

DWARF NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Dwarf Owners Society of Great Britain

No Dwarfs were harmed in the making of this publication

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of the New Year. This month we announce the winners of the Christmas competitions, and reveal the size of their T-Shirts. Our second story covers the threat of industrial action by female staff at Merkin College, Cambridge, which may force the closure of the establishment, unless an agreement can be reached.

Our Sports News section is re-produced by kind permission of the 'Roo Cullers and Dwarf Wranglers Club of Australia's publication, The Dwarf Wrangler's Gazette. This is published as a supplement to the much larger 'Roo Culler's Times. If any reader has a chance to see a copy of this publication, I can recommend the article on the correct shotgun cartridges to choose for use with spotlights, when firing from a moving vehicle. (In The 'Roo Culler's Times, not the Dwarf Wrangler's Gazette).

At the office, Secretary/Junior Reporter Without Portfolio Sophie has been given her own column. She has also received a written warning.

Much interest has been shown by readers in the daily lives of the office staff. Although a newspaper should report the news, not become the news, I have detailed a staff reporter, who will remain anonymous to protect him/her from the wrath of his/her colleagues, to keep readers informed. His/her first report is our opening story this month.

SECRETARY IS GIVEN WRITTEN WARNING, THEN ALLOWED OWN COLUMN BY EDITOR

By Our Staff Reporter

Monday, 3rd January

On returning from a generous break over the New Year, Secretary/Junior Reporter Without Portfolio Sophie was given a severe tongue lashing by the Editor, after she added her own piece to the end of last month's issue without his approval. "Nobody stuffs bits in without my say so", he shouted. He then gave her a written warning, for 'Inserting Foreign Objects', before telling her, "I've decided to allow you to put in a small column, once a month". The Deputy Editor, who overheard the conversation, had a coughing fit, and had to be given a glass of water.

Sophie is ecstatic, as she has ambitions to become a fully-fledged reporter. "I know it's only a small column I'm putting in now, but I hope it will get bigger in a few months", she told the Deputy Editor, which caused a further coughing fit. It is thought that the Editor is still in a good mood, believed to be due to his decision to allow Jane to go to Australia before she had time to discover that William Bigger, her gardener, and the Dwarf most hotly fancied in the office sweepstake to become her next husband, may be

the main beneficiary in the will of his last owner, Lady Felicia Crumble (deceased). The Editor has also opened a book on how long it will take Jane to get back to England, when she finds out. He is offering even money that she can make the journey in less than thirty-six hours. Sophie, who has been using the office computer to check flight times, has put ten pounds on her getting back in under thirty hours, at four to one.

COLLEGE THREATENED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Wed 5th January

Merkin College, Cambridge, acknowledged worldwide as the premier center for Dwarf related studies, is facing the threat of a strike by female domestic staff. The cooks, cleaners and housekeepers, made up of twenty-five per cent Dwarfs due to the college's unique employment policy, are demanding the resignation of Professor Henry Quigley, a lecturer in Dwarf Mythology.

Professor Quigley enraged female staff in an article, published in last month's 'Dwarf News', by claiming that all females, regardless of height, were incapable of understanding anything more complicated than a light switch. After a meeting called at short notice by their union, staff were asked to "Stand up and be counted" by the Senior Housekeeper. They voted three to one in favour of an all out strike. (The record was later amended to show all in favour, after it was realized that one quarter of the staff were already standing up. – Ed).

Our reporter, who visited the college on Friday, noted that floors were unswept, and that both teaching staff and students were forced to eat sandwiches for dinner, and to make do with cold drinks. On asking Professor Hugo Darkley, B.A. if the strike was causing hardship, he was told that the industrial action was not due to start until next week.

"It's often like this", one student complained. "Every time the hoover's full, the floors don't get cleaned until they can find a man to empty the bag for them. I haven't had my ironing done since last November. Apparently, the fuse has blown on the iron, and they don't know which way up the new one is supposed to go". Our reporter later saw one cleaner switching a light on and off six times. He advised her that this would cause the bulb to blow, only to be told "It seems to work better if you pump it up first".

Professor Smythe, the eighty-seven year old College Principle, spoke to our reporter, and told him that Professor Quigley was on borrowed time. "I'd love to see the back of him, the man's been a pain in the arse for years", he stated. Professor Quigley, known on campus for his habit of sharing his rooms with a succession of young male show Dwarfs, was unavailable for comment.

The College council is to meet over the weekend, and it is expected that Professor Quigley will be asked to resign, or face being dismissed from his post.

