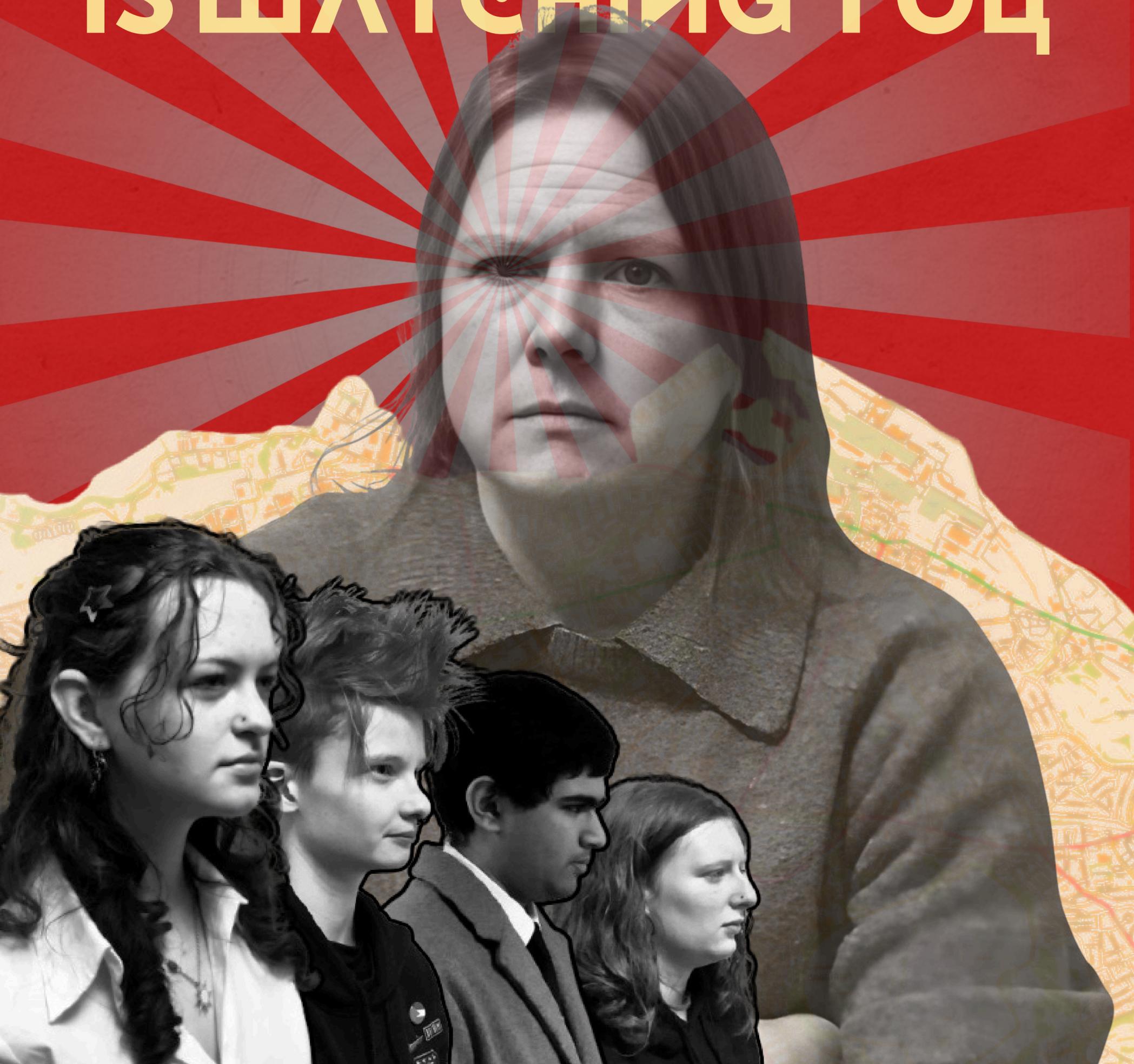


THE SФЦАШК BIG GΘΘSЄ IS ШЛТСННГ YOC



ЈЛИЦДРУ ЄDITION

THE SQUEAK

THE SQUAWK IS SQUEAKING UP ABOUT OUR MISTREATMENT



BY REVOLUTIONARY COMRADE
RUTH KERR

We are speaking up. We have been silenced for too long; told our thoughts and experiences are 'silly' or 'dramatic.' Like many artists before us we have been extorted, for our art and for our voice. But we will not let this abuse of power go on any longer, we at The Squawk are unionising.

We want rights, we want fair working conditions, and most importantly we want justice.

The Squawk's Union, 'The Squeak', are fighting against our own evil dictator, Big Goose (more casually known as Mrs Claire Burns.) Starting December of 2025 accusations within the established organisation 'The Squawk' started flying, with workers accusing Big Goose of plagiarising work and even "starvation". One anonymous worker tells us, "I wrote an article for the paper to come out in December, and when it was published, I noticed I hadn't been credited." The anonymous Squawk member starts crying as they further divulged, "I thought it was a stylistic choice, that none of the other articles would have been credited but lo and behold every other article besides mine was credited."

