



Inside

your 16-page full-colour **STAG**...

The biggest – and smallest – recent stories from around the world

PLUS reviews of the latest releases
AND opinion from top columnists.



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BBC in Trust Crisis

Words: **Andrew Burdett**

As *The Stag* was going to press, the BBC was preparing to publish the findings of its Pollard Inquiry into its own executives' handling of the Jimmy Savile 2011 *Newsnight* film, as the corporation emerges from its "worst crisis" for decades.

Details emerged in late-September 2012 that a BBC *Newsnight* film, featuring accusations that the late Sir Jimmy Savile had committed child sex abuse, had been dropped from the programme nine months earlier. The BBC showed two tribute shows to the star, who died in October 2011, during their Christmas schedule that year.

The Pollard Inquiry, led by former Sky News boss Nick Pollard, is expected to review whether the axing of the *Newsnight* film was linked to the broadcast of the Christmas specials. Another investigation, headed

by Appeal Court judge Dame Janet Smith, has been established to look into the culture and practices of the BBC during Savile's era.

In November 2012, *Newsnight* aired a film linking a member of the House of Lords to child abuse. Former care home resident Steve Messham claimed a senior Tory, widely named on Twitter and other websites, had "raped him more than a dozen times". Later, when Mr Messham was shown a picture of the ex-politician he alleged, he realised he had been mistaken and issued an apology, saying he was "mortified".

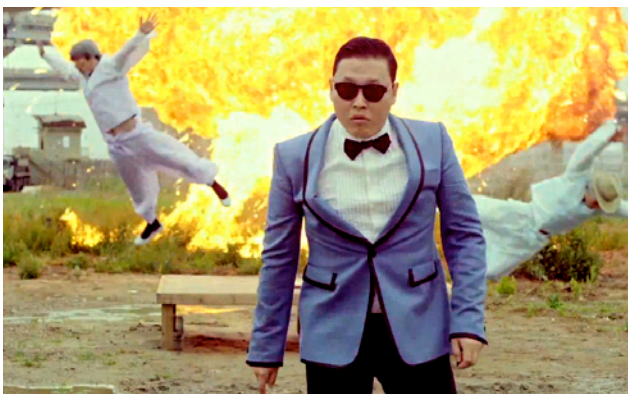
BBC Director-General George Entwistle resigned in light of the latter fiasco, after only 54 days in the job.

The accused man went on to sue the BBC for libel damages of £185,000, ITV for £125,000, and Sally Berrow (who tweeted the name), for £50k.

© Getty Images



The Duchess of Cambridge spent three nights in hospital being treated for the acute morning sickness from which she was suffering after falling pregnant. Full story: Page 2



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Gangnam Style most-viewed video ever

Words: **Sam Kohn**

With approximately 1 billion views, *Gangnam Style* has become the most-viewed YouTube video of all time. Averaging 9 million views a day, the video surpasses the previous record-holder *Baby* by Justin Bieber, by

almost 100 million views. After being on the internet for a mere six months, the video has become a viral sensation, topping not only internet charts, but also reaching the Number One spot on iTunes in over 31 countries.

But after appearing on numerous chat-shows and television outlets, PSY has issued a statement admitting that he himself is "getting tired of *Gangnam Style*".

Duchess Pregnant... but Hoax Call to her Hospital Results in Tragic Suicide

THE STAG



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Words: Chloe Banks

Although they tried to hide it, the fact that the Duchess of Cambridge is pregnant is no longer a secret. After being rushed into hospital for morning sickness at less than twelve weeks into her pregnancy, Kate Middleton and the rest of the royal family became victims of an immature hoax call. The call was made to the London King Edward VII hospital by two presenters from an Australian radio station, 2Day FM.

On 4 December at 5:30am, the two presenters impersonated the Queen and the Prince of Wales to receive information about the Duchess, and proceeded to be connected directly to the Duchess's ward. Mel Greig, acting as the Queen, spoke to a nurse on the main desk and was transferred straight to the private ward without question. She had a conversation with the nurse on the Duchess's ward, as the Duchess was sleeping at that moment in time. They discussed when "the Queen" should visit, while Michael Christain, also from 2Day FM, mimicked the Queen's corgis, by barking in the background.

Despite the fact that Mel Greig wrongly named Kate Middleton as her "granddaughter" and swore on the phone, the nurses suspected nothing. This obviously led to questioning into the security of the hospital, and the protection of personal medical information. John Lofthouse, the chief executive of the King Edward VII Hospital, said that telephone records are being reviewed to find out exactly where things went wrong.

In his initial statement, Mr Christiansen said: "We were very surprised that our call was put through; we thought we'd be hung-up on as soon as they heard our terrible accents. We're very sorry if we've caused any issues and we're glad to hear that Kate is doing well."

The call itself broke Australia's own broadcasting regulations – live programmes must not 'highly de-

mean or exploit' participants. The show did both.

On the morning of 7 December, the nurse who had originally put through the call, Jacintha Saldanha, was found dead in the staff accommodation. The mother-of-two is believed to have been left 'lonely and confused'. However, it is believed that Mrs Saldanha was not suspended or disciplined by the hospital. King Edward VII Hospital paid tribute to "a first class nurse who cared diligently for hundreds of patients".

Although at first they stayed away from the public and media light, the pair chose to break their silence by doing an interview with Australian Channel 9's *A Current Affair* programme.

Ms Greig said: "There's not a minute that goes by where we don't think about her family and what they must be going through, and the thought that we may have played a part in that is gut-wrenching."

Greig and Christain have been put on leave since the incident, out of 'respect' for Mrs Saldanha and her family. The presenters were both targeted by a huge public backlash. Both received death threats and abuse, and so are in the process of counselling to help them deal with the grief and guilt that they are now faced with. Concern is high for Ms Greig, as she is believed to be in an unstable mental state, which may lead to self-harm, so is receiving more intense psychological help.

