

THE COLUMNS

by pupils; for pupils HSD's Newsletter: Issue 136



Well, another week has come and gone, and once again I find myself with absolutely nothing to say. Let's think. The From 5 and 6 charity ball took place on Friday. Some photos of the evening are included inside. The theme was under the sea, if you're wondering about the shark costume and lobster hat. Good time had by all who were there I believe.

Good luck to all those in form 4 currently on study leave for the Nat 5 prelims.

And that pretty much wraps it up. There's some great articles this week, so what are still reading this for? Go! Read! This paper needs you!

Editor Charlie

Rhinos at Risk

Tessa Sanders

Recently I was fortunate enough to visit Kruger national park in South Africa. It was amazing to see all the animals in their natural habitat and learn about them. However, something that made me sad were the rhinos. It's no secret that they are in danger of extinction but I didn't realise it was to the point of having to remove their horns to protect them from poachers. People in some cultures believe that rhino horns are a symbol of wealth and luxury, there is also a belief that rhino horns can help medically and cure certain diseases, but this is not supported by science.

As many know there are two rhino species in Africa, the black rhino and the white rhino. The black rhino is at risk the most due to their declining population. Another issue is that it is harder for black rhinos to be tracked because they are solitary and elusive which means conservationists cannot care for the black rhinos as much, this makes it easier for poachers to kill without being caught.

It is easy to tell the difference between a white rhino and a black rhino. White rhinos are much bigger than black rhinos, the average male known as a bull can grow up to about 1.7 meters and weigh up to 2,700 kilograms while the average black rhino bull only grows up to about 1.4 metres (although and 1,400 kilograms! There is another noticeable difference as the white rhinos have a wide square lip which is ideal for grazing and the black rhino has a pointed prehensile lip for browsing on leaves and branches.

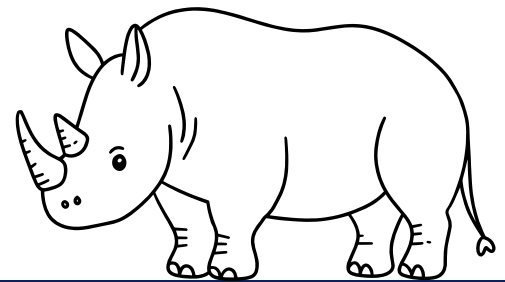
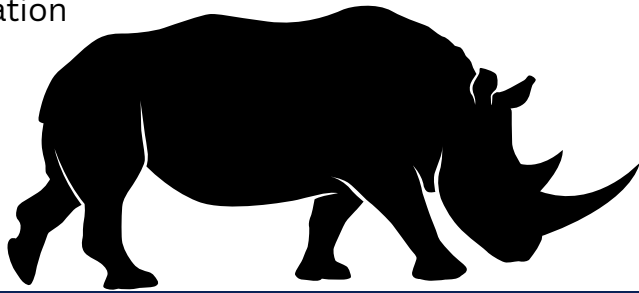
When I first heard about the horns being cut off I at once thought that that will protect them and yes, it is the right thing to do, to protect them from their biggest threat, the poachers. But without their horns they cannot defend themselves against predators, although most predators will not go for a rhino because of their size. There are other actions to protect rhinos, for example one night we were driving back from a game drive when we saw a van dropping off rangers to look for poachers at



This is the white rhino

night. If there was a poacher near by they would get arrested, although it's pretty dangerous for the rangers to get left out in the bush at night because of predators and other territorial animals like hippos.

How can we help protect these incredible animals? If you are interested in helping to protect rhinos, you can get more information from organisations such as the WWF and the International Rhino Foundation



QUIZ NIGHT!

By Maisey Lafollete

I've been volunteering at Broughty Ferry Library for a few years now, and I'm currently working towards Gold Duke of Edinburgh. Since, the library has given me so much experience in working with the public, IT skills, and building a sense of community, I wanted to say thank you to them, by raising funds for more books.

Although they have an extensive collection, I feel some genres need updated. For example, the Teen Fiction section, audiobooks, adult fantasy, and children's books often need replacing.

