



60p
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the guardian

Control releases Guardian journalists



THE group of Guardian journalists celebrating their release. PHOTO: Al-Jaz

BY KIM PHAM

A group of journalists were captured by an omniscient force only known as 'Control' last Monday and held captive for a total of two weeks.

The 28 journalists were told they would only be released if they produced ten editions of a daily newspaper reporting on news in the Middle East.

However, Control wanted to 'simulate' the real world of journalism and spilt the group into three newspapers, The New York Times, Al-Jazeera and the Guardian.

"In the real world newspaper offices are understaffed. Journalists are underpaid and overworked. Get used to it!" Master Editor Chris McGillion said.

The journalists, for fear of death, set to work straight away.

"You need to create the news!" McGillion demanded.

However, there was the problem of the other players in the simulation. They would not re-

ply to emails and some could not even write in proper English.

The Al-Jazeera journalists started to get antsy and quickly sent off an email.

"We were told by Control that 'You might live for the media but others don't,'" Al-Jazeera's editor Sam Stratton said.

What were the hostages to do? It wasn't like they had classes to attend or actual social lives.

The Guardian's lay-out extraordinaire, Tully Smyth, decided drastic action needed to be taken!

So she personally contacted British Prime Minister Gordon Brown who tried to work his charms on her to no avail.

The first few editions were posted up and Control showed mild interest but were not completely satisfied.

They wanted the hostages to suffer! They demanded less "filler" quotes, better sub-editing, bigger headlines and graphics that "moved across the page".

The pressure to succeed started to take its toll on the groups

with snide comments flying left, right and centre, in-fighting and some even went on strike.

The lack of sleep and a diet solely made up of two food groups – sugar and fats was also not helping the situation.

"Vegetables! I need vegetables! My body is dying!" Guardian journalist Kim Pham exclaimed.

Even the Guardian's editor, the ever-optimistic Darren Snyder, was starting to show some wear and tear with unkempt hair and unshaven face.

He sent a message to his loved ones via the social networking website, Facebook: "the newspaper sim is eating me alive...see ya next week when it chucks me back out again".

Everyone's true colours were beginning to show – some snapped, others cried, a few even resorted to the tittle but the majority chose to laugh.

The stage of delirium had arrived.

Jen Waterhouse challenged Mel Borg to a computer chair race.

Nathan Dukes and Tully took Mac photos dream-

ing of life on a tropical island.

Caz Ridha continued to consume coffee until she was she was shaking so uncontrollably that she could not type.

The group became increasingly concerned about their wonderful sub-editor Liz Ackyord. She had been upping the dosage of the painkillers prescribed for her broken arm.

Control would not even let the journalists take a break for ANZAC Day but at least told them to "keep up the good work".

The Guardian upped the ante. They presented a rousing story package about the Syrian summit and showed off their patriotism with a "where's Gordon Brown?" competition.

Control stretched the budget and bent the rules to allow journalist Stu Roberts freedom to travel all the way to Afghanistan to meet with the world's greatest terrorist, Osama Bin Laden.

Were they satisfying the beast? Was the end in sight? Would it all be over soon?

McGillion announced on Tuesday that the hostages would only have to work for another two days.

Eleni James from the New York Times decided to mark the occasion by hosting an 'industry party' at her house on Thursday night.

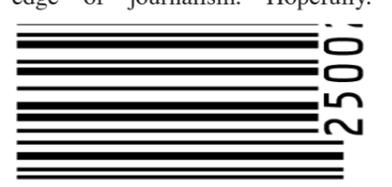
Unfortunately, Control would not be present at the party but were happy to sponsor it.

They prompted the hostages to ask what they were possibly going to do with their lives once they were freed.

The simulation had consumed their daily lives, what could possibly fill the void?

Would they sleep? Would they eat? Would they resume their lives before the whole experience?

Yes, yes they would but with a few more friends and a better knowledge of journalism. Hopefully.