St James's Palace statement said the Duke and Duchess "were looked after so wonderfully well at all times by everybody at King Edward VII Hospital, and their thoughts and prayers are with Jacintha Saldanha's family, friends and colleagues at this very sad time".

An inquest into the death of Jacintha Saldanha will be opened, and her family will be taking her body to India, where she can be buried in her birthplace, in accordance with her Mangalore Catholic faith.

Re-elected Obama warns of 'Scrooge Christmas'

Americans face a 'Scrooge Christmas', Obama warns, if negotiations regarding the fiscal cliff (economic effects resulting from tax increases and spending cuts) do not work out.

Words: Svetlana De Melo

With celebrations of his historic second term in the White House drawing to a close, US President Barack Obama is switching back to his campaign mode. It was only a month ago that the news of Obama's re-election against his Republican rival Mitt Romney had filled our television screens and newspapers.

With the striking images of Obama surrounded by the red, blue and white confetti now just a distant memory, and the fast arrival of the festive season, Obama has hit the road once again. On 30 November, in a Pennsylvania toy factory, the president warned of a "Scrooge Christmas" unless the Republicans in Congress did not pass legislations extending the tax cut.

"Let's get that done," he addressed the workers of the Rodon Group manufacturing facility.

With the 'fiscal cliff' scheduled to take effect by the end of 2012, it means "every family in America will see their taxes automatically go up on January 1", says the President. The terms of *The Budget Control Act of 2011* entitles the end of the temporarily wage tax cuts, resulting in an overall 2 per cent increase.

Yet Obama talked of averting the fiscal cliff, prolonging the tax cut while the wealthiest 2 per cent see an increase instead. However, he accused Republicans in Congress of failing to negotiate with

these terms, "Simple because they don't want tax rates on upper income folks to go up".

Republican House speaker John Boehner expressed his pessimism in a press conference about how slow the talks on the terms were, stating 'There is a stalemate. Let's not kid ourselves'. The Republican senator Orrin Hatch further questioned: "If the president is serious, then why is it that he wants to hit those very manufacturers with massive tax hikes that would hurt those business' ability to hire, ex-

and, and invest?", clearly signifying the evident differences between both parties.

Nevertheless, Obama is confident that the Republicans will eventually give in, as he believes it is inevitable that the Republicans will get the blame if every taxpayer sees an increase by the start of next year. He assures that these terms are "too important to our economy... too important to our families", to not get done and firmly states the refusal to his plans as "not acceptable" to him nor the millions of Americans.

Still, it seems the evident dilemma faced by the Republicans is summarised by the words of Lee Terry, Republican congressman.

"We're screwed", he states, "we really have no leverage in these discussions". This suggests that, whatever the overall negotiations come to, Obama has made it clear he won't give up pursuit of his plan.

© Alex Wong / Getty Images



President Obama greets Father Christmas at a festive event in 2009. But this Christmas looks set to be far less merry, if the economic situation is not fixed.

I'm A Conservative... Get Me Out Of Here!

Words: Jessica Kirby

Conservative MP Nadine Dorries caused consternation in early-November when confirming rumours that she would be taking time off parliament to appear in ITV's popular show *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* A supposedly "furious" David Cameron suspended her from her position, however he has declined to comment on her jungle antics. Unless she is reinstated, Ms Dorries will have to sit as an independent in the House of Commons and cannot stand as a Conservative MP at the next election.



Nadine Dorries was criticised for abandoning her constituency while appearing on the ITV programme.

Unsurprisingly, due to the controversy she caused, Ms Dorries was the first celebrity to be evicted from the jungle show, and upon arriving back to her hotel and

reading the newspaper headlines that had been written about her, she defiantly stated "I've got exactly what I wanted from this. Most people listen to politicians for a few seconds, if that. I might be lucky that people will now listen to me for a bit longer."

When maturely dismissing the headline from tabloid newspaper *The Sun*, 'WE'LL MAKE MAD NAD GAG ON GONAD', Nadine made no comment on the 'bush tucker trial' beloved to the show, in which, when participating, she did in fact eat lamb testicle, ostrich anus, and camel

toe. She also went up against *Coronation Street* star Helen Flanagan, in a trial titled 'Bug Burial', however did not fare well and got no stars for her fellow campmates. Although she lasted four minutes, she continued the rationing in camp, leading this year to be the only year of the show ever where the celebrities had to survive on basic rations of rice and beans for over a week.

Although spending much of her time in the jungle speaking negatively about her career, Ms Dorries seemed certain she would be re-instated upon her arrival home, and said logically that she was sure her local party would stand by her, as she's legally been elected until 2015. Nadine has recently also made complaints about the press harassing her outside her house, and although her husband Chris Hammond has said

he found the media attention "quite surprising and strange", many are still speculating as to whether this was career suicide, or a smart move in the political jungle.

Gaza: Ceasefire Announced in Cairo

Words: Sam Kohn

After ongoing fire between both sides over four weeks of intense conflict, a ceasefire has been called in the Gaza strip. The announcement, made in Cairo on 21 November, came after a month of casualties was experienced throughout the Gaza strip. More than 140 Palestinians have died since the bombing began, and Israel themselves have reported over five deaths. Fire from Palestinians intensified in early-October, which is what many are calling "the spark that ignited the fuse". Fierce retaliation from Israel reached a staggering point at which nearly 1,000 rockets were sent into Gaza in just one day, and in which over 40 people were killed in Gaza City. The ceasefire calls for drastic change, as US President Obama heads the challenge for peace in Gaza.