Due to this, I've organised a quiz night and raffle fundraiser. I made flyers and tickets, wrote the quiz myself and I'll be running the event, and I've spent the last few weekends going around The Ferry, to ask the various businesses for raffle prizes or donations. I have been stunned at how generous the community has been and interested in my Duke of Edinburgh journey, some even enjoying sharing their stories from their own DoFE experiences.

I'm grateful a few High School peers have volunteered to help me sell raffle tickets on the night, but I do hope that some High School staff members, parents and fifth- or sixth-year students will consider forming a team for the quiz.

The quiz is almost at full capacity, so if you're interested in attending the quiz please email LafolletteMa@highschoolofdundee.org.uk, just so I have an idea on numbers.

I look forward to seeing you there to support the library

Broughty Ferry Library Book Fundraiser.



Quiz
Raffle
Prizes
And more!

When?

Monday 1st
December. 7:30pm

Where?

Woodlands Hotel,
Broughty Ferry.
DD5 2QL

Teams of 1-4 players.

Ages 16+. £5 per
person, and if possible
please donate a gently
used book. Cash only
please.



I have been volunteering at Broughty Ferry Library for my Gold Duke of Edinburgh, and I want to give back to the library by raising funds for more books.

Under the Floorboards | Case File 4

The Social Circus

Al Forbes

In a world that is developing, through both positive and negative factors, we often find ourselves needing to develop. For example: there is a high chance that your teacher next period will of grown up with no technology, or maybe a Nokia at best. But look at them now, with there portable laptops, fast computers, and other gadgets galore, you can see how much they've developed.

If you're a person like me, then most of your friends are the opposite gender than you. I have very little friends that class as male, with most of my friends being female. If your like me, then you will know that you will crash out if someone starts to treat you less of a teen and more like a child.

In this deep dive (with no disclaimers by the way – your welcome), I will take you through aspects of life that fully frustrates me, most of which I see on a daily basis. So drop that homework assessment and pull out those Pringles, and follow me in another case of Under the Floorboards.

The Great Gender Sorting Algorithm

Ever gone into your classroom and the teacher splits you into pairs? Ever notices that said pairs are same gendered? Usually that's because the teacher wants you to be with a friend. That's great, end of article, thanks for reading... but wait. What if you don't have any or many friends that are male? What if you and your bestie (who is a girl) wants to be in a pair? But she can't leave because she doesn't want to upset her partner and save me for you vice versa.

And then the teacher sees you complaining and announces to the crowd "it was done randomly", you know it's time to run. Let's just say the chances of that happening is (according to ChatGPT – flattering you think I'm that smart) is 0.001667%.

Teachers, please, make the seating plan random! It's not fair on me if I'm the only one not giving as much fun as the rest of yous! Just do it alphabetically, anti-alphabetically, pair every other person, ask AI, really, I'm not picky! Yes yes, the needs (or I guess want) of the many out way the needs (wants) of the few but like c'mon!

Punishments That Make Me Sick

"Alright class, you've been so noisy, so I'm going to change the seating plan." Said the teacher. Said teacher then proceeded to put everyone in boy girl boy girl order. Now, whilst I'm sitting partying, people are groaning in anguish. Teachers – why are you making this a punishment! Why why why why are you doing this?! It just encourages boys and girls to be cringed by each other, make cross-gender friends an option they don't want! Why you doing this!

Students get the tone, the, 'oh I've been punished by my teacher' tone. That makes country dancing awkward and has so many repercussions down the line from L1 to F6! I hope you get my drift, so please, don't do this! If your gonna mix things up, just do it randomly! When you do so and someone ends up with there friend, move them to the front if they're gonna be noisy so you can keep an eye on them!

Please, this worked in 2006, pupils shouldn't be encouraged to be embarrassment by being cross-gendered paired anymore.

The Preschoolification of Teens

Ever got that one teacher that teaches you like a baby? Yup. Same. I resist the temptation to walk out of that room and punch a wall. This section will be a short one, just because I want the world to know that if your student is 13, treat them so. They know how to open an oven and use it, they don't need step by step instructions (ie "how do I open the oven? The handle? How do I touch the handle? Bend over? I've bent over what do I do now?").

No one wants you to treat them like they've just learned how to take their first steps. No one wants to receive an "awwww". No one wants to be talked to like they're 5. Sorry, let me rephrase that, no TEEN wants to have that happen. At least, I hope?

