

# Feliz Aniversario

Anyone who met Crystalfox from some point around second year onwards would find it hard to conceive how much he resembled some kind of mathematically gifted special needs child at the start of first year, which is the time of writing of the quoted email. I wrote it to my cousin Katie describing how university life was treating me (in another email I described it as "better than secondary school but not as good as summer holidays").

Legend or phooool, you decide.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax

**To:** Crystalfox

Here's an extract from probably the first email I wrote containing your name. Only snag is it wasn't to you. I apologise in advance for use of the word asshole, it was unnecessarily harsh. The time of writing will quickly become obvious.

> Crystalfox: For someone's who's obviously a very intelligent  
> guy, Crystalfox is really pushing the envelope of human stupidity. He's  
> the asshole who takes phone messages and gives them to you about a week  
> later, amongst other annoying things. He's generally like a five-year-  
> old. He needs his arse kicked, badly.  
>  
> Top Five Annoying things Crystalfox does or has done  
>  
> \* Insisted on bringing a football with him all the way down to the pub  
> (alternating between kicking it and carrying it) and back again. For no  
> particular reason.  
>  
> \* Jumped head-first into a ditch and started kicking his legs in the  
> air on the way home one night. Again, for no apparent reason.  
>  
> \* Refuses to cook proper food, and until we collectively did something  
> about it, refused to go shopping or generally eat anything he actually  
> owned.  
>  
> \* Talks shit constantly, especially when we're trying to watch  
> something on the telly.  
>  
> \* When we were in the pub one night, suddenly pulled arms up into  
> sleeves and started flailing them around really violently till we had to  
> restrain him.

Here is Crystalfox's plan to start his own chain letter in first year, inspired by the many that we received at the time. I'm not sure if it's still in circulation. Like Crystalfox himself at this time, it is more strange than it is funny.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

**Subject:** my own chain letter

>  
> Say this phrase backwards three times  
> "Reknaw a ma I"  
> then send this to ten people you know  
> tell them to write their names under yours in the list and return the  
> e-mail to you when you receive their reply then write "my cherry"  
> after their name  
> when they receive this second e-mail they should write their favourite

>colour and send it back to you when you recieve this you write your  
>favourite colour and sen it back to them then they send it on to ten  
>more people.  
>  
>when and only when this is accomplished will you see Jesus if you do  
>not continue this letter you will face a terrible fate  
>  
>continue the faith  
>  
>The List  
>-----  
>gary neville  
>my cherry  
>green  
>david beckham  
>my cherry  
>pink  
>victoria beckham  
>my cherry  
>black  
>Crystal Fox

This is a mail I sent to the fox around exam time describing an encounter I had just had with a guy called Paddy, also known for no particular reason as Paddy the Bat, or later just The Bat. He is far too much of a legend to describe fully here.

The required context is that he was in Crystalfox's course, not really friends with Crystalfox or anybody else but in spite of this, never hesitated to try and get other people he barely knew (such as myself and Crystalfox) to do his college work for him.

He was most notable for occasionally mumbling in rapid and incomprehensible Kerrynglish, wandering around college late at night in unexpected places and for terminating conversations very suddenly and unexpectedly and briskly walking away.

I don't know what it was he wanted to study with CF, or if he did indeed fail an exam.

PB = Paddy the Bat

EQ = Esquilax

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax

**To:** Crystalfox

I should say first of all, guess who I met in the canteen after you went home?

So he starts talking about nothing again, insulting people he'd never met before, you know, all these things Paddy does. The conversation, or the part in which something was actually discussed, went a little something like this. Funny noises, "like"s and "uhhs" have been removed.

PB: "Where's Crystalfox?"

EQ: "Gone home, I think. I met him earlier and he was studying with Leo"

PB: "I rang him alright, he said he was at home watching telly"

<short pause and accusatory glance from Paddy>

"...is that true?"

EQ: "Uhhh...I'd say so"

PB: "Do you think is there any chance of getting him to come in so we can study?"

EQ: "What, you mean like, now?"

PB: "Well yeah"

EQ: "But it's half one, he's probably in bed"  
PB: "But sure erteirhatlerbeakjbtjkjsfbsdsdjlsdjsdfkljlsdldsdflk"  
EQ: "Why, are you doing much at the moment?"

Now I knew the answer to this. Paddy was walking around college, looking for someone to complain to. That's not doing much.

PB: "You see, I know it and if Crystalfox was here *I could show him* and he could show me as well, like"

And god help him, but he really believes that. The clincher though was "Well, I don't know if I failed anything yet". And I just thought "Oh, I do".

