

THE QUEEN

against

EWAN STAFFORD PAGE

charged with

MEGALOMANIA

(contrary to the Megalomania Act, 1643)

Dramatis Personae

Defendant	...	Ewan Page
Judge	...	Murray Laver
Clerk of Court	...	Peter Kemp
Prosecuting Counsel	...	Brian Randell
Defending Counsel	...	Elizabeth Barraclough
First Policeman	...	Ian Scoins
Second Policeman	...	
Foreman of the Jury	...	David Appleton
Jury	...	
Witnesses	...	Ann Laybourn Les Wilson

Prologue : Master of Ceremonies : Brian Randell
Cabaret Star : Rod Walker

During the trial scene the Clerk of the Court will endeavour to maintain order and to muffle the defendant, using a (large) gavel. One juror will spend most of the time dozing, waking now and again to shout "off with his head".

Jury:

My object all sublime, I shall achieve in time
To let the punishment fit the crime, the punishment
fit the crime
To make each prisoner pent, unwillingly represent
A source of innocent merriment, of innocent merriment.

Clerk:

Silence in Court! Pray silence for Justice

(Judge enters, slowly and solemnly, and takes his place)

Clerk:

(The Clerk shall say in a loud and clear voice)

The Queen against Ewen Stafford Page

charged with

Megalomania, contrary to the Megalomania Act 1643,

Particulars of Offence.

Ewen Stafford Page, on divers days between 1st April, One thousand
nine hundred and fifty seven and 30th September One thousand nine
hundred and seventy eight and at divers places within the jurisdiction
of this Court, did commit various acts of megalomania, to the terror
of the liege subjects of Our Lady the Queen, against the peace of
our said lady the Queen her crown and dignity, and against the form
of the statute in that case made and provided

How pleadeth your client, Ewan Stafford Page,
guilty or not guilty?

Defending Counsel: Not Guilty

Clerk: Call your first witness

Prosecuting Counsel: Call Miss Ann Laybourn

First Policeman: Call Ann Laybourn

(Miss Laybourn takes the stand and is given
"the book" by the Clerk)

Clerk: Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth,
and nothing but the truth?

Laybourn: I do

Prosecuting Counsel: (Interrogates Ann about documents "found" in ESP's files)

Foreman: Solo

Jury: *Rolls in, rolls, My God how the money rolls in, rolls in,
Rolls in, rolls in, My God how the money rolls in.
The paper clip battle is over,
To use one's no longer a sin
But the rent that is charged is atrocious,
My God how the money rolls in.*

Clerk: Do you have any further witnesses?

Prosecuting Counsel: Yes, one, Mr. Leslie Wilson

First Policeman: Call Leslie Wilson

(Mr. Wilson takes the stand and is given "the book"
by the Clerk)

Clerk: Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth,
and nothing but the truth?

Wilson: I do

Prosecuting Counsel: (Interrogates Les about the Golf Club and Ball)

Jury: *Ewan, he had a
but golf ball
He played with it at Arcot Hall
The committee said - what a pity
You can never play here now at all*
Ewan has only one golf ball,
That's what they say at Arcot Hall,
In Fact
Ewan's just been sacked
Because he can't real-ly play golf at all.

Prosecuting Counsel: That ends the case for the prosecution

Clerk: I don't suppose there are any witnesses for the defence

Defending Counsel: Yes there is one, the 370/168

My Lord, I would like to call a character witness for the defence, but as there was no person willing to act in this role I crave your Lordship's indulgence.
\$Run *witness

Clerk: \$Run *witness

First Policeman: \$Run *witness

(Terminal is wheeled in)

Clerk: Hold the manual in your memory, and read the holes in the card. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you Alan Turing?

Machine: GARBAGE IN - GARBAGE OUT

Defending Counsel: Is your name I.B. Machine?

Machine: BOOLEAN VALUE TRUE

Defending Counsel: Have you and your family been in the Computing Lab for three generations?