Former President Rafsanjani. PHOTO: theguardian,

Rafsanjani comes to blows with Ahmadinejad

By CAZ RIDHA

Former Iranian leader Akbar Rafsanjani has expressed his fury over President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's irresponsible actions following the opening of a new nuclear factory in Bushehr, Iran. Rafsanjani insists that Ahmadinejad manipulated an agreement between Rafsanjani and Chinese President Hu-Jintao. "He changed my name to his name and released it to the media," Rafsanjani said. According to Rafsanjani, this explains why Ayatollah Khamenei called Hu-Jintao to resign the agreement in Teheran. Since then, Rafsanjani has been refused access into the office by Ahmadinejad, who is yet to comment on the situation. Ties are far from friendly between the two Iranian leaders after Rafsanjani made it clear he disapproved of Iran's latest nuclear project. Rafsanjani publicly scrutinized Ahmadinejad for neglecting to take into account the importance

of peace and stability in Iran. "I am continuously going to condemn his decision and his policy," Rafsanjani said. "People require Iran's prosperity, not nuclear capability." Rafsanjani believes Ahmadinejad and Khamenei made a big mistake with this initiative. Increased nuclear industries can be seen as nothing more than a threat to international players and, more importantly, its own neighbours. "Their short term goal will only bring fears to the Middle East... even people in Iran are fearing Ahmadinejad and Khamenei," he said. "In short, [Ahmadinejad and Khamenei] are not supported by the people anymore." Rafsanjani fears this has put Iran in a bad position and wants to place a cooperative relationship with neighbouring states before the nuclear program at all costs. "We should learn from the history and we should bring peace and prosperity to people," he said. Rafsanjani believes the President is in no condition after an

PM Brown arrests Guardian journalists

By JEN WATERHOUSE

One a journalist and an editor from British newspaper The Guardian were yesterday arrested after the publishing of a lengthy story on "terrorist mastermind" Osama Bin Laden. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown yesterday informed the media that the two journalists, Darren Snyder and Stuart Roberts, had been taken following an interview with Mr Bin Laden. Mr Brown said he believes the interview may never have occurred. "A full account of the authenticity of this interview is being investigated," the PM said.

"If determined authentic, an account of how the journalists came into contact with Bin Laden will be required." Mr Brown also said that Mr Snyder and Mr Roberts would only be released if they can prove the authenticity of the interview. The Guardian can confirm that the interview did occur on Wednesday, April 30 when Mr Roberts travelled to Afghanistan to meet Mr Bin Laden. Mr Roberts was then blindfolded and taken to an unknown destination in the mountains where he interviewed the subject.

BELOW: Police arriving outside The Guardian offices.



Week in review

By LIZ ACKROYD

W E E K E N D The week got off to a generally boring start. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced he wanted to resign from the position. Only to be shot at the next day. Iran's Supreme Ayatollah rejected his assassination on Saturday, but agreed to let Ahmadinejad diminish his responsibilities. Moving stuff. Al-Qaida claimed responsibility for roadside bombings in southern Sudan. The target was a Chinese oil project team. Great idea to take on a world 'superpower'. Way to go team Al-Qaida. China was too pathetic to respond to the attack. Syria was threatened by the International Atomic Energy Association, who for those who don't know by now is the IAEA. Syria told the IAEA to stuff their threat somewhere unpleasant. And after a week of pressure on the Guardian, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown finally got his chubby little head on a profile piece, in which he managed to steer clear of rumours that he will flop in the upcoming election. M O N D A Y Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad grabbed the headlines again as someone made an unsuccessful attempt on his life. Ahmadinejad bamboozled the Guardian before the attack with claims he was donating one billion dollars to militant groups Hamas and Hizbollah. These claims were strongly refuted by the groups, who probably wished the crazed Iranian leader had slipped the some on the side. Hamas instead asked the UN for thirty million in 'aid'.

The Guardian also received bizarre press releases from bed-ridden Ahmadinejad's department. The statements included invites to 'Hitler Day 2008' and the 'Eccentric Leaders' Ball'. Thanks mate for a look into the symptoms of lunacy! T U E S D A Y Another day, another dollar. Or in the case of today, another assassination attempt. This time Egyptian Minister for Culture, Farouk Hosni, was the target. Al-Qaida claimed responsibility. Obviously they're not doing a good enough job up there in the training camps of Afghanistan. Hosni survived the attempt on his life. There was an actual peaceful protest as one million people marched on Lebanon's parliament. Maybe the resident's of Cronulla could take this on board. The path to the Syrian summit became a minefield as Israel was refused entry, and Iran refused to attend. W E D N E S D A Y Not much happened. CNN hostages were released. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown tried to get cozy with Bush. Oh, and the Guardian ran a competition to count PM Brown's heads in the paper. The world's leaders proved to be totally inept, with the surprising exception of President George 'Dubya' Bush who was the only one able to count to seventeen on his fingers and toes. And we all thought he was the dumb one... T H U R S D A Y The Guardian kicked it with Osama. Nobody believed us. But we found him, when all the might and money of the US couldn't. Suckers! No other news mattered today, 'coz we found Osama. Seriously.

