

ISSUE

01

TALES OF ECOLOGICAL TERROR

# PLASTIC NIGHTMARE



CHAOS ON  
CAMPUS



# PLASTIC NIGHTMARE

WELCOME AND PREPARE YOURSELF FOR TERRIFYING TALES OF PLASTIC WOE. FOR EACH OF THE PLAYERS IN OUR STORIES, THE POLLUTANTS WHICH THEY SO EASILY IGNORE, COME TO IMPACT THEIR LIVES IN SOME VERY UNFORTUNATE WAYS. THESE WE OFFER TO YOU, DEAR READER, AS A WARNING THAT YOU MAY AVOID A SIMILAR FATE. READ NOW IF YOU DARE:

## **'TYRANNOSAURUSPLASTIGREX ON CAMPUS'** GAZE UPON MONSTROSITY OF PLASTIC WASTE.



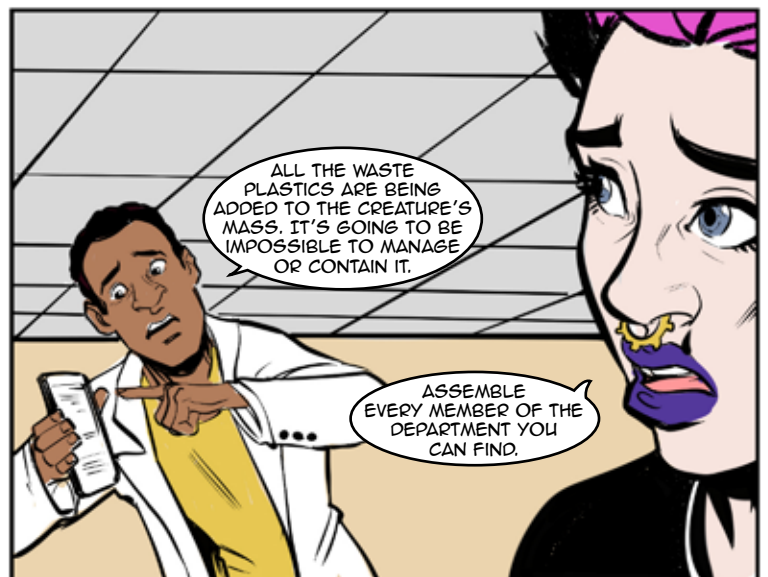
## **'SKINDEEP IN PLASTIC'** WITNESS THE HORRIBLE IMPACT OF INNOCENT VANITY.



## **'SUSTAINABILITY IS A BUZZKILL'** TREMBLE AT THE DESTRUCTIVE NATURE OF THE EGO.



IN QUEENS UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, SCIENTISTS LOOK ON IN HORROR AS A MONSTROUS CREATURE RUNS AMOK ON CAMPUS...







I THINK WE NEED A RADICAL PLAN, THE KEY SEEMS TO BE MANAGEMENT OF OUR WASTE AT SOURCE.



THE TEAM LOCK THEMSELVES IN A WORKSHOP ON CAMPUS TO TACKLE THE TASK.



BUT OUTSIDE THE CREATURE HAS BEGUN TO ATTACK PEOPLE BEYOND THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS.

SOMEBODY HELP ME!

OH I CAN SEE MY HOUSE FROM HERE.

GAAAA!



THE STUDENT BODY HAVE ALSO MOBILISED THEMSELVES TO FORMULATE A STRATEGY.

LISTEN! WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS IN A WAY THAT'S FAIR TO EVERYONE.



CAN WE ORGANISE A SAFE SPACE FOR THE CREATURE? MAYBE WE CAN HELP IT NOT FEEL THREATENED.

WE SHOULD BEGIN WITH A WRITTEN STATEMENT OF OUR FEELINGS.



I'M TRIGGERED BY THE WORD 'CREATURE', IT IMPLIES IT'S A LIVING ORGANISM.