A rich source of comic genius was Crystalfox's other classmate, Leo. If there was a record for, and indeed a way of measuring the ratio between someone's natural level of intelligence and amount of effort invested in their college work, I think Leo would possess that record. Unfortunately I didn't hang out with Leo much myself but at least because of that, Crystalfox tended to email me highlights of their adventures, adventures that would otherwise have gone unrecorded.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax

here is a story for you  
leo was in dan n\*\*\*\*'s project group.  
leo did fuck all work  
dan told the lecturer this  
leo says he is going to break dan's nose leo is deadly serious collins  
wants to get in on the action

The email record doesn't tell how this one panned out.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax

I received the following as a reply to handing up a report.

Crystalfox,

You have not provided reason or explanation for your late report?

D\*\*\*\* H\*\*\*\*\*

I am thinking about the following as a reply.

D\*\*\*\*,

I don't have a valid excuse for the late report and I'm not going to make one up as that would be dishonest, We left it until the last minute and found it taking longer than we expected.

Apologies  
Crystalfox

It's worth mentioning that Leo liked getting off his tits.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

here is something leo said last night, he is off his tits.

leo: did you hear what happened to john the monk

CF: no what?

leo: he failed all his exams

CF: why do they call him the monk?

leo: because h failed all his exams

CF: why? do monks always fail their exams?

leo: no, most of them do very well

CF: but they call him the monk because he failed his exams

leo: yes, well that and he looks like a monk.

actually, that's the main reason they call him the monk

And also

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

leo is the fastest minesweeper player i have ever come across and possibly the fastest in Ireland.

his times(if they would mean anything to you) are 5 seconds for beginner, 50 for intermediate and 249 for expert.

I've left the time and date in on this one.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

**Sent:** 13 May 2002 09:12

**Subject:**

i did it esquilax, i got up at the early time.

I do, I do, and I did. Prepare yourself for more anti-American sentiment further on.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

Esquilax, do you feel shy at parties? Insecure at social gatherings? If you do then you should smoke cigarettes, or so a certain ad campaign would have me believe. Do you not think that those ads are a bit too clever for your average thick person. Imagine if they had them in america.

Some exceptionally interesting facts concerning Leo.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

what do you reckon?

I heard a quote on the radio some morning when i was half asleep, it went something like this:

"I don't like the way the music industry is at the moment, everybody is recording covers and no one seems interested in writing music, before it was the songs that were important, it didn't matter who sang them, now it is only the artists that seem to matter, nobody cares about the music"

now i don't know if you heard this as well but if you didn't you will surely be shocked to learn that it came out of the mouth of one Ronan Keating, I mean what the fuck is his game?

Here are some exceptionally interesting Leo facts for you.

EILF 1: it took me a while to believe this but now i am almost certain that it is true, Leo never masturbated once in his life before he went to live in Cork on coop, and i quote "I thought masturbation was a myth before I went to Cork".

EILF 2: on an internet IQ test the other day Leo tested in the top 0.02% of people ever to have taken the test.

EILF 3: Leo has different definitions to most people about what is a bad person and what is a good person, it is a very complex theory but the gist of it is that you have no choice what sort of person you are, it's what you think, not what you do that defines your goodness. By his definition I am a bad person, I find that upsetting. Leo says he will write a paper describing his views in the near future.

EILF 4: As far as i can see Leo seems completely against the idea of being with young girls, strange for someone who has no problem with robbing bicycles or looking at porn in full view in the lab, and who gets excited when he sees Kirsty (you know the one) out of home and away.

This sums up Crystalfox's semester.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

**Subject:** this sums up my semester

I set my alarm for half eight to do this sort of project thing, it is now one o'clock and I have written 121 words.

I won't bore you by telling you where all the time went.

Wait a second, I will:

20 presses of snooze button @ 4 minutes each is a good eighty minutes.

I'd say it's a 20-25 minute walk to the schumann.

i looked at web pages for a good few hours (cricket is particularly interesting to read about when you know you should be doing something else for some reason) and wrote emails to you for the remainder

## Multiple emails concatenated

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax

i used to get on average 1 email from leo every 2.5 minutes when we were working, can you top that?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax  
**To:** Crystalfox

Did you really have so little work to do that you could read or write a new non-work-related email every two and a half minutes? I don't know whether to be jealous or not.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax

here is an example of our emails  
CF: did you go out last night?  
leo: yes, fx it was shit.  
CF: did anything interesting happen  
leo: yes i had sex in the women's toilet  
CF: did you see michael owen's goal?  
leo: yes it was a cracker

that's 3 emails each and would not take long at all

A good example of the "I was bored, so <extremely random unprompted thing>" genre of Crystalfox emails. Crystalfox is not and to the best of my knowledge never has been a Man Utd fan lest you get that impression from this email.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax

I was fair bored so i decided to set you a challenge, how many man united players (surnames) can you find in the following sentence: I put a bit of effort into making this so you have to do likewise in solving it.