News Briefs

IAEA reaffirms position

IAEA reaffirms position Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei says that despite the last two weeks of allegations against Iran's nuclear program there is no concern. "The Middle East need not be worried as close monitoring of facilities in Iran will mean the IAEA is informed of all Iranian nuclear affairs," ElBaradei said. Iran will strengthen ties with other countries from its nuclear program. "Relationships formed by Iran with the governments of Russia and China will enable them to have the best access to some of the top nuclear experts worldwide." ElBaradei said.

Farmers receive increase in subsidies

American farmers will soon receive an increase in subsidies after US President George Bush signed a bill to help struggling farmers yesterday. The bill means that American produced beef, cotton and frogs legs will attract a 30% increase above the current subsidy rate. Mr Bush has realised the seriousness of the matter at hand and believes that now is the time to support American farmers.

Appeal to assist in 'aid injection'

Palestine will receive large amounts of financial aid from Palestine as a result of discussions throughout the week. King Abdullah and Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya have appealed to world leaders to assist in an "aid injection" for Palestine. "Saudi Arabia considers peaceful relations with Israel of vital importance to the entire Middle East region," said King Abdullah. "Hostile methods to achieve political ends are not considered by the King to be of an appropriate nature and did not influence the decision to supply aid for the welfare and education of the Palestinian people." The aid will be distributed over the West Bank and Gaza to assist Palestians in re-housing, accessing fresh water and food.

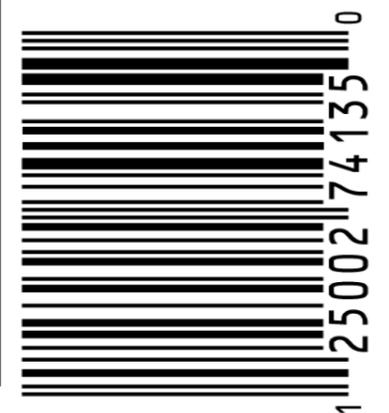
theguardian

Editor:
Darren Snyder

Sub-Editor:
Liz Ackroyd

Production:
Tully Smyth

Reporters:
Nathan Dukes
Liz Ackroyd
Melissa Borg
Kim Pham
Catherine Ridha
Stuart Roberts
Darren Snyder
Jen Waterhouse



Our say...



Darren Snyder
Editor

First of all I would like to thank the fabulous team who worked at The Guardian. You all know the role you played in making the newspaper an outstanding success and my job a lot, lot easier.

My thanks also extend to colleagues at The New York Times and Al-Jazeera. The high standard set by all media organisations made for a friendly rivalry and kept me going through lack of sleep. Some great moments were also shared in the Library Commons and cannot be forgotten. Just to remind you, The Guardian took first place in the paper aeroplane challenge!

After ten days of producing a newspaper, ten days of getting home no earlier than 12:30am and arriving for Uni the same day at 9, I think it's time for some well-deserved rest.

But before I spend Friday sleeping in, I have a paper to take care of. The morning meeting, the news updates, the opinion piece, the cartoon to go with the opinion piece, editing news stories, finding pictures for news stories, the 10pm panic that we haven't got enough copy, having arguments with the layout team, then watching them work magic. Ah the life of an editor.



Liz Ackroyd
Sub-Editor

"Politics is war carried out without bloodshed, while war is politics carried out with bloodshed." – Mao Zedong

From a man who knew bloodshed more intimately than he knew his own children, it is heartening to see our little fun and games have come to an end with only the shedding of a few tears (and possibly a few strained friendships).

It is important to remember that while our simulation concludes here, the future of the Middle East still hangs in the balance, with no peaceful solutions in sight. Many lives are still to be lost.

My heartfelt thanks and congratulations go out to a magnificent Guardian team, in particular those who were there to death (pun-intended) every night: Tully, Nath, and our editor Darren.

To our lecturer and friend, Chris McGillion, who manages, without fail, to every week intimidate, shock and inspire us into becoming the great journo's we will all someday be.