© AFP / Getty Images

No Talk-Time for Female Indian Villagers

Indian village bans women from using mobile phones

Words: Erin Kyle-Davidson

A council of male elders in the Muslim dominated village of Sundarbari, located in the North-Eastern state of Bihar, have banned women from using mobile phones in public, claiming they were “debasing the social atmosphere”, and leading to a torrent of elopements. The council has imposed fines of £114 pounds for single women and £23 for married women, if they are caught talking on a phone in the street.

A spokesperson for the village, Manuwar Alam, who heads the newly-formed committee in charge of enforcing the ban, issued the comment that “It always gives us a lot of embarrassment when someone asks who has eloped this time”.

According to Alam, the number of elopements and extramarital love affairs had risen in the past few months, with at least six girls and women leaving their homes, including married women who were leaving to be with their lovers.

Local officials have already begun an investigation into the situation, saying the such bans cannot be allowed in a “healthy society”, whilst women’s rights activists call it an ‘assault on freedom’, and an action that could potentially put their lives at risk, as it strips them of a source of protection, particularly from actions such as unwanted advances from men.

During a debate on local television, activist Suman Lal issued the comment that “Girls and women are capable enough to protect themselves”. While also raising the issue that technology has been designed to be used and not banned. Fellow activist Mohammad Islam also believed that it was disappointing that the village council ignored the many advantages of mobile phones, before placing a ban for one apparent reason.

Bio-Microchips Provide Huge Potential for Mankind

Words: Jack Cooper

With the aid of technology, medicine has advanced in leaps and bounds, making medical procedures both safer and more efficient, bringing benefits both to the patients and to those who perform on them. Despite this, medicine remains an imperfect art, with many procedures considered invasive and risky, placing an unnecessary load on those being treated. For example, pacemakers require major surgery



Biologically-compatible microchips provide potential for improved medical efficiency.

for insertion and removal, a process both time-consuming and costly. A new technology being developed at the University of Illinois could provide yet another leap for the medical community, with microchips made from biocompatible materials pioneered by Professor John Rogers and his team. A biocompatible material is one that can replace or be inserted into living tissue without causing any harmful side-effects. These new microchips are silicon-based and are covered with magnesium and coated in silk, allowing them to be inserted into humans without any ill effects.

The potential for this new technology is enormous. The microchips could be used to monitor patient’s vitals, providing real-time data to medical staff via Wi-Fi, drastically reducing the amount of machinery needed in a hospital, and hence reducing costs and increasing available space. Patients could also choose to have a device implanted within them that dispenses any medication they need, at the exact time and dosage that they need.

And since the materials are biodegradable, no surgery is required to remove them. The microchips would simply dissolve in the body after their task is finished.

Sadly, we won’t be seeing these in real-life for a number of years, since they need to be approved by various scientific bodies.

As Professor Rogers said: “this is just the beginning of a new class of technology you’re going to see in humans”.

My View

Rumman Shaikh

The term 'blowback' is defined as 'the unintended adverse results of a political action or situation'. Drone strikes by the US are therefore widely understood to cause blowback. In this case, blowback may be in the form of increased militancy and widespread anti-American sentiment.

Drone strikes have been carried out by the US in Pakistan since 2004, the year Pakistan decided to launch military operations against militants. Drone strikes have increased under the Obama

Rochester NY / Indymedia



An American woman protests against drone warfare in Brighton, Rochester.

administration and, along with them, so too have the number of civilians killed. A recent report carried out jointly by Stanford University Law School and New York University identified this problem, highlighting serious concerns on the impact on innocent civilians by the drone warfare waged by the Obama administration, citing that civilian casualties do fuel militancy and anti-American sentiment, detrimental to the larger and long-term aims of the US in the region.

The casualties as of this date vary but an estimated 1,500 to 3,000 people have been killed in drone strikes, most of whom are civilians – civilians who are killed without warning simply for being in a certain area. If the US launched its 'War on Terror' to win hearts and minds, certain emphasis must be put on the hearts and minds remaining inside bodies. The families of the victims are without a doubt left in grief and anger. The anger is placed towards the Americans for the deaths and most of them want revenge. In

the remote north-western tribal areas of Pakistan, there is little or no rule of law, so those affected can easily be exploited by the militants and turned into fighters or suicide bombers.

The blowback is not limited to within the tribal areas, but also applies across much of Pakistan. Ordinary citizens feel powerless to stop the bloodshed as a corrupt government tacitly approves of the strikes in secret while publicly condemning it. The anger at the American government across Pakistan can be illustrated by the recent 'Peace March', led by politician Imran Khan, to the tribal areas to protest against the drone strikes. The people who joined him were ordinary citizens from all social and religious backgrounds not only from Pakistan but across the world. The march was put forward to raise awareness of the suffering caused by these strikes.

If America truly wanted to win the war it is now trapped in, it would know that fuelling militancy is not the way to combat militancy. Even a 10-year-old would say that. So why continue with the drone strikes? Is it arrogance? Is it necessary? Is it successful? The answer: we simply do not know, but what we do know is that a Nobel Peace Prize winner continues to authorise attacks detrimental to any victory in the region, and its effects will be felt for years to come.

Northern OAPs Behaving Badly

Britain's most badly behaved elderly couple face prison over harassment charges.

Words: Erin Kyle-Davidson

An elderly couple from Grimsby, Lincolnshire have been threatened with jail after verbally abusing and intimidating their neighbours. Joseph Gallagher, 84, and Dorothy Womersley, 71, were prosecuted at Grimsby Magistrates' Court, and given an ASBO for the abuse that they handed out to a couple near their home, who remain unnamed.

Gallagher and Womersley also subjected another family to similar abuse, as well as using insulting language and causing criminal damage to property, despite receiving warnings from both the police and North East Lincolnshire Council.

