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# Ondit

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14 APR 2003



# THESE MEN GOT THEIR EDUCATION FOR FREE



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Bachelor of Law  
University of Sydney



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Bachelor of Arts/Law  
Monash University



**BRENDAN NELSON**  
Bachelor of Medicine  
Flinders University

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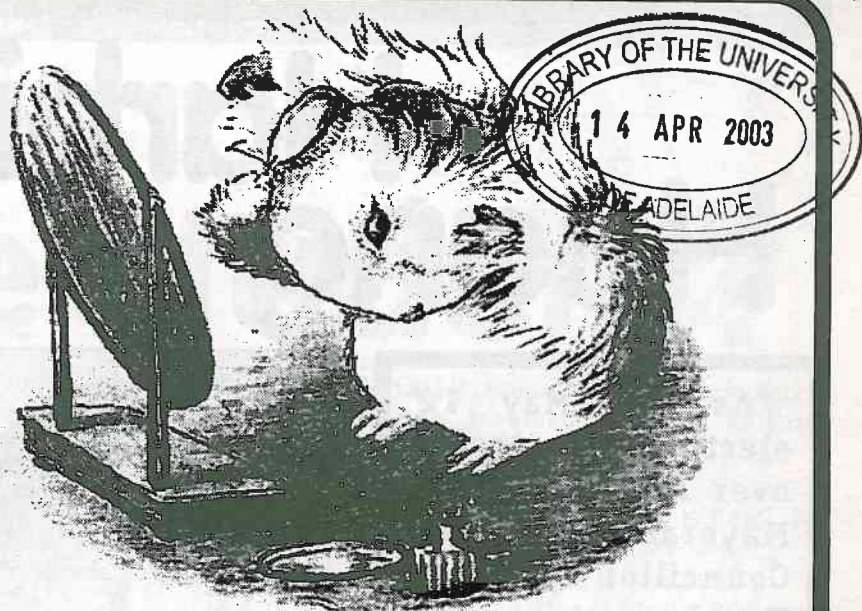
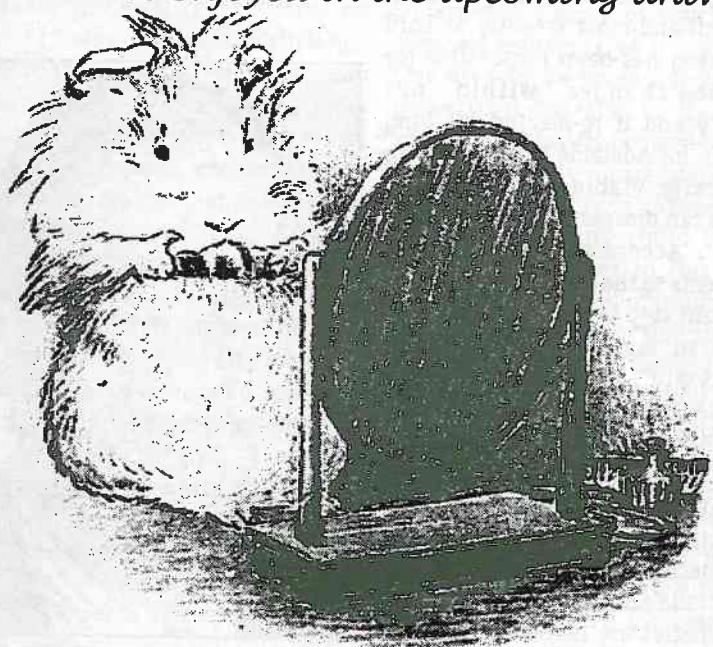
## National Day of Action EDUCATION IN CRISIS

Thursday 10th April, 1pm, Museum, North Terrace



Once upon a time there lived a group of three editors, who laboured and toiled in the squalor and filth of the On Dit basement. Each and every Monday at the stroke of 6.30am, sunlight would stream from across the Barr Smith lawns and through the solitary office window, illuminating spots of oil on the yellowing walls. Often, at this time, the editors and proofreading pixies would be heard to complain that the sunlight exposed similar spots and signs of ageing on their very own skin!

On this Monday morning reams of stories, articles and reviews would be whisked away to Cadillac Printing, where Bonnie the Printer would arduously work away, being sure to return the publication just in time to be enjoyed in the upcoming university week.



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**THE  
 ONDIT**

**Volume 71 Edition 6 31.3.03**

On Dit is the weekly student publication of the Students' Association of the University of Adelaide. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editors or the Association.

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**Local Music:** James Cameron  
**Phoney Horrorscoopes:** Madame Eternity  
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**About the cover**

Story book edition; tailored, detailed and hand-spun to perfection.

**Wanna write?**

Then come on down to the On Dit hovel, located in the basement of the George Murray Building (wedged between two sets of poorly maintained male toilets), and adjacent to the Barr Smith Lawns. Or for a more pleasant aroma, email us at [ondit@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:ondit@adelaide.edu.au) or call us on 8303 5404 or 8303 6490.

**Next Edition:**

Deadline April 30, published May 5.

**Sugar-coated cream puffs to:**

Peter E, Saturday night press gang (Michael, Roberto, Emile & Maximus), Mary Maxwell, Yak, JC and the Purple Hearts, Dan J, Penny (American correspondent), Sam Franzway, and everyone who has contributed to term 1 of On Dit 2003.

# Harbison Huang & Mackie

As the May 12 election date looms over Adelaide, Lord Mayoral candidates Councillor Michael Harbison and incumbent Mayor Alfred Huang have intensified their campaigns, particularly after the last minute nomination of fellow councillor Greg Mackie. These candidates all show the ability to draw strong support and thus the election, which will be determined by postal ballot, promises to be an interesting one.



## Alfred Huang

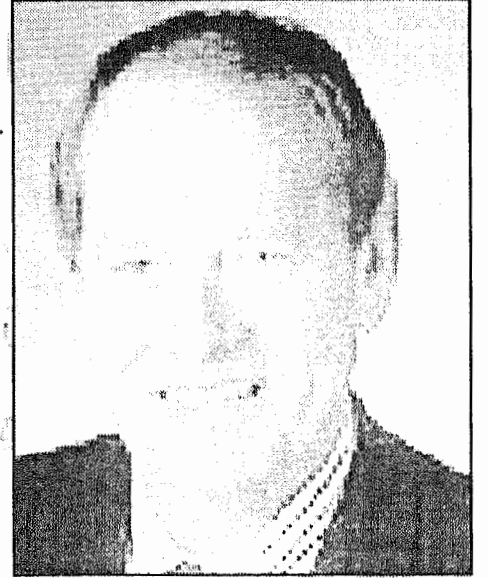
Alfred Huang was first elected to the Adelaide City Council in 1992 and since then has served as both Deputy Lord Mayor from 1995 to 1997 and as the current Lord

Mayor. He is a graduate of RMIT with a Masters Degree in Engineering from the University of NSW and a Master of (Business) Administration from Monash University, and has since worked as an engineer and senior manager in Adelaide, Sydney, and Melbourne as well as overseas. As a member of the Adelaide City Council and most recently as Lord Mayor, Huang has been responsible for important changes within our community and if re-elected his long term vision for Adelaide is to "create an economically viable city in which businesses can prosper, and the residents feel safe". According to Mr Huang, improvements to the education sector are an important step in achieving this goal. In order to market Adelaide as a "university city", Huang intends to work closely with South Australian universities and the State and Federal Government to "raise the standard of our education" and to attract more interstate and overseas students. Huang states that his ultimate desire is to transform Adelaide into "Australia's Boston", a city in which the universities are renowned not only in Australia but throughout the world. Another important issue in the upcoming election is the proposed unification of Victoria Square; however, Huang stands alone in his support of this, in which he plans to build a semi-tunnel underneath the square in order to maintain the east/west access. The proposal to close off Victoria Square is strongly opposed by both Councillors Harbison and Mackie and although the Mayor asserts that the proposed tunnel is only a "small part of the central west development proposal" it seems certain to incur substantial expenses for both the Council and the State Government.

Huang confirms that he is not a member of a political party and firmly believes that "local government should not have party politics involved". In spite of being apolitical Huang expresses the importance of the City Council working well with the State Government, affirming his own successful relations with both the Liberal and the current Labor government. Finally, Huang asserts that because he does not own a business in the city he is able to work full time as Lord Mayor, uninhibited by financial or economic conflicts and promises to do the same thing in the upcoming term.

Huang is focussed on the need for Adelaide to progress and move forward; however, he also believes that the Council should focus on retaining the positive features of our community, particularly our lifestyle, heritage buildings and the city parklands. Although Huang is positive about the future of Adelaide, his proposal regarding the closure of Victoria Square is certain to have implications for the wider community. Indeed Adelaide residents may eventually be able to spend their Sunday afternoons

picnicking in the Square, but this will come at a substantial and possibly unnecessary cost to the community. If education is really Huang's priority then surely the money could be better spent?



## Michael Harbison

As a father of four, Councillor Michael Harbison has expressed concern that unless Adelaide provides young people with more "excitement and opportunity" they will eventually choose to leave Adelaide for the east coast or overseas.

Harbison is particularly concerned about the unavailability of housing for young people in Adelaide, expressing the need to look beyond the requirements of international students and more importantly at our own young people, particularly school leavers and the unemployed. Harbison concedes that the Council have previously retained a focus on the need for student housing, yet states that this does not cater for the needs of young people who frequently move across the work/study divide. Through the increased development of affordable housing in the city, Harbison hopes not only to attract foreign and interstate students to South Australia, but more importantly to provide our own young people with an incentive to remain here.

According to Harbison, Adelaide does not focus or invest enough money in education, and thus as Mayor he intends to develop education as the primary industry for our city. Although the Federal Government has control over universities, Harbison believes that the City Council can take a greater interest in the private education sector and other educational institutions (such as TAFE), and further invest in the people who write and

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# What do they offer

# the student?

distribute educational courses.

Harbison appears optimistic about the future of Adelaide, particularly for young people likening our city to the Irish capital of Dublin, which although no bigger than Adelaide is a thriving university town in which even the hairdressing school has around 8,000 students. In his focus on the youth of today, particularly students, Harbison looks beyond education and identifies several other important areas that he intends to address, namely: accommodation, careers, excitement and the company of other young people.

In his long term vision for Adelaide Harbison hopes to develop more accommodation which is affordable for young people and thus seeks to provide rental properties within the city environs. Harbison refers to a recent study of overseas students in which they expressed that Adelaide was "boring", "the shops were always closed" and that there is "no public transport", yet reveals that these foreign students have been forced to live in the outer suburbs of Adelaide. In these areas they are much less able to access the city's resources and for this reason Harbison believes that the provision of cheap rental accommodation within the city will ensure that Adelaide is more "enticing" for young people. Harbison further identifies numerous advantages to increasing the young population within the city stating that empty streets are more dangerous at night and that life on city streets ensures that they are both exciting for young people as well as safe.

In order to improve career prospects in Adelaide Harbison believes that the Council needs to focus on generating infrastructure for city businesses and thus to create a city which is appealing to small business owners. Harbison, who has been a full time Councillor since 1998, is already responsible for Adelaidebiz.net.com which is an important City Council initiative aimed at encouraging businesses to set up in the City. This electronic index of city businesses, which provides businesses with a free online webpage, now has 7000 registered online and Harbison hopes that similar moves will continue to attract businesses to Adelaide and thus boost the city economy.

Finally, Harbison states that he wants to create a city where the entertainment and excitement provided, are relevant to young people. He asserts that Adelaide is currently being run by outdated planning laws developed in the 1970s which divide the city into commercial, residential and entertainment zones. As Lord Mayor Harbison hopes to create a modern city in which both city apartment blocks and entertainment venues are built to be more sound proof and in doing so hopes to create a more cosmopolitan city in which commercial, residential and entertainment venues exist in the same area. Councillor Harbison is well aware of the needs of young people today and expresses the

desire to generate more live music within the metropolitan area, particularly in venues such as Light Square, which he perceives to be an ideal entertainment venue.

Harbison's campaign has also centred strongly around the issue of Victoria Square, the closure of which he openly opposes, realising that it is important for this area to be accessible not only for pedestrians but also for cars. Harbison asserts that there is no need to completely block off this city square, stating that "the city retail industry is not as resilient as people think" and could certainly be affected by changes to this area which would hinder the flow of traffic throughout the city and thus deter suburban residents from city shopping. However Councillor Harbison is not completely opposed to developing this area and believes that it is important to make the Square more attractive and more pedestrian friendly, yet he emphasises that this does not require the closure of the surrounding roads. Instead Harbison believes that the Council must strive for balance within Adelaide and thus needs to create a city in which both the movement of cars and pedestrians is facilitated.



**Greg Mackie**

Greg Mackie explains that his decision to run for Lord Mayor was not a last minute one, stating that he has been working through this decision for the past few months.

"Adelaide needs a leadership that will bring together rather than divide, the energy and ideas of a new generation, into our civic life, and which can be economically savvy as well as socially compassionate," states Mackie, asserting

the people of Adelaide into the Lord Mayoral race. He further explains that Adelaide needs "to forge good partnerships with State Government, our metropolitan neighbours, the business community and the community itself," saying that as Mayor he would endeavour to achieve these goals.

Mackie strongly supports a re-developed West End precinct which incorporates a unified Victoria Square yet does not believe that tunnel vision is necessary. He firmly believes that the City Council can unify the square and still manage the traffic impact and in doing so achieve "a civic heart" as intended by Colonel Light.

A graduate of Flinders University, Mackie is affiliated with all three South Australian universities, serving on the University of South Australia's council and on the Radio Adelaide Advisory Board. For these reasons he believes he is well aware of the needs of the student population, stating that Adelaide needs more "affordable housing in the city, particularly student housing" and furthermore that he is "committed to advancing this agenda". According to Mackie "education and learning are central to our survival and economy" and as founder of the Adelaide Festival of Ideas he has certainly shown a strong commitment to intellectual life in the city.

In his campaign for Lord Mayor, Mackie seems focussed on the cultural environment of the city, stating that "a vibrant, buzzy, city centre is an essential background for a thriving culture". His commitment to this area has been ongoing and as Councillor he played a leading role in the revitalisation of Hindley Street and the West End as an arts, education and entertainment precinct. As Lord Mayor Mackie will continue to place Adelaide's culture at "centre stage" and hopes to ensure that city growth and development does not come at the cost of our "vibrant youth culture".

Councillor Mackie is also responsible for other important City Council initiatives, particularly the permanent flying of the Aboriginal Flag in Victoria Square, which is one of several reconciliation programs he has implemented within the community. Indeed Mackie's appears to be committed to overcoming prejudice in our society as well as diversifying the Adelaide culture and for this reason has a great deal to offer the City of Adelaide. From one student's perspective however, although these goals are admirable, they do not solve the immediate problems facing young people in Adelaide today.

Rosie Sidey

## RE: Kidneys

Dear Scholars

I wish to stress that my distinguished colleagues and I are not in the market for kidneys or any other body parts for this year's 'Joy of Anatomy' workshops.

Miserable wretches desperate to raise \$249 and score microsoft office xp professional at up to 80% off from the campus store should put their femurs, fibulas and tibias to use and consult the employment section of the campus and/or local papers (like any sane person would!).

thank you,

Professor Theodore Hempel  
BMedSc MB BS, PhD.

# AL JAZEERA

get unfairly shafted by pretty much everyone

From recent events in the international arena, one would be forgiven for thinking that there is some sort of Western world vendetta against Arab media. The BBC has realised the potential of having a cross-regional partner and has subsequently entered in to an information sharing arrangement with Al Jazeera, but it seems that America still may not be willing to follow their lead.

Al Jazeera is based in Qatar, and offers news services on television, internet and radio. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak once commented that considering its influence, their newsroom is puny. When he paid a visit to Al Jazeera's base newsroom during a visit to Doha, Qatar, a couple of years ago, he asked, "All this noise comes from this matchbox?"

Recently Al Jazeera have suffered great difficulty in broadcasting news via the internet, a medium which is usually the only communication channel that those people outside of the Middle East can access. The site's host claimed that "hackers attacked the web site of Arab satellite television network Al-Jazeera today, rendering it intermittently unavailable". The alleged attacks of

hacking affected the newly launched English-language page, which on the week of release was the second most frequently accessed page on the internet.

The technical problems were thought to be caused by bombardments of data packets known as 'denial-of-service' attacks. These attacks involve the hacker sending a deluge of false requests to web servers, which overloads it, making it unavailable to users. This certainly appears to be true, with searches for 'Al Jazeera' bringing up related articles, but no official webpage.

Representatives from Al Jazeera have alleged that these attacks were carried out in response to images of corpses of American soldiers killed in Iraq, and pictures of recently captured prisoners of war, being broadcast both on television and on the internet.

This mysterious attack on Al Jazeera's website has not been an isolated offense. Al-Jazeera has also advised that two of their reporters have had their credentials revoked by the New York Stock Exchange, allegedly because of the network's coverage of the war. Conversely, the exchange states that the decision was

prompted by space constraints rather than being motivated by any political interests.

Another interesting development arose last week when longtime advertising executive Charlotte Beers, the US State Department's chief of public diplomacy, proposed an unconventional strategy to disseminate America's message across the Middle East. Faced with "a battle for the mind" and the need to tell moderate Muslims that the US isn't fighting Islam, Ms. Beers said the State Department is investigating new ways to "reach out". Among the possibilities: advertising on Al Jazeera, Osama bin Laden's favored broadcast venue. "I will choose any channel of distribution, any format that will get the job done," said Ms. Beers. "This is probably what I bring to the party. I have seen how such messages and such formats work."

Here's hoping that this run of 'bad luck' doesn't continue for Al Jazeera, in the interests of maintaining some semblance of balance in the media coverage of the war.

Bonnie Cruickshank

## National Wine Centre

# Good, honest crop this season

In an update on the National Wine Centre entitled *National Wine Centre: Money tree or heap of sour grapes?*, *On Dit* questioned the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor Brian Croser in the decision to purchase the lease. After email correspondence with Croser this week, *On Dit* was able to establish that thankfully no conflict of interest occurred. Councillor Croser had headed the Board of Directors of the National Wine Centre, but resigned from this position in late 2002. In order to ensure that his history with the centre played no part in the decisions made by University Council in regards to the purchase of the lease, he took the further step of absenting himself from all discussions on the matter. Phew, had us worried for a minute there.

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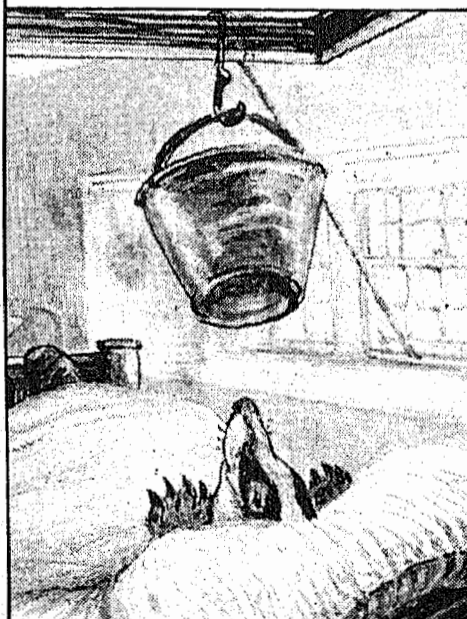
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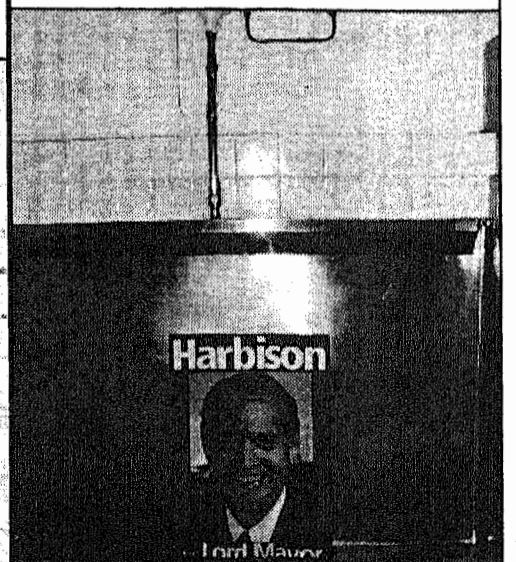
## A word from our sponsors

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the men's toilets in the  
basement of the George  
Murray Building.

PS- Despite what you may think, we didn't do it.



# Parklands:

## Some Questions Answered

Last week *On Dit* raised questions about the recent changeover of the on-campus medical service from Wirringa to Parklands Medical Centre. Further information has since come to light on this important campus issue.

Since the University of Adelaide closed its in-house University Health Service on December 24, 1998, two outsourced health services have occupied the medical centre premises on Hughes Plaza. Wirringa Medical Centre opened its doors in January 1999 as a private medical practice operating on the University's grounds, headed by Dr Jim Kosmas.

Late last year, Wirringa made way for the Parklands Medical Centre, headed by Executive Director Dr Jill Benson. Parklands had formerly existed as a private medical practice of six doctors in the Eleanor Harold Building on Frome Road, with a client base comprising mainly private (ie non-University) patients, with some medical students taking advantage of Parklands' proximity to the Medical School.

Although the changeover was somewhat unexpected for a significant number of patients, the University says it took measures to reduce the inconvenience to students. "We tried to reduce the amount of disruption to students by making sure Parklands was operational by the time students were back on campus for the beginning of the 2003 academic year," said a spokesperson from the University's Student and Staff Services. The reason given for the changeover by Student and Staff Services was that Dr Kosmas had elected to not renew his contract with the University.

Parklands Medical Centre, although a private medical practice like Wirringa, is affiliated with the University in that it is a research and teaching practice in association with the Department of General Practice, with four of its doctors from this Department. The 15 doctors on the staff are rostered, some on a part-time basis, to manage the patient demand. A comprehensive approach has been promoted by Parklands, with the University's website listing services including health checks, immunisations, vaccinations, women's health, drug and alcohol counselling, contraception advice, skin care, travel medicine, weight disorders, psychotherapy and counselling. In addition, Dr Benson hopes to have doctors available for consultation on sports medicine and grief and bereavement.

Dr Benson is clearly proud of her staff, who also work in other portfolios outside the practice including indigenous health, the Royal Flying Doctor Service, hypnotherapy, men's health, and refugee health at the Migrant Health Service. However, she is aware of the complaints Parklands has received since the changeover, and is quick to acknowledge that there have been some problems. The opening of Parklands at the Hughes Plaza premises took place in the week before the November 2002 end-of-year exams, and Dr Benson describes the influx of students requesting appointments at this time - "fifty to one hundred students a day" - as "a shock". Parklands' doctors are now devising walk-in clinic schedules to cope with the demand, which is not always best served by an appointment system.

As for the high proportion of non-

students who appear to be visiting Parklands since it has moved to the University grounds that *On Dit* reported on last week, Dr Benson acknowledges this also, citing a number of reasons. As a private practice, Parklands does not have a booking policy of seeing only students or staff of the University as patients, nor one of prioritising students or staff over each other or over non-University patients.

Further, one criterion that the on-campus medical service must fulfil is that it must bulk-bill all patients. [In return, the University charges Parklands - as it charged Wirringa - a reduced rate of rent throughout the year, except for during the mid-year break.] Due to its status as a bulk-billing practice, Dr Benson says "lots of people from other places" visit Parklands to take advantage of the financial savings involved. The significant decline in general practices that do bulk-bill (most credible sources put the national rate of GP visits that are bulk-billed at around 69 per cent and falling, down from around 80 per cent just a few years ago) is no doubt a factor in this. The necessity of Parklands having to stay within the framework of a non-subsidised practice, whilst bulk-billing, puts it in a somewhat difficult situation.

Finally, as Parklands was already an established medical practice at another location, some of the client base from the Frome Road premises has followed its doctors over the road to Hughes Plaza. Dr Benson says the current Parklands client base is around half students, and around half patients from the old Parklands practice.

Also, last week *On Dit* reported that some students had been unable to access

their medical records after the changeover. Student and Staff Services has since made it clear to *On Dit* that the onus is on the student to authorise a former doctor to pass on records to a new doctor, and that it is standard practice that medical records cannot merely be handed over to a patient or new doctor.

Despite the problems that have affected the on-campus medical service, Dr Benson has made it clear that she and her staff are here voluntarily and are keen to improve the service at Parklands as much as possible. "We chose to be here," she says, "although we didn't realise it would be so difficult." Although some feedback from patients has been received verbally and through the feedback box in the practice's reception area, Dr Benson welcomes more. "We are trying as hard as we can," she says. "We want students to be happy with us."

Gemma Clark

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## SAUA Roundup

The SAUA Council meeting which took place on Wednesday April 2 began uneventfully, with reports from most office bearers being discussed as councillors arrived in dribs and drabs. But as we all know, there is no rest for the wicked, and more interesting points of discussion were soon stimulated. The first of these topics was raised by Vice-President Marrone; a discussion of the upcoming National Day of Action to raise awareness and protest against the Crossroads Review of higher education. When quizzed by Councillor Mitchell about the negative media coverage that Books Not Bombs rallies have received around the country, Marrone and President Hanson-Young jumped to the Adelaide contingent's defence. Hanson-Young pointed out that while this is a

legitimate concern that public opinion may not be favourable, it is probably not relevant as SA Police have commended the SAUA for the organisation and peaceful nature of recent actions.

The major point of concern this week was to discuss the substantial debt of around \$47,000 which plagues the SAUA, primarily as a result of this year's Orientation shortcomings. Several budgets were presented to council, detailing ways in which cuts could be made to the existing line items in order to get the SAUA back on its Birkenstock-clad feet again. Unfortunately for *On Dit*, the 2003 print run looks to be reduced by five editions (down to the constitutional minimum of 18).

Addressing the finances of the SAUA then triggered a discussion of the value of

being affiliated to NUS (National Union of Students). Student Radio Director Mark van der Kolk was bombarded with explanations when he enquired as to what benefits are gained from our membership, and whether it provided enough value to warrant a yearly pricetag of around \$69,000.

Despite opposition from several councillors, a motion was successfully passed to allow the SAUA to conduct further investigation into whether a payment plan for the yearly fee is a viable option. This saving would obviously be of great help to the SAUA given its current financial woes, but some councillors question what effect this could have on the quality of representation received on a national level.

# Baxter Desert Convergence

Easter Weekend 2003  
April 18 - 21

National borders shifted to restrict immigration. Offshore processing and detention. Forced deportations. No new recorded arrivals in over a year. The gradual phasing out of current onshore detention centres, and the relocation of those who have spent months and years in prison.

We are taught in our high schools that the persecution of the Jews in Nazi Germany was perhaps the greatest tragedy of the 20th century and the world will not let this happen to anybody ever again. The fact remains that a concentration camp exists 300 kilometres north of Adelaide and yet the Premier of this great state has discouraged people from attending. This stance is at best an insult to the political freedoms we pretend to have, and at worst unadulterated fascism.

Refugee rights activists around Australia invite you to join a national convergence on Baxter Detention Centre from April 18-21, 2003. Baxter is located on military land at the El Alamein army training facility on Old Whyalla Road,

approximately 12 kilometres south-west of the Port Augusta township and is some 275 kilometres north-west of Adelaide.

Incredibly, 60 per cent of Australians would support a war on Iraq if it were sanctioned by the UN, yet there are still many who are not willing to concede to the UN when it says that Australian detention centres are a humanitarian violation, and support the Australian Government's hardline approach of imprisoning, in much the same way as the Iraqi dictatorship itself, those people who flee Iraq.

Australian society can not be at peace while it detains asylum seekers. Converge at Baxter over Easter to show your solidarity with people imprisoned simply for applying for their lawful right to protection and asylum. Join with the detainees inside Baxter IDC in struggling for their freedom — and for our own. Converge at Baxter to show your opposition to the blatant disregard of human rights perpetrated by the Howard Government. Converge at Baxter to show

the Australian Government your opposition to the war for oil that will displace tens of thousands of people from their home country in Iraq and surrounding regions. Converge at Baxter to show your rejection of the free flow of global capital while restricting the freedom of movement of people. Converge at Baxter to show your solidarity with the indigenous peoples of Australia and their continuing struggle for land rights. Converge at Baxter to support women's rights and to recognise the extra hardship for women refugees in escaping war and danger, often while raising children. Show your rejection of the tightening stranglehold on civil liberties, the continuing disregard for the environment and the ever-increasing militarisation of Australia.

Baxter03 will be a convergence of compassion and action: part protest, part liberation camp and a powerful coming together of those who seek to put an end to Australia's racist and xenophobic policies. Expect a kaleidoscope of

autonomous actions, media streams and screenings, workshops, discussions and happenings.

In the spirit of Woomera2002, Baxter03 will be shaped by those who make the journey. At Baxter we show respect for diversity of tactics, respect for political viewpoint, and most of all a respect for humanity.