Everyone who participated in the sim (the New York Times, Al-Jazeera, all the world leaders, Control) will agree when I say:

Our bodies and minds may be battered and bruised from the taxing exercise, but it's fair to say our spirits are still intact and ready to take over the world...

"Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance." – George Bernard Shaw



Tully Smyth
Production

"We've come a long, long way together, through the hard times and the good. I have to, celebrate you baby. I have to praise you like I should..."

Thank you: firstly to Chris for scaring the crap out of us during the weeks leading up to the simulation. Without your constant warnings of hard work and threats that "if you can't make it through the sim, you won't make it in the real world of journalism" – none of us would have strived to produce the quality of work that I believe we did.

Thank you: to the other papers, NYT and Al-Jaz for providing the perfect 'friendly competition' boost that we needed to get out shit together and come up with bigger and better stuff every issue. Al-Jaz team in particular, you guys were the perfect lab buddies and I valued getting to know you all a little better.

Thank you: to all the other roles for their time and effort, most specifically Michael Max. Without you, our ONE British contact would have been uncontactable. You made our life a lot easier.

Finally, thank you to my team at the Guardian. I have enjoyed working with you more than I could have imagined. I have watched you all grow as writers, your copy: a joy to slot into various places in InDesign. Special shout out goes to Nath, for being my Photoshop extraordinaire, BFF and wing man, and for staying back late into the night for moral support.

It's been real guys, don't be strangers.



Nathan Dukes
Journalist

Here's to 2:30am in the lab. Here's to the vending machines. Here's to caffeine. Here's to the youtube videos that kept us alive. Here's to getting the chairs in the lab that are so much more comfortable than the others. Here's to apple for the computers with the really big screens. Here's to square eyes. Here's to photobooth.

Here's to the arguments over layout. Here's to the other players, for responding so quickly to our emails. Here's to that extra 100 words you needed for your story. Here's to Photoshop. Here's to what I really want to say, but just can't. Here's to the first good night sleep in 2 weeks.

Here's to al-Jazeera and New York Times, for the jokes and the good times. Here's to Chris McGillion, and his attention to detail. Here's to Tully, for the shit hot production. Here's to Darren, for putting up with our whinging, showing up late, writing crap stories, and trying to have his say over layout. Here's to Liz, for subbing our stories, and for dealing with our rubbish punctuation. Here's to the dedicated team of writers who churn it out every day.

And most importantly, here's to the Guardian family.



Kim Pham
Journalist

The simulation cannot be pigeon-holed into a "good" or a "bad" experience, it simply is "different". I once likened it to 'Big Brother' because we had been thrust into this alternate reality and no one could really understand what we were going through unless they experienced it for themselves. The sleep deprivation, the lack of nutrition in our diets, the frustration of having to rewrite a story at 11 o'clock at night because you've finally received an email reply, and the delirium of spending 10 hours a day in the Learning Commons.

I feel that I have definitely grown as a writer and a person through all this, as corny as that sounds, and it's largely because of the Guardian family. Like I mentioned during the sim, I always wanted to be in the "other" team, the "good" team, and finally I was in THAT team (no offence to the others)!

Thanks to Darren for his constant encouragement and optimism, Liz's patience as subbie and sharing her birthday cake, Jen's moral support and chauffeuring skills, Caz for her smiling face and being there to share my frustrations, Nathan's questionable fashion choices and late night tunes, Stu for writing the OBL story – glad it wasn't me, Mel for laughing at my jokes and Tully because she sings while she works. You got me through it.

Classifieds

By MELISSA BORG

WANTED: 9 dedicated new journalists to take over from the Guardian's current overworked, sleep-deprived and non-paid journalists. Applicants must be able to live off vending machine food and have an addiction to caffeine.

WANTED: Vending machine with non-fattening food, or food a little more appetising than chips and chocolate. Must work 100% of the time and not decide to keep the

food because it wants to sleep at 11:30pm.

WANTED: Many hours of sleep. So if you have spent your days sleeping in, going to bed before the early hours and having a good nights sleep, hand them over!!!

WANTED: Reliable Internet connection. Applicants must not crash and be available when students have high stress levels and an unhealthy

reliance on the Internet.

WANTED: Internet credit. To replace the credit that has been used on Facebook, YouTube and Myspace over the last two weeks.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: Mac Lab computers. Available to students other than 3rd year journo students. We apologise for our constant hogging of working computers and comfy chairs.

