

## Wrong music of the knight

It is four years since Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway presented the best picture Oscar to the wrong film. Sir Tim Rice knows how *La La Land* felt. He has been misidentified by both the stars of *Bonnie and Clyde*. The lyricist says that Dunaway once got into a lift with him in New York and immediately attacked him for her losing a role in “your musical”. Asked which one she meant, she said *Sunset Boulevard*. Before Rice could say that Andrew Lloyd Webber had done that without him, she was gone. Soon afterwards he was at a concert where he met Beatty, who warmly congratulated Rice on *The Phantom of the Opera*. When he pointed out that this wasn’t his either, a mortified Beatty moved away quickly. Rice now wishes he had replied: “And I loved you in *Lawrence of Arabia*.”

### BARKING UP WRONG TREE

Another victim of mistaken identity is the broadcaster Adrian Chiles, whose *Everyman* features often get him confused with the naturalist Ray Mears. Chiles, below, said that people greeted him as fans but usually gave the game away by asking how he cooks with tree bark. “I don’t want to disappoint them so I say something about cockroaches, have a selfie and move on,” he says. On one occasion, though, he had to correct a man who was wrong on several points when he said: “Oh my God, it’s Ray Charles.”

*The wit of the late Tommy Docherty is recalled in the new Oldie. He managed George Best at*

*Manchester United and remarked that the problem with the*

*mercurial footballer was that he kept going missing. Asked what he meant, Docherty said: “Miss America, Miss Canada, Miss Great Britain ...”*

### DJ DRIVES A HARD BARGAIN

The veteran radio presenter David “Diddy” Hamilton, who got his nickname from Ken Dodd, has the car numberplate DI DDY, which once caught the eye of the Chelsea footballer Didier Deschamps. Hamilton tells *The Beat* magazine that he was approached in a car park by Deschamps, who offered to buy it on the spot. “Name your price,” DD told Diddy. The DJ was flummoxed. “Er, £20,000?” he asked. The footballer’s eyebrows raised. “Only?” he said. Hamilton then realised he was probably earning twice that in a week. “And another £20k for the front one,” he said. Alas, DD decided to let it pass.

*Discourse in Aussie politics is far harsher than ours, even among friends. Julia Gillard, the former Australian prime minister, tells The Political Party that after she was deposed in a leadership challenge in 2013, she was packing up her office when the phone rang. It was Paul Keating, a predecessor and friend. He didn’t sugar the pill, telling her with national bluntness: “We all get taken out in a box, love.”*

### HATS OFF TO GUARDSMEN

You can pick up lots of things from guardsmen, and not all of them need ointment. Jools Holland used to frequent the pub where the Grenadier Guards went and said in his podcast that he was told about a competition they

have each year for the daftest thing to be hidden under a bearskin during Trooping the Colour. “One chap had a gerbil,” Holland said, before claiming, a little implausibly, not to mention surreally, that that year’s winner had “a tiny model of the Nuremberg war trials”.

