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2001 On Dit SEXUALITY EDITION

Moan & Groan

Volume 69
Edition 10
7.5.2001

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THE SEX-FILES

UNCOVERED

On Dit

Volume 69 Edition 10, 7.5.2001

On Dit is the weekly student newspaper 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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About the cover

A rip-off of the *Rolling Stone* cover featuring Scully and Mulder in bed. Chosen because, like Sam and Elise, they work together but have never fucked. Self indulgent? Most certainly - But what are ya gonna do?

Wanna write?

Come and see us in our office, located in the basement of the George Murray Building (right next to the stinky male toilets), accessible from the Barr Smith lawns. Alternatively, email us at ondit@smug.adelaide.edu.au or give us a call on 8303 5404 or 8303 6490.

Next Edition (Prosh):

Deadline Wednesday 9th May
Published Monday 14th May

Thanks-yous etc...

Stan, Nat, Daisy, Rachel, George V., Mike P., Mikey (aka Stivk-down Steve), Lem (aka Stick-down Sally), Huey, Haggeman and Sharon the Mayo Goddess

Editorial

Well, the time has come. This edition is for all you beautiful kids out there who feel a little (or a lot) queer. Or maybe you're thinking about it, wondering whether you might be. Or maybe you want to know more about it. Or maybe you have no idea what we're writing about or why this edition exists. Just in case you are wondering why the cover says "moan and groan, the sex files uncovered", it's because this is the SEXUALITY EDITION of *On Dit*. A lot of the articles in this edition are about, for and by people who are not heterosexual, i.e. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered - well, to cut a long story short- queer.

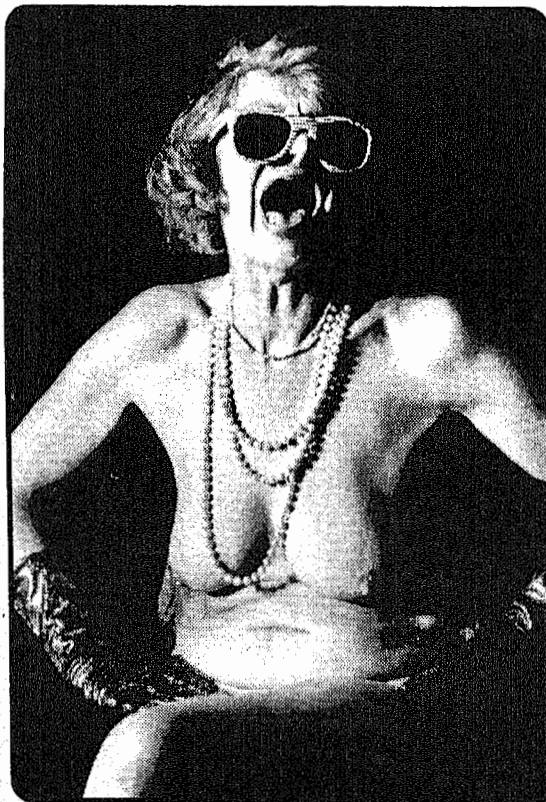
So why a Sexuality Edition? I hear you ask.

1. It's fun.
2. The Sexuality Officers have nothing better to do on the weekend before Sexuality/Pride Week other than to help edit *On Dit*.
3. Queer people, or people who do not identify as heterosexual, are oppressed in society, therefore...
4. Things need to be said by queer people and their allies about queer lifestyles, views, sex, politics and the way in which we are fucked over by the state, government, law, many religions, and many people in society who somehow think they're better and that we are immoral or disgusting.
5. It's a good excuse for Sam and Elise to get naked together and have students see their bodies. (NB: The cover was Elise's idea, not Sam's).
6. It's a great way to tell you all that "we're here, we're queer, we will not disappear".
7. An opportunity for Elise to tell the freaks and wankers who ripped down the Sexuality/Pride week posters around uni that they are bigots, they are oppressing her and that she hopes they have six gay and proud children who make them join PFLAG.
8. Queer people are more exciting and newsworthy (Just look at Robbie Williams).
9. To prove that there are more queer people in the world than k.d. lang, Ellen, Rupert Everett and Boy George.
10. Statistically, at least 1 in 10 people are non-heterosexual, so if you're reading this and thinking it ain't fair and it's oppressing your straightness, think yourself lucky that this is one edition out of 23, not one in every ten.
11. If you need another reason, read this paper and find one for yourself.

Elise and Sam, SAUA Sexuality Officers

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Queer v. Sexuality

Which department should we choose?

Student representation at Adelaide University. Ahhh. What a beast.

The SAUA: A seething brothel of factionalism, personality clashes and incestuous courtship. OK, perhaps I exaggerate. But it's not all pretty. I know. I am a student politician. I go to the highly-charged 6 hour Council meetings where people from diverse areas all come together with ideals bursting from every orifice, only to be in tears or writhing in anger by the end of the night as we plot, scheme, name-call and bitch, bitch, bitch.

Hardly the best atmosphere in which to be idealistic. But maybe that's the way with all politics of all levels. I once read an Orientation Co-Ordinator's report, where she concluded that student politicians fight and squabble so much because student politics means so little. At first I chuckled: "Hmm, that's sorta true". Then, a reconsideration: "No wait a sec, that's not right...sometimes it does mean a lot." I looked back over, my policy platform in the 2000/1 Broad-sheet, and counted the word "queer" in my statement: it appeared 6 times. That's right. I'm representing queer students. And that means a lot to me.

But wait: I only specify queer students. Isn't that discriminatory? Especially considering my department is called the "Sexuality" department?

Damn. I've slipped up. My hidden agenda is revealed. Yes, I have a secret shame: I am not out representing straight men. I am not running campaigns promoting heterosexuality. I am not speaking on behalf of the

thousands of straight male students on campus who are too terrified to make that huge step and admit to themselves: "Yes, I want to sleep with women". I am not trying to convince the world that being straight makes you no less of a person. God will still love you with your straight ways and you can find other people like you and be happy and succeed in life. Don't be afraid!

OK, I'll do away with the sarcasm before I start sounding like a loony left revolutionary freak. I think I've made my point.

Let's talk about queer. What does it mean? It's a derogatory term, isn't it? Yes, it always was, until it was reclaimed by lesbian, gay, bi and transgendered people all around the world, to use as a self-identifying "umbrella" term rather than just saying "non-heterosexual" (which is kind of like saying that women are just "non-men". Not good). But non-heterosexual does not just mean the above labels. It also refers to people questioning or unsure of their sexuality, or unwilling to apply labels. It encapsulates the vast spectrum of people who (a) are not men, and (b) are not 100% categorically, unequivocally straight-identifying and practising. Why do I keep singling out men? Women can be straight too.

Sure. But Adelaide University women, quite rightly, have the Women's Department. Some will tell you that having a Women's Department and no Men's Department is sexist and discriminatory. Common sense will tell you that a Women's Department is completely justified in a world where gender discrimination is still rife, where women are still underpaid, overworked,

objectified, raped, assaulted, mutilated, circumcised against their will and denied basic justice and opportunities that their male counterparts take for granted. And this analogy applies, to a certain extent, to queer v. straight.

A Queer Department does discriminate. It devotes its time and resources to people who, day by day, have crises about their sexual identities. Who risk rejection and condemnation from family, friends and peers when they are true to themselves and the people they love. Who are taunted, bullied and bashed, in the schoolyard, at the university, on the street. Who contemplate suicide. Who kill themselves. The day a student comes up to me and says: "I woke up terrified in a cold sweat last night at the realisation that I could no longer deny being heterosexual", is the day I will throw my support behind a Sexuality Department that represents everybody, regardless of their sexuality. Until then, I will always support a student body that, with a busy and effective Women's and Queer Department working collaboratively, recognises that the Western world is run by straight men, as it has been for the last few millennia, and tries to combat this. Adelaide University need not be a microcosm of this world. It can actually dare to be revolutionary.