"A car rolled over a man as he tried to take an egg from over one hundred brown mollusc holes, but the holes were unaware of their good fortune."

note: much as he would like it, leo does not play for man united.

how did you do?

0. you didn't even try, now get back and try
1. you either haven't heard of man united or you're very bad at this
2. surely you can do better
3. average
4. good enough
5. you can now call yourself a man united fan
6. you can now claim to have supported them since the bad times
7. you can now claim to have gone to every man united match in the last year
8. you have found ones that i didn't even know about, now that's impressive

Here are two emails a few days apart from Crystalfox concerning the Euro.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

question - what does the euro not have?

answer - silver coins

it has bronze coins, gold coins, silver and gold coins and gold and silver coins but no plain silver coins, i was always of the opinion that silver was the nicest colour for a coin

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

question - what was the best idea of the last century?

answer - putting different pictures on the euro coins depending on the country, that was one savage idea

This one won't need any explanation for CF and would require too much explanation for everyone else.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

which of those two is this, or is it both? or is it neither?

are we still on for number 1?

dan's really looking forward to it.

Here is an email I sent shortly after 9/11 concerning a friend of ours' (M\*\*\*\*\*'s) pain-in-the-swiss American girlfriend. He actually had two American girlfriends on the go at the same time, the first one actually in America and the second one studying in Limerick for a semester. Girlfriend 2 was aware of Girlfriend 1's existence but not vice versa. This caused occasional friction.

"Worrying out loud" was a term we had for whinging.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax

**To:** Crystalfox

Last night Tracy got in late and started doing a whole lot of worrying out loud.

It started out angry (something like "How dare you! This has been going on for two months and you knew all the time"...don't know what she's talking about) then turned into crying (lots and lots of crying, this went on for fucking hours) occasionally interspersed with American bullshit and things that M\*\*\*\*\* just couldn't be expected to understand ("I'm giving every bit of love I have to you"). Oh, and comedy. Lots and lots of comedy ("Sometimes I feel like I'm only good for a couple of things").

This conjures up the crucial question of whether sexual intercourse and oral sex are being counted as two separate things. My theory is she means boning and moaning.

My god can that girl **whine**. Just listening to her bitch and moan and complain makes me want to hijack a.....no, no, sorry.

And later a rare example in writing of Crystalfox being wrong about something (he was in it just for the sex and they didn't get married)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax

M\*\*\*\*\* spent a while yesterday telling me about how tracy is intelligent and pointing out her strong points.

I think i made a groß error of judgement in saying that he was just in it for the sex.

I think he really likes her.  
They will get married, mark my words.

And also

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax

here's one for you esquilax

we were getting on the bus and tracey decided to ask the bus driver "do you ever get tired of people giving you pounds?" and he just smiled, then as i was getting on i asked him, "do you ever get tired of stupid americans asking questions like that?"

A rare mention of Rose in an email to Crystalfox, seven years before they actually met for the first time.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax  
**Subject:** Re: I just thought this was funny

this was made even better by the fact that I scrolled down and read it line by line she sounds like an obnoxious bitch what gives her the right to say that to a poor boy?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax  
**To:** Crystalfox  
**Subject:** I just thought this was funny

Rose (my friend who I was talking to tonight) broke up with her boyfriend a few weeks ago, a guy who she never really seemed to like much in the first place. She can have a very sharp tongue when she feels like it, which she does most of the time. What he said is cringe-makingly funny but her comeback's a classic.

Damien: So was I just your bit of fun on a Saturday night?  
Rose: Did I **look** like I was having fun?

More Tracy.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

those were some cool pictures

I think the best way to represent pi would be to draw a point at 0,4 then

1,4(1-1/3) then 2,(4,1-1/3+1/5) etc until it levelled out at infinity,pi

what are you doing this weather?

any stories about tracy for me?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax

**To:** Crystalfox

Yo Crystalfox.

I love Wednesdays cos I have nothing to do on Wednesdays. Well in theory I have a lab and a lecture but they're both arse so I don't bother with those.

