and shouting when we're doing something particular over microyonder and you can shout and say don't and then I'll see if we can get things changed par public opinion. But basically I'm leaving it to sort itself out.

I do agree that we've been through tough times and aren't in the best of shape, many including I have mentioned or at least noticed the decline in the forums. I ain't got no magic formula to fix it, I reckon its because for what ever reason we've just become a place to chat to one another with no set topic for the forum anymore which means newblood and those who left won't be keen to return as we've got boring and insular. Plus it also means we're boring and insular which makes it less tempting to stay about. I'm hoping a bit of a push for the silly ideas for the country running thing I'm going for will help. I'm also open to other ideas, we need to become fun and I know that and will try and address it.

So there you have it. Thanks for reading I love you all.

Loki (aka Schaferlord)

Collection of Views About King Ray

Collected by Schnips

Love:

" My opinion is that it's great that Ray is king, he's a much better king than anyone else could be, including some bloke, I forget his name, think it began with a 'D' and ended with 'anny'...."

Crotch Stapler:

" He's a top bloke and would make a good king of a fictional country.

I don't like Danny Wallace. This is stunningly unfair because I have never met the man, and, indeed, I doubt if he would do me any harm if he did. He is a competent, if fairly bland, presenter on the television, which he does with good humour and emotional eyebrow movement. I see the place more as a message board than anything else, and have not had sufficient proof to suggest otherwise. I don't like the fact that his involvement has destroyed a community that I adore - even if it was one that Wallace helped set up. Of course, it is not his fault that he causes pointless arguments amongst Internet nut jobs, and his existence in itself makes people upset. I think things would be better if not only was he no longer part of Lovely's life, that he said publicly that he wanted no more to do with us and then go to live under a sink somewhere. And then we'd have a top guy as king.

I presume the people who want him as king have met him, like him and like what he's done already for Lovely. However, in order for Lovely to grow I think that he should be ignored. And the proactive way of ignoring someone would be to lavish attention on someone else. Someone who has got time and willingness to put into this micronation of ours.

Oh, I suppose I better add that I don't wish him harm, nor do I blame him for ignoring us either. Otherwise I'm just under that heading of nut-jobs that I have placed everyone else under."

PAStA:

"I don't mind Ray being made King, but the idea and support for it seems to have come from a fairly small group of people. On the other hand, I'm not sure that many people really care much any more as to who is King. As for Danny, I don't think he cares any more either, he's moved on."

A Ray Of Light For Lovely

By HS

As much of the UK is currently basking in sunshine following months of rain and floods, what is happening in Lovely? With the main messages boards closed and shrouded in mystery, with King Danny absent and showing no signs of return, surely the country is dead?

No. The country is thriving again thanks to a forum designed by Bo to reunite all Lovelies, a resurrected Guardian Angel newspaper benefiting from the leadership skills of Nat, and, shock horror, a new King in Ray.

Why do we need a new King when we have Danny? I hear you ask. Well, for me to talk of the grace of God and people fighting with swords would be unhelpful and silly, so instead I will analyse the issue in detail:

The need for Lovely to have a monarch

Lovely is defined as a kingdom in our constitution. The constitution has not yet changed and it follows that we must have a king or queen as head of state.

The absence of Danny

Danny has been absent from Lovely involvement since the infamous incident in November 2006. Being engaged on Castaway for several months is a perfectly good excuse, however views expressed by him recently on the forum on his website would indicate that he believes Lovely is now a dead duck. Communication with him is at best very difficult and we have not had a speech or announcement from him in what seems like an eternity.

The suitability of Ray

Ray has a general good nature and easy for everyone to get on with. He is also a regular poster on the message boards and can regularly communicate with his subjects. He is not power-hungry in any way and is an ideal candidate for kingship.

No conflict in the role

No attempt has been made to overthrow or dethrone Danny. We have simply appointed a new King, and if Danny wishes to resume his role all

he has to do is say so. In the meantime there are no barriers to Ray being King and all citizens should accept him.

Summary

For the reasons stated above, I commend King Ray to the country. Hail King Ray!

It would be wrong of me to close this article without giving a special mention to Giddsey who has been instrumental in drumming up support for Ray and installing him as our new monarch. Giddsey in my opinion deserves a knighthood.

