

# THE COLUMNS

by pupils; for pupils

HSD's Newsletter: Issue 87

This week the world has seen two horrific natural disasters of catastrophic scale - a massive earthquake in Morocco, and devastating floods caused by Storm Daniel in Libya, collectively resulting in the deaths over 8000 people so far, with tens of thousands more missing, injured, or displaced from their homes. Many more would still be at risk if it were not for the efforts of international rescue workers, who we must thank for their tireless work in rescuing people from the rubble and providing essential and life-saving healthcare and resources to those affected by these terrible tragedies. Please consider donating to reputable charity organisations such as the British Red Cross to aid in the ongoing efforts to save lives in these regions.



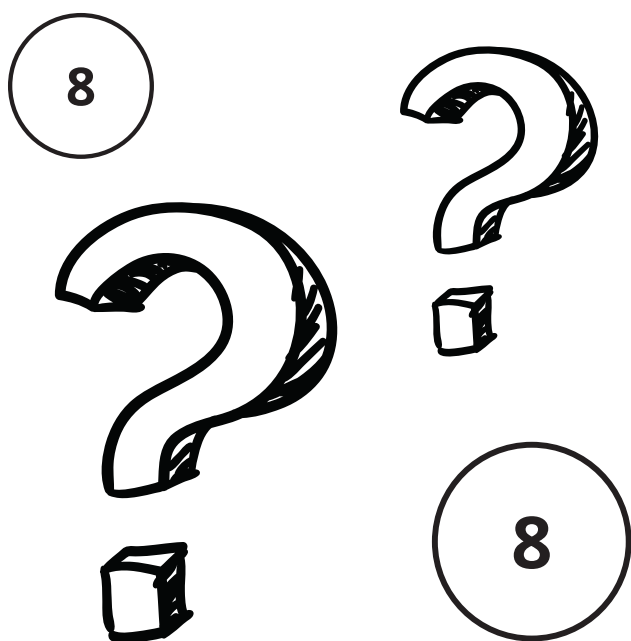
Editor, Izzy

## Update; Writers Strike

India Simpson

Beginning in May, the WGA writers strike is still going strong. As they begin their 20th week on strike, to discuss, the guild is to meet with show-runners on Friday, who are uniting in solidarity at Fox in Los Angeles. They aim to help the guild secure a new Minimum Basic Agreement, in order to fight the unlivable wages and conditions of some of the writers.

In July, the actors joined the writers on the picket line, and SAG-AFRA went on strike, negotiating for fair minimum wages and conditions and an AI deal, very similar to the writers. This combination of the writers and actors striking is having a huge impact on the industry, and hopefully an agreement is on the horizon and the film industry can go back into full swing soon.



## Up to D8 Quiz; Answers

Issue 86 answers:

1. The Notting Hill Carnival
2. 100 million streams in a month
3. Blue Moon
4. No markings, a completely brown giraffe
5. Canada
6. Chile
7. RAAC (aerated concrete) collapsing schools
8. Angela Rayne

# MOROCCO AND LIBYA: WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Jack Mitchell

On Friday, at around 11 pm local time, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit the Atlas Mountains of Morocco. The epicentre of the earthquake was only 45 miles from Marrakesh, a major Moroccan city with over 840,000 residents. The quake was felt hundreds of miles away in Morocco's largest city, Casablanca. The disaster has claimed the lives of thousands and the livelihoods of thousands more. Despite the severe damage done to Marrakesh, it has been the mountain communities where the damage has been felt the most. Entire villages have been destroyed, and as many are extremely remote and isolated, help was not as immediate as it was in the city.

Last weekend, the city of Derna was ravaged by extreme flooding, caused by the bursting of two dams and Storm Daniel. The storm has been making its way through the Mediterranean, causing devastation in its wake. Last week, 15 Greeks died due to the disaster. The Red Cross has said that 10,000 people are missing, as well as the already confirmed 5,000 dead.

