

Flanagan's Running Club – Issue 36

Introduction

The first rule of Flanagan's Running Club is everyone should be telling everyone they know about Flanagan's Running Club! After all, sharing is caring. Details of how to sign up is in the epilogue.

There is no need to panic, there is no actual running involved, it is not a running club in that sense. The title is made up from extending the title of my favourite book – Flanagan's Run by Tom McNab.

So enjoy the read.

On This Day – 10th July

1212 - The most severe of several early fires of London burns most of the city to the ground.

1553 - Lady Jane Grey takes the throne of England.

1913 - The temperature in Death Valley, California, hits 134 -F (57 -C), the highest temperature ever to be recorded on Earth.

1962 - Telstar, the world's first communications satellite, is launched into orbit.

1985 - The Greenpeace vessel Rainbow Warrior is bombed and sunk in Auckland harbour by French DGSE agents, killing Fernando Pereira.

It's Nikola Tesla Day

Statehood Day (Wyoming)

365 Reasons To Be Proud To Be A Londoner - Magical Moments in London's History

Telstar, the first satellite to supply a live transatlantic television feed, and the first privately sponsored space launch, was blasted into orbit today in 1962. Although launched by NASA, it was actually co-designed by the General Post Office and internationally co-ordinated from the BBC Television Centre in London. It also successfully relayed through space the first telephone calls and fax images.

Chuck D Presents This Day In Rap And Hip-Hop History

N.W.A. releases "Straight Outta Compton" on Ruthless.

At the time of their studio debut, N.W.A. was comprised of Dr, Dre, Eazy-E, MC Ren, Ice Cube and DJ Yella, and Arabian Prince - the latter would soon leave the group.

The album was executive produced by Eazy-E, and co-produced by Dr. Dre and DJ Yella. The album samples a wide range of artists, including Funkadelic, James Brown, The Honeydrippers, Public Enemy, Marvin Gaye, Big Daddy Kan, and the Ohio Players.

Challenging racist attitudes, the album spawned three singles, "Straight Outta Compton", "Gangsta Gangsta", and "Express Yourself", which reached the top twenty of the Rap chart. "Straight Outta Compton" also hit the Billboard Hot 100 in 2015, after the release of the biopic of the same name, a first for N.W.A.

The classic protest song "Fuck Tha Police" contributed greatly to N.W.A. earning a reputation in the late 80s as 'the world's most dangerous group'.

"Straight Outta Compton" was key in establishing West Coast, gangsta rap, and is consistently considered one of the single greatest hip-hop albums of all time. Hitting #37 on the Billboard 200 with little airplay, it has sold more than three million records and had been certified triple platinum.

Births

1856 - Nikola Tesla

1945 - Virginia Wade

1954 - Neil Tennant

Deaths

138 - Hadrian

1989 - Mel Blanc

Number 1's

Number 1 single in 1966 - The Kinks - Sunny Afternoon

Number 1 album in 1968 - The Small Faces - Ogden's Nut Gone Flake

Top 10

The top ten in the UK singles chart on this day in 1958

Position	Last Week's Position	Title	Artist	Label	Peak Position	Weeks on Chart
1=	1	ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE	VIC DAMONE	PHILIPS	1	9
1=	2	ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DREAM/CLAUDETTE	THE EVERLY BROTHERS	LONDON	1	7
3	8	TULIPS FROM AMSTERDAM/YOU NEED HANDS	MAX BYGRAVES	DECCA	3	10
4	3	WHO'S SORRY NOW	CONNIE FRANCIS	MGM	1	14
5	10	BIG MAN	FOUR PREPS	CAPITOL	5	4
6	12	TWILIGHT TIME	PLATTERS	MERCURY	6	8
7	6	WITCH DOCTOR	DON LANG AND HIS FRANTIC FIVE	HMV	5	7
8	9	BOOK OF LOVE	MUDLARKS	COLUMBIA	8	5
9	6	TOM HARK	ELIAS AND HIS ZIGZAG JIVE FLUTES	COLUMBIA	2	11
10	5	THE SIGNATURE TUNE OF 'THE ARMY GAME'	MICHAEL MEDWIN, BERNARD BRESSLAW, ALFIE BASS AND LESLIE FYSON	HMV	5	6

Drabble

A drabble is a complete story that is exactly one hundred words long.

Billy Goes To A Wedding

Billy sat at the back of the church, he hadn't been inside a church since his funeral, he wasn't a religious type.

He was here because for the wedding, one of the boys he'd been at school with was getting married.

Billy hadn't been invited but had happened to see the wedding banns in the local paper and decided to turn up anyway.

The priest was getting to the good bit.

"Does anyone here know of any lawful impediment..."

Billy jumped up and shouted, "Yes, the groom is already married!"

That will teach him for having bullied Billy at school.

Joke

A snake slithered into a bar and asked the bartender for a beer. "Sorry", said the bartender, "I'm afraid I can't serve you."

"Why not?" asked the snake.

"Because you can't hold your drink."

Random Items

Facts

When opossums are playing 'possum, they are not "playing." They actually pass out from sheer terror.

All of the clocks in the movie Pulp Fiction are stuck on 4:20

The average ear of corn has eight-hundred kernels arranged in sixteen rows

Thoughts

why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?

Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?

Time may be a great healer, but it's also a lousy beautician.

Words You Should Know

Licit

Legal, above board - less commonly used than its opposite illicit, and frequently applied to the lawful side of something that is often unlawful: licit arms dealing, for example, or the licit use of class A drugs.

Popular Expressions – What They Mean And Where We Got Them

Flavour Of The Month

A generic American advertising phrase of the mid 1940s attempting to persuade shoppers to buy a new flavour of ice cream each month and not just stick to their usual choice.