Defence solicitor Ed Bates did not oppose the ASBOs that prevent the couple from contacting their victims and entering the vicinity of their house and gardens, nor did he object to them being told not to throw objects that could cause damage or harm to either of the victims. Following the court hearing, local councillor Dave Bolton issued a comment revealing that the ASBO was applied only as a final resort, in the hope to serve as a reminder of what is and what isn't acceptable behaviour. Spencer Hunt, North East Lincolnshire Council's manager for safer and stronger communities, added that: "It's unfortunate that it has come to this point, but all efforts to make them change their behaviour by other means have failed". He then went on to add that, hopefully, now the couple know what is legally expected of them, they will be aware of the consequences.

Antisocial behaviour co-ordinator Paul Condon revealed that, although it is unfortunate that such drastic action needed to be taken, it is important that that lives of the victims can be allowed to return to normal. Andy Everett, Humberside Police's crime reduction manager, was seen as describing the couple's behaviour as "abusive, intimidating, and insulting".

Seriously Spicy Burger – Yours For £25

Words: Chloe Banks

Bristol and Oxford burger-chain owners, Martin Bunce and James Reilly, have created a burger so spicy that customers have to sign a disclaimer and prove to be over 18 before ordering the meal!

The 'Atomic Fallout Pizza Burger' consists of three 18oz burgers, 18oz of cheese, and two slices of deep fried pizza in place of a bun. Not only this, but the consumer needs to wear protective gloves whilst eating, as the burger is covered in lashings of sauce made from the two of

Caters News



the hottest chillies in the world – the Scotch Bonnet and the Ghost Chilli. The heat of the sauce alone has been described as "fire burning" and "deathly", but does the protection of the disclaimer suggest that the spice could genuinely be a health risk?

With three portions of chilli chips on the side soaring the calorie count well above the recommended daily allowance, this burger certainly isn't for health-conscious customers.

But is this meal really worth the eye-watering £25 price tag?

Mayan 'Doomsday' Nears

Words: Sam Kohn

Fears of the apocalypse have been rising worldwide this month following internet speculation over the end of the ancient Mayan calendar. The theory predicts that the world will end on 21 December, with many believing that this will occur through a massive solar flame "that will release the equivalent energy of 100 billion atomic bombs". The US government have issued a statement stressing the importance that people remain calm, as the predictions are "mere rumours fuelled by curiosity. NASA too has attempted to quell the situation, stating that there is "absolutely no evidence to suggest that the world will end on December 21".

My View

Svetlana De Melo

It's that time of the year again. The excitement of the first snowfall, the countdown to 25 December, and who can forget those cheesy Christmas songs blasting through the speakers of every shop. "'Tis the season to be jolly", right? Well, not if the end of the world is near.

It's fair to say the festive season is well under way now, and it would be a great shame to not even celebrate one of our favourite holidays. With the many rumours of the Mayan calendar ending this month, and talks of comets causing catastrophic destruction, or planets colliding with ours, or even an alien invasion should we be prepared? Or maybe just consider the fact that as the calendar ends does it not suggest that maybe it automatically starts up again, like ours?

Well, Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard has expressed absolute certainty of the world ending this year. What a way to reassure the nation of the dreaded doomsday, right? Especially to those who are exhibiting extreme fears. However, countries such as Russia and America have issued statements to assure people that the world is not ending mid this month. Furthermore, British authorities have said they are prepared for the end and are issuing advice to those with any conflicting questions or queries.

The AA team has warned to "take time to do

basic checks on your car" – it seems they believe this will prevent you from any unfortunate circumstances. While other sources suggests a better probability of living if you're a boy scout, stating, "There are probably going to be no computers or electricity in the post-apocalyptic world so get a basic essential guide." They kindly also recommend good guides such as *Scouting for Boys* written in 1908, which is apparently still very much "relevant after the apocalypse" and supposedly the 21st century.

With even doomsday clocks becoming apparent in towns, tick-tocking down the minutes and days, it seems maybe there might be truth behind this suspected rumour.

However, NASA's scientist David Morrison "blasts off" any apocalyptic allegations, reporting, "If there were anything out there like a planet headed for Earth, it would already be the brightest object in the sky after the sun and the moon. Everybody on Earth could see it". Isn't that a sigh of relief? Then maybe this is just another false accusation similar to every other failed prediction about the end of the world, like when we didn't die in January 2000, or May 2003, or September 2008, and the many more times that have been recorded. This gives you a little hope, does it not?

So to those who believe in the end of the world being near, and to those who just brush it off, this is a Merry (I-Hope-This-World-Doesn't-End) Christmas and a Happy New Year message.

Menu for Monks: Sri Lanken Buddhists Face Strict Diet to Curb Illness

Words: Molly Philips

Traditionally monks don't cook or prepare food for themselves in their temples, but instead depend on the food donated called 'alms' by Buddhist devotees. Offering alms is believed to bring good fortune in this life as well as the next, and many people devote this food taking extra care to ensure that it is vegetarian and rich in taste.

Recently however, the calm atmosphere of monasteries in Sri Lanka has been disrupted by an outbreak of diet-related diseases like diabetes. There are over 40,000 monks in Sri Lanka, where a majority of the nation's 20 million people are Buddhist, so it is unsurprising that this revelation has caused such a stir. Reports suggest this huge increase in diseases in monks is due to the fatty, sugary gifts being given to them.

Health Minister Maithripala Sirisena is worried that, despite the huge respect given to monks when donating alms, the food is not always healthy.

He stated: "Because of their great affinity towards religious observances, most devotees offer food with high cholesterol content and the Buddhist monks have no choice but to partake of these foods all year round... The situation is further aggravated because monks do not engage in recreational activities or exercises to shed their excessive weight."

Medical experts and nutritionists are on hand to advise the monks to eat more fruit, vegetables and rice, by drawing up a new menu. Furthermore, they recommended them to drink more water and to cut down on wheat-based foods.

