

# 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 July issue of 'Dwarf News'. This month we have the full story on the fight which broke out at a meeting of the Society's Awards Committee. We also have a report from Merkin College, Cambridge, after the death of Doctor Leon Canarbis, Principle Reader of the Newly Established Department of Political Infighting. Doctor Canarbis was known to be the most popular member of staff among the students. **(At least, among female students who wanted to bounce their grades up. – Ed).**

We also have a report on the Merkin College team's showing in the first round of 'University Challenge', and the threat of an investigation into teaching standards at the college by the Secretary of State for Education, after the team finished with the lowest score in the history of the programme.

Filming has begun on the re-make of 'Confessions Of A Window Cleaner', and our reporter has been speaking to the cast and crew.

This publication has learned that, in a country where the police are allowed to drive at 160mph while testing out new cars, celebrity Dwarf Simon Bruce has been caught on camera traveling at close to forty miles an hour in a thirty limit, on his 750cc Urinal Russian monster bike, and has been sent a fixed penalty notice. He is believed to be basing his defence on the argument that agricultural vehicles are not required to be fitted with a speedometer.

All this, plus our regular look at the legal news in Court Diary, our sports section with a preview on the start of the Floodlit Dwarf Racing season next month, and the identity of the winner in last month's 'Name That Pig' competition.

### POLICE INVESTIGATE DEATH OF PRINCIPLE READER AT MERKIN COLLEGE

Staff and students were shocked late last month by the news that Doctor Leon Canarbis, who headed the Newly Established Department Of Political Infighting at the Cambridge College, had committed suicide.

A police spokesman has told 'Dwarf News' that, after a full investigation, they are now satisfied that Doctor Canarbis took his own life. "We were suspicious at first that he had been the victim of a vicious attack which resulted in his death, after one student told our investigating officers that he had observed two female Dwarfs in waitress's uniforms on the college grounds, the day before the Doctor's remains were found at the bottom of the clock tower; and asked if his kneecaps had been broken. Due to his landing face

down from a height of sixty feet, there wasn't much that hadn't been broken," reporters were told. "As this fitted the description given to police by a prison van driver of two suspects, after the unfortunate death of the principle witness in a major investigation by the drug squad; along with a further description of two short ladies wanted for questioning in connection with the vicious kneecapping of the late author Eric Von Smith, we called in all the off-duty officers in the county, and raided every café, tea room and restaurant in Cambridge. We arrested one thousand, four hundred and ninety-three women who fitted the description. In fact, we pulled in every waitress under five feet two inches tall, to be on the safe side."

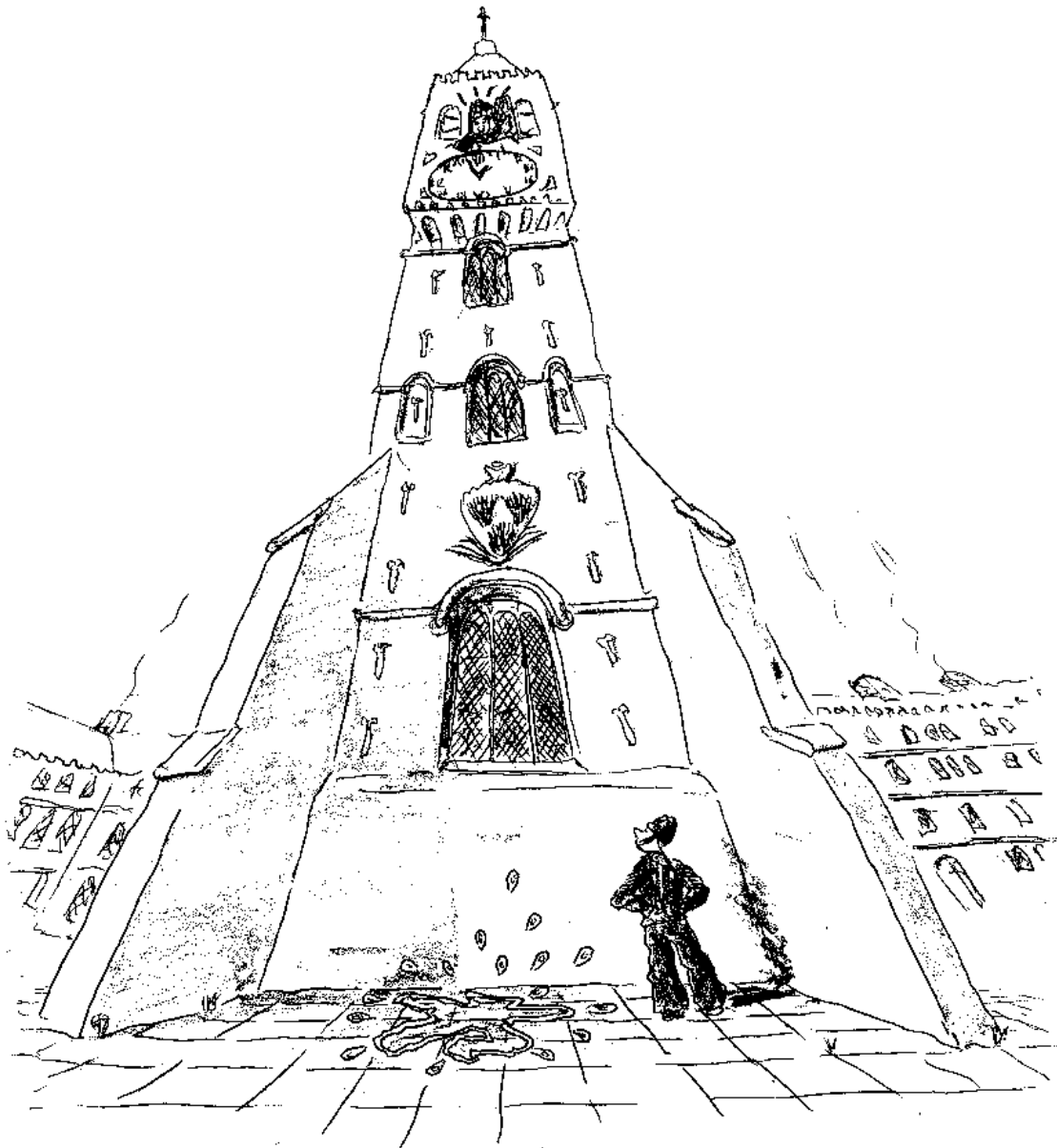
"We organized an identity parade, which took seventeen hours, however the student concerned assured us that the two Dwarfs he had seen were not among the suspects. He told us that the two waitresses he saw were working in the college dining room, and were called Deirdre and Maureen. We have since discovered that one quarter of all the domestic staff at Merkin are, in fact, Dwarfs. The student concerned has been charged with wasting police time."