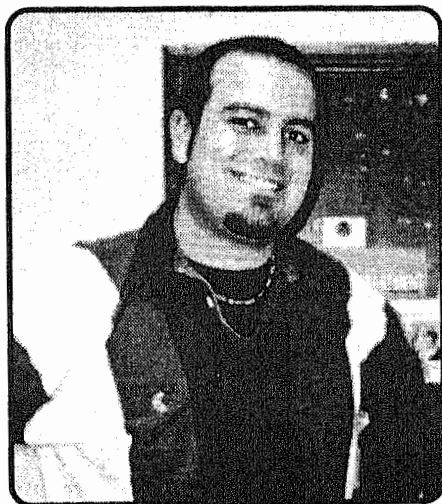
Is it fashionable? Maybe. Politically correct? Probably. Unfair? Definitely not. A Queer Department balances the scales, where a Sexuality Department implies that there is no scale that needs balancing. It's about as logical to argue for an unbiased Sexuality Department as it is for Pauline to argue abolishing ATSI, since in both cases, there

is an incorrect belief that no particular group needs focus or special attention and that we're all equal. If only that were true. If only two men in love with each other could walk hand in hand down Hindley Street without getting the shit kicked out of them. If only two women could be seen first and foremost as two potentially loving, generous and supporting parents, not two lesbians wanting to "exploit" the IVF programme. If only we had a Prime Minister who woke up, looked around him and saw that Lucille Ball is no longer the number one television star, our anthem is no longer "God Save the King" and queer people are no longer subject to electro-shock therapy to cure them of their affliction. If only, if only...

Don't get me wrong, this is not straight-bashing. Some of my best friends are heterosexual and I love them lots. But I wouldn't be able to live myself if I said that the needs of queer people do not need to be prioritised over straight people. People who aren't yet ready, or are unwilling, to identify - as gay, bi, lesbian - will not be forgotten in a Queer Department; in fact, they will probably be its main focus. So let's do away with the ambiguity, and the incorrect premise underlying a Sexuality Department. It's not about special rights, it's about equality.

Let's balance the scales before we do away with them. Bring on the Adelaide University Queer Department.

Sam Butler
Male Sexuality Officer



Paul
I think it is really relevant, it helps promote sex week and the department.

Mini Vox Pop:

Dan, Andrew and Sam
D - Probably not a whole issue.
A - I don't really care.
S - I don't reckon.



**Do you think the Sexuality Edition is relevant?
Do we need one?**



Ben and Rick
B - I think it is a good thing.
R - Good idea definitely.

Hannah
I think it is relevant but I think others might be a bit uncomfortable.



University to charge for Internet use: Part 2

If you pay as much attention to *On Dit* as you should, you would know that Adelaide University is rumoured to be planning to charge students for internet use. In an effort to substantiate this rumour, last week *On Dit* spoke to Dr Scott Snyder, manager of the University's Information Technology Service (ITS). Here's the story:

The University is facing a yearly Internet access bill of around half a million dollars for around 6 terabytes of downloaded data (last year's figures; it's increasing exponentially). University Council, consisting of the people who run A.U., has been unhappy about the situation for a few years, not least because it pays per piece of data downloaded and suspects that much use is "recreational".

According to Dr Snyder, ITS has been directed by Council to recover at least some of this cost as part of its drive to run the Uni as an "enterprise". Apparently, Adelaide is one of the few Universities in Australia that charges neither departments nor students for their internet use (with some others charging the departments, not the students).

The system will work like this: undergraduate/Honours students will be given a certain quota of use. When they have exhausted this quota, they will have to pay for any further use at some central location (and eventually at machines located in computer suites), but academics will be able to assign

extra access to students if they need it for a specific project. The scheme will eventually be expanded to cover postgrads and staff.

Access to the University's Intranet (which includes on-line teaching, course materials, email, the Libraries etc) will continue to be free.

Some things about the scheme are yet to be finalised:

- The size of the quota (it will probably be around 40-50 Megabytes per year, which should be enough to retrieve 30-40 reasonable-sized documents), and whether students from different faculties will be given different quotas;

- The charge for any use above the quota. Some members of Council want the charge to be small - less than 10 cents per Megabyte - while ITS wants it to cover equipment depreciation and rent as well as download costs - around 20-25c/MB (unlike most home accounts, users will be charged for downloaded data and not for time online);

- When the scheme will begin - probably week 3 or 4 of Semester 2;

- Whether students will be happy to pay for something that they have previously gotten for free - especially as more and more essential course materials become unavailable offline, and funding issues see the University's libraries cutting many journals and other resources that are also available over the internet.

China v The West: Australia joins in the fun

Following the near disastrous dealings between China and the United States, and the now famed mid-air collision between US and Chinese war planes, John Howard has been forced to defend the right of an Australian navy vessel to sail unobstructed through the Taiwan Strait. This comes after China officially showed dissent against the three Australian warships sailing through Chinese waters. While Prime Minister Howard stated that he did not believe the "incident and subsequent Chinese protest were likely to damage Sino-Australian relations," or cause any long-term threats between the two nations, it is conceived by many that the occurrence only highlights rising political and diplomatic tensions between the two nations.

Two weeks ago on April 17, the *Success*, the *Arunta* and the *Newcastle* were sailing between South Korea and Hong Kong via the Taiwan Strait when a Chinese naval vessel challenged their right to do so on the grounds that the transit was via Chinese waters. After replying that they were exercising their right to free navigation under international law, the three Australian warships continued their passage unhindered. There were no weapons drawn, no threat of attack and no harm was done, but this action has seemingly created yet another rift between China and the 'Western World'. Standing firm by Australia's right for its ships to pass without any objection through the body of water that separates Taiwan and China, the PM stated "They were doing it properly and fully in accordance with international law" and said the Australian warships were engaged in what was called "innocent passage" through the territorial waters of another country. Howard also proceeded to give China a slight dig in the proverbial ribs when he went on to state "...We won't be overreacting to it... There has been a long-standing difference between China's interpretation of what international law allows in these circumstances and what other countries interpret international law to allow. So there's nothing new in that sense, and it's not the kind of thing that countries should overreact about."

This incident was not the first time Australian naval vessels had been challenged by China while passing through the Taiwan Strait, as China's position for almost half a century has been that foreign military vessels need Chinese permission to sail through the Taiwan



George W. Bush...mouth open; foot prepared for insertion

Strait, which Australia has long ignored with the backing of international law. But this occasion saw the first official protest by China following such an incident.

Last Thursday, the Chinese embassy in Canberra expressed concerns that Anzac Day comments by Mr Howard backing US President George W. Bush's pledge to defend Taiwan from Chinese aggression were "very inappropriate". Mr Howard rejected the comments, saying on Friday: "We would expect both China and Taiwan to show restraint." "I don't think the embassy reaction was either appropriate or necessary," he said, echoing China's criticism of his own comments the previous day. China's Charge d'Affaires, Xie Xiaoyan, was called into the Department of Foreign Affairs to hear an explanation of Australia's stance.

Riding on the heels of the US/China spy plane crisis, it is becoming evident that a certain East vs. West strain is once again emerging. This time, however, it seems that China is intensifying its assertion on a global scale. Perhaps the largest country in the world is beginning to feel hostility from the new American government. While the threat of an all-scale nuclear war seems very remote, the actions of US President George W. Bush and, to a lesser extent, his 'western allies', are no longer playing the friendly game Clinton participated in throughout his term.

Leila Hallak

North Terrace

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News Bites

mit Tristan Mahoney

Commie Strippers

Australian tabletop dancers, strip-tease artists and scantily-clad bar attendants are set to form a registered trade union. The group has applied to register their union under the name Striptease Artists Australia, in an effort to ease the tenuous nature of pay and conditions for the thousands of people in the industry. The SAA will also seek to initiate separate guidelines for semi-nude, fully nude and explicit displays.