Since then, it has been used to describe and short-lived fashion, craze or person that is quickly dropped after a period of being in demand.

Darwin Award

Just say no!

A police officer who regularly lectured addiction counsellors on the danger of illicit drugs proved that actions speak louder than words when he was found dead of a heroin overdose. He had taken heroin and cocaine from a police exhibits 'without filing the proper forms' and apparently overdosed while experimenting with the narcotics. He unfortunately didn't heed the creed written on his own patrol car: "Say no to drugs!"

What The Hygge!

sheep-shygge (n.) (perj.)

variant of hygge popular in remote rural areas.

The Secrets Lives of Colours

A great book that goes into details about how colours got their names and their history of use. By Kassia St. Clair, it is well worth buying.

Madder

'The flower is very small, and of a greenish yellow colour,' the man said. 'The root is cylindrical and fleshy, and of a reddish yellow colour.' The audience did not know it yet, but the lecture being delivered to the Royal Society of the Arts in London on the evening of 8 May 1879 was going to be a long one. Though the speaker was distinguished, with an imposingly full set of whiskers, he was neither naturally entertaining, nor brief. Over several hours William Henry Perkin, the scientist and businessman who had discovered mauve and revolutionised the dye industry, told the assembled listeners, in rich, exact detail, about another breakthrough: the synthesis of alizarin. By the end, only the most determined of his listeners would have grasped the significance of his achievement. Alizarin was the red

colourant in the roots of *Rubia tinctorum*, *Rubia peregrina* and *Rubia cordifolia*, better known as madder. Perkin had been able to create in a lab something hitherto only produced by nature.

As he went on to explain to his increasingly inattentive listeners, madder is an ancient dyestuff. Although madder plants are unprepossessing, their pinkish roots, when dried and crushed, pounded and sifted, relinquish a fluffy, orange-brown powdery pigment that has been a long-serving source of red. It was used in Egypt from about 1500 BC, and fabric stained with the plant's root was found in Tutankhamun's tomb. Pliny wrote of its importance in the classical world, and it was discovered among the wares of a paint-maker's shop in the fossilised city of Pompeii. Once the use of mordents that made madder more colourfast spread, its influence grew still further. India's chintz fabrics were printed with it; it dyed medieval wedding clothes an appropriately celebratory shade; and it was used as a cheaper alternative to cochineal for British redcoats. It could also be used to make rose madder paint, a bright pinky-red artists' pigment, which George Field waxed passionate about in *Chromatography* in 1835.

It was as a dye, however, that the big money could be made from madder. For a long time, the Turkish had a monopoly on a special method of using madder to obtain a red so bright it could almost trump its more expensive rivals. In the eighteenth century, first the Dutch, then the French and finally the British uncovered the malodorous secret of Turkey Red – it was a tortuous process involving rancid castor oil, ox blood and dung. The trade must have seemed unassailable. By 1860 imports to Britain were worth over £1 million annually but were often of poor quality. The French were accused of adulterating their madder with everything from brick dust to oats.

The cost soared too: by 1868 a 100-weight cost 30 shillings, a week's wages for a labourer. A year later the same amount would cost just 8 shillings. This, of course, was due to the simultaneous discovery by Mr Perkin in Britain, and three German scientists in Berlin, of the process for synthesising alizarin. For the first time in history, clothes could be dyed madder red without a single *Rubia tinctorum* being uprooted.

Brewers Britain & Ireland

The history, culture, folklore and etymology of 7,500 places in these islands.

Shoreham-by-Sea

'homestead by a steep bank or slope', Old English *scora* 'steep bank or slope' + -HAM (Old English, *ham* – 'home or estate'.)

A town and port in West Sussex at the mouth of the River ADUR, about six miles west of BRIGHTON. It has been a busy port since the late Middle Ages (it was the most important Channel port in the 16th and 17th centuries), and the construction of a basin here in the 1850s ensured it a healthy share of south coast commercial traffic. It also has its own airfield: opened in 1910 it is the oldest licensed aerodrome in the United Kingdom. The chimneys of the nearby Portslade power station used to be a landmark for many miles around; only one remains.

Shoreham was a cradle of the British film industry: the Sunny South and Sealight Film Company was set up here, in 'Bungalow Town', in 1913, and the operation was taken over shortly afterwards by Sidney Morgan's Progress Film Company. The studios burned down in 1922, and Shoreham's chance of becoming a second Hollywood went with them.

If anyone has any place names they'd like to see then let me know and if they're in the book I'll put them in.

Quote

Whilst sat in our garden for birthday drinks, it started raining, and Lianne put up a clear plastic umbrella over her head.

Macca – Oh look, it's princess mushroom.

Flash Fiction

Something between the 100 word shortness of a Drabble, and the short story, these are works of fiction somewhere between five hundred and seven hundred words.

Dave

His name was Dave, and where he came from was a mystery to all of the group, as was where he ended up every night when they all went home. None of them could ever remember meeting Dave for the first time; neither the time nor place, it was like he's always been there. No one would ever admit to telling Dave where they were going to be, it was almost as if there was some magic force drawing Dave to them, wherever there were three or more of them

gathered together. Not that they really minded, it wasn't as if he was intrusive, yet somehow at the same time he wasn't boring, he was just there.

It must have been about five years since they had begun to notice that Dave was there, and in all that time not one of them had ever been to his house, or for that matter even knew where he lived, and by the same token, none of them could ever remember Dave ever coming to their houses. In fact, they were quite sure that the only time Dave wasn't around when the group assembled was at house parties, he only ever appeared when they were in the pub.

