

AMSTERDAM STUN

The Paper For You

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GIG-LIST



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ABOUT THE STUN

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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The following people also contributed to this edition of the **Amsterdam Stun**:

- Frank Weston
- Josie Gladden
- Martyn Hardy
- Rob (Poolbar)
- Terry Mann
- Tommy McKeown

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Page Three

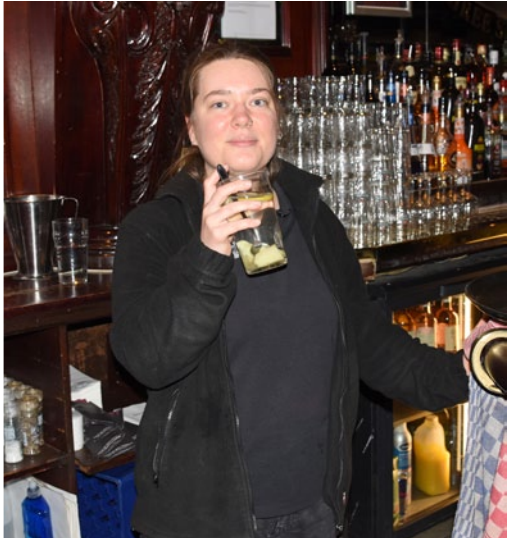
Maeve, Josie and Jen were all in green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Café O'Porto.



I can't say who, but somebody saw this photo on the Stun website and loved it so much, it has to go on Page Three! Here's Pauline in the Blarney Stone on Paddy's Day.



It's been ages since we last saw Nicole behind the bar in Susie's Saloon; she was helping out while the regular crew were having a night out together.



Caro is making her Stun debut; behind the bar in the Three Sisters Pub.

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The Editor's Bit

Let's start with the answer to last month's **Cover Competition!** I just asked for the location of the street art that we featured and a few people gave me their suggestions, but the first correct one came from **Jen**, who correctly named Westerdoksplein, so she gets the **Honourable Mention**. In the interests of transparency, because it's important to have a free and honest press in a world full of fake news and artificial intelligence (see Terry Mann's column on page 5) I must say that Jen is a good friend, member of my quiz team and a frequent visitor but she was still the first to tell me that it was just around the corner from my house, so I don't care if I'm accused of nepotism; friends and family come first!

For this month's Cover Competition, I'm still looking up, so just tell me; where can you find those three spires? As usual, no prizes, but the first person to tell or send (contact details on page 2) the answer will get an honourable mention in this column next month.

There's a bit of space to fill, so here's a photo of my friend Sidd on the cider in the Blarney Stone on Paddy's Day. He's also in my quiz team, probably knows the answer to our Cover Competition, but I can't say anything else at the moment.



Selfies with celebrities are not really my thing but I made an exception for the Mary Wallowers when I bumped into them in



Mulligans; they remembered me as being one of the first magazines to write about them back in 2018. The live stream from their homemade bar in a barn on Paddy's Day really brightened up the first lockdown, but when they appeared on Jools Holland's Hootenany, I got that buzz that you can only get when you know a band from before they were famous.



I've never considered myself artistic but Denise disagrees, which is why I'm now a member of TaaS, The autonomous artist Scene.

That's it from me for this month, all of our usual stuff is here, although I'm sure I must have forgotten something, so enjoy your April edition of the Amsterdam Stun.

Andy

Oh yeah! Have a great Kings Day!

Congratulations

Happy Birthday Amber, Andy, Anita, Ank, Annette, Annie, Arend, Arune, Ashley, Attila, Avril, Bartel, Ben, Bernard, Bernie, Beth, Bianca, Brian, Cathal, Cathy & Maureen, Clive, Colin, David, Demi, Dimitry, Dion, Elina, Elise, Elly, Evelyne, Fiona, Frankie, Fritz, Gill, Glenys, Guusje, Harry, Hayley, Helen, Iona, Ingi, Jacqueline, Janneke, Jaromir, Jeff, Jim, Johann, Johanna, José, Joy, Juan, Justien, Kat, Kate, Kaz, Kelsey, Ken, Kirsty, Luca, Mac, Marc, Marcel, Marcelle, Marco, Marjolein, Matje, May, Michael, Michel, Nataliya, Neil, Noi, Pablo, Phil, Popeye, Rachel, Rauli, Robbie, Robert, Róisín, Roxanne, Rush, Sharita, Shoestring, Siobhan, Skip.