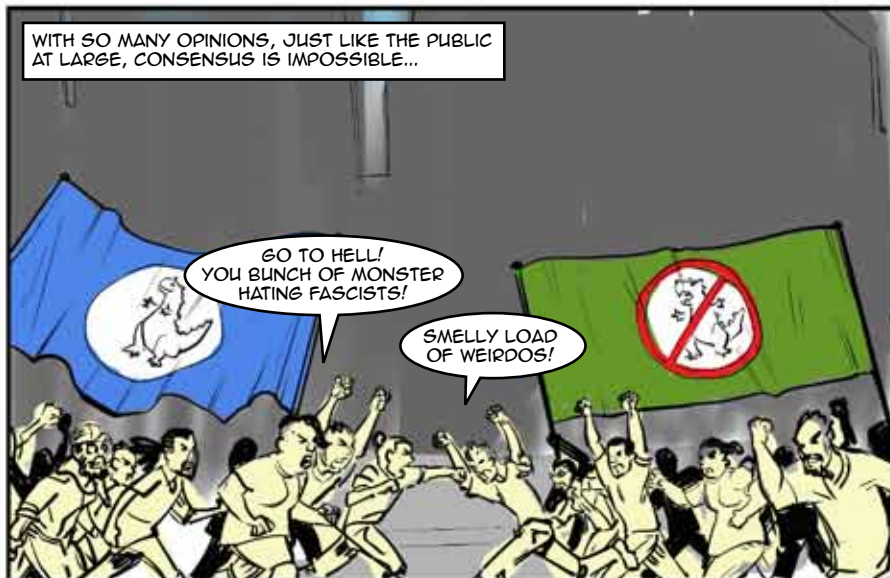
I SUGGEST USING 'MONSTER'.

HEY!

I FIND THAT OFFENSIVE.

I IDENTIFY AS MONSTER AND THAT IS A MICRO-AGGRESSION.











AND SLOWLY, BY CO-OPERATING WITH EACH OTHER, THE STAFF AND STUDENTS SEPARATE AND RECYCLE EVERY PLASTIC ITEM THEY CAN FIND.

LOOK! IT'S WORKING, THE CREATURE IS COMING APART.

IT'S SHRINKING! IT'S SHRINKING!

EVENTUALLY THE CREATURE SHRINKS TO A MORE MANAGABLE SIZE.

AWW! HE'S CUTE.

YEAH! HE SURE IS...

LET'S DISECT HIM.

THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS ARE RECOGNISED FOR THEIR EFFORTS AND RECEIVE AN AWARD.

A cartoon illustration set against a solid purple background. In the center, a man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a teal tie, is smiling broadly. He is holding a large, white rectangular award plaque with both hands. The plaque has the text 'Logic Prize' in a bold, black, serif font at the top. Below it, in a smaller, cursive font, is 'for pointing out the Bloody Obvious'. At the bottom of the plaque, there are two horizontal lines for signatures; the first is signed 'Mars' and the second is signed 'M4'. To the right of the man in the suit, a young man with a bright pink mohawk, a nose ring, and a black choker is looking at the award with a pained or exasperated expression, his mouth open as if shouting or sighing. A speech bubble above him says 'SIGH!'. In the background, several other people are visible, some clapping and others looking on. On the far right, a large, tilted sign with the words 'THE END' in bold, red, block letters is visible. The overall style is a simple, bold cartoon with thick black outlines.

SIGH!