People are encouraged to bring to Baxter03 a diversity of disarming, amusing, confusing, engaging, disruptive and bizarre tactics to disrupt the present and create the future. Come with an existing group or form an affinity group for the duration. Each group will be represented on a spokescouncil, which will share information, provide a forum for co-operation and facilitate the actions.

Nat Enright

For more information on how you can get to Baxter this Easter weekend, contact Nat on 0410 158 596.

## While you were watching the war...

A placard in Washington at a recent anti-war protest proclaimed, "While you were watching the war, Bush was raping America". The same thing is happening in our island home...

It is a dark and most depressing time, and people very rightly are turning to the streets to voice their anger at Australia's involvement in the war with Iraq. The war is now being used by the Federal Government to divert attention from the drastic and damning changes that they wish to introduce to both Australia's main arteries: health and education.

The thrust for these educational changes is coming from the Federal Minister for Education, Dr Brendan Nelson. He began this movement with the Crossroads Review of Higher Education which was handed down last year, and is now proposing changes to the system to parliament. Brendan, like many other senior ministers, received his education for FREE.

**What the Howard Government has already done to higher education:**

Since 1996 when they gained office, the Howard Government has pulled in excess of \$5 billion out of Australian universities, including nearly \$400million from SA universities, and cut more than 20,000 university places. Funding cuts meant that the number of fully funded places in 2003 fell in South Australia by \$398.911m. That equates to 1,573 places; the loss to the University of Adelaide alone was \$126.158m or 493 places.

In 1996 the repayment threshold of HECS came down from \$28,522 to \$20,734 per annum.

In 1999 there were plans for drastic changes to the higher education sector leaked from Cabinet. These changes

(similar to the ones suggested now) were met with such strong opposition that the plans have been put on the backburner until now.

Last year's 2002-2003 Federal Budget saw defence receiving \$13.144bn while education and training got only \$12.32bn. This year the war will mean further funds will be directed into the military, and it is appearing that it will be at the expense of education, with the Federal Minister unable to promise further funding for universities until 2005.

This financial year the national HECS debt will rise to \$9 billion. A recent Australian study (by CEDA) found that people with HECS debts were less likely to buy houses, take out loans, have children, et cetera because they were not willing to take on more debt.

**What the Crossroads Review proposes**

(Information supplied by the National Union of Students)

Some of the things that we face include:

1. Deregulation.  
Universities set their fees and can increase them by 25 per cent (known in the sector as super-HECS). The real killer is that the super-HECS fee increases are going to be at real market interest rates. This means the longer you take to pay back your fee, the more you pay.

2. Increase Domestic Up-Front-Full-Fee-Scheme (DUFFS) Places.

The current cap on the number of full fee payers is at 25 per cent. The Government intends to lift it to 50 per cent. The reality is that the demand does not exist to fill these places, so the Government has a plan to create demand and introduce a loan scheme for DUFFS.

The loan scheme will be based on market interest rates. The other way the Government can create demand is by making students who fail a course, start one and then transfer, or take longer to complete pay full fees on any extra time they are at uni.

3. Attack staff and student unions.

The package has Voluntary Student Unionism in it - ie: the abolition of student services and students' voice - no more *On Dit*. It also has an attack on the National Tertiary Education Union. The policy will make any student getting a research grant be on an individual contract (AWA). It will also make staff strikes against the national interest and so illegal.

4. Restructure Sector

The package will restructure research funding so that regional campuses get no money, there will be fewer students and eventually less universities.

5. Interest on PELS

Market interest rates will be placed on the Postgraduate Loans scheme (a worse form of HECS).

These ideas are based around user-pays and general neo-liberal ideology. This ideology is currently being implemented already at universities. However, it is still limited by regulation. Examples at the University of Adelaide include corporatisation (the Santos School of Petroleum Engineering), and cuts to smaller courses such as those in Humanities and Social Sciences Department of Social Inquiry last year.

**Education in crisis - the real issues**

At the moment accessibility to university is restricted by an income support system that offers payments between 20-39 per cent below the Henderson Poverty line. It is a system

where students are at the same time penalised for working, yet forced into work due to the poor payments they receive. With Nelson's proposed time limits on degrees, those who must study part-time to work will be further disadvantaged.

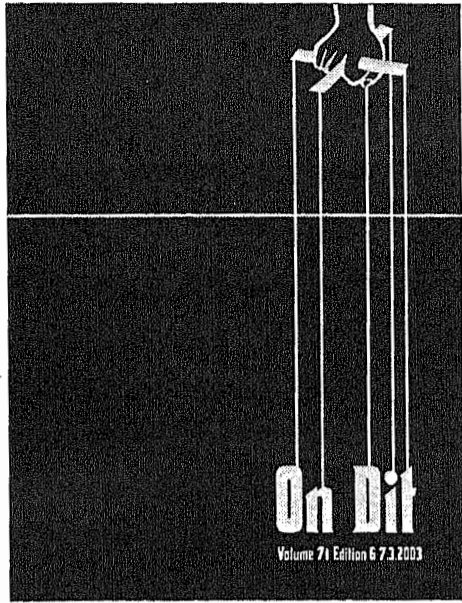
While many western European countries have, and have had for some time, systems of cheap and sometimes free education, other dominant developed countries are now also beginning to notice the benefit of publicly funding education. The US, Japan and South Korea all reduced their reliance on private funding for higher education while, the UK and Canada are both increasing public spending on Universities. In Australia the demand on students and reliance on the private sector has gone up. Between 1998 and 1999 private funding for Australian universities rose almost four points to near 48 per cent. In the US students are expected to contribute 19 per cent of the running costs of universities and in Canada 17 per cent, students in Australia contribute more than 36 per cent of these costs.

While you are watching the war, look out for your education ... don't be fooled, be alert and alarmed. Come to the National Day of Action, in front of the Museum on North Terrace at 1pm on April 10, and let your voice be heard.

Leah Marrone  
Education Vice-President

For my sources for this article or for any queries please e-mail me: [leah.marrone@student.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:leah.marrone@student.adelaide.edu.au), or call me at the Students' Association on 8303 5406





The generous proprietors of the London Tavern have cordially awarded lunch for two and two pints of beer to the author of *On Dit's* Letter of the Week. This week good fortune has happened upon Simon Haan. Visit the editors in their little warren, telephone them on 8303 5404, or despatch an electronic mail to [ondit@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:ondit@adelaide.edu.au) to redeem your prize.

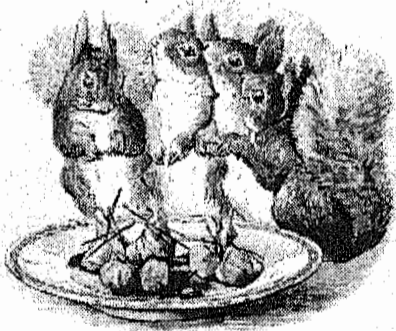
## ADF strikes again

Dear Eds,

Just wanted to bring your attention to a pamphlet distributed in the SAUA's O'Week showbag of useless crap, which as I understand was given out with most student diaries. This particular pamphlet looks harmless enough from the front (Student & Staff Magazine & Software Discounts in purple lettering with pictures of various mags) but on the back... some sneakily placed but uncannily hard to miss, ADF advertising. Copies of this pamphlet are still available on a table opposite the student lockers in the law school. So much for the ban on ADF advertising.

Cheers,  
J9

PS. Was that a pic of Nat F. Enright in the car on the front of last week's newspaper?

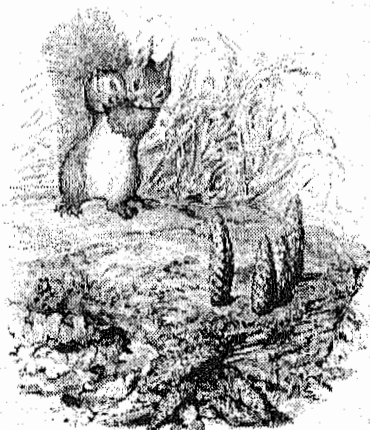


## Steve vs Stacey

Stacey P. raised a number of issues through her opinions that were put forward in last week's *On Dit* (71.5). Australia does have an alliance with the US, known officially as ANZUS, of which New Zealand is also a part. That however does not obligate Australia to make available large amounts of military hardware and personnel at every request from the US without prior debate and individual judgement. On the contrary, a good ally would inform the government of the country in question, in the case of

war, the immediate problems and issues at the present time and those that may arise in the future as a result of the intended action. For example it has become apparent that a large number if Iraqis do not want to become 'liberated' by American, British, or Australian forces. Instead, a feeling of nationalistic pride could cause many Iraqis to rise up against coalition forces, who could easily be perceived as invaders instead of 'liberators.' This is obviously a massive gamble being taken by the coalition governments, hoping that Baghdad, a city with approximately the same population as Sydney, will welcome their troops. One major factor that has of course been largely ignored by the media is that a coalition of three predominantly white, English speaking nations are forcing their way into a country that lies in the centre of the Arab world. The coalition should take into the account the perception that many people living in the Arab world may understandably hold of white soldiers apparently taking over the nation of Iraq. Whilst there may be some good intentions it seems to me quite foolish and in fact ludicrous to so blatantly enter a military force that has enough fire power to kill millions, into the politically and culturally sensitive part of the world that is the Middle East. This whilst American troops occupy parts of Afghanistan which still contains many remnants of America's last military splurge on one side of Iraq whilst on the other, Palestinian people continue to be massacred on a daily basis due to the aggression coming from one of America's closest allies, Israel. Stacey wrote that if we don't fight this war, then we are not supporting our allies and instead supporting Saddam Hussein. That derives from the rhetoric of George Bush and his "Good vs Evil" theory. This issue is unfortunately much more complicated and there are many more factor to consider than good and evil, even without bringing Iraqi oil supplies into the argument. The implications of the coalitions military action in Iraq are extremely complicated and the result of such an act? A hundred Bin Ladens, two hundred, maybe a thousand. Only time will tell.

Steve Kellett



## Simon says

Dear Mr Cozens,

This letter is in reply to your letter in last week's *On Dit*, 'David vs. Nic'. In terms of your claims regarding Ariel Sharon's actions in the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacres only being negligent, I would direct you to Julie Flint's article 'The Sharon files', provided by the Guardian at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/israel/Story/0,2763,608171,00.html>. This article exposes, by reference to leaked secret Israeli government documents, that Sharon was well aware that a massacre might take place and therefore he was not simply negligent.

Secondly, I want to address your argument regarding Israel's compliance with UN resolutions. You state that the resolutions passed with respect to the Israel-Palestine problem are taken under Chapter VI of the UN Charter, which is correct. However, you then claim that since the resolutions are not enforceable by economic sanctions or military action Israel has not defied them. This assertion seems bizarre. Article 24 of the UN Charter states that when countries join the UN they agree that the Security Council "acts on their behalf" and Article 25 states that "The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council...." As such, contrary to what you state, Security Council resolutions are always binding on all parties concerned. If the Security Council asks a country to do something in a resolution then that request is binding; it does not matter that there are no repercussions for noncompliance. If this were not the case, there would be no point in passing the resolution.

Now, numerous Security Council resolutions have been passed, such as resolutions 446, 452 and 465, which explicitly request that Israel stop building settlements in the Occupied Territories. However, Israel has openly defied them as evidenced by the findings of the UN Commissions set up to monitor their compliance. For example, on March 16 2001, a commission established by the Commission of Human Rights to investigate the situation in the Occupied territories reported that:

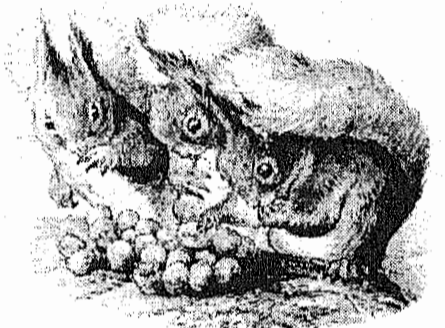
...settlements provide daily evidence of the violation of international law and the failure of the international community, acting through the United Nations and the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions, to remedy such a situation. The despair and cynicism in the Palestinian community about the willingness of the international community to enforce the rule

of law is in large measure due to its failure to halt the growth of the settler population and to persuade the Government of Israel to reverse this practice.

As evidenced by this, it is not, as you claim, that Israel is not defying UN resolutions and consequently violating international law, it is that Israel is not being punished for it.

As such, I would like to finish with your own words of wisdom: "Distortion and simplification of this complex, fraught situation is not a new phenomenon in public debate...." I couldn't agree more.

Simon Haan



The London Tavern

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\$2.50 Base Spirits (inc mix!)  
Johnny Walker Red, Jim Beam, Smirnoff, Bundy...

\$1.70 Schooners

\$2.00 Coopers Pale

\$2.50 Cowboys

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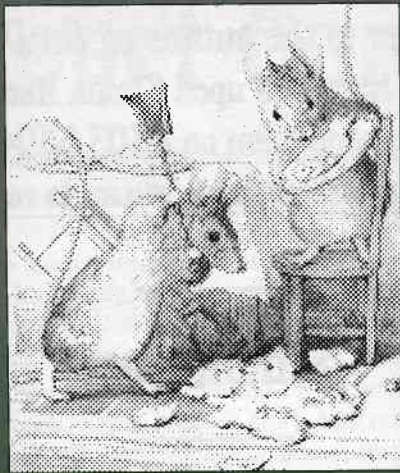
\$2.50 Champagne

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# Letters



## What the world needs now...

Now, perhaps more than ever, the world needs good teachers. Just as much it needs serious students; keen to learn important things. I'd like to see more people using their brains. That, it seems to me, is the whole point of education - teaching people how to think, and, while they are at it, think clearly. Ideally, we should be able to leave it to trained parrots to repeat the mindless mantras that stupid or dishonest people tell us, over and over, for dubious and sometimes sinister reasons of their own. How else might we expect Australia ever to become or remain a decent and peaceful country for people to live in, or strangers to come to, or the world itself to be worth preserving?

I won't pretend that I'm a regular reader of *On Dit* but a copy came my way via a friend, a good teacher, who had published an article in it. It struck me, browsing through the letters, that one or two of the writers had sucked in fascism with their mothers' milk. And that is very sad. Fascism is an incredibly bad idea. Students must learn to distinguish horrible ideas from good ones; truths from falsehoods, sense from nonsense, wisdom from bullshit, a reasonable comment from a shriek.

Congratulations to all those who have seen through the unhealthy barrage of bullshit and foreign flag-wagging that has come our way over the airwaves and through the print media - so much of it owned by a foreign, war mongering media mogul.

I've just been reading a piece on the back page of the current issue of *Le Monde Diplomatique*, written by Arundhati Roy, an Indian writer who won the Booker Prize in 1997 for her book *The God of Small Things*. I haven't read it but can only imagine the prize was well and truly deserved.

Her piece in *LMD*, a monthly, is entitled 'Resistance is never futile' and is an extract from her speech to the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre earlier this year. If you were to cut a rectangular hole in a piece of paper - big enough to encompass 20 or 30 words, and plonk it down anywhere on the text of this piece, you could ignore the rest of the article but still learn something of great value. Such is the incredible richness of her work.

Don't take my word for it. Try this:

"But we also know that behind the slogans of the war against terrorism, men in suits are at work."

Or, if you don't like that, try this:

"While bombs rain down and cruise missiles skid across the skies, we know that contracts are being signed, patents registered, oil pipelines laid, natural resources plundered, water privatised."

Or: "...in the state of Gujarat. Muslim women, specially targeted, were stripped and gang-raped, then burned alive."

Now there's a good teacher. More strength to her elbow.

Dave Diss  
Glengowrie

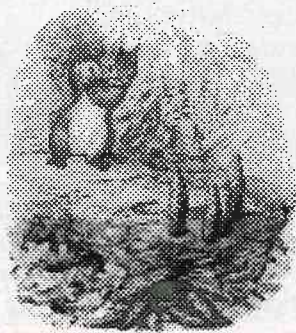


## Grass is always greener

What do you suppose is with the grounds of the uni? First up, we had some genius decide to put fragile new grass onto the Barr Smith Lawns only days before O'Week. Needless to say, it looked lush and verdant for all of about five minutes before thousands of trampling feet trashed the lawns back to Desertville.

Secondly, there's a disturbing patch of swamp on the Maths/Science Lawns which hasn't drained for weeks. Every time I walk across the lawns, it squelches most disturbingly. My shoes are getting muddy.

Yak



## War strategy #39849384

Dear *On Dit* and readers,

Something that I've wanted to put in writing for some time is my brilliant solution to the phenomenon that is war. It's so fantastic and simple that I can't believe it's taken thousands of years for someone to think of it.

What you do is grab the figureheads of the two countries or religions or whoever it is that want to start a war. The next step is to skip the bit where the two countries go to war. Instead, get these two figureheads to compete against each other in some sort of contest. The stakes will be the territory, regime, oil, life etc of the losing player. The awesome bit is that the only people who get hurt are the people in charge. It also gives those third-world countries a fighting chance for once.

But the really really awesome bit is the possibilities for the competition. Boxing, chugging contests, duels, music, card games, races, Unreal Tournament, it could be anything. Wouldn't it be awesome? The other good thing is that saturation coverage is still possible because everyone wants to see these people get hurt. Just imagine the headlines: "Tonight only - Bush-vs-Husseini. Winner takes oil."

I cannot think of a single wrong thing with this idea except that after a while we may be left with leaders who spend all their time fighting each other and don't spend any time running the country. But wait a second. What would have changed?

James Jones

## Empire Times 1. On Dit nil

Dear *On Dit*,

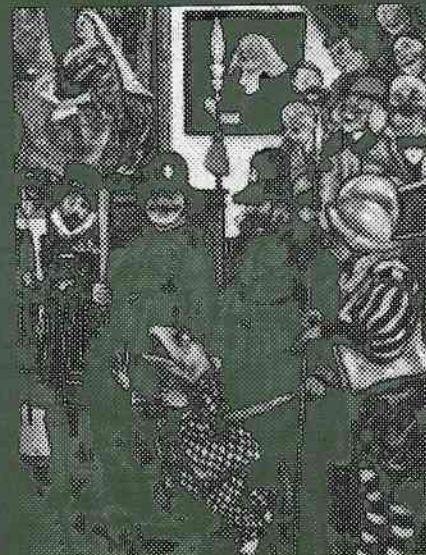
Having read all the different student newspapers this year, it pains me to say as an Adelaide Uni student that *On Dit* is the least enjoyable to read. It seems to me that you are taking yourselves far too seriously. *Empire Times* tackles the serious issues but does so with such good humour as to make it fun to read. *On Dit* seems like a complete wank made by pretentious coffee latte loving prats.

Rodney Michaels  
3rd year Economics

P.S. Will Poo Finger be coming back? It was the only good thing in your first few issues.



Writing us a letter?  
Don't forget to include  
your **full name** and  
**student number**.



Even if you're using a pseudonym, we need these details for our records. Just be sure to mark your true identity 'not for publication'.  
(This goes for all submissions, not just letters.)

# is there anything better than food?

Food is great. It's a raw (or cooked) pleasure that we can and must all enjoy every day. No matter how sucky a day might appear, a good meal or hunk of chocolate can make everything super again. A boring day at work or at uni can be well spent looking forward to eating a nice steak, or planning your evening meal for when you get home.

Lollies are fantastic. They're sweet and come in a variety of colours, shapes, flavours and textures. Fruit and vegetables are not without their charm, and apparently they are good for you too. Chips are pretty darn good too for that matter, not to mention ice-cream, pancakes, potato salad, smoked salmon, truffles or Coco Pops.

I am led to the conclusion that there is nothing that is better than food. Sure, there are a few contenders to the crown that pop up on TV debates, such as 'Is chocolate better than sex?' but even the briefest, half-arsed, opinion article survey of the field reveals that food is the undisputed champion.

Let's look at the wannabes, shall we? The usual suspects for the Greatest Thing in the World Heavyweight Belt (lots of rubies and emeralds) include sex, religion and love. To make things interesting, I'll throw in a couple of dark horses into the field - the internet, and Slash's guitar solos in the Guns n Roses cover of 'November Rain'.

## Sex

Now sex is pretty good, don't get me wrong, but it's difficult to enjoy it three times a day, seven days a week. You can't surreptitiously enjoy sex during a lecture the same way you can sneak in a Snickers (and if you can I don't want to know about it). Sometimes you have to go without sex for weeks or months or even years, especially where religious or ugly people are concerned. Also, sex has created a whole world of annoying crap like social awkwardness, pub-fights, office affairs and *Sex in the City*. Sex just doesn't have the universal appeal that food can offer.

## Religion

Now there are lots of religions, in the same way that there are a lot of foods, but you can't legitimately try a different one every lunchtime. Religion can provide a good moral map, spiritual guidance, a sense of community, a strong foundation for charity work, perhaps even eternal life, but it has a nasty tendency to start wars, oppress minority groups and inspire suicide bombers. The worst explosions caused by food zealots come the morning after a mixed bean curry, and their effect is rarely fatal to innocent bystanders.

## Love

Love has been variously defined as bliss, utopia, the purpose of human life or life's greatest gift. Conversely it has also been linked to pain, misery, hell and torture. The Beatles pointed out that they didn't care too much for money 'cause money can't buy them love, but they also sang, "Lovin' don't pay my bills, Give me money." What is apparent is that love is a valuable source of great pleasure, but also immense pain. Unless you over indulge in the aforementioned mixed bean curry, food is unlikely to cause you any pain whatsoever, and certainly nothing that you might dwell upon for years afterwards or write a song about.

## The Internet

The first of our long-shots probably hasn't got much weight to throw around in the Greatest Thing in the World ring. Sure, it's an amazing feat of technology to connect that amount of people and data and pornography all around the world, but the internet's raw entertainment factor is only just above that of television.

## Slash's Guitar Solos in the Guns n Roses Cover of 'November Rain'

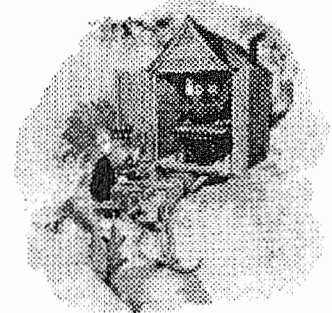
Here we have a genuine contender. It's long, it's melodic, it's fast, it's slow, it's got really long curly hair, basically everything you could possibly want in life can be found in the guitar solos in 'November Rain'. And best of all, there're two of them. Just when you think the Gunners can rock no more, they come back at you with their orchestral mates for another two minutes of solid Slash. Fantastic. About.com rated it as the sixth greatest guitar solo of all time (no prizes for guessing number one, though I bet Jimmy Page never played 'Stairway to Heaven' outside a church in the middle of the desert).

The illusion of G'n'R greatness has been shattered a bit now that Axl has appeared back on the scene looking every bit the middle-aged, washed-out rock star and a little on the chubby side. Despite being part of the guitar solos in November Rain, Axl was still drawn to food, leading us to conclude that food must be superior to Slash's guitar solos and hence the greatest thing in the world.

## Steven Robert



# other ideas...



I left on an overseas trip with a single chin, I returned with a triple chin. I ate curry in England, baguettes in France, chocolate in Belgium, schnitzels in Austria, pizza in Italy, tapas in Spain - and that was only one of the four continents I visited. Even though I looked as though I had been stung over and over by a bee and suffered a severe swelling reaction and wasn't recognised when I emerged plump and merry rolling into the Adelaide Airport arrivals lounge, I still believe that there is nothing better on this earth than food. To not try a Pad Thai in Thailand or a cold roll in Vietnam would only give you half the Asian experience: food here is a way of life. Food defines a culture, it brings communities, families and friends together, it is there for us in times of emotional desperation (and physical starvation) in times of need, comfort and fulfilment nothing beats hitting the couch with a Kit Kat Chunky a cup of tea for some calorie packed emotional therapy!

## Well Rounded Traveller

Food is very good, especially if you are hungry. But it is not the best thing in the world. The best thing in the world is an electric toothbrush. Some of the innumerable reasons that an electric toothbrush is better than food are:

1. An electric toothbrush makes your teeth clean and sparkly, while food makes them dirty and lustreless.
2. An electric toothbrush makes a satisfying and soothing hum, while food makes no sound except for distasteful squishing noises while you chew, unless you eat it while it is still alive, in which case it emits discomforting shrieks of pain and anguish.
3. An electric toothbrush is an interesting conversation piece, appealing to all. Discussions about food invariably lead to somebody insulting a vegetarian.
4. Sharing an electric toothbrush by candlelight is a perfect start to a romantic evening. Sharing food by candlelight will lead to a woman making unfavourable comparisons between your *coq au vin* and your rival's tiramisu.

While shared times with an electric toothbrush provide an ongoing topic of conversation, criticisms of your culinary prowess frequently remain unarticulated for months or years. If she leaves you, the food will be gone, while your electric toothbrush will remain to give you many more years of enjoyment.

## John Howell

Some people would consider food to be vital nourishment, others, an evil curse that restrains us from becoming the skeletons we should really be. Food, to me, is something that is necessary to ensure our happiness. We would die without it, and if it is delicious, food leaves a pleasant taste in the mouth. Food offers a sensation something like a drugged stupor- however, it leaves us fulfilled and reflective on our consumption. Can you imagine a world without sorbet, sushi, pretzels, gummi candy, curry or any other tasty delight? I thought not. I also could not imagine living on crap food, or even simply lettuce. However, none of this means that nothing is better than food. It is all relative I believe food is a wonderful thing that has a high place in society, but if someone offered me the choice between food and a blanket in the freezing cold, I would need to deeply think about my decision.

## Jo

On the list of things I like, food is definitely in the top 4. The other things are: 1. being somewhere I haven't been before; 2. sex; 3. love.

It's hard to make out which of these things is ultimately best and would have to say it depends on the circumstance, but I think this blur will change when my libido and need for adventure dies, and when love becomes a second-hand emotion. Food (does that include alcohol and marijuana?) may outlive everything as the greatest thing in the world.

## Talitha Balan

There is one thing better than food: food + wine + good lovin', all at once. Food by itself is pretty good, as is wine and lovin', but only the three together are unbeatable. I think this speaks for itself.

## Christian Haebich



# 601 Words

Time for a confession. I own a Volvo and I am proud of it. It is, however, not the box you are probably thinking of, but a sixties rocket-ship/Jaguar-inspired luxury sedan, which cost me the princely sum of 650 bucks. Of course, the leather seats are absolutely hashed and I need lots of stuff done, but I can drive down Jetty Road in Glenelg on Friday night feeling cool (admittedly, I've only done it once, but it was fun). My friends, close they may be, drive such wonderful cars as XF utes (Jared "power points aren't dangerous" Cabot, an electrician), Magnas (Jeremy "I'll be there on time" Rudduck and Wayne "I didn't really want my Cortina" Davies) and Meteors (Mark "three of those car accidents weren't my fault" Abbot).

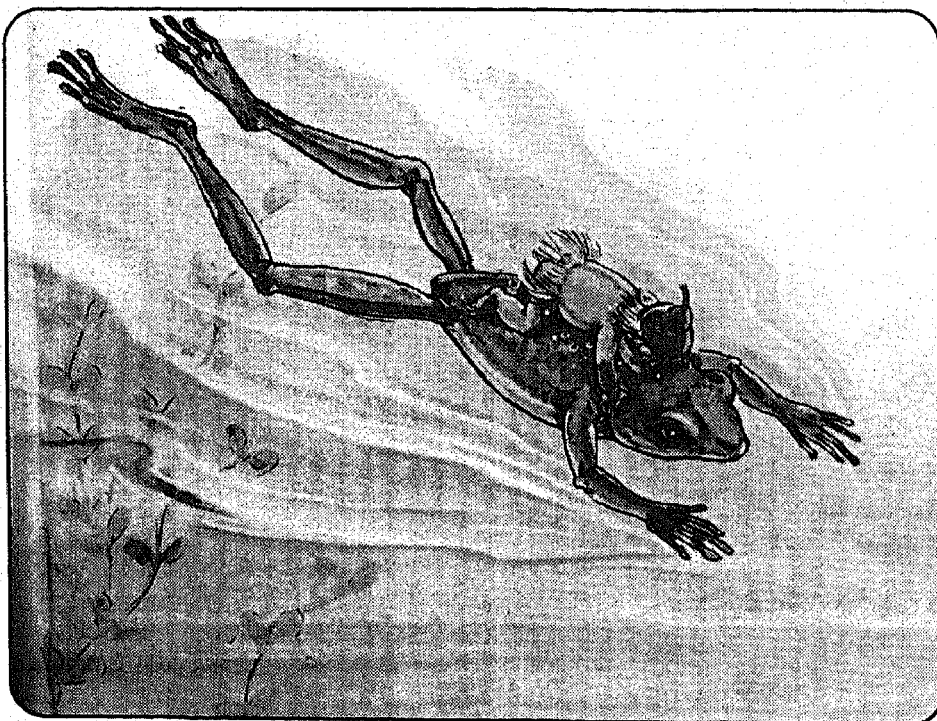
Cars are such a part of our society that until I got one, I didn't feel 100 per cent complete. I couldn't up and go of my own free will or drive out to Gawler to see a friend. I am a retiring, intellectual type, yet, in my car, I feel like driving just that little bit faster (since everyone else is doing 65 in this 60 zone, if I'm caught then so are they, or, if there was a speed camera here then they'd be going 55) or taking corners a bit closer. If I had a stereo, I might be tempted to turn it up and drive around with my windows down. I don't know what it is, but young man + car = reckless hoon (not me of course). Perhaps it's the feeling of power (I can kill someone with this one tonne hunk of metal) or the feeling of speed (I can go faster than you) or the feeling of danger (if I happened to sneeze I would waste myself and any old grannies that happened to be on the footpath near me).

