

DURHAM'S 4TH MOST POPULAR SATIRICAL MAGAZINE, SPECIAL BUMPER EDITION!

WELCOME TO MOSTLY HARMLESS

Hi there. No, don't go.

Mostly Harmless is Durham's best (and only) satirical magazine. We aim to make you laugh on every page with made up news, cartoons, spoof campaigns and lots more. If you find anything at all informative in these pages we've failed at our jobs, but we're the perfect companion to a boring lecture.

This is the online version of issue 12. The difference is the print version contains 24 pages including pages from the last issue which wasn't printed, available from: http://www.mostly-harmless.org.uk

We have a Facebook group called 'Mostly Harmless 2010' join for news and updates

IN THIS ISSUE...

MINERS SAVED, THATCHER FALLS ILL

AUTHOR TERRY PRATCHETT ANNOUNCES FINAL NOVEL, ENTITLED 'THE COLOUR OF MAGIC'

BILL BRYSON PUBLISHES POLEMIC AGAINST THE UNI-VERSITY ENTITLED "NOTES ON THE SMALL MINDED"

INDISCRIMINATE FLYERING LEADS TO 800% INCREASE IN SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB AT-TENDANCE

FRESHERS TALKING SHIT ABOUT DRUNKEN HOLIDAY ANTICS ON THE RISE

An increasing phenomenon in British universities is the new intake making up implausible summer holiday antics. This year sees an overall rise of 14% in general drunken bullshit, though with a much larger increase in fictitious sexual acts. These rises have been ascribed to increased pressure to not be boring public school fucks. One offender, who did not wish to be named, told MH: "I'm new scared and uncool. I didn't go on a Gap Year or anything and the only work experience I could find was

in my local Greggs. It's not like I do archaeology so if I wanted even a slim hope of getting laid I had to fabricate everything".



"I was knee deep in clunge all fucking summer"

STUDENT JOURNALISM "NOT SEXY"

A recent poll has found that writing for or editing a student publication is not an effective aid for picking up women, and is in fact an inappropriate line of conversation at a wake.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE OLYMPIC BID

The IOC has officially recognised Durham's bid to have Ultimate Frisbee represented as an official Olympic Sport. The bid was launched by Hatfield's Ultimate Frisbee team manager, Dr Josef Anderson. Early responses to the bid seem positive, although the IOC have stated that they urgently require a clarification on who, exactly, the fuck are Hatfield College?

FIRE IN SWEET FACTORY

New safety precautions are rumoured to be brought in after a large fire in a Teeside sweet factory. The cost of the accident is speculated to be in the hundreds and thousands.

DYING AUTHOR REVISES "100 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU DIE"

Following a diagnosis of terminal pancreatic cancer, lifelong drinker Freddy Malins is to revise his best selling book "100 things to do before you die" in time for the upcoming 4th edition. "25 things to do before you die" will be on shelves this Autumn.



ZOMBIE OUTBREAK HITS BRITAIN

A nationwide zombie outbreak has been unleashed following the mutation of a prototype gingervitis vaccination. The virus currently only affects heavily bandaged burns victims and OAPs above age of 75. The Home Secretary has urged citizens to kill anyone over 70 as a precaution. He has also suggested communities work together to gas local nursing homes with government issues canisters. On the question of ethnics and the slaughter of millions of OAPs he responded: "Now look, when it comes to the oncoming zombie apocalypse I think we're all better off safe than sorry. Besides, the pension system and housing market are a complete mess".



DICCU ANNOUNCES WORLD RELIGION TASTER SESSIONS

The 'CU Next Tuesday' campaign will run every Tuesday for 5 weeks, and will allow students to sample a different world religion in each session. DICCU have pitched the sessions as a way to make religions accessible in easy to digest forms allowing worshippers to make an informed decision. A spokesman told us "We're so excited. We've got those funny little hats for the Jews and I'll personally be suiting up as Mohammed to give sample readings from the Kerrang

for the Islamabads". The Islamic Association claim they've been disallowed from helping run the Islam session being told "we've got this covered thanks what do you think this is, a charity?".