THE AI IS COMING FOR ME!

Who the hell is this AI guy that everyone is so afraid of?

I'm not afraid of some loser with a stupid two letter name like AI, who sneaks around looking for old men to rob. His parents probably meant to name him AL but were too stupid to get past I. I've got a surprise for him! I carry a cane to whack fools upside the head!

I'll hit his noggin until my arm is tired! That'll teach him a lesson about messing with grumpy old men!

I ask people on the street, but no one tells me what this AI guy looks like. They pretend they don't know. I'm sure they all work for him! I'll whack them with my cane until they stop protecting their master!

The other night I was approached by one of his minions. Before he could utter a word, I wailed on his buttocks with my cane. I would've beaten him about the head and neck bone, but I'm saving that pleasure for his boss AI.

He ran down the street trying to avoid my strikes as I chased him screaming "I know who you are and who you work for! Take me to your boss so I can thrash him!"

I was shocked that no one helped me. I figured they were all working for AI, so I started smacking them with my cane too!

Finally the police came to my rescue, or so I thought. They were screaming and threatening me, so I knew that the almighty AI had them all by their corrupt balls, so I proceeded to smack them in those same balls with my cane.

They hauled me away to the booby hatch... where I'm sitting waiting for Dr. AI. They took my stick, but I've armed myself with a shoe!

Terry Mann

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BEHIND

Daniel and Gali were behind the bar on a Sunday evening in the Three Sisters Pub.



Jur in Maloe Melo is the proud owner of a White Cowbell Oklahoma Cock Rag!



Once again, we had to go eXtra Large with this one taken in the Poolbar so that you can see Max, Dave, Maurits, Loes, Isa and Nadine's smiling faces more clearly.



BARS

It's always nice to see Bruno and Esteban behind the bar in Coco's Outback.



Axel only does the occasional shift in the Cave, so I was lucky to catch him behind the bar on my last visit.



Last time Dara was on this page, he was in the Cave, but this time, he's with Brian, behind the bar in Mulligans.



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**MONDAY TO FRIDAY
UNTIL 19:00**



THE STUN

Monday

Weekly

- 16:00, **Cafe Havelaar**, Cheeky Pre-Party, *Playing Cheeky Radio from 17:00-19:00 then Live DJs 'til 23:00*
- 17:00, **Jazzcafe Alto**, Jazz Jam, *led by Francisco Morales & Roberto Haliffi*
- 20:00, **Molly Malone's**, Traditional Irish Session, *A warm welcome to everyone.*
- 20:00, **The End**, Karaoke, *over 40,000 English/Dutch songs to choose from. Open til 3*
- 20:00, **Zaal 100**, Goeie Zin Presents: *THE evening for singer/songwriters & semi-acoustic music. Check zaal100.nl for details. €5*
- 20:30, **Durty Nelly's**, Live Acoustic Music, *with Gianluca & friends*
- 20:30, **The Waterhole**, Open Jam Session, *with Rene Kipuw €2*
- 21:00, **Jazzcafe Alto**, Cool Sound Trio, €5
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Bourbon Jam, *with Theo Mosquito*
- 22nd April 2024**
- 21:00, **Mulligans**, Good Habits, *talented duo Bonny Schwarz (cello-vocals) & Pete Shaw (accordion) on tour: upbeat folk-fusion*

Tuesday

Weekly

- 17:00, **Jazzcafe Alto**, Brazilian Jam, *led by Wagner Vasconcelos*
- 20:00, **Cafe Havelaar**, Games Night, *Play Dungeons & Dragons or Magic: The Gathering against fellow nerds!*
- 20:00, **The End**, Karaoke, *over 40,000 English/Dutch songs to choose from. Open til 3*
- 20:30, **The Waterhole**, Open Jam Session, *with Nienke & Jacco €2*
- 21:00, **Jazzcafe Alto**, The Fours, *Jazz, Latin, Funk €5*