In a related story, Professor Smythe has revealed that his wife Brita, a former Danish exchange student, is expecting twins. "We have ordered another cot for the nursery," the professor stated proudly. "They're due in April".

(Brita, a part time lap dancer, married Professor Smythe in September last year. No one is sure why she was named after a popular brand of water filter. – Ed).

COURT DIARY

Friday 7th January

The proprietor of the 'Dwarf's Head', a popular inn near the town centre, appeared before the magistrates this morning, to make an application for his licence to be renewed. The request was opposed, after an objection from the Chief Constable, who made a rare public appearance to present his case. "I still have three men in hospital, thanks to a riot there just after Christmas, and a further eight officers at home sick. One of the men in hospital is unlikely to return to work for months, and even then he will have to go on light duties. It needed four of his colleagues to lift the piano off him", he explained to the court. The licence application was refused, and the proprietor was bound over to keep the peace for two years. On complaining to the magistrates that he could not be bound over, as he hadn't been charged with anything, he was arrested on the personal orders of the Chief Constable, charged with incitement to riot, returned to the dock, and remanded in custody until Monday. The case will return to court next week.

Monday 10th January

The proprietor of the 'Dwarf's Head', a popular inn near the town centre, appeared before the magistrates this morning, and was found guilty of incitement to riot. He was fined two hundred pounds, plus costs, and bound over to keep the peace for three years.

SPORTS NEWS

Three members of the British Naturist Dwarfs Over Sixty Unisex Leapfrog Display Team were taken to hospital suffering from frostbite, after the heating broke down during their away match against the Bristol Bouncers. The match was called off, and the Bouncers were awarded the win. Last month, the Dwarfs from Bristol complained about the heating being turned up when playing the naturists. The complaint was disallowed by Senior Referee Ivor Smallpiece; this time he came down on the side of the Bouncers, telling the British Naturist Dwarf's captain, "All's fair in love and war".

The captain of the British Naturist Dwarfs team has asked 'Dwarf News' to thank the person who returned his teeth to him, care of The Ancient Brotherhood of The Dwarfs of Albion, after he mislaid them at Ribble Valley Scout Hut during a demonstration last month.

THE AUSTRALIAN MIXED HEIGHT TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

(Reproduced by kind permission of the 'Dwarf Wrangler's Gazette').

Week One

The International Federation of Dwarf Owners have upheld a complaint by Czechoslovakian/American Dwarf Martika Navratilovska, regarding the conduct of the sex test, which threatened to rule her out of the ladies singles competition. Martika complained that Senior Tournament Referee Bruce Foster had asked her to sleep with him, and that when she refused; she was excluded from the event.