These terrible disasters and their aftermaths have shocked everyone who has read about them, and many of these people will want to know how they can help. Many organisations are taking donations to help fund their rescue efforts:

- The Red Cross – The Red Cross operates in both Libya and Morocco and has launched emergency operations in both. The organisation has recently launched a donation appeal for Morocco with an aim of over \$110 million. The Red Cross deals with both finding and supporting survivors.
- The International Medical Corps – the organisation is seeking donations to help send its medical professionals and other volunteers to both countries to recover survivors.
- UNICEF – The United Nations humanitarian aid organisation aimed at helping children and their families. The organisation also tries to continue providing education for the children. This needs money to run, so they have also launched an urgent appeal to help in both countries.
- The High Atlas Foundation – The organisation is based in the Atlas Mountains, where many of the earthquake victims live, and are taking donations. As the charity works solely in this area, their expertise will make sure that your money is sent to exactly where it can help most. Although they only operate in this region of Morocco, it is still a worthwhile cause.
- The UK has sent 60 search and rescue experts and 4 specially trained rescue dogs to assist with the rescue effort in Morocco. The Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly, said that he offers his “deepest sympathies to the people of Morocco after this tragic event.” The newly appointed Defence Secretary also commented, offering his condolences on behalf of the country.

Just seven months ago, I wrote a similar article detailing the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. As with that, the death count continues to rise as more and more people are recovered from the wreckage, so all figures mentioned are tragically likely to rise; we all hope that they don't.

# COZY WORK

Sophia Kapelyukh

Before the start of school, I decided my room needed some changing up. I thought that this is the thing that would motivate me to study - a thought I think at the beginning of every year, and only start revising in March. But this year I am certain it's going to be different, because I found Deskterior and this is what is going to get me out of the decades of procrastination.

I found the term Deskterior while on the hunt for desk design inspirations. Once I saw the cuter-than-cute pictures of desks, my research began. First, let me explain what this actually is, though it might be simpler to just tell you how the word originated. Deskterior is made up of the word desk and interior - like interior design - so together they make up the word Deskterior! This is when you decorate your desk to the fullest with everything that brings you joy. This can range from photos of your pet lizard, to your favourite Lego pieces, or a humidifier. These might sound a bit bizarre, but this is the chance for you to unleash your full creativity.

Deskterior originated in South Korea, where working hours can be a bit of a problem. Because Korea's economy grew so rapidly from the 1960's, their working hours were very, very long. Before 2018, they were 68 hours a week! That's like going to work at 9 in the morning and being let off at 7 in the evening, every day of the week - including weekends! Thankfully, the working hours have been reduced gradually, and now in 2023 they are at 40 hours a week, which is the same as the UK working hours. But, sadly, employers are still putting a lot of pressure on workers to work overtime and spend most of the day working. That's why Deskterior was thought of - a way to bring your favourite things to work so you can make it through those long hours and stay happy.

As I mentioned before, people go above and beyond to decorate their desks. The BBC article I was reading talked about a worker who had a completely Hello Kitty themed desk with pink everything! The workers say that they feel like their desk is piece of their home and when they start to get tired or stressed with their work they can just look at their decor and feel better already. This is what inspired me to create my desk with my most favourite things, because I will certainly need to feel motivated to get through all those integration-algebra questions. And surprisingly, it's worked for me. I can't wait to sit down, light my candle and begin working at my new favourite place. If you want proof, I can tell you this article would not have been written till Christmas if I didn't make my desk this cosy.

But even with this, I still can't ignore the fact that I would prefer not to spend my whole day at my desk. I love doing hobbies like crocheting, dancing and watching TV with my family. Fortunately, in places like South Korea Deskterior can help you feel more motivated and happier, in my opinion it should not be the final answer to how long working hours should be approached. I believe that a healthy work-life balance should always be sought after first. Doing work all day means no time can be devoted to other things in life that can enrich you, like playing with your pet lizard. Even if you are not fortunate enough to own a pet, just lying in bed doing nothing has numerous more benefits than working non-stop. Feeling relaxed and healthy can help with work motivation too.