Pornographers cash in on downturn

A report has found that the number of individual visitors to pornographic web sites grew by 27 percent from 22 million to 28 million from December 1999 to February 2001. By contrast, the number of visitors to conventional retail sites grew at less than half the rate of those visiting their pornographic counterparts. The *New York Times* recently used these figures to describe the American porn industry as "recession proof".

Those crazy Americans

According to a recent survey of the US population, 11 percent of Americans had sexual relations with multiple partners in the previous year. A further 4.2 percent engaged in sexual behaviour that put them at a high risk of sexually transmitted diseases, only 20 percent of whom used a condom.

Prosh Edition

Just in case you miss our other, larger ad on page 7, here's a reminder that next week is Prosh. This means that the next edition of On Ditis the Prosh Edition. If you have anything at all that you consider to be funny, submit it - we want to share the laughter, and so does everybody else.

Doing it for Bob...

The Students' Association of the University of Adelaide would like to express its gratitude to the staff of Parks and Grounds at Adelaide University. The Grounds staff have always been accommodating, helpful, cheerful and willing to assist the SAUA in anyway they can. The recent outsourcing of the Parks and Grounds has meant that a number of the current staff have chosen to leave Adelaide University. The Students' Association of the University of Adelaide salutes you and wishes you all the best in your future endeavours!

Queer Newsbites

French government recognises Nazi persecution of homosexuals

A few days after the French government's first public recognition of the persecution of homosexuals during World War II, GLBT organizations in Paris participated for the first time in official ceremonies in remembrance of the Jews and other victims of the Nazis deported from France during the war.

France's national Day of Remembrance has traditionally focused on the Jewish and political victims of Nazi persecution, and on the collaborationist French government's culpability in deporting Jews and political prisoners into German hands (most of whom were then placed in concentration camps) during the Nazi occupation of the northern half of the country. For years GLBT groups have lobbied to include remembrance of the Nazi persecution of homosexuals, only to be rebuffed - sometimes with police barricades - by the organizers of the various memorial ceremonies held in cities throughout France.

gay.com

Suicide Fear for Catholic Gays

In contrast to Archbishop Pell's strident anti-gay position, former priest and spokesman for Catholics Against Oppression, Julian Punch called for the Catholic School system not to be exempted from anti-discrimination laws.

He said the Catholic school system feared that a public enquiry might reveal the high rate of suicide amongst young Catholic gay men. The application for exemption from the laws, he argued, covered up a fundamentalist push towards what he called a narrower view of morality. It's not just homosexuality, it's women teachers who support the ordination of women and young Aboriginal people who are searching for a spirituality connected with their past.

Punch claimed that the Catholic Education Office knows of grieving par-

ents whose children committed suicide because of their sexuality, who not only received no support, but who also were rejected by their religious communities.
gala.net.au

Big Brother Censors Anti Gay Comments

It may have been expected after Channel 10 pushed Big Brother contestant Johnnie 'as the gay one', but it seems the public has not taken to Johnnie as fondly as the women in the Big Brother household.

On the chat forum in the Big Brother website, where members of the public can leave comments, several homophobic comments were posted. These were removed very quickly by Big Brother. Household residents have no idea how the public is responding to them.

If you wish to leave a gay friendly message, the site is
www.bigbrother.com.au
gala.net.au

Women's Electoral Lobby to fight for IVF rights

The Women's Electoral Lobby has been given leave by the High Court to intervene in the case over whether single women and lesbians can have access to IVF treatments.

This puts the lobby on a collision course with the Catholic Church, which is seeking to deny lesbians and single women that right. Justice William Gummow also stood over other arguments until August 6, when both the church and WEL are expected to challenge each other's standing.

Lisa Solomon, a spokeswoman for the Lobby, was delighted with the result. 'Guess the battle's on', she said.
gala.net.au

Amendments to Victorian Rights Bill confirmed

The Victorian Government has given in to demands for amendments to the bill recognising gay and lesbian relationships.

Independent Labor MP Susan

Davies forced State Cabinet to approve further changes to planned legislation. The term domestic partner will be tightened to include the degree of financial and emotional commitment and the degree of mutual commitment to a shared life. It is believed by Ms Davies and the Liberal party that without the amendment the bill would undermine traditional family life.

While the Liberal opposition is calling this a major backdown, the Labor government is painting the changes as minor with the spirit of the bill (giving gay and de facto couples the same rights as married couples in superannuation, property transfers, wills and medical treatment) remaining intact.

Attorney General, Rob Hulls said, 'As far as I'm concerned, the Liberals can call the amendments anything they like, so long as they support this important legislation. It is believed the Liberal opposition will now support the legislation.'

gala.net.au

Lesbian Cancer Risk

A study published in the American Journal of Public Health has found that lesbians and bisexual women may be at higher risk of getting some cancers.

This is because they may miss out on cancer screenings in a system geared towards heterosexual women and also because of other risk factors.

The study of 11,800 lesbians and bisexual women revealed that they were less likely to have health insurance and to have had a pelvic exam or mammogram within the past year, compared with women in general.

Health care for women is organised around contraceptive needs, which bring women periodically into the health system. But lesbians typically don't have contraceptive needs, Dr. Susan D. Cochran, the study's lead author told Reuters Health. Lower rates of screening might result in later detection of cancers, thereby increasing morbidity and mortality rates.

gala.net.au

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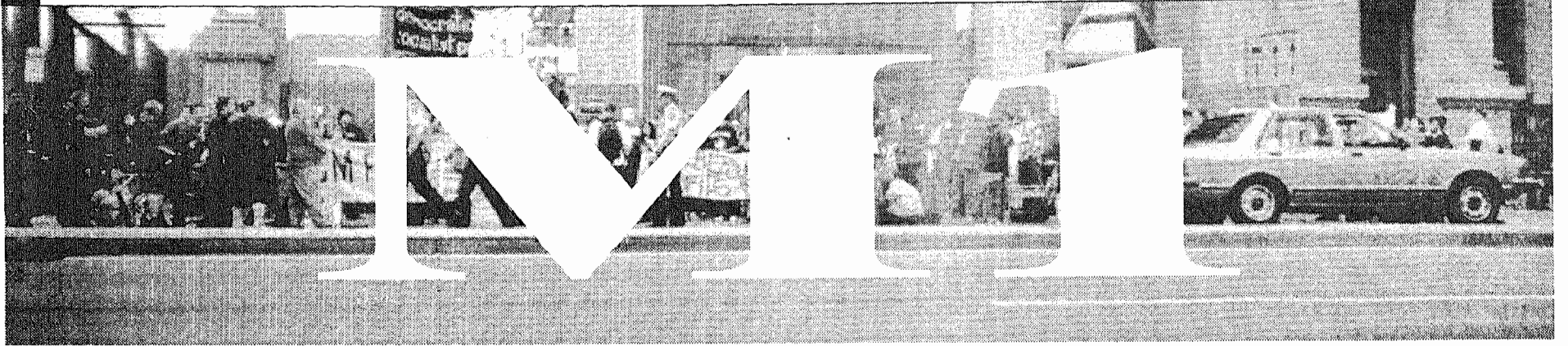
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On the Day

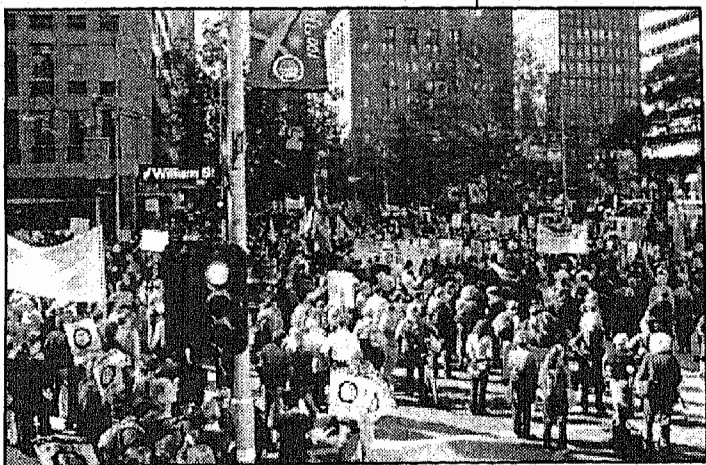
Well, what can be said about Adelaide M1? A couple of hundred people turned up outside the Stock Exchange building on Currie Street and stood around chanting while a few police stood around, looking bemused. Speakers spoke about the dangers of globalisation (some of the more extreme adding capitalism in general to their critique) and people in suits walked past.

