

Ring fencing

Illustration: (By the power vested in this advisory committee), I propose that we *ring fence* this tranche of monies.

Meaning: Let's play at being in control of the budget.

Discussion: A ring fence is a magical construct, a spell used by people wishing to protect their budget, or a portion of it, from evil spirits. Once a novelty, its introduction into common usage has been a major achievement of the recent management restructuring; and ring fencing has largely replaced the use of the pentagram in budget management, though the latter is still used in isolated parts of Britain such as mid-Wales.

The ritual of ring fencing is engagingly simple. It takes place in a committee setting. All it requires is for one person to utter a prayer or invocation containing the magic words "ring fence"; and for the rest of the committee to respond "Hear! Hear!", nod their heads, or stir fitfully in their sleep. Some authorities have argued that the intention is more important than the actual form of words and recommend that the invocation should be uttered by a committee member known for devoutness and simplicity.

Be that as it may, and we await the definitive managerial discussion document on this topic, the remarkable effectiveness of this procedure as it stands at present is more than borne out by the figures. These show conclusively that there have been

no new cases of budgetary demonic possession since Griffiths.

Note: A major research effort is required to develop a whole new generation of broad-spectrum spells that would protect budgets against possession by colleagues.

Nucleus development

Illustration: Region has taken on board the revenue consequences of the new service. *Nucleus development* has been authorised at selected centres. Funds have been made available for two administrators and a part-time staff-nurse.

Discussion: This is, of course, a synonym for underfunding and is another example of *persuasive redefinition*, the managerial technique for manipulating the gullible referred to earlier. It sometimes occurs in the form Nuclear Development. Which form your district favours depends on the relative extent to which pathologists and radiologists have succeeded in infiltrating the local management structure; and is known as Beattie's Sign. The combined prevalence of the forms in -us and -ar gives the Usar Rating for a district, which can come in handy if you want a change from Jarman.

Historical note: Hans Jurgen Beattie is a Swedish philologist of Scottish descent. His recent paper 'Det Moedel Herrenvolks Sprachslip' or 'Linguistic Drift as a Middle Management Strategy' bids fair to become a classic of its kind.

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Results of Limerick Competition

You may recall that we set a competition in the Christmas edition of the *Bulletin*: Complete a limerick beginning with one of the following first lines:

"There was a disciple of Freud . . ."

"I've been to the Maudsley she cried . . ."

"There once was an MRCPsych . . ."

We received some 50 entries to this competition which ranged from the erudite to the banal. Clearly, those who entered had a lot of fun and in some cases

applied a high measure of inventiveness. Several people sent in multiple entries and one entrant submitted ten efforts! The majority of entrants were male but chauvinism did not seem to play a major part.

The panel of judges were given a free rein and their hard work is much appreciated.

We will print the winning entries in beauty competition style, starting with tenth place and ending with the three winning entries.

10TH There was a disciple of Freud
Whose affect was blunted and void
His libido was latent
Repression was patent
And the id was barely employed

*Denise Riordan
Newcastle-upon-Tyne*

9TH I've been to the Maudsley!" she cried
"My third personality died.
I saw Dr Birley
Who said 'twas too early
To say if I'm Jekyll – or Hyde!"

*Lynette Napper
Education Department
Royal College of Psychiatrists*

7TH There once was an MRCPsych
EQUAL Who declared "If there's one thing I like
It's a nice MCQ –
There's no spelling to do
and I can't tell my Reich from my Reik."

*Hugh Thomas
Sheffield*

7TH I've been to the Maudsley, she cried
EQUAL Of my knowledge I'm bursting with pride
I've learnt psychodynamics
And behavioural mechanics
But I can't face the harsh world outside

*Sydney Brandon
Leicester*

6TH There was a disciple of Freud
Who multi-orgasms enjoyed
So many she had
She drove herself mad
And suffered a Sub-arachnoid

*Sue Denim
Bournemouth*

5TH I've been to the Maudsley she cried
I've worked at the Tavi beside
Now to get a damned job
They must think I'm a slob
They offered me North Humberside

*Sydney Brandon
Leicester*

4TH There was a disciple of Freud
Who failed to repress, and destroyed
The barriers that hid
Super-ego from Id;
So his mind disappeared in the void!

*Larry Culliford
Brighton*

3RD There was a disciple of Freud
Who kept calling the Master "Sigmoid"
And in the end
He went round the bend
"Clearly anal-erotic", said Freud

*Ken Morrice
Aberdeen*

2ND There was a disciple of Freud
Who proclaimed his neurosis destroyed:
"He has lifted the lid
Off my troublesome Id
And expunged all the joys I enjoyed!"

*Hugh Thomas
Sheffield*

1ST There was a disciple of Freud
Who often got very annoyed
This made patients hate him
Yet seek to placate him
By dreaming of things he enjoyed

*Stephen and Kate Wilson
Oxford*

Our congratulations to the Wilsons, Hugh Thomas and Ken Morrice who will each receive a book prize for their excellent efforts.

Our grateful thanks go to our panel of six professors who very kindly agreed to judge our competition. Their jumbled initials combine to make the nonsense phrase "Calm Warm Perm" – Entries by next Christmas, etc!

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