This is accusing Big Goose of some very serious crimes, accusing her of plagiarising members' work, and could lead to severe consequences. But more worryingly workers have been accusing Big Goose of "starvation", claiming that due to an issue of scheduling, some Squawk members would be on a trip during lunch, stopping them from eating their lunch. Big Goose, who had the power to allow them to eat during period five prohibited them from eating. We at the Squawk are very concerned as this breaks the Health and Safety at Work Act, a law in place ensuring a safe working environment for all. Breaking these serious laws, and going against the strong values of the Squawk, has caused a drift between this once close group.

We at the Squawk want change, we want rights, we want compensation. We at the Squawk are demanding an apology, but more importantly monetary compensation.

Sadly, we can't divulge more than this, as our lawyer is already on us for writing this article. But we will keep you, our dear reader, informed.



BLUE MONDAY OR

FIRE JANUARY

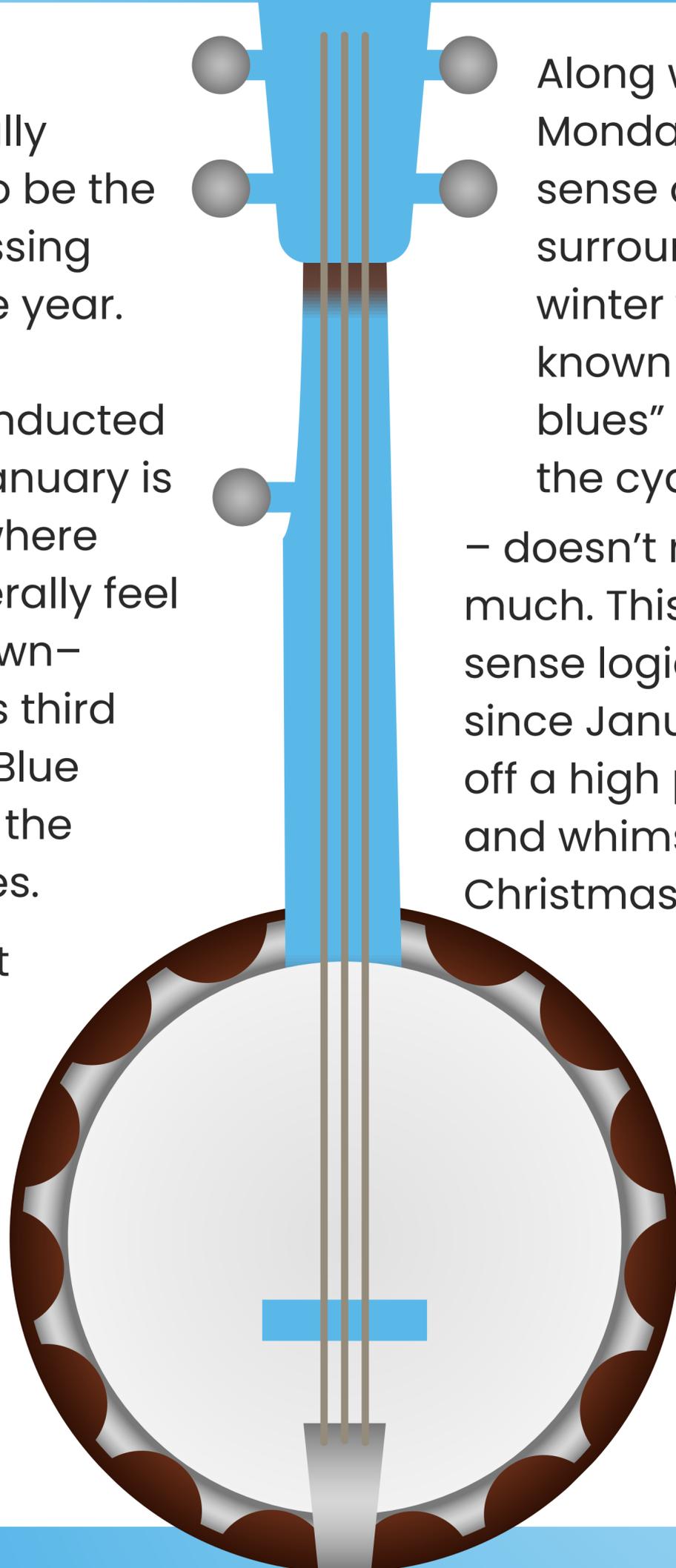
Is this really the most depressing month?

BY RORY DUNN AND SATHVIK SRIRAMADESIKAN

January is conventionally thought of to be the most depressing month of the year. Studies and research conducted show that January is the month where people generally feel the most down—especially its third Monday or “Blue Monday” for the cyanaphobes.

