

10b. GOOD SH*T!

'That kinda pisses on my idea'

Some of my choice headlines and captions during my time on British national newspapers, followed by a few which didn't make it...

Story: Artist paints Cheryl [then] Cole with antlers.

Headline:

**Cheryl's
doe oil
painting**

- *The Sun*

Story: Elastics firm goes out of business.

Headline: **Elastics firm was overstretched**

- *Sunday Mirror*

Story: Irish farmers' daughters beauty pageant finalists chosen.

Headline:

**Farm girls
dung good**

- *NoW*

Story: Punch-up at a psychiatrists' conference.

Headline: **Freudian slap**

- *NoW*

Picture story: Identical quadruplet blonde babes flown over from the US to promote "four chances to win" the Lotto, when its slogan was: "It could be you."

Headline:

**It could be you or
you or you or you**

Camelot dropped the slogan the next day.

- *The Sun*

Picture story: North Korean despot Kim Jong-un is mobbed by adoring female soldiers.

Headline: **GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE UN**

- *The Sun*

Story: Teacher in US sacked for appearing in porn film.

Headline: **JOB BLOW**

- *The Sun*

Story: Peruvian cannibal who used to eat priests goes vegetarian while in jail.

Headline:

**Cannibal gives up
priests for lentils**

(My absolute favourite)

- *NoW*

Story: Threesome caught having sex in the ruins of Pompeii.

Headline:

**Rumpy
Pompeii**

- *The Sun*

Story: Scientists alter a gene in mice that they have in common with humans and it makes them more intelligent.

Headline:

**Of mice
& Mensa**

- *The Sun*

Story: Teacher in India sacked for getting naked to teach his pupils about human anatomy.

Headline: **SCHLONG DIVISION**

- *The Sun*

Story: Baby Spice Emma Bunton is dropped by Virgin Records in Christmas week.

Headline:

Virgin drops Baby

- *NoW*

Picture story: Queen Mum meets Santa.

Headline:

**‘Hello, and
what do
you do..?’**

Private Eye nicked the principal idea behind it for their cover later that month.

- *NoW*

Story: Seaside town maze is closed because students are having naked parties there at night.

Headline: **AMAZEBALLS**

- *The Sun*

Story: Two members of Eighties punk band The Damned are reunited after 30 years, both recovering on the same cancer ward.

Headline: **I’LL BE DAMNED**

- *The Sun*

Story: Survey finds people in northern town Carlisle are the happiest in Britain.

Headline: **GRIN UP NORTH**

Evening Standard ripped it off for the BBC’s Salford TV launch a few weeks later.

- *The Sun*

Story: EU president Herman Van Rompuy lays into then PM David Cameron.

Headline: **PM IS HERMAN MONSTERED**

Night Editor said: "The headline was more than the story deserved."

- *The Sun*.

Story: Burglars steal 30 turkeys from a butcher during Christmas week.

Headline:

It's turkey

swizzlers

- *NoW*

Story: Town residents are left puzzled because they keep digging up biscuits in their gardens.

Headline: **CRUMBSTRUCK**

- *NoW*

Story: Prisoner in the US escapes jail but is caught hours later getting drunk in a nearby bar.

Headline: **ON THE RUM**

- *The Sun*

Story: Outstanding charges against Saddam Hussein formally dropped six months after he is executed by hanging for gassing the Kurds.

Headline:

Saddam

off hook

Middlebench took it out but backbench restored it.

- *The Sun*

Story: Madonna announces world tour dates from a toilet.

Crazy For Loo

(“Pooper Don’t Preach” didn’t fit)

- *The Sun*

Story: Hollywood star Colin Farrell tipped to star in East End gangster flick.

Headline:

Lock, stock and Farrell

- *NoW*

Story: Gamer dies after getting DVT in front of the screen.

Headline: **CONSOLENCES** (it was tasteless)

- *The Sun*

Story: Bandits in South America make a priest swear on the Bible to get him to reveal where the church safe is.

Headline: **BLASPHEMONEY**

- *The Sun*

Story: Star Trek legend William Shatner infuriates locals in an English village when he says it’s “laced with prostitution” while he is guest host of BBC satirical TV show *Have I Got News For You?*

Headline:

Shat app you face

(I think it was quite an achievement to get the word “Shat” into a Sun headline)

- *The Sun*

Story: Council officials put up signs warning people they will be fined if they poo in a park.