Tuesday

9th April 2024

- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, The Bashir Brothers ft. A. Hendrikx, *up tempo tunes, from soulful blues, to classic rock. €5*
- 16th April 2024**
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Kim Verme, *Rock/R&B €5*
- 23rd April 2024**
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Treasure, *Soul/R&B €5*
- 30th April 2024**
- 19:00, **Coco's Outback**, International Pub Quiz, *Entry price: €5, maximum 5 persons to a team. Great Prizes! €5*
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Kim Verme, *Rock/R&B €5*

Wednesday

Weekly

- 20:00, **The End**, Karaoke, *over 40,000 English/Dutch songs to choose from. Open til 3*
- 20:00, **Mulligans**, Open Session, *with various songs & tunes, including Celtic, Folk, Pop, Bluegrass, Americana etc.!*
- 20:30, **The Waterhole**, Open Jam with Gianluca, *Funk, Pop, Rock €2*
- 10th April 2024**
- 22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Jam Session, *Bring your instrument and play with the house band*
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Steven de Geus, *rock and soul from around the globe €5*
- 17th April 2024**
- 22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Jam Session, *Bring your instrument and play with the house band*
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Steven de Geus, *rock and soul from around the globe €5*
- 24th April 2024**
- 22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Jam Session, *Bring your instrument and play with the house band*
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Jacco Henry, *Classic Rock €5*

**Your Venue in the Stun Gig-List?
Contact Andy on 06-28 712 646**

GIG-LIST

Thursday

Weekly

- 20:00, **The End**, Karaoke, *over 40,000 English/Dutch songs to choose from. Open til 3*
- 20:30, **The Waterhole**, Live Music (acts tba), *check waterhole.nl for details* €2
- 21:00, **Jazzcafe Alto**, Soul Tenors, €5
- 22:00, **Coco's Outback**, Karaoke Competition, *Get a FREE shot before singing and be in with a chance of winning a nice prize!*

4th April 2024

- 21:00, **Maloe Melo**, Wap Shoo Wap Records
Present: *Drink Mums: Punk Rock (AUS), Feral: Synth Punk (NL) + DJs: Duo Grachtenwater + Wap Shoo Wap* €10
- 21:00, **Rockclub The Cave**, Sonic Moon (DK) + Tier (DE), *Psychedelic Stoner Doom, Groovy Stoner-Rock* €8
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Sam and the Gang, *Blues, Jazz and Soul* €5

Thursday

11th April 2024

- 21:00, **Mulligans**, Brian Clifford, *singer/guitarist: Irish and pop repertoire*
- 22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Jam Session, *Bring your instrument and play with the house band*
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Rayn Bechoe, *Funk/Soul* €5

18th April 2024

- 20:00, **Cafe De Buurvrouw**, Amsterdam Bar Magic Show, *The show travels around the city with a more casual but edgy show intended for an 18+ audience* €15
- 22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Live Music, *t.b.a., see www.maloemelo.com*
- 23:00, **The Waterhole**, Jay's Garage, *Pop, Rock*
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Adam James Band, *Rock/Pop/Soul/Reggae* €5

25th April 2024

- 22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Jam Session, *Bring your instrument and play with the house band*
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Dursun, *singer-songwriter, pianist and all-rounder* €5

Friday

Weekly

- 17:00, **Jazzcafe Alto**, Vocal Jam, *led by Eva C. Theo*
- 18:30, **Taparia**, Mosquito, *Latin Pop Rock*
- 20:00, **The End**, Karaoke, *over 40,000 English/Dutch songs to choose from. Open til 2*
- 20:30, **The Waterhole**, Rock Night (bands tba), *check waterhole.nl for details* €3

5th April 2024

- 21:00, **Rockclub The Cave**, Desert Storm (UK) + O.L.T.A.S. (NL) + White Mamba (NL), *Progressive Metal, Doom/Death/Drone, Punk/Stoner Rock* €10
- 21:00, **Molly Malone's**, Brian Clifford, *Irish singer/songwriter playing a mix of covers and some originals*
- 21:00, **Mulligans**, Job Alone and Friends, *traditional Celtic ballads & tunes and originals*



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STUN GIG-LIST

Friday

5th April 2024

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Amsterdam BeatClub,
*feat. The Skepticals + Jansen & de Vries
4tet + DJs €10*

23:00, **Bourbon Street**, The Wiseflower,
blues, rock and roll, soul and gospel €7