Lovely @ 2

By Pasta

1. TV Series started.
2. Message Board opened.
3. Thousands of people joined and tried to out-smart each other with clever ideas.
4. Some of them got on really well with each other, others didn't.
5. Different cliques evolved, although a few transcended the boundaries, thus "gluing together" an otherwise self-destructive collection of groups.
6. People met in Real Life and cemented new friendships.
7. TV Series ended.
8. Citizenship started to decline rapidly (at least, message-board regulars did anyway).
9. A hard core of determined Citizens remained.
10. Spammers and spoilers upset some groups.
11. An undercurrent of arguments began.
12. The King gradually lost interest.
13. The spoilers & spammers gradually got bored and wandered off.

14. The hard core regulars remained, but slowly fragmented into their cliques (mostly).

15. Big meets like Cheaster and a few others remained a success, interspersed throughout the year.

16. The BBC imposed a time-delay on their Message Board, causing some to get fed up & leave, and others to start new Boards elsewhere.

17. Leafstorm came to the rescue with a shiny new Message Board.

18. A resurgence in interest breathed new life and a more positive outlook into the country.

19. Arguments and insults returned, and the Leafstorm board was closed without any clear explanation.

20. Citizenship dwindled again, moving to numerous other locations.

21. Cliques became largely polarised within individual boards.

22. Several attempts were made to unify the Country, until the most successful one, Lovely Reunited, managed to do just that, for a while at least.

23. Some of the barriers between separate groups came down as people were reunited again, to a degree.

24. In the wake of this, the GA was restarted, aiming to bring a glimmer of hope and a feeling of continuity to Lovely.

25. Here we are now.

That's it in a nutshell, anyway.

For me, Lovely started as a brilliant idea and really fired my imagination. There was so much creativity going on, with collaborative stories evolving and lots of really silly role play. Sometimes it all got a bit too serious, but as with most things in life, people generally got over it and made up again. Some agreed to differ, others were irreconcilable.

At various times, I had hoped to see people collaborate in some kind of artistic collective, writing scripts and books or perhaps music, and becoming a real creative force, but sadly that never happened. At other times, I thought perhaps we could transcend the boundaries of geographical countries and unite and mutually inform the whole world in a spirit of constructiveness, an eagerness to get away from the petty squabbles that divide the Real World, promoting communications between

all communities, bridging ethnic and religious divides. But all that hippy idealism doesn't really wash with most people nowadays, the cynical appeals more than naive simplicity.

So, there we are then. What's next? Facebook?

.....Scrabble, anyone?

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Lovely's Birthday

By Coolmin

So there you are, holding some dusty old dull lamp one day and you decide to give it a wee bit of a polish and lo and behold a magic genie pops out and says "You can be whatever you want to be. But not King" Well it might sound a bit far fetched but it really happened, it did, and it happened two years ago on the 3rd August. Two years ! Can you believe it ? When ID pointed that out I was shocked, how time flies when you are having fun.

I remember it well. The promise of excitement, adventure and really wild things. At last I could really chose to have a position of standing in a country simply because I wanted it, no more of this tedious having to earn it, or fall heir to a title, no, the world was my oyster. Danny had fixed it for you and you and you and youuuuu (cue Jimmy Saville music).

It all started for me, and many others, long before the actual launch of our great little nation. Joinees and people who subscribed to Danny Wallace's news e-mails (he wasn't King Danny then of course, ohh no, he was just Danny) had a big build up to enjoy first. Thinking back to the first day the overriding feeling was excitement. When the site was launched I logged on and the potential seemed limitless, right from the word go the site was busy with what seemed like hundreds more joining ever hour, it was like a big party, every one there for the same purpose, to have fun and the feeling of optimism was palpable, it was like a brave new world, a clean slate, no history just an amazing future, a country without any kind of boundary. Fantastic. Everyone was eager to be involved, the pace was fast and there was so much happening, all new and all demanding attention, I couldn't tear myself away.

Speaking to Saz about it she reminded me of the great invasion of King Danny's fridge, the Duke of Sittingroom legend and she exactly echoed my memories of how exciting it all was. Unlike now we obviously knew no one, everyone was a friend we were still to meet, it was a community with

everyone having something in common. Friendships were being formed all the time, many of which are now unbreakable and can celebrate their anniversary on the same date as Lovely celebrates its birthday. It's second birthday. Wow ! Happy Birthday Lovely.

Are we having another little row?