Don't know what they fucking you're talking about re the pi. Well, I understand it but I don't see how it relates to the digits of pi and I can't imagine what it'd look like.

No stories about Tracy unfortunately although I suppose I could make some up for you if you like. Actually, I do have a Tracy multiple choice question for you:

While taking it up the arse (okay, that bit is speculation), is Tracy:

- a) a moaner?
- b) a screamer?
- c) a swearer?
- d) curiously silent?

I tried to smoke last night but people wouldn't let me. Are they working you hard today?

esquilax

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

what sort of a prick stopped you from smoking?

I'd say she is suspiciously silent.

I'm not going to give you a lecture about not going to college because knowing you, you wouldn't go to it

ha ha ha.

But seriously, is it wise to miss labs and lectures? I don't know, I'm just asking you

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax

**To:** Crystalfox

Remember how I did that smoking debate a while ago? Well I mentioned in my speech that I'd conveniently stopped smoking a few days previously (because I had a good gag about it that I wanted to use). This got a round of

applause, Oprah-style, making me feel rather guilty since me quitting smoking really isn't that big an achievement. Anyhow, last night someone offered me a cigarette and I thought I'd earned one after my harrowing debating experience. As soon as I went about lighting it two of the first years jumped on me, practically wrestled me to the ground and took the cigarette away. I thought it was quite funny.

In fairness, you're not using your powers of logic today. If she was suspiciously silent I wouldn't know they were boning in the first place and I wouldn't have brought it up. The correct answer is (a). Tracy is a moaner and a pretty damn loud one too.

It is wise to miss labs? No, it's obviously not. However, it's a decision you have to make...what do you value more, 5% or some shite like that, or many many beautiful mornings in bed? I've made my decision. As for the lectures, I find mine are either so obvious that I'm wasting my time going, or so complicated that my mind wanders and I don't learn anything. Maths is the only one that really fits into that category. You know the deal.

The funny part though is this comic genius conversation Lisa and Tracy were having about M\*\*\*\*\* last Thursday, too much to go into there but I'll tell you the next time I see you. The gist of it is that Tracy seems to really like M\*\*\*\*\* and she's getting all emotional about the Sara thing. Put it this way, I think it's time to ask M\*\*\*\*\* whether he has a girlfriend again, in front of Tracy this time. I'll let you do it, you're good at asking questions that result in people getting really offended.

Esquilax

PS. Tracy is referring to me as <my actual surname>. I thought I'd seen it all ("it all" being "all the aspects of a person that could annoy me") but Tracy has invented a new one. It's a bit like overfamiliarity, but it goes much deeper than just, for instance, abbreviating someone's name without their permission. It's like she actually imposes herself into friendships with people she just blatantly doesn't know. Eg. "Oh, I think I'll email Leo, give me his address", "Oh it's J\*\*\* B\*\*\*'s birthday next weekend, I'm really looking forward to it", "How's Chrissy?" etc. etc.). I see we're settling into another of those "I'm going to make a huge effort to like/pretend to like this person just because Esquilax doesn't" kind of situations but you know deep down that she's one annoying toolbag.

A rare case of one of us having a genius idea and actually acting on it. Crystalfox's Nokia ringtones that change to something else made him the toast of Castletroy for many a semester.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

I've had a fantastic idea for a ringtone  
it starts off the same as the normal nokia ringtone and then just changes  
to something else

I include this (a part of a conversation regarding me downloading music for Crystalfox's brother) only because it includes an early mention of "I want to know what love is" by Foreigner, a song that still plays a big part in my life even today.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax  
**To:** Crystalfox

Tell me you're not referring to "I want to know what love is" by Foreigner. It pisses me off when you say this to me and I'm sure vice versa, but I can almost guarantee you you've heard this song. It was pretty huge in the early 80s. The chorus goes "I want to know what love is, I want you to show me" and it's got a great big choir in it at the end. Robert has a peculiar taste in music, rich as that is coming from me.

I think the gist of this one is that Crystalfox gave me a bag of mushrooms and one night (a debating night, no less, by the sound of it) I got bored and ate a few of them.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax

I heard as a general rule you should avoid "tripping" on your own if you're inexperienced. But you were never one to follow rules, were you? So how was it? how many did you have? will you be doing it again?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax  
**To:** Crystalfox

Are you talking about what I told you last night? It was a pretty mild affair. I had three or four around 9 o'clock then I think another 3 or 4 around midnight. I had to walk home from Woodhaven (up way past Superquinn) so I wanted to amuse myself somehow. It was merely okay. I hate the feeling in my stomach and the taste in my mouth. The visuals are pretty shite as well. All in all, I'm not terribly impressed with them. I'm kind of curious as to what would happen if I ate some insane amount of them, like say, 40. But insane is exactly what it would be so don't worry.