On top of the new menu plan, the minister also instructed health officials to open wards exclusively for the clergy at all hospitals; however a prominent Buddhist monk Maadulaawe Sobitha has dismissed this idea.

"For thousands of years, the tradition was for the devotees to offer food for the clergy. It was up to the monks to decide what is appropriate to consume," he says. "We have to be satisfied with whatever is given to us. We are not supposed to demand anything."

Coffee Break

Puzzles and brainteasers from *The Stag*.

Puzzles created by: Sophie Mahmud and Jemima Coulson

London Wordsearch

Words to find: Bakerloo, BigBen, Central, Tube, Circle, District, Gherkin, LondonEye, train, MillbankTower, Overground, Piccadilly, TowerBridge, TowerofLondon, Victoria, Westminster

X	O	O	L	K	G	F	N	P	W	X	C	Y	Z	Y
L	T	G	L	O	N	D	O	N	E	Y	E	I	T	L
Y	R	H	A	T	K	Y	D	C	S	R	P	T	Q	L
L	M	I	L	L	B	A	N	K	T	O	W	E	R	I
B	A	C	D	J	U	R	O	V	M	C	D	S	O	D
F	A	R	I	N	F	C	L	U	I	R	I	T	C	A
E	T	K	T	R	U	T	F	H	N	D	S	N	M	C
H	B	U	E	N	C	O	O	Z	S	U	T	I	B	C
V	B	Q	Z	R	E	L	R	D	T	Y	R	K	P	I
E	U	B	K	W	L	C	E	G	E	D	I	R	X	P
J	N	V	C	I	I	O	W	R	R	Y	C	E	T	Y
O	X	P	Z	F	P	R	O	O	K	E	T	H	R	Q
J	N	V	A	I	R	O	T	C	I	V	V	G	A	R
E	G	D	I	R	B	R	E	W	O	T	K	O	I	D
B	I	G	B	E	N	Y	O	C	D	Y	X	N	N	W

Sudoku

Standard rules apply. Each sub 3×3 box has to contain all the numbers 1 to 9 (inclusive); so too does each row and each line.

	6	3		5				
4		1	6				5	2
5			3		4			
	5	7		3	6			1
	1		2		9		4	
2			5	7		8	3	
			9		7			8
1	9				5	6		3
				6		2	9	

X Factor's Jahmene Douglas is Still Scarred by Past

Words: Cherrie Ip

Jahmene Douglas has been through uncountable events that have changed his life. Yet he was inches away from winning ITV's *X Factor*. How does he do it?

21-year-old Jahmene is gentle and calm, unlike other *X Factor* contestants. Despite his loss of the overall competition, he graciously congratulated James Arthur, winner of this year's *X Factor*. He seemed genuinely pleased for himself as he was positioned second place.

But his past is filled with dreadful abuse that he suffered as a child, which, he says, "remains part of my DNA".

His father Eustace, who was eventually jailed, was convicted violence against his own family, including torturing Jahmene's mother with a blowtorch.

He beat Jahmene with a belt, strangled him, and stuck a knife under his nails until they bled – just to stop him biting them.

The thing that will haunt Jahmene forever are his mum's screams whilst he froze in fear. "When you hear your mother screaming for help you have to zone out and pray," he says. "It's the only thing you can do when you can't help."

"I block it all out so it's hard to remember stuff."

The scarred contestant expresses his fearful thoughts. "But that last night, before my father was arrested for the blowtorch, that was the only time I thought: 'I won't see my mother in the morning'."

However, this has inspired Jahmene's morals and has made him into a kind, loving, young man. "But when you do go to the bottom of the bottom, you realise everything that is important. I'm not here for money and fame and all that stuff. I have my own priorities and try to keep myself grounded in what my mission is."

Jahmene remembers singing from the age of eight. His mother, Mandy, says he sang as soon as he could speak, but Jahmene has blocked out much of his childhood.

He won't be returning to his job in a supermarket any time soon as Simon Cowell was wowed by Jahmene's performances, but will his past effect his future?

Red Bulls Lock Horns in Sound-clash

Words: Sophie Mahmud

On 7 November 2012, at Wembley Arena, an official soundclash commenced, sponsored by Red Bull and hosted by Tim Westwood and Gemma Cairney, both well-known Radio 1Xtra DJs.



The event consisted of music crews from various different cultures battling it out to make sure their sound was heard. With four stages – one owned by reggae sound-system, current title-holders Channel One. Another taken up by super star DJ, Annie Mac presents Magnetic man, featuring Redlight, Disclosure, and Rudimental. Also battling it out with them was Major Laser, a DJ/producer playing the sounds of Electro House and Reggae Fusion with a hint of Dubstep, with well-known supporting acts such as, Diplo, Jillionaire and Walshy Fire. And lastly, artists altogether are known as Boy Better Know, with acts such as JME, Wiley, Skepta, BBK, and loads more, presenting music such as Grime, Rap and Hip-Hop.

Each group with their supporting acts had to win over the crowd by playing the ultimate tunes. The crowd then judged which group was the best by making the most noise and crowd reactions. There was only one rule: you couldn't play the same song twice, and if this did happen it meant an immediate elimination.

The first round consists of a 'warm-up' where the artists each had fifteen minutes to warm up the crowd to the type of music they represent. At the end of the round, no groups were eliminated from the battle. The second round was where the groups had to start winning over the audience to make them stick with their group; the louder the crowd noise, the more the group will be guaranteed a place in the next round. After that round, groups start getting eliminated. It's here where if you really wanted to win, you needed to make sure your group went down in Culture History! In the final round this was where the groups played the best tracks of the night and brought out supporting acts to get last-minute crowd reaction to win the ultimate title.

At the end of the Red Bull Culture Clash 2012, adding together from each round the decibel scores, the winner of the Culture Clash 2012 was Boy Better Know!