12th April 2024

21:00, **Molly Malone's**, Andy MacUnfraidh,
*Irish singer/entertainer, as seen on The
Voice of Ireland*

21:00, **Mulligans**, Chris Murphy, *on tour from
the USA, joined by local talent Sjoerd van
Ravenswaaij & Nienke Bijker*

21:30, **Rockclub The Cave**, Aerodyne (SWE) +
Nafearya (NL), *Heavy Metal*

22:30, **Maloe Melo**, The Hi-Stakes, *Old School
Rhythm 'n' Blues Band €10*

23:00, **Bourbon Street**, The Wiseflower,
blues, rock and roll, soul and gospel €7

19th April 2024

21:00, **Molly Malone's**, Killian Donnelly,
Irish singer/songwriter

21:00, **Mulligans**, Sjoerd van Ravenswaaij &
Nienke Bijker, *local duo: Celtic ballads &
tunes mixed with folk-songs*

21:30, **Rockclub The Cave**, Call of Charon (DE) +
Evil Oath (NL), *Death Metal, extreme/black
metal €8*

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Granville feat. Ron Roelofsen,
Rock, Bluesrock, Americana €7.50

23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Matt Blue Band, €7

26th April 2024

20:00, **Rockclub The Cave**, Kings Night: It's Time
To Party, *On Kings Night, it's handy to have
cash with you due to pin problems because
of too many transactions... Just saying.*

21:00, **Molly Malone's**, Andy MacUnfraidh,
*Irish singer/entertainer, as seen on The
Voice of Ireland*

21:00, **Mulligans**, Topsy Gypsies,

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Live Music,
t.b.a., see www.maloemelo.com

23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Curtis Millen,
Funk/Rock/Soul €7

Saturday

Weekly

17:00, **Jazzcafe Alto**, World Music Jam,
led by Roberto Haliffi

20:00, **The End**, Karaoke, *over 40,000 English/
Dutch songs to choose from. Open til 2*

20:30, **The Waterhole**, Rock Night (bands tba),
check waterhole.nl for details €3

6th April 2024

21:00, **Molly Malone's**, Andy MacUnfraidh,
*Irish singer/entertainer, as seen on The
Voice of Ireland*

21:00, **Mulligans**, Sjoerd van Ravenswaaij &
Nienke Bijker, *local duo: Celtic ballads &
tunes mixed with folk-songs*

22:30, **Maloe Melo**, TallyMan, *Ex Wallensteinband
- Strictly Sixties-Seventies Music €10*

23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Aymar Torres,
Singer-Songwriter from Aruba €7

13th April 2024

21:00, **Molly Malone's**, Gianluca Pagliaricci,
Italian singer/songwriter

21:00, **Mulligans**, Chris Murphy, *on tour from
the USA, joined by local talent Sjoerd van
Ravenswaaij & Nienke Bijker*

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, The Tune 28,
Indonesian Rock Band €7.50

22:00, **Rockclub The Cave**, Calm Like a Bomb (NL)
Tribute to Rage Against The Machine

23:00, **The Waterhole**, 2Hot2Funk,
Funk, Pop, Rock

23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Jacco Henry,
Classic Rock €7



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Saturday

20th April 2024

- 21:00, **Maloe Melo**, Wap Shoo Wap Records
Present: *The Speedways (power pop)* €10
- 21:00, **Molly Malone's**, Gianluca Pagliaricci,
Italian singer/songwriter
- 21:00, **Mulligans**, Andy MacUnfraidh,
singer/guitarist: Irish folk, Americana, country & blues
- 22:00, **Rockclub The Cave**, Two Too Many,
Hard/Heavyrock
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, The Bashir Brothers ft.
A. Hendrixx, *up tempo tunes, from soulful blues, to classic rock.* €7

27th April 2024

- 13:00, **Rockclub The Cave**, Kings Day: Happy
Birthday, *On Kings Day, it's handy to have cash with you due to pin problems because of too many transactions... Just saying.*
- 21:00, **Molly Malone's**, Live Music,
Whatever the act, it'll be a good craic
- 21:00, **Mulligans**, Live Music, *act tba*
- 22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Live Music, *t.b.a., see www.maloemelo.com*
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Jay's Garage,
Rock/Blues €7