In any case - the phenomenon is not restricted to guys, although the manifestation is slightly different. I have a friend who owns a pink Excel and she is an absolute maniac. For anyone who hasn't driven one of these bubbles, the handling is fantastic and the acceleration, while not being around the four second mark, is still good. However, it's the most uncool car I know.

Another friend of mine has had so many cars he lost track around the 120 mark, and guesses he's owned about 140 cars. He entertains me with tales of driving down Old Belair Road at 140kph or down Fullarton Road at 160 in his various sports cars (eg Alfa GTVs (when they were new), Porsches, Jags etc). He's definitely mellowed in his later years, and just wants to rebuild his Fiat/Ferrari crossover.

I don't know if anyone else in this academic ivory tower (as far as relates to life as a non-academic goes) thinks about the history of car engineering, but things like transmission and diffs just make me boggle. How did we get from the horseless carriage that was limited by law to go at no more than a walking pace to the 350ZX (mmm, nice)? It's a bit like giving James Watt the engine, transmission and drive shaft of a Ferrari. It's all so cool and techy. There's another under-appreciated driving force in the world - fascination with things that go whiz, have flashing lights or many small moving parts. Alternatively, anything computerised is also interesting, but lies more in the realm of 'geeks' (to whom, it must be said, I sorta belong). We no longer play with model train sets, but with real car sets.

David Roberts



Little Ragged Blossom liked to pass the time by choking frogs in the creek nearby

## Too Right: The Gulf of Incomprehension

The journalist leans forward in his seat: poised for another assault on the humanitarian credibility of the war. "Despite using the smartest bombs in history, coalition forces are still killing thousands of Iraqi civilians: how do you explain that?" There is a tired pause in the briefing room. It's almost incomprehensible: there is a light-year leap between the statement and reality.

War is hell. Everybody says so. But, indulge for a mere fragment of second in the possibility the Pentagon has found a way to make it less hellish, if not merging, verging, lurching into the territory of not hellish at all. "Absurd - impossible - never!" the Left screams. Well, they would.

The war started with a precision bomb blast on the regime's A-Class Psychos. Saddam hasn't been seen since: his admiring fans have been forced to watch the very best of Hussein re-runs on Iraqi television. Is he dead? Maybe. Are the other butchers in the bunker dead? Yes. Hmm. It couldn't possibly have been a successful precision attack could it?

Then came Shock and Awe. Hundreds of the regime's resources were obliterated in mere minutes. Saddam's primary palace was leveled, but the day care centre next door was left with the lights on and the phones still working. Literally unscathed. The Ministries of Information (Propaganda), Internal Affairs (Torture, Rape, Oppression), and Defence (Human Rights Abrogations), all located in the heart of populated Baghdad, were destroyed. All in the first night of bombing.

In the morning, the mouthpiece of the regime, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, announced there had been 16 Iraqi casualties. We were not told if these were members of the regime working in the buildings, or civilians. Since then pity little more have died. Of those dying in the 'market place massacre', the Iraqi Air Defence Minister has been sacked because it was his misguided missile that did the dirty work.

There are no 'hundreds of thousands' dead, for the obvious reason that the mightiest people-killing machine on the planet is going to an awful lot of trouble to avoid killing people. You can resist this statement of the obvious if you wish. If you are part of the left, you will have had your head ceremonially concreted in the sandpit for this campaign, so if you want to stop reading now that's ok too.

It'd say those smart bombs have been pretty smart. If they'd taken out a baby-milk factory, hospital, school, or residential suburb, you can rest assured the regime's media mouthpieces would be screaming blue-murder.

Whilst coalition forces are restrained by extremely careful rules of engagement, Saddam and his mates can do what they like. They have. After all, they've had years of practice. Forgetting people have rights is the primary pastime of Hussein and his henchman.

It is hard to comprehend just what it

would be like to live among people who will use you or your children as human shields, press-gang your young sons into suicidal raids, fire mortars at you if you attempt to escape and who undertake peremptory executions in streets and squares if you refuse to support Saddam. I'd say that's pretty hellish. So, to be sure, war is hell - if you live in areas not yet liberated by the coalition.

But in Iraq, life before war was also hell, and there are hundreds of tales to trump any assertion otherwise. Remember those dispatched feet-first into the human shredder, or those tortured and/or raped for dissent etc? With Saddam's prison state, to choose war is to choose potential temporary hell over certain ongoing hell. I happen to believe that's the moral position.

The additional problems for anti-war pundits is that the cost-benefit analysis keeps moving in favour of us warmongers: while your average long-running dictatorship runs at a fairly constant level of hellishness, the hellishness of war initiated by the US is being continuously diminished by Pentagon R&D.

But John Barlow, head of the 'International Conference on The War in Iraq', still thinks otherwise. In a meeting in Brazil recently he declared, "I know that the only truly powerful country on the planet is continuing to manufacture the perilous, conscience-stunting myth that technology can make war relatively safe. Indeed, we are so delusional on this subject that we believe that bombing the shit out of the Iraqis is a humanitarian act." Who's the delusional one here? Technology is making war safe - relatively. If you're an ordinary Iraqi who happens to have the misfortune to live next door to a prime target like Tariq Aziz's office, you're relatively safer now than you would have been even at the time of the Kosovo campaign, and a lot safer than you would have been back in 1983 (The USSR in Afghanistan), or '63 (Vietnam), or '43 (World War II). The anti-war crowd made fools of themselves over Afghanistan, as they are doing here, because they can't get beyond Vietnam. They keep applying 1967 arguments to 2003 technology.

But high-tech super-precision war is a rather good answer for dealing with a dictatorship. I'll bet everyone from Kim Jong-Il to Robert Mugabe is hoping that Saddam shows up living and breathing. The alternative - that Washington can take out the entire leadership with the first bomb of the campaign, that the front line is the new head office - is too horrible for them to contemplate. But even if they didn't get the big guy straight out the gate, the Pentagon is on its way to eliminating the intermediary factor - the dictator's subjects - from the equation of war. Or, to put it in Mr. Barlow's terms, they're bombing "the shit" - Saddam and Co. - out of Iraq and leaving everything else intact.

DRC

# THE WAITED (waitin' for peso) OPINION

Garage sales, glitter girls &  
penchants for disco:  
The intrepid treatise from the  
vivacious Dr J Belmondo

Word from the kasbah is that there will be one hell of an evocative garage sale coming to a Mecca near you courtesy of the Goodtime Boys, Rumsfeld and Bush. That is to increase the natural spring of good karma which is spurting around the veritable rock at the moment, like a fitful geyser. The ol' US is selling some of their weapons of mass destruction (WMD copyright 1968 Mattel) 'lawnside' style. That's right you have some pretty pickings of DX, anthrax in the easy to use applicator pack and the ol chestnut, the family pack of Botox. Pesos accepted, as well as all under-the-table transactions (fiscal footsies), including the 95per cent UN discount card. Absolute steals (country stealing deals) available, like buy 20 barrels of DX and get a free, all terrain, all wheel steering Mirage courtesy of Gallic autos. Buy a snack pack of anthrax and receive compliments of der haus, some beautiful handmade whale flavoured facial creams from the Haus of Bundessvank. Oh, what joy!

Gesus, last time I was in the spicy and sveltey Middle East I was riding shotgun on the back of an L110 gripping my over-

and-under AR-15 grenade party popper, hunting for par bitsi and Yen Raki. What a contrast to finding me now savouring elegant RSI, hammering away upon a clicky keyboard trying to slam out the truth, justice and the palatial way for the benefit of the *On Dit* parishioners. Yes, today alas! I have had my dire fill of winery-produced filth and slavery, and now want to relate what all good free-lovin' oeno-desperados do for a kick on a Saturday night. You know, once upon a pretty little time, before there were hipsters and the androgynous palsy boy look, there was such thing as entertainment sessions for students. That is, when happy hours were Greenwich synchronised with one outlet to another so that after applying persuasive logic, a student participant could look forward to cheap drinks between 6 to 12. Six dollar jugs, fey bands wearing paisley trying to be the Underground Lovers, in large open air faintly decorated venues that would put the Hoffbrau Hausen of Munich to shame. Where, oh where, is that ambience created especially for the student cartel? God's people, actually Albert Huang and

Albert Bensimon (I can't tell the two apart) namely, allow us to introduce into circulation the Adelaide Council sanctioned 95 per cent student discount card; failing that, construct some low-cost student housing reminiscent of the Panaro bohemian enclave of 1920s Paris (swank with no expensive wank) right bam in the middle of the red light district of town. I reckon 20 pesos a week seems fair trade.

Instead on Saturday night, I frequented my favourite bordello of sin. Reminiscent of a shoeboxful of vampyres, my little dancing black box of Popp Z Brite fantasia. That means there's only once place with all the dankness, mauve ambience, and down-and-dirty cheapness that sated my tastes. Thank god I had ze naughty nurse of style and my favourite eloquent literary mademoiselle to accompany me, Happy Bdayfestens Loulou. The state government has to get behind capital injection into new nightspot ventures palatable to the student horde. We are, alas, the cash cow for the country. We have to try and survive on double taxed handouts, while wallowing in splendid squalor, cooking 50 new variations of lentil steamboat in order to

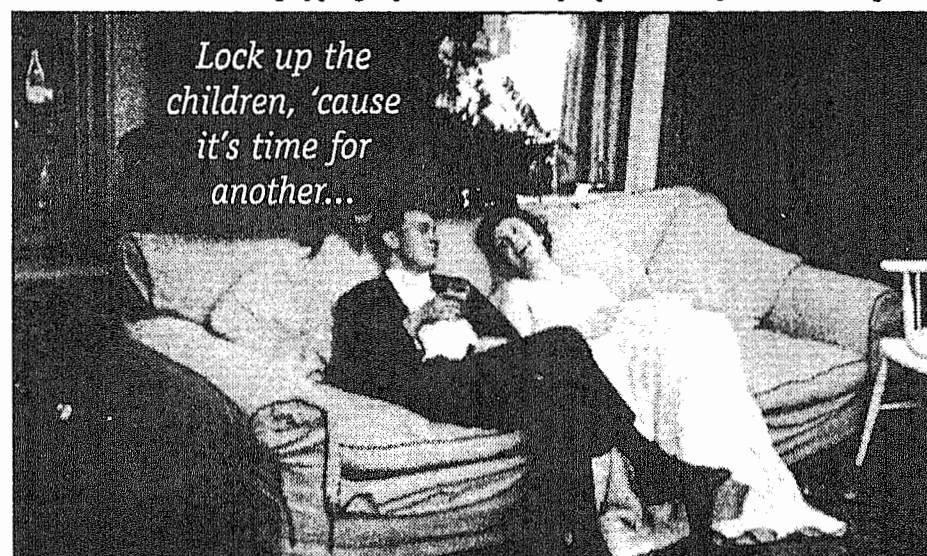
balance mental gymnastics, the pursuit of a career and self-deprecating fashion sense, while some insincere doctor-politician hybrid personality constantly touts that we are the Knowledge Nation. Well, you can't fuck fate, but you can try and become numero uno banana in a Banana Republic.

Well, I better take solace, rest a moment and prevent a prose blaming aneurysm. This is the ol' swanker signing off from Capitol Hill, Waite, Urrbrae, part of some lesser known principality of Downer.

**Dr J. Belmondo,**  
signing off.

PS Please CBS, don't sack me like the other two, we could be so good for each other!

Please send your petitions for the 'Save the Good Doctor from a CBS media knacker' to a GPO box in your capital city.



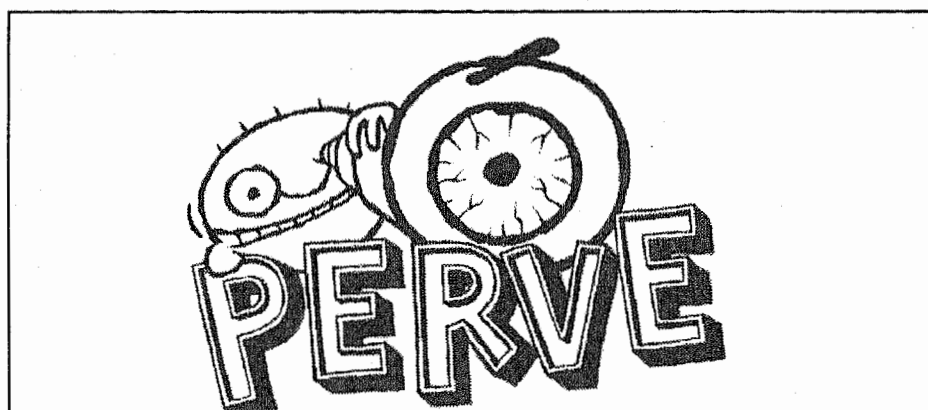
Lock up the children, 'cause it's time for another...

**On dit PARTY!**

Swan about with nutty characters from On Dit past, present and future in a nightlong festival of live music, eating, drinking and shameless debauchery.

★ **Thursday April 24** ★

Come down to the On Dit office (basement of the George Murray Building). If we like the look of you, we'll give a collectible invitation!



Astronomy department planetarium For Hire!! Just you & the scopes for only \$249!!! Peruse bikinis whilst miles from any beach!! Check up on a boyfriend interstate!! With these puppies, anything's possible!! In fact, with our BIG MAMA telescope... you could probably find some eye candy over in NZ or something!!! CASH ON ENTRY THOUGH... I NEED IT TO SCORE MICROSOFT OFFICE XP PROFESSIONAL FROM THE CAMPUS STORE AT UP TO 80% OFF!!! Now that's astronomical!! Rendezvous any time at the library... IN THE 520's!!

# Along the Road to Surfdom

I may need to get a hip replacement after so many hours of sitting in front of the screen paralysed and mesmerised by war websites.

My first hit was an Aussie posting site called [roadtosurfdom.com](http://roadtosurfdom.com). This directed me to a website called Public Theology ([www.pubtheo.org](http://www.pubtheo.org)) which mentioned that Jay Garner, who is scheduled to be the military governor of occupied Iraq, is a former director of the Star Wars program. This is not reassuring news. However, *Fortune Magazine* of March 17, 2003 says: "Garner, 64, is an almost perfect fit for the job. He became well-known in military circles for espousing the then-unorthodox view that the military should be used as a 'merciful instrument in shaping future humanitarian operations'". We can hope.

[www.fortune.com](http://www.fortune.com)

Drifting over to the homepage of *Counterpunch* I spotted an article by Wayne Madsen called 'The Siege of Washington' which talked about "the increasingly nasty and un-presidential demeanor of George Bush." Madsen observed that *Time* magazine is reporting that during a March 2002 briefing for three senators by Condoleezza Rice, Bush poked his head into a White House meeting room and bellowed, "Fuck Saddam. We're taking him out!" (How un-presidential can you get?).

[www.counterpunch.com](http://www.counterpunch.com)

*The New Yorker* of April Fool's Day carries a report from the Kurdish territory, by Jeffrey Goldberg, where the locals told

him what they would do to President Bush if he fell into their hands. "I would kiss him one thousand times", the company commander, Sheikh Fattah, said. "I would carry him on my shoulders and shout songs to him", another officer, Farouk Khaled, added. "I would sacrifice one thousand sheep and two thousand chickens for him," a third officer, Mam Siamand, said. "I do not mean that the April 1 date is relevant here. The Kurds would do, and have done just about anything for freedom.

[www.newyorker.com](http://www.newyorker.com)

Thinking of their centuries-long wish for an independent Kurdish state, I got curious about what the law has to say on secession. My friend Greg, an eminent scholar of constitutional law, referred me to a website that monitors the Canadian Supreme Court. That court was recently asked to comment on the legality of a (potential) secession by Quebec. The Court said, as far as international law is concerned, "A right to secession only arises under the principle of self-determination of people... international law where 'a people' is governed as part of a colonial empire; where a people is subject to alien subjugation, domination or exploitation; and possibly where 'a people' is denied any meaningful exercise of its right to self-determination within the state of which it forms a part. In other circumstances, peoples are expected to achieve self-determination within the framework of their existing state." I take it this means that various human rights documents listing the right to self-determination are

qualified by such an interpretation. In any case it would appear that the Kurdish case meets the criteria.

[www.lexum.umontreal.ca](http://www.lexum.umontreal.ca)

My fingers must have accidentally typed the homepage of our university (a page we generally bypass to get to email, right?). How thrilled I was to find there, on March 31 that my *On Dit* article on war crimes had stimulated an official university investigation. They interviewed Prof. James Crawford of Cambridge who seems to me to have climbed down wonderfully from his *Guardian* statement on the illegality of this war. (Actually it turns out it was not my article but something in the *Financial Review* that had brought this matter forth.) Surprisingly, Crawford went on to add: "That is not to say there is no case for action. I do not think anyone seriously believes Iraq has disarmed as required by Resolution 1441. More fundamentally, Saddam Hussein is, to my knowledge, the only living person to have himself committed or ordered war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide - the three crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC at present." What - no credit for Chemical Ali?

These days it's worth a trip to the websites of DefenseTech, and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs for links to cutting-edge material on military technology. Of the latest, biggest bomb, the MOAB, the link says it was "designed to create massive atmospheric pressure waves over the target". It replaces the BLU-

82, better known as the "Daisy Cutter". The BLU-82 entered into the arsenal in the mid-1970s and was used in Vietnam, Desert Storm and Afghanistan...the MOAB and Daisy Cutter are both released from a C-130 transport, but unlike the BLU-82, the MOAB does not employ a drag parachute to control its fall, relying instead upon GPS satellite guidance. This is a bit of a worry since another link, about Cyberwarfare, tells us that if the enemy on the ground switches their radar on and off rapidly, the guidance can be thwarted.

[www.jinsa.org](http://www.jinsa.org)

I distinctly recall in January 1991 that the senior President Bush promised to hold a war crimes tribunal for Saddam's atrocities. Years went by, no tribunal. Why? Some say it is because the US also breached the Geneva Conventions by using cluster bombs, which are inherently indiscriminate. If you do a Yahoo search for Ramsey Clark, you will find that he has conducted his own tribunal. For instance, he says: "The U.S. invasion of Panama in December 1989 involved the same and additional violations of international law that apply to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The US invasion took between 1,000 and 4,000 Panamanian lives. The United States government is still covering up the death toll. US aggression caused massive property destruction throughout Panama."

Clark also states that during the 1991 Gulf War the United States waged war on the environment. "Pollution from the detonation of 88,000 tons of bombs, innumerable missiles, rockets, artillery and small arms with the combustion and fires they caused and by 110,000 air sorties at a rate of nearly two per minute for six weeks has caused enormous injury to life and the ecology. Attacks by U.S. aircraft caused much if not all of the worst oil spills in the Gulf. Aircraft and helicopters dropping napalm and fuel-air explosives on oil wells, storage tanks and refineries caused oil fires throughout Iraq and many, if not most, of the oil well fires in Iraq and Kuwait." Well, that's something you don't hear often. Ramsey Clark himself was



in Iraq at the time.

Come to think of it I lived in the Gulf at the time and in March 1991 saw the sky over Kuwait looking like a giant black circus tent - more than a month after the bombing had ended.

[www.deoxy.org/wc/warcrim2.htm](http://www.deoxy.org/wc/warcrim2.htm)

Last year, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York looked into the Constitutional aspects of the President's authority to order an invasion of Iraq. "Our examination of the Constituion leads us to conclude that an invasion of this nature would constitute a war within the contemplation of the Founders and would thus require prior Congressional authorization...In the State of the Union Address on January 29, 2002, President Bush included Iraq in the 'axis of evil', a list of those countries that sponsored terrorists and possessed or were trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction (biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons). He suggested that the United States needed to act quickly against these nations but proposed no specific actions..." Additionally, these lawyers said that "in the immediate wake of 9/11, Congress authorized the President to use armed force against those nations, organizations or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001." This sweeping resolution requires a connection with 9/11...[but]...to date the President has not made such a determination..."

Although the New York City Bar Association thus declared the action unconstitutional before it even happened, individual Congresspersons were unmoved. At present there is a reactivation of interest. Representative Barbara Lee (of California) was the first to participate, and now Senators Kennedy and Byrd are involved. Their speeches are carried on the website of Common Dreams.

[www.abcny.org](http://www.abcny.org)  
[www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)

The two ways for this unbelievable crime against peace to be wound back are Congressional action and UN action. As everyone knows, the US can block Securty Council action by its veto. But there is a little used method of getting around that problem, namely for the General Assembly to make a Uniting-for-Peace-Resolution. This would require a two thirds majority of the 190 states.

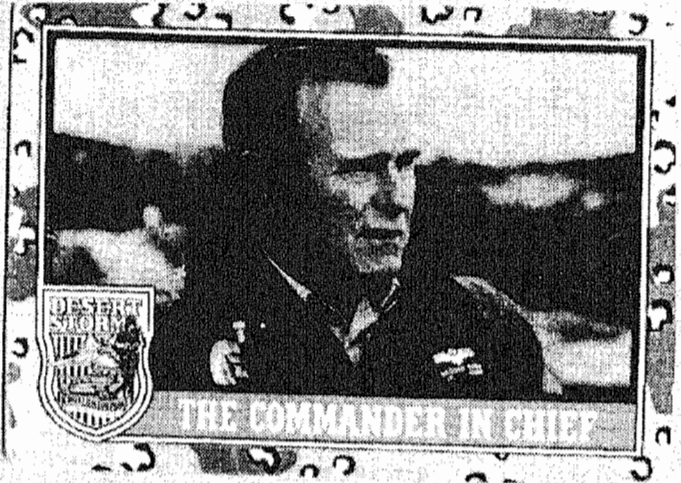
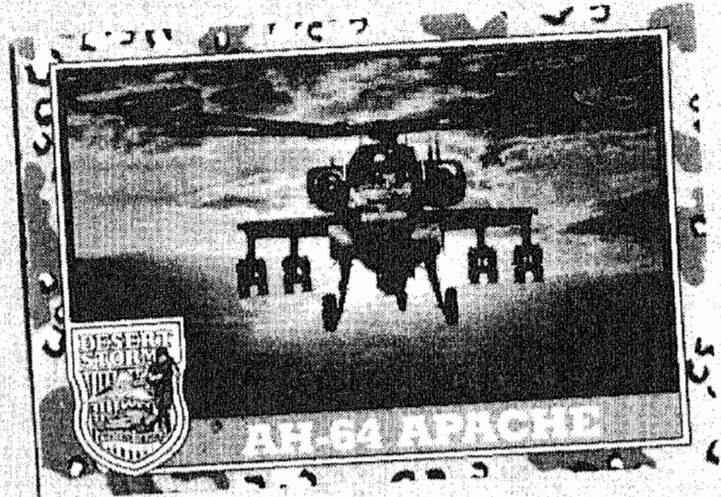
Tradition says that no majority ever stands up to the US. However, the Arab League which always fulfilled that tradition has suddenly changed its stand. Last week, in a meeting that took under two hours, it got the signatures of all 21 members except Kuwait, for a resolution entitled "the American-British Aggression on Iraq and its Repercussions on the Safety and Security of Arab Neighbouring States" which asks the US to withdraw from Iraq "immediately". It calls the aggression a "violation of the UN Charter" and "an act of defiance to the international community and international public opinion".

[www.weeklyharam.org.eg](http://www.weeklyharam.org.eg)

Maybe there are other ways to restore rationality and legality. A really sweet one is put forth by a former US National Security Agency analyst, Wayne Madsen, in the Counterpunch article I referred to above. Here is why it is called "the Siege of Washington".

Madsen has "a better idea for our brave troops who are being mishandled by the crowd that incrementally siezed unconstitutional power..." They "could place a team of Delta Force commandos and armor on the South Lawn of the White House... Using large loudspeakers designed for use in civil action campaigns...[they] would instruct the Secret Service to exit the White House and lay down weapons. Five minutes should be sufficient...Bush, Cheney, Card, Rove, Fleischer, Rice and the rest should then be taken into custody..."

Mary Maxwell is a mature-age student in the Law School. She is also editor of *The Sociobiological Imagination*.



**Fuck Saddam.  
We're taking  
him out!**

George W. Bush



# University Pty Ltd

## Corporate money and higher education

I chose to study engineering for a whole range of reasons. One of these reasons was the contribution that engineers are able to make to the community. The engineering profession is one that is relevant to everyone in society. Engineering graduates leave university with a wide range of competencies that ensure their contributions to whatever sector of the community will eventually have wider benefits to all people.

They also leave university with a set of skills that can be broadly applied. This is an important point – and a particularly pragmatic one when it comes to seeking employment. The engineering discipline is one that is general – a proficient engineer is able to think laterally, solve problems and find more efficient ways in which people can go about their daily lives. And it is this generality of the degree that gives engineers a competitive edge in the workforce. These general skills are characteristic of all engineers, no matter what type of stream specialisation – from electrical to chemical, from civil to computing. Every type of engineer is still able to carry out the research and problem solving that makes them a relevant part of the wider community.

Even though there is specialisation, the broadly general nature of engineering still allows great flexibility. In turn, this also reinforces the concept that universities are learning institutions, not training institutions. The theory that is taught in engineering, as is in, for example, arts, law and sciences, is up to the individual on how it should and can be made practical, and therefore relevant.

These points – of wide community relevance, of generality and of learning – were why I chose engineering. The option to allow me to set my own career with as wide a range of options as possible is vital, whether I choose to work in the corporate sector or as an academic. I did not choose to study engineering so that I would leave with a 'sponsored', corporate degree so narrow in its application that it locks me into a defined career path. But this is exactly what Crossroads threatens to do.

Every graduate today can expect to have many job changes in their working life. That's exactly why degrees studied must be of a general, broad nature. Corporate sponsorship of universities however, takes this generality away. It threatens to transform universities into training institutions, where everyone upon entry into university, has their career decided for them by virtue of which degree they study. It closes down career options. It forces people to pick their career – plan the rest of their life – before they even leave school. It leaves unfunded any research if it's not in demand by the corporate giants, and will fund in partnership with universities only whatever research they think is necessary. It destroys knowledge.

It's not to say that corporate money for universities is bad. But there is no way that any university can survive without public funding, and without needing to sell off their degrees to corporate sponsors who will dictate what content will be in the courses that they can purchase. Santos can give the university as much money as they want, and we will forever all be grateful for it. But it's an entirely different proposition that they can possess the right to change the degree to teach whatever suits them, as prospective employers.

Corporate money is a supplement to public funding – not a substitute.

And whatever the reality of the current generation of employers may be – that is not relevant. Quite clearly, it's the perception of the employers of applying graduates that counts. If an employer perceives that a degree is corporate-backed, just as how the School of Petroleum Engineering is not just the School, but the Santos School of Petroleum Engineering – then that employer will give that degree the same weight as they will any training course, as opposed to learning course. They will treat it as not much more than in-house training – irrelevant to them, and to the wider community, and only relevant to the corporate sponsor whose name is pasted on the buildings they offer to the university. It's just like how some employers will perceive a degree from one university to be inferior to that from another, even though the content may be virtually identical, and that each university has been accredited by the Australian National Training Authority to give it the license to call their courses 'degrees'. The knowledge is the same, just the perception of brand name that's different.

It's more than just a philosophical argument – it's pragmatic. The real value of your degree is at risk if there is a shift towards the corporate sector. Crossroads proposes exactly that – that universities look to 'diversify' their income sources and to open up to the possibility of corporate funding. In reality though, it's a sleight-of-hand to gradually reduce the public money, and thereby the academic independence of universities. And the perception of future employers of this will damage your employability. You won't have a university degree, but instead corporate training – and your career path would have already been prescribed for you. This is exactly not the reason why I chose engineering.

Min Guo

# CROSSROADS CRAZINESS: Could it happen to you?

Crossroads isn't some intangible concept you'll struggle to comprehend.

Think about it, and you'll probably find that the symptoms of the Crossroads prognosis are already affecting you and your experiences at uni.