Review: *End of Watch*

Director: David Ayer; Studio: StudioCanal; Rating: 15



Words: Sophie Mahmud

StudioCanal

David Ayer, the director of *End of Watch*, made his name as screenwriter of *Training Day*. *End of Watch* is of course set in those mean gang surrounding areas of South Central Los Angeles, but unlike *Training Day* this film is deadly serious.

Jake Gyllenhaal and Michael Peña star in the film as Brian and Mike, determined cops based in the looting area of LA. They are two smart and courageous officers willing to take on the world, and through their cop instinct bust open drug and human-trafficking rings run by the biggest gang of Mexicans in LA. The rumour is that a revenge assassination is on their cards, as they are told by some high-ranking officials of the South Border of LA.

The movie is like an insight to the life of the two cops, all the footage mainly videoed on handheld cameras like a video diary. The film bringing in your emotions shows the police at their good and bad times, in the force and at home, with Mike's wife about to have a new baby boy and Brian finally finding a new girlfriend he's been longing for.



The bond is tight between the two cops until, when they thought nothing worse could happen, the gangs find them first and Mike is shot repeatedly and horrifically killed and main man partner Brian is badly injured after being shot in the chest in a heart aching scene.

Through the action, thrills and heroic times the two men stand above the world and are ready to take on LA with their never ending bonding friendship that is truly unforgettable.

Mini-Review: *Girls*

Created by: Lena Dunham; Country of Origin: United States; Original Channel: HBO



Words: Morgan Miller

The HBO series is currently half way through its first season on Sky Atlantic, and its set to return for a second in the new year. The show, written by Lena Dunham (who plays Hannah) and produced by Judd Apatow (*Superbad* and *The 40 Year Old Virgin*) follows the everyday lives of four very different friends living in New York.

Before airing earlier this year, critics were quick to judge *Girls* as being the new *Sex in the City*, only with twenty-somethings rather than thirty-somethings.

They couldn't have been more wrong.

The show takes a refreshing look at the lives of young people – not just girls as the title would suggest – and cleverly avoids clichés and stereotypes dominant in most American drama. The story lines are plausible and the characters are real. It's not only contemporary and endearing, but hilariously funny, and many of the anecdotes are based on Dunham's real life experiences.

Both girls and guys will enjoy this uplifting series, so if you haven't already, go check it out.

Mini-Review: *The Dark Knight Rises* (New to Home Release)

Director: Christopher Nolan; Studio: Legendary / Syncopy / DC Comics / Warner Bros;

Rating: 12A



Words: Morgan Miller

The summer superhero blockbuster has finally come to DVD and Blu-Ray. The much-anticipated end to the *Batman* trilogy will be the perfect film to end Christmas Day with.

Directed by Christopher Nolan, *The Dark Knight Rises* ties up any loose ends created in the previous two movies in to an explosive, sinister, and thrilling package. In arguably the best of the three films, Bruce Wayne, aka the Batman (Christian Bale), has become a recluse, hiding away in his mansion after the events created by the Joker in *The Dark Knight*. However, when terrorist Bane (Tom Hardy) accompanied by the League of Shadows forcefully take over Gotham, it's Wayne's duty to put back on the bat suit to regain Gotham's safety one last time. With new characters such as Anne Hathaway as Catwoman and Joseph Gordon-Levitt as John Blake, along with Morgan Freeman and Michael Caine, this really is one of the best films of the year.

Review: *Skyfall*

Director: Sam Mendes; Studio: Eon / MGM / Columbia; Rating: 12A



Fresh from delivering the Queen to the Olympic Stadium at the start of the London 2012 Opening Ceremony, Bond's back in the latest full-length film.

Words: Jack Clifton

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the universally acclaimed *James Bond* movie franchise, with *Skyfall* (featuring Daniel Craig's third performance as the iconic British spy) being released in UK cinemas on 26 October.

MI6 headquarters. Despite appearing in a state of emotional instability and failing a number of physical and psychological examinations upon returning to MI6, Bond's return to the field is approved by M.

It is shortly after this point that we are introduced to Raoul Silva – the main antagonist of the film

the explosions, breath-taking battle scenes and unexpected plot twists guaranteed to keep you on the edge of your seat. It is this, coupled with the film's compelling soundtrack (including Adele's *Skyfall*) that make this movie an especially effective instalment of the Bond series, providing a breath of fresh air fol-



Francois Duhamel

Daniel Craig returns for his third big-screen outing in the role of James Bond.

The film commences with a gripping chase scene in Istanbul, whereby Bond attempts to recover a stolen computer hard drive containing the details of numerous undercover MI6 agents. Following a brief battle on the roof of a moving train, Bond is wounded in the shoulder and, after being accidentally shot by his own accomplice, falls into a nearby river and is presumed dead.

Bond uses his supposed death in order to retire from his previous lifestyle as an undercover spy, yet returns to London immediately upon learning of a recent attack on

played by Spanish actor Javier Bardem.

Once a "brilliant" field agent, Silva was handed over to the Chinese by M following an unsuccessful mission in exchange for six captured agents, where he was tortured for months. Now a major cyber terrorist, Silva's main objective is to humiliate, discredit and kill M by any means necessary in revenge for her betrayal.

The following showdown between Bond and his latest nemesis is thoroughly captivating throughout the second half of the movie, with

lowing the widely negative reception of the previous film *Quantum of Solace*.

Grossing over \$871 million across the globe, *Skyfall* (the 23rd movie of the Bond series) has become the highest-grossing film of all time in the UK.

Following 50 years of classic cars, intense gunfights and witty one-liners, *Skyfall* does not fail to impress, with Craig's performance as 007 contributing to the vastly positive reception of the film, and what critics are calling a "triumphant return to classic Bond."