FOR SALE: Extra bags of coffee that the library café has bought in anticipation we will all be back next week. Haha, not a chance!

FOR SALE: Uncomfortable library chairs. Sorted by the Guardian, NYT and Al-Jaz over the past two weeks.

FOR SALE: Guardian subscriptions. Cost: Priceless. You should pay us for reading

such quality news each day.

FOR SALE: 3rd year university placements. Must be able to rise to the standard of the current print students who have all left uni and gained jobs in top paying publications.

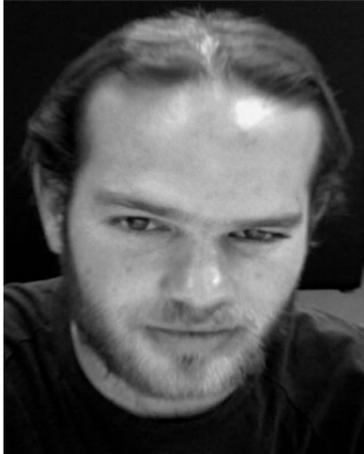
FOR SALE: Indesign tutoring by Tully Smyth. \$100 an hour due to her expertise and extensive knowledge.

Our say...



Caz Ridha
Journalist

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. The past two weeks have been a complete groundhog day. 7:30am Wake up. 8:00am Really wake up after realizing that the snooze button can't postpone the inevitable. 9:00am Team meeting. 11:00am The rest of the SIM wakes up and emails start flowing. The rest of the day is a complete blur (or maybe my eyes are just beyond repair after their intimate relationship with the computer screen) but basically it consists of being tied down at the 'office' trying to make news stories, quite often out of incomprehensible rubbish and rumours. It really did start to feel like going to the office every morning, bar the high heels and suits. In fact, I think I can look around the print journo class now and see everyone as a colleague. The entire Guardian staff was amazing to work with. We all brought our different skills (and differences) together and made it a great experience. Hell, we even went on a family dinner! Can't get much better workmates than that. Thank you to everyone that has made this experience possible. Now let's take Chris' money and get 'issed!!



Stu Roberts
Journalist

Well, it's all over, except for this small little piece of fluff which pains the tips of my fingers to compose. My once excellent eyesight has been reduced to vague fuzzy outlines, my stomach is protesting the endless onslaught of Coke and Doritos, and the gaping coin slots of the various vending machines in our learning commons are engorged with my hard-earned shrapnel. Still, am I glad it's over? Yes and no. Yes, in that no longer am I a slave to the deadline and the endless wait for replies to questions; and no, in that it has, against all odds, been a lot of fun. I would specifically like to thank Control and Chris for making it all happen, my team mates (rockin' people that they are), and almost every single person behind the aliases against who we have butted our heads for the last two weeks. And how could I forget the guys behind al-Qaida for giving me the opportunity to finish the sim on a high with my interview yesterday; what you see in the article is about a third of what they gave me to work with. For the most dangerous, devious and downright evil scum that exist in the world today...they're actually pretty cool. So a big fat cheers to everyone involved and if we ever run into each other in the real world, we may swap a couple of stories and realise that we've already met in this crazy sim world we created out of nothing. I look forward to it.



Jen Waterhouse
Journalist

The past two weeks have been an experience like no other. It's been a time of little sleep, over-consumption of coffee and junk food and endless bitching and whining. I think I've spent more time in the library over the past ten days than I have during the entire span of my three years at uni. I don't think my eyes will ever be the same again. But I have to say, this week has also been a f**king load of fun. I think I might be stating the obvious here, but I've felt so lucky to be in The Guardian group. All nine of us managed to get through the last two weeks virtually unscathed. I think we worked brilliantly as a team and in the end, became a well-oiled machine. I mean, hell, we pumped out some bloody awesome papers (thanks to the overseeing of Darren and the fantastic layout skills of Tully). And just for the record, I think my favourite quote of the entire two weeks we were doing this sim was when Tully said to Nathan "Nath, if you and I had babies, I think they'd be graphically enhanced".

C l a s s i c .