Sunday

Weekly

- 19:00, **Mulligans**, Traditional Irish Session,
- 20:00, **The End**, Karaoke, *over 40,000 English/Dutch songs to choose from. Open til 3*
- 20:30, **The Waterhole**, Live Music (acts tba),
check waterhole.nl for details €2

Sunday

7th April 2024

- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Jay's Garage,
Rock/Blues €5

14th April 2024

- 16:30, **Checkpoint Charlie**, Ironic Curtain Comedy Club, *Expect stories and jokes from all around the globe. Meet the world and laugh about it.*
- 20:30, **Backstage Bar**, Comedy Fusion,
Seasoned comedians in the first half, followed by a lineup of fresh talent in our second-half open mic session.
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Sunday R&B Session,
Are you a soul or R&B singer? Together with the greatest musicians of these genres, you'll get a chance to sing some of your favourite songs. Can it get any better? €5

21st April 2024

- 20:00, **De Nieuwe Anita**, Nutty Anita's Solo Sundays, *With Diederik Zuurmond, one of the most promising acts in the local scene - Amsterdam's Stewart Lee and support by Katie O'Reilly in the first half. Hosted by Maestro of the Underground Ken Parsons with his trademark mix of daft head-trips and even dafter* €12

- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Jay's Garage,
Rock/Blues €5

28th April 2024

- 20:30, **Backstage Bar**, Comedy Fusion,
Seasoned comedians in the first half, followed by a lineup of fresh talent in our second-half open mic session.
- 23:00, **Bourbon Street**, Moira, *R&B/Soul* €5

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ROUND T

Paul was in Café Oporto with some of his friends from Warrington, and local Chris, so my camera came out and as there are six of them, they get an XL photo.



The Sunday afternoon regulars were starting to leave when I arrived at Susie's Saloon and they got me to take a photo before I could even order a beer! No names, to protect the innocent.



THE BARS

Magic Sem and Tanco were taking a break from playing at the Jam session in Maloe Melo.



Good to see Tommy the Fox behind a full set of drums in Maloe Melo for a change, instead of banging on a tea chest.



It's been ages since our last photo of Denise with Jur in Maloe Melo, so he put on a shiny hat to mark the occasion.



That's a lot of shots Aisa and Isa have got there in the Poolbar! Photo by Rob.

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Remembering Nuala

Nuala was a much loved member of the crew in Molly Malone's who left this world far too early and won't be forgotten by her friends who got together to remember the fun times on the 5th anniversary of her leaving us.

Cor, Muriel and Steven posed in front of Nuala's memorial plaque taking pride of place on the wall where everyone can see it.



Steven, John and Gareth were sitting at everybody's favourite table, *Bullshit Corner*.



Bobby, Remco, Bev and Paula were on the other side of *Bullshit Corner*.



Such an occasion called for live music and who better than Andy MacUnfraidh?

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Behind More Bars

Malcolm made his annual St. Patrick's Day appearance behind the bar in H. Murray's, this year with Sven.



Robby, Dom, Hayley and Alicia were behind the bar when I last visited Molly Malone's.

Avi, Steve and Louise introduced Elisse, the latest member of the Susie's Saloon crew.



I've only just found out that Zad was already working in Excalibur before I started the Stun over thirty years ago!



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Paddy's Day Around

Once a year, on the 17th of March, Café Oporto becomes O'Porto's for the day. All in green for the day at the bar were Maeve, Shaun, Josie, Sidd, Jen and Lesley.



Later that evening, Janice and Jen left Oporto to carry on the Paddy's Day shenanigans in the Blarney Stone, where I took this photo of them with more people celebrating. I'm sure they told me their names, but I can't remember; I'd had a beer or two by then.



the Bars

Comedy Fusion



They had a strict one-out, one-in policy on the door in Molly Malone's, but Brian, Hayley and Steven made an exception for Andy; he's half of Petty Kingdom and was due on stage!



It's Janice and Jen from Oporto in the Blarney Stone again, this time with Danny and Sara.

At the last Comedy Fusion in the Backstage Bar, Jens Rabiega was one of the seasoned comedians trying out their work-in-progress during the first half of the show.



