

backwords

Dear Editor...

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TWICE THE VICTIM

The article concerning the murder of teenager Sophie Lancaster (issue 850) was moving and intriguing. The journalist who looked at the case makes some interesting points about the potential flaws in the emergency services' response – an altogether worrying scenario. Not only was the poor girl the victim of horrendous prejudice and violence but the fact that the ambulance service seems to have got lost en route makes the whole case even more tragic. I trust some stern lessons have been learned not only within society itself but also

amongst the medics who we rely upon in these life or death situations.

G Howells,
 Rochdale

WORLD'S GONE BANANAS

Where Jamie Kenny manages to dig up some of the urban legends he explores (Myth, issue 850) I couldn't begin to guess, but he never ceases to surprise with his offbeat choices.

I love the idea of the women of the household giving themselves a triple treat twice every week of

Coronation Street, a Chinese takeaway supper – and no slaving over a hot stove.

Even if this is mostly a myth it still shows the women of the north have always believed they were worth it and weren't afraid to show it.

The tradition of relaxing in front of a favourite show with a tasty takeaway is certainly alive and kicking in our house. And I must be the single person who keeps banana fritters firmly on the menu at our

local takeaway. They're good with vanilla ice cream, if Jamie's still wondering.

Jill Desmond,
 Sheffield

CORRECTION

In our article on statues last week, we said Peter Naylor's prize winning work depicted 851 Squadron. It should have been 158 Squadron.

Why don't we just...

KEEP OUR PROMISE ON CHILD DETENTION?



Esme Madill, End Child Detention Now

Why can't the government simply fulfil its promise and stop locking up children now? As Julian Huppert, MP for Cambridge, said: "The main alternative that I can think of to detaining 1,000 children a year is not to detain them."

Detention serves no useful purpose. In countries where children are not detained, a more humane and transparent asylum process has led to higher degrees of compliance and voluntary return rates.

While we wait for Clegg to rediscover his sense of moral outrage, innocent children continue to be locked up. Damian Green, minister for immigration, in May this year described how distressed he had been by the sight of "children behind bars" at an immigration detention centre.

Sadly, Green, like the deputy prime minister, is clearly not distressed enough to take any immediate action.

Esme Madill is pro-bono co-ordinator of End Child Detention Now and a volunteer with Refugee Action York.

Competition

WIN AN EXCLUSIVE BADLY DRAWN BOY BOX SET

We have an exclusive box set of Badly Drawn Boy's latest album, *It's What I'm Thinking*. Encased in a high quality 12 inch size rigid lift-off-lid box, covered in dyed black paper with luxury foil block in metallic silver and white on the lid, this is a must for all hardcore fans.



There's a signed single vinyl album in a sleeve which is exclusive to the box set. The double CD edition of the new album includes a remix bonus disc, *It's What He's Thinking (Oxidising Hexagons Silver Iodide – Album Re-Dux/Sound Collage by Andy Votel)*. There are also alternative version of tracks from the new album plus a set of four exclusive pin badges designed by the man himself.

To enter simply send your answer to the following question, along with your name and address to lianne@bigissuenorth.co.uk by 29 November.

Mark your entry "Badly Drawn Boy".

Complete the Badly Drawn Boy song title: Once Around...



Speaking at Prime Ministers Question Time on 21 July, the deputy prime minister, Nick Clegg, promised to deliver on the government's pledge to end child detention and described the immigration detention of children as "simply a moral outrage". He was in good company then as the Royal Colleges of Medicine, prominent bishops, novelists, children's writers and actors had all raised their voices in protest, calling for an immediate end to child detention.

Yet children continue to be locked up in conditions that harm their physical and mental health and the government has no immediate plans to end this "moral outrage". A Home Office business plan published this month indicates that child detention will continue until March 2011.

Next week...

Janelle Monae, Gareth Peirce, and suicides in Hebden Bridge