FASHION CHANGING

Fashion was set to change last night, ahead of the start of a new season. Details of the new fashion will be announced later this afternoon, with blues and greys expected to play a prominent role. This is the third time fashion has changed this year, causing some shoppers to be caught out. "I was wearing vertical stripes for practically the whole of March", one woman told MH. "Horizontal stripes was fashion for March. I was mortified when somebody told me." MH advises the would-be fashionable to stay alert, and look for tell-tell signs of change such as Kate Moss getting interviews again, the extinction of entire species and increased smugness outside theatres, unfurnished bars and sushi restaurants.



Ironic badges may be 'in'

MAN DIES IN TRAGIC LOSS/ GOOD INNINGS GREY AREA

Walter Armstrong, of Surrey, was found dead at his apartment late on Tuesday. Family and friends are unsure of how to categorise his death, as it occurred just days after his 51st birthday and so could no longer be described as a tragic loss. Conversely, he still had many plans including an extended hiking tour of the midlands and so doesn't qualify as having had a good innings. Language experts are scrambling to construct new terminology at this reasonably-difficult time, after which the funeral will be held

THAT GUY ARRESTED

That Guy was arrested last night following an East Croydon house party. We tracked down and asked one party-goer if he remembered That Guy from last night. "Ohhh yeah. That Guy who threw up on Sophie's couch and then tried to make out with Jon's sister". Mr. Guy is well known to the police via anecdotal stories of late night drunken antics, but this is the first time he's been caught in the act.



'FACTS ABOUT FEMINISM' WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The British Institute of Teaching and Communicating the Historical Equality of Sexes have released the website factsaboutfeminism.com in order to combat the misconceptions surrounding feminism and to chart its history from the suffragettes to present day. The website is one of many campaigns spearheaded by the institute to raise awareness and empower women. More information can be found at: http://www.factsaboutfeminism.com

NIGHTLINE UNVEILS DAYCARE BY MATTHEW BERNINGER

In a bid to provide more proactive support for students, Nightline has announced a new drop-in counselling service called Daycare. Launched last week, Daycare is a more rough and ready approach to counselling and is being marketed under the strapline "No, you listen. Bitch".

However, some of the tactics employed by Daycare staff have been called into question amidst accusations of abuse. One student, who does not wish to be named, was brought to tears in his session: "He told me to sit down and tell him how I was feeling. Afterwards he got up and slammed the desk and told me to sort my life out. He said I was a

whinging pussy and he should go and buy me a dress. When I started crying he shook me before shouting fuck off, just fuck right off".

Jess, a 3rd year Sociology student, told a similar story: "I went in and was asked to tell him about the stress of trying to balance my workload and social life, and about how my low self esteem led to a string of one night stands. He nodded and was really assuring. Then he asked if I wanted some coffee, I said yes and he left. While he was gone an different guy came in, I asked who he was and he told me to shut my whore mouth. He said I would be lucky to get a job at all with my degree

and I needed to stop being such a fucking slag and stay in to study the bullshit they were teaching me. The first guy returned but the second one took the coffee out of his hand and poured it down the sink while telling me it was my prospects in life that were going down the drain. He then led me out and said he hoped I was feeling better before asking for my number".

Daycare management have responded to this early criticism and in a statement clarified that they have welfare firmly at heart and were just trying more radical approaches to help students better cope with all their little pansy issues.



MOSTLY HARMLESS'S GUIDE TO GAP YEARS

WE FILL IN ALL THE GAPS SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO

Gap Years are an essential part of the student experience and so we've teamed up with Youth In Asia, a leading volunteering charity to let real gap year students share their experiences with you.