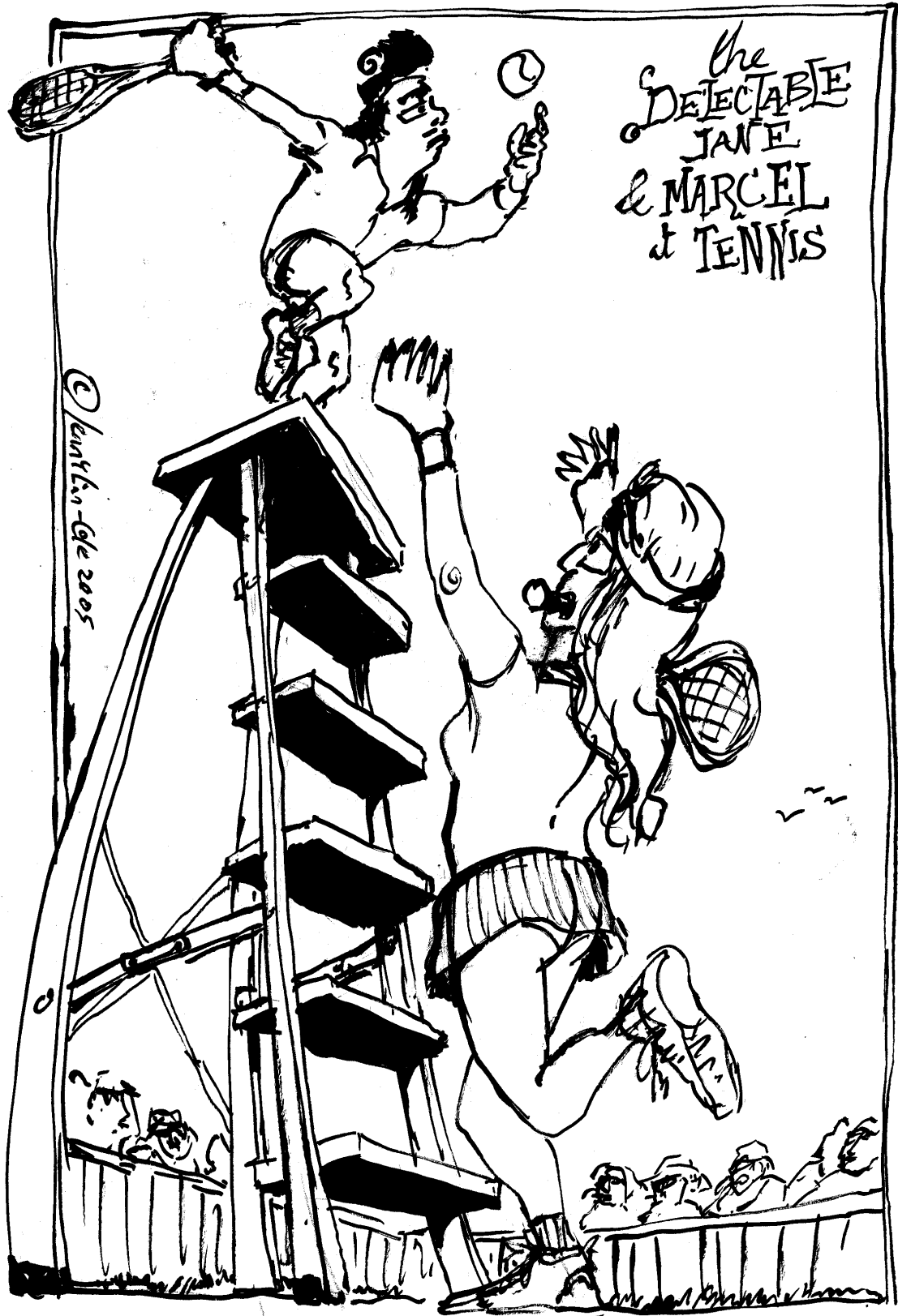
Bruce Foster remained unconcerned when interviewed. "I asked her if she fancied a screw. When she said no, I asked her to lie down while I had one. It's the best sex test I know, I've used it on hundreds of Aussie Sheila's, and it's never failed yet. If she turns me down, she can't be a real woman", he stated at a press conference. When asked how he felt about the other players in the ladies event refusing to compete if Martika was not re-instated, Mr Foster replied that if the other ladies wanted to let Martika play with them, it was not his concern. "I've always had my doubts about female tennis players, but what they do off court is up to them. It's only a game, no-one gives a rat's arse anyway," he told our reporter.

Martika went on to win the Ladies Singles title for the sixth year running, after beating her opponent, Australian Champion Yvonne Billabong, six love, six one in the final.

The entire American team has tested negative for highballs, the International Federation of Dwarf Owners has revealed. Senior Tournament Referee Bruce Foster has praised them for "Giving it a fair go". When asked if any of the Australian team had tested positive, Mr Foster informed reporters that Australian Dwarfs never used highballs, as they did not need to resort to taking giraffe's testicles to increase their height. "None of our players have ever strained their groins jumping over the net", he added. "Have you ever wondered how a dwarf like Kylie Minogue can have legs that are longer than she is?"

Off court, French Wonder-Dwarf Marcel Bouffant, known as the Rudolph Valentino of the Dwarf tennis circuit, was seen holding hands in a Sydney nightclub with a tall blond mystery woman. The Gazette can now reveal her identity. She is the Assistant Editor of pom paper 'Dwarf News', Jane Von Smith B.A. the 'Play Dwarf' Play Mate of the Year. Mrs Von Smith, widowed last year after a tragic accident involving her husband's stair lift, denied any romantic involvement with Marcel. "We are just good friends", she announced. "I am holding his hand because he is French. This way, I always know where at least one of his hands is, so I only have to worry about the other one". Marcel told reporters, "She need not worry, I am always a gentleman. I never carry a bucket on a first date".

Once on court, Marcel Bouffant dominated the men's competition, thanks to his famous slow serve, which he used to devastating effect in the final, winning by three sets to one against American star Pete Sanglas, known as 'The Chimpanzee,' due to an unfortunate excess of body hair. After his victory, Marcel used his stepladder to climb over the barrier into the front row, and sat on Jane Von Smith's lap for a congratulatory kiss. At the press conference after his win, Marcel revealed that he and Jane would partner each other in the mixed height doubles, during the second week of competition. Jane has revealed that she has never played lawn tennis before. "I'm sure I'll get the hang of it," she told reporters. "When I was at college, they had an old English Real Tennis court next to the main hall. I used to play a little, just for exercise".