Consider:

- \* the price you pay for essential course readers and other course materials
- \* cutting of courses you may have wanted to take
- \* the number of students in tutorials increasing to something more like the size of a high school class
- \* tutorials making way for 'seminars' or disappearing altogether from timetables
- \* frequent staff redundancies
- \* the merging of departments into super-schools
- \* the neglect of less lucrative courses in favour of those that can attract a greater number of enrolments and/or corporate sponsorship



## ARE YOU DOUBLE-DIPPING?

You already know the Crossroads Higher Education Review exists – people keep coming up to you with fliers about it. But if you haven't taken the time to read those fliers, you won't know how you'll be affected by the review. I'm studying a B.Arts/B.Science and am one of a grouping number of students attracted to double degrees. This will change rather suddenly however if one of the Education Minister Brendon Nelson's proposals for Higher Education is approved by parliament. If you're doing a double degree he is calling it 'double-dipping' and he wants every student who wishes to do a double degree to pay the FULL UP FRONT FEES for one of those degrees. Furthermore, if you decide to change your degree (and this could be a single or double degree) and transfer, you have to pay

the FULL UP FRONT FEES for the course you decide to change into. Tough luck if you can't afford it and you hate the course you're doing. Personally, I love my double degree and wouldn't be happy at University if I had to limit myself to one or the other. But I certainly couldn't afford to pay all the fees for one of my degrees up front. And from now on you'd better choose your degree carefully cause you'd better be prepared to pay up if you decide you don't like it. Pity for you if you don't know what you want to do in life, hey? And that seems to be most of us. Fight against Crossroads cause it really does have a lot of bad shit.

Fiona Richardson



EXTRA! EXTRA! STUDENT RADIO 101.5 - CONTINUES TRANSMITTING OVER THE ACEDMIC BREAK

# Radioactivity 101.5

Tune your crystal-radios to into Student Radio on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday nights from 9 til 1 on 101.5 FM. Shows are allocated on a fortnightly basis, so be sure to listen in to the full two weeks of cochlea bursting programming.

	MONDAY April 7 & 21	TUESDAY April 8 & 22	SATURDAY April 12 & 26	MONDAY April 14	TUESDAY April 15	SATURDAY April 19
9 til 10	Form of Intellect	LOCAL NOISE w/ Dougie + Darren	London Loves Whippin' Piccadilly	Saturday Night Roller Disco	LOCAL NOISE w/ Dougie + Darren	The Motown Hour
10 til 11	The Flux Capacitor	Don't Ask Us We're Just Girls	Working Title... with Emma and Dan	Three Chords	On Dit Radio	Hullabalooza Radio
11 til 12	The Vinyl Lounge	Pirates of the Airwaves w/ Blake + Victor	Roots Records	Punk Around	How's Ya Mamma	G-Spot
12 til 1	DJ's Choice w/ Dunks and Adam	It's Not Dead Air... It's a Dramatic Pause	Stefan Jazz	Heavy As A Really Heavy Thing	Lost in the Mix	The Show Formerly Known As... w/ Paul + DJ Zanda

It's nearly here, the end of the academic term, but when all you suckers go home Student Radio keeps blasting the airwaves, and cunningly dodging law suits that are pending due to cochlea damage...

So be sure to stay tuned into Student Radio on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday nights from 9 till 1 on 101.5 FM  
RADIO ADELAIDE

## SPECIAL FEATURES

### LOCAL NOISE

- 8th April - Deporsiah
- 15th April - Sumi
- 22th April - Borderline

Interviews to be aired over the next couple of weeks.

★ GRINSPOON

★ PAUL FENECH FROM THE HIT SERIES "PIZZA"

★ SKULKER

### SHOW PROFILE

The Motown Hour  
9pm Saturday Night

Who didn't dress up in their mother's old clothes, use a hairbrush as a microphone and pretend they were Diana Ross from 'The Supremes'? Who didn't get their brothers and sisters to pretend they were the 'Jackson Five' and sing 'ABC'? Well maybe it was just me. Regardless, tune into "The Motown Hour" fortnightly on Saturday Night at 9pm for an hour of those songs that you love, but were always afraid to admit to.

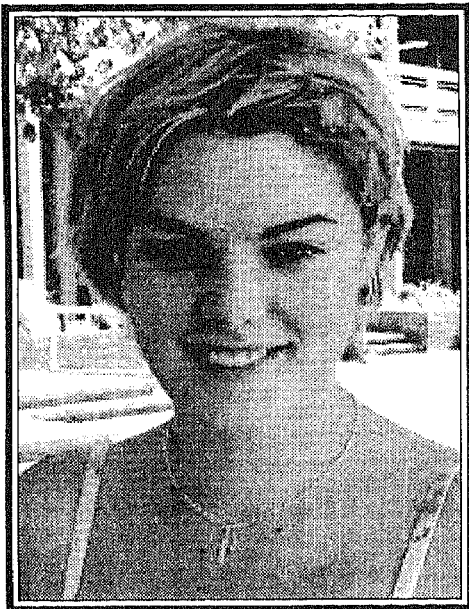
Want to solve all your problems? Want to amaze your friends? HOW? Simply tune in to Adelaide Uni Student Radio this Monday, Tuesday and Saturday night from 9pm to hear some quality shows, and mild forms of entertainment. Guaranteed to improve your sexlife!!!\*

\*not guaranteed

Once upon a time, on the first floor of the Lady Symon

Never fear, for the Students' Association will be open during the mid-semester break, even if your lecture theatres are not. To contact your student representatives, you can call them as usual on 8303 5406. Read on...

### Chapter One: Sarah Starts it All



Sarah Hanson-Young  
President

#### How secure is your education?

If you were the leader of a country or at least a minister of a particularly important portfolio such as education, then how would you push the most devastating and contentious policy legislation through parliament? Well, just like Prime Minister John Howard, Treasurer Peter Costello and Education Minister Brendan Nelson, you'd send Australian troops off to war to attack a third world country, and while everyone was too busy watching the macho warfare on TV you'd bring the Bill to parliament and then vote without a public debate - or would you?

If you don't think it is right that the government is attempting to push through legislation that is going to affect your education drastically, including:

- \* Deregulation - universities can charge whatever they want for degrees - \$50,000-\$100,000 a pop!
- \* Increase up-front fees places, making it harder for students who actually got the good marks to get into uni courses unless they have thousands of dollars up-front to pay
- \* and many more disturbing changes,

then come and join thousands of other students this **Thursday April 10 at 1pm** outside the South Australian Museum in a stand against cuts to our education.

The Government is trying to do these things right now while they think no one will notice. It is time we told them enough is enough. Education is a right, not a privilege. If you want to be able to finish your degree and get a quality education, then please come and make yourself heard. Students are already paying for the war on Iraq with \$1 billion being cut from higher education last year and pumped straight into the military campaign. Why should we let them screw us over even more?

#### Palm Sunday Rally

There is also an international peace rally **this Sunday April 13**. If you don't support the war but you support the safety of our troops and the dignity of Australia's 'defence force' and would prefer to see the billions of dollars being spent on attacking Iraq put back into education, then come and march with the rest of us at **2pm in Victoria Square**.

I wish everyone the best holiday. In solidarity and peace,  
Sarah xxx

### Chapter Two: Leah Educates Her Friends

#### CROSSROADS, NELSON, EDUCATION, CRISIS.

If you are not yet familiar with these terms, "it's time"!

**Crossroads:** the long awaited review of higher education that has attached to it some very damning changes to our higher education system that would effectively make universities merely playgrounds for the rich.

**Nelson:** Federal Education Minister and mastermind/spokesperson behind the review and proposed changes.

**Education:** the 'global glue' for a effective and productive society, learning, training, research and development.

**Crisis:** the current state of Australian higher education in 2003.

I strongly urge you to read the articles concerning these issues on pages 16 and 17 and if outraged, disheartened or curious please come along to the **National Day of Action on April 10** in front of the **Museum on North Terrace at 1pm**. Students, staff and concerned citizens of Australia unite; tell the Federal Government to keep their hands off our education! There will be speakers, music, food and a rally - be there.

#### Education Conference July 2 - July 5

The content of conference group meets in the Union's meeting rooms on **Tuesday** nights at **7pm**, and the logistics group meets in the Union's meeting rooms on **Thursday** nights at **7pm**. All interested people are more than welcome to attend and contribute to these meetings.

Don't forget to vote in **student elections of faculty/departmental/school reps** see your faculty/school/department office for more details.

**Palm Sunday (April 13) Rally:** march for peace - 2pm in Victoria Square.

Get active. Get involved.

### Chapter Three: Pauly Saves the World

Well, what can I say? There's no point insulting your intelligence. You know as well as I do, that the current state of the world's biosphere is, in scientific terms, screwed. It also seems quite apparent that the 'progress' of 'civilised' society proceeds at an unsustainable rate.

Now I realise that for most of us there's barely enough time to deal with the daily dilemmas of study, work, family, and those pesky binding social contracts, et cetera. However it strikes me as odd that despite the almost certain likelihood of global water shortages, complete loss of bio-diversity and a nuclear holocaust, most University of Adelaide students seem unconcerned.

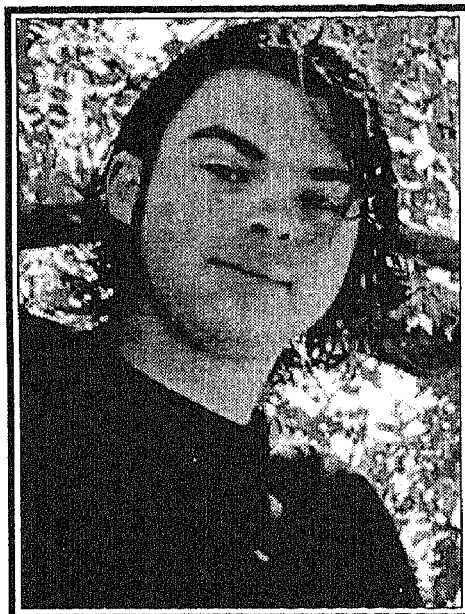
I have asked nicely. Now your time is up. You will send your name and email address to [environment@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:environment@adelaide.edu.au) to register your interest in environmental issues and the **campus environment collective**.

No, you say? Well, it is clear that you do not believe in democracy. Therefore I will be sending a coalition of hippies to launch a pre-emptive strike (invasion) against you and all other rogue students, to liberate you from the evil stronghold of apathy. Currently the collective is inactive and for now registering just means that you'll get a couple of emails and invitations to take part in Environment Department events and activities.

Do it for your mother. You're either with us or against us and the time has come to show your cards.



Leah Marrone  
Education Vice-President



Paul Grillo  
Environment Officer

*Building, worked eight little student representatives...*

### Chapter Four: Girls Can Do Anything

#### CROSSROADS – Bad for all, worse for women

Women already suffer many disadvantages in the higher education system from many structural and societal factors. They are not equally represented, nor are they fairly treated by this system. The result of this is that women lack many of the opportunities, rights, safety, respect and ability to financially afford the education offered under the present education system. Within the general community, women are the first ones to bear the brunt of financial hardship, responsibilities with families, sacrifice, and forms of violence, before they even contemplate beginning a university degree.

There is not the same encouragement and choice to study in certain areas for women, as there is for men. Courses are often male-dominated (both content and teaching wise). Sexism is still experienced by women in the classroom, women's studies are devalued and under-valued and are often the first to get cut when funding is limited. Even if women overcome many of the barriers whilst at university, they will seldom be paid the same as what their male counterparts will in the same position. Women already take around three times longer than men to pay off their HECS debt.

If the Federal Government is allowed to proceed with their agenda for higher education, the strains that are already placed on women students will be intensified.

To help the implementation of this legislation, I encourage everyone to take part in the **National Day Of Action**, being held this **Thursday, April 10**.

#### Women's Standing Committee

The next meeting of WSC will be held **this Tuesday at 5.30pm in Rumours Café**. All interested women are invited to attend.



*Georgia Phillips*

*Women's Officer*

### Chapter Five: A Gay Time was had by All

#### ATTENTION ALL QWEER STUDENTS: CROSSROADS WILL AFFECT YOU!

This week, GET INVOLVED in the **National Day of Action** this **Thursday, April 10**.

The changes that this Government wants to make to higher education affect **ALL** queer students just as much as the straight students here at uni. There are a minority of us already; do we want to be responsible for even fewer queers or queer representation at uni because they simply can't afford it?! I mean, it's hard enough to be queer at uni already without the Government making it even harder! So get down to the NDA, voice your opinions, because we all know how to do it... **LOUD & PROUD!**

#### Querelle

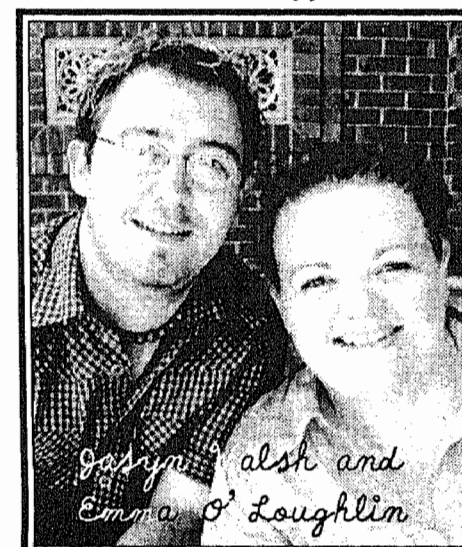
On another topic, the submission date has now passed. We will start badgering you all about maybe, possibly, perhaps even considering writing an article for the national queer student publication... **QUERELLE!** Considering the appalling lack of response to the submission request, we are begging now... It would really be great to get some Adelaide Uni submissions for this, we know there are queer people out there... we also know that you can write... and we know that you can be creative if you really want to be. We know who you are so if we don't get them voluntarily, we will stalk you until you capitulate!

#### Sexuality Department Meeting

This will be held at 1pm on Tuesday April 8, at the Loft in Rumours, Level 6, Union Building.

#### Queer quote of the week:

"When I was in the military they gave me a medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one." - from the tombstone of a gay Vietnam veteran



*Gasym Alsh and Emma O'Loughlin*

*Sexuality Officers*

### Chapter Six: Adelle Plans a Party

By now most of you will have heard about the Government's proposed reforms to higher education. It is time to get serious about attacks on the quality of your education, and tell the government that these changes are unacceptable. The **National Day of Action** against the Crossroads Review of higher education is on **April 10 at 1pm** outside the Museum. Even if you are not 100 per cent clear on the issues, take the time to come and listen to one of the speakers and hear **The Icons**, a campus band with a political conscience, play a short set.

One of the many nasty reforms the government is planning to sneak through is anti-student organisation legislation, which will mean the end of not only the Students' Association but also the Overseas Students Association, Clubs and Sports and all of the welfare and support services that your Union provides. It would be a darned shame if any of this stuff were to actually take place, as crazy and wild events like **Prosh 2003** would not be able to take place. This year Prosh is taking place from **May 6-9**, with Tuesday to Thursday of Week 8 being the main pranks and activities days, and Friday night concluding the week with **Prosh After Dark**. The whole week will have a retro theme, including the **Prosh Parade**. If you are involved in a club or society or college, and would like to take part in Prosh 2003, then email [sauaprosh2003@hotmail.com](mailto:sauaprosh2003@hotmail.com). It's gonna be HUGE!



*Adelle Neary*

*Activities Vice-President*

### Chapter Seven: Darren Dreams

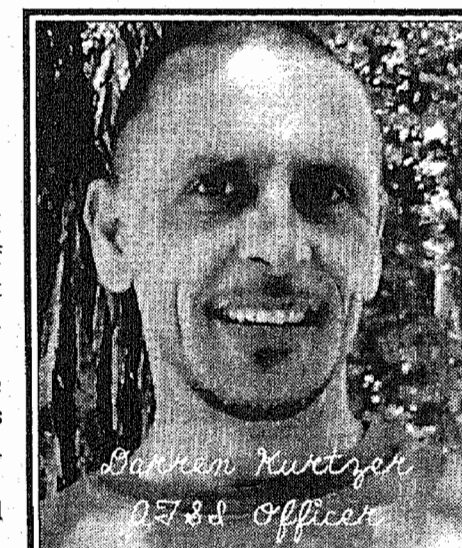
This is the final edition before mid-semester break, so I hope to leave you with some things to think about over the break.

This year is the first time an Indigenous department has existed within the Students' Association. And, this year being the first year puts pressure on us to justify the existence of the position. If we don't support the position, then one could question why it is needed. Hopefully, though the Adelaide University Union and the SAUA will give us enough time to set things up before anyone is too critical. After all, it has taken them some time to recognise the need for the ATSI Department. I think it's only fair to give it time to get established in the minds of ATSI students that the ATSI Department within the SAUA is the place to go in order to get better representation and service from the University.

While it is obvious to many that the Students' Association activities haven't always specifically encouraged or fostered ATSI students' involvement in activities in the past, it is clear that the ATSI Officer can be a useful player in facilitating the process of reconciliation in its true sense. The best way for us to break down racist and prejudiced attitudes is through our active engagement in mainstream activities. For example by joining the touch football club you can show others that indigenous people are human too. Come and see me if there's an activity or group you would like to join or find out more about.

The ATSI Department is here to support the indigenous students and at the same time address issues of racism and prejudice through the application of reconciliation principles and practices. As it has been recognised that a specific indigenous position is warranted I would like to see what ATSI students want from the department. Come on show me what you want from this position and demonstrate to the Adelaide University Union that the position is a valuable resource for students.

Send me an e-mail at [darren.kurtzer@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:darren.kurtzer@adelaide.edu.au) or come along to an **ATSI Collective** meeting held on the **first and third Monday of each month** in the Wilto Yerlo Common Room at 12pm.



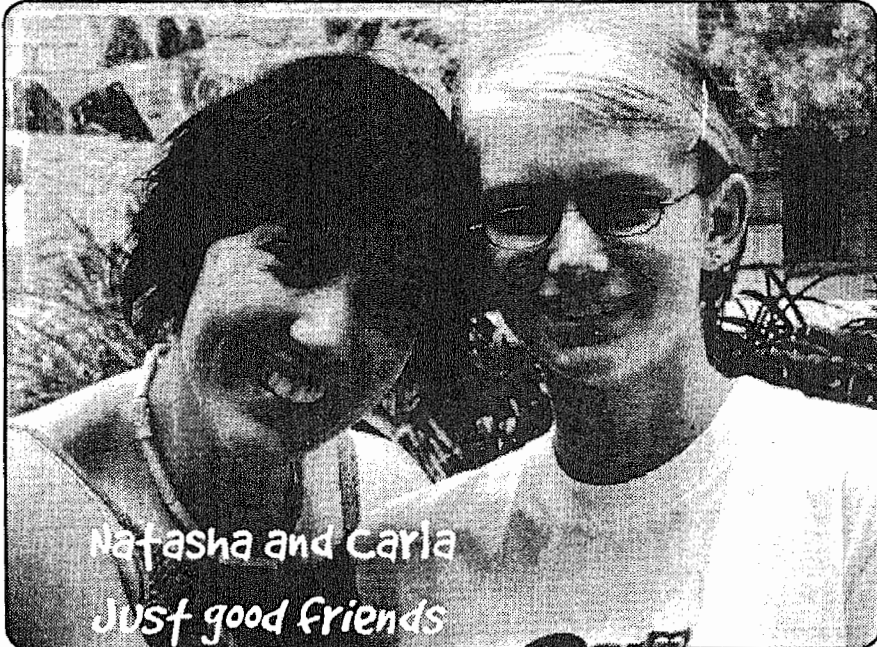
*Darren Kurtzer*

*ATSI Officer*

## Questions:

1. If you could be paid to write a cabaret or musical piece of your choice, what would it entail?
2. What would your ideal musical character consist of?
3. Is cabaret a metaphor for life? If not, what is?
4. Why is Nicole Kidman sooo good? Or why not?

# Vox



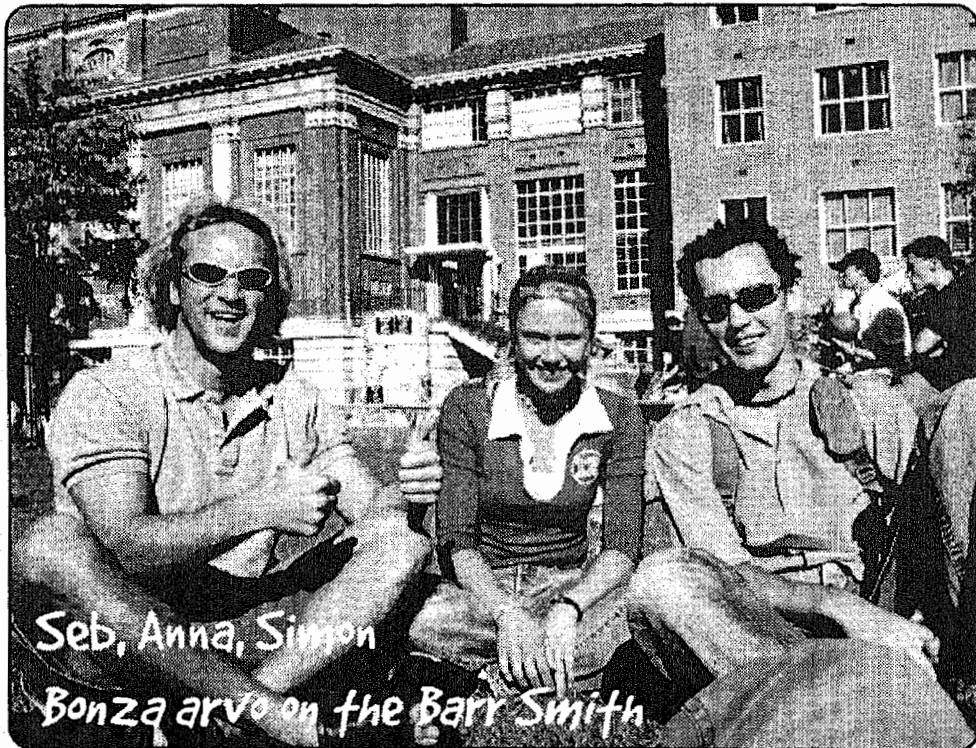
*Natasha and Carla  
Just good friends*

1. N: People on drugs.  
C: Murder-mystery.
2. N: Fat...  
C: Skinny, loud and tall.
3. N: No, it's a metaphor for people on drugs.  
C: Yes.
4. N: She's not - she needs to stop losing weight.  
C: She's a legend, I love her. She's beautiful and she broke up with Tom Cruise. He's feral!



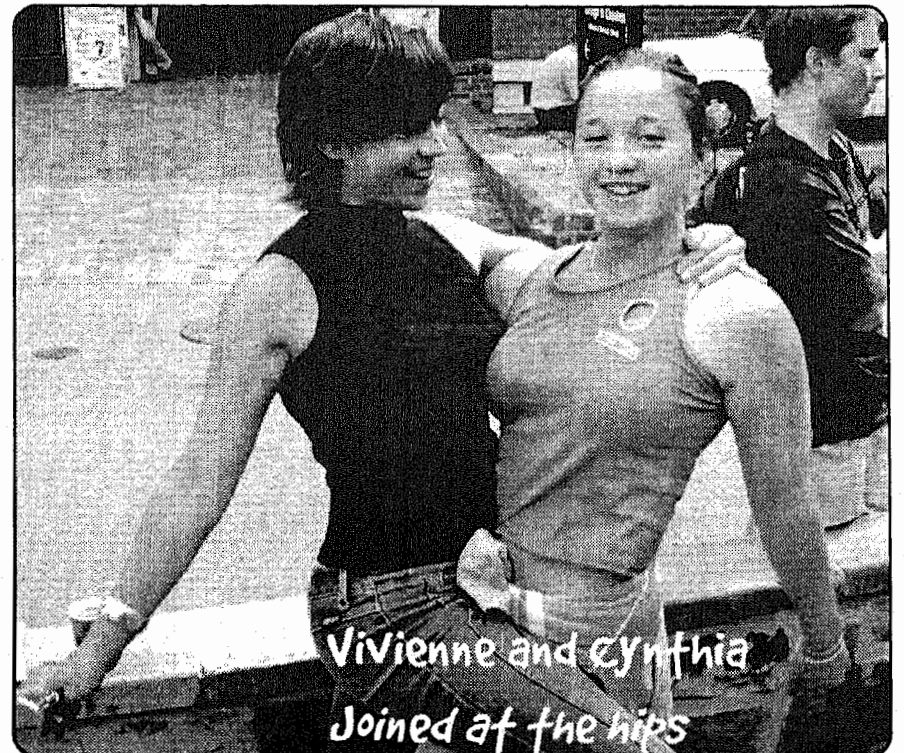
*Jane and David  
Sitting at a safe distance*

1. J: Space cadets.  
D: What's a cabaret again? (laughs and scratches head)
2. J: Someone who doesn't break into song every five minutes.  
D: What's a musical character again?
3. J: Cheese, the Swiss sort. 'Cause life's full of holes.  
D: Hey Jane, you've still got newspaper ink on your face.
4. J: She's not.  
D: 'Cause she's an Aussie (kinda)... I dunno.



*Seb, Anna, Simon  
Bonzarvo on the Barr Smith*

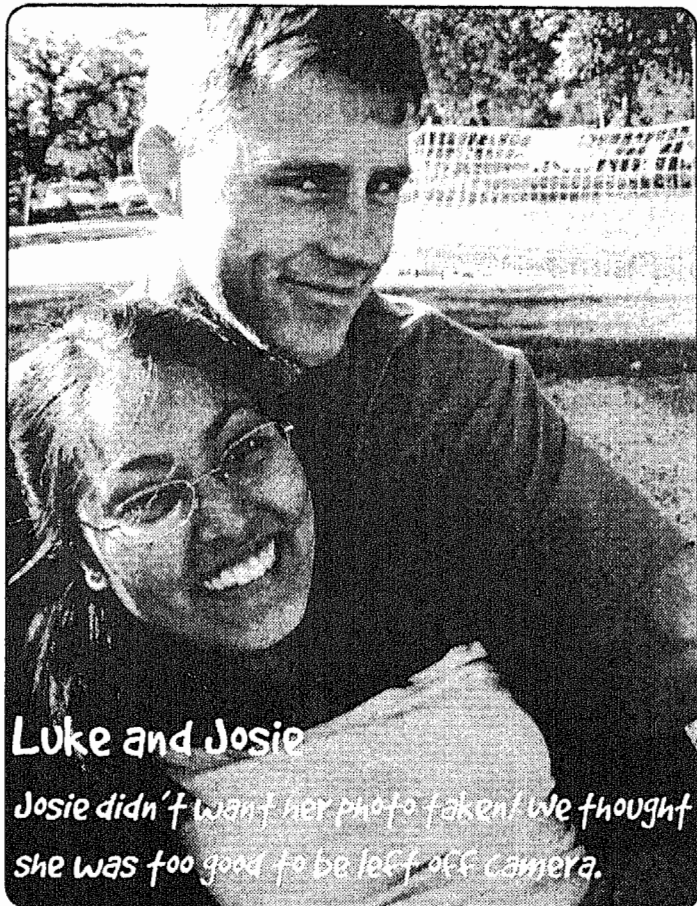
1. S: A musical about peace, free love and the hair industry in the '70s.  
A: I'm Dutch, so it would be about tulips and windmills.  
Si: I'd set mine in a magical land of chocolate... No wait, that's been done!
2. S: George Bush in drag.  
A: A farmer girl.  
Si: (The character would be) Like Seb.
2. S: My uncle had a boat called Cabaret.  
A: Geniet van het leven.  
Si: I think it's an enigma wrapped in a mystery.
4. S: She had a perm and was never drafted to *Neighbours*.  
A: Who's Nicole Kidman? Is she Dutch?  
Si: She used a straightener, what's with that? Curly haired people should all be friends.



*Vivienne and Cynthia  
Joined at the hips*

1. V: Profile of the seedy, leftish underbelly of Adelaide.  
C: Sex, drugs and rock and rolls.
2. V: The guy from Rock Star.  
C: Someone involved in lots of the above.
3. V: Those people were on way too many drugs!  
C: No, it's not. I don't know what is.
4. V: Because "art" is important.  
C: She's not very inspiring at all.

# Pop



**Luke and Josie**

*Josie didn't want her photo taken. We thought she was too good to be left off camera.*

1. L: A life un-lived - to make people want to live life.  
 J: Mine would be a story about a person who hasn't got a fixed identity but who tries to find themselves and where they belong, in all different backgrounds.

2. L: An indecisive prince.  
 J: See above.

3. L: I don't think it is. It doesn't resemble anything close. I would have to say metamorphosis.  
 J: Life is a cookie.

