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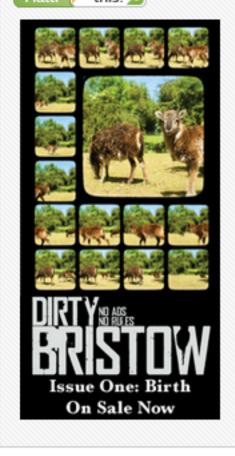
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Birmingham: It's Not Shit loves Birmingham, its people, arts, animals, buildings, parks, grass verges, factories and bus stops. We've even got a soft spot for the Black Country.

B:iNS runs The Brummie of the Year Award, Talk Like a Brummie Day and organises odd stuff like spending all day on the eleven bus. Flattr 🌈 this! 🔟



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still open, i'm sure the

# Danny Smith: Tufty Shit

16 February 2010 By Danny Smith

Maybe I'm romancing it because I've never been formally trained, or glimpsed behind the curtain of the modern newsroom. But I carry the naive notion that a journalist should be a Jedi wielding TRUTH like the Force and ramming the lightsaber of FACTS up the arse of all that is corrupt. I know it can't be easy, not only do you have to meet deadlines, smoke fifteen packets of cigarettes a day, and wear a hat with a small ticket that says 'PRESS' on it but you also have find interesting things to write about every, single, day. So its not surprising that many journalists fall for the Dark Side of PR.

Like this story here http://tinyurl.com/ykn7639. The story is about a squirrel that has been banned from a popular Midlands theme park. Now this theme park is only mentioned twice, but once is in the headline and the entire story is about a new ride — that, apparently defying all common sense, is so good even the fucking squirrel enjoys it. They even named the squirrel after the ride making sure the journo HAS to mention it at least once. Interestingly, the technique they are using to this thrillseeking rodent is the same one that some supermarkets were purportedly using to keep teenagers away from thrilling Car Parks a few years ago. The one which the manufacturer says has no effects on dogs.

PR stands for Public Relations and it used to be the PR person's job to be the public face of the company. That can helpful and, dare I say it, good. They can act like the conscious of a large corporation, the little Jiminy Cricket pushing the people they represent to give to charities, start recycling initiatives, or even encouraging discussion and dialogue between companies and their critics. Unfortunately on the flip side it is far less effort to seed newsrooms with press releases with just enough quirky news worthiness so on a slow news day can be picked up and actually printed as facts.

Now I'm not saying I know for definite that the journalist wasn't down at the theme park listening in on park wardens' conversations and shouting 'What a scoop!'\* when this particular gem was mentioned. Just that I find it far more likely to be the centre of a Venn diagram. Sitting where the circles of slow news day, lazy journalism, and the social disease rash of PR overlap.

\*yes, my experience of journalism is purely from black and white American films, what of it?

The opinions of Danny Smith do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers of this blog, its affiliates, or any sane adult human beings. He currently lives in your cupboard, watching, always watching.

Tags: bad press, Birmingham Post, news, PR, squirrel

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ARCHIVES

IS BRUM HAPPY?

Birmingham's emotional wellbeing\* on Saturday 28th of May 2011 07:32: 57 % (average)

Twice daily scores on Twitter.

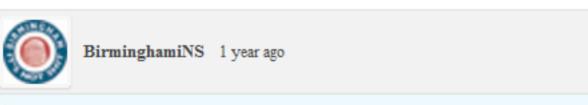
\*Every ten seconds this site reads the 1000 latest Tweets from within a 10 mile radius of the centre of Birmingham and rates the words against a database.

How does this work?

## Reactions

**3** probablydrunk 1 year ago From Twitter

My newest column up on BIN:S http://goo.gl/fb/0tom in which i maybe miss the point a little - comments?



From Twitter

New on BiNS: Danny Smith: Tufty Shit http://goo.gl/fb/0tom

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I'm Not Dead - because at least then I could rest « Edge Trinkets 03/10/2010 09:09 PM

[...] will still be contributing to Area magazine and will be continuing my column on BIN:S real soon, using here ...

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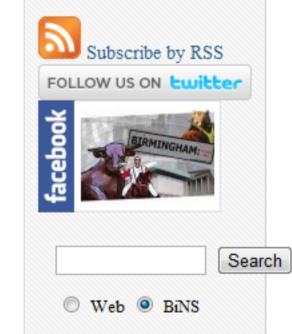
@ONBIRMINGHAM -BREAKING BRUM NEWS ON TWITTER



Fazeley Studios, Digbeth MT @moxypark: Apparently a "suspicious package" has been delivered & police evacuating as precaution //via @catnip 9 days ago • reply • retweet •

A4040 Bromford Lane, Gravelly Hill: Blocked both directions; accident Canal Lane/ Wolseley Drive.

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#### TROM BINS TALK:

Bcultural on "Bcultural - A

celebration of Multiculturalism in Birmingham - 5th May" Soesmix on "3 Minute Heroes" Birmingham Against the Cuts on "Demonstrations against Council Cuts"

Ghost Nation on "Strap on Jack / True Grit - Where are they?" Anonymous on "Strap on

Jack / True Grit - Where are they?"

BiNS is mostly by Jon Bounds, a Birmingham based social web consultant, producer and writer. You can hire him to work on your stuff, or follow him on twitter. There's also the odd bit of stuff from Danny Smith.

Feel free to send us anything you're interested in or think we might be. If you've got gigs to promote, best to chuck them on the talk board.

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