I hope this article has helped motivate you to maybe think about how you could decorate your desk to help you get through any homework or revision periods that seems just too stressful. Even lighting a candle I find already helps to keep me focused on my task, but if you have a picture of your favourite gecko that you want to put up instead, I understand. I also hope that throughout this year you'll remember to take breaks and not over-stress about work too much as you being healthy right now is most important.

# Burning Man: Commodification, Elitism and Mockery

Izzy Clark

The annual Burning Man Festival, held in Black Rock Desert, Nevada, is perhaps the most infamous successful festival. An unbridled nine days of avant-garde performance art, self-sustainability and electronic dance music, Burning Man has attracted a reputation as a hub for the wealthiest counterculturists of the USA and beyond to revel in Bacchanalian debauchery, dystopian privilege and blind overconsumption. Indeed, NPR described the event in 2019 as an event for “social media influencers, celebrities and the Silicon Valley elite”. With a costly entry fee of over four hundred and fifty dollars, Burning Man commodifies its very premise: freedom.

The festival runs on simple ideas: self-reliance and self-expression. You’re required to bring all your own food, water and supplies, and there are no hotels or lodges; instead, most people travel and stay in RVs or caravans. The nine-day duration of the festival converts a featureless strip of Nevada desert into a well-organised, futuristic shanty town, complete with luxury portapotties and pop-up cafes selling all manner of overpriced drinks. A “leave no trace” policy promises to protect the environment, but year after year Burning Man leaves more behind and puts more out, as dozens of art exhibits are ceremonially burned throughout the festival.

Burning Man was conceived, as described by its founders, as an “excuse to party in the desert”, but over the decades of its existence it has become a celebrity hotspot, particularly for the tech industry. Elon Musk once proclaimed that the festival “is Silicon Valley”. Indeed, the once-minority who slept in luxury RVs with amenities and staff have now become the overwhelming majority of attendees, who see the event as an opportunity to pretend to be a part of the anti-capitalist, anti-gentrification and anarchist philosophies the festival preaches. For them, living in an RV and living in shanty towns is cool when rich like them people do it, but as soon as someone has to do that to survive and get a roof over their head, they’re being disruptive and a public nuisance. Anarchy is fun when you’re wealthy.

It’s very easy to look at Burning Man, with its post-apocalyptic aesthetic and capitalist hypocrisy, and be content to say: “oh well, they’re rich, they can do what they want, and if they want to spend a week burning stuff in a desert, then go ahead”, and then move on. But just a few weeks ago, Burning Man 2023 became subject of viral discussion online. The event’s theme of “Animalia” certainly drew a few eyes (celebrating the animal kingdom by pumping smoke into the atmosphere?), but overall, things seemed to be going well, with \$575 a ticket going towards an exhibition celebrating Ukraine titled “Phoenix”, a new ban on single-use plastics and restrictions of private planes. It was just the same as ever - alcohol, dust storms, a lot of LED lighting.

September 1st saw heavy rainfall across Nevada, with flash flood warnings following until September 4th, stranding all 70,000 participants in Burning Man in thick, in-traversable mud. Even if you managed to walk out, all hotels in the area were fully booked. As soon as the news hit mainstream media, the most common phrase you’d see flying around was “Fyre Festival”, referencing a 2017 failed music festival later revealed to have been a \$26 million scam organised by businessman Billy McFarland. Fyre Festival’s Bahamian site was also marred by terrible weather, which McFarland blamed for the terrible quality of accommodation (tents), food (cheese sandwiches) and facilities (no toilets).

