

8am

horror

... for those who make it

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Ten more minutes

“Cockadoodledoo!” blared the alarm on my phone. “I really need to change that bloody ringtone”, I thought as I reached for my early morning best friend, the snooze button. “Ten minutes more won’t hurt. It’s so cosy in here...”

“Cockadoodledoo!” went the digital rooster ten minutes later. I turned over and nuzzled my pillow. “It’s going to be so cold when I get out of bed. I wrapped the quilt tighter around me. “Do I really need to shower? It’s not like I smell or anything. Besides, the 8am bus usually passes by a few minutes late anyway. Plenty of time. You know what, I’m not that hungry either. I could just get something from the canteen. Pastizzi for breakfast, mmmm...”

“Cockadoodledoo!” “OK this time I really need to get up. I’ll just close my eyes for a few more minutes. Right, I’ll count to three, and fall out of bed...1, 2, 3, up we get!” I got showered, put on the nearest, and cleanest, clothes I could find, wolfed down a bowl of cereals and went out into the bright morning sun. “Hmm, I never noticed that giant squid outside my house before...”

“Cockadoodledoo!”

Oh, bugger.

First Gear

Clutch, gas, first gear. Clutch, gas second gear... brake. Repeat cycle. This is the system we all call early morning entertainment. That 30 minute drive every single morning as we make our way to the Mecca of our student life, the University of Malta feels like hours.

30 precious minutes trod by in the same routine, seeing the same thing, singing the same tune, cursing the same traffic. How many times have I read that same bumper sticker in front of me? I've inspected every inch of my car, and I'm bored. There's only so much the Focus can offer. I've read all the manuals, safety stickers, tooted the horn enough and literally studied the interior design.

Each minute strapped in feels like an hour, each hour a day. The clock receives more attention then my speedometer. I glance at it an average of once a minute, sometimes the minute hand wouldn't have even budged.

With the first five minutes out of my way, I resort to my entertainment system and slap some lively morning music on my iPOD. People passing by now can enjoy the view of a wide open mouth, as I literally make my speakers redundant. Thankfully my windows are shut and the misery is contained.

Finally I arrive at my destination, and now the real challenge beings: looking for that sacred space, that hole in the floor. Can I squeeze in there, or there? Ah, that's reserved, as is that one, and that one. Now the panic sets in, which excuse have I not used yet? Will my lecturer be sad enough to believe? Perhaps ill use the puppy eyes this morning, and really go full swing. My sincere apologies go out to my teacher, I'm late... again!



The Icon

Students might not exactly be delighted to wake up at 6.30 am but we might not know how lucky we actually are. Once you manage to find a job, waking up early and staying up late becomes what Fr Chircop called a “regimen”. The local attitude of “U ijwa, kollox huwa OK...kollox passabbli” should not become our motto as the work place is rather unforgiving. Students might complain about the two-hour lecture that makes them wish they remained asleep, but let’s face it, it isn’t a joy for the lecturers either. Waking up just as early as the students and then facing a tough crowd (to put it mildly) is not as tempting as it sounds.

We all are aware of Fr Chircop’s zero-tolerance for people appearing at 8:02 am. What is the big deal? Well, the truth is that it is basically “disrespectful to each other”. To be fair, he does make a valid point. Those that attempt to walk in at 8:10 do disrupt the class and don’t just sit down and pay attention; they fidget, take out their mobile and shares their daily philosophy.

During his first year as a lecturer he was appalled and disgusted by the lack of respect that students had towards each other by turning up late. The Time Out symbol is actually “a way of training” the CCT students because “the industry is not forgiving” when it comes to meeting deadlines. As he smirked, he admitted that it’s actually “the Icon” because it is original, concise and no other known lecturer makes use of it.





Goodmorning Gorg!

What are your opinions on 8 o'clock lectures?

I don't like them! I drive people crazy because my energy has already kicked in by then!

What are your tricks for being so wide awake and energetic at 8am?

Infuriatingly for everyone around me, I am naturally wide awake as soon as my feet touch the ground in the morning! In fact I usually wake up one minute before the alarm goes!

What time do you leave home to be at university on time for an 8 o'clock lecture?

I leave home at 10 past 7

How are your students at 8am? Do you find it more difficult to keep their attention?

Asleep! It's not easy to keep their attention. It's difficult... yes... but I manage!

In your opinion, what's the ideal time to have a lecture?

10am... because by this time people have woken up properly and are not yet hungry for lunch. They are also not in the sleepy mode they would be in after lunch.

Would you prefer ending your day later or starting earlier?

Definitely ending later.

Would you prefer if 8 o'clock lectures were eliminated?

They should try to be avoided at all costs however sometimes they are needed... they should be the exception and not the rule.