Lara

After so many months surrounded by such poverty, it was really quite sickening to come back to the western world with its supermarket aisles full of a billion types of frozen food. Kerry Katona's face was everywhere. The first thing I did when I got back was fill in Countries I've Been To on Facebook. I feel really sorry for anyone who didn't take a gap year. Their maps just look so empty.



Jez

"I really didn't find my inherent racism held me back at all. In fact, I feel it probably saved me money while travelling through the most deprived areas. What they don't realise when they beg is that I may be rich to them, but in England it really isn't that much. Someone has to pay for the holes to be ripped in my jeans - God knows Jack W doesn't do it himself.

What I would say about a gap year is it shows the endless potential for experience. I've had a wank in a Ugandan orphanage, and what I guess I'm trying to say is when you put your mind to it anything's possible. I also learned how easy it is to get laid in Africa."

Popular Gap year options

Constructing an orphanage: Kenya

Conservation work: Madagascar

English language teaching: Stockton.



Cordelia

"After the ordeal of A levels, I decided I needed to find myself. I wasn't exactly sure, but I had a feeling I might be somewhere in South East Asia. The food was alright, but I think I prefer The Good Earth in Esher. I know their wine list better, and the ice cream always comes in those little plastic toy things. It's yummy"

For those of considering a gap year, contrary to what you believe those entire experiences will only result into one interesting anecdote. Max. You won't magically become interesting, you won't even be well travelled: you'll just have racked up air miles. With the amount a gap year is going to cost you, if you just want to be talked about you may as well hire an escort. Not only will it be cheaper, but people will be wondering what they're missing, and what she sees in you. You'll be instantly more mysterious and you won't even have to learn an ancient aboriginal saying, or go sky diving.

We concede travel broadens the mind and all that, but we still think you'll learn a lot more about yourself by sleeping rough on the streets on Newcastle for five nights than scuba diving. You'll also have a genuinely interesting party anecdote.

When it's all been said and done, there's nothing inherently wrong with taking a gap year. However, it's pretentious to assume you did more good than anyone else just because you were in a less fashionable timezone. The well you built was a gimmick, the African children you held are still starving, and for the love of God it didn't broaden your cultural horizons enough to change your lifestyle - you'll be back to flushing after each and every shit in no time.

THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION A FRESHER CAN MAKE NICK DENT GIVES THE FINGER TO CUNTS

Hello Freshers! Welcome to university, that point in your life when you decide what kind of cunt you'd like to be for the rest of your life.

I urge you to choose wisely as there's a vast array of cunt inspiration, why do you think you have college parents? You think your year invented being a cunt? No. There is a long tradition of universities churning out cunt. Durham is proud of its Darwinian cunt approach resulting in more diverse and expansive types of cunt than any other institution.

But don't jump in head first, I realise you're barely past Freshers' Week. But you've probably already identified the first kind of cunt. The twat cunts that think respectability is directly linked to how fucked you get, and how often. These twunts will stick out like a sore thumb, and are usually the ones telling you how much they drank while they 'did' Australia

"The twat cunts that think respectability is directly linked to how fucked you get, and how often"

Of course, there is a subsection of this type of cunt - the 'druggie'. This sort of cunt likes to go to parties and tell you what drugs they have taken. They take pride in being able to do this with little or no prompting, although you won't usually notice them until your first house party. This type of cunt is not to be confused with the iPhone cunt whose party behaviour paral-

lels that of the 'druggie' with drugs replaced by gadgets.