Officers who searched Doctor Canarbis' rooms discovered two large bin bags containing soiled ladies' underwear concealed beneath the bed, after they were given a spare key by an in-patient at the College Infirmary, who was known to be friendly with the deceased. "This was a very disturbed individual, anyone who did what he did to himself before he jumped could hardly be called normal", said Inspector David Peel. "We were told by a colleague that he was afraid of heights, which is probably why, when we turned the body over, we found he had burned both his eyes out with a cigarette before he leaped to his death. We also found an extension lead from a socket in the stairwell, attached to an electric carving knife on the clock tower balcony. Frankly, what he did to himself with the knife before he jumped will give me nightmares for the rest of my life. It was raining on the night concerned, and the extension cable was not meant to be used outdoors. He was lucky he didn't electrocute himself".

Brita, the twenty-five year old Danish wife of College Principle Professor Smythe, (eighty-eight), told police that she had always thought Doctor Canarbis was "a bit creepy". "He used to come and watch at the club where I was lap dancing part time before the twins were born", she is reported to have told the officers concerned. "I am not surprised he was the man who has been stealing my underwear. I don't think I really want it back when you've finished with it, thank you."

Inspector Peel of Cambridge Police is delighted to have wrapped up two investigations in one, although he is still no closer to discovering the identity of the two people who broke into a top research laboratory in the town two months ago. "After we finished the investigation into the suicide, we held a raffle among officers at the station for the unwanted evidence. We raised nearly three hundred pounds for the Police Benevolent Fund. Professor Smythe's wife was good enough to autograph the winner's prize, and we have booked her for the Station Christmas Party," the Inspector told 'Dwarf News'.

At a memorial service for staff and students, held in the college chapel last week, third year student Janice Harris, captain of the Merkin 'University Challenge' team, informed the mourners that Doctor Canarbis would be sadly missed, particularly by those female students who were struggling to improve their grades. "Without Leon, many of the girls studying Political Infighting will find the course has suddenly become much harder", she told the congregation.



A CHALK OUTLINE  
AT  
MERKIN COLLEGE

R. R. R.  
2005

## COMMITTEE MEETING ENDS IN UPROAR

A routine meeting of the Dwarf Owners Society Of Great Britain's Awards Committee ended in chaos last month, resulting in the arrest of the Vice-Chair, Dwarf Keeper April Higginbottom; who was later charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

One committee member, who asked not to be identified after making a generous donation to the 'Dwarf News' Benevolent Fund, told our reporter that the meeting turned vicious, after there were calls for the Chair, Dwarf Keeper Dennis Pritchard, to stand down.

"There was a heated debate, which ended when Mrs. Higginbottom used the Chair's official staff of office to attack Dennis and two of his supporters", the paper was told. The staff, a ceremonial pickaxe handle presented to the committee by former Chairman Major Arthur Richardson-Potts when he retired in nineteen thirty-four, was broken in half, and is believed to be beyond repair.

The disagreement started when it was suggested to the Chairman that an award presented to Matt, who won Best Dwarf Boots, (Male) at celebrity Dwarf Simon Bruce's wedding last year, would have to be returned. Other committee members ridiculed the idea, and demanded a copy of Matt's birth certificate before the matter was discussed further. It was revealed last month that Matt, who claimed to be the identical twin brother of 'Dwarf News' Secretary/Reporter Without Portfolio Sophie, was actually Sophie herself.

Sophie was unavailable for comment, as she is at the present time an in-patient at Merkin College Infirmary in Cambridge. Her Doctor, renowned Dwarf Psychiatrist William Bodkin, G.F, S.R.C.C.P. told a representative of the committee afterwards in a telephone call that his patient is being treated for a severe personality disorder. "She has more important things to worry about than an award. Anyway, I thought it went to the best pair of men's boots worn by a guest, and if she was wearing men's boots, then I don't see what the problem is", Doctor Bodkin told the committee member. He also claimed to have the support of Professor Weetabix Julian Waverly, Chair of the Department Of Reverse Logic at Merkin. "He's quite willing to come and discuss it with the committee, if they have a spare weekend", Doctor Bodkin added, stating that Professor Waverly "enjoyed nothing more than a good debate, although he might argue otherwise himself".

With the committee still deadlocked over the issue, a group of members have written to the Dwarf Keeper Royal, demanding the re-instatement of former Chair Zena, who was forced to resign last year. "She is the only Chairperson in recent history who had the authority to keep the Awards Committee in order," the letter states, going on to mention that, as well as having the respect of her fellow members, "she also has her own pickaxe handle". The Dwarf Keeper Royal, who suspended Zena's membership for three months last year, after an enquiry into the disposal of the old 'Dwarf News' steam press, is expected to strongly resist calls for her return, as he will not want such a popular member in a position of authority within the Society. Zena, who is rumored to have spent her three month suspension period taking a crash course in Political Infighting with Doctor Leon Canarbis, (deceased), at Merkin College, Cambridge, has not yet indicated whether she would accept the post, if offered. Sources at Merkin claim that Zena scored very high marks throughout her course, without having to resort to Doctor Canarbis' infamous extra tuition sessions to make her grades up. This was probably fortunate, certainly from the point of view of Doctor Canarbis himself.