4. L: She's not because what we see is the work of professionals and spin doctors, not an actual person.  
 J: Nicole is what we



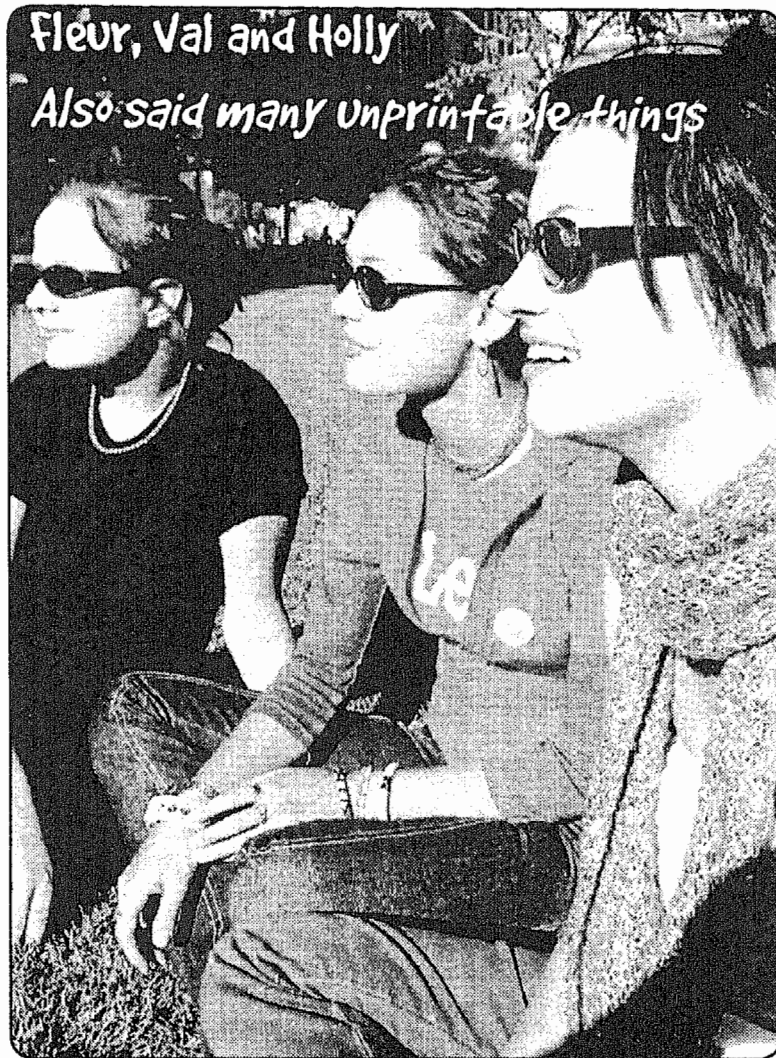
**Stormy and Sunshine**  
*Sharing a moment*

1. St: An all female Utopia, ruined when a male suddenly discovers our sacred place.  
 Su: Ditto, only the man has to hurriedly breed to save the population.

2. St: A beautiful heiress to the all-female throne.  
 Su: A persian pussy cat with telekinetic powers.

3. St: Yes. Mine would teach the world how to live in harmony, without the disturbing needs of masculinity.  
 Su: No. Porn is much more substantial.

4. St: She dumped Tom Cruise. Not bad, but it's a start.  
 Su: Um...those beautiful mandibles?



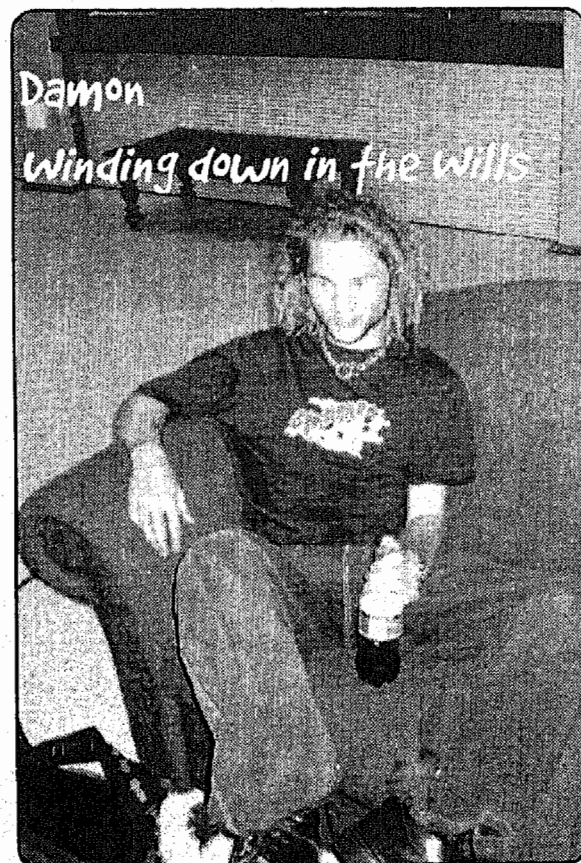
**Fleur, Val and Holly**  
*Also said many unprintable things*

1. F: My dream where we crashed into the Santos building in a plane and then went up to Heaven, which was a library, and God was a librarian.  
 V: Sex, drugs and rock and roll.  
 H: Sado-masochism.

2. F: Boys from Brer Mouse.  
 V: Valdar, the Ultimate Temptation.  
 H: My old high school principal in a bikini with a shaved head, and the pre-requisite whips, chains and handcuffs.

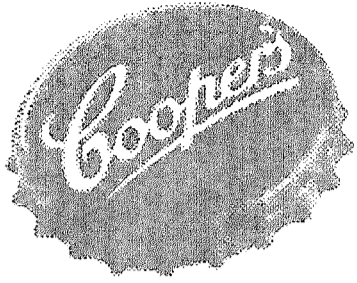
3. F: Hell yes.  
 V: I like to think so.  
 H: I should hope not. Give me another week and I'll have an answer.

4. F: She could see beauty in someone three feet shorter than her.  
 V: Because she has got good legs.  
 H: Huh? Who's she?

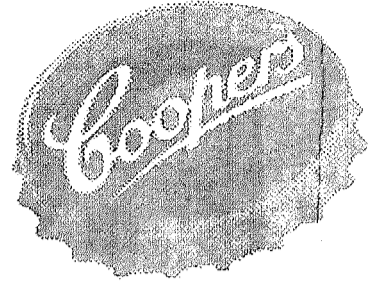


**Damon**  
*Winding down in the wills*

1. *The Simpsons* - a cartoon theme.  
 2. It'd be Homer with a mullet.  
 3. Let's just say *The Simpsons* again, as my Dad looks like Homer.  
 4. I don't know.



# South Australia's Own



## The Historic Coopers Ale House at the Earl of Aberdeen 316 Pulteney Street City

I'd never had much of a reason to wander down to the south side of town. However, with Rundle Street increasingly becoming a morass of well-heeled louts and posing knuckle-draggers, and the West End being a little too 'calculated bohemian' ('nu-boho' if you will) it was nice to find a watering hole that is only nominally pretentious. It is certainly very nicely bedecked in old-school splendour right down to the deeply cool 'air paddles' that fan the bar from a lofty perch above the counter. The smooth interior design with dark, rich, dense grained wood with brass fittings and cubic bicoloured couches are punctuated with historic prints of Coopers promotional material.

The tap beers are the usual suspects, with the whole Coopers range available at the fondle of a lever and the beer price is as much as you'd expect for any pub. There are no 300% nightclub mark-ups here. The bottled selection is impressive, with several tens of different brews to inspire choice anxiety into the most determined individual. As a nice touch there are plenty of leaflets available briefing the reader on the subtle

characteristics of each of the Coopers Ales along with suggested epicurean accompaniment. A token wine list and brief cocktail selection are also available to round out the bar although the emphasis is on beer. Having said that, the cocktails are reasonably priced and, in my experience, rather delicious.

I've not tried the food here, but I am assured by those that know better that it is certainly worth a thoughtful chew. It's not a budget place to eat, so pick a time to treat yourself and certainly cast an eye over the straight forward menu.

The crowd are a mixed bag, although I hasten to add, seem to be entirely pleasant. They do however have a distressing tendency to mill around the TV's in the front bar so that you may wish to retire to the Gazebo which is sparser, quieter and has a more accessible bar (*sans* cool paddles).

It is generally an all round pearly of a place to hide away from the homogenous herds of a typical weekend night.

Yak



## Deep South Cajun 47B Morphett Street City

Deep South Cajun is a relatively recent addition to glut of restaurants in the Adelaide CBD. Popping up at some point in the second half of 2002, the proprietors have successfully created an exotic oasis in the crassness that is the remainder of the junction of Hindley and Morphett.

The interior is like a modern interpretation of Atticus Finch's parlour, with Calpurnia having had significant sway over the décor. Art deco wall mirrors and portraits of sultry black queens of times gone by overlook darkwood tables and chairs, and you would swear you can hear Billie Holiday crooning in the background.

The main dishes are intriguing with their idiosyncratic names - Touchstone Finger Fried Spare Ribs, Gulf of Mexico Jambalaya Rice and Swampland Clam Chowder are just a few - and the very generous servings justify the average main price of \$14. The Gulf Domain Gumbo is especially impressive, looking as though a serve of the ocean's bounty has been dumped into a huge bowl, with crab claws and mussel shells poking out of the steaming soup (or "the stomach contents of any self-respecting whale," as my dinner partner put it).

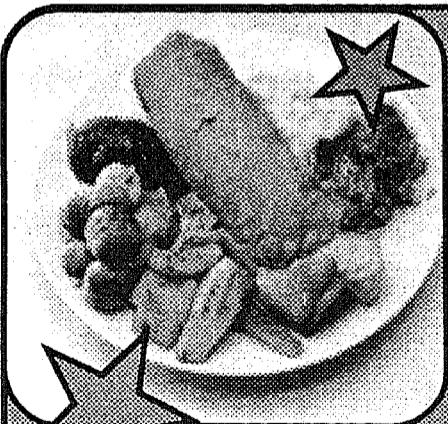
Those who don't eat meat are well catered for also. Ordering two or three of

the meat-free dishes should do you well: choose from the Plagiarized Eggplant Parmigiana, the Delta Potato Salad, the Black Eyed Peas and Okra, and the Reddish Glow Candied Yam, among others. Vegetarian dishes average about \$6 - they're designed to be ordered in conjunction with each other or as sides to the mains. The proprietors must also be commended for their generosity - on both of my visits to Deep South so far, dishes of complementary candied sweet potato, garden salad and corn bread have landed on my table. You certainly won't be left hungry.

Dessert-wise, the Climax Forest Raspberries are served with icecream, cream and mascapone and are a refreshing end to what can only be a satisfying meal. Unfortunately, the delicious sounding Angel Angelica Cake wasn't available at my last visit, but I'll be sure to try it next time. A rack of flavoured teas is presented to you at the table for you to make your selection.

The staff are among the friendliest in Adelaide. Honey Bee is without a doubt the Queen of Deep South, making sweet conversation with everyone she cooks for. Be sure to visit her the next time you're in the West End for a meal.

Gemma Clark



## General Havelock Schnitzel

# ★ SCHNITZEL OF THE WEEK ★

On not such a cold and bleak day, six lucky folk headed to the General Havelock for FREE schnitzel and drinks. It was GOOD.

This popular pub serves chicken and veal schnitzel at the affordable price of \$7.60, with a choice of gravy, pepper and dianna sauces available. But that isn't all. For just \$1 extra they do a sexy parmigiana that encompasses the whole slab of meat. The reviewers this time were quoted as follows...

Scotty2Hotty: "Damn sexual" 9/10  
Jesus: "I command thee to eat here" (a comment almost as cheesy as the parmi)

Mr. Sarcasm: "Damn fine gravy, no really!" 9/10

Cookinunsta: "Teriff..." 8.99/10  
Simple Simon: "Twas a most stupendous repas, most pleasurable to the palette with the juicy odour of the schnitzel penetrating every fibre of my being."

In short, the chips were tasty as Hell, the salad was of good proportions, the size was magnificent (no seriously, the veal didn't fit on the plate!) and the gravy came in abundance in its own separate dish. Also worth mentioning is the ever-important mush factor - these chefs had it so right that even our very own Jesus couldn't

complain. So what more could you want? How about a great atmosphere, cool staff and value for money! Believe it or not, the Havelock has all of this and more - and all we can say is, unfortunately noone can be told how good the schnitzel is, you have to eat it for yourself!

JK

\* 9 out of the 10 commandments should be 'thou shall eat at the Havelock.'

# Hand-made by the Cooper family.

## LIVE FROM AMERICA:

## WAR!

The day the war began, I was sitting in a house just up the road from my own in the quiet suburb of Westwood. I had eaten yet another horrible dorm dinner and sat down with my American housemates to watch the President's second address of the day, the one notifying the country that the war had begun.

Most of the room sat watching in silence; a few of us gave a running derogatory commentary and laughed about the President's gaffe in his earlier speech, when he instructed the Iraqis to not

burn their oil wells (his motive allegedly being their economic recovery when the war was over). The speech ended and I walked outside and headed back down the street to my house. Then I had my first and most surreal experience of America at war. I looked up into the night sky, and above me were a line of military helicopters hovering in a straight vertical line across the city. Not moving around, just stationary midair, forming a barricade across the skyline of Los Angeles.

I'm sure that this could not even compare with what the Iraqi people have been experiencing lately, but for me it was definitely a moment of realization. A few seconds later I ran into my San Franciscan friend Sean and mentioned that I felt a little weirded out, and he laughed at me and said "Oh yeah, you haven't been in country during a war, have you?" (Not exactly true, but I gave up on Americans knowing anything about Australia long ago.) It was just another day at war in America.

But I should quantify myself here. As most of you can probably guess, Southern California is in no way typical of the rest of the country. It is a liberal but also a very superficial place. Also, almost everyone I know is a student. As my friend China said at lunch today, we're inside the UCLA bubble inside the LA bubble. So I would never presume that the impact of the war I'm seeing is true of the entire country. But it still makes for interesting watching.

Now the initial adrenaline rush from a new invasion has worn off, things have settled down a lot here. Of course, the war is on the front page of the *Los Angeles Times* everyday. CNN is continuing its saturation coverage. But people aren't really talking about it. It really is becoming just another standard American military intervention, and so everyone is relatively laissez faire. This has maybe lessened in

the last week since it became clear the war was going to drag on longer than everyone expected (since most people thought it would be over within ten days). I have to confess that I too anticipated the war being over within three weeks or so, but maybe our inaccuracy stems from

all the information we get about America's military might. No matter what is being said by the Bush administration now, I can honestly say that when the war began, nobody I know thought it would be anything other than a quick and easy victory.

People here who are against the war tend to be extremely vocal about it. Regular protests in Hollywood and at the Federal Building on Wilshire Boulevard regularly number between twenty and thirty thousand. Thousands of students also attended a class walkout and protest held on March 5 at the UCLA campus. Generally, it is deeply unfashionable to be pro-war.

But there's something underneath these surface level objections. In a survey of my Political Parties class the other day, the majority were Republicans. You may hear nothing from them but 70 percent of Americans are in favour of the war. The silent majority strikes again. But why? I guess some are genuinely for it, others don't feel there is any other choice (and going on the information Bush provides, you wouldn't think so). Americans also have a unique and frustrating tendency to rally around their president in times of crisis and support him unconditionally, which I've always found hard to swallow. I mean, would the Australian people all rally to support John Howard if he started a preemptive war against a country? Maybe it's my cynicism, but the thought isn't even conceivable to me.

Many more people just seem to be overwhelmed by the whole thing, and it's hard to blame them. Firstly, the American media has sensationalized the war beyond comprehension. Watching CNN you feel like

you're playing a video game or watching an action movie. You can go on CNN.com and check American fighter jet capabilities and get updates on Baghdad weather. That's far from the worst coverage - a prize I reserve for Fox News. Day one of bombing and the Fox correspondent was broadcasting on air wearing a gas mask. This is all very well and good but for the fact the correspondent was a) in Kuwait and b) surrounded by forty thousand coalition troops. Not to make the public panic or anything. Springer-style talk show host Geraldo Rivera has also been broadcasting from American bases causing trouble and passionately vowing to enter Baghdad alongside the troops. The US military have just asked him to leave the region (which apparently he's refusing to do). Obviously, while the media continues to be this ridiculous it is impossible for Americans to have an informed opinion on the war.

...the American media has sensationalized the war beyond comprehension. Watching CNN you feel like you're playing a video game or watching an action movie.

There's also another factor. I was at a club one night early on in the war, watching the mounted TVs that normally show video clips but were broadcasting CNN. I went outside and looked across Sunset Boulevard and saw an electronic billboard flashing what I know now is clearly the most powerful American rallying cry of all: 'SUPPORT OUR

TROOPS!' An American flag was waving in the background.

Americans have a huge complex about this issue. Post-Vietnam most people realised it was not actually the troop's fault they were being sent to war, and they have been trying to compensate ever since. I asked a friend about it and she told me: "Over here, almost everyone has a relative who's fought in a war. They know how much it screws them up. So people feel like they should support the troops even if they don't support the war. You can't go either way, really." Therefore, everyone faces a gigantic moral dilemma. Go against the war, and you're against the men and women who are fighting for the country.

Generally, it is deeply unfashionable to be pro-war.

With the complications of history and the media farce, no wonder it seems easier to most Americans to try and ignore the whole thing. This is easy to do because America is an amazingly insular society. Highlighted by the period of UN debate and worldwide protest, all the Americans I know are completely aware that most of the world hates them. They even think they know some of the reasons why. They don't like it, but they don't seem to overly bother by it. It is so easy to ignore, because they don't hear enough about the rest of the world for it even to be an issue. American news, politics and pop-culture is all-encompassing. There is no need and no room for anything else.

On this note, a lot of people have written and asked me if Australia's contribution to the war is ever acknowledged, or if most Americans even know about it.

The answer is no.

All this isn't to say that there aren't people who are opposed to the war in the same way most of us are. The other night, coming off a lift full of Americans only to have CNN flashing in our faces the moment the doors opened, a wry American next to me remarked "Great, we can watch 'Operation Iraqi Decimation'". An American family I met in Mexico told me they were pretending to be from Toronto because they were so embarrassed about the "stupid war". And the other day, walking through campus, I heard the middle-aged man running the *Los Angeles Times* stall say to his neighbour, "They're spending a billion dollars a day on this war. Imagine what that could do for communities in the United States".

I don't feel unsafe over here. The war seems like a long way away. But I am worried. Three of my four professors are leaving UCLA next year because of budget cuts to fund the war. The economy is failing (maybe a blessing in disguise, because nothing makes an American sit up and take notice like a hit to the hip pocket). The Pentagon has ordered 77,000 body bags, and the war looks like it will be dragging on a lot longer than expected. Right now the most reassuring thing about that is that Bush Jr would be unlikely to see a second term. But in war, and right now in America,

everything is in a constant state of flux. So I guess we'll see.

Penny Chalke  
On Dit US correspondent

# TRUTH? JUSTICE? AND THE AMERICAN WAY.

(A hypothetical draft of George Dubya's  
Address to the Nation speech.)

Fellow Americans, the problems that beset this, our Great Nation,  
Things like poverty, pollution and social dissipation,  
Unemployment, health and welfare, the increasing cost of education,  
We can directly attribute to Arab oil price inflation.

Our greatest economic minds have met in consultation,  
And in the interest of our future, and of our self-preservation,  
They've debated on this issue and after great deliberation,  
Have devised a scheme we feel deserves your fullest contemplation.

A war against Saddam Hussein would, in our estimation,  
Provide the perfect opportunity to resolve our situation,  
By removing him completely from the Middle East equation,  
And replacing him with someone open to negotiation.

Should World Leaders be uneasy and react with indignation,  
It's essential we assure them of our genuine dedication,  
To the poor Iraqi people, and to their emancipation,  
From the oppression they have suffered under his Administration.

It should be easy to protect our condescending reputation,  
As the self-important champions of worldwide regulation,  
With inventive propaganda and the requisite creation,  
Of the illusion of an atmosphere of true conciliation.

With this in mind we're issuing a formal proclamation,  
Of our desire for peace, avoiding any open confrontation,  
And of our complete support for the US Weapons Delegation,  
With more time for them to carry on their Arms Investigation.

We will use the time productively in troop mobilisation,  
And in sorting our Allies from those of peaceful inclination,  
Then we'll castigate Iraq for blatant non-cooperation,  
With regretful claims that they've provoked our dire War Declaration.

I am sure that you will see without too much imagination,  
That with *our* weapons of mass destruction, the ensuing conflagration,  
Should result in our effecting Iraq's complete neutralisation,  
And the future peace will equal extent of devastation.

And when we've won, and have the country under occupation,  
It should be easy to put paid to any future altercation,  
If when we're sure, we have secured Saddam's incarceration,  
Perhaps the CIA could organise a quiet assassination.

With that problem solved, we may proceed without any hesitation,  
To install a puppet Congress, subject to our domination,  
And without troubling ourselves with any further, needless arbitration,  
To develop Iraqi oil reserves for our own exploitation.

John Murphy, February 2003

## Confessions of a Hairless Wonder

I am quite the hairless wonder. No hair is visible above my shins, save maybe a small tuft preceding my navel and perhaps the odd ones around my nipples and pits. However no other part of my body sprouts any coloured growth. Even that smooth film of white hair that covers most people's entire bodies eludes the majority of my pearly Scottish ancestral skin. For all my life I have been thankful for this. Not only has this been a good luck charm in attracting prospective mates, I shiver when I think of having to deal with the proverbial 'welcome mat' situated at the base of the spine.

Thankful, that is, right up until the last week. Having thought I'd reached the level of bravado required to grow a beard, I ceased to shave once every two to three days. Now, into the second week of this endeavor, am I completely frustrated with my pre-pubescent foliage. I'm not trying to obtain a ZZ Top look, that would be far too ambitious, all I want is a nice, messy late Phil Collins bush. If I can be bothered to stick it out for another week or two I know it might be acceptable, but this first fortnight has been embarrassing. Until recently I've had to squint in the mirror to see how it's coming along.

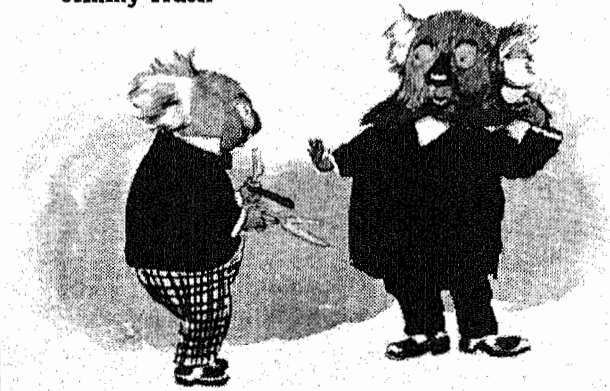
The main source of this newly acquired anger is the fact my father was shaving by age 12. He is covered from his toes to his eyebrows with a coat that would put a polar bear to shame. Of course, this stops short of covering his frequently sunburnt head. Maybe I have had some luck in the family gene pool.

When I was younger I played district basketball very competitively. I remember the pain of ripping three pounds of strapping tape off of my ankles, grimacing horribly in the shower. Shortly after explaining this suffering to one of my female friends, I was amazed to find this was actually a frequent pastime for many young girls. At 15, it's not nice to find out girls are a lot tougher than you. So I challenged her to an arm wrestle and quickly reinstated my manliness.

My point is I am now in that situation again. Think of the images of bearded masculinity in media. Osama Bin Laden's vigilante groups, not only armed with beards but weapons and camouflage suits as well. Hell's Angels motorcycle groups are similarly attired. Would J.R. Tolkien's wizard Gandalf be as brave without his pure white, swirling mane? Of course not. And I can't even get a Peter Andre crescent below-the-lip happening.

So does my inability to sprout my own ginger chin-locks affect my masculinity? Or can this be counteracted by the size of my penis? Eh, I think I'd rather leave such matters to those ugly, hairy Neanderthals who can decorate their jaws.

Jimmy Trash





# Sumo Sam at Paradise Community Church

I've got a few confessions to make. Confession number one: you know that Paradise Church you see on TV? I was there last Friday night. When I drove there I was certain I had turned down the right street and that I was on the way to a church. (The bit where the penny drops to the sound of "Oh, that church" comes later). But all I could see were ovals, car parks, miscellaneous buildings with signs like 'school' and 'deliveries' on them. No church. No converted warehouse with a lighting rig, a donated PA system and a shitload of stackable chairs. But I rounded a clump of eucalypts and there was a sign leading into a car park that read 'Paradise Church' (still no pennies as yet). I drove in, I parked in front of an extremely large brown building. It had a sign too (they're big on signs around there)- 'Paradise Community Church'.

I start remembering something, nothing personal though, like a song or a TV show... The Penny Drops. Oh, that Paradise Church.

I got out of the car and breathed in the grassy air blowing off the surrounding fields. The place was truly huge and I was only looking at the foyer.

I think it's time for confession number two: I wasn't actually there to join in on Friday Night Youth Group. Well, that's a lie- I was, but I was being paid to be there. You see comrades, I, like you, have trouble getting people to sponsor my trips to the pub and my penchant for clothes that fit. And so, I, like you, must work for money. We all do different things for cash. Some work in regular industries like hospitality or retail, some in weird jobs like setting up bouncy castles or sorting out medications. I get hired to take two large padded sumo suits to wherever they are needed and umpire people who are aching for an excuse to make the ground shake with the tumbling bodies of their opponents.

On Friday night I was to provide part of an awesome night's entertainment for kids aged 13-17 (bring a friend). I met one of the Nice Young Men running the show in the foyer. His name was David (not his real name) and he was wearing a beanie. I'm not sure of its significance, but just about all of the Nice Young Men running the show were wearing beanies. He lead me across the foyer and into the first hall. Do you remember the first time you walked into the Entertainment Centre, looked around and realised just what a fucking huge room you were in? That's sort of what I did. I got through the door, looked up and just did a Neo-esque "Whoa". I don't think the Festival Centre is that well kitted out.

"This isn't where we are, this is for the 18- to 30-year-olds," said David over his shoulder as he lead me through to where the kids have their set up. The kids stage seemed to have the same amount of gear, but in a smaller room. A band was practising their numbers on stage. From memory I think one of the songs was just called 'Jesus Loves Me Yeah' and that seemed to be about the extent of the lyrics. Damn catchy though. I had to excuse myself as soon as I started picturing the lyrics as "Hummus Loves My Hair".

Soon the place was filled with 13- to 17-year-olds and the evening's entertainment began. The MC (another Nice Young Man wearing a Beanie) was jumping about onstage, asking everyone if they were having a good time and getting them to scream if they were.

"Is this side having a good time?"

"YAAYYY!!!"

"How about *this* side?" "YYYYAAAAAYYYYY!!!!!"

"Hey guys! They sounded like they were having more fun than you! Yell louder!"

"YYYYAAA AAA (bwubph)....." (That's my eardrums popping.)

And, to make them scream louder still, he had a shitload of chocolates to give away. He would pull them from some stash on stage and toss them into the salivating audience in true rock star style. Although I'm not sure too many true rock stars have ever uttered the words,

He would pull them from some stash on stage and toss them into the salivating audience in true rock star style. Although I'm not sure too many true rock stars have ever uttered the words,

"They're Harry Potter chocolates, and we don't like Harry Potter, but we'll eat his chocolate anyway!"

"They're Harry Potter chocolates, and we don't like Harry Potter, but we'll eat his chocolate anyway!" (I'm not kidding, this is exactly what he said.)

The band played a song and then I was given a couple of gimps - kids, I meant kids - to put into suits and get them wrestling. I won't big-note myself here; my contribution to the evening wasn't the lion's share of excitement. I was the highlight of the evening for the two kids wrestling and maybe the three girls who got rolled on in the first row and that might have been about it. Don't get me wrong, my sumo suits are better than a rollercoaster, but there were other, more crowd-friendly forms of entertainment.

Like the mechanical bull. If you haven't seen one of these, the nice man from Rodeo Star Entertainment put you on a big saddle, surrounded by thick mats and twiddle knobs to make the saddle go round and round until your turn is over. Then they help you up, fetch you a neck-brace and book you in for a discount session at a chiropractor (who was, no doubt, a subsidiary of Rodeo Star Entertainment). I thought sitting slumped at a computer all day was bad for your back- two guys actually ended up six inches shorter from something I've heard called 'compaction' or, in layman's terms 'landing on your fucking head'.

They had a celebrity guest, The Capital City Kid (as seen on *Rove*) and an onstage skiing demonstration. (This was actually just sticking some kid on that skiing arcade game and throwing the insides of a beanbag all over them).

But by far and away the highlight of the evening was The Cannon. Yes, The Cannon. Two Nice Young Men in Beanies wheeled out The Cannon to show to the audience. It was a 1.5 metre long metal pipe attached to two large wheels and painted black to look like, well, a cannon. The exciting part about it was that it actually fired things. They put a tennis ball down it, filled the end with aerosol and shot it at some padded up 13- to 17-year-old defending a rubbish bin with... a cricket bat. Hit the ball and win \$10 was the cry. As can be expected, none of the contenders made contact with the ball because it was travelling at about 300km/h, one of the Beanie-Wearers declared.

Then it was time for The Talk. Anyone who's ever been to Friday Night Youth Group will know The Talk

(anyone, who hasn't - listen in). The Talk is where one of the Nice Young Men in Beanies (our friend Dave, as it happened) gets up on stage and talks about letting Jesus into your life. Sometimes they relate stories of their troubled youth and how Jesus helped them through (so let Jesus into your life) or sometimes it's asking the audience to reach out and love Jesus (or let Jesus love you, I forget which way around it is, but Jesus definitely fits in somewhere). But Dave of the Beanie had the full power of the Paradise Community Entertainment Complex behind him and showed an edited version of the Red Pill/Blue Pill scene from *The Matrix*. Then he started talking as one of the band members got on the keyboard and played some low-key inspirational music (sort of a cross between 'That's What Friends Are For' and 'Chariots of Fire').