However, not all (or even a majority) of Craigmountaineers feel this way.

Along with Blue Monday, the general sense of melancholy surrounding the winter weather known as “the winter blues” – again with the cyanaphobia – doesn’t really help that much. This does make sense logically as well, since January is coming off a high point of joy and whimsy from Christmas – plus all the extra social events, holidays and gift giving bankrupting both our social batteries and bank accounts.



Now these problems usually affect adults more than us, and we have included some advice for helping your family get through any troubles, but to find out whether or not Craigmount's students actually do feel more depressed over this period, we carried out some interrogations of Squawk writers and normal pupils alike:

“

I don't think January is that depressing, mainly cause there's so many things to celebrate like my Birthday, and you can spend the rest of the month thinking about how I'm older. Sandy Rowe's birthday is also in January, and we all love that guy. Just celebrate your birthday and get a septum piercing.

Ginny

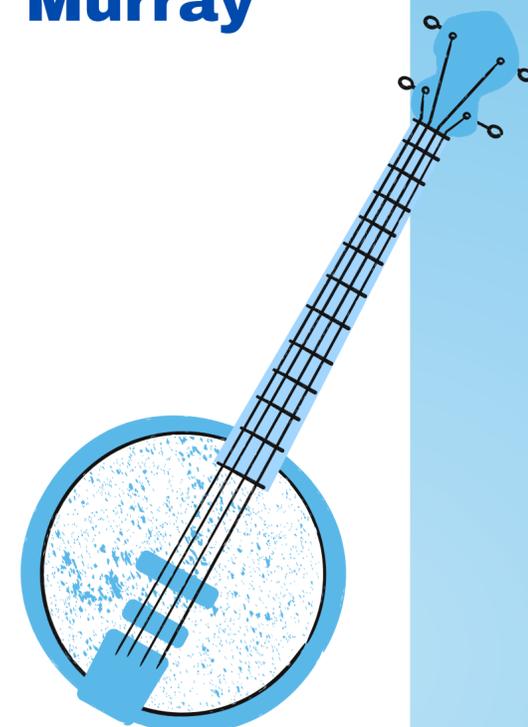
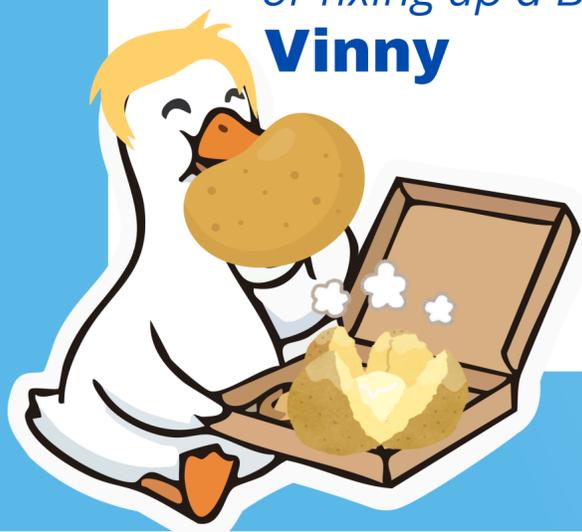
I think January is generally a very fire month, and not really the most depressing in the year. I think coming down from the highs of December feels a bit gloomy but in reality, it's just going back to realism, which can be either really depressing or really comforting. Just do events, keep hanging out with friends, don't come down from the high and keep being a party animal and eventually it'll be fine.

”

Murray

“

Yeah, I do think January is the most depressing month of the year because there's not much going on and Christmas is over and no one has any money left. You also miss out on the opportunity to watch good films, especially Christmas ones like Muppets Christmas Carol. Listening to Banjo music can really help and starting new things in January. It doesn't have to be a new year's resolution; it can be small things like listening to Banjo music or learning how to play Banjo or fixing up a Banjo or building a Banjo community.

Vinny

”

In general, even without being allowed to watch the Muppets Christmas Carol (which is likely one of the greater causes of January blues) we found that Craigmount pupils didn't actually feel all that more depressed across the month of January. When we investigated the main reasons pupils didn't find January that depressing, one reason stood out the most: social interaction and hanging out with friends.