The
DELECTABLE
JANE
& MARCEL
& TENNIS

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Editor's Note: In Dwarf tennis the server tries to serve as slowly as possible, rather than using the high speed serve which dominates the tall person's game. Not only does this make it easier for the spectators to follow the action, it also allows the server to get down from his or her stepladder, in time to face the return.

Week Two

The second week opened with the first round of the mixed height doubles. Bouffant/Von Smith won their opening match easily, to book their place in the quarterfinals. Afterwards, our reporter telephoned Merkin College, Cambridge, England, to ask them about Jane. He was told by the Principle that Jane is rated number three in England at Real Tennis. "Mind you, there's only about two hundred people who actually play seriously", he was informed. "It's much harder than normal tennis, after all".

After dominating both their quarter and semifinal matches, the pair went on to win the final, against American Dwarf owner Katie Williams and her partner Martika, in straight sets. The winners put their success down to a revolutionary new high speed serving technique. This involved Mrs Von Smith standing underneath her partner's stepladder, ready to catch him after his serve, so that both players could then run forward to cover the net for the return. Marcel served twenty-four aces in the match, a new tournament record. His fastest serve was timed at one hundred and thirty-five miles per hour.

Mrs Williams/Miss Navratilovska complained after the match to Senior Tournament Referee Bruce Foster, however the complaint was overruled. "They won fair and square, I reckon," Mr Foster told reporters. "I say good luck to them. It's only a bloody game, after all, no-one really gives a shit who wins, as long as everyone has a good time, and maybe gets laid."

Mrs Von Smith has revealed that she intends to stay in Australia for a further two weeks, and has booked a suite at the Sydney Plaza Hotel. "Yes, I believe Marcel is staying there too" she told our reporter.

FLOODLIT DWARF RACER SOLE HEIR TO CRUMBLE ESTATE

William Bigger, Once Britain's own Super-Dwarf and now a recovering meths drinker, has been named as the sole beneficiary in the will of his former owner, Lady Felicia Crumble.

Lady Crumble's solicitor, Mr John Gaskill, recently returned from Africa, after reading of his client's death in an old newspaper, believed to be the July issue of 'Dwarf News'. William told our Secretary/Junior Reporter Without Portfolio that the estate has been valued at approximately three million pounds, after tax and death duty has been paid.

"The house, (Crumble Manor), was worth about fifteen million, but the insurance company said they won't pay up, as the fire was started deliberately", Mr Bigger told Sophie. "Unless it's proved that Lady Crumble or me had nothing to do with it". As the police are no nearer to finding the guilty party, it is unlikely that Norwich Union will be putting their hand into their notoriously deep pocket in the foreseeable future. The remainder of the estate, which includes large amounts of land in Buckinghamshire, will allow William to purchase a property of his own. "I've contacted Patel, Cohen and Crunge, Eric Von Smith's solicitors, and told them I want to buy Eric's house. It will

save us all having to move out, and I have big plans for the old place”, William said. “It will also give me more time to finish my monument to Mr Von Smith”. William was left one thousand pounds by his former employer, and has stated that he intends to erect a memorial to the controversial author, at the exact place where he met his death in a tragic accident last year.

KENYAN POLICE ISSUE ARREST WARRANT FOR LADY CRUMBLE’S SOLICITOR

Solicitor John Gaskill was behind bars last night, after police in Nairobi asked for him to be deported to Kenya to face charges of cruelty to animals. It has been revealed that Mr Gaskill, who told our editor last month that he had been working as a Great White Hunter at the Nairobi National Park and Game Reserve, was actually employed as a grill chef, at the Great White Hunter Burger Bar, situated in the reserve’s car park. Mr Gaskill claimed to be taking a “Geriatric gap year, while still young enough to enjoy it”.

Police in Kenya first became suspicious of Mr Gaskill after being called to the reserve by the Park Director. Sophie, the ‘Dwarf News’ Secretary/Junior Reporter Without Portfolio, rang the Director at the end of December, after her suspicions were aroused when Mr Gaskill claimed to have been working as a tour guide in the park. “For someone who had spent the last year working in the sunshine, he looked very pale”, Sophie told the Editor, after the solicitor had visited the ‘Dwarf News’ office. The Director has since telephoned to thank Sophie for her enquiry, which helped the Kenyan police to discover Mr Gaskill’s present location.