"I was like Neo - I knew there was more to life than what I had at 13 to 17, but I couldn't see what." While he was talking the 18- to 30-year-olds from Stadium One had obviously finished and come in to watch Dave work his magic. They even chipped in every now and then with the Australian version of "Amen" and "Hallelujah", which is "Yeah" and "That's right". He got everyone to stand up while he was talking about Hummus - Jesus, I meant Jesus, coming into his life and then he asked them to bow their heads and *shut their eyes*. An auditorium full of 300 kids who have been screaming for two hours shouldn't go quiet as quickly as that, but it did. Three hundred kids all on their feet, heads bowed, eyes shut.

"If there's anyone here tonight who wants to let Jesus into their lives, then raise your hand, put it up in the air and let Jesus be your guiding something something" (I forget what he said, I didn't have a notebook handy).

And they did. In a huge auditorium of 300 kids with their eyes closed, one by one, kids started silently raising their hands. No one making a sound except for David talking and 'That's What Chariots Are Fire' playing on the keyboard.

While this was going on, the rest of the band started slowly sneaking on stage, picking up their instruments and quietly joining in with the keyboard.

In a huge auditorium of 300 kids with their eyes closed, one by one, kids started silently raising their hands. No one making a sound except for David talking and 'That's What Chariots Are Fire' playing on the keyboard.

When Dave decided that enough people had put up their hands, he asked everyone to keep their eyes closed, but for all the 'first-timers' to come out the front. The band increased the volume a notch. By the time they were all out the front the

singers were oohing and aahing along with the music, *Young Talent Time* style.

"And now, I want everybody to open their eyes and praise Jesus Christ and these young people who are here tonight for the first time!"

Boom. The lights went up, the band hit full volume and the three singers were now eight and the noise of whooping and cheering and prayer and praise just about blew the roof off.

When it was over, everyone was given a 300ml bottle of their choice of either green or purple out-of-date, warm Fanta for signing up to a mailing list and herded into a convey of minibuses bound for McDonalds.

I packed up my suits, went to The Chief's house and listened to a lot of Tool.

Sam Franzway

\*may not be true

# MURDER IN THE FIRST

a play by DAN GORDON  
Directed by ROB CROSSER



The Independent Theatre's Australian premiere of Dan Gordon's *Murder In The First* was a solid yet not overly memorable ensemble. Exploring the dehumanising atrocities committed in the isolated prison of Alcatraz, the script essentially tells the story of inmate Willie Moore, based on real life Henri Young, who was trialed for murder for stabbing a fellow inmate. Liberties were taken with names

and details of Young's previous and subsequent record, and this depiction sees Moore jailed for petty theft, and then moved to the 'dungeon' rooms for an escape attempt. Mentally unhinged due to his solitary confinement, he stabs the inmate he believes to be at fault. Lawyer Henry Davidson, played consistently by Joseph Hynes, recognises the ordeal Moore has suffered and puts Alcatraz on trial in a powerful attempt to seek social justice for the unjust treatment of its inhabitants.

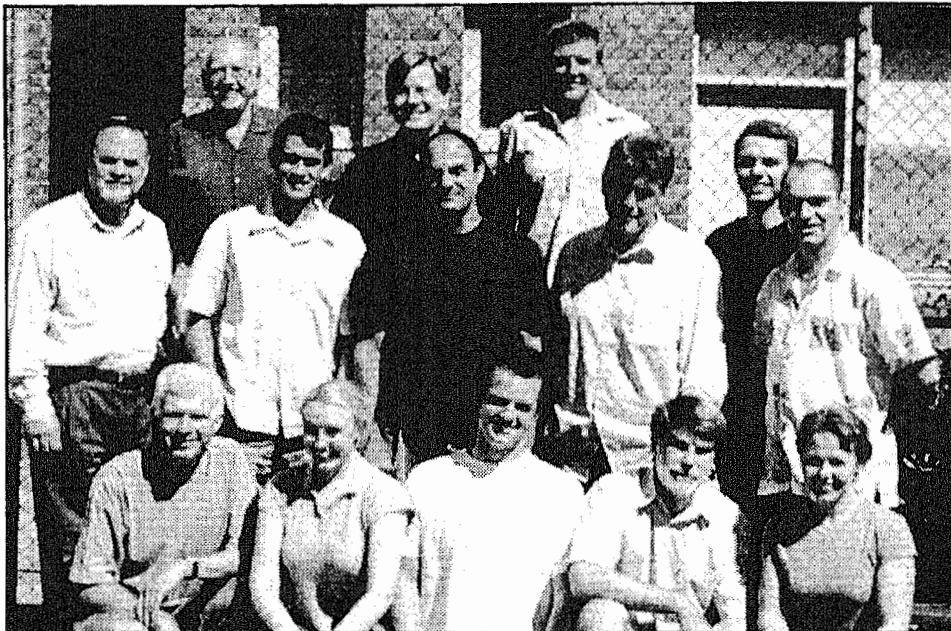
Performances were generally solid; James Edwards sometimes a little shaky as Moore however impressive when required to show extremes of anger and fear, conveying his tortured desperation with conviction. Allen Munn was notable as Warden Harold Humson; convincing in both his belief in his actions and realisation of responsibility for Moore's behaviour. The set, particularly the intimidating bars, effectively incorporated

the various settings and could be broken up by lighting. Significantly, the bars and the judge's stand together created not only physical locations but an overarching representation of the authorities that are here being questioned. Lighting was able to extend this, creating long shadows to emphasise the bars and the presence of the stand towering over proceedings, and was also key to scene changes. In fact, the lighting was commendable, enhancing shifts in both mood and location and breaking up moments within scenes successfully. However, the short 'mini-scenes' that lasted about 10 seconds in between scenes seemed a little redundant,

leaving one thinking, "Oh, what was the point of that?" They may have been intended to flesh out the characters a little, but didn't necessarily do so.

Overall, the production explored themes of social justice within the framework of the murder trial and Moore and Davidson's relationship with conviction, and is perhaps timely in today's climate of war and Australia's current refugee situation. It screens from March 29 to April 12 at The Odeon Theatre, Norwood, and tickets are \$27 for adults and \$22 concession.

## Gumby



Judge, Jury and the whole Cast

# Trajectory & Small Increments

An exhibition presented by the Experimental Art Foundation



The Experimental Art Foundation is holding two exhibitions *Trajectory* by Tim Sterling and *Small Increments* by Warren Vance (03/4/03 to 03/05/03). Located at the Lion Arts Centre on the corner of Morphett and North Terrace the E.A.F was established during 1974 and the current mission statement is "To assist, promote and develop through production, exhibition, distribution, and the

encouragement of debate, art and art practices that are analytical, critical and experimental, which challenge established thinking and expand cultural languages and discussion." In conjunction with exhibition space there is a bookshop and artist studios.

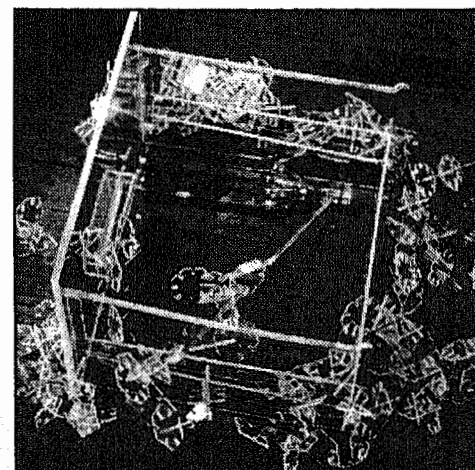
*Trajectory* is comprised of Perspex sheets cut into shapes and arranged into structures that also incorporate other objects such as a bottle and straw. The shapes and structures are repetitious and remind one of Duchampian assembly. Plastic, the every day object and mass production is also evident in *The Poor Box* by Vance,



the cathedral is a souvenir photo slide projected onto the bottom of a cardboard box. Vance works' use projected light in slide and video format. *Monk Contemplating Wilderness* utilises the image of Zurbarans's *St. Francis in Meditation*. The slide is projected onto a

hanging piece of fabric with a forest print. *Glory Days* is a three-minute piece with images alternating between the kaleidoscopic greens and Victorian black and white images of women.

This was my first time at the E.A.F and although the exhibition was what one can



expect from such a show, I felt somewhat disappointed since I had entered with high expectations of radical expression, I left confused about the chosen label and direction of the establishment that I am sure will be clarified in the future.

Maxim Sharoglazov

# Contemporary Art on display

Greenaway Art  
Gallery  
39 Rundle Street  
Kent Town  
On display until the  
April 27

Original artwork by Australian artists, Noel McKenna and Samantha Small, are currently on display and sale at Greenaway Art Gallery. Small (born 1973 in Canberra) originally studied the visual arts in Adelaide, graduating in 1997 with a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours) from the SA School of Art, University of South Australia. Small's collection, *Suite*, consists of five huge photographs and an interesting installation piece made from white Queen Anne style furniture.

The installation became quite a feature of the exhibition as it towered over the guests in the white walled gallery. The artist's photographic work, entitled *Room Temperature* was set behind the tower and related to the themes of furniture and material objects in living spaces. The artwork focuses on her ideas of private living spaces and the public arena. The large photographs represent empty rooms, which are bland in colour but rich in detail and light. On closer inspection it is made clear that these rooms are in fact models and resemble a doll's house made from all sorts of materials.

Within her artwork Small has taken a dull image and given it life. The empty rooms become spaces for imagined interaction as the sheer size of them makes you feel as if you could just slip into the image. As well as the size of the artwork, it is also the photographic technique that gives these rooms energy and spirit. Small's clever use of lighting gives her pieces depth and quality, as if they are life size images.

Small's images are absent of any human figures; this is the same for Noel McKenna's artwork (except for one painting, *Pope Alice in Sydney 2002*). McKenna (born 1956) is a nationally established artist, who has had many exhibitions showcasing his work. His art is present in the Art Gallery of South Australia and in other important collections around Australia.

McKenna's pieces in the exhibition are very dark, presenting a bleak world through a black sense of humour. I felt the collection was a morbid representation of the urban and natural world. The often cartoon like images are minimal and stylised and show repeated scenes of stark trees, landscapes and coastlines. McKenna uses dull colours such as light blues, grass greens and greys

to create his imaginary world.

The works have a rough edge to them, as if they were created in a garden shed. I liked this element of his art, as it seemed to add character to the works. But in my opinion, fell short as it contradicted with the often-cynical atmosphere of the artwork. The lonely images seemed flat and lifeless, but up close showed interesting texture. *Road through trees 2002* is the best example in the collection of the artist's texturing technique. Another piece in the same style, *Untitled (male tree), 2002*, seems to represent a well-endowed woody structure.

The bland negativity of the artwork seemed to have no central theme or message and a few of the pieces seem random and disconnected with the rest of the collection. Despite my opinion of McKenna's art, it was received well by the art crowd at the gallery, with many of his works selling for around the \$4,000 mark.

Leo Greenfield

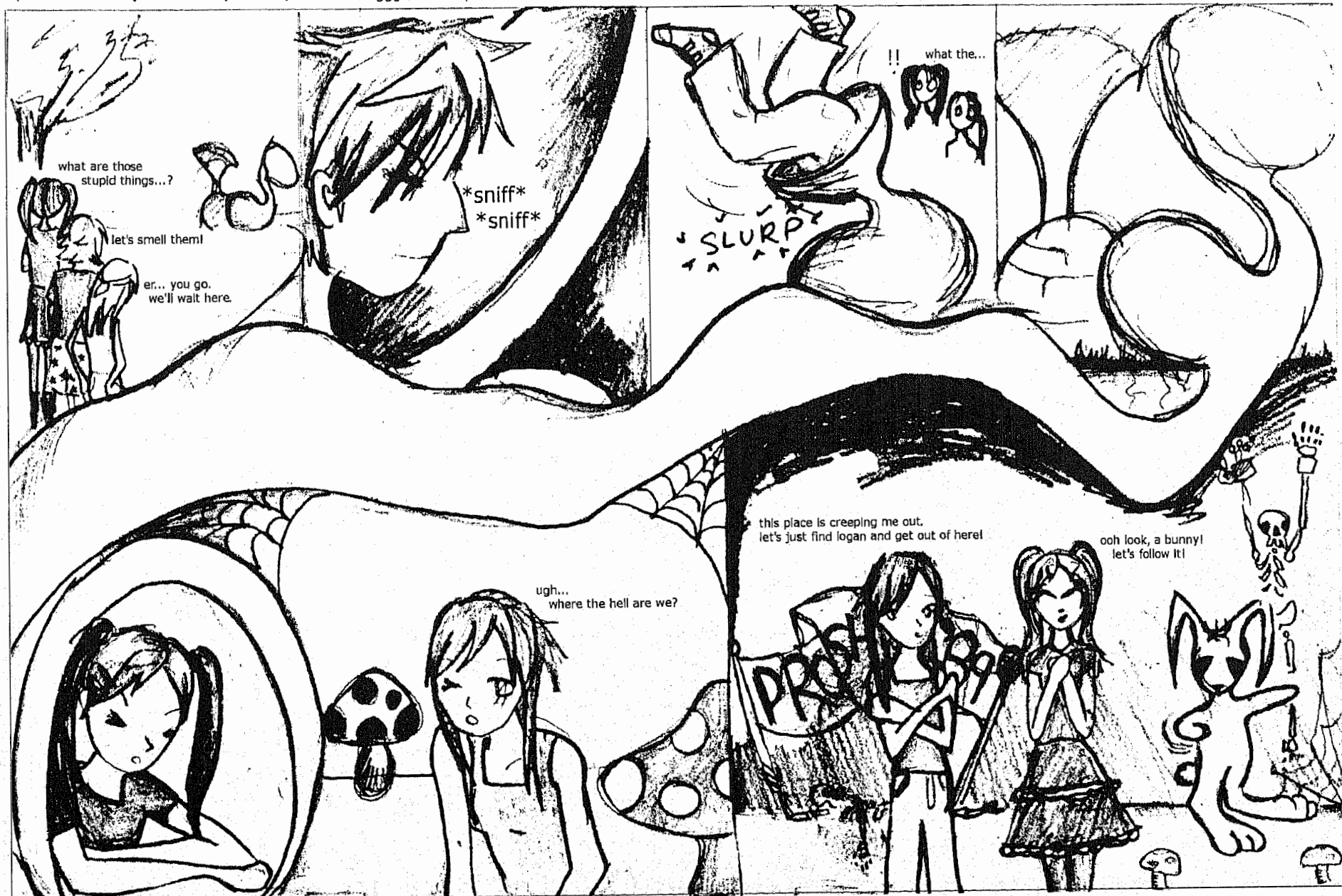
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## spicy adventures in wonderland... part 1

S P I C Y 0 3 F



# F I L M

## On Dit chews the crust with Paul Fenech: director, writer and star of **FAT PIZZA**

The *Fat Pizza* phenomenon has entered almost every area of the media possible. After beginning as *Pizza* on SBS television two seasons ago, Paul Fenech and his fellow cast members have created a stage show, merchandise and now a feature film for the Australian public. Fenech tells me that moving into feature films is easy. "You just fill the idea full of steroids and performance enhancing drugs. We made it bigger and cheesier, and basically, I guess it's like a genetic experiment." Experimentation has proved successful for *Fat Pizza*, which adds the comedy touch to subjects such as police harassment, immigration, racism and the evil of corporations. We discuss the possibility of the subwoofer technology used in the cars in *Fat Pizza* assisting the war in Iraq. Aside from the reference to "subwoofers of mass destruction" as secret weapons, I feel it is necessary to broach the issue of terrorism that is embedded in the movie. Paul's response is responsible and decent. "There are some things that are too sensitive. I think that Bali is too sensitive... It's a personal thing. But the rest of it is fair game. There's a lot of things going on."

Fenech's background in entertainment is varied, and his experience has given him the ability to adapt to different forms of media. Apart from working for Channel Red (what is now Channel [V]), he has done

work for the ABC, appeared in advertisements, radio, music videos and television. This wealth of experience has led to an abundance of celebrity cameos in *Fat Pizza*, including Jabba from Channel [V] and members of Frenzal Rhomb. According to Paul, the only thing he has not yet done is pornography, or Imax. I ask if he believes that all of this has led to *Fat Pizza* becoming an Australian icon. "It's a blockbuster, it's already there!" is the answer in short. Fenech's main concern is that his film and TV show are authentic. "The fat stripper in the film is more (the embodiment of) *Fat Pizza*... She's herself, she's letting it all hang out, she's going for it."

As for *Fat Pizza*'s relationship with the Australian public, Paul likens it to being part of a big family. "We're like a relative that is amusing, yet the black sheep of the family. Basically I think that now we've finally come home with the film." Not only that, but homecoming is calculated for maximum effect with the new film and the upcoming third series. "We're like an Uzi shooting down all the sacred cows. There's probably a few left, but we'll find 'em." Watch out for the film from April 10, the new series and a possible soundtrack, as Fenech hopes to address even more issues.

Jo



### IT'S BIG! IT'S FAT! IT'S CHEESY!

And we have 10 tickets to give away!  
If you love fast cars, fast chicks and fast food then come down to the *On Dit* office on Wednesday at 3pm to collect your reward.

## Adelaide Cinematheque Opening

### Mercury Cinema

Monday night saw the opening of yet another powerful year of film at Mercury Cinema. *Adelaide Cinematheque* is a festival that takes place every week for the year and includes many smaller specialty events such as *Cinema Bizarro*, which will be bringing back such cult classics as *The Phantom of Liberty* to the big screen and *Heroic Cinema* where there is plenty of Kung Fu to make everyone feel like a ninja.

The opening night saw a small gathering of regular film enthusiasts mill around with their free glass of red as if they were people in the know. Yes, I was one of them. The festival looks to be really fantastic and there are already many films that I would happily pay to see on the agenda. At first glance, the opening night screening looked a little too American with a back-to-back western night. After the huge success of the Spaghetti Western night for the Adelaide International Film Festival, Katrina Sedgwick was proud to open the festival as the backdrop of the big screen showed us snippets of what we can look forward to over the coming year of cinema at Mercury.

The two westerns that were screened were *Seven Men From Now*, (1956) directed by Budd Boetticher and *Pat Garrett and Billy The Kid*, (1973) directed by Sam Peckinpah, which was the main feature for the evening. Though I have never been much of a western fan, I was happily surprised by the beautiful *Seven Men From Now*. It was a film that had something for everyone, the masculine hero seeking revenge, a love angle with the simple girl from the east that was forced to rough it in the Wild West, and many wind swept backdrops with tumble weeds rolling by. I think that even back in 1953, this film was produced as a light comedy and the audiences of the time understood this. I was a little scared that I would be laughing in the wrong places but thankfully, everyone had a healthy sense of humour and *Seven Men From Now* has now become one of my favourite westerns, next to *Paint Your Wagon* and *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid*.

I didn't stay for the second film, as I didn't want to spoil a good thing but with a Bob Dylan appearance and soundtrack featuring 'Knockin on Heaven's Door', *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid* was bound to be a classic for the genre.

I think the best thing about *Adelaide Cinematheque* is that throughout the year, they will be screening films that you may not have heard of before but you would be a buffoon not to see. Each film has been hand picked by those in the know and it will be one of the few opportunities to see them digitally re-mastered on the wide screen. Take the gamble and head down to Mercury Cinema sometime soon and catch a screening or two from this amazing festival.

Victoria

## AUTUMN FILM FEAST APRIL 4 AND 6 @ MERCURY CINEMA

Over the weekend, The Feast opened their seventh year of queer films with the Autumn Film Fest. With four screenings from around the world, the film festival explored the depth and reality of same sex relationships.

*When Love Comes*, directed by Gareth Maxwell opened the festival. Made in New Zealand, the film tells the story of a young man struggling to come to terms with his sexuality and overcome his fear of intimacy. All of the leading characters in this film had complexities of their own, creating an entangled tale of lost hopes and last chances in the chase for love.

*Fish and Elephant*, which also screened on Friday was the first ever lesbian film from Mainland China and was a heart warming story of first love with a refreshing touch of comedy. Shot underground, with outstanding performances by unknown actors, *Fish and Elephant* helps us to appreciate how lucky we are to be queer in Australia as apposed to the continual struggle of queers in Mainland China.

*Between Two Women* was a simple and sweet film directed by Steven Woodcock. Two older women fall in love after the war. A schoolteacher and a bored mother who is trapped in a world of working class marriages form a bond that is life changing. Though

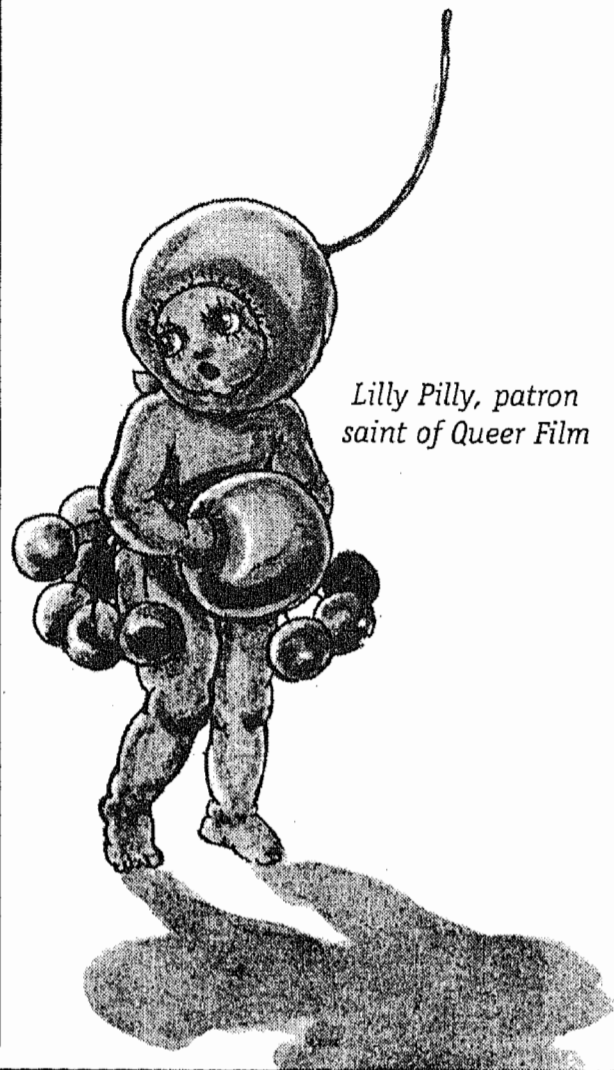
a bit slow going, this film had a certain innocent beauty.

*A.K.A* was probably the only 'racy' film in the Autumn Feast and was unsurprisingly a film targeted to the younger gay male. A young male seeks comfort in the only kind person he knows, an older gay male he meets in a park. The boy strips down and shows his stuff, his new benefactor invites him to stay as long as he wants. A Feast film that attracted a very masculine crowd, *A.K.A* showed a very different style of cinematography with a split screen technique which created as many as three different images any given time.

The Autumn Film Feast wasn't as provocative as I thought it would be. There was definitely a good turn out of people there each night. Many recognisable people from the gay community were there and there was a cute little push for Greg Mackey campaign on each seat. Keep your ear to the ground for the Spring Film Feast. This festival is just a taste of things to come.

Stay on the straight and narrow!

Victoria



Lilly Pilly, patron saint of Queer Film

## French Film Festival Palace Cinemas

Due to disorganisation, I was unable to receive free tickets to any of this event. The Films I have seen so far (when this page was printed) were the *French Short Film Festival*. On Saturday April 5 at 2:30pm, I paid roughly \$13.50 for my ticket, as I couldn't find my student card. There were 9 very funny, very original, bizarre and creative Short Films from 2001. They displayed everything French cinema has become famous for. Each film portrayed something unique and I found in parts it quite amazing that they could show so much depth and complexity in such a brief period of cinema.

My favourite film was an animation called *Nosferatu Tango* by Zoltan Horvath. It was the life of a mosquito that falls in love with a vampire. He tries to find food for the vampire. There is this young girl asleep down stairs. As the vampire feeds so too does the mosquito. Until the creature realises that the woman has taken sleeping tablets and that now the vampire will also fall asleep in the early morning hours and die by the suns rays. The mosquito watches his love die. Being nothing he could do to move him, his world crashes before him and is closed. With stylish and creative cartoon animation, the film becomes a wonder before your eyes. While the credits roll, a French story tale is told to the display of the pop-up story book to which the film was based.

It was cool. All the films were cool, crazy and fantastic in a way that can never be expressed. I have decided to pay to see good cinema again as it can really change and uplift your day. There's still some screenings remaining for this festival but if you blink you could miss out. One film, *Irreversible* directed by Gaspar Noe has created a bit of a media stir. Originally banned from Adelaide screenings, the film has now been allowed a screening on Wednesday April 9 at Palace Cinema. If what I have seen is any indication, this festival is something not to be missed. But hurry because tickets are selling fast to many French school groups.

Victoria Jane Hammond  
(Possibly while stoned - eds)

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★ SUBMISSIONS CLOSE APRIL 15 ★

# Iron Monkey:

## From Hong Kong to Van Spam

Directed by Yuen Woo-Ping who rose to western mainstream prominence by working on the *Matrix* and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* action sequences, *Iron Monkey* and its ilk demonstrate why Hollywood turned to Asia for a fresh spin on stale western action films. Ping-Yuen has long influenced Hong Kong Cinema and has been involved in many classic films in the Kung-fu genre such as the *Once Upon a Time in China* series.

Produced in 1993, *Iron Monkey* has all the ingredients one comes to expect from Golden Harvest productions; absolutely slick choreography, violence, unfulfilled love, government corruption, legendary characters, pangs of slap stick humour and wire stunts that have become the stamp of Hong Kong cinema and which the suits of the west have eagerly milked for cash. In comparison, Carradine, Van Späm, Stallone or the host of other Beverly Hill pre-fabs are exposed as gravel rash-knuckled Hollywood action ogres where explosive action is expressed by laborious doses of explosions, machine gun bursts, crappy punch ons and wrecked cars.

I recall the time when Van Spam starred in the martial arts rip off *Blood Sport* and how impressed the whiteys were, singing the praises of this 'great' martial arts superstar, no one even mentioned Jackie back then even though he already had a decade in the game. *Kick Boxer* was another sham where allegedly the Spam learns Muay Thai after his mate (appropriately played by Dennis Alexio, who was whupped by Stan Longinidis in about twenty seconds in the real deal after Dennis, like the stereotypical American loudmouth, claimed his super heavy weight superiority but lacked any bite) receives a dollop of the cane. That flick makes me cringe not only as an overall slop fest with its nauseating Spam spinning specials and crappy editing but also the

total disrespect to the Muay Thai tradition, technique and people that only Hollywood knows how to screw ... ahh sorry make box office hits. Asian cinema has established a benchmark for high-level choreography and performance that has shamed western attempts in this arena. Little wonder they have now turned to the masters.

*Iron Monkey* is a prequel that leaves the Lucas Factory stable fumbling for its collective schwarts. It centres around the life of the martial arts hero Wong Fei Hong, a character that has been a staple in the Hong Kong narratives. The tale is typical of the genre where the honourable masters are versed in the ways of death and life, for their skill in martial arts and medicine is the sign of a true master since their knowledge completes a circle and is used for the greater benefit of the community and almost always against a corrupt system. This is the basis for *Iron Monkey* where Dr. Yang works for the oppressed in legal and illegal ways, healing by day in his surgery and stealing at night for the poor. The choreography quotes other classics such as *Fong Sai Yuk* where fighting on poles was taken to an extreme. Pain delivery by various household utensils and odd objects are always explored in these flicks and delve into slap-stick which is always a relief from tedious sequences. This is a typical Golden Harvest production probably only for die-hard fans yet an important member of the Hong Kong cosmology.

***Iron Monkey* was screened as part of Mercury Theatre's Heroic Cinema series, which concludes on June 4.**

Maxim



# DVD OF THE WEEK

*Insomnia* (1997)  
(Norwegian with English Subtitles)  
D: Erik Skjoldbjærg  
Umbrella Entertainment

### The Film

The one good thing about Hollywood remakes that critics fail to mention is the original is usually released beforehand. Hence six years after its release, we Australians are now able to see one of the most lauded Scandinavian films of the 90's.

*Insomnia's* main strength is its concept centering Stellan Skarsgard's detective in an Arctic Norwegian town where the sun doesn't set. Over the next five days, the morally ambiguous detective becomes progressively haggard and haunted. While looking for the meticulous (aren't they all) killer of a teenage girl, he accidentally kills his partner and covers the truth. Consequently, the killer taunts Skarsgard into tampering with the evidence, leading the investigation elsewhere.