I might be doing it again but I think 4 or 5 is the optimum number. It gets into "never again" territory beyond that. Et tu?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax

you should do 8 (not 7, not 9) but not on your own and not in the presence of people that you don't want to know you are on them (you know which time I'm referring to) and then you'll have a ball.

Out of all the times I took them the best, I thought, was the one time I didn't see any visuals at all.

it's rare that you misspell a word so badly that even MS Word's spell-checker doesn't offer you the correct word as an option but Liza managed it last night with 'reprocushion'

There was a time when Crystalfox was 100% seriously planning on earning his living from playing "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" machines. Here is an email from roughly that time. The main lesson is that if Crystalfox had studied harder and gone to a better university, he probably would have been like those guys who had the blackjack card-counting syndicate in MIT. Instead he spent his time in The Stables standing by the Who Wants To Be A Millionaire machine with a bottle of lucozade and a dictaphone.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax

Were you in the pub last night?

I didn't see you.

Myself and M\*\*\*\*\* did a hit and run, in and out type job on the millionaire machine in the stables

we went out to get ice-cream and we said we'd pay for it, not with our money, but with JPM's, or the stables' or whoever owns it so we went into the stables walked straight over to the machine, played 2 games, took out 7 pounds and went out of the pub.

Then we went to the scholars and even though it was 'high' we managed to get in the money, but our luck ran out as we guessed wrong and lost but total profit for the night was 5 pounds 50. Both times I had no id card and had to sign in.

This can be done every night as the one in the stables is always low.

More from Leo (via Crystalfox) regarding his co-op job. Leo refers to his father has "pops".

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax

> the college rang my house a while ago because i was suppose to ring  
> them if i got the job  
> my pops answered, and he started giving out about me he said i didnt  
> try in any of my interviews and i am omly scraping thro college he  
> told him to have a chat with me im going to tell him to mind his own  
> buisness and then im going to bust him open. the fucking prick

Every time Tracy said something stupid, Crystalfox would email it to me and vice versa.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax  
**Subject:** EI-tracey-quote

"there is more heroin in an ecstasy tablet than in a 'hit' of heroin"

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax  
**To:** Crystalfox  
**Subject:** RE: EI-tracey-quote

That's actually true. And did you know that if you buy an ingot of silver, it's really unlikely to be pure silver. They actually "cut" it with gold. Or wait, was it platinum?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax  
**Subject:** EI-tracey-quote

I'd say probably platinum, gold would be too easy to notice, Tracy thinks she knows about drugs, ha ha she doesn't realise she's dealing (no pun) with the professionals in us two eh, here's another quote: that song about getting high was on the radio and Tracy said (not jokingly)

"I wish they wouldn't play this song, it's setting such a bad example for the kids, my friend said 'but if you listen at the end everything's fucked up because he gets high' but I said 'what if they don't get to hear the end'" this was said in her whining voice

This is still a good one. I've updated the link with a current one.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax

**To:** Crystalfox

**Subject:** Gashlycrumb tinies

Hello Crystalfox,

Here's something strange for you. It's a little poem by a guy called Edward Gorey about the random deaths of 26 children, complete with illustrations.

I'd say you'll love it.

<http://www.geocities.com/sunsetstrip/stage/7535/gorey.html>

E is for Esquilax, who ate too many shrooms

C is for Crystalfox, impaled on a broom

Another mental proposal on how the world could be subtly improved.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

esquilax, the numbers have symbols 1 2 3 4 and names one two three four where as letters only have symbols a b c d, this just isn't fair on the letters, I propose we give them names, I'll list what I think the names should be and you tell me if you'd prefer anything else. I'm extracting the names from other words

eigh (weigh)

bee (been)

see (seen)

dea (deal)

E (e is such a perfect letter it describes itself) eaf (deaf) jee (jeer) heych (hey charles) I (Italian) jay (it's who he is) kay (jamiroqui) ell (HELL, HADES, VALHALLA) em (them) en (then) o (phone?) py (entropy) ciú (could we have a bit of ciúnas now lads) oor (door) esssssssssss (a hissing sound) tee (teenage mutant ninja turtles) eu (eulogy) vea (veal) dubble eu (heros in a half shell) X (another perfect letter, the ancient greeks may have discovered perfect numbers but I have discovered perfect letters) wie (wine, like the dirty bottle you drank last night but with the 'n' taken out)

zaid (like said only zaid)

One of the recurring themes of our discussions were the many ways (besides actual academic performance, where we both hovered around 2.1 territory) that we were more intelligent than the people in our class, and the mystery of how so many people who were thick as fuck ended up in our classes.