It's really easy to look at both of these events and laugh. Both at the ridiculousness of them both in principle, but also at the horrible experiences people had there. But why are we laughing? What's amusing here? Is it the hyper-wealthy not getting the luxury, 5-star treatment they paid a month's rent for? Is it the existence of these events in the first place? Festivals like Burning Man serve as uncomfortable reminders of the divide in society, that sees the privileged and wealthy playing pretend at counterculture, when in reality, they're doing everything they can to suppress it.

## A SECOND VICTORY: RUBIALES RESIGNS

Megan Beckham

Last Sunday, President of the Spanish Football Federation Luis Rubiales, officially resigned from his position following the backlash after he non-consensually kissed Jenni Hermoso, a striker and midfielder for the Spanish women's team during the trophy ceremony.

Following Spain's victory in the World Cup in Australia this summer, the following weeks have been darkly overshadowed by the fallout of the trophy ceremony. What should have been a proud, truly celebratory and happy moment for all of these players who achieved an incredible thing was stepped on by the insolent, sexist actions of Rubiales.

All the players lined up to receive their medals, and congratulations from many big names, including the Spanish royal family, the Australian prime minister, and Rubiales himself. When it came to Jenni Hermosos's turn, he kissed her, claiming it was consensual, when Hermoso had repeatedly said that it was not.

Hermoso has over and over again confirmed that this was not something she wanted. On her social media she said that she "Felt vulnerable and a victim of an impulse-driven, sexist, out of place act without any consent on my part" and that "simply put, I was not respected"

Since then, support for Jenni Hermoso came flooding through, with a large number of Spanish football players, around 81, including every single player on the winning world cup team, said that while Rubiales was still in his position, they would not play for the national team again. The second deputy prime minister of Spain has also vocalised her support on social media saying that "the feminist country is advancing faster and faster", and that "the transformation and improvement of our lives is inevitable. We are with you Jenni, and with all women."

This was followed by the support from many, with Rubiales facing huge criticism for his actions, demonstrations being held, and social media support skyrocketing. Up until now, Rubiales had ignored the multiple, justified calls for his resignation, until Sunday when the official statement was made, and he is now being preliminary criminally investigated for sexual assault.



# THIS WEEK IN PICTURES



‘Black and white?!’...‘That is ancient!’...‘It’s before my time.’...‘The past is dead.’

You may have heard these exclamations of extraordinary ignorance; you may even have espoused them yourself, but to close your mind to the artistic achievements of the past is to take for granted the foundation on which every modern creative endeavour is built. No matter how original you think a song, film or story is, you can guarantee that, in some shape or form, it’s all been done before... and probably in a more imaginative and interesting way. The craftsmanship, timeless themes, and storytelling prowess of good-old- fashioned filmmaking should be experienced and savoured, and if you judge a film by its colour without giving it a chance to prove its quality; shame on you!

There is no better example of truly classic comic entertainment than the films of the Marx Brothers. One of the best of their many screen endeavours and surely a glorious gateway into their zany world is ‘A Day at the Races’. The film is an iconic comedy that showcases the Marx Brothers at the peak of their comedic prowess. If you don’t know the Marx Brothers, you’re missing out. These clowns of Vaudeville became huge film stars in the 1930s and made some absolute classic comedy and ushered in the golden age of Hollywood. Groucho, Chico, and Harpo each play their distinctive roles in this film. Groucho, as Dr. Hugo Z. Hackenbush, a fast-talking, wise- cracking veterinarian, delivers some of the most memorable lines in the film: ‘Hey! Don’t drink that poison - that’s \$4 an ounce!’... ‘Emily, I have a confession to make. I really am a horse doctor. But marry me, and I’ll never look at any other horse!’ Chico, as Tony, is, as usual, the charming, lovable chancer; he’ll swindle and con, but he never punches down; while Harpo, as Stuffy, provides his signature silent comedy antics. If you watch Disney’s Snow White, it’s difficult to enjoy Dopey’s adorable schtick without thinking of the influence Harpo must have had on the House of Mouse’s endearing buffoon. The brothers are the heart and soul of the film, delivering one uproarious gag after another.