Her name was Susan, she knew the rest due to the fact that she had started going out with Niall a couple of years before, they had spilt up, but she had remained part of the group. She had taken her time to notice Dave, as seemed to be the case with everyone. He was handsome enough, and seemed really nice, and as far as she knew (or anyone else she had spoken to about him knew) he didn't appear to have had a partner, or to have had one at any stage. She had for the last few weeks been making every effort to talk to Dave, and to try and drop subtle hints that she liked him, but despite it all, Dave stayed the same as ever, just being nice.

She decided that this had to change and made herself a plan to pull Dave on the Friday. Wearing sexy, but not tarty clothing, and her expensive perfume, she arrived late enough to make a bit of an entrance, and got a bit of leg pulling, but no response from Dave. She went up to him and asked him "How do I look Dave?" Very nice was the somewhat muted response. Susan could stand no more and took Dave by the hand and led him outside. She pulled him close to her and leaned in and kissed him, and he disappeared.

Not disappeared as in doing a runner but disappeared into thin air. One moment there was a kiss, the next, fresh air. Susan looked around in a state of bewilderment. After a couple of seconds, she heard Dave's voice coming from right in front of her.

I'm sorry, but I wasn't expecting you to kiss me, and therefore was unable to stop the illusion shattering. You see I'm not really alive in any sense of the real world. Only my ether really remains, for some reason when I was run over just over six years ago, I was separated from my body, and left here. Within time I learnt how to construct myself a persona that people could see and hear, and speak to and have minimal contact. Early on I found that I could keep the illusion going through casual contact with people and objects, but prolonged contact, or intimate contact would cause the illusion to shatter. It's been hard to stay around the same people, and I need to public places I appear at to draw strength to keep the image going. I'm sorry you have developed feelings for me, I tried not to let it happen. Good luck for the rest of your life, and thank you for that one kiss.

With that Dave reappeared as bright as she had ever seen him, and then disappeared never to be seen again. Within a couple of weeks everyone had let Dave slip from their consciousness in the same way he had arrived. All except for Susan; who would never forget him.

Leicestershire

River Lin

The River Lin is a river which runs through North Leicestershire. The source of the river is in Ulverscroft, near Charnwood Forest. The river runs through Bradgate Park before the river runs into the River Soar in Quorn. The river also feeds Cropston Reservoir and Swithland Reservoir. The river runs for around 17 kilometres between its source and confluence with the River Soar. The river is described as one of Leicestershire's shortest rivers.

The source of the river is at the head of the Ulverscroft Valley, where a number of small streams converge. At this point, the river is named locally as the Ulverscroft Brook. The source of the river is 163m above sea level. Freshwater from the brook was diverted to feed Lord Stamford's Pond. The Stamford family were major landowners in the area, owning the land which later became Bradgate Park. The river passed close by Ulverscroft Mill. Water from the river would also serve Grace Dieu Priory.

Water from the river feeds into Cropston Reservoir. The river passes through the village of Newtown Linford and through the lower area of Bradgate Park. The river gives its name to Newtown Linford, with the village being named due to its location as a ford over the river Lin. The river continues downstream through Bradgate Park towards Swithland Woods. Beyond Swithland Woods, the river continues towards the River Soar, with the confluence with the River Soar towards the town of Quorn.

The river supports a number of habitats, and is described as a high-quality watercourse. The river itself is a habitat for a number of species, including white-clawed crayfish and species of fish. The river also supports a number of other habitats, providing a source of water for communities of animals including the deer in the ancient deer park at Bradgate Park. The river is protected within a conservation area of the Leicestershire Wildlife Trust.

St. Nicholas', Lockington

Lockington, set at the very north of the county on the west side, is one of the very oldest villages in the country, dating back well before Roman times, and being a thriving Ancient Briton settlement, and having finds dating back to the Iron age. Hemington dates from Saxon times, and has been linked with Lockington for centuries.

There are records of a parish here dating back to Saxon times, and there was certainly a Norman church on the site of the existing church, as parts of its remains can be found in the current church, which dates from the 13th century. It has been suggested that the church was originally dedicated to St Mary. This may come from the fact that the church of St. Nicholas was among the early possessions of the abbey of St. Mary in the Meadows without Leicester, commonly called Leicester abbey, and the rectory was appropriated by the abbot and convent before the 13th century, the cure of souls being served, according to the usual arrangement in such cases, by a secular priest as vicar.

The font and the voussoirs in the north aisle remain from the original Norman church and date from the 12th century, when the church was rebuilt in the early 13th century; it was only with a nave and chancel, and a north door. The north aisle was added later and incorporated the voussoirs that were still standing. The tower was built at this time; however, it wasn't at the current height as it was altered by later building work. The south aisle was rebuilt and widened early in the 14th century, and the north aisle was done later in the 14th century.

From the point of view of its fabric, the church, apart from its handsome tower, is not more remarkable than the average of spacious village churches of its period. In the matter of furniture, however, it is quite exceptional, and is fortunate in having escaped the hand of the restorer. The accompanying illustrations show the 15th century roodscreen and the enter close of the chapel at the east end of the south aisle, the 17th century altar rails and modification of the lower part of the openings of the roodscreen, the elaborate wooden tympanum of 1704 which covers the chancel arch and the east wall of the nave, and the later pulpit, reading desk and pewing. The tympanum is a remarkable piece of work of unusual design and excellent detail, and is much superior in execution to any of the few examples of its kind which still remain in England: the effect of the composition, however, is not improved by the theatrical looped curtains which are painted as a canopy to the royal arms. It is much to be hoped that every effort will be made to preserve this and the rest of the furniture of the church in good repair, and to avoid the unnecessary alterations which have deprived so many of our churches of interesting fittings, in themselves far better and more suitable than the modern work which has taken their place. The building also contains some mediaeval benches and a large number of fragments of 14th century stained glass.