The musical entertainment was the only really high point, so I'll talk about that. Baterz took the microphone first. Consisting of one guy with an acoustic guitar, Baterz began by telling everyone that he didn't know any protest songs and should probably write some, before launching into 'The Drowning of Cameron and Lachie Daddo' (I think that's what it was called). This was followed by a song about buying beer with a fake ID, a cover of 'Spice up your life', two songs "taking the piss out of hippies" (these were not well received by sections of the audience) and, to finish, a cover of 'Killing in the Name Of'. Baterz was very, very good and, if nothing else, highlighted the diversity of the movement represented at M1. Bomb scare followed, but at that point I had to leave.

M1 was a bit of an anticlimax in Adelaide. But in other States (and elsewhere in the world) things were far more interesting. Thousands gathered in Melbourne and were left surprisingly unmolested, while smaller groups elsewhere were treated with the brutality that has come to be expected from many Australian police forces when faced with civil disobedience.

As usual, the media did their best to present a distorted view of events, portraying police-initiated violence as having been caused by protesters and using a few of the less well-informed participants to discredit the event as a whole.

Linley



More people turned up in Melbourne (Indymedia)

The thing that I have found the most astonishing about the whole M1 campaign is not the pitiful number of people who actually showed up for the thing but the incredible amount of hostility there has been to any mention of fighting against corporate globalisation. People seem to think that we are opposing globalisation itself when in actual fact the only people doing this are the Hansonites of this world. Globalisation has the potential to be an amazingly positive thing. With economies and countries becoming increasingly intermeshed, it would be far easier to impose some sort of ethical standard to business activity and to ensure that, like the actions of governments, the actions of transnational corporations are transparent. But this is not what is happening. Instead, agreements like that on trades and services are being pushed through which diminish the power and responsibility of our elected representatives and hand it over to corporations who have no responsibility except to their share holders. Instead we see countries like Ethiopia and the banana producing nations of the Caribbean struggle to compete in a globalised economy where they lose the security of tariffs or the positive discrimination of the EU. Instead we see a world where big pharmaceutical companies are so lacking in ethical standards that they even consider opposing the South African government's move to use generic drugs in the treatment of the AIDS pandemic. Globalisation has the power to make the world a better place but the reality of the situation is that it isn't.

This is what we are on about. And yes, we probably do take ourselves a little too seriously (I think this may be in some way connected to the fact that no-one else does). But I think that people have been a little too quick to dismiss the whole thing based on the sort of people any vaguely radical movement tends to attract and purely on the basis of the information on the info we've distributed. In regards to the former, it would be worth considering that we do not choose who becomes involved in movements like M1. Whatever the individual agenda of those involved is, they usually have something useful

to contribute. It's a bit of a difficult situation really because we can't edit what we present to the public without compromising the inclusiveness and willingness to value all contributions that we wish to maintain. Additionally, we don't have the resources to turn someone's offer of action down on the basis of their appearance or people skills. And yes, this is in many ways counter-productive but we can hardly build a movement espousing universal democracy if we don't incorporate these principles into our actions and organising. In terms of the leaflets we distribute, of course they are overly



simplistic. I think that any move to distribute theses on the problems of corporate globalisation would have a limited audience indeed. Furthermore, although the economics of globalisation may be complex, the issues it raises are quite simple. What it boils down to are things like basic human rights. Are we all such shameless radicals for suggesting that everyone has the right to freedom from hunger or exploitation?

The other difficulty with the whole M1 action was the fact that we attempted to combine pretty much all the social action groups around SA to create something greater than the sum of its parts. While this was useful in terms of creating a broader base of support it also meant that it was difficult to get across a clear and unified message. This was exacerbated by the fact that M1 was not an issue-specific campaign. It is much easier to oppose the Vietnam War or Jabiluka mine than it is to oppose the more abstract idea of corporate globalisation. When people became involved with M1 they did so for many different reasons which I think left a lot of people confused as to what we are actually on about.

Finally, I would like to say that I don't agree that the whole thing was a failure. Any sort of campaign work always involves a pretty steep learning curve. None of us is perfect in any way shape or form but we can't help but be better prepared for our next action given the experiences we have had or-

ganising M1. We now need to diversify this campaign to ensure that the issues of social equity which accompany globalisation remain on the public agenda. And I think it is an incredibly positive thing that 300 people maintained a peaceful protest for over six hours on Tuesday. It is also a positive thing that people reacted to the leaflets we distributed - this meant that they were forced to ratify their pro-liberalisation stance which is far more than usually happens. We don't have any intention of quietly folding up our banners and slipping into upper middle class obscurity, Hugh, and

we have no desire to live in "our avowedly capitalist society" either. M1 was only a launching point and, as Father Neil pointed out, just as we do not accept the excuse "I was just following orders" from Nazi war criminals nor do we accept the excuse "I was just a part of a system" from those of you who choose to do nothing about the injustice which continues in this world. It is all too easy to dismiss us on the basis of how we look and the sort of rhetoric we spout. I agree that we need to

rejuvenate the social movement in order to avoid these sorts of clichés but I vehemently disagree with the notion that anyone who looks like a hippy is necessarily ignorant and misinformed. Now that globalisation is back on the social agenda it is time for there to be some sort of public debate about whether or not we are going to ensure that it works to the benefit of the masses or the few. With any luck this will ensure that the focus is shifted from who we are and what we happen to look like to what we are actually trying to say. And personally, I would far prefer that everyone who looks like a hippy acts like one - there are few things more frustrating than attempting to hand anti-capitalist propaganda to someone wearing a Che t-shirt and being refused because the wearer is actually an angst ridden school girl who thinks that challenging the system means wearing torn flares and sandals.

Ella McHenry



Blockaded out of the ASX, two corporate scumbags are forced to plan the impoverishment of the Third World by mobile.

Queer Students and the Common Youth Allowance

In recent editions of *On Dit*, various people have written about Youth Allowance and how it affects students, how students can receive it, and how many sections of Youth Allowance policy and criteria are flawed and unrealistic.

Firstly, let me tell you about my own experience. One day I went into Centrelink to hand in my CYA fortnightly form. The woman at the desk perused my form and looked at the section that said 'About your partner'. It was blank. She asked me whether I had one. I lent forward with my elbows on the counter and said, "Yes, actually, I do. But she's a girl, so bad luck. Apparently you guys don't recognise our relationship, so I don't bother putting her on the form". Although I wanted her to get angry and try and defend Centrelink, she didn't. Instead she said, "Oh, I know. I think it should all be the same rule for everyone. I don't know why it isn't." She shook her head and processed my form.

The point of this is that if I were in a relationship with a man, I would have put him on the form, and after living with him for a year, I would be classed as independent from my parents. As it stands, as a full-time student, I do not qualify for the independent rate until I am 25. By that time I would have been living with my partner for over 4 years. "That's discrimination!" you think. Well, yes, it bloody is. And that's not all. Let me highlight for you some of Centrelink's criteria for the CYA independence rate that also does not consider the lives or relationships of Queer students.