As with any of the Marx Brothers films, the plot barely matters. However, "A Day at the Races" never lets up on the laughs, with one humorous situation cascading into another seamlessly. From Groucho's hilarious wordplay to Chico's poker games and Harpo's physical comedy, the film keeps audiences engaged from start to finish. The Marx Brothers' impeccable timing and chemistry are on full display, making every scene a comedic masterpiece. The talent and performances are what’s on show here. It’s superbly entertaining and the comedy is so fun and silly that it barely loses any of its punch after 86 years.

"A Day at the Races" also features several musical interludes, part of the established formula of the standard Marx Brothers offering. Again, it’s talent that is central to the show. Harpo lives up to his name and slows the pace down with a beautiful, tender performance on his harp, while Chico charms again with his gymnastic piano-playing. What? Musical interludes? What kind of crazy nonsense is this? I hear you shout! Well, it’s certainly crazy but it all adds up to a complete cinematic experience. The musical segments add a layer of entertainment and variety to the film, making it more than just a comedy.



This Marx Brothers masterpiece that stands the test of time. Its blend of slapstick comedy, witty wordplay and musical performances make it a must-see for discerning fans of comedy. It's timeless, joyful, hilarious fun; a kind of cinema that will be entirely unfamiliar to modern audiences who have been force-fed CGI superhero bilge for way too long. Forget the over-saturated formulaic tripe; dine out on some simpler, hearty, honest pleasures that rely on nothing more complicated than immense talent and fun. If you haven't experienced the hilarity of the Marx Brothers, "A Day at the Races" is the perfect place to start your journey into their world of ageless comedy.

# The Sermon On the Mound; Part One

Ruby McIntee

On the 21st of May 1988, British prime minister Margret Thatcher made an address to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. By morning the speech would be known as the "Sermon on The Mound"[1]. A clever play on words, the name remixes the "Sermon on The Mount," Jesus' sermon on which the bedrock of Christianity was established, with the name of the hill from which Thatcher was speaking in Edinburgh, The Mound. The colloquial moniker was appropriate given that Thatcher's address was sermon-like, in form and substance. Thatcher used the pulpit to give her interpretation of the relationship between Christianity and Democracy. Within the speech, she invents a biblical justification for neoliberal policies and attitudes— a divine right of kings vindicating the capitalist economy. At least, this was what Thatcher attempted to do. On close inspection, I argue that Thatcher's "Sermon on The Mound" is a failed attempt at a theological justification for her policy. She tries to align Christian values with emergent Neoliberalism by making Christian ideals a matter of personal choice, an extension of individualism, with a model of virtue tied to wealth creation. For a modern democracy that had paid lip service to pluralism (and its necessity in the post-colonial era) as well as separation of Church and State, many of her statements were eyebrow-raising. Among them: 'this is a nation whose ideals are founded on the Bible'[2] is an assertion with profound implications for Thatcher's vision of politics, her idea of national identity, her fiscal policy, and her view of conservatism. Of paramount importance, the address reveals the blind spot in Thatcher's vision of politics. The revisionist nature of her argumentation would ultimately end her tenure.

Before analysing Thatcher's argument, it helps to explore the context for her impulse to take the stand and support an ideological merger of church and state. During Thatcher's tenure as Prime Minister (1979- 1990) relations with the Church of England were tense, despite her reputation as one of Britain's most Christian prime ministers (in part due to her upbringing as a Methodist before she became a devout member of The Church of England)[3]. Her background gave her the ideological tools to present a convincing ecclesiastical argument, however, her decision to reinterpret the relationship between Christianity and the State occurs years into her premiership[4], making it appear to be both politically motivated and pragmatic, a reactionary response to mounting discontent.