Melissa Borg
Journalist

It is almost safe to say that the last two weeks have been the best and worst two weeks of uni. The early morning starts accompanied with the early morning finishes have seen stress level rise and tensions form. On the same hand, working along side the team of the Guardian has been a memorable experience as in two weeks we have all learnt so much about each other and supported the team throughout the sim. The sim has been memorable for many reasons, not only producing a newspaper daily, but also being part of such an awesome team such as the Guardian. Participating in team activities such as chair races with Jen, Kim's constant jokes and need of food, 24 hour Facebook access thanks to Tully, our family dinner and a joint lack of sleep has been a real group effort and made the past two weeks a load of fun. But on a serious note: the whole team has been great to work with, making new friendships, helping each other out and enjoying the whole process. Well done guys.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF THE JRN302 SIMULATION 2008

Litres of coca-cola consumed: 40

Number of trips to the vending machine: 75

Number of chair races in the learning commons: at least 7

Number of bitching sessions: about 30 for The Guardian, but we don't like to comment on the other groups...

Number of times Darren said "very much so": 14567868

Total number of arguments over layout between Tully & Darren: If you ask Darren: 0 if you ask Tully, about 28 times a day

Total number of trips to 'The Bakery': 100

Total number of times Liz complained about her spell-checker being in French: 3

Total number of times pen was put to paper: 0

Total number of pieces of paper therefore saved: 150

Number of Tully's brilliant mind-maps written: 10

Total number of posts in the official Guardian Facebook thread: 690 and counting

Total number of times we all laughed at Kim's funny comments on Facebook: too many

Total number of times we actually got a speedy reply from one of the roles in the SIM: 4

Number of hours spent procrastinating: way too many to count

Amount of money just ONE of us would have earned if we'd been paid \$10 an hour for this thing (PLUS a penalty rate on ANZAC Day): \$1725

Total number of times we all got to go to the pub and get smashed like Chris promised us: ZERO

Total hours of sleep enjoyed by all: less than 30

The PKK are a friendly bunch

BY JEN WATERHOUSE

So, it all started last Monday when I decided that my very first story of the SIM would be on the Red Cross workers that had reportedly gone "missing". Less than an hour later, we received a press release from the terrorist organization, The PKK announcing that they were responsible for the capture of the two hostages. It was with great excitement that I received this news – it even had a big colourful flag at the top in my favourite colour, red. How could I possibly pass up such a brilliant opportunity to polish up my journalistic skills?

So that night we published my first story on the PKK, stating that

the Red Cross personnel has been taken "hostage" by the extremist group. This made them very, very mad. So they decided to offer our paper a "scoop" in the next couple of days, telling us that we would be given exclusive access to pictorial and written information about the tasks the ICRC workers were carrying out. In return we were told that we could no longer print that the personnel were being held "hostage" and that instead we must utilise the euphemism "seconded". Me being the exceptionally gullible person that I am (just one of the reasons I probably shouldn't be a journalist), I took on this new task with great relish. Sure! I told them. I can do that...

and just take your time in getting back to me with that exclusive news.

In Tuesday's edition we told our avid readers that in the following paper there would be an exciting exclusive on the PKK's hostages. On Wednesday night I had to return to Sydney, so I told my group: "make sure you message me if anything comes up about the PKK". I waited with bated breath. We heard nothing.

A stony silence was maintained by the PKK until the following Wednesday when it was announced that the Turkish government had secured the release of Kurt Wittman and Didier Raison. I contacted the terrorists and asked them if this was true. No, it wasn't, they said. The

Turks "abducted" the two men. So now it was clear that I had become the middleman in a very childish spat. An email from the Turkish Prime Minister yesterday proved to be the icing on the cake. It was titled "slandorous and incorrect remarks". Apparently everything I, and the other reporters at Al-Jazeera and The New York Times, had ever written about the Red Cross hostages was wrong. We got busted big time.

So what have I learnt from this whole exercise? Never trust a terrorist group and don't hang around waiting for a scoop, it's just not going to be worth it.



Opinion

By TULLY SMYTH

ling, exhausting, stressful two weeks of my university life and I've loved every minute of it.

From the very first group meeting, I knew we had a killer team. With Darren as our captain on the "tight ship" HMS Guardian, we were sure to pull through unscathed, however possibly sim-sick.

Week one was a rocky one. From first thing Monday morning we had a team of 9, fully up to date on the scenario, a collection of over 80 images for possible stories and a mind map already prepared with the stories we would be chasing up that day.

There was a buzz in the air. Computers were logged in, emails had been sent and the newly adopted 'Siberia' section of the labs was a flurry of journalistic excitement.