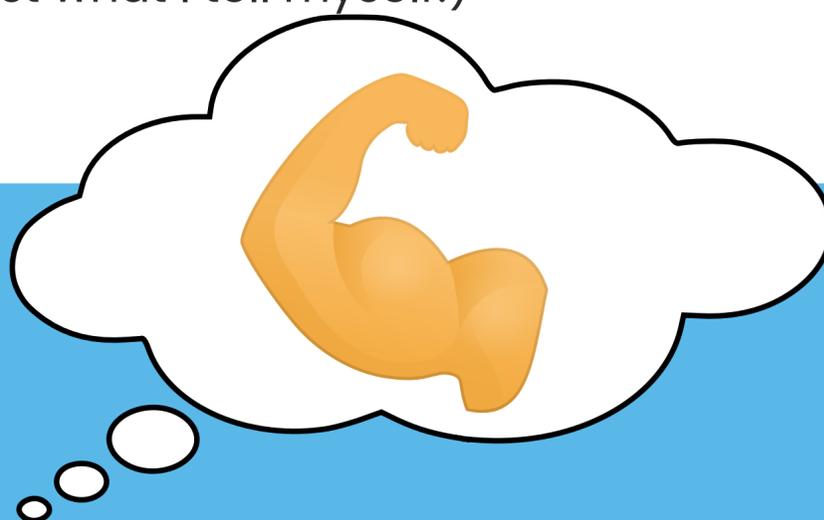


Some friendly advice:

Resolutions are a make or break for most; the main reason they dishearten us is because of how much they can burden us, especially when we feel we aren't following them strictly enough. Our biggest tip is to set dates and routines to complete your resolutions by, to help make them work for you and your January.

You should never feel forced to make a New Year's resolution; you can always make a change in your life, so don't feel pressured to try and do this when you don't feel ready or responsible to undertake it. Lastly, if you know someone who's not feeling the best, just start a conversation with them. It really does mean a lot to know that you want to spend time with them.

(Also if the blues cause you to end up eating more than usual, that's just more energy to turn into muscle later – at least what I tell myself!)



THE TRAITORS

AH Drama Edition

Imperative acting activity, or pointless waste of pounds?

By Adam J. Thake

The smash hit TV show *Traitors* following a group of strangers competing through challenges of deception and trickery has made its way into the curriculum. **Now the question stands: what of this treacherous use of class-time?**



The Craigmount High School Performing Arts Department head, Laura Thompson, recently announced the beginning of an Advanced Higher Drama version of *Traitors*. Students compete for prizes by lying and cheating their peers in a vicious version of the televised game.

Some people are asking, however, if this is helping students taking an Advanced Higher course to prepare for the cut throat world of drama. One concerned mother was quoted as saying, "Miss Thompson is an exemplary teacher, but I'm unsure that this 'game' is calming students down in preparation for the serious 'game' of exams."

Other teachers are also questioning whether this 'game' is relevant to the coursework. An anonymous member of staff entered the class while the *Traitors* part of the week was commencing and commented, "Does Miss Thompson know you're all doing this? Is it really relevant to your task?"





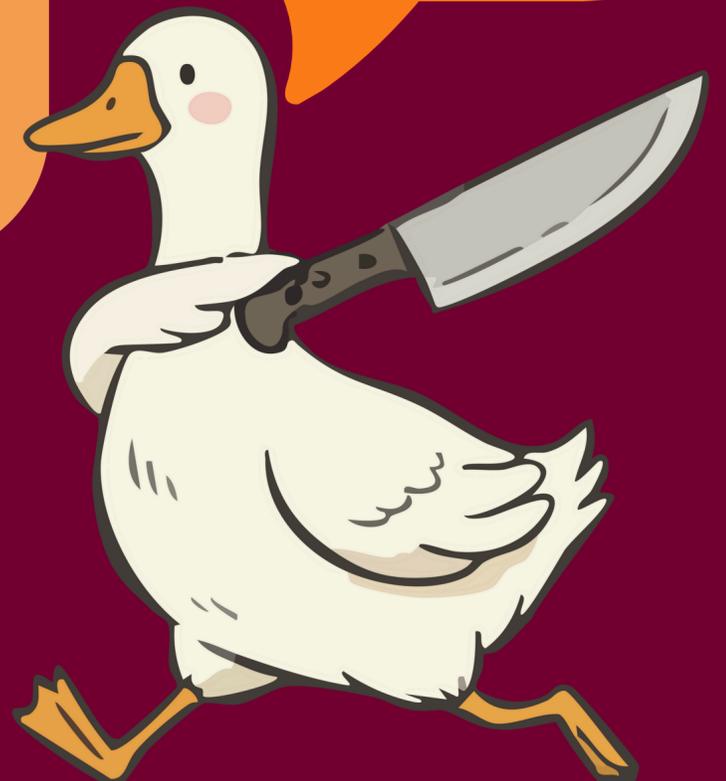
Talking to pupils taking part in the game, the rhetoric is a bit different. One student said, "We're in S6 and it's a bit of fun to shake up a long double [period] which gets quite hard to concentrate on." Another student added, "Yeah, it's good fun. I think currently the reason less work is being done is just the buzz around the beginning, and as it pans out, people will become less interested and more focused on the work."

For students who focus, this is great, historically creating mass success in the drama department; however, for those students who need more help, this can be difficult." It is currently too early in the game to tell if this will have long-lasting effects on the grades of the drama class or whether the relationships between Advanced Higher drama students will survive with all of these murderous intentions abound.