During the 15th century the nave roof was replaced, and the clerestory added to allow more light in, and the benches were added in the nave. The tower was refaced and raised to its current height of 75 feet tall, and now houses six bells.

The chancel was raised and re-roofed in the 16th century. The parish register dates from 1557.

During the 18th century the pulpit was added, and the galleries were erected, these were restored in the early 20th century, at which time the organ was added. The south porch was rebuilt in 1946. For some reason the church seemed to miss out completely on the 19th century restoration extravaganza, and isn't any worse off for doing so.

It is a Grade I listed building.

It is now in the Benefice of Castle Donington and Lockington cum Hemington with the church of St Edward King and Martyr, Castle Donington.

Ratcliffe Culey

Ratcliffe Culey is a village in Leicestershire, near the county boundary with Warwickshire. It is part of the civil parish of Witherley.

The village has the Church of England parish church of All Saints, a pub called The Gate public house, a post office and a greyhound kennels.

The toponym "Ratcliffe" is derived from Old English, referring to the local red clay and the fact that it is on high land. Culey is the name of a former lord of the manor.

In June 1646 the town of Ratcliffe Culey submitted claims to the Warwickshire county committee for losses and free quarter from the parliamentary garrisons in Warwickshire. Colonel Purefoy, Captain Potter and Major Pout of the Coventry garrison were charged for "free quarter" worth an estimated £12 6s 8d Captain Turton is said to have taken six horses worth £6. On another occasion the parish claimed for 6 saddles worth £1 10s taken by Lieutenant Hunt of the Astley garrison and a mare worth £3 taken from Thomas Richardson.

Top Ten

The ten shortest reigning monarchs of England and Britain.

Pos	Monarch	Length of Reign
1	Lady Jane Grey	9 days
2	Edward V	78 days
3	Edmund Ironside	222 days
4	Harold Godwinson	282 days
5	Edward VIII	326 days
6	Richard III	2 years, 58 days
7	Harthacnut	2 years, 84 days
8	Edward the Martyr	2 years, 254 days
9	Eadwig	3 years, 313 days
10	James II	3 years, 321 days

Poetry Corner

Sunglasses At Night

The black plastic wraparound sunglasses are on my face
 I like to think that I carry them off with an easy grace
 There's no need for eye contact with anyone else in the pub
 No one can see my eyes are closed as I sleep in the club
 A man shouts at me to take those god damn glasses off
 "Stop hiding the doorway to your soul", but I just scoff
 I felt naked without the sunglasses sat perched on my nose
 They make me feel comfortable, with them my confident grows
 I've worn red, yellow, pink, blue, green and other colours galore
 I've lost count of how many pairs have been crushed on the floor
 I'm dancing now, the floor is packed with people all around me
 Hands snatch the glasses, someone else dances with them madly
 They may return, or they may not, I don't worry I have another pair
 Funky yellow cycling glasses out of my back pocket that I can wear
 When the music stops, and it is time to leave and go home
 Past the bar the bouncers and the room filled with foam
 The sunglasses are still on for the kebab and the taxi ride
 And I don't take them off until my bed I happen to be inside

Cathedral Fact Files

Cathedral	Truro Cathedral		
Dedicated To	St Mary		
Type	Mock Medieval	Architecture	Gothic
Religion	COE	Tower / Spire	3 Spires
Site Founded	1529	Height (External)	250ft
Church Founded	1880	Height (Internal)	89ft
Bishopric Founded	1877	Length	300ft
Current Bishopric Founded	1877	Width	137ft

Thirty-Three And One Third Revolutions Per Minute

NWA – Straight Outta Compton

Straight Outta Compton is the debut studio album by American hip hop group N.W.A, released August 8, 1988, on group member Eazy-E's record label Ruthless Records. Production for the album was handled by Dr. Dre with DJ Yella. The album has been viewed as the pioneering record of gangsta rap with its pervasive graphic profanity and violent lyrics. This was the group's only release with rapper Ice Cube prior to his 1989 departure. It has been considered to be one of the greatest and most influential hip hop records by music writers and has had an enormous impact on the evolution of mainstream hip hop.

Straight Outta Compton redefined the direction of hip hop, which resulted in lyrics concerning the gangster lifestyle becoming the driving force in sales figures. It was later remastered and re-released on September 24, 2002,

containing four bonus tracks. An extended version of the album was released on December 4, 2007, honouring the 20th anniversary of the original album. On April 14, 2015, Universal Music Group reissued the album on a Limited-Edition red cassette as part of their Respect The Classics series. In 2003, it was ranked number 144 in Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time, maintaining the rating in a 2012 revised list, the fifth highest ranking for a hip-hop album on the list. In 2017, it was selected for preservation in the National Recording Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or artistically significant".

The album reached triple platinum sales status, initially reaching platinum status with no airplay support and without any major tours.

As the hip hop community worldwide received the album with a high note, the members of N.W.A became the top stars for the emerging new era of gangsta rap while popularizing the lyrics of Ice Cube and MC Ren. The album also helped to spawn many young MCs and gangsta hip hop groups from areas such as Compton, California, and South Central Los Angeles, as many thought they had the same story to tell and the ability to pursue the career track that N.W.A had taken, hence the formation of groups such as Compton's Most Wanted.

Because of the recurring violent and sexual lyrics and profanity, often specifically directed at governmental organizations such as the LAPD, N.W.A always enjoyed a particular reputation with U.S. Senators and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), as noted in the LP's published notes. This situation persisted over the years with the group's visible head, Eazy-E. One of the reasons for this was "fuck tha Police", the highly controversial track from the album that resulted in the FBI and the U.S. Secret Service sending a letter to Ruthless Records informing the label of their displeasure with the song's message, and that N.W.A was banned from performing at several venues. The FBI letter only helped further popularize the album and N.W.A.; In the group's 1990 song "100 Miles and Runnin'", while the music video shows the crew running from the police, Dr. Dre raps "and now the FBI is all over my dick!" as a response to the FBI's warnings. Also, in his 1990 song "AmeriKKKa's Most Wanted", Ice Cube mocks the FBI with the line "With a pay-off, cop gotta lay off, FBI on my dick, stay off".