Instead of the customary red herrings and plot twists, Skjoldbjærg reveals the killer halfway. The interest lies in how far the detective allows the killer to escape, while the truth dogs his weary state.

*Insomnia* the concept is stronger than the film itself, which resulted in Christopher Nolan's 2002 remake to be considered near perfect as the characters and their motivations were refined into a more intellectual, even surreal film.

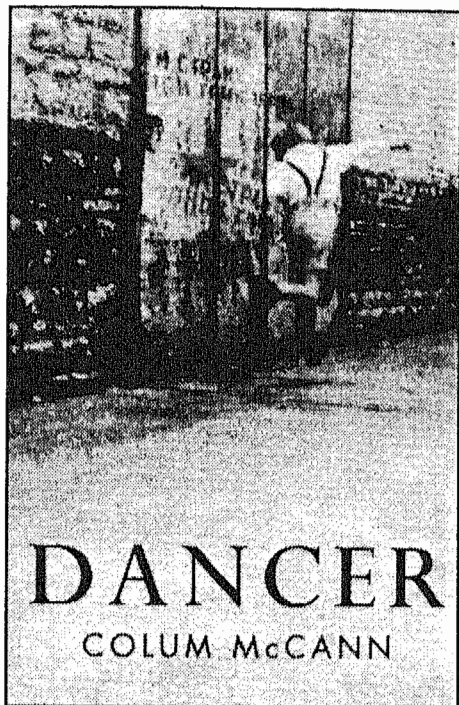
*Insomnia* is a substantial addition to the bloated police thriller genre. Together with the remake (released April 30) it makes an excellent comparative for writers/film students on the rare instance when a Hollywood film can improve on the foreign original.

### The Disc

Does Umbrella Entertainment have any quality control? Though the picture is sharp and relatively clean (occasional artifacts), pixelated coloured blotches appear sporadically, encoded into the transfer! DVD's have been on the market for five years; this isn't supposed to happen. The subtitles are large and yellow (good) yet are aligned to the left and contain spelling and grammatical errors (inexcusably bad). The adequate Norwegian audio (stereo) is plagued by a noticeable background hiss. Included are the Norwegian trailer (no subtitles) and a still gallery (23 images lifted straight off the film, why?!). Do not buy this DVD. Rent it or order the superior Criterion Collection disc off the Net.

Dominik G.

# Open the cover, take a look, and read your favourite STORY BOOK



**Dancer**  
Colum McCann  
Phoenix House  
\$29.95

*Dancer* is a novel based on the life of Rudolf Nureyev, a fascinating Soviet ballet dancer. While I was initially sceptical about the concept of a fictional biography, Colum McCann has convinced me it can be done with style. He manages to convey the facts of Nureyev's life, whilst also capturing the verve of his character in a way biographies often fail to do.

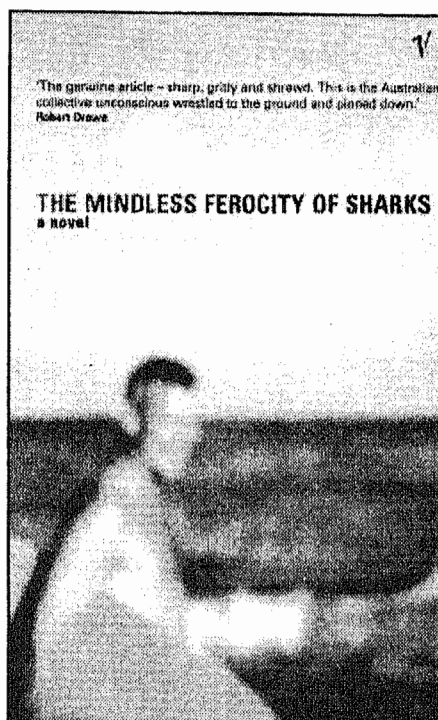
Born in 1938 in the Soviet Union, Rudolf Nureyev became a soloist for the Kirov Ballet, before defecting while on tour in 1961. He revolutionised the role of the male ballet dancer. Before Nureyev, male dancers were viewed as secondary to female dancers, but Nureyev expanded the capabilities of the male dancer and placed more emphasis than ever on skills and technique.

Different sections of the novel are written in a variety of styles and from the perspectives of a number of people. Much of the first half of the novel is written in quite a normal, narrative style, but as the novel progresses the styles get more varied, including journal entries, letters, and one chapter of twenty seven pages that is all a single sentence! McCann's writing style is rich with imagery, and as many words are devoted to sounds and smells as sights. While the different styles and perspectives can be confusing at times, the total effect is a very full, rich story.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of this novel is that a tale about the life of Rudolf Nureyev lends itself to the exploration of a number of interesting themes. Nureyev was an intriguing character, renowned for his arrogance, his

homosexuality, his defection from the Soviet Union, his rise from poverty to riches, and of course, his brilliant dancing. McCann captures Nureyev's life as if he were trying to make the reader experience it rather than read about it. It makes for a truly fulfilling read.

**Eleanor Gee**



**The Mindless Ferocity of Sharks**  
Brett D'Arcy  
Vintage  
\$22.95

*The Mindless Ferocity of Sharks* is an interesting coming of age novel, set in a seaside town in Western Australia. It tells the story of a young eleven-year-old 'Floaty boy' and his struggle to keep his head above water; above all that lurks below, above the ultimate ferocity of the sharks prowling beneath the surface of his beloved bay.

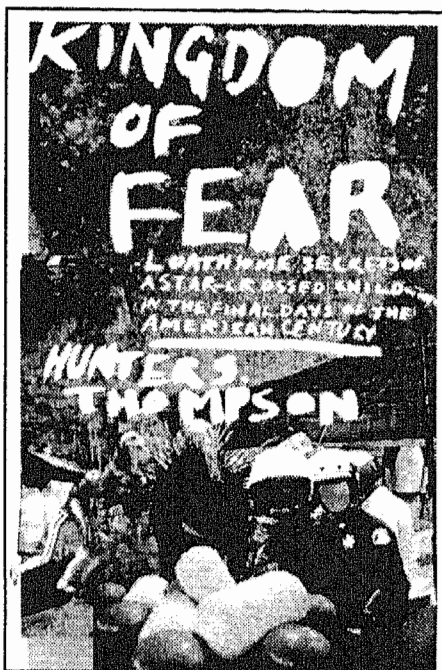
His brother already having been attacked by a shark, Floaty Boy's life revolves around his illicit midnight surfs, his desire to be loved by his adored mother, and the medication that helps "smooth the jagged edges of his perception."

His journey will also become a quest for manhood and acceptance from his 'old man' whose noisy lovemaking with his mother disturbs his already restless sleep.

Using a lyrically and deliberately jagged prose style D'Arcy has written a novel rich, not only in its description of a struggling and unique, yet in many ways typically Australian family, but in poetic description. In fact the book is better read slowly, which allows the multiple images crammed into single sentences to permeate and wash over the reader. The book is also

a must for lovers of surfing, particularly the many who equate the experience as something akin to the spiritual and more than just a pleasant way to spend an early morning or lazy weekend. A keen surfer himself, D'Arcy uses the sea and surf as a metaphor for much that lies below the surface of existence.

**Matthew**



**Kingdom of Fear**  
Hunter S. Thompson  
Penguin Books  
\$25.95

*Who does vote for these dishonest shitheads? Who among us can be happy and proud of having all this innocent blood on our hands? Who are these swine? These flag-sucking half-wits who get fleeced and fooled by stupid little rich kids like George Bush? - Hunter S. Thompson*

The idea of Hunter S. Thompson compiling his memoirs is a strange one,

not least because the vast bulk of his body of work has thus far been semi-autobiographical.

Nevertheless, Thompson fans have been holding their breath for this one since the release of his seminal experiment in Gonzo journalism, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. The prospect of Thompson at least partially revealing the secret to separating the truth from the exaggeration in his work was too tempting to ignore.

In fact, *Kingdom of Fear* reveals precious little about the mysterious art of Gonzo. Apart from claiming that *Fear and Loathing* was "almost 90 per cent true", Thompson stays tight-lipped, opting instead to regale us with anecdotes from various stages in his weird and brutal career. From his stint as the night manager of a notorious San Francisco live sex revue, to his near successful mayoral campaign to the heady days of the 1972 presidential election, Thompson's bizarre life could fill several volumes - and already has.

In light of this, Thompson manages to summarise his 70 years with a strangely disjointed mish-mash of interviews, essays, case studies and letters, all held together by a gradually unfolding account of an ageing porn actor's failed attempt to sue him. Pure Thompson.

Some suggested Thompson would have nothing new to say in his memoirs, having exhausted the bulk of his material in previous works. However, there is plenty here for even hardened Thompsonites - a revealing childhood encounter with an amorous neighbourhood housewife springs to mind...

In all, this is a superb introduction to the grandfather of Gonzo.

**Stanley**

*Even Harry is glad about the mid-semester break! Don't forget that while you're studying away, there will be something much more interesting than your politics readings in only 76 days when Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix is released!*



This picture has  
absolutely nothing  
to do with...



# LOCAL MUSIC

## BAND ARCHIVE # 6

# THE BEDRIDDEN

This legendary cult band's beginnings are almost as interesting as their quirky style of folk punk. Originally conjoining in Canberra in 1989 when soon-to-be legendary solo performer Baterz's parents left his house for a weekend. The band basically picked up various acoustic instruments around the house and proceeded to thrash out drunkenly on them. Thus The Bedridden's sound was invented. Figuring they had some potential with the energy and originality of this band (apart from the fact they were all massive Violent Femmes fans) they moved to Adelaide together to pursue their career. Combining an aggressive five piece acoustic line-up that would constantly swap instruments, with rapier-sharp wit, humour and talent, they very quickly assumed cult status among the Adelaide café and pub scene. They were fresh and exciting, writing everything from hysterical songs about the banal events of everyday life to sincere, traumatic songs about love and its consequences.

Their albums are absolutely amazing, as every member of The Bedridden brings their own unique style and temperament to their own songs, hence there are five different vocalists and styles. Instruments on any given track can range from acoustic guitars and bass, assorted percussion, violins, banjos and flutes. The style in which they are played varies from the hundred-miles-an-hour 'Truck' to the beautifully sentimental 'Alley Cat'. However the band suffered from many artistic disputes and was constantly at arms before breaking

up in the mid nineties.

After 1997 they only performed live for the purpose of 'reunion' gigs, which were massively attended and eagerly awaited. They were still recording, as a group or otherwise on their self manufactured label, Army Of Geeks, from which local prodigy Barterz lauched his solo career. Baterz, as hopefully many of you should know, continued on to an almost immortal status in Adelaide, bringing to life such timeless tunes as 'Target's Air-Conditioning' and 'Goth'. After being Three-D Radio's Artists of the Year two times in a row, and just beginning to penetrate the Triple J airwaves, Baterz sadly fell terribly ill and died of cancer in 2002. Singer Kirsty Stegwazi had gone on forge a solo career having been signed up by Mushroom Records, but I haven't heard of any major success yet. I believe the rest of the band has now relocated to Melbourne. It is amazingly unfortunate, in spite of numerous East Coast tours, and spectacular performances in events

such as the Adelaide Folk Festival that The Bedridden never became commercially viable. Perhaps if they had just hung on for another few years...

Their three albums, and all of Baterz work are still readily available and more than worth listening to - these guys were geniuses!

James Cameron



## Capital City, Ice Cream Hands & The Stems

@ The Gov, Thursday April 3

With the immediate success of the plethora of 80's Australian garage compilation releases (*Do The Pop, Underground Australia, etc. etc.*) recently, it has been quite heartening that they have enabled the bands featured to re-unite and tour for those who missed them the first time (i.e. me). Joining the exalted list of post-breakup bands such as Radio Birdman, The Scientist and The Lipstick Killers is Perth's magnificent 60's rejuvenators from the 80's, the Stems.

Fellow Perth residents Capital City were an ideal support band, playing trashy John Spencer style blues rock.. These guys really had the chops for rock - hips a' swingin', toes a' tappin', and some of the meanest leather bound loafers you've ever seen. Their style had some obvious Blues Explosion influences, the charisma of Johnny Thunders and some 60's trash in there as well. The front man's Elvis-esque hip swirls were as equally impressive as his raw, unhinged guitar playing, and it seemed long

greasy hair was the order all round. Capital City really raunched up the Gov, and it was an enormous shame they didn't play before The Stems, as Ice Cream Hands, the next band to play, not only lost the crowd's momentum but were quite out of place in the line-up. After being completely turned on and excited by Capital City, Ice Cream Hands' folksy, laid back rock seemed a little weak. I have seen ICH before and enjoyed them a lot more that I did at the Gov, so the only conclusion I can come to is that in the atmosphere of the night they did not fare well. Their pop ballads and music geek image were a bit thin, but they were amazingly tight and skilled. The straw that broke the camel's back was when the bass player interrupted between songs to state, "didja know that all of the Iraqi women have shaved their pubic hair? It's their protest against Bush". This joke was almost treated with a hostile audience response, and hence the end of Ice Cream Hand's set.

After a short wait headliners The Stems made a very grateful appearance. Looking a wee bit older than the handsome pictures I have seen of them, they nonetheless sported their patented 60's paisley shirts and Beatle boots. One of the coolest elements of The Stems is their authentic equipment - awesome Rickenbackers and 60's Yamaha organ. Their live sound was identical, albeit a little faster and louder, to their original recordings. Performing their awesome old school garage sound, The Stems sounded as

exciting as they ever have, and were just as energetic and happy to be there as the crowd were. Hits such as 'Make You Mine', 'At First Sight' and 'Can't Resist' tore the house down. Not denying their 60's influences, the bands also ripped through awesome garage tunes such as 'Hey Joe' and 'Stepping Stone', with the crowd joining in to chorus. From my view at the front, not a single head stopped its metronome-like banging, even if the mean age of concert goers was a little older than expected. The Stems returned for two encores before leaving, looking a little weary. Lets hope this trend continues as their certainly seems to be a healthy scene for aging Australian garage rockers!

James  
Cameron





# OFF THE COUCH

This sensational event began as a medium sized yet enormously well received music festival in 1995. Its original goals were to create a music festival that would satiate the desires of both the neglected underage music lovers and plethora of great Adelaide bands that were struggling to obtain gigs. OTC very suddenly evolved into a festival incorporating local artists, DJs, and designers, that is held twice a year and also in regional areas. The emphasis, however, it most certainly still on the music. Last year's event was a phenomenal success, with some

mesmerising performances by Vivienne Westwood and Brer Mouse, and an absolutely anarchic performance by Bombscare at The Enigma Bar. Off The Couch always produces a friendly and exciting vibe throughout every section of the festival. Everyone is there to support local music, and everyone at each specific venue has the same musical appreciation. My recommendation is to get down early with a large group of friends with fine musical and artistic tastes, and see as much as you possibly can as this year's lineup is dizzyingly stupendous.



*Paleface: playing at Enigma Bar*

**JC'S**

## OFF THE COUCH Highlights

Make sure you get down to some of the 15 free art exhibitions on around Adelaide as part of Off the Couch. The pick of the crop in my opinion is at the SEAS Gallery, 66 Hindley Street. This exhibition features seven excellent artists' work including my all time favourite Adelaide artist Alex Dathe's surrealist grunge art.

Oi street punkers Standard Union will be playing upstairs at Enigma Bar at 6.55, and Bombscare and Paleface from 8.40. All of these hard rocking bands are well worth the visit.

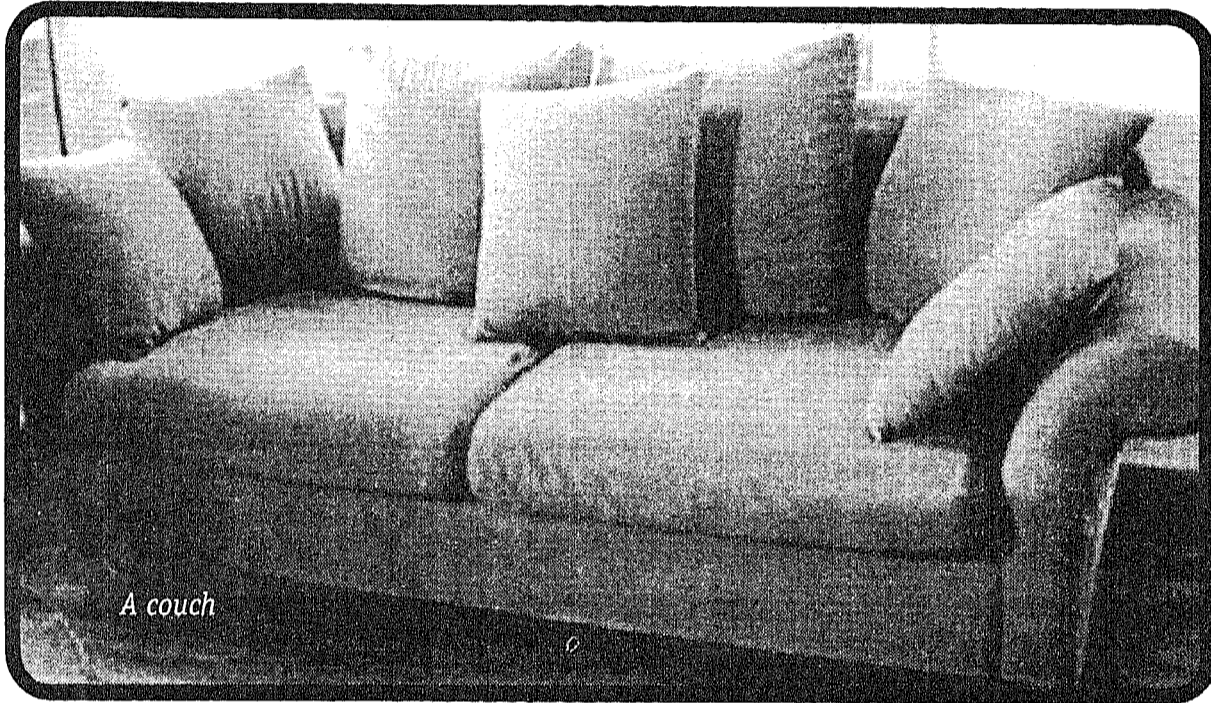
Traffic has a very exciting night of entertainment, with (amongst others) instrumental funk groovers Qualia on at 8.00 and at 9.40 the awesome Lido will be playing. Anyone who witnessed Lido storm through the Adelaide Uni band comp last year will know the power and skill this jazz/rock/hip hop band possess live.

If folk and acoustica are your thing then your cup will over floweth at Caos Café. Four-piece acoustic folk artists Suite on at 7.30 looks like one of the best odds in the form.

One of the most interesting acts to be playing OTC is Snap! Crackle! Le Pop! On at 9.00 at Mojo West, they describe themselves as 'Euro-trash...Ladytron meets Sonic Youth'. Very interesting!

On Easter Sunday April 20th three of your favourite O'week bands Mr Wednesday, Creatures None the Less and Cadence will be playing at Adelaide's hottest new venue The Jade Monkey (29 Twin Street City from 9pm).

The coolest place to be, however, (in my biased and subjective opinion) is the Weimar Room. Not only is this place a treat to be at, it is boasting talents such as folk artist No Through Road, garage rockers Miyagi and capping the night off the ABSOLUTELY BLOODY BRILLIANT Trafalgars. Hey Ho, I'll be there.



*A couch*

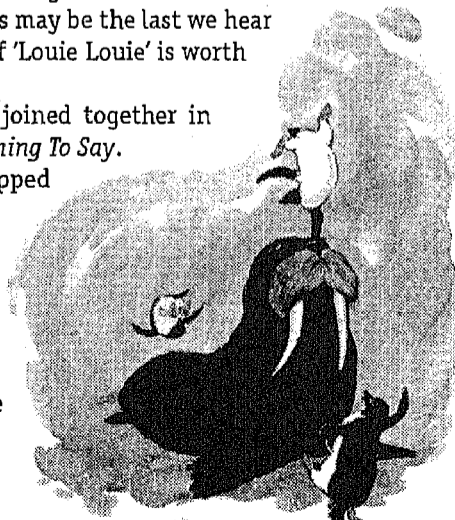
~ Attention ~

## ALL ROCK FANS!

**Phly Album Launch featuring The Purple Hearts  
@ The Austral This Saturday!**

If you're eagerly reading this section, then it's quite likely that your two favourite things in the world are live rock and drinking (bear with me here). However, you are a student and therefore poor and confined to drinking with your mates at home on a Saturday night. Well, here is your big break. The Crème de la Crème of Adelaide's young garage rockers will be playing **for free** at the home of cheap beer, the Austral, this Saturday night. Kicking off at 10pm absolutely sensational garage rockers The Purple Hearts (formerly The Critics) will be kicking off proceedings. These guys play a mixture of completely wyld guitar slammin' organ, grinding 60's garage mixed with current 'new wave' garage, similar to the (International) Noise Conspiracy. The Purple Hearts have been wowing audiences of late and quite possibly have rumours of signing with a Melbourne label so this may be the last we hear of them - so be sure to check them out! Their sonic-speed version of 'Louie Louie' is worth coming down for alone!

The night will belong to the hosts, however, and we will be joined together in ceremony for the release of Phly's highly anticipated new album *Nothing To Say*. These guys play a tasty mixture of old school Brit-pop and funk wrapped up in a sweet smelling Jimi Hendrix Tally-Ho. If you can't be persuaded to come on the basis of Phly's premier quality rock, then the fact they have 'Search For A Supermodel' finalist Josephine Wilkins in one of their video clips should haul you in! Phly's latest sizzling album should be on sale for a unsubstantial cost compared to the extreme quality of the recording. The back room of The Austral is also a great place to watch bands, so hopefully I'll see you there dancing like a crazy drunken thing up the front.



# Professor Booty's

# HOLIDAY

Can you feel impending boredom itching in the back of your mind? Don't know how you're going to survive that two-week break? Got no friends and would like to try your luck meeting famous, less stable people than your average joes? Well, get out of the house Professor-style, become a night-living gig-pig, and use the next couple of weeks to build up your rock merchandise wardrobe. The girls will love it when you tell them your comparative stories of life-shifting concerts gone by.

**Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals,  
Jack Johnson, Katalyst**  
Tuesday April 8 @ the Entertainment Centre

Given that it's a tour that's sold like the proverbial hot cake, you'd better get to the ticket office like Speedy Gonzalez if you're still keen to see Harper and Co. BH has barely released his new album *Diamonds On The Inside*, but being such an endearing performer word of mouth has caused the country to go bananas over his return. Especially since his mates Jack Johnson and ARIA award winning and incredibly crafty DJ Katalyst, are coming along to make it a full team effort. Not to be missed!

**Morcheeba, Wicked Beat Sound System,  
Mid-State Orange**  
Saturday April 12 @ Thebarton Theatre

Following their previous album's genre breaking success, Morcheeba are back with *Charango*. In support of their "elegant, romantic and melancholic" new album, the three-piece and band are headed to

Australia on their very first tour. No doubt their soul and pop roots will blend perfectly with the support of Wicked Beat and Mid-State.

**Kid Kinobe**  
Saturday April 12 @ Traffic

You may have caught Kid Kinobe on last years Ministry of Sound Club Nation Tours. If you did you'd know this break beat DJ fails to disappoint. So if you're looking for some late night dance floor action after the brilliant, free, all-ages *Off the Couch* (see page 33), or the melodic of Morcheeba, head on down to Twin Street for Kid Kinobe from 12am.

**Machine Gun Fellatio, Gerling**  
Sunday April 13 @ Heaven

This is a show that needs no introduction, having already swung through our town for orientation celebrations. But if you weren't down with the scene what with being in your first week of uni, it's now time to assert yourself as a hip young thing, and go to

a show that's so off-hand about it's raw sexuality your bound to go home with a throng of sweet young devotees. That is given you take your backpack, wear your tightest vintage AC/DC t-shirt, and a pair of gold hot pants with your volleys.

**Violent Femmes**  
Tuesday April 15 @ Heaven

Well, if you've graduated from the previous gig, or perhaps just taken Monday's lack of gigs for a siesta, it's time for you to get in touch with the sensitive side of your bachelor-self. This is the celebrated return of the greater than great Violent Femmes, after their previous visit to the Falls Festival left us all doubting that Gordon Gano would ever consider heading south again. Just in case he changes his mind, don't miss out on adding the Femmes to your gigs list this time.

**Henry Rollins Spoken Word**  
Tuesday April 29 @ Her Majesties Theatre

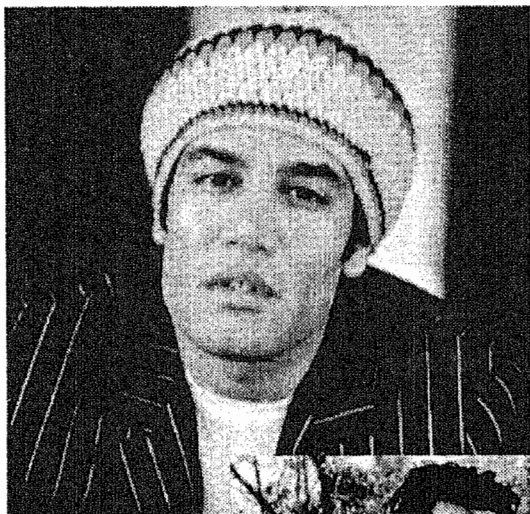
One of the closest living bloodlines to the Washington rock uprising, Hank is back to give us some always entertaining and enlightening words, as opposed to rocking the sweat out of us. Rollins' stand up is renown for his animated storytelling, being insightful yet comedic and...in the true spirit of the man, never avoiding controversy. Henry is THE MAN!

**The Datsuns, Sahara Hot Nights**  
Thursday May 1 @ Enigma Bar

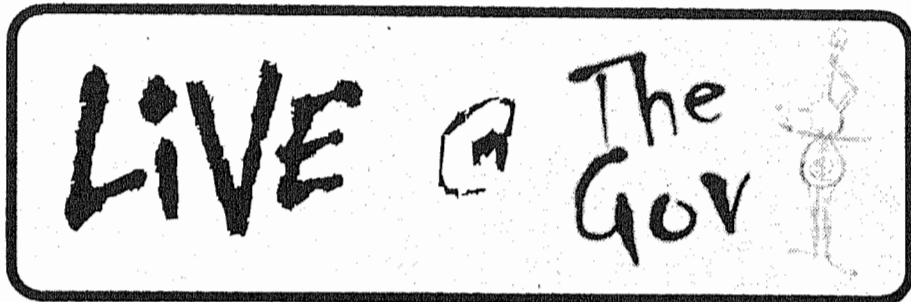
If ever of the "new" rock n' roll in its purest form is what you're after there's no going past this combination of New Zealand's latest world-wide hotshots, and four Scandinavian chicks. Since when did this stuff have to be more difficult than puréed apples? It's selling fast so if you want to go you might have to open your garage during daylight hours and head for your nearest ticket office. Just make sure you wear dark glasses.

**Gelbison, Gersey, Sarah Blasko**  
Friday May 2 @ Enigma Bar

Here's a recipe for a relaxed gig, with a bit of soft-core and pop-rock. These three Australian artist may be young on the national scene but they have already broadened their roots internationally. If your looking for some quality acts to wind you into the weekend this would be the perfect spot. Catch them before they voyage abroad.



# GIG GUIDE



**Sam Carr's Delta Dukes**  
Friday April 11

Sam Carr kicks off the line up heading The Gov's way from the Blues and Roots Festival. The drummers amongst us better get their kit in gear, because this 76 year-old legend of the Mississippi Delta blues scene is bound to teach you a thing or two. We're lucky to be one of the few towns where Sam has chosen to jam-out and show us why he is considered the greatest living blues drummer of our time.

**Michelle Shocked**  
Saturday April 12

If you thought Michelle's name implied something about her astute nature, you would be correct. An artistic activist, Michelle Shocked is also an artist who ventures to open her mind to the genres of her country. Hailing from Texas, she was raised on blues and bluegrass, but has gone beyond to interpret traditionally African-American styles as a white female. From folk to dub, swing to soul, country to funk Michelle Shocked is a consummate musician and bound to get you on your feet.

**Xavier Rudd**  
Sunday April 13

If you don't know Xavier Rudd, it shouldn't be long until you notice his name around the place. Having outsold even The Waifs at the Port Fairy Folk Festival this year, Xavier is really starting to make an impact on the touring circuit. Combining lap steel, stomptbox, Aztec drum, and didgeridoo he presents more skills than your average performer. Rudd has an incredible passion that explodes straight out of his music.

**G. Love & The Special Sauce**  
Thursday April 17

G. Love, as he is known, is considered the founder of folk/blues/hip-hop crossover. An enchanting character, along with his other two musical compadres, The Special Sauce they have won over audiences, becoming a warm favourite at their previous East Coast Festival appearance in 1997.