Doctor Bodkin has told 'Dwarf News' that Sophie is very sorry for causing a problem, and reports that she is responding well to treatment. "She is very co-operative. Sofia, the dark-haired member of the quartet, seems to have faded into the background since Doctor Canarbis's suicide. After all, I think he was the only real friend she has ever had", he told Deputy Editor Jane Von Smith B.A., who went to see Sophie last weekend. He also revealed that Sophie is not concerned that she is unable to have children, due to her being brought up on highballs, an illegal drug made from a blend of alcohol and liquidized giraffe's testicles. The drug is now known to cause sterility among female Dwarfs who take it in an effort to grow taller. "She feels that it would be irresponsible to bring a child into such a dysfunctional family, what with an auntie who has a serious drink problem, another who has to be kept away from anything sharp, and an uncle who would need his passport photo in landscape, rather than portrait, to get his ears in", Doctor Bodkin explained.

## FILMING BEGINS ON CONFESSIONS OF A WINDOW CLEANER RE-MAKE

American film impresario Harvey Steinway is reported to be pleased with progress so far, as he bids to produce a modern version of the British film classic from the nineteen seventies. "Harry Collins is a natural comedy talent, he'll be huge in Hollywood when the film is released", he told our showbiz correspondent. "They love British actors in the States".

American stunt Dwarf 'Wee' Willy Wilson, who has represented America in the World's Strongest Dwarf competition for the last three years, and is best known as a double for Arnold Swartzenneggar, praised Harry's ability as an actor. "After working with Arnie, it's a real pleasure to watch a true professional at work. To see Harry riding a bicycle with a bucket in one hand, and a stepladder over his shoulder, is one of the funniest things I've ever seen, the whole crew nearly wet themselves. How he managed to fall off without breaking more than a couple of ribs was amazing. When he told us afterwards that he didn't actually know how to ride a bike, before the director made him do it again for the re-take, we were all astonished. They shot that scene twenty-eight times, and I don't mind telling you we all laughed just as loud when he fell off for the twenty-eighth time, as we did on the first take".

Wilson, who was drafted in to take over for the star during the sex scenes after Harry's wife, former radical Dwarf feminist Minnie Small-Collins, refused to allow her husband to appear with a succession of young naked actresses, has also impressed the director.

"In the past, standing in for Arnie, he has only been required to perform the dangerous stuff, like riding motorbikes and getting shot. Arne always does his own sex scenes, in fact he has been known to complain that some of his films didn't have enough of them," Steinway told a reporter from Stage And Screen in an interview last month.

The director has angered British actresses, by choosing a cast of Americans to play all the female parts. "If you want a film to do well in the U.S. of A. you have to give the audience something familiar. Half the young actresses in England still think silicone is something you put round the bath to stop it leaking. American audiences like women with good boobs, they don't subscribe to the British idea that anything more than a

handful is a waste. Besides, in one scene, the hero is supposed to fall off his ladder, go through a window, and land on top of a housewife who's taking an afternoon nap. With a stunt like that, he's gotta have something soft to cushion the landing", he told 'Dwarf News'.

## COLLEGE FACING ENQUIRY INTO STANDARDS BY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Merkin College, Cambridge, Britain's premier center for Dwarf related studies, is facing an investigation by Education Department inspectors, after their team scored a record low of minus twenty-five in the opening round of 'University Challenge'. Their opponents, Leeds Polytechnic, were also record breakers, when they notched up the highest ever score in a first round, of three hundred and fifteen.

Merkin's team captain, third year student Janice Harris, admitted that her team were outclassed on the day, but criticized the range of questions as being unfairly biased in their opponent's' favour. "With hindsight, maybe we should have picked a team covering a greater range of subjects, rather than four people all studying Applied Dwarf Lore," Janice told one of the 'Dwarf News' staff, who had managed to get a ticket. **(Maybe he was doing thirty-nine in a thirty zone. – Ed)** "Leeds had an English Literature Student, a Biology student, a girl studying history, and someone doing political science. I counted, and there were seven history questions, four on politics, three bonus questions on someone called Shakespeare, who apparently counts as English literature, and five on biology. We didn't get one question on Applied Dwarf Lore, which we are all studying. There was a question on chess, which Jeremy should have known, but he got all excited and pressed the button too early, and fluffed it. I used to go out with him when I was in the first year, and to be honest, I'm not that surprised".

The Education Department has since announced that they will be holding an enquiry into standards at the college. "Merkin is partly supported by the government, and many of the students receive grants to help pay for their education", a spokesman for the department announced at a press conference. "We have a duty to the tax payer to ensure that their money is not wasted."

College Principle Professor Smythe, (88), has reacted angrily to news of the enquiry. He refuted claims that Merkin was wasting taxpayer's money. "We are a specialized institution, teaching Dwarf related subjects, and are recognized as the foremost center in our field. We do teach a range of other, equally unusual subjects, like Reverse Logic. We also have a department specializing in Political Infighting, or at least we did until two weeks ago, when the man in charge decided to do a pizza impression by jumping off the clock tower", the Professor explained.

Other staff at the college were also furious at the accusation that they do not provide a balanced education. "Half the colleges in Oxford and Cambridge are stuffed full of colonials studying for a degree in sports science, or pottery, so they can qualify for the rowing team", claimed Professor Hugo Darkley, B.A. "Call that a balanced education? Most of the rowers are so thick they have trouble remembering which direction they

should be facing when they sit in the boat. If they had one more brain cell apiece, they wouldn't be a boat crew, they'd be a window box."