Rumour has it, the staff will be getting in on the act too. Watch out for a flash of green cloak in a classroom near you.



**Are you a
Faithful or a
TRAITOR?**



The inside scoop at Lidl

BY LUKAS ELLIOT



Before the Christmas holidays we got the horrible news that students were banned from going to Lidl at lunchtime, so as part of our job of looking more deeply at issues, we wanted to get the inside scoop on the full details.

We reached out to SLT for a comment about the ban. According to Mrs Clark, Mr Meikle- upon hearing of the ban- spoke directly with the Lidl manager. The manager shared that this was a ban for all local school pupils, not just Craigmount pupils, and was the result of anti-social behaviour in the store. Mrs Clark further commented that as a school we work with shops in the community to support where we can- which pupils may have seen with SLT helping with the queues at the opening of the new Tesco. However in this case, Lidl went ahead with the ban anyway. We also went to interview Mr Jardine who wanted the us to understand that it wasn't everyone from the school that was involved but unfortunately, a small minority ruined the magical place of Lidl for everyone.

We all know Lidl for its good value products, but what do they think about us? And, in turn, what does this pause in going to Lidl show about us as a school? We went down to Lidl to speak to the Store Manager, and this is what he said. "We think it's the right decision because kids still seem to make a mess and for an average employee, it can be a lot of extra work to take on. We are not saying it's every kid that comes in that's messy but easier to make the decision not to allow big groups to come in."

We, as The Squawk, understand that you may have heard some rumours about pranks that students may have played in store, but we'd like you to think twice and find out the truth before you make up stories. Spreading these stories could make the school's reputation go down. We have to say rumours are not good for anyone especially if it is about others or about a place. Always go to other sources before believing anything you hear on the playground.

PRESENTING THIS
MONTH'S TEACHER FEATURE....

MR

DIR. SOPHIE GATES,
HENRY JONES

GAUGHAN!

Live at the Squawk!

Picture this. It's Friday periods 3 and 4. It is sunny outside, exams start soon, and you are watching a film in class. Usually, this would be fun, correct? Hoorah! We don't have to do work! If I speak quietly enough, I can still talk to my friends throughout the film!

Now imagine this film is a little underground film named Joker. You've watched this film five times in the last academic year. It's dark, gritty, and you're pretty sure you've memorised every single line in it at this point. The societal influence on this film is the only thing you can think of, why is Arthur Fleck wearing those clothes? Why are those walls that colour? Do you have enough sanity to watch this film ever again?

This is what fellow Squawk members, Henry Jones, Ruth Kerr and I all had to experience during Higher media. But who was behind it all? Was it Todd Philips, the nefarious director of this psychological thriller? No. It was someone different. Someone many of you are probably more familiar with than you are with Todd Philips. Take a gander to the English department and you'll find him. Mr Gaughan.
Thunder strikes

Mr Gaughan is a maestro of the spoken word. Teaching English from S1 to Advanced Higher, and Media from S3 to Higher. He is an expert on everything from Norwegian playwrights to whodunit murder mysteries. As both Henry and I spend too much time in the English department as is, we decided to invade his classroom, and

his personal bubble to interview him about the topic of this month's teacher feature. The art of film.

2025 was a great year for film. Amazing blockbuster sequels such as *Avatar: Fire and Ash*, *28 Years Later*, and *Bad Guys 2* hit the theatre and captured the hearts of their viewers across the world.

"I list everything that I watch. There's going to be some embarrassing ones. I'll talk about the films I saw last year. I don't tend to go see comedy; it tends to be horror or thriller. I do like a very bleak watch."

Based on what we know personally about Mr Gaughan's choices in media, *Joker* and Swedish crime drama 'The Bridge', this did not come as a surprise. The jarring physique of Joaquin Phoenix and the cold, uninviting surroundings in *The Bridge* made for quite a bleak year in higher Media.

"The best film I saw in the cinema last year was the new *Knives Out*. So what I like about *Knives Out*- I loved the third one, but it's not as good as the first one. The first one is sort of the pinnacle for me because it's that old fashioned whodunnit. Rian Johnson has brought it back for a contemporary audience and he's made it really slick, and he gets a great cast together. It's almost a throwback to old movies from the 70s where you have star casts in these big films."

Wake Up Dead Man does have a bleak sort of atmosphere to it, as Mr Gaughan has says that is what he likes to watch. The narrative haunting story of Josh Brolin's late mother who was let down and bullied by her family torments every character in the ensemble cast as they try to figure out who has killed their psychotic Monsignor Wicks. Josh O'Connor battles with his faith and his guilt and Daniel Craig has amazing hair.

"Glenn Close is really really good in it. Because initially, the twist in it was like, 'oh. Okay', but then the real twist was like, 'Oh, wow.'

It's really good to go back to watch again and see if you can catch details that they talk about later in the film when they explain how the murder took place, and you do actually see them. I have a soft spot for whodunits. Any kind of good old fashioned murder mysteries that are quite clever and quite comedic I love."