In 1985, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Urban Priority Areas would publish "Faith in the City: A Call for Action by Church and Nation." It gave 23 recommendations to the government, serving as a scathing Christian review of Thatcher's neoliberal policies[5]. The backlash from Thatcherites was intense, and some dog-whistled that the archbishop's position was "pure Marxist ideology." [6] But Thatcher's supporters were not enough on their own to counteract the humanist arguments of these Christian leaders, so Thatcher responded in two ways: by finding faithful who did support her, and by redefining Christianity itself.



Ironically, the occasion to redefine key aspects of Christianity was pre-empted by a Jew. In 1986, the Chief Rabbi of Britain, Immanuel Jakobovits, published a report titled “From Doom to Hope: A Jewish view of ‘Faith in the City’”, supporting Thatcher’s position, through its claims that a ‘more satisfying work ethic’ could fix issues around poverty[7]. The report sparked unprecedented debate over the ethics of 1980’s Thatcherism, poverty in the United Kingdom, and the growing wealth divide.

The intensity of the debate put pressure on Thatcher and her cabinet to provide their theological justification as to why her policies made ethical sense, especially when they were simultaneously advocating austerity programs that disproportionately hurt the disadvantaged. Additionally, the topic of religion and religious education was of utmost importance, due to the contentious 1988 Education Reform Act, which had clauses on religious education as a mandatory part of children’s education[8]. It was essential for Thatcher to capture the Christian vote. In a moment when she was under attack from prominent Christians and her relationship with the Church of England was tense, she desperately needed a venue with allies where she would be allowed to redefine what it meant to be Christian. And where better to do this than Scotland, where the church was less hostile, and the people highly receptive to her messaging, as could be seen in the 1979 election where the Conservative Party won 22 seats in Scotland[9]. This sets the scene for the Sermon on the Mound.

As the first Prime Minister to directly address the general assembly of the Church of Scotland, she started her speech in an uncontentious manner, establishing the ‘important influence’ of faith and her personal belief in God[10]. Regarding her personal belief or disbelief in God, for this essay, it matters little if Thatcher was a righteous believer crusading for Christ or a political opportunist utilising her Christian connections to gain power. What matters is the impact her speech had, both on the voters in the 1980s and today, where it has become fashionable to back neoliberal policies with Christian messaging. Likewise, my views about whether or not the Christian religion is an (in)convenient fiction equally falls out of the parameters of this essay: important is the relevance of Christianity as a belief system that many people ascribe and aspire to. Those who follow Christian tenets are more likely to vote for candidates who hold the same beliefs. It is also important to understand Thatcher’s quotes in context, therefore this essay will discuss both the importance of the speech as a whole, as well as the quotes in context.

Early in the speech, Thatcher defines the ‘distinctive marks’ of Christianity, and she ties each to the idea of personal choice. She lays out three points. First: ‘From the beginning man has been endowed with the fundamental right to choose’[11]. This early and key assertion appears to be more reminiscent of her political philosophy rather than her religion, considering man’s freedom to choose is not part of the original Christian scripture unless you consider it in the framework of actual liberty from the Romans. The original religious texts are far more determinist. God, per the Bible and most theologians, has divine attributes, including foresight or the complete and total knowledge of all possible future events[12]. God is all-knowing, all-seeing. An omnipotent being. Hence, it follows that God must know what the future holds, including the ‘free’ choices of human beings, as this is what makes God, god. As a result of predestination, all human decisions are trivial, chimeric. Biblical passages frequently support this view. From the New Testament, which records Jesus’ prophecies that Judas will betray him, to the Tanakh (Hebrew bible), where the psalm 29 it is declared ‘The Lord sat [enthroned] at the flood; the Lord sat as King forever.’[13] Of course, many convincing arguments have been put forward establishing that predestination and free will can coexist. Nevertheless, the issue of theological free will is, at the very least, a hot topic among biblical scholars. To this day, consensus on how both free will and predestination can peacefully coexist has not been reached. It has however encouraged many a debate and controversial statements. From Aquinas to Calvin to Augustine, this issue is markedly and continually disputed

To make free will and personal choice the crux of what constitutes a Christian, when it is common for theologians to debate if a person can choose at all, is dubious at best. At its worst, it exemplifies both the extreme cognitive bias and deceitful political opportunism that Thatcher exploits. The rest of her speech is similarly tenuous. A comparative read of the Sermon on the Mount, and the Sermon on the Mount reveal the two texts to be in fundamental opposition.