Professor Weetabix Julian Waverly, Professor of Reverse Logic, has challenged both the BBC and the Education Department to allow him to enter 'Mastermind', to restore the reputation of Merkin College. Professor Waverly has stated that his specialist subject for the first round, if his challenge is accepted, will be "Theoretical Movement of Quasi-Autonomous Semi-Solid Particles, While Suspended In Neutrino Enriched Fluid Mediums." The BBC are said to be considering the request.

## 'DWARF NEWS' SECRETARY MAY BE WORLD'S TALLEST

### DWARF

Sophie the 'Dwarf News' Secretary, who is at present an in-patient at Merkin College infirmary, may be the tallest Dwarf in the World, according to the Records Department of the Dwarf Owners Society Of Great Britain.

Experts have split into two groups, with one group claiming that it is now impossible to tell if Sophie, who was given highballs by her mother from infancy up until she was fourteen, would have grown up to be a Dwarf, (**or rather, not grown up to be a Dwarf, - Ed**), if she hadn't been fed on liquidized giraffe testicles for so long. "We'll probably never know the truth, and as Sophie is five feet ten, she could hardly count as a Dwarf", claimed Principle Show Judge Ivor Smallpiece.

Other members of the Society have taken a different stance, supported by experts from the Genetics Department at Merkin College. Professor Weetabix Julian Waverly, who heads the Department of Reverse Logic, points out that, if Sophie had been destined to grow to five feet ten, then the intake of highballs over the course of some fourteen years would have caused her to grow much taller. "I should like to mention that Gill, the tea Dwarf at 'Dwarf News', has a daughter who is six feet tall. It is notoriously difficult to predict what height a Dwarf's offspring will reach, due to constant interbreeding with taller people. If Sophie was meant to be naturally tall, then after all the highballs, I estimate that she would now be around eight feet six. The fact that she is only five feet ten proves she's a Dwarf", claims the Professor.

The tallest suspected Dwarf known at the present time is Louise, who claims to be five feet eight inches tall, however she may be lying.

### COURT DIARY

The former Editor of 'Dwarf News' has appeared in court charged with forgery, after he tried to sell what he claimed were the original diaries of controversial late author Eric Von Smith. He has pleaded not guilty. He has also announced that he intends to sell a previously unknown painting of famous Elizabethan Dwarf Earl Bodkin and his family, by George Gower, who was appointed sergeant painter to Queen Elizabeth the First in 1581, a position he held until his death in 1596. The painting shows the Earl, with his wife, the former Lady Jane Krumpett, and some of their eleven children, seated outside a famous coaching inn, the 'Dwarf's Head', in Oxford. The inn, which still stands, was closed last year, after police opposed a licence renewal due to a riot in the area over the

Christmas holiday period, in which several policemen were injured. The inn was named in honour of Earl Bodkin himself. The former Editor claims that the picture has been in his family for the last two hundred years.

Experts from several auction houses have studied the painting, and are satisfied that it is a genuine Gower. As very few of his paintings are in private hands, the picture is said to be worth a substantial amount. It is due for auction early next month at Bond Street Galleries, and 'Dwarf News' will be there, to report on the sale.

'Dwarf News' Deputy Editor Jane Von Smith has filed for bankruptcy, after the disappearance of Mrs. Gladys Arbuthnott, the treasurer of the Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society, with a cheque for seven million pounds. The money was paid out by Norwich Union, after an explosion destroyed the society's collection of ancient steam engines, and claimed the life of Gladys' husband, Richard Arbuthnott. Also believed killed was fellow steam enthusiast Mr. Fred Clegg, although his body has still not been recovered. Mrs. Arbuthnott was last seen boarding a flight to Australia, two days after the cheque cleared.

Jane was due to receive three point seven million pounds from the society to cover the loss of the old 'Dwarf News' steam press, which was destroyed in the explosion. The press had been purchased as a present for Jane by her third husband, controversial author Eric von Smith, (deceased). Jane had already begun to spend the insurance money before she received it, and placed a large deposit on a town house in Oxford. She had also moved into the honeymoon suite in a top hotel with her latest fiancée, Marcel Bouffant, at four hundred pounds a night. She has now lost her deposit, and is unable to pay the hotel bill of more than eleven thousand pounds, after staying in the suite for more than a month. She is at present living with second husband Harry Collins and his wife Minnie, at the house she generously signed over to Harry after the couple's divorce. Jane has revealed to the court that she has no assets whatsoever, and her fiancée, French Dwarf tennis star Bouffant, has returned to France, leaving her with the hotel bill. Monsieur Bouffant, when contacted in Paris by 'Dwarf News' and asked when he intended to return to be with Jane, replied "Jane who?"

## SPORTS REPORT

The International Federation Of Dwarf Owners, the governing body for Dwarf sports worldwide, has upheld a complaint by the American Dwarf Association, into the conduct of the British team coach at last month's Scottish Open Dwarfs Golf Tournament. The American favourite for the title, Tyrone 'Weasel' Woods, was run over by a golf buggy on the final day of the tournament, and was unable to climb his stepladder afterwards, due to a knee injury. He was later disqualified for digging holes in the course. The British coach, who was driving the golf buggy at the time, claimed afterwards that the incident was accidental.

The Federation has suspended the British coach for two years, for unsportsmanlike behaviour. He is said to be considering an appeal.



Next month sees the start of the new Floodlit Dwarf Racing season, and competitors in this lucrative sport have been in training, to try and reduce their waistlines after the winter lay off. Since the retirement of Britain's Super Dwarf, William Bigger, who has left the sporting world to concentrate on running his new venture, the Eric Von Smith Memorial Museum, the favourite for this year is 'Lightening' Larry Rogers. Larry, known as 'The Inflammable Dwarf' after an unfortunate series of fires kept him out of competition last year, has now made a full recovery from his injuries.