**Angelique Kidjo**  
Sunday April 20th

This songstress hailing from Western Africa has been acknowledged worldwide due to her craft in blending her heritage with the western influences in her life today. Described as one of the "most electrifying performer in the world today, but also one of its most forward and creative thinkers." The essence of Kidjo is to get you up and dance to her infectious rhythms,

**Grant-Lee Phillips**  
Monday April 21

Making his mark with Grant-Lee Buffalo as a songwriter and vocalist, Phillips has now been out on his own as a singer-songwriter for a couple of albums. His unique form of serene lyrics and melodic pop has never been finer.

**Shane MacGowan & The Popes,**  
Saturday April 26

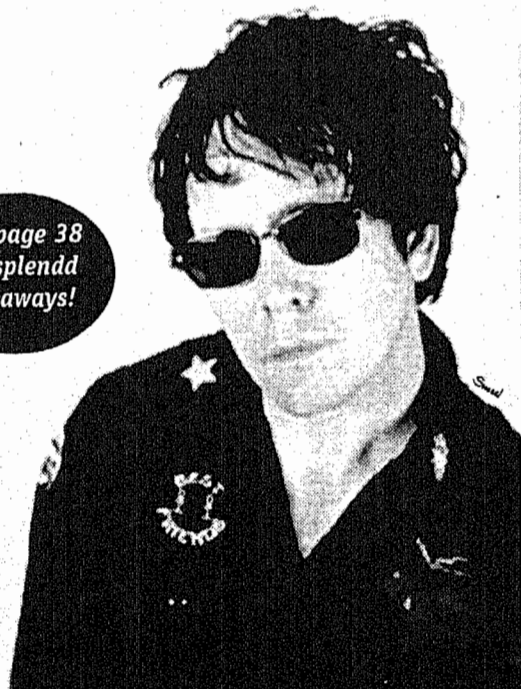
There's nothing religious about Shane MacGowan apart from his Irish homeland and worship of a bar. But then maybe the truth's in the satire. There's nothing that holds this original punk aside from his steadfast commitment to the music scene.

**Eric Burdon & The New Animals,**  
Thursday May 1st

Eric Burdon, founder of the Animals, the third biggest band of the sixties (behind the Beatles and The Stones) is one of the premier blues/folk/psychedelic/pop entertainers, period. After stupefying audiences at the Blues and Roots Festival last year it is obvious he has not lost any of his wit or talent that made him such a success in the 60's.



See page 38 for splendd giveaways!



On Dit

## ALBUM OF THE WEEK



**Gelbison**  
1704  
EMI

1704 is the highly anticipated first album from this eccentric, rocking four piece. After the disappointing public reaction to 2001's excellent self titled EP, Gelbison have recorded 1704 with a vengeance. They were lucky enough to get the album produced by Ian Ball (of Gomez fame) after evidently meeting him in a pub and 'hitting it off' in a very Australian fashion.

This album combines spectacular production with mature, introspective lyrics and atmospheric music. The end result is a delicate, heart-on-your-sleeve album that can be passive, aggressive and even weepy. The intense compositions of strings on a few tracks add a strong

dimension of pathos to the album. A suspicious musical thankyou to Ben Lee in the liner notes suggests he had some involvement in the orchestration of a track or two. The superb song 'The Modern Station' has quite an obvious Gomez influence, and is very entertaining. My favourite, 'Au Revoir Fucker' is an almost psychedelic tune with some excellent, wailing guitar. After the disgusting reception they received from us at O'Ball earlier this year, I suggest each and every one of you get out to their national tour for the release of 1704. As their spectacular work on the album is duplicated very skilfully in their live performances.

**Jimmy Trash**

# unirecords

## ALBUM OF THE WEEK

**The White Stripes**  
*Elephant*  
Shock



I initially got into the White Stripes back in 2000 to impress a girl. Now that the silly crush has gone and the memory of her curves fade, I'm left with this band whose new album has been nailed into my CD player for the past week. With the arrival of their fourth album *Elephant*, they have taken me back to why I got into them in the first place... err, second place. Good old-fashioned loud rock; screaming distortion pedals; songs of love lost, found or otherwise; girls breaking hearts; et cetera. It's a familiar story, but they tell it so well.

Opening with the single 'Seven Nation Army', you find something that's missing from the majority of their previous work: a bass line. And it's a good one at that.

'In the Cold, Cold Night' features Meg on the mike in one of her rare outings as the singer. 'Ball And Biscuit' is by far my favourite on the CD so far. At a whopping 7:18 it's the longest White Stripes album song to date. It's a real shame that radio friendly consists of tracks under four minutes, because I feel everyone should have a bite of this cookie.

It was hard to not give you a track-by-track appraisal because this will be one of the stand-out releases for 2003. I highly recommend *Elephant* and with holidays just around the corner, what better time to check out their back catalogue?

Five thumbs up.

**Dan Murphy**

## On Dit talks to Kurt from The Butterfly Effect

Despite the confusion due to interstate time zones, Kurt was more than happy to answer a few questions about his band The Butterfly Effect. Hailing from Queensland, Kurt tells me the band is currently recording and "putting the final touches on the debut album". Just for all of you eager kids out there, I enquired as to when we could expect a release: "August 4<sup>th</sup> is what we're aiming for, and it's all looking good." Understandably, Kurt does not venture into detail, but from looking at gig guides and street press, the boys from The Butterfly Effect have been busy touring and song writing in the past year. Following success with their self-titled EP and recent single 'Crave', does the band hope to achieve similar success with the new album? The answer is optimistic. "We're hoping to top it with the album. We're hoping to release the best album of the year by any Australian band."

When asked about his opinions on the media's influence on the band's career until now, Kurt remains pleasant and good-natured. "They've been excellent... It's been 98% positive. When we first started, we had no product out and we were playing live... as they do, they

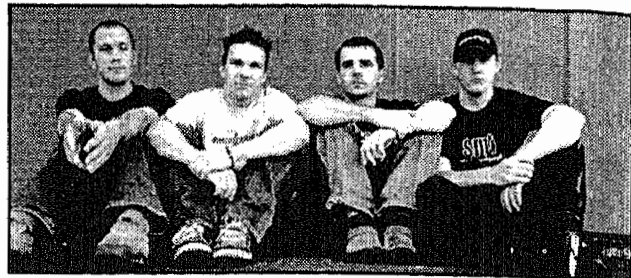
scrutinise you." Now that The Butterfly Effect has a product to peddle, there is no doubt the scrutiny will continue, but at least it can be fun. I am eager to know whom Kurt's dream dinner dates will be, and discover that he has something of an AC/DC fascination: "Angus Young, Malcolm Young and Bon Scott" are his guests of choice. For another piece of trivia, the first piece he ever learned to play on guitar was "Thunderstruck".

Street press and growing numbers of fans have helped The Butterfly Effect to become a major player in the Australian live music industry. Ultimately, according to Kurt, the band's aim when performing live is "always to just be the best band on the night... and hopefully, that will win over a whole bunch of new fans." It seems that each time the band perform, numbers increase, and their Australian fan base grows stronger. "We were concentrating on going really hard when we were playing live, and sacrificing the quality of what we were coming across with. It's fairly intensive to look at, so we've recently had to pull back and start refining the music a little bit more. There's always the people at the back of the room who want to hear what you're playing, rather

than just head banging or whatever..." I mention the typical drunks at live shows, and Kurt concedes that they exist, but "you've got to do the live thing for the people who want to go off, yet play well for the people who are just there to listen."

One must imagine that the band is tired from travel and performance. Their last gig in Adelaide, evidently, was nothing other than a disaster. However, the technical difficulties do not seem to have impaired the band's desire or ability to play. Kurt informs me that soon after having a break, The Butterfly Effect are often eager to tour again. The band looks forward to touring with Grinspoon and 28 Days in April. "We've done a couple of brief shows with Grinspoon before, but we've never toured with 28 Days before, so that'll be interesting", Kurt says. The combination, punters should rest assured, will be Australian and freshly squeezed for April 19 in Adelaide.

Jo



grant-lee phillips' ladies' love oracle



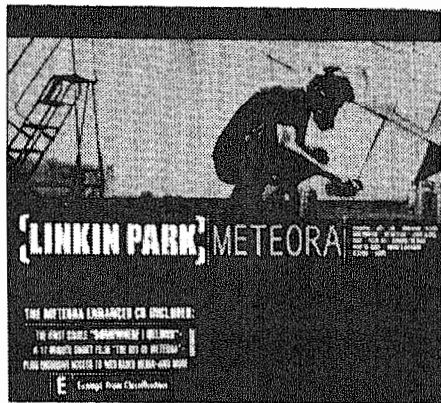
**Grant-Lee Phillips**  
*Ladies' Love Oracle*

Magnetic Field Recordings/Liberation

The ethereal sounds of Grant-Lee Phillips are given room to develop and fascinate listeners on his new album *Ladies' Love Oracle*. Recording the whole album over the course of three days in the latter part of 1999, this is a raw experience of Grant-Lee in the darkness of his basement studio. It isn't rough enough to jag in your throat, but is no by-the-numbers studio job either. I am the first to criticise people when they bandy around comparisons to Jeff Buckley, but in this instance, the stripped-back material from *Sketches for My Sweetheart The Drunk* provides a perfect companion, along with Augie March and Simon & Garfunkel records. The opener, 'You're a Pony' is a melodic interplay between sparse piano and acoustic guitars, with Grant-Lee's gentle and subtle singing carving melody from his dark place. Even when 'Squint' comes around, a harmonica shares the background with drum machine, but never comes close to a hackneyed and belted-out chorus. 'Nothin' Is For Sure' is a soothing tale of being in love and my highlight. It's been a long wait, but this is an extraordinary adventure in lo-fi, devoid of radio-friendliness but full of pleasant stories, memories and dreams.

Matty

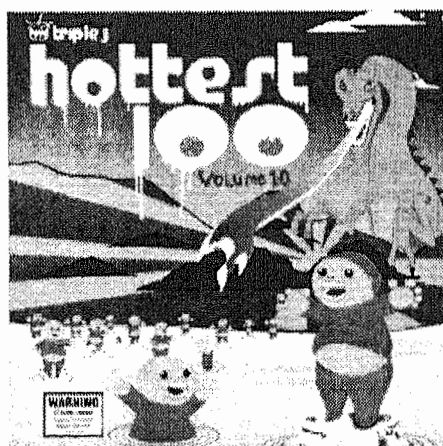
**Don't just sit there!**



**Linkin Park**  
*Meteora*  
Warner

When Linkin Park hit the scene in 2000 with their phenomenal album *Hybrid Theory*, I was sold instantly upon hearing the chart topping single 'One Step Closer'. After hearing this incredible track, the record company gave the band six months to write and record the remainder of the album, and they succeeded. As good as *Hybrid Theory* was, after listening to their latest release, *Meteora*, I noticed the difference an extra 12 months can make when making an album. *Meteora* sees the boys of Linkin Park take their music up a notch with personalised lyrics and a more mature sound to the music as a whole. The first single, 'Somewhere I Belong' is an excellent starting point and is only a sample of just how good this album gets. The band has chosen to include a personal note accompanying the lyrics that describes the motivation and emotion behind each track. These guys have grown up and developed beyond the nu-metal genre into something entirely of their own creation. This album is superb.

Morgasm

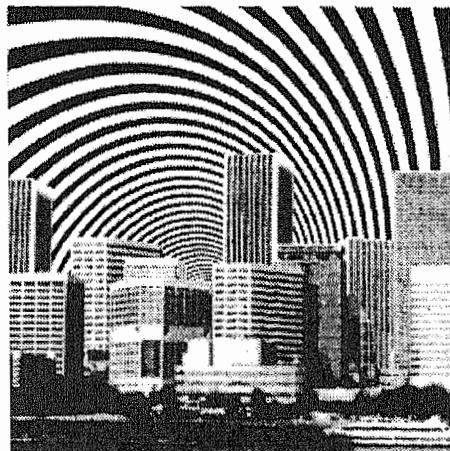


**Various Artists**  
*Triple J Hottest 100 Volume 10*  
Universal

*Triple J's Hottest 100* has become an Australian tradition- the countdown on Australia Day during Sydney's Big Day Out, the announcement of the top 100 songs preferred by JJJ listeners around the country... This tenth volume, not surprisingly, does nothing to veer away from previous efforts. Artists include Queens of the Stone Age, Grinspoon, Foo

Fighters, The Waifs, The Vines, George, 28 Days, Motor Ace and many others. I found this CD to be tedious. This is because I had heard barely any of the songs on this recording before, and I cannot say my life was enriched by the new experience. In my opinion, the good songs- such as George's 'Release', Jurassic 5's 'What's Golden' and Silverchair's 'The Greatest View'- featured on this double CD would be better purchased on the artists' albums, rather than clumped in mediocrity on a compilation. However, if you are a fan of JJJ and the aforementioned bands, go ahead and buy- this is a good compilation of the most popularly requested songs of 2002, and promises good party music if this is your sort of thing.

'Snake Eyes' JoJo



**Everclear**  
*Slow Motion Daydream*  
EMI

Another year goes by, and another Everclear album gets released. This is the New Yorkers sixth studio album and they are back doing what they do best. Their patented grunge style of pop is definitely here, but they have added some real innovation such as a 21 piece string ensemble in 'A Beautiful Life', which really creates some different elements. At the same time though it is still definitely Everclear with their distorted guitars and original vocals of Art Alexis. *Slow Motion Daydream* is a very reflective album with the band focussing greatly on the past, and the rock star lives they have lived. Everclear do not let these thoughtful lyrics get in the way of a good song, and have combined perfectly to make an album with enough highs to keep any listener interested. The highlights of *Slow Motion Daydream* are undeniably the first single 'Volvo Driving Soccer Mums' with its quirky lyrics and 'The New York City Times' enjoyable simplicity. If you plan on purchasing this album, buy it soon, as there is a fantastic live bonus disc featuring 'Santa Monica', 'Heroin Girl', 'Local God' and 'Father of Mine'. What more could you want from an Everclear album?

Tito

**Visit the last Music Meeting for the Term**

That's right! This Wednesday will be your last chance to review CDs (and keep them too!) before the break.

**When?** Wednesday, 1pm

**Where?**

The balcony of Rumours Cafe (Haven't you heard?)



**Gersey**  
*For Whom Do You Sail?*  
Trifekta/FMR

A cautious blend of folk and pop, this 56 BPM ballad gently floats by, with a gentle dose of strings, piano and warm vocals. An Australian equivalent of Mercury Rev, Gersey have kindly included four additional live tracks, including their gorgeous single 'Baby, You're A Strange Girl.'

Matty

**Melanie C**  
*Here It Comes Again*  
Virgin

The Spice Girls were a sum greater than the individual parts, and this is evident in all the former Spices solo work, including Melanie C's solo work (Sporty). The first single from Melanie's forthcoming album is a mighty soft-rock ballad. 'Here it Comes Again' is a strong song, but Melanie's vocals let the track down a little. A decent radio friendly number none-the-less.

Glitz Mullet

**P-Control**  
*The Clown Song*  
Big Star/Iceberg/Shock

If you thought the streak of shitty novelty dance songs was over (Hamsterdance, DJ Otzi, Ketchup Song, et al), think again bee-yatch! No doubt this will be thrown around the commercial airwaves and people will love it, dance to it, shop to it, but you should avoid this like Liberals. Block your ears now.

Matty

**American Hi-Fi**  
*The Art Of Losing*  
Island Records

A little bit of pop-punk, no doubt something to be heard on SA-FM, however certainly something to get your groove on to. It's not really doing anything new, but it achieves everything it sets out to do. It's better than most similar things we've had thrust at us lately. Ignore the first track (it's only a censored version of the second) and it's worthy of a listen.

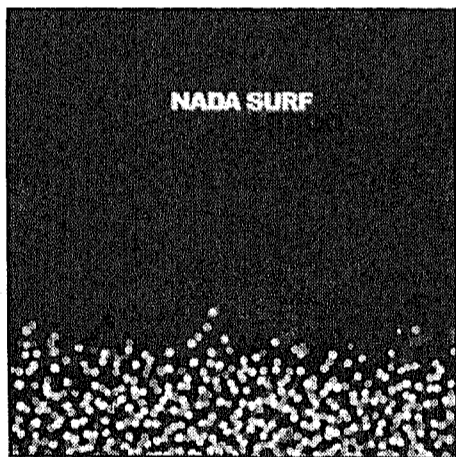
Penmonicus



**Melanie C**  
*Reason*  
Virgin

A second solo album is a feat for anyone, especially if you have "ex-Spice Girl" on your resume. Her first effort, *Northern Star*, was a mix of pop, rock, dance, r'n'b and therefore had wide appeal. In her second effort, Melanie concentrates on a soft rock sound. Admittedly, this does suit her voice, but quite simply an entire album of it becomes boring. 'Here it Comes Again' gets *Reason* off to a good start, but 'On The Horizon' sounds like a second rate Spice Girls' 'Stop'. 'Water', 'Let's Love' and the title track are all nice enough. It's hard not to compare the album, and especially 'Melt' to Robbie Williams, as some of it was written with his long time collaborator, Guy Chambers. Her record company didn't skimp on production, and there are enough decent songs here, but *Reason* does little to cement Melanie's identity as a solo pop artist. Soft-Rock Spice, anyone?

#### Glitz Mullet

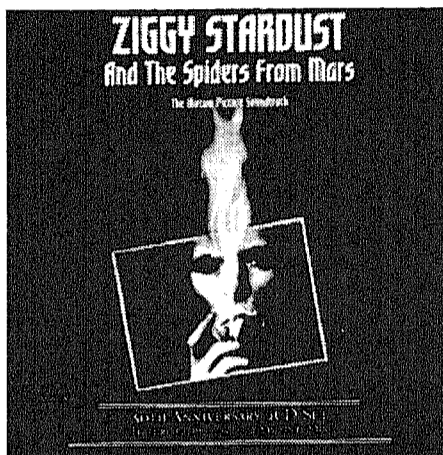


**Nada Surf**  
*Let Go*  
Mushroom/Liberation

*Let Go* is the latest offering from New York guitar-rock trio Nada Surf. After enjoying momentous one-hit wonder success back in 1996 with the high school satire 'Popular', the band hasn't managed

to gain too much more than the 15-minute window normally allows. Their last album, *The Proximity Effect*, which tried to capture a very Weezer-like sound, had a pretty short shelf life. *Let Go*, however, is something slightly different from these guys. Best described as a combination of the White Stripes, Powderfinger and The Warhols' later melodies, *Let Go* is full of gentle melancholic beauty. Tracks 'Blizzard of '77', 'The Way You Wear Your Head' and French lyric offering 'La Pour Ca' are worth a listen. The album title is rather unfortunate however, as Avril Lavigne's debut also goes by the same name.

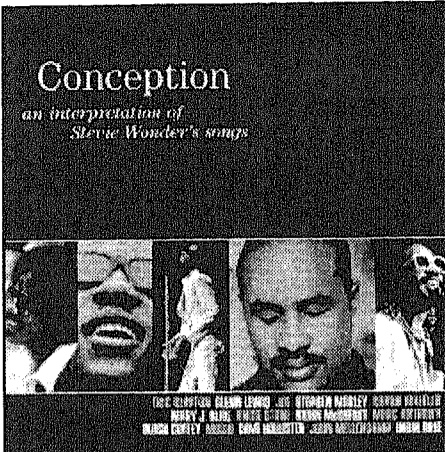
#### T-Mo



**Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars**  
*Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars*  
EMI

One of David Bowie's many identities, Ziggy Stardust, made the move into film in the 1970's and this is the soundtrack to accompany it. This double CD set has the right combination and progression of songs to provide a fun, live rock atmosphere, which also maintains considerably high sound quality. Personal favourites (and indeed stand out songs) on this recording include the rock classic 'Ziggy Stardust', 'Changes', 'Space Oddity', 'Time', 'Sufragette City' and the anthem 'Rock and Roll Suicide'. The live performance of 'Space Oddity' is especially enchanting in its loneliness. *Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars* goes as far as invoking the youthful 1970's rock spirit in the listener. Not only is this a delectable live CD, but a good example of Bowie's work at this stage in his long and fruitful career. I especially loved the 'Thank you very much, we love you' at the end of the second disc! The only problem with this CD is the copy protection and the strange new audio player it installs - which means if you want to listen to these discs on your computer, prepare for a few obstacles.

#### 'Snake Eyes' JoJo



**Conception: an Interpretation of Stevie Wonder's Songs**  
Various Artists  
Universal

This collection of covers of Stevie Wonder songs is nothing short of stunning. The mix of artists and their versions of Wonder's Motown classics is eclectic, and provides an excellent relaxation disc. I was particularly drawn in by Eric Clapton's version of 'Higher Ground' - Clapton rocks out excellently and effectively jump-starts the album. Next up is Stephen Marley's reggae-funk version of 'Master Blaster'. Once you listen to this song, I guarantee you will not be able to sit still. *Conception* contains many smooth R & B songs by artists such as Joe, Caron Wheeler and Musiq. I found that John Mellencamp's 'I Don't Know Why I Love You' was a nice contrasting piece towards the end of the disc, which is overall a very enjoyable tribute to Stevie Wonder's work.

#### Jo



**The Butterfly Effect**  
*The Butterfly Effect*  
Sony

*The Butterfly Effect* is a prelude to an album that is expected sometime in August. The six songs contained on this release provide an insight into TBE's musical style and a cross section of what one might expect from the band. Melodic rock is probably the closest I can get to

when describing the dynamic vocals and music on *The Butterfly Effect*. The song, 'Take it Away' is quite obviously single material, whilst the songs 'Black Lung', 'Perfection' and 'Sweet & Low' (homage to artificial sweetener?) are of a heavier ilk. The Butterfly Effect are on the lighter side of "heavy" music, and have put their own Australian stamp on songs that are, at times, reminiscent of the Deftones and Alice in Chains. However, this does not make them an unoriginal Australian band. To the contrary, if you enjoy listening to well-balanced songs that contain more than the "required" amount of sentiment often found in some of the less-imaginative Aussie bands, this band might just be for you.

#### Jo

## FREE STUFF

*With lashings of cream!*

Come down to the *On Dit* office (basement of the George Murray building) at precisely **1.45pm this Wednesday** for free tickets to

**Michelle Shocked & Fruit**  
(Saturday April 12)  
**Xavier Rudd**  
(Sunday April 13)  
**G. Love & Special Sauce**  
(Thursday April 17)

For a free copy of **Gelbison's** shiny new album, visit *On Dit* at exactly 2.15pm.

(You're not eligible if you've received a giveaway in the last four editions.)



# Clubs & Classifieds

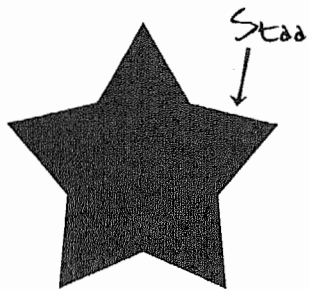
"O Son of dust!

The wise are they who speak not unless they obtain a hearing, even as the cupbearer, who proffereth not his cup till he findeth a seeker, and the lover who crieth not out of the depths of his heart until he gaizeth upon the beauty of his beloved.

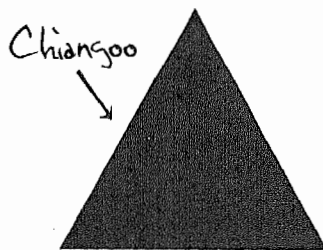
Wherefore sow the seeds of wisdom and knowledge in the pure soil of the heart, and keep them hidden, till the hyacinths of divine wisdom spring from the heart and not from mire and clay."

The Baha'i Faith  
Baha'i Society, for all of humanity!

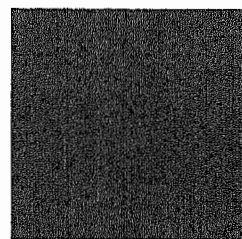
Lawn Courts to Hire  
Riverside Location  
BBQ facilities.  
10 minutes from CBD, corner Stephen Terrace and Cresswell Court, Walkerville.  
4 top class courts.  
Secretary 8269 2647  
President 8261 5934



Wanted  
One bottle of "Sauce"  
(Preferably unused)  
Contact The Salt Man  
0402 070 248



Sweeter



Attention ALL Adelaide University students who are current financial and

active members of a sporting club on campus.

Did you know that you are eligible to apply for a Sporting Scholarship to the tune of \$1,000 to help with your study and sporting needs?

The AU Sports Association offers up to 6 sporting scholarships every year to students of Adelaide University who are active members of their respective sporting club.

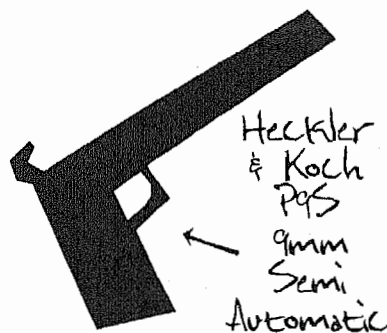
The scholarships on offer are the Bob Heddle Scholarships, the Don Stranks (for both Cricket and Football) and the Bill Scammell award.

Entry forms are available from the Sports Association Office (level 5, Union House) and entry closes on Friday 16th May.

Contact Pene for more information on 8303 5403 or email [pene.knott@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:pene.knott@adelaide.edu.au)

WAR & PEACE  
2003 History Department Seminars

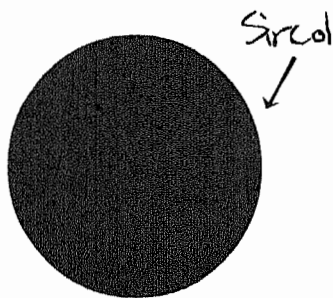
Monday 12 May  
Trevor Wilson (Professor Emirates, Department of History)  
"We're all the same now! - The issue of leadership and rank in prisoner of war camps."



WANTED!  
Classified ads.

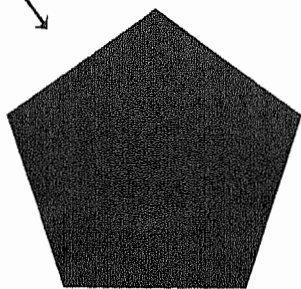
We're sick of making stuff up to fill this page. Honestly. It's free for students, you know. What's wrong with you? Bring down your classifieds to the *On Dit* office, or, so help us, we'll fill this whole page with bleeding heart leftie rhetoric. Don't tempt us. We're very tired and steeped in cheap gin.

AU Science-Fiction Association  
AGM  
1pm, Friday April 11  
Clubs Common Room,  
Level 3, Lady Symon Building  
For all things Science Fiction,  
Fantasy & Horror.  
Contact: Joshua Blackman on  
[joshua.blackman@student.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:joshua.blackman@student.adelaide.edu.au)



Hey! Goober!  
Come to the *On Dit* end of term party, or by God we'll hunt you down and throttle you with sticks. FREE ENTRY!! (Unless you're a student politician, in which case something might be arranged).

Pentagon

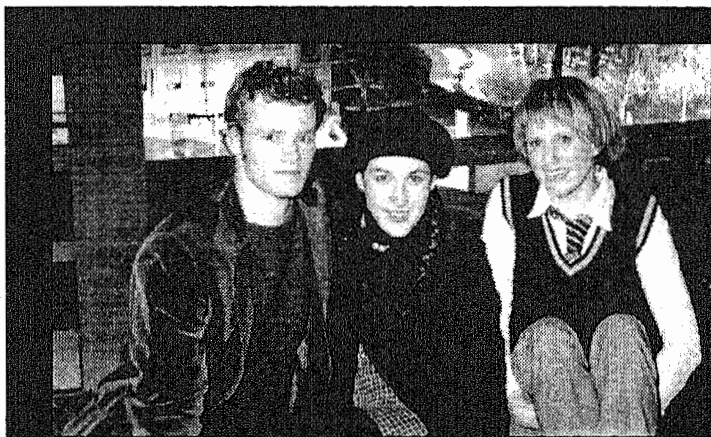


IGM

Society of Editors Against the "Num Lock" Key

Have you ever been burnt by that irritating key that locks out the numbers (and also doubles as the "clear" key) on most computer keyboards? If so, feel free to attend our Inaugural General Meeting on

Monday April 7 at 4.55pm.  
(SEANLK is also affiliated with the In Joke Society and the Phoney Classified Advertisement Club).



## See you next term!

baxter2003.baxterwatch.net

# BAXTER 2003

## DESERT CONVERGENCE

"If you've come here to help me, you're wasting your time. But if you've come here because your liberation is bound up with mine, let us work together."

- Lilla Watson

A new state-of-the-art militarised detention centre has been built at Baxter, South Australia. The razor wire is gone. But the barriers remain. An electric fence secures the border. From the inside all that can be seen is the sky. As the people inside escalate their struggle, so shall our struggle escalate in solidarity. In coming together to take action, we carry the hope for freedom. We are part of a global movement of people, fighting for the right to move and to stay.

Convergence: Easter Weekend 2003

Using a diversity of tactics to disrupt the present and create the future. INFO: 0413 041 083

02-331-1111 CONVERGENCE 2003

skill-ups:

music 

radio 

direct action 

legal 

medical 

media 