Senior Game Wardens at the park first became concerned in October, when they discovered that giraffe births were down eighty-five per cent on the previous year. On closer inspection, they concluded that instead of a balanced population, nearly all the giraffes appeared to be female. Further study, which involved shooting three of the animals with a tranquillizer gun, revealed that one of the giraffes, while initially classified as female, was in fact a castrated male. A detailed study of the park’s herd later revealed that, from a population of just over one thousand giraffes, there are now only twenty-seven complete males. “This has set our breeding programme back years”, the Director told Sophie. “Twelve months ago, we calculated that we had around four hundred breeding males in the herd, now we have less than thirty. By our calculations, we are missing some seven hundred and forty-six testicles. Let’s face it, I’m talking a lot of bollocks here”.

Sophie rang the Great White Hunter Burger Bar, and spoke to the manager. “Mr Gaskill told us that his mother was ill, and he had to return home. This was just after the police began to interview the staff”, he explained. He revealed that John Gaskill was a good employee, and was always talking about his mother. A spokesman for the Kenyan police later revealed how they think he smuggled the testicles out of the country, when Sophie spoke to him by telephone.

“He told work mates that his father had died ten years ago, and that his mum said he was the only person who could make a martini like his dad. He used to mix a jug up every week, and send a flask of martini home to his mum in England. He even bought a special flask; he said it was guaranteed to keep things frozen for forty-eight hours. Scientists use

them for sending specimens back to the laboratory, when they're working in the field. We arrested the pilot of the supply plane that flies into the reserve once a week. He told us that he had a mother too, and that Gaskill got him to post the flask for him. We've released the pilot, he was taken in like everyone else".

A spokesman for the British police has confirmed that they were given an address in Surrey by the Kenyan police, and organized a raid on the property at six o'clock in the morning, two days ago. "We have arrested the occupant, a short female in her early fifties, after the freezer in the kitchen was found to contain over three hundred deep frozen testicles. She has since been charged with G.B.H.," he told our reporter. When asked if she had resisted arrest, the reporter was told that G.B.H. was short for giraffe bollock hoarding.

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCED

After a poor response to the 'Dwarf News' crossword and 'Find the Character' competitions in the December issue, the Editor has awarded a 'Dwarf News' T-shirt to long time reader Biggles, who also won the competition the previous month, despite getting one of the answers wrong. It is believed his decision may have been influenced by the fact that Biggles will give the T-shirt to his wife, 'Dwarf News' relationship counselor and grandmother of five, Auntie Linda. This will save the editor the cost of providing Auntie Linda with a staff T-shirt, saving 'Dwarf News' approximately two pounds, and reducing Tesco's profits for the month by a small, but noticeable amount. Readers who own shares in the Supermarket giant are therefore advised to consider re-investing in Sainsbury's.

For those readers who were unable to work out the answers, they are provided below.

CROSSWORD

Across.

1. Atlantis.
3. Ladder.
7. X-Rated.
9. Insure.
10. Ten
11. Dwarf.
12. Neuter.
14. Peseta.
15. Hammer.
19. Cherub.
21. Oaths.
22. Ant.
24. Resign.
25. Racing.
26. T-Shirt.
27. Envelope.

Down.

1. Albion.
2. Sixteen.
3. Leap.
4. Rule Four.
5. Issues.
6. Arrests.
8. Dead.
13. Cashier.
14. Polo Mint.
16. Merkin.
17. Minogue.
18. Star.
20. Bungee.
23. Diet.

DWARF WORLD CHARACTER

1. New Age.
2. Auntie Rachel.
3. X.
4. Rogers.
5. Elastic.
6. Upsy Daisy.
7. Von.
8. Wendy.
9. Ireland.
10. Bricks.
11. William.
12. Young.
13. A.D.A.
14. Leonardo De Vinci.
15. Too Small Sisters.
16. Ancient.
17. Intestine.
18. Last Dwarf Standing.
19. Jane.
20. Eric.
21. Editor.

**THE LETTERS, RE-ARRANGED, MAKE THE NAME WEETABIX
JULIAN WAVERLY.**

PROBLEM PAGE

This month, grandmother of five Auntie Linda turns her fertile mind to advising a reader who believes her Dwarf may be cheating on her.