Interest in the sport is at an all-time high, after last year's Dwarf Owners Olympic Games were held in Britain, and bookmakers are predicting a bumper year. The President of the Dwarf Owners Racing Club, Lady Emily Fortescue, has announced several rule changes for the coming season. Lady Fortescue took over the presidency after the death of the former President, Lady Felicia Crumble, in a fall last year. "For the coming season, the hurdles in the steeplechase have been lowered by two inches, and all the competitors will be required to wear helmets", Lady Fortescue told our Sports Editor in an exclusive interview. Her own Dwarf, 'Turbo' Tommy Davies, is also expected to do well, particularly in the sprint, run over one lap. "I know that 'Lightening' Larry proved consistently faster at the start of last season, but he will be handicapped by extra weight this year. He intends to carry a fire extinguisher with him on track, and that is bound to slow him down", Lady Fortescue revealed.

A full report on the first event of the new season will be included in next month's issue.

## PROBLEM PAGE

Our relationship councilor, grandmother of five Auntie Linda, is once again on hand to help readers who have problems with their personal lives. This month's letter comes from a young lady who seems particularly prone to infection.

*Dear Auntie Linda;*

*I am really fed up! Hardly a month has gone by this year, without me getting another dose. Can I get vaccinated against it, and if not, what do you advise?*

*Yours Sincerely,*

*Tracy*

*P.S. I am working as a temp in the 'Dwarf News' office. And there are lots of men working here, so the sooner I can get this month's infection cleared up, the sooner I can start making new friends.*

Dear Tracy;

As you have probably realised, I have received letters from a couple of your paramours about this situation and I really am not sure that we are talking about the same thing. All the gentlemen/Dwarfs who have written to me have been convinced that they have caught a "dose of clap" (*Syphilis*) from you and you seem to feel that you are in a similar situation but I'm not convinced that what we are discussing here is what everybody assumes it is.

First, we need to clarify what the general reading public considers a “dose of clap” to be. **Syphilis** (historically called *lues*) is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that is caused by a spirochaete bacterium, **Treponema pallidum**. **Syphilis** has many alternate names, such as: **Miss Siff**, the **Pox**, and has been given many national attributions, eg, the *French disease* or the *English disease*.

The route of transmission for **syphilis** is almost invariably by sexual contact; however, there are examples of direct contact infections and of congenital syphilis (transmission from mother to child in the womb).

The signs and symptoms of **syphilis** are myriad; before the advent of serological testing, diagnosis was more difficult and the disease was dubbed the "*Great-Imitator*" because it was so often confused with other diseases.

As you can see, in order to catch this kind of “clap” you need to be indulging in full sexual activity with an infected partner and not being very careful. During the past year, if you are suffering from this disease you would have displayed a variety of symptoms which include: a firm, painless skin ulceration localized at the point of initial exposure to the bacterium, (which in your case should be your vagina). Glands around the area would swell making peeing and sitting difficult. The primary lesion may persist for 4 to 6 weeks and then heal spontaneously.

The second stage is characterized by a skin rash that appears 1-6 months (commonly 6 to 8 weeks) after the primary infection. This is a symmetrical reddish-pink non-itchy rash on the trunk and extremities, which unlike most other kinds of rash involves the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet; in moist areas of the body the rash becomes flat broad whitish lesions called *condylomata lata*. Mucous patches may also appear on the genitals or in the mouth. You might also experience a fever, sore throat, weight loss, anorexia, headache and enlarged glands. A patient with syphilis is most contagious when they are at this stage.

If you have had any of these symptoms during any time in the past year then it's highly likely that you have contracted medically defined “clap” through one of your liaisons. And yes, you can be cured through the use of antibiotics but not immunised against it and you must go to your doctor or branch of the Brook Advisory service IMMEDIATELY and forget about making “*new friends*” for a while.

However, I am beginning to doubt that this is actually what you have got. Your constant reference to this monthly cycle gives me to believe that somewhere in your past you have been given some frightening and inaccurate information about this subject. Most women suffer serious inconvenience and sometimes considerable pain during their “time of the month” but it is NOT a disease or something that can be cured by injecting penicillin.

Your mother or some other female relative should have taken the responsibility of telling you about this. It is neither abnormal nor dangerous and is called “menstruation”, often referred to as “periods” or by the older generation as “the curse”. It is possible to deal with this monthly situation in a sensible fashion that should not interfere with the enjoyment of any of your hobbies. It is, however, important for you to be aware that this mechanism is what enables women to have babies and you must learn as much as you need about this from a sensible friend or your doctor.

So there is good and bad here: first, your “clap” may just be a misinterpretation of a perfectly natural situation; secondly, it isn’t too late to sort things out if you do have an infection of some kind; and thirdly, there is no reason why you should not continue to have close relationships with your male friends once you get more information.

Finally, you have got to learn that making friends does not have to include any form of intimate contact. If the men/dwarves in your life really care about you they should be happy to take you to dinner or the cinema or even to a rally without expecting such a special treat as a thank you.

Tracy, dear, if you don’t understand some of the stuff in this answer please, PLEASE, show it to your doctor or, if you are too shy to speak to somebody you already know, go to the Brook – you can find them in phone book I’m sure Sophie will be pleased to help you as she is a very caring young woman and I am certain that she can advise you on safety in relationships which is not the same as safety in numbers. And perhaps she could help you to realise that you can have female friends too!

Good luck, Tracy, hopefully this will soon be solved.

Kindest regards,

*Auntie Linda*

## LAST MONTH’S COMPETITIONS

In an unexpected display of generosity, last month the Editor decided to award exclusive ‘Dwarf News’ T-shirts to two lucky readers.

