

The Asylum Times

Issue 15: Special Summer Edition

Saturday 16th July 2005

HEADMASTER'S OFFICE TO MOVE TO RAJASTHAN?

The relentless drive for greater efficiency took a disturbing turn for the worse last night as shocking news emerged from St Christopher School.

The Asylum Times can exclusively reveal that top management at St Chris are seriously considering outsourcing the Head's Office, The Deputy Head's Office, Room 12 and the Finance Office to India.

All staff involved are likely to be laid off or moved to Rajasthan, where analysts say locals will be able to do the same jobs

This move would save money and "provide valuable employment opportunities to the people of Rajasthan" insist management



Could this chap be the future Headmaster? Time will tell...

for a fraction of the cost. Whilst still in top secret discussion stages, it is our mole's understanding that the jobs affected are likely to include the Headmaster, Deputy Head, the Bursar and the Heads of the junior, middle school and sixth form.

Outsourcing of this nature is common amongst corporations for whom increasing profits at any cost is the highest priority. At St. Chris, the move will also be justified as part of the Rajasthan project, at least according to one source. Apparently, the skills of the workforce in that region have

improved to the level where running a school is within their reach. The move will also "provide valuable employment opportunities for the people of Rajasthan", although one Finance Office source admitted that the reduction in the school's wage bill was of far greater importance than any humanitarian effort, even though his own job was one of those to be lost.

Most of management were unwilling to comment publically, although Mr Gruber is believed to be excited at the prospect of moving to Rajastan.

Inside

Why have we written this issue? See our Editorial on page 2

It's Good news for the Bearded Wonders on page 3

It's a load of bollocks! See page 3 to find out more

What do stars hold in store for you? Check out page 4's horoscopes

Spot the difference!

Answers on a postcard please!

Send to...

Pond 3A
The Pentagon
Chigwell
WD40 UHT



SCHOOL MEALS WILL BE CENTRALISED SAYS HEAD

The war against waste continues in earnest, or so it seems following the latest shock announcement from senior management of St Christopher School. By the decree of the Headmaster and with the full support of the Governors, all meals held across the school estate will be amalgamated into one, streamlined, efficient sitting at 12 noon everyday. This drastic policy will be introduced in September and analysts estimate that savings of up to 99p may be achievable, although 30 staff redundancies are likely.

Boarders and residential staff were understandably upset. One sixth former was heard moaning that "The food was never that great anyway, but now I'll be forced to eat my bed for dinner". Others were more philosophical, "I'll just have to learn to get by without my beloved broccoli and cauliflower cheese mornay", said one local tramp.

Most of the school's senior management team refused to talk to a pair of bored and unconvincing hacks, although one Governor speaking off the record did



One Grouper queueing outside the IG were heard muttering "Please Sir, can we have some more?"

lambaste the current meal regime as a "scandalous waste of limited resources" and praised the Headmaster for being "bold enough to address this injustice".

Is there more of this to follow? Leading sceptics, notably those of a Stalinist background, are certain that more "fascist

cost cutting policies are in the pipeline". Rumours abound that an "Air tax initiative", a "library services charging scheme" and a "strategic facial hair centralisation programme" are just around the corner. Is there any truth in these rumours? Mick Bee refused to comment.

Book Review

A charming reflection on the joys of rearranging your toilet to the harmony of this well known and much hyped Chinese craft.

We would like to thank "Johnno" the One Grouper for submitting this very worthy contended for "Book of the Week"!

**Delia Cross
OB(O)E**



Editorial

For those who don't know, the "Asylum Times" was the satirical, unofficial newspaper of St Christopher School for the latter part of the 1990s. It grew from our disgust at the uselessness of the then official newspaper, "The Voice", and gradually evolved to become the dominant publication, mostly of nonsense, at St Christopher School.

You may now be wondering why the Asylum Times has risen from the ashes of satire for one more issue. You might also be thinking that the distribution of a publication that isn't afraid to challenge the establishment is long overdue. Well, many factors came together in a disorganised conspiracy to make this happen. It all started with an email I received several months back, detailing the changes that were taking place, and the apparent outrage they were causing. As time progressed, the situation seemed to deteriorate to the stage where I felt something had to be done.

My hard-working co-editor was on a bit of a holiday in Brighton a few weeks ago and so we met up at a Chinese restaurant, where the hilarious names of the food we ate (such as Special Lai Fun and Lamp Curry) provided the creative spark that ignited most of the articles here. We hope you enjoy this issue, but please don't take any of it too seriously!

**Lloyd Evans (1990 - 2000)
John Collins (1996 - 2001)**

Entertainment Report

THE BEST A BEARD CAN GET!



Following the sudden split of popular Bearded pop group “Beardzone” (Above), Gillette have struck a deal with St Christopher School to secure the future of former group members’ beards.

As many staff, pupils and old scholars are well aware, there are many staff at St. Chris who seem to be gifted with uncannily large amounts of untamed facial hair. Whilst in the past these national treasures were deemed to be immortal, in recent months doubts have arisen about their future longevity.