This is particularly true with Thatcher's second and third 'distinctive marks' of Christianity. The second mark adheres more closely to words from the Bible but continues to reframe: 'We were made in God's own image, and, therefore, we are expected to use all of our own power of thought and judgement in exercising that choice.' The third 'distinctive mark' also emphasises the "right" to choose. 'Our Lord Jesus Christ, when faced with his terrible lonely vigil, chose to lay down his life that our sins may be forgiven'[1]. The essential thread of personal choice is the lens through which Thatcher characterises a Christian, and can be seen in both of these statements. However, simply stating something over and over doesn't make it a truism; the Sermon on the Mount contradicts Thatcher's belief in this instance. It is constantly reiterated in Mathews (5-7) that 'your heavenly Father knows', and that therefore you should follow the Heavenly Father and his teachings[2]. The point of Christianity is to follow the teachings of Christ and God, to listen to the beatitudes presented and live your life in accordance with the scripture. "Blessed are the meek", not those empowered to make choices[3]. While one could still make the tenuous claim that personal choice is a biblically backed precept using cherry picked quotes from ecclesiastical texts, perhaps there is a more intuitive answer as to why choice is the lynchpin of Thatcher's theological justification.

Starting with Hayek, and later the American academic Milton Friedman, the emphasis on personal choice was the tactical distillation of a set of ideas that allowed notions of economic freedom to be conflated with ideas of human liberty (Friedman published the book "Free to Choose" in 1980[4]). This idea would be dubbed neoliberalism, and it is reminiscent of classical laissez-faire liberalism as can be seen in books such as Sam Smiles' "Self Help"[5]. Thatcher bought into this emergent philosophy, cracking down on unions and privatising British telecom among other actions[6]. Thatcher (and Reagan) also uniquely contributed to this emergent economic ideal, by both making it mainstream and by transposing the element of choice into specific biblical passages –adopting Friedman's shorthand for economic liberty.

Equivocation is also exemplified when Thatcher discusses the biblical precept to 'love thy neighbour'. Thatcher had difficulty interpreting this concept. In the speech, she draws inspiration from C.S. Lewis, who 'pointed out that we don't exactly love ourselves when we fall below the standards and beliefs we have accepted. Indeed we might even hate ourselves for some unworthy deed.[7]' This indirectly reinforces her point on personal responsibility; a person is worthy or unworthy based on their choices. According to Thatcher, it's righteous to hate your neighbour, should they make the wrong choice. Of course, this argument quickly crumbles when presented with the sermon on the mount. In Mathews (5-7), 'but I tell but, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' Furthering that, Jesus explains 'do not judge, or you too will be judged'[8], positioning even the base of Thatcher's argument in opposition to the teachings of Christ. Jesus was radical; the clear message he delivers was unconditional love. Even on the cross, as he faces crucifixion, this is the case. "Forgive them father, for they know not what they have done"[9].

# Allez L'Écosse

Maisey Lafollette



Rugby Union World Cup is being played in France this year - this is the tenth tournament. They compete every four years, and 20 teams start the tournament.

Under the watchful eye of Nelson Mandela, who presented the trophy to South Africa, this was the first sports event held in South Africa following the end of apartheid.

Global sustainability - France 2023 have organised a committee to be as socially and environmentally friendly and safe as possible.

Before every World Cup, the referee has used the same whistle to start the tournament - in 2019 the whistle went on a world-wide journey just like the Olympic flame.