1. Parental means testing. If your parents' combined income is over \$23,400 pa, you do not receive benefits and your parents are expected to support you until you finish studying.

Many queer students have homophobic parents who do not agree with their lifestyle. Being dependent on them may mean that queer students do not want to come out for fear of being financially 'cut off', or their parents may threaten to or actually cut

them off as a means of trying to control their sexuality.

2. Age of Independence. Set at 21 for unemployed and 25 for full-time students. One of the criteria for this includes being or having been married, including living in a de-facto relationship for more than 12 months. 'de facto relationship' means living with a partner **of the opposite sex** in a marriage-like way. Obviously this is a very narrow definition of relationships. This has been recognised by some members of parliament, who tried to amend the definition of de facto to include partners of the same sex. This bill was defeated when both Labor and Liberal voted against it. The current definition of relationships means that queer students, and queer people under the age of 21, will not receive independent status after living with their partner for 12 months.

3. Unreasonable to live at home. You can be classed as independent if you prove that it is unreasonable for you to live at home. It can be fairly difficult to prove this, and circumstances at home have to be serious, including a serious risk to your mental or physical well being and domestic violence. The system does not recognise the difficulty faced by queer students in the parental home. "Unreasonable to live at home" does not make reference to coming out or issues relating to homophobia in the home. It is therefore often up to individual case workers to assess these situations and decide whether a queer student should be classed as independent.

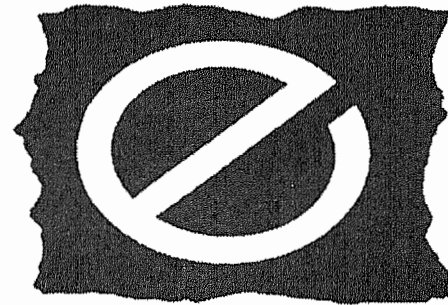
Although many people don't realise it, despite the fact that queer people have come a long way in attaining some equal rights with heterosexual people, there are still many government policies and systems that discriminate against us. Youth Allowance is one of many that need looking at and changing to be more inclusive of, and giving visibility to queer people and our lives.

Elise Duffield
Female Sexuality Officer

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Prosh Edition

Out May 14th

Hello there! We hope that you're enjoying this Special Edition of *On Dit*. What you may or may not know is that there's another special edition coming up next week - Prosh. It's going to be very funny, or at least it will be if enough people write funny stuff for it. That's where you come in - we need you to write that funny stuff. Come down to the *On Dit* office anytime this week and write, draw, contribute, suggest, submit, discuss or whatever else you think you can do.

Queer Policy - The Five Major Parties

Queer and politics can often be as mutually exclusive as they are synonymous. For lots of people who have or are in the process of coming out and have their friends, family and co-workers to deal with, the last thing they want to do is get political and inevitably out themselves to everybody else. Most gay, lesbian or bisexual folk would just be happy with a strong network of friends, a supportive family and a loving partner. But for those who do get political, it can be quite a disenfranchising experience. You learn the sad pragmatics of mainstream politics - mainly, that neither of the two major parties are keen to promote actively the long-overdue changes required to present legislation that discriminates against queer people and their relationships, especially in relation to family law, superannuation, Centrelink, wills, medical rights and access to children. It may not be that either the Liberals or the ALP are a homophobic party as such (although both have more than their fair share of homophobes), it's just that queer legislative reform is seldom a vote-getter, particularly in resistance to powerful family or religious lobby groups. It worked for Sydney Independent MP Clover Moore but that's because her electorate, as well as taking in Darling Point and Point Piper, it also takes in Darlinghurst and Paddington - a bizarre blend of old money and trendy, urban queers with high disposable incomes.

With the Sexuality Department keeping student representation, and in particular, queer student representation, at the forefront, I decided to contact the Big 5 in politics - Liberals, ALP, Democrats, Greens and One Nation - to get some feedback about their queer policies and what they plan to commit to specifically in light of upcoming state and federal elections.

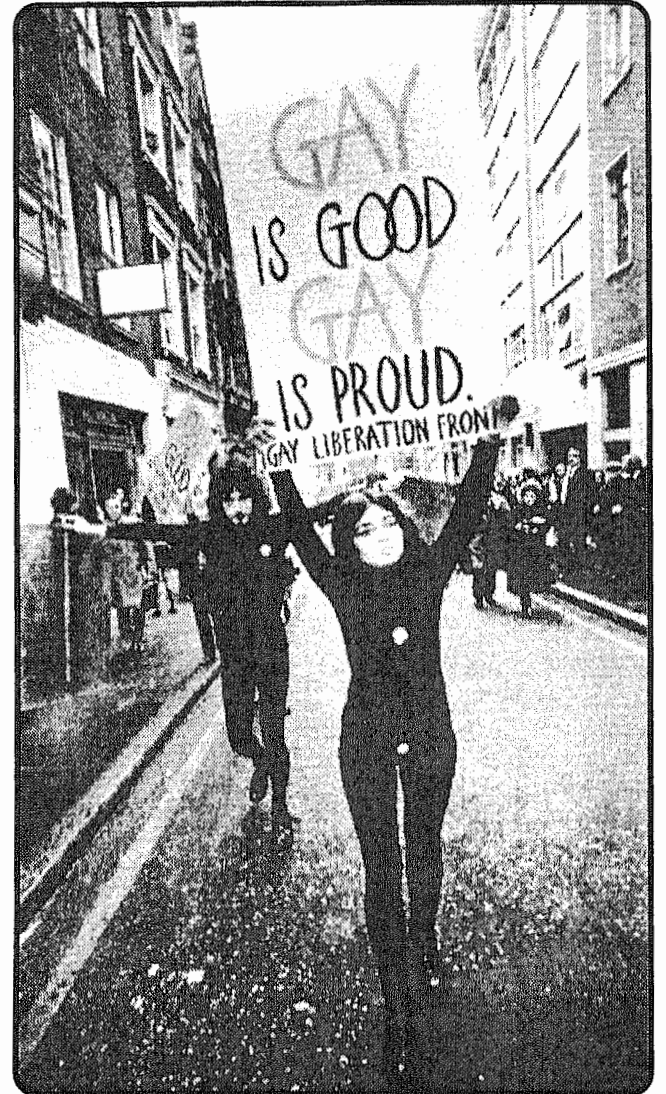
It was simple enough to do: check out the websites and then send off e-mails asking for any additional information that may not be found on the website. It was no big surprise that my first two responses came from the Democrats and then the Greens. Both have prided themselves on being queer-friendly parties, which is fair enough considering the Greens' Federal leader, Bob Brown, is openly gay. Similarly, the Democrats' Senator Brian Greig, in his maiden speech, acknowledged his homosexuality, highlighted to the Senate how current discriminatory legislation directly affects him and his partner, and pledged to fight institutionalised homophobia. I also received from the Democrats, among other things, their "Shades of Pink" pamphlet, a compilation of their principles relating to queer issues, their past achievements and stances and details about the Sexuality and Gender Status Discrimination Bill they introduced to Parliament. This was all very gratifying, as was the information sent to me by the Greens outlining their progressive queer policies as well as expressing enthusiasm to get involved with our Department as much as possible.