Machine: BOOLEAN VALUE TRUE

Defending Counsel: Please describe in your own words how the Lab has grown in that time

Machine: YEAR:=1958; LAB:=1, EWAN:=Director;
FOR YEAR:=YEAR+1 WHILE EWAN=DIRECTOR DO LAB:=2xLab
....OVERFLOW

Defending Counsel: Sorry, I should have interrupted you

Machine: ATTENTION

Defending Counsel: What do you think of Ewan's departure?

Machine: READING ERROR

Defending Counsel: Who do you think should replace him?

Machine: NEWPAGE

Defending Counsel: Thank you. No further input.

Prosecuting Counsel: Just a moment please. \$Restart
When you were in page mode what algorithm did you use to calculate student/staff ratio?

Machine: RATIO:=STUDENTS/STAFFx2

Prosecuting Counsel:
(very fast)

In fact, was every single algorithm he ever wrote not adapted to suit his own ends? Do you not agree that he continually falsified data to make the annual report more impressive? Can you deny that he programmed you just like the rest of us? Is that man not guilty of megalomania?

(There is no reply. Defending Counsel goes to terminal)

Defending Counsel:

My Lord, my learned friend was operating at too high a baud rate. The machine has gone (sob) DOWN!

Jury:

Whist! Lads, haad yor gobs
~~Aa~~ Aa'll tell ye aall an aaful story
 Whist! Lads, haad yor gobs
~~Aa~~ Aa'll tell ye boot the lab
 The lab it grows and grows and grows
 And grows an aaful size
 The Tower, Daysh and Bridge Block,
 and Eldon Place besides
 The theatre may close they say
 We wouldn't mind a bit
 A 168 upon the stage
 I wonder would it fit.

(A've tellt)

(A've tellt)

Solo

Close again past tense.

Defending Counsel

I rest my case.

Clerk:

Your closing statements please

Prosecuting Counsel:

Friends, Colleagues, Countrymen, lend me your ears,
 I come to censure Ewan, and to taunt him.
 The evil that men do lives after them;
 So fear I, with Ewan will it be.

Some say that he was mere ambitious.
 If t'were so, t'was to a grievous fault.
 He seemed my friend, faithful and just to me
 and posed as an honourable man
 In bringing many systems to the Lab.
 Whose ransoms did his private coffers fill.

In days of yore he did bestride the narrow world
 Like a Colossus, and the Computer Board
 Walked under his huge legs, and peeped about
 to find themselves dishonourable graves.

Then, Ewan had a lean and hungry look.
 He thought too much, and was and still is dangerous.
 Thus say the Senators, who, tomorrow
 mean to establish Ewan as a king.

Say I to bondage should be go;
 Let Reading now assume the suffering.
 Then run, proclaim, cry it about the streets -
 Liberty, and Freedom, for Tyranny is shed,
 Once Newcastle at last has given consent
 To Ewan's everlasting banishment.

Defending Counsel:

The Quality of Mercy is not strained
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the Lab. beneath. It is twice blessed.
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes,
Yes, even we whose program's all mistakes.

If Ewan to Reading banished must be
Some small act of mercy should we make,
If not for him, then for his Sheila's sake.

Vice-Chancellorial robes from here, sore used,
To Reading should be sent post haste.
A tarnished crown and diadem also
For use by their new Il Magnifico.

Megalomania apart
Our despot with a golden heart
Must surely thus deserve reprieve -
If only to ensure he'll leave.

Judge: (Sums up)

Clerk: Foreman of the Jury, has the Jury reached a verdict?

Foreman: Yes we have

Clerk: What is your verdict?

Foreman: Guilty, very Guilty

Judge: Ewan Stafford Page - do you have any statement to make before I pass sentence?

Defendant: ?!?!?!?

Judge: (Produces superb impromptu response)

Ewan Stafford Page - you have been found guilty of the most dastardly of crimes, that of megalomania. For this there is but one punishment, fifteen years solitary confinement in Reading Gaol! Take him away.

Jury: (Starting off with just one, the foreman, singing, others joining in with succeeding lines)

For He's a Jolly Good Villain
For He's a Jolly Good Villain
For He's a Jolly Good Villain
An So Say All of Us.

(Curtain Call)