Logic Prize

for pointing out the  
Bloody Obvious

Mazda

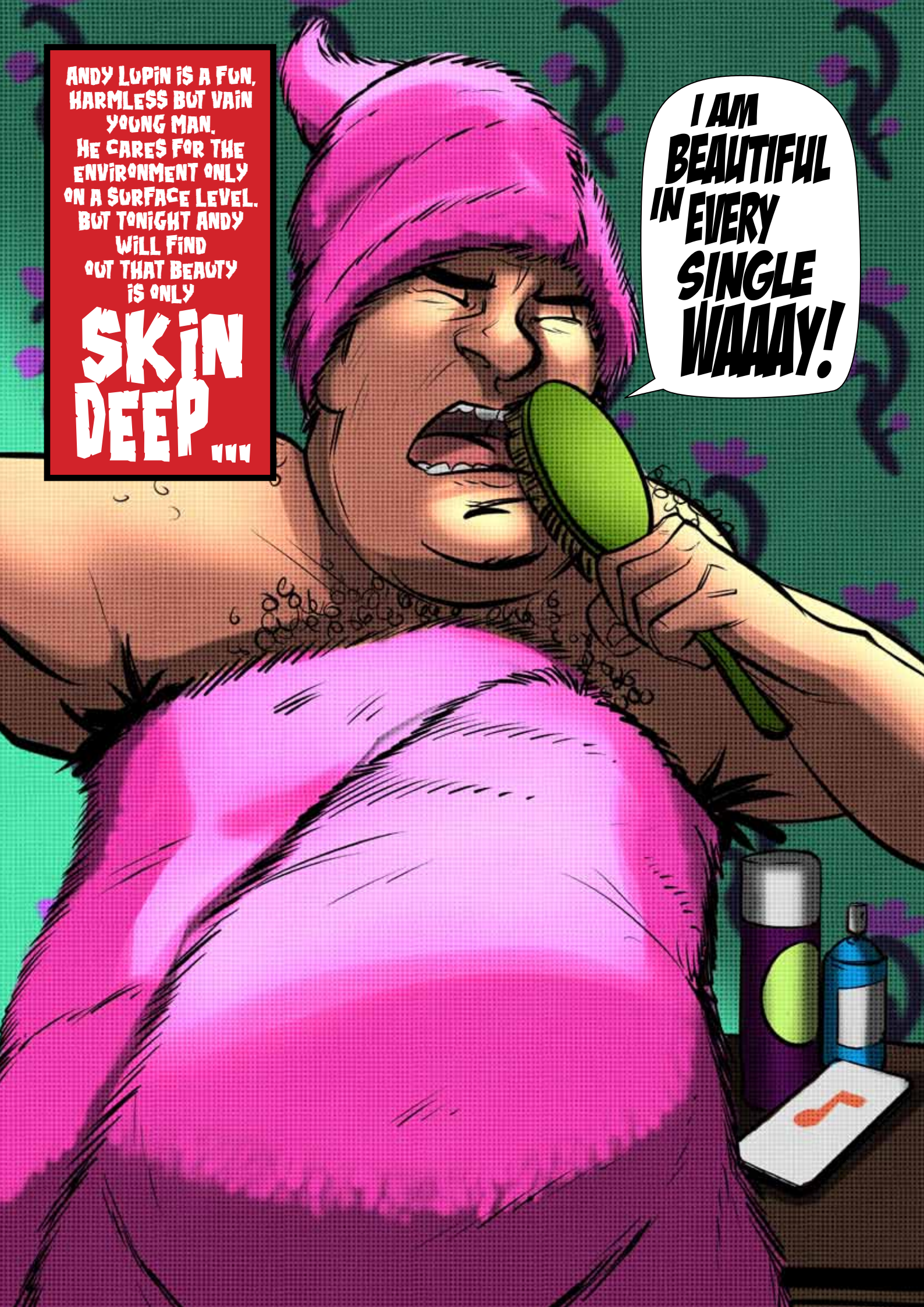
Mazda



ANDY LUPIN IS A FUN,  
HARMLESS BUT VAIN  
YOUNG MAN.  
HE CARES FOR THE  
ENVIRONMENT ONLY  
ON A SURFACE LEVEL.  
BUT TONIGHT ANDY  
WILL FIND  
OUT THAT BEAUTY  
IS ONLY

**SKIN  
DEEP...**

**I AM  
BEAUTIFUL  
IN EVERY  
SINGLE  
WAAAY!**







QUEENS HALLS OF RESIDENCE. FOR SOME OF THE STUDENTS, BORING TUESDAY EVENINGS HAVE BECOME PAMPER AND MOVIE SESSIONS...



A CHANCE TO RELAX AND ENJOY EACH OTHERS COMPANY.