The lyrics on the album were written by Ice Cube, MC Ren, and The D.O.C. Some critics of the album expressed their view that the record glamorized Black-on-Black crime, but others stated that the group was simply showing the reality of living in the areas of Compton, California, and South-Central Los Angeles. Steve Huey in a retrospective review for AllMusic feels that the lyrics are more about "raising hell" than social criticism, but also feels the album is "refreshingly uncalculated" due to its humour—something he feels is rare in hardcore rap.

The production on the album was generally seen as top-quality for the time, with Dr. Dre's production performing well with the drum machine beats and DJ Yella's turntable scratches. Some critics find it somewhat sparse and low budget given the significance of the album and compared with other producers of the time, such as Marley Marl.

The album's most controversial track, "fuck tha Police", was partly responsible for the fame of N.W.A as the "World's Most Dangerous Group", and it did not appear on the censored version of the album. The song "Gangsta Gangsta" talks about the danger and violence in South Central and Compton. "Express Yourself" speaks of the ideas of free expression and the constraints placed on performers by radio censorship. Every N.W.A member except DJ Yella recorded a solo song. MC Ren made his solo performance on two songs; "If It Ain't Ruff" and "Quiet on the Set". Dr. Dre, who mostly produced rather than performed, did a solo effort on the single "Express Yourself". Ice Cube performed on "I Ain't tha 1". Eazy-E's only solo recording was a remix of the song "8 Ball", which appeared on N.W.A's previous album N.W.A. and the Posse. The only guests on the album were Ruthless Records ghost-writer the D.O.C., who appeared on "Parental Discretion Iz Advised", rhyming the intro, and founding N.W.A member Arabian Prince, who contributed minor vocals on "Something 2 Dance 2".

The album first appeared on music charts in 1989, peaking on the US Billboard Top LPs chart at number 37, and peaking on Billboard's Top Soul LPs at number 9. It re-entered the charts in 2003, peaking on the UK Albums Top 75 at number 35, and on the Ireland Albums Top 75 at number 20.

The album has sold over three million copies and was certified triple platinum on November 11, 2015. It was N.W.A's best-selling album, as their debut, N.W.A and the Posse, was certified gold by the RIAA. Their final album, Niggaz4Life, was certified double platinum by the RIAA. According to Priority Records' calculations, 80% of sales were in the suburbs, beyond the boundaries of black neighbourhoods. A week before release of the 2015 biopic film *Straight Outta Compton*, the album re-entered the Billboard 200 at number 173. It later rose to number 30 due to the popularity of the film, surpassing its original peak position back in 1989 when it peaked at number 37. The album peaked at number 4 following the opening weekend of the movie. On November 11, 2015, the album was certified triple platinum by the RIAA for exceeding sales of 3 million copies in the US.

The album cover and title has been parodied by American cartoonist Bill Holbrook for his Kevin and Kell 2004 collection as "Straight Outta Computers"; Welsh novelty hip hop group Goldie Lookin Chain for their 2005 album, *Straight Outta Newport*; "Weird Al" Yankovic's 2006 album, *Straight Outta Lynwood*; and Australian grindcore band Blood Duster's 1997 album *Str8 Outta Northcote*. Punk rock band NOFX released a song titled "Straight Outta Massachusetts" on their *Cokie the Clown* EP. In the 2014 film *22 Jump Street*, Mrs. Dickson states that she's "straight

outta Compton" when talking about her and her husband's (played by Ice Cube) backgrounds. In 2015, a biopic titled Straight Outta Compton about the group was released.

The Miracle Mile Shot is a still photograph of N.W.A. created by L.A. photographer/artist Ithaka Darin Pappas, that was used as the official press photo for the album. It was subsequently printed in hundreds of newspapers and magazines during 1989, including the May 1989 cover of The Source to illustrate the article, "California Rap Hits Nationwide!".

The Miracle Mile Shot was made on November 11, 1988 at the photographer's small studio-apartment in the Miracle Mile district of Los Angeles. During the same session promotional images of the young female rapper, Big Lady K, and images of Eazy E to promote his album, Eazy-Duz-It (released almost simultaneously with Straight Outta Compton) were also made to promote his album Eazy-er Said Than Dunn.

Of the only two or three rolls of film made of N.W.A as a group that day, The Miracle Mile Shot was selected as the press image. It is the only existing image of all five prominent members of the group; DJ Yella, Dr. Dre, Eazy E, Ice Cube and MC Ren without sunglasses and all looking at the camera.

Track listing

All songs were produced by Dr. Dre and DJ Yella

Side One

No. - Title - Writer(s) - Performer(s) - Samples - Length

1 - "Straight Outta Compton" - Ice Cube MC Ren The D.O.C. - Ice Cube MC Ren Eazy-E - "Funky Drummer" by James Brown, "You'll Like It Too" by Funkadelic, "West Coast Poplock" by Ronnie Hudson and the Street People, "Get Me Back on Time, Engine No. 9" by Wilson Pickett, "Amen, Brother" by The Winstons, "One for the Treble" by Davy DMX - 4:18. Not originally released as a single, but hit number 66 on the UK singles chart in 2015 after the release of the film.

