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Bokontonian News Service

This issue focuses on the BNS and 'trends'.

Warning. *These views are the columnist's own and are intended to offend no-one. Contains minor profanity and major satire, sarcasm and use of brackets, hyphens and confusing methods of address.*

The BNS trial; did it work?

As promised, all those weeks ago (around 2 months ago, really) we at Bokonton decided to resurrect the BNS and with a new-and-improved format.

We've had our ups and our downs.. Mainly, discovering that a weekly issue was too much of a strain for our writers- guest and otherwise- in the middle of the trial was our worst period. We've finally settled down on the fortnightly format, with extra 'special' special issues being squeezed out if the situation demands it. Also, dealing with national exams and national sporting events has certainly put a dent in the BNS' production, with an impressive 3 issues being missed. So, did we fail? We'd like to think not.

Most micronational newsletters fail early on or carry on for a while, and so our 'survival' of our first pitfalls can be tentatively shown as a

As always, we appreciate your input as micronations benefit a lot from helping and being helped by others. There are a few people who's support and comments stopped the Special Issues becoming a one-hit wonder, and we at Bokonton are extremely grateful to them. Hopefully we can continue to work through any pitfalls that are thrown our way and we hope that we can continue to improve and serve the general "MicroSphere", not just Bokontonians. Valetido!

You and your nations

When was the last time you interacted between the two nations you 'live' in? Some people send declarations of independence to local papers, canvass their

sign we might be here in a few months time. We'll keep our fingers crossed.

Speaking of macronational matters...

As mentioned earlier, GCSEs and the like have certainly put a dent in the BNS' product etcetera.

But how has it affected you and your nation?

It's a well known fact that micronationalism is at least partly true to the stereotype of being the domain of teenage boys. And, of course, no budding ruler wants to admit how much of an effect those 'pesky macronations' have on their lives. Yes, exams are annoying- but they'e legal. So's the drinking age, regulations considering minors and the like.

And here's another interesting question- for those affected quite a lot by such laws, how many have gone on to found micronations with very different, opposing laws of their own? Most micronations of old were indeed started as a backlash against the government or some law or another. But has that form of micronationalism died out or not?

National Sports

The World Cup- you may not follow it avidly or even be advocate of it, but chances are you'll have definitely noticed it. Whether it be simultaneous horn-honking from cars that pass you on the street or a crowd of drunken singers being kicked out of a pub sporting red-and-white facepaint, you'll also probably have noticed that it's one of the few things that unite the countries' public (the recent election for the UK and the Olympics being another). Post offices can be seen with shrines to england merchandise, and car flags are becoming more common than £5 notes.

Many micronationalists dream of such united public for themselves- be it for the easy-to-

town/city/villages's citizens to join their own- very publicly- and correspond with their local authority. Others still may as well be invisible, for all the information they've sent to their local 'government'. Especially for those living in smaller communities, relations between "The two nations" can be used to both parties' advantage (for example, a small town in Middle England has a self-proclaimed king who bestows titles to those he favours and has a plunger as part of his crown jewels. The town has a booming tourism industry as part of the result).

Bokonton is one of the guilty parties who at present isn't doing enough to help their macronational relations. So, at this point in time, do as we *say*, not as we *do* – and then you'll have a good solid anecdote to add to the before this time.micronational joke book, in the worst-case scenario.

It's another case of having more support being beneficial. Really folks, it's a no-brainer. Extra people involved in your micronation helps your nation grow and prosper.

acquire merchandise it would mean, or the public adoration. How many people have seen Danny Wallace's famous series on micronations, and envied his gathering in Trafalgar Square and hordes of Citizens? More wistful still, for the day when our national sports get such coverage (if trout-slinging can get a dedicated following and BBC coverage, why not Broom Ball?) and maybe a parade to which a villages's worth (or even a modest town) shows up to. Since Sealand put a definite stop to people ever legally starting new countries, truly this is the modern micronationalist's dream (unless you possess an army or a wad of cash to *buy* Sealand with).

Recent Flag Sighting

Here is another souvenir from a Citizen's trip: a flag sighting on the island of Crete. Have any of your micronations implemented a 'travelling flag' program? Examples include the Kingdom of Jirmania and Atlantium.



Some Jokes

How much does it cost to join Conservative Youth for a lifetime membership?

Answer:

one sou'fresh and previously un'farnished

What do you call a phobia of micronations?

Answer:

too many people in one bedroom -clanstrophobia