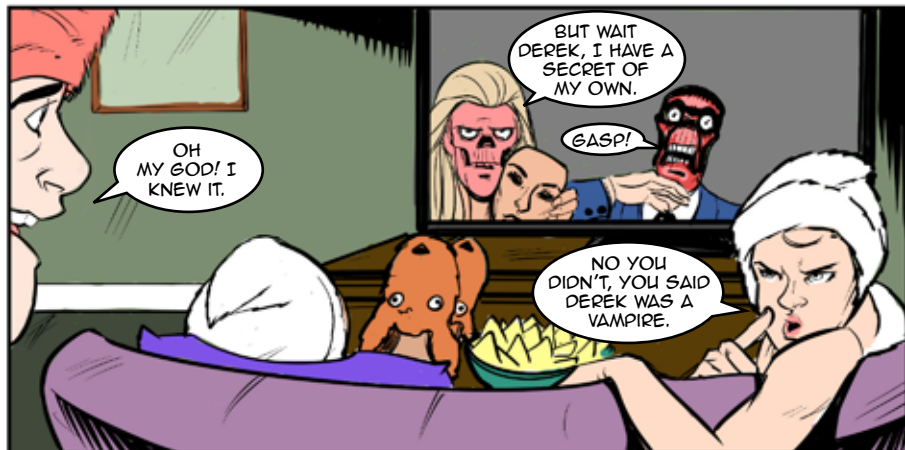
IT IS ANDY'S FAVOURITE NIGHT OF THE WEEK.

WAIT FOR ME LADIES.



LOOK DEBORAH! LOOK UPON MY REAL FACE... THE FACE OF **DEATH!**

NOOOO!



OH MY GOD! I KNEW IT.

BUT WAIT DEREK, I HAVE A SECRET OF MY OWN.

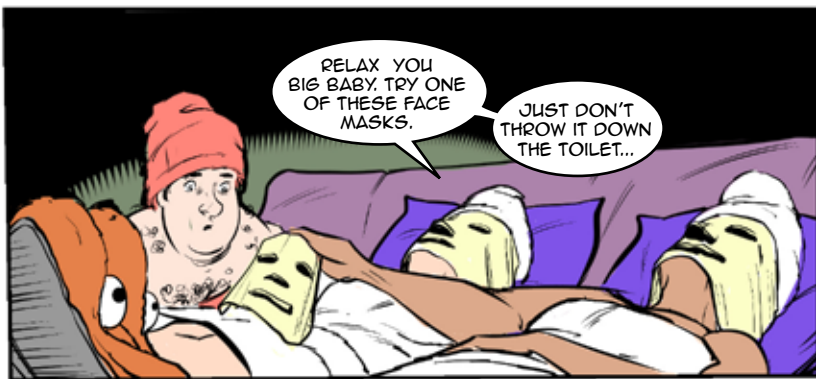
GASP!

NO YOU DIDN'T, YOU SAID DEREK WAS A VAMPIRE.



DID I? WHO CARES. DAMN, I'M OUTTA FACE CREAM...

WHAT'LL I DO? I'VE GOT AN OILY T-ZONE!



RELAX YOU BIG BABY. TRY ONE OF THESE FACE MASKS.

JUST DON'T THROW IT DOWN THE TOILET...



THEY'RE FULL OF PLASTIC AND REALLY BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.



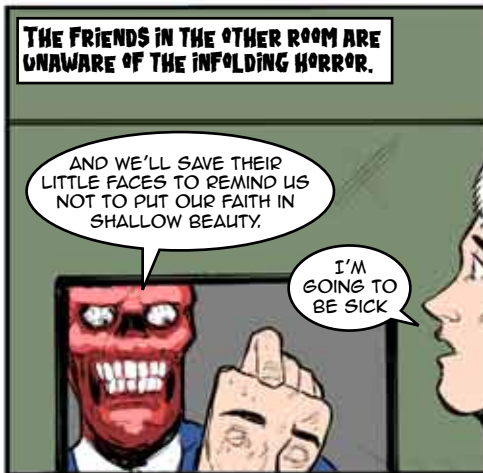
WE'RE SAVING THEM UP UNTIL WE FIND OUT THE BEST WAY TO GET RID OF THEM, THEN WE'LL DUMP THEM ALL AT ONCE.

DID YOU HEAR ME?



SORRY, WERE YOU TALKING TO ME?











