

the incantation seems to work, in this case or that, no one has any idea why or how, reliably, to get it to do so again.

And, even if such things were skills, why should teaching them be the purpose of schools and universities (as opposed, say, to Sandhurst and the army cadet force)? It's as easy (or hard)

beyond, by participating in seminar discussions that cover topics such as science, ethics and philosophy and then researching questions they develop into dissertations, students taking the course are gaining an invaluable ability to think for themselves. Using virtual platforms developed

but so, they almost certainly more easily acquired elsewhere, what schools are really for?

Where is the justice or fairness in wanting less for all children?

Michael Young
Institute of Education
London WC1

FOR THE RECORD

Julian Assange has asked us to make it clear that, contrary to our review of *Julian Assange: The Unauthorised Autobiography* (Books, 2 October, 2011), he did not "criticise author Andrew O'Hagan's writing". He says his criticisms of the book were directed at the publisher, Canongate. He wishes to underline that he admires Mr O'Hagan's writing.

Our special supplement on the forthcoming film *The Woman in Black* (New Review, last week) said: "It might seem surprising the story has not been made into a film before", overlooking Herbert Wise's 1989 adaptation of Susan Hill's novel - a TV movie rather than a cinema release but a film none the less.

Katia Shutova is a co-founder of the tech start-up company Yossarian Lives! alongside Dan Foster-Smith and J Paul Neeley ("The other Dragons' Den", New Review, last week, page 20).

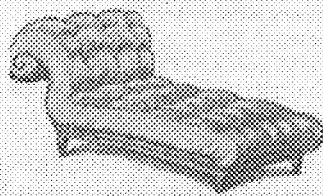
Miguel Bernad is a former secretary general for the neo-Francoist National Front, not, as we said, "a former parliamentary deputy for the National Front". ("Trial of controversial judge splits a Spain still suffering from its civil war wounds", In Focus, last week, page 32).

Write to Stephen Pritchard, Readers' Editor, the Observer, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU, tel 020 3353 4636 or email reader@observer.co.uk

TOP 10 ONLINE LAST WEEK

Read them at observer.co.uk

1. Shame on you, Alex Salmond Stewart Lee
2. Big chill set to last several days as Britain is reduced to a go-slow
3. Street style bloggers: dedicated followers of fashion Gallery
4. Fernando Torres's greatest days may be confined to memory Daniel Taylor
5. Sir Alex Ferguson: Manchester City and Tottenham are our rivals now
6. It's older people's attitude to drugs that worries me Barbara Ellen
7. Italian ballerina sacked in unprovoked row
8. Rupert Sheldrake: the "heretic" at odds with scientific dogma
9. After his disgrace, Luis Suarez returns for Liverpool
10. Vincent Cassel interview



DRIPY PROBLEMS SOLVED

Dr Gerry Mander:
the therapist
the stars trust

Dear Dr Mander

For years now, I've been a gang member. I joined the Tory Crew, one of the haddesst families in the country.

We control most of the turf in the south of England. We've got a big piece of the financial action in the

City of London, offshore banking, the works. Now we're moving into the public services game. It's caused a bit of a beef with the TUC - that's the Trade Union Crew.

Some blood has been shed, but it'll be worth it when we carve up them fat hospitals and schools and sell them.

That's how we roll. I was put in charge of the NHS racket. It was a big opportunity for me to show I could run my own end. I was supposed to keep it all quiet, low-profile, hush-hush. But I got into a beef with the doctors and nurses. There's bodies everywhere, the media are on to it.

Now we're feeling serious heat from Labour, this no-name crew who we thought we had completely whipped. Word is coming down that the boss, Big Dave, is seriously unhappy.

Someone heard him say I should take a bullet. I'm scared. Any day now my career could show up in a shallow grave in St James's Park.

Andrew Lansley

Dear Mr Lansley

If you think a hit is coming your way, you've got to strike first. Don't wait to be bumped off - quit the cabinet and use your resignation speech to make a pointed attack on the prime minister.

Accuse him of a failure of nerve, bowing to opposition pressure, betraying the long-term future of the health service. That will get you enough support on the hard right of the party to give you some cover for a while, then lie low on the backbenches as the bullets start flying.

Dear Dr Mander

I don't get it. You don't want a man to be captain of the national football team because he maybe said something racist. And you don't want a foreigner to be England manager.

This is very funny, I'm afraid I cannot be your red-faced, down-the-pub English blokey man bloke in big ugly anorak. It is not my style. It is a shame. You have good players. But

Ben Milloy

From: will.gor [redacted]
Sent: 10 February 2012 10:25
To: Ben Milloy
Subject: Re: FW: Complaint 115619
Attachments: image002.png

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ben

As I set out in my earlier correspondence, I do not believe our report was misleading and I do not think there has been a breach of the Code requiring a remedy.

However, I remain keen to try to resolve this matter. While I do not think it would be appropriate to publish the proposed update in our corrections column, I would be prepared to publish it as a header to the article under complaint, rather than a footnote, if that assists. It would appear immediately above the existing first paragraph.

I think this is a more than adequate response to the complaint and I hope we can conclude the matter.

Do let me know what Mr Assange thinks of this suggestion.

Best wishes

Will

Will Gore
Deputy Managing Editor

London Evening Standard, The Independent, i & Independent on Sunday



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