Dear Auntie Linda;

I am worried that my Dwarf and husband of twelve years is having an affair. Yesterday morning I noticed when he was getting dressed, that he had a small hole in his left sock. When he got undressed for bed in the evening, he had a hole in his right sock. His job does not involve him getting dirty or having to take a shower before he comes home, as he works in an office. Why is he taking his clothes off when he is supposed to be at work? What makes this particularly galling is that when he makes love to me, half the time he doesn't even take his boots off.

Yours sincerely,

Cecelia Dunworthy (Mrs.)

Dear Mrs Dunworthy,

I'm so pleased to hear that after 12 years with your Dwarf it still matters to you that he may be having an affair but to make the assumption that he's doing so simply because at some time during the day in question he removed his shoes and socks is rather extreme, don't you think?

Pipes burst, rain arrives in copious amounts, accidents happen even in a busy, well run office and nobody but the most paranoid and suspicious of spouses could make a mountain out of such trivial situations. I also wonder, if you care so much for your Dwarf, why he has holes in his socks anyway. Is this some kind of trap you've laid for him? Are you trying to catch him out? If you care that much why aren't you darning as necessary or even buying new sock to replace old, damaged ones?

Are you searching his pockets for love notes and checking his shirts for lipstick? Because if you haven't found any yet I doubt if any self-respecting Dwarf would indulge in any kind of activity that would entail removing his socks before a suitable amount of time to get to know the object of his desire.

And as for not taking his boots off have you actually sat him down to discuss this with him? Perhaps he isn't aware of how distressing you find his lack of forethought but after all this time with your husband you must know how attached Dwarfs become to

their boots. For the rest of us it would be a comfy pair of slippers or fluffy pink bed socks while the male Dwarf becomes emotionally involved with his boots.

Think of the care he lavishes upon them: the constant waxing to keep the leather supple; repairs to sole and heel to enable him to stand easily when alert (and add an extra couple of inches to his height); that soft padded lining that cradles his heels and cossets his toes. With boots like his, would you want to take them off at one of your favourite moments of the day (week? month?) – I think not. I suspect you too would forget to remove them and let that blissful feeling steal over you from the toes up ...

Of course, it may just be that after 12 years with some bolshy little bastard who doesn't even remove his soiled footwear when he's in the mood for a quick shag may just have you hoping that he's found some other poor sod with whom he can share his leather fetish. If this is the case, I suggest that you confront him with your suspicions, shout him down if he tries to deny it and throw his possessions out of the bedroom window in order to produce maximum embarrassment in the culprit and maximum fun for your nosey neighbours

Whatever the circumstances, it's essential that you sit down and talk to him. You of all people should know him well enough to understand his mind and emotions so go for whichever option will make you happy... Guide him to the truth and if it turns out to be burst pipes in the gents or deep puddles outside the office then you are the one who must decide what it is that you want. Do not hurt his feelings deliberately; remember that he has been your partner for 12 years and you both have a deep emotional investment in this relationship.

For my sake, I hope that you can continue together for another 12 years but to do so with both of you unhappy would be a disgrace. So, good luck in whatever you choose and I wish you both contentment in your chosen paths.

Kindest regards

Auntie Linda

SUPPLEMENT

This month's supplement contains an article by American film mogul Harvey Steinway, who for many years ran top Hollywood casting agency 'Dwarfs 'R Us', providing short performers to the major studios. The agency was forced to close last year, due to the high cost of litigation against the corporate bullyboy tactics of a large chain of toy stores.

HOLLYWOOD DWARFS

Harvey Steinway, Former Vice-President, American Dwarfs Association.

Before the invention of moving pictures, audiences went to the theatre expecting to use their imagination. If they were going to see something by your famous scriptwriter, Bill Shakespeare, they knew that the battle scenes would be done on the cheap, and that the actors were not going to do a genuine massed cavalry charge across the stage. They expected the castles to be made of painted sacks, and the trees to be cut out of plywood. All this changed with the invention of movies. People became unable to picture things in their minds; unless it was shown to them larger than life, in glorious living black and white, with a good organ or piano accompaniment, they would find the whole thing totally unbelievable. If they actually had to use their imagination, then what was the point in watching it? They might as well stay at home and read a book. (Back in those days, the majority of Americans were still capable of reading, even the Irish and Polish ones).