Theresa May Visits FPSS

Andrew Burdett attended a lecture given by Maidenhead MP and UK Home Secretary, Rt Hon Theresa May – just one of a series of “interesting talks by interesting people about interesting things”, organised for students.

On a recent edition of the PM programme, Theresa May was asked where the Australian-jungle ‘holiday-maker’ Nadine Dorries would rank on her Christmas card list this year. After a brief moment of laughter, Mrs May simply replied that, whatever her views on her fellow Conservative MP, the Christmas card she’ll be sending will have been designed by a child in her constituency.

“Forget your constituents at your peril”, she tells me, when I ask her about keeping a balance between being the Home Secretary and representing the views of the people of Maidenhead. “Lose their support and you’ll lose their vote too.” She goes on to explain that even now she holds one of the four Great Offices of State, she still finds it important to “get out in the constituency” and “knock on doors” when she can. “Not only do your constituents have views that need representing, but they also provide feedback on what you’re already doing.”

Her talk begins at 3:45pm, when she opens by announcing she’s always been interested in politics and current affairs. The daughter of an Eastbourne vicar, she grew up in an environment where public service was delivered through public speaking. “I knew when I was a young teenager that I wanted to be an MP, and joined the debating society set up at my school.”, she tells us. “We each picked out of a hat a subject to argue in favour or against. The piece of paper I chose read ‘SHOULD SCHOOL UNIFORMS BE ABOLISHED?’, and I looked at it and just couldn’t think of anything to say – not the best start to a career in politics!”

“I hope, though, that I’ve got a little better since then.”

Her first real try at politics was when she stood as a local councillor in the London Borough of Merton for six years, something “worthwhile in its own right”. “You’re dealing in microcosm with the dealings of Parliament,” where she would eventually end up becoming a front-bencher.

Mrs May is quick to point out that most of her time in politics has been rather unglamorous.

“There’s an awful lot of people who want to be an MP. Going and doing grudge work, like stuffing envelopes before an election, gives you a good idea of whether you really want to stick at it.”

She explains that new recruits are often first expected to “fight a campaign you will not win”, by standing for election in a rival’s safe-seat. “Even though everyone’s saying you will not win, you always think you might just take a majority. It gives you experience, possibly prepares you for failure, but certainly proves your ability to lead a campaign largely on your own.” Indeed, in 1992, Theresa May stood as the Conservative candidate for North West Durham, a constituency whose electorate predominantly live in former mining or steel towns. She lost. “The people of the north were very friendly and kind,” she insists,



“they just didn’t actually vote for me on Election Day.”

Her second attempt came in a 1994 by-election, when she came only third, behind the Liberal Democrat candidate and over 10,000 votes behind the winning Labour representative.

Then, in 1997, in a year when nationally the Conservatives lost 178 seats, Mrs May became the first Member of Parliament for the newly-created constituency of Maidenhead.

She moves on to her 2010 victory, and tells of how she waited by the telephone, conjuring imagery resembling that of the opening scenes in the first episode of *Yes Minister*. “I was called

to Downing Street to meet with David, and as I left somebody said: ‘Home Secretary, your Protection Team are now ready for you.’” She recounts a second-hand tale of how Jack Straw’s wife, soon after her husband lost his ministry, realised she needed a few items from Tesco. “That’s alright, I’ll just ring for the Team to get them,” Jack Straw said, before remembering that he no longer had the services of such officers to fulfil the favour. “You can get too used to the Team”, Theresa May admits.

Another of the major changes that came with being given the role of Home Secretary was the “notorious red boxes”. “Every night, I get a stack of papers, each of which requires decisions that need to be carefully made. Some choose to stay up late into the night to get through the work, others get up early in the morning.”

“Our work for policy change in the Home Office takes a lot longer than you think it should, especially if it involves a change to legislation.” One example of this is the recent introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners, part of “ongoing” police reform outlined since 2010.

Explaining the delay, she states: “It’s important to gain real knowledge and research in what works in policing before implementing new policy. All of that takes time. It’s the first thing you learn when you become a minister – how long it will take to put things in place.”

“We’ve cut red tape, got rid of targets, and left just one aim: for police to cut crime.”

Her 45-minute talk comes to an end, and moves on to an engaging question-and-answer session. Fellow students ask about topics ranging from ‘Mad Nad’ (“I was always clear that I thought Nadine should have been in her constituency...”) and Abu Qatada (“First and foremost, I want to have Qatada exported as quickly as possible...”), with seemingly well-rehearsed answers delivered directly to my fellow students’ eyes.

My question, though, about the importance of her constituency, receives a perhaps unnecessary answer. It’s obvious through her generosity with her time, coming to stand before students half-way through her term as Home Secretary, that her constituents are just as important to her as ever.

Is the education system flawed?

With January exams just around the corner at the time of writing, **Lorna Young** wonders whether degrees – which she argues are almost ‘expected’ in today’s society – are suitable for everybody.

As more and more young people are being encouraged to go to university, finding funding and indeed somewhere to continue into further education is becoming harder. Whilst schools recognise less able students during KS3, it sometimes seems that as soon as they reach GCSE level, they are suddenly encouraged to go to college and then to university, regardless as to whether it is the best thing for them.

Some people argue that less-academic students would benefit more by going straight from GCSE into the world of work. More apprenticeships and vocational opportunities would offer both paid experience and learning to these

people, and in some cases would be a much more suitable option. As applying for UCAS is becoming routine for all students at many colleges and Sixth Forms across the UK, some students can begin to feel as though the educational institution cares more about getting students to university

to make themselves look good, than looking at what is best for the pupils themselves.

We are being encouraged to aspire to further education after school and college. Some students who may have never thought that they could afford to go to

university are now offered scholarships, bursaries, grants, and easy access to student and maintenance loans. There are numerous courses available across the UK, and students are given great support when applying to universities.