What we hadn't counted on, however, was that the other 'roles' actually had lives. At 9am on Monday, most of them were still asleep.

After 'refreshing' the Sim website a couple of hundred times, the slow realisation started to sink in- this was like the real world.

Did we really expect to be able to fire off questions to the President of the United States, and get a reply that same hour? Day even?

As the lines of Sim world vs. real life began to blur, the Guardian members morphed into fully-fledged journalists.

By week two, we had our uber-



professional routine down pat. Meet first thing in the morning, read through all three newspapers, emails etc and create our mind map of the day. Copy was done by 7ish, subbed by 9ish and put into InDesign not long after. HMS Guardian was one well-oiled ship.

Our editions improved day-by-day as the team combined Chris' feedback with their ever-developing skills to produce a

3-6 page newspaper so professional looking (if I may say so myself), I think we'd give the real Guardian a run for their money.

The nights were long, the sugar levels high and the days tiring.

We learnt a lot about the industry, global politics and perhaps most unexpectedly; we learnt about each other.

It's been an invaluable experience that no one would change

for the world- and I speak on behalf of all of us when I say that.

Daz, Dathan, Liz, Jen, Kim, Mel, Caz and Stu- you are all wonderful writers, beautiful people, excellent team mates and thanks to this- good friends.

As HMS Guardian sails off into the sunset, may we remember the good times, the bad times but most importantly- to shake the drip off your dick.

What a bloody long two weeks it's been.

I cannot believe that this is the last paper I'll be throwing together. What the hell will I do with myself between the hours of 9 and 1am?

When Chris said that this was "fun but a lot of bloody hard work"- I didn't believe him. The hard work part, yes- I was scared out of my mind, but the part about the Middle East simulation being 'fun'- I found hard to swallow.

What on earth could be 'fun' about researching, writing and producing a newspaper every day, for fourteen days including the ANZAC Day long weekend?

What could be fun about being chucked together with 8 of your peers, (some of whom I still had yet to speak to in our three years of uni), and being forced to take orders from an 'editor'?

What the hell could be fun about adopting the 24 hour computer labs as your home, the fat box as your fridge and the floor as your bed?

Fourteen days on, and I can honestly say- Chris was spot on. This has been the most gruel-

We said WHAT?

Darren: Tully that's pretty much how we want it looking, just without the pixelisation. Is that even a word?

Darren: Very much so, very much so.

Darren: Im gonna run a tight ship guys, I'm not gonna lie.

Tully: TIGHT SHIP GUYS TIGHT SHIP GET TO IT!!

Darren: Rookie error, rookie error.

Ozzy Osbourne: Beheading?! Dude, who does this crazy man think he is?!

Tully: Sick

Tully: So sick

Michael Max aka PM Brown: Get some rest dude, just chill k?

Jen: Um, well....I can't come up the moment....so...yeah...um there's a spider in my car.
Tully: Jen it's a spider, not a ticking time bomb!

Darren: Okily Dokily.

Tully: Were starting a swear jar. Every swear word, \$2 for the jar.

Michael Max aka: HEY u kinda screwed us by publishing "a leaked document from Britain".

Tully: And i am doing the editorial and investigation piece on the middle east conflict through the ages. NOT

Kim: Brown's not really a good-looker is he?

Jen: BY THE WAY: apparently Al-Jazeera came up with the BRILLIANT and oh-so-original idea of doing a story package on the Syrian summit in their edition for tomorrow. I applaud their individuality and creative thinking.

Tully: I ate big red candle.

Darren: Do you think we could move that story...over there?

Tully: Why? Why? Why would you want to do that? At 11:45 at night? Both of you just go away.

Tully: Is it S-n-y? or S-y-n?



Letters.

TO THE GUARDIAN,

"why are we getting so worked up over this? its not like events in the sim reflects ANYTHING in real life.

The one thing i can say is if the world is run by arts students then we r all fucked.

you guys have been good journalists in chasing everything up, however my actions in the sim will be typical government behaviour.

I DID IT FOR THE LULZ okay?

I hope u had FUN at least working w me. it has been fun working w u guys.

oh just to give u a heads up, we may need to bring ur senior editor into questioning LOLOL, hey, this way at least it proves we r wrong and u indeed had that interview w osama right? ur integrity as journalists will be proved beyond doubt! hahaha

~peace"

- Michael Ma aka. PM Brown