Colin is one of the funniest people I know! I love talking with him in a bar and reading his social media posts, so when I heard that he was in the line-up for the second-half open mic session, I had to witness it. He was hilarious and handled the heckling (from his friends) like a pro!



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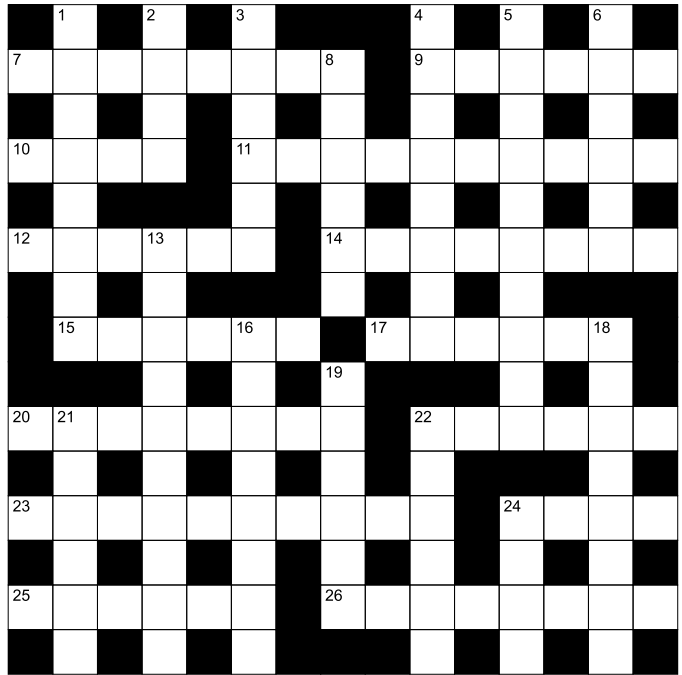
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Stun Crossword

Compiled by Martyn Hardy

Across

7. The unconventional type, Michael embraces Vera roughly (8)
9. A good time to organise vote (6)
10. Hospital putting everyone in large room (4)
11. Temperature for oven not right; nor is faulty switch (10)
12. Nomad wandering around Italian realm (6)
14. Islands not in favour of trade U-turn (8)
15. Dad gets the others round for a meal (6)
17. Horror film's original direction (6)
20. Cut material to measure (8)
22. Dog gets no rare meat (6)
23. Walker getting exercise strained terribly (10)
24. Hit the road with a bump (4)
25. Note, is due to change trains (6)
26. Trade in old coins (8)



Down

1. Lover mean before noon, and possessive afterwards (8)
2. Organize a little bit of enthusiasm (4)
3. Cooling system in car broken - ring in (3-3)
4. One opposing job etc arranging alternative (8)
5. Torch shall get broken during altercation (10)
6. Maureen got up cranky (6)
8. Understanding boy raised in Cumbrian town (6)
13. Understands paper's bothered about hard deadline (10)
16. The most stylish master fashions a way (8)
18. Comprehensive still an alternative to get into (8)
19. Stop working, and prepare for the sack? (6)
21. Article on place in street (6)
22. Threaten chaps with one (6)
24. Dress up to show off (4)

Scribble Space

Answers on page 21

JOKES

The science teacher Mrs. Sampson asks her class: "Who can tell me which organ of the human body expands to 10 times its usual size when stimulated?"

Nobody raises a hand, so she calls on the first student to look her way. "Mary, can you tell me which organ of the human body expands to 10 times its usual size when stimulated?"

Mary stands up, blushing furiously. "How dare you ask such a question?" she says. "I'm going to complain to my parents, who will complain to the headmaster, who will have you fired!"

Mrs. Sampson is shocked by Mary's reaction, but undaunted.

She asks the class the question again, and this time Sam raises his hand.

"Yes, Sam?" says Mrs. Sampson.

"Ma'am, the correct answer is the iris of the human eye."

"Very good Sam, thank you."

Mrs. Sampson then turns to Mary and says, "Mary, I have three things to tell you: First, it's clear that you have not done your homework. Second, you have a dirty mind. And third, I fear one day you are going to be sadly disappointed."

A little boy and a little girl attended the same school and became friends. Every day they would sit together to eat their lunch and discovered that they both brought chicken sandwiches every day!

This went on all through the fourth and fifth grades, until one day he noticed that her sandwich wasn't a chicken sandwich.