Entrants were asked to find a suitable name for the Dwarfmobile in our ‘Name That Pig’ competition, after the Dwarf Keeper Royal’s Reliant caught fire, as reported in last month’s issue. **(The vehicle has now been written off, and is believed to be destined for the nearest pork pie shop. - Ed).**

Readers were also asked which of ‘Dwarf News’ Secretary/Reporter Without Portfolio Sophie’s four personalities they would choose to dispose of, after it was revealed by her psychiatrist, Doctor William Bodkin, that she was suffering from Dissociative Identity Disorder.

A bumper entry for ‘Name That Pig’ saw suggestions from last month’s competition winner Marith, (‘Smokey’); and recovering ‘Dwarf News’ photographer Roger Bradbury, who suggested ‘Walkers’; as the vehicle is now smokey bacon, and it’s former passengers are pedestrians. **(Roger is also guest illustrator for this month’s issue. – Ed).**

Also worthy of note was new member of the Society Peter Craig's 'Bob', short for Burnin' Our Bacon, or possibly 'Porkey's Grill'. The Editor finally decided to award a T-shirt to long-time reader Matt, identical twin brother of 'Dwarf News' Secretary/Reporter Without Portfolio Sophie, after he undertook exhaustive research to discover where the Dwarfmobile was originally made, (he asked the Dwarf Keeper Royal), and suggested 'The Tamworth Toaster'.

As the 'car' has now been consigned to the pork scratchings factory, a name is, sadly, no longer required. Had it been rebuilt, the most likely would have been 'Phoenix'. **(Negotiations are underway to obtain a replacement Dwarfmobile, from Captain Biggles' Used Motorcycle Emporium and Second Hand Reliant Dealers. – Ed).**

Entries were also forthcoming; regarding which of Sophie's four personalities should be the first to face eviction. Once again, Roger showed his cynical side, with the suggestion that it didn't matter who went first or second, so long as the final two were as ill-matched as possible, to cause maximum stress to the contestants. He claims that this is standard procedure for all 'Reality' TV shows.

The winner was new member Peter Craig, who felt that Sophia should go, as she has too much to say for herself. He points out that this would give the others a chance, and allow Matt the opportunity to grow, and develop a full backbone. Peter is therefore requested to contact the office by the usual method, with an address for the T-shirt, and his size. (Dwarf, Medium, Large, Extra Large, or Clinically Obese).

All suggestions have now been forwarded to Sophie's psychiatrist, Doctor William Bodkin, G.F, S.R.C.C.P.

There will be another competition in next month's 'Dwarf News'.

## MATT PASSES MOTORCYCLE TEST

Congratulations go to Matt, identical twin brother of 'Dwarf News' Secretary/Reporter Without Portfolio Sophie, for passing his bike test first time, on his Suzuki 550cc rat bike. Matt was given some helpful advice on parking by his examiner, ("Go careful where you park it, you might get done for fly tipping"), and was congratulated on his riding at the end of the test. ("I take my hat off to you, mate. If you can ride a heap of shit like that, you can ride anything"). It is hoped that Matt will celebrate his pass by buying a motorcycle. He was advised to leave the 'L' plates on by his instructor, as only someone without a licence, who knows nothing about bikes, is likely to buy it off him.

## READER'S SMALL ADS

UPSY DAISY equipment, full set. VGC, bought new and used only twice, owner going abroad. Serious offers to box 1, 'Dwarf News'.

ROBIN RELAINT, good for 'burnouts', realistic 'flame' paint job, slight starting problem. Offers to box 2, 'Dwarf News'.

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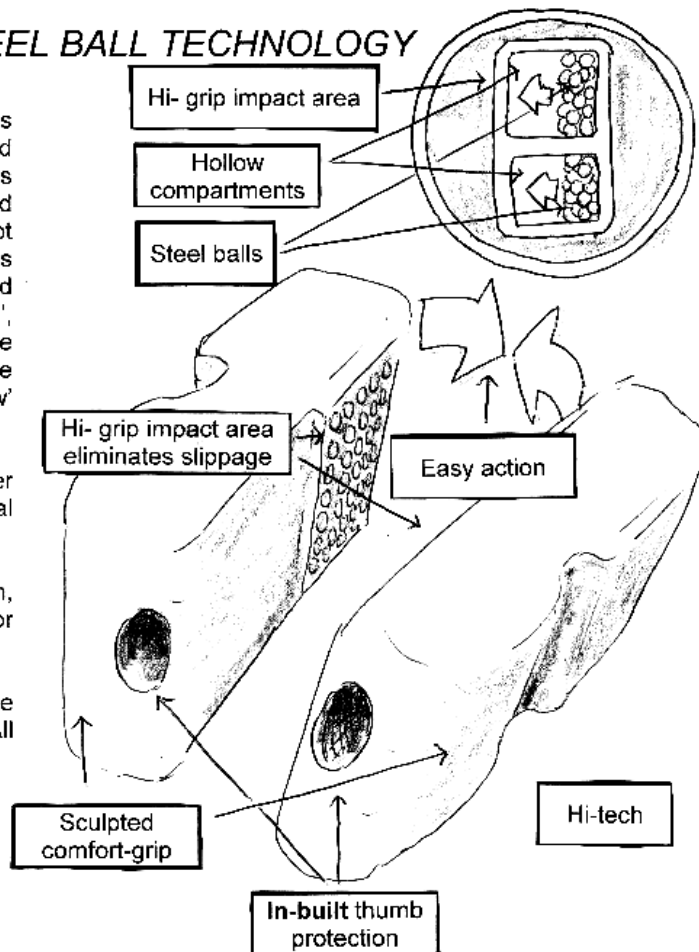
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**Editor's Note:** A wonderful invention, though aimed more at the professional neuterer than at the one time do-it-yourself home user. Expensive, at nearly two hundred and fifty pounds, but much cheaper than six weeks off work with two broken thumbs. 'Dwarf News' deplores the practice of using a vice or G cramp, as experiments by the Society's Technical Department have shown that this causes unnecessary suffering to the Dwarf concerned.