I suppose this is the first time many of you have lived away from home, and most of you will not have chosen your housemates. This will likely put each and every one of you reading this into contact with a very popular type of cunt. The 'my mum must have been a saint' cunt. Over the year they will become more and more obvious. The sort of person who makes up loopholes for washing-up rules enforced by the household 'bossy' cunt. These two can become tedious as they will probably spend a large proportion about bitching about the other one as soon as they leave earshot. Mine were called Tim and Wallace

Next to reveal himself will be the chauvinist cunt. The sort of guy who when alone with you will say the most reprehensible things about the girl you are madly in love with, then go out and fuck her on and off all year. He will most likely be bigger/harder than you, and definitely be better looking, and inevitably will cheat on her. There is a female version of this. who confuses boyfriend with social experiment, and will see how far guys can be pushed with the promise of sex. Such experiments include: emotional blackmail, prevention of a social life, making the amount of kisses on the end of txt a serious topic of discussion. They are universally tied in with the sort of stupid cunts who confuse fit for suitable and regular sex for emotional attachment.

One of the hardest to spot are the cunts who tell you they are

not doing any work. There will be quite a few to start with, and then by month three the ones who were telling the truth will have dropped out, by month six you know for a fact these cunts are lying...to be cool. They spend £20,000 on their university education to spend three years pretending they don't care. Typically, they will get better marks than you.



Finally, there is the most cuntish of the cunts - the socially introspective cunt. These cunts like to think because they don't like most people they must be somehow special. They mistake a dislike for clubbing or heavy drinking for sophistication. They firmly believe being able to namedrop politicians is synonymous with being an economic genius with a clear vision of how to run the country optimally. These cunts think that by pointing out the drinking cunts, messy cunts, tidy cunts, druggie cunts, and lad cunts they are somehow qualified to write an article condemning them. For these kind of pissy cunts there is only one recourse: becoming a Mostly Harmless writer.

DURHAM UNIVERSITY FRESHER SURVIVAL GUIDE

MH GIVE YOU THE ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR DURHAM LIFE

University is a big and scary place, unless you're at Durham which is both tiny and the safest city in the country. That said, here are some essential tips for surviving Durham life:

- This is not Oxbridge
- Now look, let's get this all straightened out. Really, it's not.
- Living on the Bailey? Yes, they ring every day. No, you don't get used to it. Yes, even Sundays.
- As inconceivable as it seems now, the guys you got drunk with at the rugby initiation might not end up being ushers at your wedding
- Having sex with her? Then you can't live with in your second year. Especially if you think she's the one.
- The panic the media are creating about the state of university funding and the failing graduate jobs market is alarmist and irresponsible. It is also entirely based on fact.
- Pizza? 01913864004. You can't have Domino's, you're not in

Surrey anymore. You must phone this number at least once a week.

- Never piss off the cleaning staff, they will destroy you
- Don't mistake your classmates letting you be first-year rep for having any friends.
- All the boat rides in the world can't hide forever that Durham is small, and as boring as your girl/boyfriend expects.
- She/he will leave you
- The man that looks like Mario is very, *very* aware of this fact and should be approached with caution.
- DICCU will at some point jump you, it's best to nod and take whatever leaflet they have. Don't fight back, it's not worth it.
- Formative is university lingo for feel free not to bother doing this. Summative is university lingo for do this or you are fucked.
- Just because you can pull in Klute doesn't mean you should, if you're desperate we've all been there, just tell no-one.

After a long Summer of voting we can reveal the top things every Fresher should do, as voted:

- 1) Jodie Smith
- 2) Get thrown out of Klute
- 3) Complete a fancy dress walk of shame
- Convince someone you study Poetry and Climate Change
- 5) Ruffle Sam Roseveare's hair
- 6) Attend a club in pyjamas
- 7) Stay up until after your alarm goes off
- 8) Turn up to a lecture still drunk
- 9) Fall asleep while eating cheesy chips
- 10) Strawpedo a bottle in under 3 seconds

Think we've missed something? What you'll soon realise about Durham is nobody cares what you think, not deep down.

There's nothing worse in Durham than being mistaken for working class, so here are our 5 tips to not appear poor:

- 1) Carry an empty Charles Trywhitt branded suit cover around with you at all times
- 2) Sew JW onto all of your clothing. Yes, even that.
- 3) Sing 'Castle Ranger' while walking down the Bailey
- 4) Hold loud imaginary phone conversations with daddy where you ask for a "couple thou"
- 5) Save up for a month to buy an expensive bottle for a party, but watch it like a hawk all night and permit nobody to touch it.