He said, "Hey, how come you're not eating chicken, don't you like it anymore?"

She said, "I love it but I have to stop eating it." "Why?" He asked.

She pointed to her lap and said, "Cause I'm starting to grow little feathers down there!"

"Let me see." He said.

"Okay." And she pulled up her skirt.

He looked and said, "That's right. You are! Better not eat any more chicken."

He kept eating his chicken sandwiches until one day he brought peanut butter.

He said to the little girl. "I have to stop eating chicken sandwiches; I'm starting to get feathers down there too!"

She asked if she could look, so he pulled down his pants for her!

She said, "Oh, my God, it's too late for you! You've already got the neck and giblets!"

A professor at the University of Sydney was giving a lecture on 'Involuntary Muscular Contractions' to his first year medical students. Realising this was not the most riveting subject, the professor decided to lighten the mood slightly.

He pointed to a young woman in the front row and said, 'Do you know what your asshole is doing while you're having an orgasm?'

She replied, 'Probably fishing with his mates.'

A groom passes down the aisle of the church to take his place by the altar and the best man notices that the groom has the biggest, brightest smile on his face.

The best man says, "Hey man, I know you are happy to be getting married, but what's up you look so excited."

The groom replies, "I just had the best blow job I have ever had in my entire life and I am marrying the wonderful woman who gave it to me."

The bride comes walking down the aisle and she, too, has the biggest, brightest smile on her face.

The maid of honour notices this and says, "Hey, girlfriend, I know you are happy to be getting married, but what's up, you look so excited."

The bride replies, "I have just given the last blow job of my entire life."

BEING FRANK ON FOOTBALL

The Premier League is destined to end with three clubs battling it out for the title, and as things stand, it is Liverpool who are in pole-position with a narrow two-point lead over their rivals, Arsenal and Manchester City.

Brighton had given the Reds a run for their money when they took the lead at Anfield through Danny Welbeck, with less than two minutes on the clock.

The Merseyside club knew a victory against Brighton at Anfield could prove significant with their title rivals playing each other in Sunday's late kick-off.

Luis Diaz levelled things up on 27 and finally got over the line with a goal from Mo Salah after a wonderful through ball from former Brighton man Alexis Mac Allister.

Meanwhile, the other game was a stalemate between Manchester City and Arsenal and ended goalless.

Tottenham and Manchester United are still battling it out for the last Champions League spot, but Aston Villa remain in fourth place as this column goes to print. With a lot of Premier League action in midweek, this might not be the case for very much longer.

At the bottom of the Premier League table, Sheffield United are still fighting for their lives, but the gap between themselves and Nottingham Forest in 17th is 7 points, so it would take a major turn of fortunes for the Yorkshire club to avoid going back to the Championship, it seems.

Also down there are Burnley, who have also shown signs of life recently and were desperately unlucky not to have beaten Chelsea at Stamford Bridge when they had to play out most of the match down to ten men.

Lorenz Assignon receiving a second yellow card for fouling Mykhailo Mudryk in the box, five minutes before the break.

Of the three sides that came up from the Championship this season, only Luton appear to have a chance of avoiding the drop. They are scoring goals and picking up points and have the potential to stay in the top flight of English football for another season. Everton could get dragged into it once again, with that reduced points deduction and a serious loss of form. They have slumped to a record-equalling 12 games without a Premier League win before they face Newcastle away this evening.

And the Championship has now become a three-horse race for an automatic promotion place. Ipswich defeated Southampton at Portman Road last night which all but confirmed the Saints place in the play-off's.

The favourites to go up are still the parachute payment clubs Leeds United and Leicester City but the odd one out is Ipswich Town, and after that incredible win against Southampton, when a 97th minute strike from Ecuadorian Jeremy Sarmiento last night, ensured that with six games to go, the Tractor Boys find themselves at the top of the Championship

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table once more. It has been an astonishing change of fortunes for the Suffolk club, who were mid-table in League One before Kieran McKenna took on his first managerial post in December 2021. Next week, we will be over in Ipswich to take in their games against Watford and Middlesbrough, so we can endeavour to find out what all the fuss is about!