A FEW DAYS LATER AT THE  
CITY HOSPITAL BURNS UNIT.

WELL ANDY,  
YOU'VE HAD A  
LUCKY ESCAPE.

THE PLASTIC  
HAS BEEN REMOVED  
ALONG WITH A FEW  
LAYERS OF SKIN.

WASN'T VERY  
WISE TO LET THOSE  
FACE MASKS BUILD UP.  
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD  
USE ECO-FRIENDLY OR  
BIO-DEGRADABLE ONES  
FROM NOW ON?

NOW I KNOW  
YOUR VOICE IS GONE  
BUT IT WILL RETURN IN  
A FEW WEEKS.

THAT'S THE  
BAD NEWS. THE  
GOOD NEWS...



YOU WON'T  
HAVE TO WAX YOUR BODY HAIR  
FOR ABOUT FOUR YEARS.







# *Having a Gut full?*

## *The plastic problem hidden in plain sight...*

The human impact on the environment is becoming harder to ignore than ever before; melting ice caps, deforestation, the list goes on. But what about the effects on our bodies?

You may make thoughtful choices; avoiding certain foods to be more healthy, trying not to think about the pesticides and chemicals associated with food production.

Now for the first time, evidence has been found for the presence of micro plastics in the human food chain and gut, the long term consequences are unknown.

Published by Sciencedirect.com the research makes it clear that far from being an external threat, plastic waste has entered the food chain in a way we hadn't known about before.

Follow the link to find out more:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.coesh.2017.10.003>



A SUNNY AFTERNOON AT THE NEW PROJECT  
ON THE ROOF OF THE MATHEMATICS BUILDING.

THANK YOU ALL  
FOR COMING TO THIS NEW  
GARDEN SPACE AT QUEENS  
UNIVERSITY...

**SUSTAINABILITY IS A  
BUZZKILL.**

WE HOPE THIS  
WILL BE A NICE PLACE  
FOR VISITORS, STAFF  
AND A HOME FOR THE  
LOCAL POLLINATORS.

BUT THE TRULY  
GREAT THING ABOUT THIS  
PROJECT IS THAT ITS BEEN  
ENTIRELY FUNDED FROM THE  
PROCEEDS OF THE HONEY  
WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO COLLECT  
AND SELL LOCALLY.

THIS IS  
TERRIFIC SUSAN,  
WELL DONE.

THANKS ALAN,  
HELP YOURSELF TO A  
FREE SAMPLE BEFORE  
YOU GO.

CHEMISTRY STUDENT GORDY STRETCH  
IS THINKING OF OTHER THINGS.

BLOODY WASTE,  
THIS WAS THE BEST  
SMOKING SPOT IN  
THE UNIVERSITY.

I'D KILL EVERY  
BEE IN THE WORLD FOR  
A CIGARETTE.

**AAAAH!**

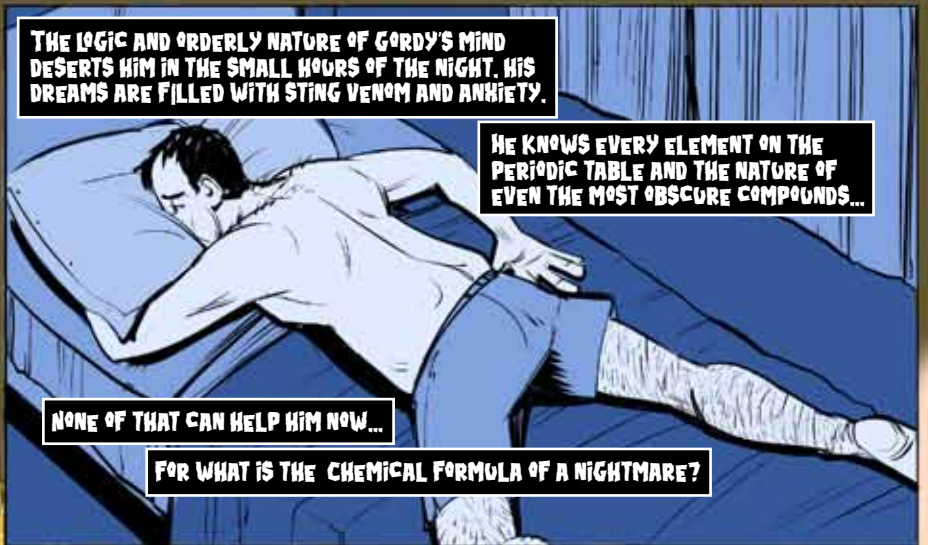
**ZAP**





WOW! THAT STING IS KILLING ME.. AM I HAVING AN ALLERGIC REACTION?