# SUPPLEMENT

This month's supplement is by Professor Henry Quigley, who was a lecturer in Dwarf Mythology at Merkin College, Cambridge until he was dismissed over an article in January's 'Dwarf News'. He is at present writing a book on Dwarfs during the reign of Queen Elizabeth the First, provisionally titled '*Dwarfs of the Elizabethan Age: A Short History*'. His article contains extracts from his forthcoming work.

## FROM BRITE-ARSE TO BODKIN: DWARFS OF THE ELIZABETHAN AGE.

By Professor H. Quigley

(I should like to thank The Ancient Brotherhood Of The Dwarfs Of Albion, for allowing me access to the Journals of Brite-Arse, and their kind permission to quote from the same. Also to Cuthbert, the fourteenth Earl Bodkin, for making available the Bodkin family papers).

Although the best known of Elizabethan Dwarfs, Phillip of Staines, who became the first Earl Bodkin, certainly led an interesting life, the journals of Brite-Arse give a far greater insight into the lives of Dwarfs during the reign of Elizabeth Tudor. In a naval career spanning nearly twenty years, he sailed with two of the most famous seafarers of his generation, Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh. One of the few Dwarfs of the period who learned to read and write, though unfortunately not how to spell, Brite-Arse kept a journal throughout his time at sea, and continued the habit after retiring to run an inn.

Originally one of two Dwarfs to accompany Francis Drake when he first set sail in 1572, he was on board when the ship was renamed 'The Golden Hinde' after Drake became the first Englishman to successfully navigate the Straits of Magellan in 1577. In truth, Drake was little better than a pirate, with letters of marque from the Queen to pursue the enemy wherever he could find them. Such captains usually raised the money for these expeditions themselves, often with the Queen having a financial stake in the enterprise. Captured enemy ships were sold to the crown, and the ship's crew all received a share of the profits.

This was about the only way for a common sailor to become a rich man, and many did become extremely wealthy at the conclusion of a voyage, though often only for a short time. A young man from a poor background, over the course of five or ten years, could, if he survived and prudently saved his share of the prize money, live well for the rest of his life. The risks were enormous, with the possibility of capture, and spending many years in prison, death at the hands of the enemy, or even at the hands of his friends, who would receive a larger share of the profits if there were less people to share them with. **(This same fine spirit, and refusal to acknowledge the risks involved, is what drives so many young men from poor backgrounds today to choose an exciting and rewarding career as a crack dealer. -Ed).** Most expeditions returned, if at all, with less than half the crew they started with. Captains would set sail with five ships, to return

years later with only two or three. Although this seems a high attrition rate, it should be remembered that these vessels were at the forefront of the day's technology, traveling into uncharted areas, as they pushed the limits of man's abilities and daring. Compare the figures with the American success rate for the space shuttle, they started with five, they now have only three left. As naval voyages often lasted for many years, this suggests that British technology in the latter part of the sixteenth century was actually superior to that of the Americans in the present day. After all, shuttle voyages usually last less than two weeks. **(Indeed, one lasted less than ten minutes. – Ed).**

Brite-Arse returned to England with Drake and his severely depleted crew at the end of the voyage. He tells us in his journal that Drake's other Dwarf, Todger, was one of those who died on the voyage, due to his habit of sleeping in a cannon barrel. Brite-Arse put his survival down to his short stature. "Being of smalle sise, I was clowser to thee deck, and could duck faster than my fellowes when the cannon balls started to flye", he wrote, adding that, when rations were running low, "I could make a good meel of short fare, as my needs were less than that of taller mene". Although, as a Dwarf, he received only a half share of the prize money, he invested it wisely, unlike his companions. Within a fortnight of any such expedition returning to port, there was always a large number of formerly rich sailors who were now so poor that they would sign up for the next voyage; and a large number of previously poor local prostitutes who could now afford to retire.

Brite-Arse was on board 'The Golden Hinde' when Queen Elizabeth herself visited the ship in 1581, and knighted its captain. By this time, however, he no longer considered himself a member of the crew. He had transferred his allegiance to another captain, Walter Raleigh. In his journal, which he kept when on land as well as at sea, he wrote of his first meeting with the man who was to become his master for the next nine years. "I stode beside him, as the Quene drew neare, and watched as he went to throw his fine cloke over a puddel. I arsked of him how deep was the pudel, at which he used his sored to measure the depth, as a sailor would use his ledd. On finding it to be some one halfe of a fathome, **(three feet, -Ed)**, he cast me into the pudel. Ass I myselve stand but halve a fathome, he spoke unto me 'Stand tall, master Dwarf!' and did cast his clowke over my hede. After the Quine had passed by, he lifted me from thee puddele. 'Today, Master Dwarf, both yew and I have supported the Queene', he spoke. On finding that I was myself a seafaring man, he offered me a position upon his owne ship, and did promise me both full rations and a fulle share of the profits of his next voyage, which I did accepte most gratefuely".

Sir Francis Drake went on to become Vice Admiral of the fleet that destroyed the Spanish Armada in 1588, before dying of dysentery on a return voyage from Panama in 1595. Meanwhile, Brite-Arse set sail for the Americas in 1584 with his new captain. Returning some five years later, bringing with him a cargo of potatoes and tobacco, Raleigh kept his promise, and ensured that Brite-Arse received a full share of the profits. The Dwarf had considered while on the return voyage taking his share in potatoes, with the intention of opening London's first chip shop, but decided that a business selling foreign food would not find many customers in the capital. With the same shrewd sense that had led him to invest his money after the voyage on 'The Golden Hinde', he watched as his shipmates once again spend vast sums in the local brothels. After a month, he was the only sailor in the town who still had a pocket full of guineas. He then promptly withdrew his savings, and approached the youngest and prettiest, and therefore the richest, whore in the area,

with a business proposition. Although many sailors choose to live within sight of the sea when they retire, Brite-Arse had seen enough salt water to last him a lifetime. He persuaded his new partner that they should move inland, and they spent their wealth purchasing a coaching inn at Oxford. The partner, Sally Goodheade, proved popular with the customers, and the 'Duck and Swallow', possibly named after one of her most popular services, became the place to be seen in amongst the local gentry.