So for the cynics out there who believe that voting Greens or Democrats is a waste of a vote, the bad news is that the 2 major parties have not performed so well in this experiment. In fact, the Liberals, like One Nation, did not respond to any of my e-mails. A search of "gay", "gay rights", "lesbian", "queer" and "same-sex" turned up "No matches found" on the Liberal website. I started to question if I actually existed or was I just a figment of some socialist's subversive imagination. It reminded me of the e-mail brawl I once had with the President of the WA Young Liberals in which he informed me that he didn't have a "problem" with gay people, he just didn't "agree" with us. Anyway, the Liberals' failure in this

exercise merely reaffirmed what I already expected to be the case about the Liberals, that they do not believe queer people have legitimate concerns, and that for the few Liberals who do have a conscience about this particular issue, they would probably be discouraged from doing anything by their antiquated Prime Minister. It was Howard's stance on IVF last year that formed the bulk of the information I (eventually) received from the ALP, most of which were media statements condemning his attempts to amend the Sex Discrimination Act to permit states to discriminate against women on the basis of marital status in restricting access to fertility treatment services. Although most of it was framed to defend single, heterosexual mothers, there were glimpses of support for lesbian couples too. However, this only partially compensated for the fact that finding any information on the ALP national website about queer issues was almost as difficult as it was for the Liberals and One Nation. It also does not rectify how much the ALP let queers down when, in 2000, Labor voted with the Coalition to defeat the proposal to expand eligibility for the independent rate of Youth Allowance to young gays and lesbians in de facto relationships of a year or more.

Too often, propaganda is perpetrated by extreme left-wing student activists to the effect that you cannot be queer without being one of them. In past Queer Collaborations conferences, the National Broad Left has tried to silence queer people who are members of the Liberal Party from speaking at what is meant to be a democratic conference. In such environments, the "oppressed" become the oppressors, as self-appointed judges, juries and executioners of queer people based wholly on their political affiliations, rather than the vices and virtues of the actual individual. It is parochial and counterproductive to condemn gays, lesbians and bisexuals who happen to be members of the Liberal party and support its economics, since most of them are intelligent enough to at least acknowledge the shortcomings of the Liberals' social policies.

The less said about One Nation, the better. Their national website was as ignorant of queer issues as the Liberals', although I did manage to come



across a media statement of Pauline Hanson's, slamming the "GAY INFILTRATION [the capital letters are copied directly from her speech, not emphasised by me] of the Uniting Church" and how it "has a lot to do with the fact [that] members are deserting in droves".

I came out of this exercise concluding: So far as addressing queer issues and concerns and committing to solving them, Greens and Democrats rock, ALP's OK, Liberals and One Nation suck. When the time comes to vote at the next elections, the queer voter should keep the following in mind: Do I care about progression in queer politics? If so, do I want to vote "symbolically", (ie Democrats or Greens, neither of which will be a third party at the next election in the Lower Houses but can at least monitor policy and exercise their discretion in the Upper Houses) or do I want to vote "pragmatically" (for Labor, whose record is not exemplary but who are by far the lesser of the two evils). If you find that you, as a queer person, do care about queer politics but do not prioritise this over your rationalist economics, then you live in a democracy and you have every right to vote Liberal. Just don't expect the country to become any more tolerant of your lifestyle and your relationships with John Howard in power for another three years.

Sam Butler
Male Sexuality Officer

PRIDE

Adelaide University Pride is a social and political group designed for Adelaide University folk who identify as non-heterosexual, or queer. This includes (but is not limited to) lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered or students questioning their sexuality. Our base of operations is the Rainbow Room, the queer-friendly space situated on the 6th floor of the Union Building, opposite the Gallery.

Despite certain advancements in recent years, people who identify as lesbian, gay, transgender or bisexual still have a long way to go in terms of achieving the same basic rights, freedoms and respect as our straight counterparts. AU Pride is concerned with furthering such causes on the campus by promoting strong social networks among our members and encouraging confidence and pride in our sexualities wherever possible. We meet once a week at 3pm Wednesdays in the Rainbow Room, to chat, discuss and plan social events, laugh, drink and (only sometimes!) gossip, all in the name of solidarity.

Whether you are just starting, or are continuing your studies at Adelaide University this year, if you would like to join and meet other fabulous people, we would love to have you. We promise absolute discretion, but we also promise a lot of fun. For more info e-mail <auprideclub@hotmail.com>

HIV/AIDS: Is it still a Gay Issue?

I've heard a variety of theories hypothesising the origins of the HIV virus, some of them are actually quite amusing. People had sex with monkeys in Africa, someone injected themselves with a virus they had developed in a laboratory, monkey tissue containing SIV (simian immunodeficiency virus) was used to make polio-virus vaccines, I've even heard that aliens brought the virus to earth. There have also been many theories that attempt to justify the existence of the virus. It's nature's way of easing an overpopulated earth, it's a secret CIA plot, it's God's way of culling homosexuals. These too are clearly absurd and have no basis in fact.

However, the discrimination against homosexuals that has occurred as a result of HIV/AIDS is a fact. In the last few years the label given HIV/AIDS of being a gay disease has thankfully partially faded. But it still can not be denied that HIV/AIDS has a huge impact on the gay community and will continue to do so.

Why was it ever called a gay disease anyway?

Case one is the name given to the first ever HIV positive person, but his, or her, identity is unknown. HIV stands for HUMAN Immunodeficiency Virus, it works with human DNA and so there has to have been one original case from which others became infected. The origins of HIV have been traced but so far without much success. Research in the late eighties and early nineties has tried to link the virus to tests with humans and monkeys in Africa in the 1950's, or monkey bites suffered by Africans, or some bizarre sexual rituals involving monkey blood and human genitalia. Other research has shown the virus could have existed in humans as early as 1920s. As the virus mutates over time, it makes investigations into its origins even more difficult. So many theories, so few conclusive findings.

What is known is that HIV/AIDS first came to international attention when a large number of homosexual men started dying in the US. San Francisco and New York, among other cities, were among the first to report numerous cases of the disease that was later named HIV. This virus would attack the immune system, eventually leading to a range of conditions - Auto-Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). These conditions would eventually be fatal. It was soon established that unprotected sex was the cause of the majority of transmissions. At this time, gay men often had unprotected sex with other men in saunas and other public places. The virus spread rapidly, with many gay men being infected in America and then across the globe. Scare tactics, such as the infamous grim reaper and bowling ball TV ads here in Australia,

caused panic, fear, discrimination and hatred.

It can be said, without prejudice, that in these early times, HIV/AIDS was a gay issue, for it was something that needed to be addressed by the gay community. But it is equally true that right from this time it was a concern to everyone. How can you call a disease gay anyway? What is that even supposed to mean?

Gay men were living with, and dying from, the HIV virus. It certainly never meant that the disease itself discriminated between homosexuals and heterosexuals, although it's amazing what some fundamentalist religions believe. It is probably true that the heterosexual population felt a lot safer, but this didn't last.

The disease did not lose its label as a homosexual issue as quickly as the virus spread into the heterosexual community. Gay men with wives, or married men who have sex with other men, or bisexuals were only one cause of this. An infected blood supply meant that the virus was spread through medical treatment, injecting drug users sharing needles with contaminated blood and HIV positive women infected their children, during childbirth or when breastfeeding.

At the end of 2000, it is estimated that there were 36.1 million people infected with the AIDS virus across the world, 47% of whom are women, more than 70% of whom live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

What about in Australia, now?

The majority of HIV positive people in Australia today are homosexual men. Why is this predominance of positive people still in the gay male community? Australia was able to reduce the number of infections early on, before the virus spread greatly into the wider community. There appear to be two major reasons.

Firstly, in 1985 Australia became the first country to test every blood donation, every blood product and every donor organ for HIV. This certainly had an effect on the number of infections on the general population. This is a massive task, and costs the country several million dollars a year, but I don't think anyone's objecting. Australia also doesn't pay for blood donations. Where this is done it is a huge enticement for injecting drug users, who need some cash for their next fix. What some people do object to is the compulsory blood test for all women in their third trimester of pregnancy. Being pregnant is not a risk factor for contracting the virus and in the last 15 years, only one woman has tested positive, who didn't already know she was HIV positive. The cost here (an estimated \$1.4 million annually) is questionable.