ARE YOU OK?



THE LOGIC AND ORDERLY NATURE OF GORDY'S MIND DESERTS HIM IN THE SMALL HOURS OF THE NIGHT. HIS DREAMS ARE FILLED WITH STING VENOM AND ANXIETY.

HE KNOWS EVERY ELEMENT ON THE PERIODIC TABLE AND THE NATURE OF EVEN THE MOST OBSCURE COMPOUNDS...

NONE OF THAT CAN HELP HIM NOW...

FOR WHAT IS THE CHEMICAL FORMULA OF A NIGHTMARE?



HEY GORDY BZZZZ!

YOU FEELING ALRIGHT?

YOU DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD... LETS SEE.

BZZ BZZZ!

AHH, NOW I SEE GORDY BZZZZ LOOKS LIKE ITS SOMETHING YOU ATE.

BZZ BZZZ!

GET AWAY FROM ME!

GACK!



AHHH!

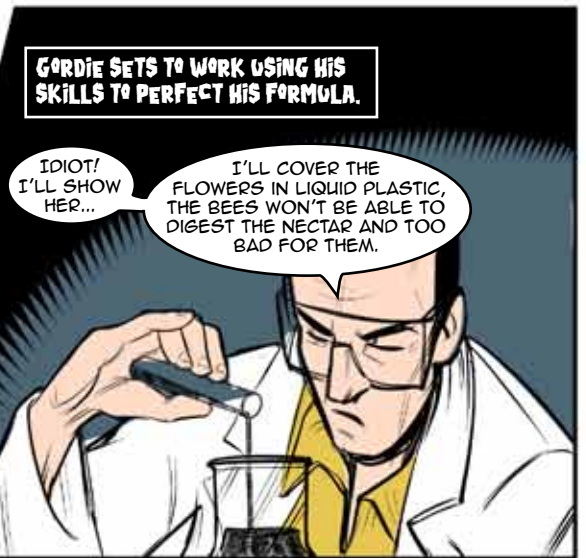


AT WORK THE NEXT DAY GORDY TELLS HIS FRIEND WHAT HAPPENED.

AND THE THING IS I'VE BEEN WORKING ON A FORMULA THAT WOULD KILL EVERY BUZZING INSECT WITHIN A HALF MILE RADIUS.

BIT OF AN OVER REACTION. DON'T YOU KNOW THEY CAN HELP YOU BUILD UP POLLEN IMMUNITY?














**AFTER AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH,  
GORDIE REMAINS ON THE MISSING  
LIST. UNAWARE, THE PASSING  
PUBLIC DON'T SUSPECT THE  
HORRIBLE BEAUTY HIDDEN  
IN THE SHRUBBERY.**