“ Young people who would benefit more from vocational courses and apprenticeships are, to an extent, being forced to go to university.

Perhaps this obsession with university is an improvement in the education system since Labour came

to power.

However, for many students it is a big flaw.

Young people who would benefit more from vocational courses and apprenticeships are, to an extent, being



The University of Kent

forced to go to university, and those who leave school to search for opportunities are not being presented with them. But for the students who do want to go to university, getting to where they want to be is more competitive (and therefore more difficult), and more importantly making degrees seem more worthless.

Premier League: the Sackings So Far

Words: James Ashe

As December is upon us, what is seemingly the norm these days in the Barclays Premier League is for managers to get sacked on an almost weekly basis. First up this season it was Roberto Di Matteo, the hugely popular, fans-favourite Chelsea manager. Last season he won both the Champions League and FA cup in a hugely fruitful and successful 8 months in charge, and was the last person many thought would get fired. Everyone except Roman Abramovich clearly. The super-rich Russian has invested billions of his money into the club and therefore, after two losses to West Bromwich Albion and Juventus, Abramovich thought it right to sack Di Matteo, following a period of heavy spending in the summer. His replacement was the highly unpopular, former Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez. A chorus of boos met both the first and second matches of the new manager's reign and after both these finished in disappointing 0-0 draws, the latter against West London rivals Fulham, the jury is most definitely out on whether Abramovich made the correct decision in sacking Di Matteo.

Four days later the next premier league boss had cleared his desk. Across West London, QPR had finally lost patience with high spending, low achieving boss Mark Hughes. After 13 league games without a win, Chairman Tony Fernandes sacked Hughes and bought in former Tottenham Hotspur boss Harry Redknapp. Mark Hughes sees himself as 'highly ambitious'. This was apparent in 2011, when he resigned from Fulham citing the club's 'lack of ambition', which 'does not coincide with where I want to go'. As Mark Hughes made his way across London to QPR, this sacking has been of high embarrassment to himself and suggests that Fulham Chairman Mohammed Al-Fayed was probably right by branding Hughes a 'strange, strange man'.

Rugby Union: England 38-21 New Zealand

Words: Lewis Baker

England recorded one of their greatest ever victories as they beat the current world champions by seventeen points. They came into the game as underdogs, with New Zealand looking to add another win to their twenty-match unbeaten run, but the overall performance by the England team was simply too much for the All Blacks to complete with.

With two penalties and a drop goal from fly-half, Owen Farrell (who went on to score another penalty and a conversion), England went into the break with a twelve-point lead. After losing by one point to South Africa in their previous game, England really needed to make an impact on the All Blacks, and there was no denying a very impressive display by England, who secured their first win over the All Black in nine years, and only their seventh in history.



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Another penalty from Farrell put England on the scoreboard in the second half. But the strength of the New Zealand attack made it difficult for England to keep out a try from New Zealand fly-half Dan Carter. Carter also made the conversion, bringing the gap to just eight points. Another try then followed for the All Blacks, this time it was the number eight Kieran Read. This try was also converted by Dan Carter, bringing New Zealand to within one point (15-14).

England hit back from the two tries with an excellent break from Bradley Barritt, whose centre partnership with Manu Tuilagi down the wing saw him power through and score another try for England. Tuilagi then broke through the New Zealand defence and passed it out left to Chris Ashton, who was in clear space and scored with his signature swan dive. Tuilagi also intercepted the ball to score England's next try. Once the ball had been intercepted, he found himself with no one in his way and he casually strolled over the line with the ball.

After converting Tuilagi's try, Owen Farrell was replaced by Freddie Burns, who scored two penalties when he came on. The class of the All Blacks was shown towards the end, where quick hands and fast passing earned them a consolation try in the last ten minutes of play.

As the final whistle sounded, a huge roar erupted around Twickenham, finishing a great game for England, and possibly their greatest win ever at Twickenham.

Swapping his Bat for Boxing Gloves: Freddie Flintoff's in the Ring

Words: Andrea Reive

Ex-cricketer Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff swapped his bat for gloves, as he took on American Richard Dawson in his first professional Boxing match.

It's fair to say that scepticism was in abundance leading up to Flintoff's boxing debut and, despite his unexpected victory, such opinions have barely wavered. At 34, many people in and around the boxing community doubted Flintoff's ability to make a career out of the sport, and some were even offended by his assumption that he could do so. Critics and sportsmen alike were very vocal in their views on the subject, though some were more diplomatic than others.

"What he is doing is disrespectful to boxing, especially if it turns out to be a farce on the night", said British Heavyweight David Price, prior to Flintoff's fight.

And a "farce" is exactly what people are calling it. Despite working with former Irish world featherweight champion Barry McGuigan and his son Shane, Flintoff did not look completely convincing in the ring. Though, to be fair, in the first round it seemed more like his opponent, Dawson, was the one new to the sport.

ACTION IMAGES



Things appeared to be playing out exactly as critics had predicted them to in the second round, when Flintoff was unceremoniously knocked to the canvas. But he got up and beat the count, eventually winning the match on points (39 to 38).

Despite his less-than-stellar performance, Flintoff maintained the opinion that "as a personal achievement, this tops the lot".

"The crowd made a massive difference tonight. I'll appreciate I was sloppy at times, but it was a humbling moment."

Like Flintoff, trainer Barry McGuigan could see that this venture wasn't an entirely flawless one.

"I just hope he doesn't want to do it anymore because it was such a tough, difficult job to get him into that type of shape", McGuigan told Sky Sports. "He worked exceptionally hard but it was a real trial."

But of all reports and comments on the match it was perhaps his friend and fellow paceman, Steve Harmison, who said it best: "Great win @flintoff11!!!", Harmison tweeted, "But please don't do it again mate!!!"