Secondly, clean needle programs and free needle exchange services have greatly reduced the number of

infections due to the sharing of needles. You can walk into a needle exchange and pick up 200 fits (needle and syringe), in sterile packaging, in boxes of 5 or 10. Each box has its own disposal unit. The number of fits given out is huge, I was quoted 50,000 a month are taken from one Adelaide suburban needle exchange. What is also encouraging is that around 95% of fits are returned. Of course, this is not without controversy. The US refuses to have such services, saying they are fighting the drug problem head on. They argue that needle exchange services encourage drug use. Personally, I don't think anyone ever stopped injecting drugs because they couldn't find a clean needle. If it's going to happen, we might as well make it safe.

A third major factor has to be education. 95% of current infections are in developing countries, such countries have less funding for education and greater ignorance to conquer. With a small amount of explanation, kids in schools in Australia understand what becoming infected with HIV means and why a condom protects them. Kids in poor areas of Africa or South-East Asia do not.

The effect continues . . .

Pick 8 out of your 10 closest friends. Now imagine that in a couple of years those friends have all died. HIV/AIDS has caused huge

losses to the gay community. People have watched the majority of their friends die. Add to this being too afraid to tell their parents they are gay, let alone that they are HIV positive and the isolation increases.

People these days seem to think we are over all those ridiculous prejudices. But the ignorance and the discrimination of homosexuals and HIV positive people continues. Information that is simply wrong is still circulating. I heard the other day of a doctor who told a patient he would have to wait 2 years before HIV tests would tell him he was HIV negative, after unprotected sex (to ensure the HIV test is accurate the window period is 8 weeks).

While infections are decreasing in Australia, the problem of HIV transmission in developing countries is almost too huge to imagine. Some African countries must prepare to have half their current workforce by 2025. It is obvious now that HIV is an issue of global importance.

However, for the gay community, the aftermath of the massive numbers of AIDS-related deaths and the social discrimination still continues. The effects cannot be ignored and we should not be tricked into thinking the issue is over.

Cheryl

Gay Men's Health



Photo by Moody Mustafa, M.D. Used with permission. Visit www.moodypics.com

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Email gmhealth@internode.on.net
Web www.aidsCouncil.org.au

A program of the AIDS Council of South Australia

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referrals for counselling
and other specific needs

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where you can meet
with other guys

workshops and
discussion groups

personal development
courses

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at gay venues and
community events

community lending library:
fiction and non-fiction

opportunities
for volunteers



Confide in me: A how to help guide

I may have Kylie-fever, but she was onto something with that song. This article is not a 12-step plan to dealing with a friend that has been raped or sexually assaulted, rather it is a rough guide. There is no absolute right or wrong way to respond to this situation, but while very few people will report this sort of crime to the police, the majority of those who survive a rape or sexual assault will tell a friend. So, here goes...

- Remind them that no one apart from the perpetrator is responsible for the attack. Sexual relations without consent are illegal.

- **BELIEVE THEM!** Statistically and anecdotally very few people will invent an assault, and believing your friend is a powerful way for them to gain control of the situation. They have told you because they trust you.

- Don't ask them for details, e.g. what they were wearing or what they were doing alone at 4 in the morning, down ***** Street. They will already have run through the 'How could I have been so stupid' thought process. Do you really need these details to support your friend? Let them dictate what they tell you. A sexual assault is by its nature humiliating enough. They need your support, not an interrogation.

- Don't assume that you know what is best for them. How to deal with the situation is up to them. It may annoy you that they don't want to go to the police, but it is their choice.

However, if the attack is recent it is a good idea for them to go to a doctor to check that they are physically okay.

- Try not to pass judgement on whether or not it was a 'real' assault. No physical force may be used; the threat of violence is enough. Remember that sometimes tactics other than physical force or violence are more effective.

- Encourage your friend to talk to a professional. Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service has a 24 hour hotline that is confidential and if your friend calls them they do not have to report the incident to the police. They could also arrange to speak to a counselor here at Uni or elsewhere.

- Never assume that because you think you know someone that they wouldn't be a perpetrator. The overwhelming majority of perpetrators are known to their victims. If you are in the same social circle, you could know them too.

- Don't take any action without their permission. They need to be the one in control; rape and sexual assault is about exerting power and control over another person, so taking control of the situation is an important step in dealing with what has happened to them.

- They can tell the police without laying charges. The police need information as it could help with another case as well as helping them have an accurate idea of the

incidences of attack. But remember it is up to the individual involved to decide what to do.

"I can keep a secret, and throw away the key..."

If somebody does confide in you it can feel like an enormous burden. This is natural; having a friend tell you that they have been attacked is emotionally very hard and you may need help too. If you have promised not to tell anyone, consider calling a help-line (Yarrow Place is available for those who are supporting victims as well) or talk to someone else who does not know the person involved and remember not to use their names or other identifying characteristics. If it is a 'stranger' who attacks (statistically and anecdotally they are the *least likely attacker*) consider anonymously telling Police where, when and

any identifying characteristics of the attack. The Police use this information to piece together profiles and to identify 'hot-spots'. Remember, do not let out any information about the victim out unless they allow it. Telling the police in this circumstance is to protect others, not to identify the victim, and the information that you give should reflect this.

Anais Chevalier

Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service - 8226 8777
Police (Sexual Assault Unit) - 8207 5716

*I have used the terms 'perpetrator' and 'victim' in this article for ease of explanation.

Dr. George Duncan Memorial Service

On Thursday the 10th of May, as part of Sexuality/Pride week at Adelaide University, a memorial will be held to commemorate the death of Dr. George Duncan.

On the 10th of May, 1972, the Adelaide University Law Lecturer was grabbed and thrown into the River Torrens near the University footbridge, where he drowned. The incident quickly became highly contentious when it was discovered that three police officers were alleged to be in the vicinity at the time, and that it was a homosexual beat. The three vice squad members refused to answer questions about their involvement in the incident, and as no further evidence was presented, the men were not charged. Many men who were at the beat at the time were afraid to testify at Duncan's inquest, for fear they would be 'outed'. The Premier at the time of the inquest, Don Dunstan, was supportive and understanding towards the men, and stated that the government would protect any witnesses who were afraid to talk.

The death of Dr. Duncan caused the issue of homosexuality and attitudes towards it to be discussed extensively by the South Australian media and parliament. Much mystery surrounds the horrific incident, however there was much speculation that police officers had purposely gone down to the River Torrens to go 'poofter bashing', and that they had pushed Dr. Duncan and another man into the river because they were homosexuals. This tragic event sparked many in South Australia to actively change the position of homosexuals in the community, and in 1975

South Australia, with the help of Don Dunstan and Peter Duncan, became the first state to pass a bill to decriminalise homosexual acts.

Dr. Duncan's death highlighted the need for a recognition of gay and lesbian people in the community, not only at the level of government and legislation, but recognition and acceptance by society and people in general. Each year for many years now, Adelaide University Pride groups, as well as groups from the other two S.A universities, have marked the occasion of Duncan's death with a Pride Day or Pride Week. In 1999, the Students' Association's newly formed Sexuality Department held its first Sex Week, a week of celebration, visibility, awareness and recognition of and for Queer students at university, and this event has continued.