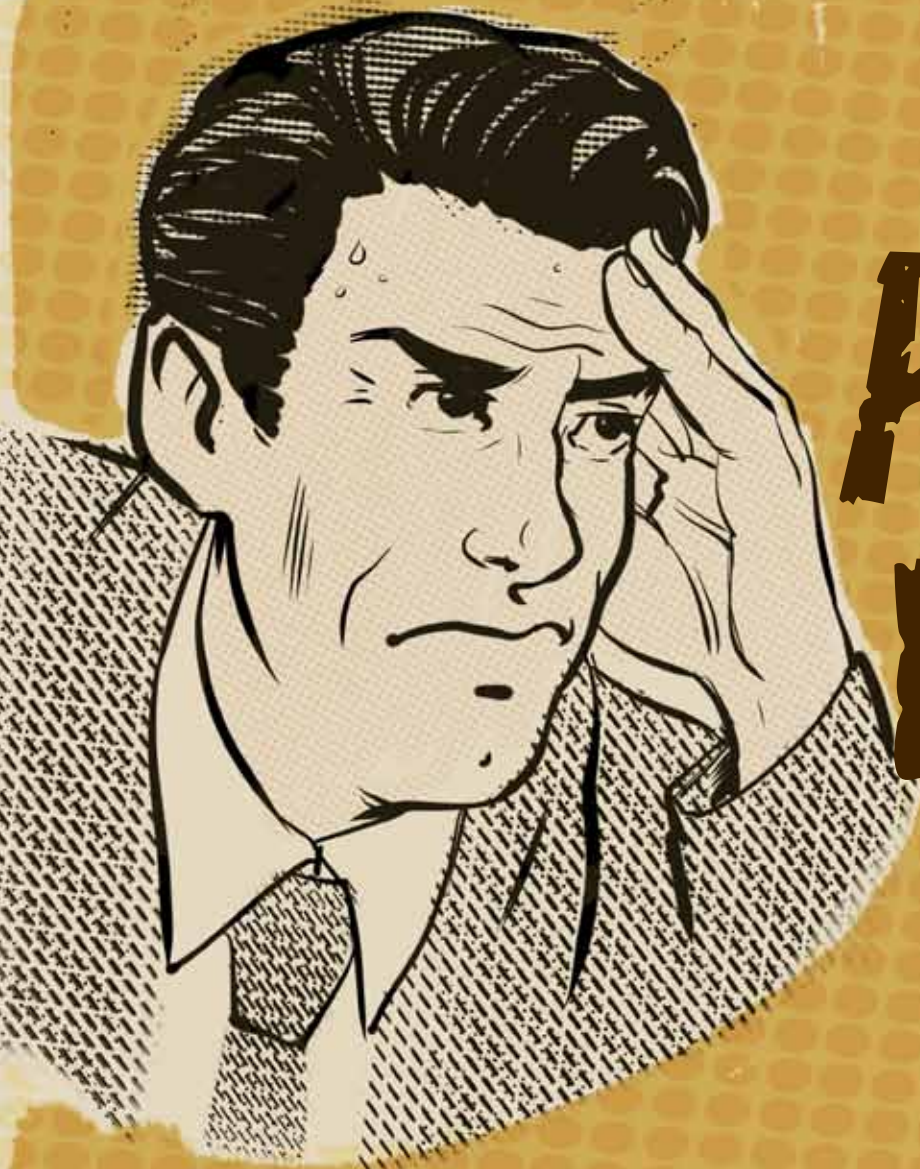
**NATURE AND THE BEES HAVE CLAIMED  
GORDY'S BODY. HIS WISH TO MASTER  
THE NATURAL WORLD HAS  
ENDED IN TRAGEDY.**