In the Netherlands, PSV are walking away with the title, but the big news is all about Ajax who lie in fifth place, and a staggering 28 points behind the leaders! To make matters even worse for the Amsterdam club, their Chief Executive Alex Kroes has been suspended by the Dutch advisory board for alleged insider trading, which is something that he vehemently denies.

In a statement released by the club, the board alleges Kroes bought more than 17,000 shares in the club a week before his appointment was announced on the 2nd August. Ajax say they intend to sack the 50-year-old Dutchman. This has been a nightmare season for a club that until very recently regularly made the Champions League. In fact, it was only last season that they failed to qualify for it, and this, for the first time since 2009!

Frank Weston

Crossword Answers

Across: 7 Mavrick, 9 Bailor, 10 Hall, 11 Conversion, 12 Domain, 14 Antilles, 15 Repast, 17 Frigate, 20 Lacerate, 22 Mutton, 23 Pedestrian, 24 Blow, 25 Guides, 26 Exchange.
 Down: 1 Paramour, 2 Zeal, 3 Aircon, 4 Objector, 5 Flashlight, 6 Morse, 8 Kendal, 13 Apprehends, 16 Smartest, 18 Thorough, 19 Retire, 21 Avenue, 22 Menace, 24 Brag.

PPL UPDATE

Here's how the Premier Predictions League table looked on Sunday 31st March 2024. Check the Stun website for the latest stand.

Pos.	Name	On	Nr	Pts
1st	Martyn Hardy	5	3	18
2nd	Lee Findley	4	4	16
3rd	Josie Gladden	4	3	15
3rd	Ann Marie Stopforth	4	3	15
5th	Phil Rook	3	5	14
6th	Ally MacDougall	4	1	13
7th	Trish Steele	3	4	13
8th	Alan Dempsey	2	7	13
9th	Jude Noonan	3	3	12
9th	Chris Rudkin	3	3	12
9th	Thomas Freiermuth	3	3	12
9th	Stephen Spencer	3	3	12
13th	Paul Tandy	2	6	12
13th	Scott Matthew	2	6	12
15th	Matthew Wright	2	5	11
15th	Paul Berridge	2	5	11
15th	John Raftery	2	5	11
18th	Adam Burton	2	4	10
18th	Chris Mundell	2	4	10
18th	Willie Wood	2	4	10
21st	Steve Mahon	1	7	10
22nd	Robert Pendleton	1	6	9
23rd	Jim Scrimgeour	2	2	8
24th	Dave Wright	1	5	8
24th	Bart L	1	5	8
24th	Frank Waardenburg	1	5	8
27th	Ken Passey	1	4	7
27th	Paulo van Melsen	1	4	7
29th	Jeffrey Schuffelen	0	7	7
30th	Dean Lomax	1	3	6
30th	Frank Weston	1	3	6
30th	Shaun McCarthy	1	3	6
33rd	Callum Dickie	0	6	6
34th	Arun Panker	0	5	5
35th	Philip Justice	0	0	0

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IN THE BACK

After his brilliant stand-up set at Comedy Fusion in the Backstage Bar, Colin mingled with his fans and I think it's safe to say that if Josie or Shaun were amongst the hecklers, they were nothing like some of Colin's other friends.



All I'm going to say is that Kenny was there to see Colin perform, and so was Neil.

I dropped into Mulligans to take a photo of Mick, the new man in charge, and got the bonus of him with the Mary Wallopers and their entourage, still in town after their sell-out show in the Tolhuistuin the night before. I first saw the Mary Wallopers in Molly Malone's back in 2018, before they were famous, and Mick was behind the bar in Molly's that night!

By the way, that's Mick, second from the left; the rest of them know who they are.





Steven's got the space, Kendra's got the contacts, put them together and you get Comedy Fusion in the Backstage Bar!



Bobby, Paula and Jeroen would never dream about heckling comedians in the Backstage Bar!

I really should concentrate; this could have been a nice photo of Paula and Caitlin in Molly Malone's, but my camera chose to focus on the *Bullshit Corner* plaque instead.



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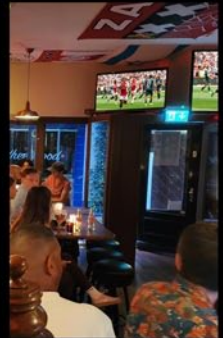
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