2 - "Fuck tha Police" - Ice Cube MC Ren - Ice Cube MC Ren Eazy-E - "Funky President (People It's Bad)" by James Brown, "It's My Thing" by Marva Whitney, "Boogie Back" by Roy Ayers, "Feel Good" by Fancy, "Funky Drummer" by James Brown, "Ruthless Villain" by Eazy-E, "Be Thankful for What You Got" by William DeVaughn - 5:45. Not originally released as a single, but hit number 97 on the UK singles chart in 2015 after the release of the film.

3 - "Gangsta Gangsta" - Ice Cube MC Ren The D.O.C. - Ice Cube Eazy-E MC Ren - "Weak at the Knees" by Steve Arrington, "Troglodyte" by Jimmy Castor Bunch, "Be Thankful for What You Got" by William DeVaughn, "Impeach the President" by The Honey Drippers, "N.T." by Kool & the Gang

"Funky Worm" by Ohio Players, "Prison" by Richard Pryor, "My Philosophy" by Boogie Down Productions (KRS-One), "La Di Da Di" by Doug E. Fresh and Slick Rick, "Girls" by Beastie Boys, "Ruthless Villain" by Eazy-E, "Take the Money and Run" by Steve Miller Band - 5:36. 2nd single release off the album, it reached number 70 on the UK singles chart.

4 - "If It Ain't Ruff" - MC Ren - MC Ren - "A Star in the Ghetto" by Average White Band, "Quiet on the Set" and "Straight Outta Compton" by N.W.A, "Ruthless Villain" by Eazy-E, "Don't Believe the Hype" by Public Enemy - 3:34

5 - "Parental Discretion Iz Advised" - The D.O.C. (also for Dr. Dre) MC Ren Ice Cube - The D.O.C. Dr. Dre MC Ren Ice Cube Eazy-E - "I Turned You On" by The Isley Brothers and Dave "Baby" Cortez - 5:15

6 - "8 Ball (Remix)" - Ice Cube - Eazy-E - "It's My Beat" by Sweet Tea, "Be Thankful for What You Got" by William DeVaughn, "Yes, We Can Can" by The Pointer Sisters, "(You Gotta) Fight for Your Right (To Party!)", "The New Style", "Girls", "Paul Revere", and "Hold It Now, Hit It" by Beastie Boys, "Terminator X Speaks With His Hands" and "Too Much Posse" by Public Enemy, "Hollywood Swinging" by Kool & the Gang, "Let's Get It On" by Marvin Gaye, "Go See the Doctor" by Kool Moe Dee, "Boyz-n-the-Hood" by Eazy-E, "My Melody" by Eric B. & Rakim - 4:52

7 - "Something Like That" - MC Ren (also for Dr. Dre) - MC Ren Dr. Dre - "Down on the Avenue" by Fat Larry's Band, "Take the Money and Run" by Steve Miller Band, "I Think I'll Do It" by Z. Z. Hill - 3:35

Side Two

8 - "Express Yourself" - Ice Cube - Dr. Dre - "Express Yourself" by Charles Wright & the Watts 103rd Street Rhythm Band, "Dopeman" by N.W.A - 4:25. Reached number 26 on the UK Singles chart, the B-side was a "clean" version of the album's title track, which just sounds odd.

9 - "Compton's N the House (Remix)" - MC Ren (also for Dr. Dre) - MC Ren Dr. Dre - "Something Like That" by N.W.A - 5:20

10 - "I Ain't tha 1" - Ice Cube - Ice Cube - "The Message (Inspiration)" by Brass Construction - 4:54

11 - "Dopeman (Remix)" - Ice Cube - Ice Cube Eazy-E - "Dance to the Drummer's Beat" by Herman Kelly and Life, "Funky Worm" by Ohio Players, "My Posse" by C.I.A. - 5:20

12 - "Quiet On tha Set" - MC Ren - MC Ren - "Down to the Grissle" by Cool C, "Funky Drummer" by James Brown, "I Get Lifted" by George McCrae, "Rock Creek Park" by The Blackbyrds, "Take the Money and Run" by Steve Miller Band, "Straight Outta Compton" by N.W.A, "On the Bugged Tip" by Big Daddy Kane, "Rebel Without a Pause" by Public Enemy - 3:59

13 - "Something 2 Dance 2" - Arabian Prince - Arabian Prince DJ Yella Dr. Dre Eazy-E - "You're the One for Me" by D-Train, "Dance to the Music" by Sly and the Family Stone - 3:23

Personnel

Ice Cube – rapping on six songs
Eazy-E – rapping on seven songs
MC Ren – rapping on eight songs
Arabian Prince – rapping on one song, keyboards, drum programming on five songs
The D.O.C. – rapping on one song
Dr. Dre – keyboards, drum programming on five songs, rapping on five songs
DJ Yella – sampling, drum programming on seven songs, rapping on one song

Charts

Chart (1989) - Peak position
US Billboard Top LPs - 37
US Billboard Top Soul LPs - 9
Australian Albums (ARIA) - 51
New Zealand Albums (RMNZ) - 43
Irish Albums Chart - 20
UK Albums Chart - 35

Certifications

Region - Certification - Certified units/sales
United Kingdom (BPI) - Platinum - 300,000
United States (RIAA) - 3x Platinum - 3,000,000

Story Time

When I'm Cleaning Satellites

I really should have studied properly when I was at school. I could be doing a proper job now if I had. I could be a bartender, a spaceship washer or a refuelling jockey. But no, I was too much of a smart arse to do any studying at school on Gemini III. I thought I didn't need to do any studying. I thought I would be moving back to Earth where I could be a professional slacker; living off my father's money once he had finished his term as the human ambassador to the Castor half of the Gemini system.