IS CRIME ALL A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE?

IN THE WAKE OF THE SHOCKING ANNOUNCEMENT BY EDDIE, 23, THAT HE IS FED UP WITH LIFE AND THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING AND HAS DECIDED TO ROB A LIQUOR STORE HAS SPARKED CONTROVERSY IN HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY; WHETHER OR NOT IT'S A WISE DECISION REMAINS TO BE SEEN

NO

He can't just jump into this. Before he walks in through the door of that liquor store and attempts to take money from the drawer, I feel he needs to step back and consider the consequences; does he not have a conscience?! Rushing into this will only end in disaster. Even if everything were to go to plan; Eddie's not a hermit, his neighbours know him and will expose him to the police. He needs to seriously consider his actions before he walks in the door and attempts a robbery, especially considering the store is staffed by

Eddie definitely shouldn't be considering such a rash act in this situation. The risk is too great, especially for the small gains it brings. He needs to walk away from this and not let the voices of the pro-criminals cloud his judgement as they are a bad influence.

elderly women.



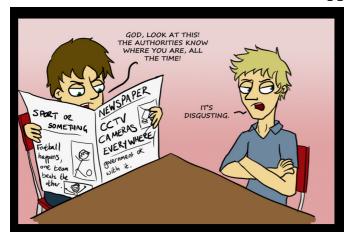
NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC: "IS DATE RAPE EVER WORTH IT?"

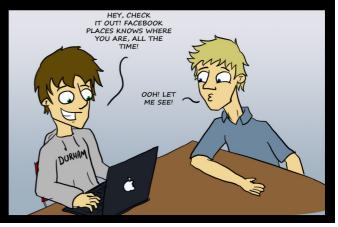
YES

All those appealing to Eddie's conscience are misguided. Eddie should just enter, 'gaffle' the money and then make a getaway to his Aunt's house. With a suitable disguise, simply explaining to her that he's in need of refuge will keep him safe for days. He could even borrow a dress, wig, and razor blade and shave his legs to appear less conspicuous.

Eddie can't afford to pass up this opportunity. He needs to steal to survive, and if someone gets hurt in the process that's life. Considering the Worst case scenario is pointless, besides with his current social situation it is doubtful that anyone is exactly sympathetic towards his own desire to settle down and start a family.

To the naysayers, I abhor your personal attacks on those of us who only wish to express a moral viewpoint.





BILL BRYSON DEAD TO US

BY ALEX MASON

Bill Bryson has announced he's stepping down as Chancellor by the end of 2011. Is that even allowed? I thought Chancellor was like Pope, you got voted in by a bunch of people in a smoke filled room and had to hold up until you died. The only difference is Bill Bryson only dresses like an idiot during graduation week, and doesn't spend half his day covering up instances of child abuse

Ustinov knew how to play by the rules, he kept going right until the end like a gent. If Bryson thinks he's getting anything named after him he's got another thing coming. Jeremy Vine has already shotgunned the next college and Gabby Logan is due at least a library wring.

What could possibly have made Bill want to go? He always looks so smiley in the pictures. Oh God. It's not because of Mostly Harmless is it? Were we too harsh on old Bill? Was it the post-coitus joke? I knew that was over the line. It's us, we did this and it's all my fault. I lost us Bill, and now we're going to have to find someone else famous who also really really likes cathedrals.

I can't believe I'm the straw that broke the camel's back. The old editorial team said he exhumed the body of his predecessor and then performed a DIY post-mortem on the steps of St Peter's Cathedral (issue 5), how the hell was I more offensive than that?!