Our eyes were drawn to the many many many many posters above Mr Gaughan's board, all of them talking about the classic horror film, Psycho. And we began to think, when will this guy start talking about his love for horror? We were not disappointed, as in the same breath, Mr Gaughan then said, "I love horror. I adore horror. I love slashers, I love the Scream franchise."

In a confusing turn of events, Mr Gaughan then said, "you know this." No. We didn't. Before this day, we had no idea Mr Gaughan had a soft spot for Matthew Lillard and Skeet Ulrich running around in ghost face masks and making mysterious phone calls.

But sure. Now we knew.

Mr Gaughan then went on to gush about the new Scream film; the seventh instalment to the long running slasher franchise. He voiced his confusion on how exactly they will bring back Matthew Lillard, the original killer from the first film, and speculated that maybe he would be an AI generated creation.

"I don't know how I feel about him being alive, I think that may be slightly ridiculous. Unless they do the de-age thing they did with Skeet Ulrich in earlier films."

After being asked if we'd seen Scream, I offered my knowledge on the first two. I was met with nothing but a disappointed, "oh. Okay."

Basically, Skeet Ulrich came back in the fifth and sixth Scream films to haunt his daughter and they de-aged him. Mr Gaughan said it was "all pretty well done."

Enough about horror for now. Obviously, Mr Gaughan is an English teacher. So, what does he think about book to screen adaptations?

"Hamnet, I am really intrigued by. I want to read the book before I go to see it. Uhm. I've heard a lot about it."

I must warn any readers who are planning to go see Hamnet. If you

enjoy being happy, don't see it. Jessie Buckley is amazing and Paul Mescal's acting is good enough to distract you from the historically inaccurate earring. A combination like that makes for an absolutely gut-wrenching film. So please, protect your sanity. Read the book by Maggie O'Farrell first.

Mr Gaughan continues, 'I also really like Emerald Fennel, she's not done many films. What I like about her is she's very bold. I think she has her own style and it's very impressive. She divides opinion, and I love Promising Young Woman. It looks at Me Too and Misogyny in a way that is very stylish, and very memorable, and very vivid. Saltburn...interesting. I thought it was more style over substance. I like the way she uses music, and soundtrack. It's very bold. Charli XCX is doing the soundtrack for Wuthering Heights which is crazy to think.'

Obviously, Wuthering Heights has sparked some controversy, as it is clear that Emerald Fennel is deciding to take some turns away from the original text.

"Should every adaptation of a book be faithful to the text? Within reason. Like, if it's a beloved book and you do something different with that, you're always going to have people who hate it. I think if you do something that's very bold, then fair enough. It's already very controversial, and it's not even out yet."



And finally, we decided to go back to the root. To the thing that first sparked Mr Gaughan's love for film. Why does he teach media? How in the world has he been able to talk non-stop about film for eighteen minutes, making this the longest teacher feature interview to date?

"I love Psycho. I think Psycho is probably one of those seminal ones. I would say it's probably the original Psycho. If we were to talk about people I would probably gravitate towards Hitchcock. I love Psycho, I love Strangers on a Train, Vertigo, Frenzy, I love all those. So, I'd probably veer more towards directors."

I stuttered my way through my own personal thoughts about film in 2025, how horror has recently had a comeback. The Substance was nominated for five Oscars last year, which is an amazing feat for modern horror.

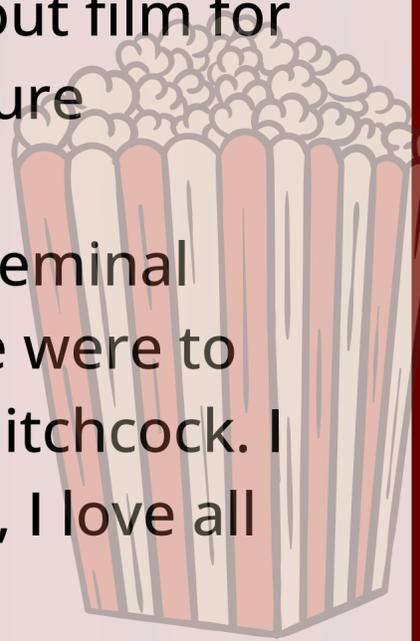
"I liked Companion. So, it's Jack Quaid from that TV show, I don't remember what it's called." I weighed in again saying the show Jack Quaid is from is called The Boys, and yet again I was only offered a small nod of appreciation from Mr Gaughan.

"It was a really interesting concept surrounding AI. So, it's the same director as Barbarian, which I really liked, and I think he's also the director of Weapons. I haven't seen Weapons. I do like supernatural- I really liked Sinners. I thought Sinners was really, really good. It was quite visual, quite daring, it was the deep south, it just did something different with the genre."