The cost of maintaining the current stock of bearded staff has rocketed since the collapse of the bearded boyband “Beardzone” (shown left), who were forced to split when several of its members retired to the countryside.

Fortunately the Senior Management Team of St Christopher School have just struck a Private Finance Initiative deal with the Letchworth Garden City Facial Hair Foundation and the razor and skincare product manufacturer, Gillette. This initiative, worth over £9 million, should allow total private funding of all forms of extraneous facial hair for staff and pupils. In return, Gillette will receive exclusive advertising rights throughout the school. Edwin Gruber and Dennis Rix are reportedly “very pleased” with this development.

WHAT THEY SAID:

“St Christopher has successfully developed and grown in recent years without weakening its values.

A Governor

“I would also like to pay tribute to Colin Reid’s highly effective Headship.”

A Governor

“My family and I are very much looking forward to moving here and getting to know everyone.”

The Headmaster

“I am delighted about the Governors’ appointment of Donald Wilkinson to be my successor.”

A Former Headmaster

AND WHAT THEY MEANT:

And we hope that it will develop and grow ten times as fast when we eliminate those values.

Now that we’ve finally got rid of him, we can pursue our own right wing agenda.

I can’t wait to see who I can either fire or ban from the premises.

Sorry everyone, please forgive me. I couldn’t prevent it. Oh, God, what have I done? Please have mercy on my soul.



Your essential guide to surviving the new regime!

Please note that what these people may or may not have meant has been left largely to our imagination...



www.asylumtimes.net

In Brief

Tesco's may move to buy St Chris says leading analyst

Word has reached us that in a somewhat unexpected move, retailing giant Tesco may be interested in purchasing St Christopher School. The superstore has been diversifying its lines for some time now – it used to be that they only sold food and drink, but they now sell clothing, music, car insurance and they even operate a banking service. It would seem that they might be interested in moving into the private education market.

Tesco's policy to date has been to find a unique and valued product, buy it, vastly commercialise it and eventually turn it into a consumer non-entity. In this way, what was once a valuable product in a niche market becomes widespread and therefore mediocre overall. Their treatment of St. Chris would likely be no exception.

When we asked some of the staff at St. Chris what they thought about this takeover, there were mixed responses:

"At least we would never again be short of funding," said the headmaster optimistically. "They would have to promise to double my pay to get my approval." said a more reserved the deputy head. "I just hope they let me keep my beard!" remarked a nervous Dennis Rix.

Pupils and their parents have expressed seven shades of horror at the possible commercialisation of their school, which would no longer be run as a charitable organisation. Tesco have tried to pacify the school populace by offering to takeover the supply of school food, at zero cost. When asked if the diet will remain vegetarian, a Tesco spokesman declined to comment.

Bertie the Bag Carrier's days are numbered says random student

We have reason to believe that Bertie the Bag Carrier's job is on the line. Introduced by Kathie Martins in the late 1990s, Bertie used to perform an infuriating yet valuable job of collecting unidentified bags from the racks around the school, for the ostensible purpose of preventing theft. As such, he was a target of much rage by the lower school. However, with the appointment of the new headmaster last year and subsequent changes in management, Bertie was summarily moved to oneside and now lives next to the compost pile in Arunfield. It seems that it is only a short step to involuntary retirement. When asked to comment, Bertie said that he didn't jump but instead was pushed "Right down the Barrington Road and onto the A505". Kathie Martins declined to comment.

Horoscopes

Capricorn:

There is no point going into work today since your boss has decided to fire you for no reason other than he disagrees with your political views.

Taurus:

You are now unemployed, but take a trip to India tomorrow – you might well be able to apply for your old job if you do.

Sagittarius:

If you used to be a teacher, don't bother trying to visit your old school, as you will find that you have been banned from the premises.

Aquarius:

You have been made an honorary member of the Letchworth Garden City Facial Hair Appreciation Society.

Libra:

Political correctness will make it hard for you to be straight with a gay.

Virgo:

Don't go to Wolverhampton. It's not the end of the world, but you can see it from there.

Cancer:

You now work for Tesco, but don't worry. They may be taking over the world, but they are taking you with them.

Gemini:

After listening to Chris Moyles on the radio this morning, you must remember to not feed him.

Leo:

After having had a dream about eating cheese, your life will become a nightmare.

Scorpio:

Don't trust anyone with a glass topped coffee table in their living room.

Aries:

People with white earphones may bore you.

Pisces:

After a lifelong vegetarian diet, you will suddenly discover that you enjoy eating fish.

Markets Report

This week's financial markets report has been cancelled due to essential internal cost cutting measures.

Sports Report

This week's sports report has been cancelled due to health and safety concerns. You can never be too safe...

Weather Report

And this week's weather report has been cancelled because, well... because we felt like it.

DISCLAIMER: Should anything reported in this publication turn out to be even remotely true then it is by pure coincidence.

Copyright, Jaboda Press MMV