Headline: **JOBBIESWORTHS**

- *The Sun*

Story: Lag spends day in a pub after being mistakenly let out, before eventually handing himself in.

Headline: **ANY CHANCE OF A LOCK-IN, LANDLORD?**

- *The Sun*

Picture story: Strictly presenter Tess Daley in sexy photoshoot.

Headline: **HOST TESS WITH THE MOSTESS**

- *The Sun*

Story: TV presenter Michaela Strachan gets ill on location.

Headline: **MICHAELA STRICKEN**

- *The Sun*

Picture story: Demi Moore looking washed out after husband leaves her.

Headline: **SEEN A GHOST, DEMI?**

- *The Sun*

Front page lead story: Andy Murray becomes the first British man in 77 years to win Wimbledon.

Headline: **AND OF HOPE AND GLORY**

- *The Sun*

Picture story: Prince Andrew talking to a woman in the sea.

Headline: **THE PLAYBUOY PRINCE**

Making something out of nothing.

- *The Sun*

Story: Maradona banned from playing football again after cocaine is found in his system.

Headline: **END OF THE LINE FOR MARADONA**

- *(Beirut) Daily Star*

Picture story: A bush is delivered to Kate Winslet's house.

Headline: **KATE BUSH**

- *The Sun*

Story: Kebab shop which featured in a Beatles Magical Mystery Tour film gets a plaque to mark its history.

Headline:

**Magical
my shish
story tour**

CPR on a tedious page three story.

- *The Sun*

Story: Diplomatic row between UK and China over Hong Kong.

Headline: **HONG KONG DING DONG**

- *The Sun*

Story: Live link between then President Obama and US astronauts on space station.

Headline: **All the President's spacemen**

The Night Editor, who became Editor and then COO of Murdoch's UK operations, wrote another headline and I suggested mine. He said: "But that kinda pisses on my idea."

I said: "Yeah but mine's better!"

He changed it.

- *The Sun*

Story: Recently retired tennis legend breaks down in tears as he receives career achievement award.

**Sampras at
break point**

- *The Sun*

Story: Cape Town is voted the best city break destination.

Headline: **GREAT ES-CAPE**

- *The Sun*

Story: Scientists have found that adults carry around 3kg of bacteria in their guts.

Headline: **A LOT TO DIGEST**

- *The Sun*

Story: Range of knickers to indicate the wearer is on her period, with slogans such as “riding the crimson wave”, is launched.

Headline: **PANTY ONE-LINERS**

- *The Sun*

...

Picture: Then UKIP leader Nigel Farage as fictional character Andy Capp in story about which comic icon politicians would be.

Caption kicker: **If the cap fits...**

An achievement getting a Bob Marley reference about racists into a Murdoch paper.

- *The Sun*

...

Headlines that didn't make it (for various reasons):

Story: Lags are banned from having pictures of topless women in their cells.

Headline: **Behind bras**

- *NoW*

Picture story: A serial rapist being whipped in Iran before being publicly hanged (somewhat over-egging the pudding).

Headline:

Any lashed requests?

- *The Sun*

Story: Rock star Meatloaf feared he was going to die after collapsing on stage.

Headline:

MEATLOAF: I THOUGHT I WAS BROWN BREAD

- *The Sun*

Story: Rapper Kanye West is paid millions to do a private gig for the son of an Asian dictator. Can't remember the country, in the Kazakhstan region.

Headline: **WEST-ERN HIP-HOP-CRISY**

I wonder why that headline didn't make it in a paper with The Sun's political leanings? Changed to: **KANYE'S HIP-HOP-CRISY**

- *The Sun*

Story: Dope being grown in a Portaloos in the US.

Headline: **GOOD SH*T!**

- *The Sun*

Picture story: Paris Hilton posing in revealing string outfit.

Headline:

**Paris in
the string**

- *The Sun*

Page one lead story: Angry Arsenal players chuck pizza at then Man United manager Fergie after hot-tempered match at Old Trafford.

Headline:

**'You wanna
pizza me?'**

Night Editor had it on his screen but eventually went with WAR AND PIZZA.

- *The Sun*