Yes, women play rugby too - they've had a World Cup since 1991

Wallabies, the nickname for Australia. All Blacks (New Zealand), Springboks (South Africa), Dragons (Wales) and Les Bleus (France). Scotland doesn't normally use a nickname but are sometimes called The Thistles, which is their emblem.

O'Flower of Scotland - we will all be singing with hope and pride over the next few weeks.

Red card - Welshman Huw Richards was the first to receive a red card in the World Cup in 1987.

No player has ever been carded twice at a World Cup.

Leaders of the pool NZ have never lost a pool match (until this year). It has been predicted that it will be a team who loses a pool game who goes on to win this year's World Cup.

Drop goal - Jonny Wilkinson (England) helped England win the World Cup in 2003 with his dramatic drop goal. Even more amazing he kicked it with his right foot when his dominant kicking foot is his left. Let's give a mention to George Ford who had another three outstanding drop goals in England's opening match this year.

Cup - Webb Ellis Cup is presented to the winner, named after the man who 200 years ago invented rugby while playing football, and not caring about the rules, caught the ball and started running with it.

Under the weather. In 2009 in Japan a typhoon cancelled some pool matches and they were declared a draw.

Past pupils from HSD who've represented Scotland in a World Cup: Matt Fagerson (2023), Zander Fagerson (2019, 2023), Richie Vernon (2011, 2015), Alasdair Dickinson (2011, 2015), Jonny Petrie (2003.)

2 sporting events are more popular than the Rugby World Cup - the Football World Cup and the Olympics

0 - the number of people who don't watch the Haka - one of the most spectacular pre match rituals.

2 leading try scorers in World Cup history: Jonah Lomu (NZ) and Bryan Habana (SA), with 15 tries each.

3 number of times France has been in the final. They've never won - will this be their lucky tournament?

# Up to d8 - the Topical Columns Quiz

Are you up to d8?! Answer the following questions correctly and email your answers to [dmfinlay@highschoolofdundee.org.uk](mailto:dmfinlay@highschoolofdundee.org.uk). First pupil to send in a correct set of answers receives a prize! (Answers in the next issue of The Columns)

## Entertainment

1. Who won the award for 'Best Presenting' at the National Television Awards for the 22nd year in a row?
2. Name the new Olivia Rodrigo album released last week.

## Science and Nature

3. Because of the very hot weather, dinosaur tracks were discovered in the USA last week but from which period of the Mesozoic era do the footprints date?  
A: Triassic Period  
B: Jurassic Period  
C: Cretaceous Period
4. Which animals were announced to be leaving Edinburgh Zoo by December?

## Sport

5. Who won the 2023 Women's U.S. Open Tennis Title?
6. The Rugby World Cup has finally begun! So, New Zealand are nicknamed the All Blacks, Australia are the Wallabies and South Africa are the Springboks. What nickname is given to Argentina?

## Politics

7. Politicians are being bombarded with calls to ban vaping. How many vapes (to the nearest million) are discarded each week?
8. Name the disgraced Professor of Neurosurgery that the Scottish government have just announced they will be instigating a full enquiry into after 100s of allegedly botched operations at Ninewells Hospital

## EDITORS' NOTE

Good luck to everyone helping out at open morning, and a massive thank you to all who contributed to this weeks edition of the columns. Without you this edition would not have been possible. A thanks is also due to all of you who signed up to join the columns at the co-circular fair, we cant wait to see you there! If you weren't able to make it to the fair, or are interested in joining the columns, please feel free to email one of our editors. As always, we are looking for new articles, so to save our readers for the second instalment of 'the sermon on the mound', please consider writing!

On a more somber note, I would like to remind readers of the ongoing crisis in both Libya and Morroco. Please read Jack Mitchell's article, and Izzy's opening note for more information and how to help.

Editor Ruby

*Have a fab weekend!*

THE COLUMNS TEAM