Mr Gaughan then went on to talk about his disdain for horror sequels, like the poorly received I Know What You Did Last Summer remake. And then he went back to Scream. Scream is good. Scream is love. Scream is life.

"I think being able to disconnect and watch someone's life fall apart is really comforting. There's something really fascinating about watching someone else's trauma. I've been really drawn to that."

We thought we were safe from Scream at this point, but we weren't.



"I think the original *Scream*—which I watched when I was far too young—really left a mark on me, because the opening sequence of that is one of the best sequences in cinematic history. Anything that can happen in real life often resonates with me as well, like slasher films because that's a real person with a knife."

He went on to say he liked whodunnits, as they're often a commentary on social class and aristocracy. In our poorly phrased version of what he said, whodunits often highlight how stupid ultra rich people can be when facing the real world.

Not to say that Henry and I are cinephiles, but both of us have watched quite a large number of films. How do we choose which films to watch? Well, usually, especially for me, we choose films with actors we are already familiar with. Does Mr Gaughan do the same? Does he share a mindset with two nosey 17-year-olds?

"I think Cate Blanchett is the best of our generation. She's like the modern day Meryl Streep. She has played everything from Queen Elizabeth to Bob Dylan. She is incredibly versatile, and I have a huge respect for her. I've probably watched a lot of her stuff. In terms of male actors, I have to say I love Phillip Seymour Hoffman, he has a lot of versatility. I think someone like Tom Cruise always plays Tom Cruise, so I'm less drawn to his films."

Mr Gaughan also voiced his dislike for the action genre, but despite this, he loves James Bond. Be it Sean Connery, Pierce Brosnan, or Daniel Craig, Mr Gaughan really has a nostalgic love for the James Bond films.

"I like how they drove away from the camp humour, because it was getting too ridiculous. They brought it back to basics, for instance *Sky Fall* and *Casino Royale* are two of the best ones, because they're back to basics, but they're also rich in storytelling."



Unprompted, Mr Gaughan then mentioned Christopher Nolan.

“Some of his stuff I like.”

“In general, I love horror, I love psychological thrillers, I love anything about families. All of that.”

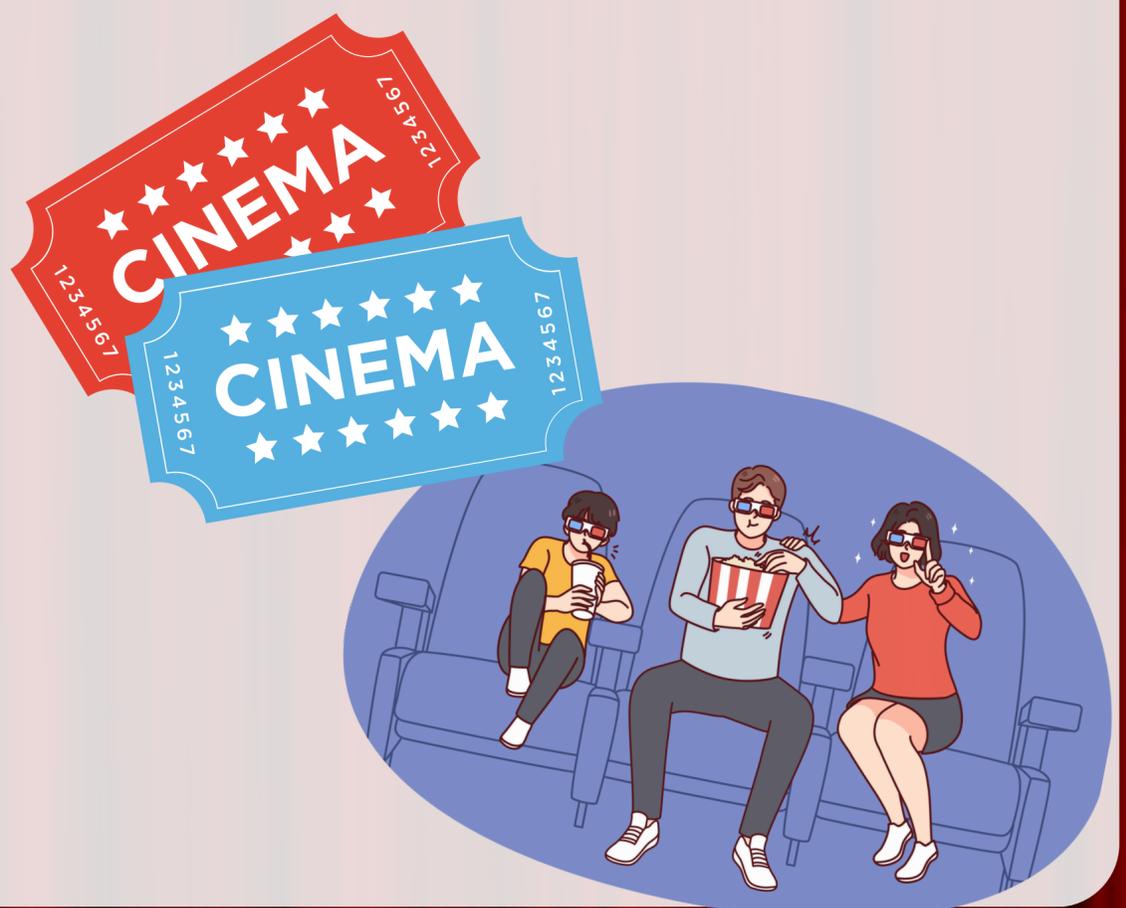
And there you have it folks. As the self-proclaimed “most competent member of the English department” will tell you, “that's showbiz, baby”.