A regular patron at the inn was Phillip of Staines, (so called due to his poor table manners), the first Earl Bodkin. Phillip was a well-known figure at court, and in 1579 had married Lady Jane Krumpett, the tallest and prettiest of the Queen's ladies in waiting, and a distant cousin of the Howards. In 1590, when Brite-Arse and Sally brought their inn, the Earl owned an estate on the outskirts of the town. The family seat, Short Hall, is today the home of Cuthbert, the fourteenth Earl. The house was well named, as it was only a short haul to Oxford, and the Earl and his wife were frequent visitors to the inn. Bodkin even hired a local carpenter to make him a special bar stool, with steps fitted to one side.

In 1591, after they had run the inn for a year, business was so good that Sally was able to retire, in order to become a full time barmaid. Brite-Arse wrote in his journal at the time, "Pore Sally workes sew harde, sumtimes she will not be on her feete all day". She and Brite-Arse married in September. It was decided to change the name of the inn to honour their most famous customer, and the 'Duck And Swallow' became 'The Dwarf And Ladder'.

Earl Bodkin and his wife had, by 1591, eleven children, contraception being a somewhat hit and miss affair in Tudor Times. Ladies who were married to Dwarfs suffered from this problem just like women with taller husbands, though for a different reason. Shoes of the period were usually made of soft leather, and buckets were either of proofed canvas, which were too insubstantial to take the weight of even a small Dwarf, or more commonly of oak staves, bound with iron hoops. The result of her ladyship kicking the bucket that the Earl was standing on was likely to result in little more than badly bruised toes, and another mouth to feed nine months later. The problem was solved, at least for the Bodkins, during a visit to the inn from an old shipmate of Brite-Arse, former ship's surgeon of 'The Golden Hinde', Doctor William Martyn. After considering the problem over a glass of port, the surgeon talked to the local cobbler. The result of their collaboration was the invention of Doctor Martyn's famous steel toe capped contraceptive boots. These boots, which in the seventeenth century became known as 'bucket kickers', are still available today, although they are no longer made in England. Over the course of time, the expression 'Kick The Bucket', has survived, though the meaning has been corrupted to represent ending a life, rather than the original usage, which was to prevent one starting in the first place. As the Bodkin breeding programme ground to a halt at this time, with eleven children being the final total, it can be assumed that the boots served their purpose well.

The Earl, always a ladies' man, met his end in 1598. The Queen was having one of her regular court clear-outs, and Bodkin had made too many enemies. He was falsely accused of being involved in a catholic plot against the Queen, by a Lord who had recently discovered that his last daughter of marriageable age was unaccountably pregnant. Between the years 1592 and 1597, the Earl had fathered three illegitimate offspring, presumably by ladies who were not wearers of Doctor Martyn's boots. This



time, he had gone too far. He was beheaded, along with the plotters. His execution had to be delayed for half an hour, while a stepladder was found, so he could climb up to place his head on the block. Elizabeth, who considering the times was an enlightened monarch, did not subscribe to the methods of her ancestors, and prevent further trouble by wiping out the entire family. She believed that the sins of the father should not be visited upon his children, possibly because her own father, Henry the Eighth, had eventually succumbed to syphilis. Phillip's eldest son, Cecil, became the second Earl Bodkin, inheriting his father's lands as well as the title. Brite-Arse decided to commemorate the death of his favourite customer by changing the name of the inn once again, this time to 'The Dwarfs Head', the name it still bears to this day.

Lady Jane Bodkin remained at Short Hall, surrounded by her many children, and later, grandchildren. She died in 1624. Brite-Arse ran the inn for nineteen years, before he died in 1609, aged fifty-three, after being savaged by a terrier. (Although some sources claim that he was trampled to death by a Shetland pony, belonging to one of the Bodkin family grandchildren). Sally, at that time still in her mid thirties, sold the inn and married Doctor Martyn, now in his late fifties. They moved to Northampton, and invested the money from the sale of 'The Dwarfs Head' in a contraceptive boot business. The Doctor lived until his early eighties, an incredible age for a man of the times. Sally survived her second husband by only a few months. Her last request was that her tombstone should bear her name at the bottom, rather than the top. "I did spende much of my early yeers on my knees", she wrote in her will. "Nowe, if a man wishes to nowe who lies in my grave, let him neele down for a change".

**Editor's Note: Professor Quigley's book is due for publication later this year.**

## LATE NEWS

The BBC has accepted a challenge from Professor Weetabix Julian Waverly, and agreed to his taking part in the next series of 'Mastermind.' The producer has informed Professor Waverly that they have been unable to find anyone with enough knowledge of his specialist subject, "Theoretical Movement of Quasi-Autonomous Semi-Solid Particles, While Suspended In Neutrino Enriched Fluid Mediums," to set the questions. They have asked him to choose another subject for the first round. He has opted instead to answer questions on the subject "The Life And Loves Of 'Dirty Den' Watts, from 1985 to 2005".

Merkin College, Cambridge, has announced the appointment of Professor Claire Worthing to the post of Chair, The Recently Established Department Of Political Infighting. (**Formerly the Newly Established Department, - Ed**). Miss Worthing is to replace Doctor Leon Canarbis, who committed suicide last month. Third year student Janice Harris, who is studying for a degree in Applied Dwarf Lore, has suggested that the appointment of a woman as head of department will force many of the female students studying the subject to work considerably harder, in order to improve their grades.