Notice his particular disdain for Agricultural Science as a subject, which some of us in the countryside were offered in place of Biology and, to the best of my knowledge, did not contain anything about tractors on its syllabus.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

one of the requirements for computer engineering is "a Grade D3 in a higher common or ordinary level paper in any one of the following: Physics, Chemistry, Physics with Chemistry, Engineering, Technical Drawing, Biology, Agricultural Science."

what this means is that someone with the following results

B2 Maths H  
C2 Irish H  
C2 English H  
C3 German H  
C2 Geography H  
C3 History H  
D3 Agricultural Science O

would have been offered a place this year while someone with the following

A1 Maths H  
A1 Irish H  
A1 English H  
A1 German H  
A1 Geography H  
A1 History H  
A1 French

would not have been, now which student would you say would find Comp Eng easier, I'd say the first one because their knowledge about tractors (or whatever they teach in agricultural science) which was enough to get them a D3 in pass Ag Sci (I'd say the average person would better that if they just went and sat the paper without having learnt anything about it) far outweighs all those A1s. Oh wait! It doesn't. But here's why the second person doesn't deserve it, because they were too stupid to check the entry requirements, that's why, and despite the fact that they got seven A1s and 640 points they are as thick as shit and I wouldn't want them in my class.

Yes, those too. Doesn't seem like such a bad idea since Gmail came along, eh.

-----Original Message-----

Message-ID: <004f01c14c25\$0d61d1e0\$a40ea8c0@limerick.XXXXXXX.com>

From: Crystalfox <XXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.com>

To: xxxxxxxx@student.ul.ie

**Subject: you know the way you like to keep every email you've ever sent or received?**

Date: Wed, 3 Oct 2001 17:04:16 +0100

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain;

charset="iso-8859-1"

well, what about the ones from your college email?

During Crystalfox's co-op he used to send me an "Exceptionally Interesting Fact" each day, numbered incrementally. I wonder who's laughing about their chosen career path now, Crystalfox or C. A. Rogers.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

EIF 61

in the Fermat book it says

"sphere packing expert C. A. Rogers"

imagine if that was your job, packing spheres

On another occasions there was also a weekly series of emails on the theme of "stupid things people in our house said". Back in 1999 I could probably have been used as the subject of some kind of psychological study as someone who had never been exposed to sport.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

**Subject:** weekly quote

this one comes from your that guy with the long hair Esquilax, it is one of the funniest things ever said by anyone and every single person I tell it to says "he couldn't possibly have said that" or "no one could be that stupid" or what Daniel said was "even a girl wouldn't be that thick"(what he considers the worst insult you can give to any man). So here it is:  
"What do those European teams like Barcelona do when they're not playing in the UEFA cup?"

What happened next?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

**Subject:** weekly quote

are we up to number six? I can't remember.

anyway, this particular quote comes from me, it shows how naive I was back in those days and how much more mature I have become. I'll set the scene, I'm sitting down with Arthur and Denise's good looking friends enter the room, Arthur says "Girls, how's it gowin?" and I say, out loud:

"Arthur decides it's an appropriate time to put on a Dublin accent"

we all know what happened next

What happened next is the normally very mild-mannered Arthur poured a pint glass of water over Crystalfox's head, as punishment for his unprovoked (but factually accurate) act of cock-blocking.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

**Subject:** weekly quote

we were talking about getting a microwave and Arthur said  
"yeah, we should rent one"

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax  
**To:** Crystalfox  
**Subject:** RE: weekly quote

Is that even possible?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax  
**Subject:** RE: weekly quote

possible? maybe, stupid? Definitely

Here is one about spin, or as it's known in the United States, English. It is hard to explain or imagine how deep Crystalfox's obsession with this scientific phenomenon became. He spent many hours sitting in an armchair, throwing a ball against the wall and catching it occasionally saying things like "Oh, did you see the spin on that?", "That was some serious spin there" etc.

I sometimes grew tired of Crystalfox's attempts to interest me in things I knew I would never be interested in such as spin. Therefore I'm fairly sure my response to this email would either have been "Fuck off", or no response at all.

(I do have Sent Items too but this is before the days you could just right-click on stuff and see the entire thread and I can't be bothered doing it by hand)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax  
**To:** Crystalfox

Everybody is aware of the importance spin plays in ball sports but did you know that the primary use of spin in the following six games is different for each one?