If you think reading this article was confusing, try writing it. Seriously. We will send you the voice memo, and we will laugh at your attempt to create anything as coherent as this.

To sign off, we remember our Higher media class. Gone, but never forgotten. Full of memories, laughter, and tears. One of the main moments we wish to highlight includes the poster made by Karl Maekivi for a fake detective film named “back shot.” We wonder to this day if Mr Gaughan ever did find out why everyone was laughing.

The moral of this month’s teacher feature is to watch films.

Go to the cinema. Don’t let the evil corporate monsters of Netflix tell you that watching films at home is better. It really isn’t. And extra shout out to Mr Gaughan for giving us 18 minutes of interview footage, making this the longest teacher feature to date.



Word search

For January

X	M	D	P	W	W	C	J	E	K	S	I	L	E	N	T	D	Q
K	I	O	B	X	B	A	R	E	A	F	R	E	S	H	R	U	B
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Back to school

Frosty

Crisp

Bleak

Hopeful

Fresh

Chilly

Silent

Hibernal Midwinter

Snowybrumal

Resolute

Stark



THE SQUEAK UNION

AS MEMBERS OF THE PROLETARIAN
VANGUARD, WE AT THE SQUEAK DO NOT
BELIEVE IN OPPRESSIVE HIERARCHIES OF
ROLES AND THUS OPERATE ON A COMMONLY
OWNED ROLE LESS STRUCTURE.

Kaitlynn Bryce

Sathvik Sriramadesikan

Nicholas Cheung

Ben Cormie

Rory Dunn

Lukas Elliott

Sophie Gates

Orla Hogarth

Henry Jones

Ruth Kerr

Olaf Krzysztofik

Adam Thake

Louise Tod

Baneen Zehra

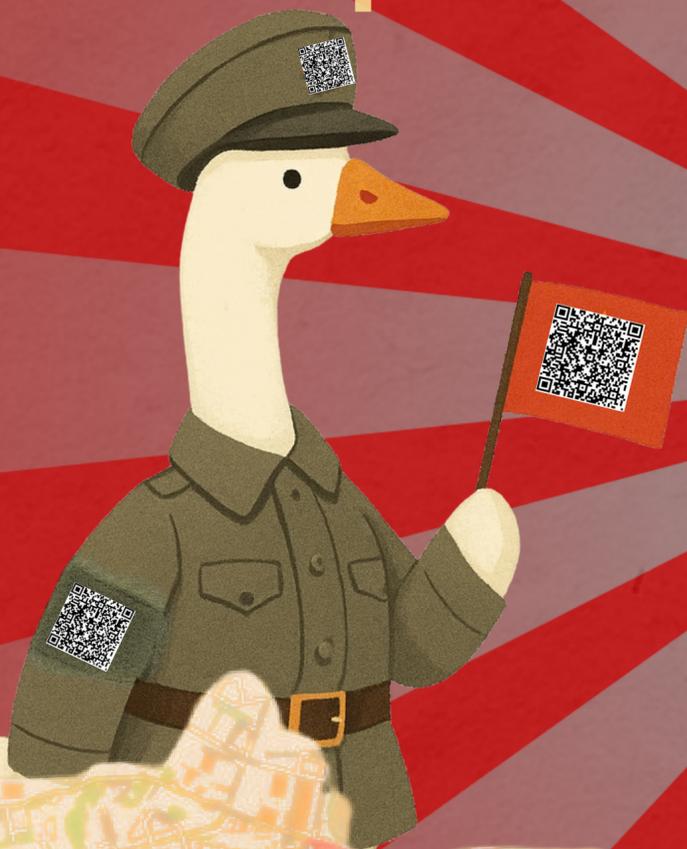


THE SQUEAK

Recognising the rights of Squawkers
Not authorised by the Ministry of Truth

BY DECREE OF BIG GOOSE

ALL COMRADES ARE
INSTRUCTED TO SCAN THE
QR CODE BELOW AND
SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS FOR
FUTURE EDITIONS OF
THE SQUAWK.



This message was



by the Ministry of Truth under
Supreme Leader Big Goose



**the
squawk.**

The voice of Craigmount students
Authorised by the Ministry of Truth