But no, the daft bastard got caught trying to rip off a pair of Geminise hookers by giving them counterfeit credits after shagging himself senseless with them. He had been holed up in the Gemini VII penitentiary ever since and was going to die there. If there was one thing the Castor Geminise hated, it was their hookers being ripped off.

With his incarceration I'd had my travel privileges revoked and so was stuck in this cess pit of a system. As I've said, all the good jobs had gone. Gone to the Geminise swots who had studied at school instead of listening to music and pretending to write notes.

Therefore, I'd ended up having to be a satellite repair man. Only the really stupid normally ended up with this kind of role. Spending god knows how many hours at a time floating around a satellite in orbit. Connected by a tatty piece of tubing which doubled as a tether and an air supply. Standard life expectancy of a repairman was four years. I was ahead of the game on that, this was my sixth year, but the probability of floating off into space with no air got bigger with each passing day.

Additionally, a lot of these satellites were floating around in the disputed zones. Those areas along the centre of the Gemini system that both the Castor Geminise and the Pollux Geminise claimed as their own. Coming from the more relaxed Castor side, if we happened upon a Pollux side engineer – working twice as fast with their extra set of arms – we let them be. Yet if us “normals” from the Castor side got picked up on the Pollux side, or in a disputed zone we could be held indefinitely by the racist twats in the Pollux space force.

I had lost six months in one of their holding bays whilst they completed the paperwork. Only for them to decide I wasn't worth keeping and for them to send me back to the Castor side.

The satellite I'd been sent to today definitely wasn't in Castor space. It was also far beyond a stretch to say it was in a disputed zone. In fact, if it had got any further into Pollux side it would have been in the Cancer constellation instead. How the hell anyone was receiving anything from this particular satellite in Castor side space was a miracle of not too modern communications.

It was in orbit around Cantidade IV. I should have just quit my job on the spot instead of agreeing to come out here. The planet was notorious as the biggest hive of racist halfwits in the entire system. They had six, thousand-mile diameter wide holograms displaying a no humans allowed on this planet sign. It could be seen from all the neighbouring planets in all directions.

The satellite I had been tasked to work on was virtually inside the head of the human on one of the holograms.

As I floated around the satellite trying to work out just what exactly was supposed to be wrong with the damn thing, I didn't notice the local space force cruiser approach from the planet. It wasn't until they zapped me with an immobiliser beam that I knew they were there. By that stage it was far too late to do anything about escaping.

They added a tractor beam to the mix, and I felt myself being pulled away from the satellite and the tubing connecting me to my ship became taut. It held me in place for a few seconds before it snapped, and I rushed towards the cruiser. With my air supply gone I passed out before I got there.

I woke with a start to find one of the purple Pollux space force standing over me jabbering away in some unrecognisable attempt at speech. I tried to focus, trying to make out what they were saying, but understanding was just outside of my reach. I saw that the space force officer was holding me down with his arms, so I felt brave enough to give them some stick.

"Shut up you purple freak, no one understands what the hell you are saying, and furthermore no one cares."

I had forgotten they had two sets of arms and so the slap across the face came as a massive surprise.

"Do you understand that you scummy human?"

Yes, I understood perfectly now, they were messing with me.

"What were you doing on our satellite?"

"My job."

"So, you admit that you are a spy then?"

I didn't know just how bad these Pollux Geminise were at English, but I was struggling where they had got I was a spy from.

"I never said that, I said I was doing my job."

"Yes, and your job is to spy on us with our own satellite."

"No, my job is to turn up at whichever random satellite they send me to and fix it. Sometimes they even tell me what the problem with the satellite is before I get there."

"You are a Castor sider. Why would you be repairing one of our satellites?"

"Because I was told to."

"Who told you?"

"My boss at the repair depot."

"What is their name?"

"Molgwyn."

"Never heard of him. How did you get to out satellite?"

I stifled a laugh; it would appear I was being interrogated by an imbecile. Perhaps on Pollux side the space force was made up of all the people who didn't study properly.

"I walked."

"No, you didn't, you came in your spacecraft."

"If you knew that, why the hell did you ask me how I got here?"

"I need to confirm it for our paperwork."

I groaned I had been at the whim of their paperwork before. I could be here a long time.

"Did you plant your spying device before we captured you?"

"No, I didn't have time; you captured me before I had time to turn it on."

Their purple head turned a darker shade.

"Liar, there was no device on the satellite."

"Stop asking me stupid questions you already know the answer to then."

"Where is the device?"

"As you've just told me, there is no device."

"No, I only said there is no device on the satellite, there was nothing of any use on your space craft either. It was a massive surprise to us that the craft flies at all. You must be braver than you look. Now, where is the device you came to plant on the satellite."

There was no hope for this conversation, they didn't like the truth, and they knew the answers before they asked the questions. I would have to get creative.

"Well, we knew that this close to Cantidade IV it was only a matter of time before the Pollux Space force turned up to investigate. We had heard great things about them."

The purple headed freak above me gave what I surmised was his best impression of a smile at hearing that. It terrified me more than any grimace on Gemini III ever had.

"Yes, we are good."

"The idea was to get captured. I had to hide the spying device up my bottom, and then once I had been captured and taken back to Cantidade IV I was to take the device out from inside of me and plant it at your base of operations."

I was wrong; their smile wasn't terrifying, not compared with what appeared on their face above me now. Their face turned black and half a dozen orifices opened above me. A strange mechanical mewling sound came out of one of them, and then it jumped away from me, releasing me from their grip.

"Emergency, emergency." Screamed another of the space force.

And then I found the trolley I was on started speeding through their cruiser. It came to a sudden halt in a landing bay and I was flung off the end with not being secured to it, and I rolled across the bay floor before coming to rest against my captured spacecraft.