As soon as the theatre impresarios tried to move into pictures, they discovered that the budget had just gone through the roof. If a scene was supposed to be set beside an Egyptian pyramid, then they were faced with two choices. They could either spend a fortune transporting the entire cast, plus all the equipment, to Egypt, and make the film there, or they could build their own pyramids somewhere in Hollywood. This was the preferred option, as the light was better, and you could actually drink the local water most of the time, without the cast and crew spending all day standing in line for the toilet tent. Unfortunately, building a full size replica of the pyramids, complete with the big lion thing, was going to cost more than the film would gross at the box office, plus by the time the scenery was finished, everyone else in the industry was going to be making 'Star Wars' part twenty-seven. If the movies were to survive, they had to find a way to keep the costs down.

I hate to admit it, but it was the Russians who first solved the problem, with the classic movie 'The Battleship Potemkin' back in nineteen hundred and twenty-five, directed by Sergei Eisenstein. Faced with resistance from the Russian Navy, who were not going to let anybody with a surname like Eisenstein loose with one of their battleships, he was looking at the prospect of filming the most important scenes on the Volga ferry. While this was pretty big, as ferries go, it was hardly the size of a battleship. He realized that if he couldn't make the boat bigger, he could always make it look bigger, by using very small actors. The rest, as they say, is history.

Many of the greatest epics in Hollywood history have used the same technique. Why spend time and effort constructing a full size Temple of Doom, when you can make a small-scale replica in the producer's back yard, and find yourself a Dwarf who can pass

for Harrison Ford? Movie stars use stand-ins all the time. A real star sure as hell isn't going to go falling off a horse, and maybe breaking a nail, when the studio can get some other poor idiot to do it, and the star still gets all the credit. So the studio uses a stunt man, or if they're smart, a stunt Dwarf. That way they can keep the cost down. The Dwarf can use a pony instead of a full size horse. A pony eats less than a horse, it makes less horseshit to clean up, and you can transport it in a U-Haul trailer, instead of buying a horsebox. With a good cameraman, and a skillful director, who's going to notice when the film's in the can?

Although Hollywood's most famous Dwarf, Danny De Vito, got into movies after success on television, most Dwarfs working in Hollywood today got their start in the movie business as stunt Dwarfs, or as extras in what appeared to be large scale productions. Tom Cruise got his break playing an Ewok in 'Star Wars', without the four-inch risers in his shoes that he has used ever since. He's actually three inches shorter than Nicole Kidman, which may be why their marriage ended up on the rocks. Western hero Alan Ladd, the star of the classic movie 'Shane', had to stand on a box for his face-to-face scenes with Jean Arthur, otherwise he would actually have been standing face-to-tit. While Alan would probably not have objected, it didn't take much to piss off the censors in those days. The first time half the actresses in Hollywood got laid, they did it with one foot on the floor, through force of habit.

While some Dwarfs have gone on to be stars in their own right, many have preferred to stay in the background, making a good living thanks to their resemblance to mainstream actors, in all but height. One of the most respected Dwarfs in Hollywood is 'Wee' Willy Wilson, more commonly known by his professional name, Arnold Shortzenegger. His first minor role was standing in for Arnie in the film 'Predator'. Most people believe this was filmed on location in the South American jungle. In fact, the outdoor scenes were all shot in the director's greenhouse. He has appeared in two 'Terminator' films, due to the high cost of Harley Davidson motorcycles. It worked out much cheaper to use a 125cc Honda in the films, with a second, dummy cylinder and beefed-up bodywork put together by the special effects crew. The engine noise was actually a recording of a cement mixer full of gravel, which was dubbed on afterwards. The producer tried to make a recording of the engine noise from a genuine Harley Davidson, but they couldn't get it started.

They used to say that the camera never lies, but that has never been true. Moviegoers praised the 'Rocky' films, and were full of admiration for the realism of the boxing sequences. Although the face shots of Sylvester Stallone are genuine, the scenes of boxing matches in huge stadiums were actually filmed in a school sports hall in down town Los Angeles. Stallone's double, Sly Smallbone, was a good featherweight boxer in his youth, and could have been a world champion if he hadn't discovered steroids, and received a life time ban from the sport. About the only Hollywood star that doesn't have a Dwarf stand-in apart from Tom Cruise is Bruce Willis, for obvious reasons.

As the cost of special effects for films became ever higher, so the more it made sense for studios to look for shorter film stars. Your British film industry, such as it is, has used the technique for years. In the nineteen hundred and thirty-nine version of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' the role of Sherlock Holmes was played by a British actor called Basil Rathbone, who was around six feet tall. Originally, the producer intended to use two five-year-old children dressed up as Holmes and his deputy, Doctor Watson, for the scene where the heroes were chased by the hound. He figured that the dog, a Great Dane,

would look huge beside the two kids. He was right, the dog looked so big that both kids cried and wet themselves repeatedly, adding even more moisture to the studio mock-up of the Grimpen Mire. Cue the stunt Dwarfs, who performed perfectly, making this one of the all time great British movies.