**THE BEES HAVE MADE  
HIS BODY THEIR HOME.  
NATURE HAS FEASTED  
ON HIS FLESH.**

**HARMONY WITH  
NATURE IS A STATE  
WE ALL COME TO  
SOONER OR LATER.**

**THE  
END**

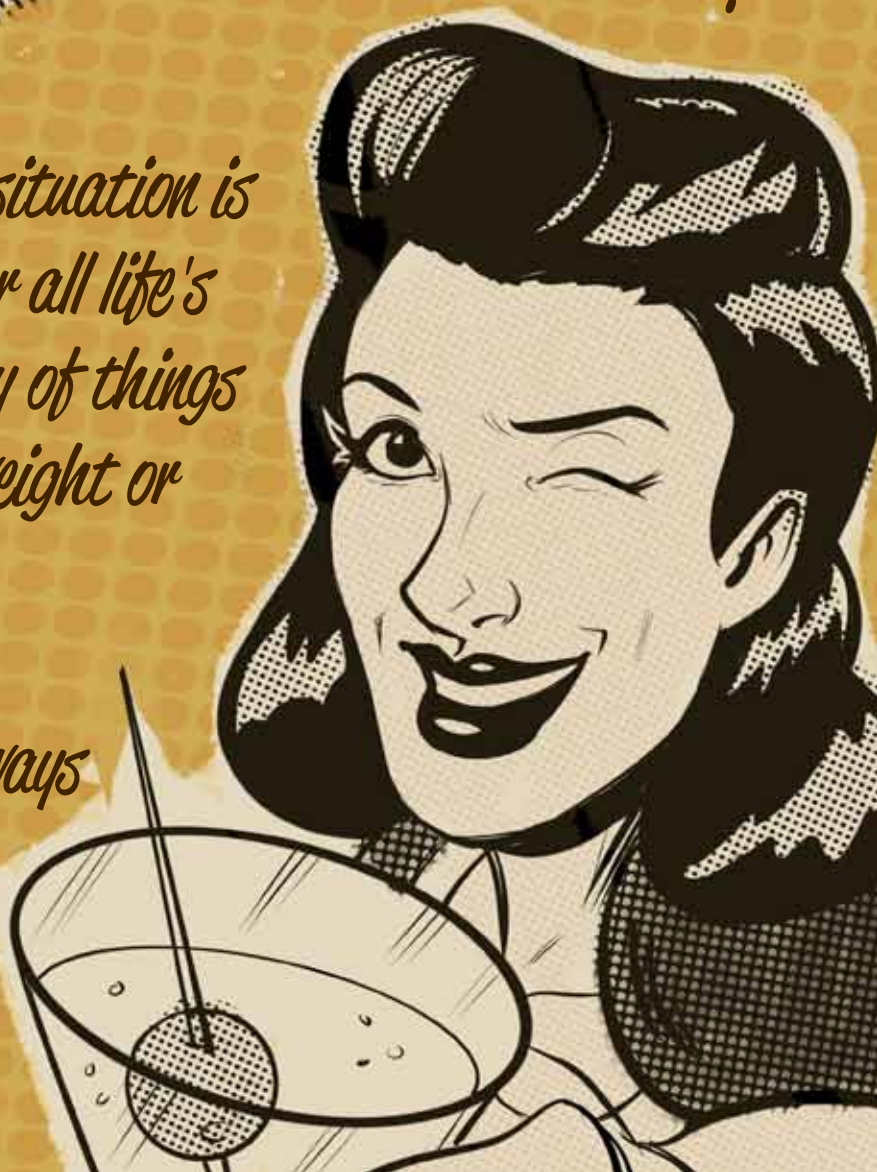




Thoughts about  
**PLASTIC  
WASTE**  
Getting you down?

*Relax! Simply pretend the situation is none of your business, after all life's too short and there's plenty of things to worry about like losing weight or buying shoes.*

*And remember— you can always make the guilty feelings go away with good old denial and self-distraction*





# QUB GREEN COMIC PROJECT BACKGROUND:

With recognition of the need to think more imaginatively and collectively about ways to raise awareness and emotional engagement of Green matters in and around the University campus, a team of staff and students at Queen's University Belfast developed the QUB Green Comic project. Funded by the QUB Green Fund initiative in 2019/2020, the project involved hosting in-person and online workshops with QUB students and staff from diverse disciplines. The aim of the workshops was to co-design an 'educational' comic which strives to raise awareness of the harmful impact of plastic waste and the importance of waste reduction and recycling through an emotive, informative, and enticing visual narrative. Workshops were facilitated by the project lead (Dr Emma Berry, School of Psychology) and a local comic artist (Jim Lavery; [revolvecomics.com](http://revolvecomics.com)).

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**BELFAST CITY COUNCIL STAFF**

## CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TIPS ABOUT WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING:

**QUB:** <https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/StudentPlus/CarbonManagement/>

**QUB:** <https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/EstatesDirectorate/Services/SustainabilityatQueens/>

**WRAP:** <https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/plastic-packaging#>

**CLEAR ON PLASTICS (WRAP):** <https://clearonplastics.com/>

**BELFAST CITY COUNCIL:** <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/recycling>

**BRYSON RECYCLING:** <https://www.brysonrecycling.org/>

**NI DIRECT:** <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/recycling-and-reusing>

## EVALUATION SURVEY LINK:

[shorturl.at/eyORS](https://shorturl.at/eyORS)