Mechanical arms lifted me up and threw me on board my own craft and slammed the door shut behind me. A loud claxon sound went off and five seconds later my craft was flung out of the landing bay and into space. I flinched as it hurtled towards the white object in front of me.

But the craft went straight through it. It was one of the holograms and I had been ejected out at what pretty much looked like it was the belly button of it. I was being flung around the craft and I struggled to make my way to the seat and strap myself in. By the time I had fought with the straps the craft had levelled out and it was approaching the disputed zones rapidly.

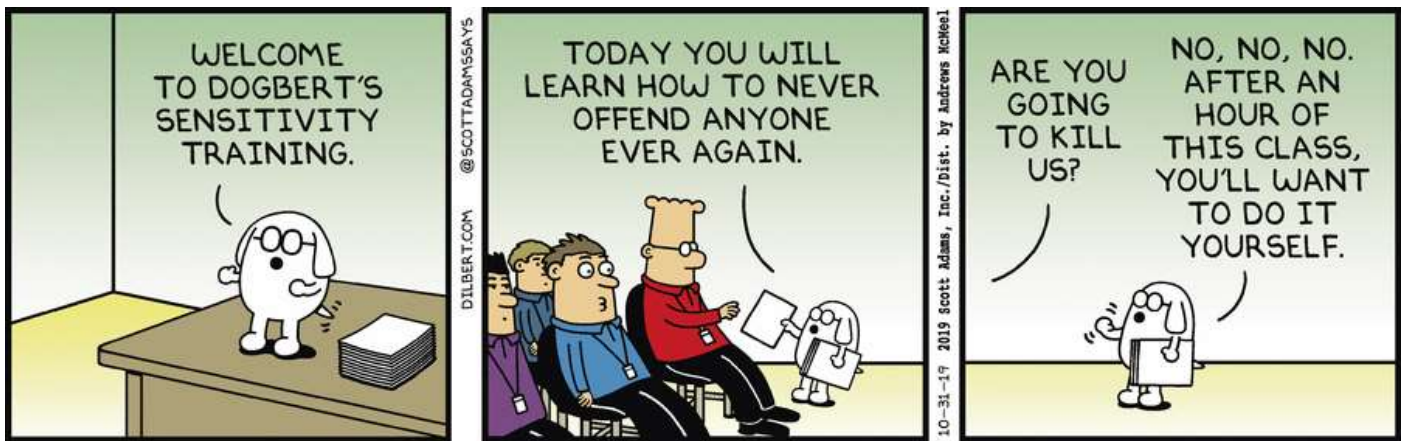
I changed course slightly and headed back towards Gemini III. My manager was going to be pissed, I hadn't mended the satellite, and the tether and air hose had been ripped out of the craft.

I tried parking it in the wrong bay and checking back in under another craft but Molgwyn was waiting for me. He stalked out to the craft I'd had and looked it over. As well as the tether being wrecked, numerous panels had been damaged by the Pollux space force. I spent ages explaining what had happened but Molgwyn didn't believe a word of it. I should have stuck to lying; no one was interested in the truth today.

So, I'm now unemployed. I may have problems finding work now. Unqualified for any of the good jobs; such as doorman, waiter or parking attendant, and now banned from satellite repair there was little left for me.

I wondered whether it would be possible to apply to the Pollux space force.

Dilbert



Epilogue – Where To Find More Of My Writing

To get people to sign up, point them in the direction of my website's homepage of <http://www.onetruekev.co.uk/> scroll down past the menu and then enter their e-mail address and select whether they want Flanagan's Running Club or blog post updates or both and then hit submit.

If you want to catch up on old issues, go to the website at <http://www.onetruekev.co.uk/frc.php> where all the issues are available.

For blog posts go to <https://onetruekev.co.uk/Mutterings/> which will have the most current post and the ability to scroll back in time.

Some of the blog posts also get published on my Medium account, especially ones that are picture heavy, as there are no hosting costs to store all the photos there, the link is <https://medium.com/@onetruekev>

For all previous works including the old Surerandomality pieces go to <https://onetruekev.co.uk/Mutterings/else/> where pretty much everything I've written before is linked through to.

Then there are my books. Nothing published yet, but I have one full book available online, it's called "Where The Lights Shine Brightest". Can I ask you all a favour, please can you review my book on Inkitt, and the link is below. Even if you don't take time to read it properly, please flick through a few chapters, give it ratings and a review and vote for it please. It may help me get it published.
<https://www.inkitt.com/stories/thriller/201530>

In addition, the first chapter of "Where The Lights Shine Brightest", and my other completed book, "The Talisman", are available on my Goodreads page <https://www.goodreads.com/story/list/77442053-kev-neylon> and the first chapters of two of the four books I have in progress at the moment are on there now and the others will go on there in time. The follow up to "The Talisman" – "The Magicusians" is at <https://www.goodreads.com/story/show/1253978-the-magicusians> and "The Repsuli Deception" is at <https://www.goodreads.com/story/show/1253979-the-repsuli-deception>

I have had a number (seventy three) of Drabbles published on the BookHippo web site, and they can all be found at <https://bookhippo.uk/profiles/kevin.neylon/drabbles>

You can also follow me on Twitter, where I will occasionally put up some micro fiction or micro poems, my Twitter handle is @Onetruekev – <https://twitter.com/onetruekev>

You can also follow all my writing on the Facebook page Onetruekev which is at <https://www.facebook.com/Onetruekev-102649357993650/>

Speak to me about getting a pen, there are currently six colours available; red, black, dark green, blue, purple and orange, the apple green ones are completely out and there is one yellow one left, but is showing signs of having being carried around for a long time. In addition, speak to me about Flanagan's Running Club torches, limited stock, bright little bastards available in red or blue.

E-mail any ideas or suggestions to kev@onetruekev.co.uk

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