COME BACK BILL, WE LOVE YOU. WE LOVE YOU BILL. I LOVE YOU. YOU WERE LIKE HALF OUR JOKES WHAT THE HELL ARE WE GOING TO

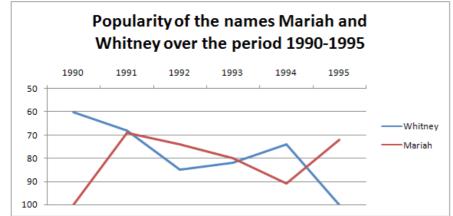
DO WITHOUT YOU. WHAT IF WE END UP WITH STING? OH PLEASE NO. I'LL EVEN TAKE BRYAN FERRY PUSH COMES TO SHOVE. I'M SORRY BILL, I'M SORRY FOR EVERYTHING PLEASE DON"T LEAVE ME. PLEASE. PLEASE.

Wait, isn't Angelos Epithemiou coming to Durham soon, maybe we can get Vic Reeves?



You're not getting this back

WHAT'S IN A NAME?
HAYWOOD JABLOME INVESTIGATES THE NAME TRENDS OF THE 90'S



1990- after a solid run in the top 100 name charts throughout the 80s, Whitney maintains a good 60th place. A special mention to the impressive effort by the previously overlooked Zachary this year.

'91- Mariah storms into the charts for the first time, rising a massive 210 places to 69th - just one place behind Whitney! That's compared to a pitiful 5 point rise for Jesus himself. Looks like Whitney will have some real competition next vear.

'92 - Following from last year, Mariah takes advantage of Whitney's plummeting performance and snatches the lead for the first time

with a 17 point jump. Also in this year, Christian benefits from a huge bump which leaves Jesus trailing, making the country officially more Christian than Jesus.

'94 - Last minute resurgence by Whitney, but still nothing like the glory days. Also in this year, José gained 37 points in a tricky away fixture

'95 - Whitney drops out of the charts, never to make a successful comeback.

We'll be keeping track to see if Whitney ever returns, but we doubt it. This period of the 90s also saw a massive rise for the names John and Connor (Terminator we guess), Sabrina (the teenage witch?), Ayisha, and Mohammed.



OLYMPIC COMMITTEE BANS INFLUENCE OF GOD

BY NICK OSBOURNE



Following this weekend's announcement that yet another athlete has admitted to having won her race "by the grace of God", the IOC has pledged to double its efforts to rid the sport of divine intervention. Jacques Rogge, the committee chairman, told Mostly Harmless, "We simply can't have God interfering like this. He's a hugely influential guy. It's just not fair on decent, hard working atheists."

Since rigorous counter-Christianity measures were introduced last month, there have been reports of several athletes using drugs, or "masking agents", in order to disguise their divinity from IOC testers. The most effective of these is thought to be crack cocaine. Liberal

attitudes to sex and extreme displays of greed are also said to be top on the covert religious runner's wish list. At least one athlete is believed to have erected a 60ft statue of himself in his own back garden in an attempt to throw off investigators. The issue has been extremely divisive within the sporting community, with a schism arising over whether the act of communion should be considered a symbolic gesture, or an actual contravention of blood-doping regulations.

Of course, this is a problem that has weighed heavy on the sport for many years now, indeed it is said 10 years ago nearly all athletes were bordering on fundamentalism. Probably the most well known athlete to be caught practising religion was Perclift Gobby of Belgium, adored around the globe, and ranked world number 1 in the steeple chase. An eternal ban was handed down after he was found to have an unusually high levels of joy in his system. He was known for his unusual technique of fully submerging himself every water jump. When rumours of belief started, Gobby merely shrugged them off saying 'I'm just cooling down, I've never even heard of God'.

However, no real convincing assault was ever mounted by the Olympic committee and religion remained in the background. The problem grew progressively worse with the 1996 Atlanta games 100m final is said to be the most divine race ever run. Angry detractors called the race 'practically evangelical'.