By the editor (obviously)

That sounds patronising doesn't it. But then a lot of what I say tends to sound patronising. My only defence is that whatever I say, it is always with the greatest possible affection. This, I believe, gives me the right to say just about anything and get away with it. Which is why I'm not going to be all diplomatic about this. I'm going to name names and tell what I see as the truth. You're probably not going to appreciate it. Just remember

I love you

That justifies most things in the end.

I can't say for sure what drew us all together, I can't claim to know what made you stay. I certainly can't tell you what you want from the whole thing. But there is one thing I do know; it's what I see in all of you and it's why I stay. You care. All in your different ways perhaps, often not really willing to admit to it, but to me that's what makes you special. The willingness to accept someone for what they are, to tolerate anything short of actual abuse from them, and often even that, because you're willing to take the time to find out what makes someone tick. Because in spite of everything the world has done to you, through all the protective cynicism you have wrapped round you, you are brave enough to give someone that chance. And because somewhere, miraculously, you still believe it will be worth it.

I'm amazed every time I see that. It makes me incredibly happy. And I really believe it would make you feel better too, if only you could see it.

Because we're still a little stuck in the habit of pretending to be a country we tend to get things out of proportion. We generalise. I'm not going to do that, however raw the result, because that is how these things escalate. We're not a country, we're a group of friends, and that is how I want you to be able to see this latest spat; not as earth shattering politics but as the negligible event it in fact is.

The root to this whole this is probably right at the beginning of Lovely. It was hard to see the pattern then, to get it in perspective. By now we've all come to the conclusion that Lovely is prone to arguments. Why? I have a very strong opinion on that, one which I'm not going to expound here. Not now. It needs a lot more care and attention than I have to offer if it's going to avoid sparking off yet another small scale war. For the time being I'm just interested in the effect the arguments have.

Some of us can take a good row, can see it as part of the process, part of the fun even. To me at least, a clean argument doesn't affect the way I feel about people. I made my decisions about my friends long ago, as far as I'm concerned you can say and believe anything you like, provided it doesn't get really nasty. Even then though, many of us are only too willing to forgive bad behaviour, knowing things get said in the heat of the moment which should not be taken seriously. I judge people on how they behave to me when I'm being civil to them. I think most of you do the same, though it can be tempting to follow common opinion.

So far so good. A society capable of healthy debate, secure in the knowledge that, on a very basic level, everyone is welcome who welcomes us, anyone who cares will be cared about.

For some of us though, that can be hard to believe. Some of us see an argument as a threat, as something hateful. People talk of a split in Lovely, of groups of citizens not being able to live with each other. That's melodramatic. Yes, there are lots of us. That means we don't all agree. But we don't have to hate each other for it. In my experience most of us get along most of the time.

Had enough of all this preaching yet? I'll get specific.

The recent row started when, jokingly, Ray was declared King of Lovely on the Lovely Reunited forums. No I don't know who was responsible for that either. In any case, it was meant as a bit of fun. It could have been, and should be, properly talked about.

Razerbug disagreed with Ray's appointment, but instead of starting a discussion on the Reunited boards went and posted on Byluph, calling those responsible a number of things, including "childish tossers". And of course we all know Chris, and should be able to take that as it was meant, as an expression of disappointment and not as abuse.

However, Rev, who is currently Deputy PM, decided what was in his opinion a childish outburst deserved a childish response. He made the statement you have seen headlining this issue. Personally I found that rather witty. Those who know Rev will realise this is just posturing, and should not be taken all that seriously either. I'm a Byluph member, I'm

not banned. For the record, I have not been treated badly on the Reunited boards. Everyone there is nice to me, probably because I'm nice to them.

I don't think any of it is a cause for bad feeling. If we don't overreact and get all stroppy, everyone will soon find it's resolvable over a cup of tea. Or a pint. Or anything really.

I think part of the reason these things get out of hand is that we're bored. There's nothing real to do around here anymore. I've been thinking about that. I would like to use Lovely to improve the world somehow, to keep it fun, provide an escape for people unhappy with the real world. A while ago I heard about people leaving excessive packaging at the till, as a point to supermarkets. I like that. We could get people to do that. I'd like to write messages in bottles and see who finds them. Maybe even play micronations, you never know, it could be fun. There are lots of things we could do.

And I really do think, if we can only regain some faith in each other, that we can make this work. Because I love you all. I don't want to lose any of you. And I think, deep down, you share that.

So, how about it? Anyone for building that school?