Many famous films shot in England feature trains, however trying to film a train in England can be a pretty hit or miss affair, as the British don't seem to have the same definition of the word 'timetable' as Americans, or people in Europe. Even Mussolini got the trains to run on time, for Christ's sake! Most great British films with trains in, such as 'The Thirty-Nine Steps', 'Brief Encounter' and 'The Railway Children', (Famous as the only film where Jenny Agutter kept her clothes on. – Ed) were filmed using small gauge locomotives, on private tracks. By swapping the actors for Dwarfs when a train was in shot, they managed to make people think that all the trains were full size.

Without Dwarfs, many classic films would not have been made at all, due to the enormous cost of the scenery, and the models. With modern methods, a director can use computers to make his actors look as tall, or as short, as necessary. To make a movie like 'Jurassic Park' a director doesn't need stunt Dwarfs, the dinosaurs don't really exist, and the whole thing is spliced together afterwards. For 'One Million Years BC', surely the greatest dinosaur movie ever made, this just wasn't an option. Filmed back in nineteen hundred and sixty-seven, if the dinosaurs had been full size, the cost would have been enormous. By using a Dwarf who looked remarkably like Raquel Welch, at least from the neck down, Hammer managed to bring the film in well under budget. Although Miss Welch's Dwarf double, Rachel Welsh, looked nothing like the star facially, due in part to the unfortunate combination of buck teeth, crossed eyes and a collection of warts that made the make-up man weep with envy, (And this was the guy who made Ursula Andress go from twenty-five to two thousand years old in around two minutes, for the film 'She'), people watching the film were so busy concentrating on the actress's body, in an animal skin bikini, that they didn't notice if she had a head, let alone a face. The film was made nearly forty years ago, and has been shown on television thousands of times all around the world, and to this day, still nobody has noticed. My guess is that no one ever will.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Mr Steinway for his insights. We hope to publish an article on the use of Dwarfs in television in a future issue.

LATE NEWS

From our Australian Correspondent

Wednesday 26 January

Beautiful pommie pin-up Jane Von Smith booked out of the luxury hotel suite she has been sharing with French Wonder-Dwarf Marcel Bouffant, after receiving a late night phone call from England. She is reported to have left the country to return home. Tennis star Bouffant is said to be devastated, and is refusing to leave the hotel.

Disgraced solicitor John Gaskill, who is awaiting extradition to Kenya to face a charge of cruelty to animals, has told police in England that he is prepared to spill the beans regarding his part in what is becoming known as the Great Giraffe Bollock Smuggling Scandal. He is reported to have told officers of the National Drug Squad that he is ready to “Name names”, in return for a place on the witness protection programme, together with a new identity. Kenyan police are said to be furious that Gaskill may escape punishment, by selling out his partners in crime.

The strike by domestic staff at Merkin College, Cambridge, has been called off, after Dwarf Mythology lecturer Henry Quigley was sacked over an article in ‘Dwarf News’. Eighty-seven year old College Principle Professor Smythe told our reporter that things are slowly returning to normal. He has also invited all staff at the paper, with their partners, to dinner at the college on Saturday, to celebrate his wife Brita’s twenty-fifth birthday.

SOPHIE’S COLUMN

By Sophie, Secretary/Reporter Without Portfolio

Friday 28 January

As you can see above, the Editor has given me a promotion to Reporter, instead of Junior Reporter. He has also given me a pay rise of 25 pence per week, starting next month. This is because he says I am the first ever ‘Dwarf News’ reporter to break a story of international importance, i.e. The Great Giraffe Bollock Smuggling Scandal! He has even promised me a whole page in future, so I can already see my column getting longer, and I’ve only had it for a month!

Jane arrived back at her desk this morning, having just flown in from Australia. She actually made the trip from her hotel to the office in twenty-seven and a half hours, so I have won forty pounds off the Editor, who said she would need at least thirty-six hours for the journey. Jane told me that she had to charter a private jet from Los Angeles to New York, in order to make a connection. The Editor, who told her to use her ‘Dwarf News’ expense account to pay for the airfares, is going to go mental when he finds out.

We have all been invited to a party at Merkin College at the weekend, and I am looking forward to it. I’ll tell you all about it next month. As it isn’t actually in work time, I’ve decided to wear my red wig, to see if anyone at the college recognizes me.