Pick Your Partners

Ever had that moment where the teacher says "turn to your partner" and suddenly you're in a survival game you did not sign up for? One second you're minding your own business, jotting down some notes in your textbook, the next you're body is twisted scanning the room. Everyone else has already turned, partnered, smiled, laughed even, while you're left standing there like a tower of bricks waiting to fall over. And the worst part, is when you finally lock eyes on someone, walk over, and they give you that "oh... you" expression. Fantastic. Now you're stuck pretending to brainstorm with someone who looks like they'd rather be flushed down the toilet than even look at you.

Teachers really do assume everyone has a default partner, like we're all in some buddy system TV show. But some are just floating, drifting, praying to not be left alone. Forced fun doesn't fix it either, it just makes everyone more awkward. No one wants to be shoved into a pair with someone they've never spoken to. Get my drift?

That's it for my 'deep dive' of sorts from me. Hopefully I have proven my point. If you'd like to request a deep-dive topic for my next article, then please email me. I'm always open to requests.

Until next time – stay safe

Reform Strikes Again

Jack Mitchell

As we see the number of suspended Reform councillors across the country rack up, it makes the party's claim that it just has the odd 'bad egg' seem ever more untrue. This week, Reform councillor Tom Pickup was suspended after he admitted he was part of a racist and deeply offensive WhatsApp group chat and had messaged as well. Other members of the group had called for 'mass Islam genocide' and other for the shooting of the Prime Minister, to which Mr Pickup agreed. He said his words had been 'twisted out of context' while defending himself to the media, but the claim seems a little weak after reading them.

Pickup's suspension was not the only negative story for Reform, with some very worrying revelations about party leader Nigel Farage also coming out. A Jewish classmate of Mr Farage at the independent Dulwich College told The Guardian that as a child, he would taunt him and use deeply antisemitic language, as well as making deeply inappropriate jokes. According to Mr Ettedgui – now an acclaimed BAFTA and Emmy Award winning director – Farage would come up and say 'Hitler was right,' or 'gas them' and hiss to imitate the sound of gas showers in Nazi concentration camps. These words are of course shocking and distressing for anyone to have said, but for the man

leading UK opinion polls, it sets alarm bells ringing for our political climate. Another boy – from an ethnic minority – said that while just a junior pupil, he was targeted by the then much older 17-year-old Farage for being non-white. Farage allegedly pointed in the other direction and said 'that's the way back' to where he was from.

Now, Farage when less detailed allegations arose roughly a decade ago batted them away and questioned whether anyone was really interested in his words from 40 years ago, but it seems many do. Back then he was leading an albeit very influential pro-Brexit referendum campaign; now he seems to have a credible route to Downing Street. Sure, Farage was just a child, and his views now could have completely changed, but the viciousness of his words still haunt those he targeted. Perhaps it's not just the councillors who hold disturbing views, but the leadership too. Reform would have you believe that only the odd member or councillor is a bit of a 'bad egg' and that that is not what their party is about, but when its leader is revealed to have said some truly horrific things himself, it casts some serious doubt on the claim.

The fish rots from the head down, so they say.

Form 5 & 6 Ball Photos







And finally...

Seven Questions for Staff

It's this time of the week again! Today I've brought you the delightful Mrs Tevendale, the very teacher keeping this newspaper running. Let's see what there is to learn this time...

1. Cats or dogs, and why? – **Neither – I am allergic to both.**
 2. What did you want to be when you were younger? – **For a long time, I wanted to be a Dr – partly because my Mum had been denied it (she was a nurse) due to her being a woman, partly because I thought it was like in films and books**
 3. Comfort TV show/movie? – **Cliched, but “Friends.”**
 4. What department do you wish you were in? – **Biology – they always make me laugh**
 5. Favourite musical artist? – **Too many to name but I am seeing “Take That” next year so they are up there.**
 6. What was your first job? – **I was a nanny for a very spoiled 2-year-old**
 7. Go to karaoke song? – **Abba “Dancing Queen” – of course**
- Some lovely answers there, who will be on next week...?

Editors' note

*That's all
folks!*

Your Editors - Charlie, Emma, and Shan