Football, American football, cricket, tennis, volleyball and petanque (if you don't know what it is look it up on the internet, I know you have access, otherwise you couldn't be reading this)

your job is to tell me the main reasons that competitors in these sports impart spin on a ball, remember, six different reasons.

A selection of things that were on the fox's mind at the time. Hopefully the phool found out his blood type by now as I am fairly sure it isn't OB positive negative.

**From:** Crystalfox  
**To:** Esquilax

say esquilax, do you know your blood type. I don't know mine and I thought it would be a handy thing to know, I think it might be OB+ negative but I'm not sure.

have you heard the Corrs latest effort to the world of music. There's a line in the song about tomorrow being different than today. This ranks up with the best of them as far as grammatical mistakes are concerned and I'd say even you would point that out to someone if they said it to you.

Do you know what's piss poor? The spell-checker that comes with Outlook Express, that's what. It's lesbianist.

I was behind this girl and she was looking at her new USIT card and I was able to see it so I said to myself "fuck it, I'll read it" and it turned

out that her birthday was December the 25th, the same as Jesus, now there's a coincidence.

In my secondary school once we were given one of those wordsearch things to do in religion class and one of my retarded classmates said "Miss, is 'Nam' a word? like 'Vietnam?'. I said to him "It's "man", you dyslexic cunt" and the teacher heard and I got sent out of class.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

In primary school the teacher was teaching us about compound words which are made up by sticking two words together like 'daylight' and 'overhead' and stuff like that and she asked us to come up with examples.

The best example that most of the class could come up with was 'father' - 'fat' and 'her' as they thought that the examples she had given were sort of cheating because the new word didn't really stray in meaning from the original word.

Sometimes I got bored too. "p-p" stands for "peak to peak" so it may not scan but at least it rhymes.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Esquilax

**To:** Crystalfox

> At 12:30 24/08/2001 +0100, you wrote:  
> >question(in Destiny's Child tone): What would happen if I touched a  
> >network connection with my tongue?  
>  
> I've decided to answer your question in the Count Curly Wee style.  
>  
> A network cable, with your tongue  
> If you should choose to touch  
> Will cause to happen, my daring son,  
> Not so very much.  
> A packet you could make corrupt  
> (Those can be re-transmitted)  
> But service you will not disrupt  
> Though you'll appear dim-witted  
> The slightest tingle you may feel  
> With the smallest current's flow  
> But nary a shriek  
> Caused 1.7V p-p  
> 'Tis a voltage thoroughly low.

I had forgotten whose fault it was that I ever took up smoking. I used to be very against it. It started with a ten pack of Silk Cut Ultra as I recall. I am now back to completely not smoking by the way. Still, ten years of smoking on and off, all Crystalfox's fault.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

I've just had a terrible thought. It was me who started you on smoking. Remember, I forced you to roll me a joint and you bought cigarettes for the occasion and you decided to try one, and you liked it. The rest is history. Now I have to do everything in my power to stop you smoking or I will feel guilty and the guilt will take from my life.

Priorities.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

Did I mention that the alarm clock you gave me is legendary, I pressed snooze 6 times this morning, with a normal alarm clock that would have set me back an hour but with this it was only 24 minutes.

ps. if you hear of any acid coming in get some and we'll drop it some day next semester

By Crystalfox's scale below, by my calculations, Jane is about 50% perfect. Sorry about that Jane.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

A True Story

I was thinking the other day "what would be the characteristics of the perfect human being and I came up with 3 main ones"

1.They would have to be generous. 2.They would have to be able to enjoy class A drugs but not talk about them all the time. 3.They would have to be into cricket with a particular interest in leg-spin bowling  
then I thought "such a person exists" and the person is that Chris fellow  
1.He's generous, he has promised Dani his bass guitar  
2.While he enjoyed his eyaxperience he seemed almost ashamed to talk about it the next day  
3.He actually bowls leg-spin

now I'll talk about drugs

I don't know if I said but I was on the net reading about peoples eyaxperiences and bad ones are rare - trust you to have one. Wait until you take them with Leo and me, you'll have a good time then.

It transpires you were not the only one scared at the end of that beach party - Oliver King was apparently shitting it, I've no idea what either of you are on about but there you go.