There have been many vocal athletes who have fought against what they call 'the terminal diocese that is slowly killing our sport, but admittedly, ultimately saving it'. It appears this time the Olympic committee have been listening. They are currently deciding the punishment for an athlete whose confession was caught on tape by a news of the world journalist dressed as an Irish Priest.

Related Articles:

"Pope held over illegal betting scam" - p47';

"Athlete walks 100 metres backstroke" - p23

DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS BY MARK E EVERETT



In this special exclusive we can reveal that it's not worth it, not worth it at all. This news comes at a time when printed media is enduring its last death spasms and veteran journalists are lucky to keep their jobs. In a post-recession economic climate salaries are failing to keep up with living costs, and with debt rising

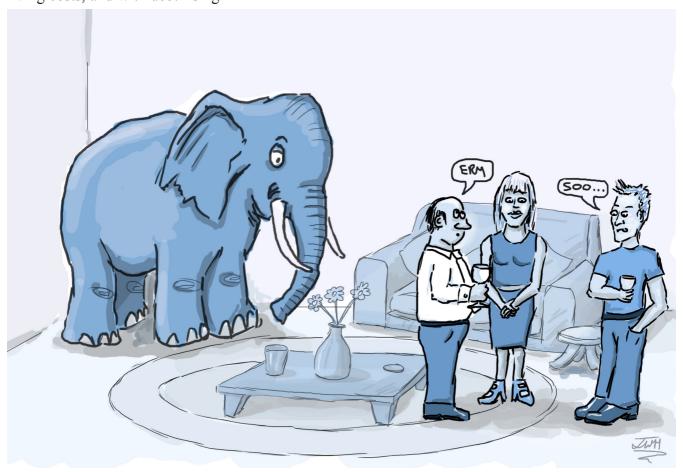
there's just no way out.

Stress is on the rise, and as medical bills escalate and the pills have less and less of an effect, the numbness has returned. Coupled with a sinking feeling of imprisonment and that you're no longer able to provide, it all seems like too much for one person to bear. Several attempts to alleviate the pain have come up short, and with banks not loaning and friends unable to look you in the eye, the insurance money looks like the only hope.

At time of press, both Nathan and Michael Everett are loved

very much, more than they'll ever know and they should look after mummy and each other because it's important they grow up to be kind and caring. Sources indicate that he is very very sorry and would do anything for them but they have to be strong and make their own way now and one day they'll understand/.

Whether or not it'll ever get better remains to be seen, but with everyone against you in an unforgiving world it is speculated the likelihood is low and "This is the only way to make the pain go away".



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THE MOSTLY HARMLESS GUIDE TO STUDENT COOKING

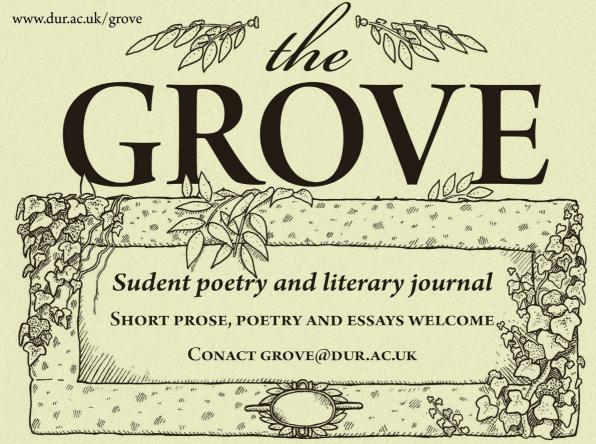


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No really, we do. We don't just this up here for fun.

Like what you see? Hate it? Join our team. Please. We're always looking for writers, artists, cartoonists, designers, copy editors, cheerleaders, and impressionable young women.

Any witty observations, serious but amusing comment, funny headlines or news in briefs welcome. Remember, journalism doesn't have to be boring...or factual.

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