Last of all may I warn you that you have become Dani's if all else fails emergency source of drugs

The fox introduced me to cigarettes. I introduced him to e's. He kindly sent this just before he took some for the first time.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

Esquilax, when you read this I will be dead. That's right, dead dead dead. You know why I'm dead don't you, I took an e tablet and dropped down dead. Now I know there are a lot of people around you at the moment telling you it's not your fault, but let's face it Esquilax, it totally is; sorry but you're not going to get any sympathy from the dead.

By the way, should it happen that you are reading this and I am not dead then ignore all this.

And finally, the highlight: the best email Crystalfox has ever written and one of the funniest stories I have ever heard. This actually took place later than the rest of these, almost 5 years ago, at which point I had left UL but Crystalfox had stayed on for much, much more.

The necessary context for this one is that a few years ago there was a road safety ad campaign on in Ireland that featured the song "I want to walk you home" by Fats Domino. It was meant to be a hard-hitting ad but as is often the case with such ads, they managed to make it slightly funny too, by mistake. I tried to find a youtube link but couldn't but all you need to know is that song was in the public consciousness at the time, and for that reason.

M\*\*\*\*\* is a professional athlete these days and very rarely used to drink at the time (probably never now). When he did, hilarity would often ensue due to him being extremely strong (stronger than any bouncer), very aware and proud of this, and very unable to hold his drink.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Crystalfox

**To:** Esquilax

**Subject:** I bet you're sorry you missed this one.

A scary night, in two parts.

Part I

It's end of exams and there are Killarney boys up, C\*\*\*\*\*, the gimp and M\*\*\* B\*\*\*, to add to the two already here M\*\*\*\*\* and Leo. So we all go out to the Trinity Rooms. Everyone's locked except Crystalfox (he's on pro plus), but especially Leo, but especially M\*\*\*\*\*. It's time to go home so we decide to get the free bus which I'm sure I've told you about. The bus is overcrowded and we're sitting near the back. M\*\*\*\*\* succeeds in getting the whole bus to join in singing "I want to walk you home" from the ad.

The bus driver flips, pulls over and comes back shouting at everyone and threatening never to take more than 31 on the bus again. He's an old enough lad wearing a tracksuit and he's got a thick cockney accent. He's pretty much scum. Leo says something to him (we can't remember what but it was just something like "we weren't the ones singing") and then he really loses it. A second guy who's on the bus, some sort of a bouncer, also in a tracksuit, also scum but with a thick Limerick accent comes back and starts screaming at Leo.

The driver says "I'll have you one on one outside the bus now". Leo doesn't move. Then he says "I know what, I'll ring Gerry, get him to bring some lads around, we'll see who's tough then", goes back up the bus and drives on. M\*\*\*\*\* keeps on singing but Collins pounds him until he stops. Then at the maxol station the bus pulls in and about three more of them get on the bus, all wearing tracksuits, all Limerick scum. They all come down the bus and try to drag Leo out. Every one of them screaming.

Everyone on the bus is shitting it, some people are crying. "You're not going to give me cheek now" says the driver in his thick cockney accent, "No one messes with us, we're Limerick lads." We get off the bus at the next stop and the bouncer gets off too. The bus drives on but the trailing Hi-Ace with all the scum pulls over. M\*\*\*\*\* and Leo want to start a fight and so do the scum but the rest of us succeed in stopping them and it ends peacefully. It could have been worse though.

Part II

After they leave we start to go home but myself and Leo leave the others and go to a house-party in college court which I had heard about from Ross.

Leo bought two pills. He took one and after 45 minutes he wasn't feeling much so he took the other. He came up soon after that and we were dancing and having the craic for about two hours when I notice that Leo was completely fucked so I told him we were going home, he could barely stand

up, when I passed him water he couldn't hold the bottle, but he wanted to keep on dancing. I managed to get him back to my place but he didn't know what was going on. He kept telling me that he had met girls from his course, word for word the exact same thing more than 5 times. He asked me if he had met Paul that night, the guy that I live with ("I don't live with a Paul but M\*\*\*\*\* does") about ten times. And he asked me to tell him what had happened that night about ten times. For three hours we stayed up in our kitchen with him saying ridiculous stuff that made no sense and not remembering what he had said ten minutes ago.

Some of the highlights were:

completely out of the blue: "right, I've got this four bit number"

also out of the blue: "I didn't have any premiership teams did I"

"I feel strange, stoned or something, was I smoking hash", "no ecstasy Leo"

"Oh yeah"

Just nonsense like that until 9 o'clock when we went back to Leo's house and he seemed okay but when we tried to play cards with the others who were still up Leo didn't know how to play any of the games that we play all the time. He reminded me of you the first time you took shrooms, just didn't know what was going on.