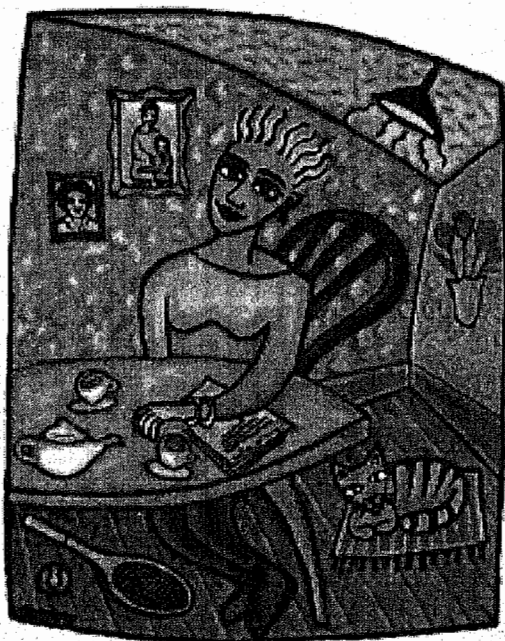
This year marks the 29th anniversary of Dr. Duncan's death, and while we recognise the achievements that have been made by Gay and Lesbian people in the last three decades, we also acknowledge that there is still a long way to go before equality and acceptance are gained.

On Thursday the 10th of May, join us in commemorating the death of George Duncan and recognising the achievements gained and those yet to be gained for Gay, Lesbian and Queer people in South Australia. The service starts at 2pm on the Barr Smith Lawns, Adelaide University, with speakers including Ian Purcell (Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service), Greg Mackie (Adelaide City Councillor) and Students' Association Sexuality Officers, followed by a walk down to the Torrens where we will place flowers into the water. For further information contact Elise or Sam on 8303 5406.

Elise Duffield

On Dit 69.10

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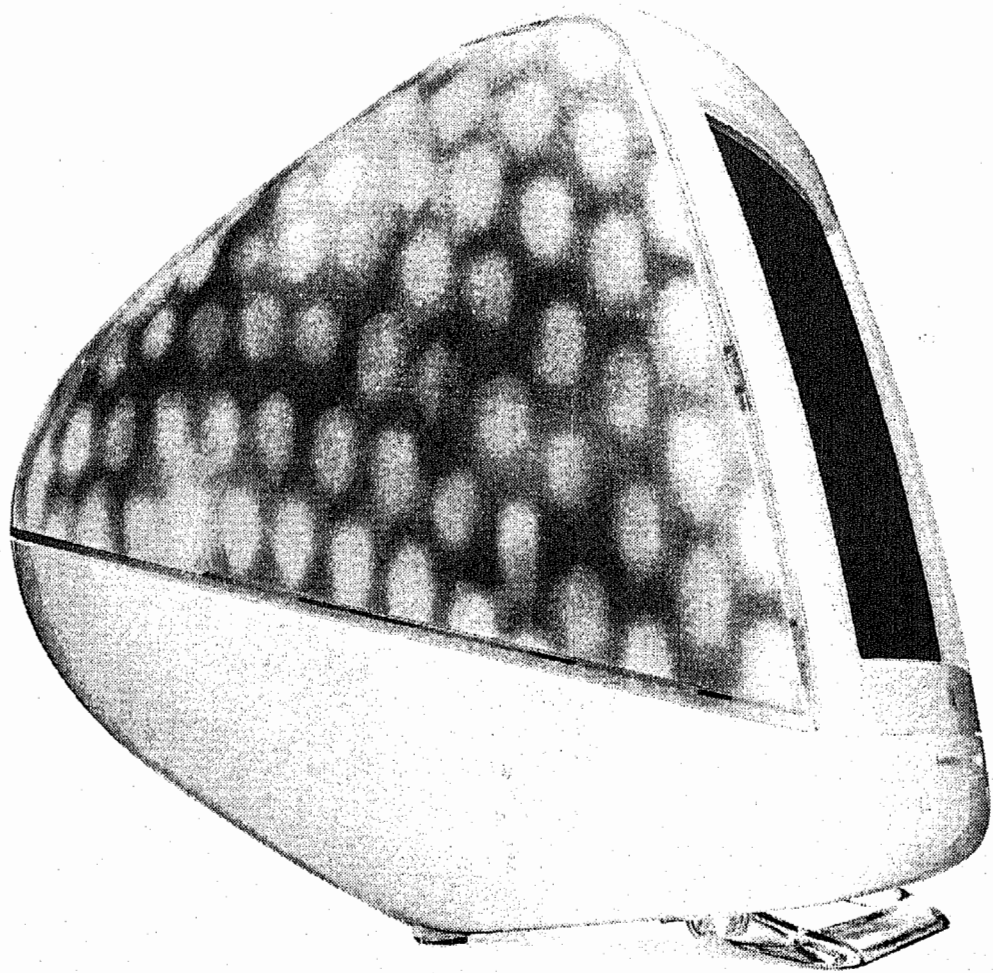
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SAUA Sexuality Department and AUPride Present...

Sexuality / Pride Week

May 7th - 11th

Monday 7th

Beer, Band: 'Nanna's Cane', BBQ, Student Radio, Fun and Frolicking

Where: Barr Smith Lawns
When: 11am - 3pm

Tuesday 8th

Services Day - BBQ, Student Radio
Where: Cloisters
When: 11pm - 3pm
Launch of the 'Coming Out' booklet, Art Show, Performers

Where: Gallery Coffee Shop
When: 6:30pm - 10pm

Wednesday 9th

Picnic with UniSA
Where: UniSA Magill Campus
When: 11:30am - 2pm

Movie: Better than Chocolate
Where: Union Cinema
When: 7pm

Thursday 10th

George Duncan Memorial
Where: Meet Barr Smith Lawns, walk to Torrens River
When: 2pm

'Pop' Dance Party
Where: Enigma, Hindley St.
When: 9pm

Friday 11th

Movie: Beautiful Thing
Where: Union Cinema
When: 12pm

Beerlines

Beer Rewards

By Tony Jones, Southwark Chief Brewer

At first glance this may sound like some new frequent drinker scheme. Not a bad idea actually, but what I really want to talk about is the 2001 Australian Beer Awards. At this moment, all over Australia and New Zealand, brewers whether they be large or small, are preparing their best brews for shipment to the Liquorland sponsored International Beer Awards.

For any local brewer, acknowledgement of a brew with a gold medal or major category trophy at these awards is akin to beer-land nirvana. The local awards have been around for many years, but only in the last ten years or so have they gained international recognition. The Australian Awards, which are held annually in Melbourne, now stand alongside the World Beer Cup (USA) and the Brewing Awards (UK) to form the world Grand Slam of beer competitions. However, only the Aussie event is annual, the others being held alternately every two years.

To Joe Consumer these awards may not mean a lot. Certainly the successful candidates are not widely acclaimed in the media, nor to date

have the beer gold medallists or champions marketed their achievements with anywhere near the enthusiasm employed by their cousins in the wine industry. To those in the know, however, to be judged a champion by a recognised and highly experienced panel of beer judges is the ultimate accolade.

For the astute beer drinker the awards also provide a more than useful guide to the higher quality offerings in the market place.

But how do these beer gurus go about selecting the perfect brew from among a field of over 500 Australian and international entries, across 43 classes?

Do you fancy yourself as a beer judge? Well let me tell you it ain't easy.

The Judges must officiate without collaboration in any one class, handing in their score sheets to the Chairperson of the Judges Panel who has the points totalled and determines the awards.

The beers are tasted in a hidden format from a glass identified only by it's unique exhibit number.

Points are awarded as follows;
Appearance (colour, carbonation/foam) Maximum 3 points

Aroma (positive characteristics, aroma faults) Maximum 5 points

Flavour (general characters, bitterness, fermentation products, flavour faults) Maximum 6 points

Technical Quality (style, balance, drinkability, absence of major faults) Maximum 6 points

Total 20 points

To achieve a Gold medal a beer must achieve 17.0 points or over.

A Silver medal requires a score of 15.5 to 16.9 points, while a Bronze is awarded to beers attaining 14.0 to 15.4 points.

A Bronze medal beer is therefore still a brew of recognised quality, exhibiting the correct balance of taste, aroma and appearance appropriate to its style and a high level of technical merit. A Gold medal beer is, fairly obviously, an outstanding product.

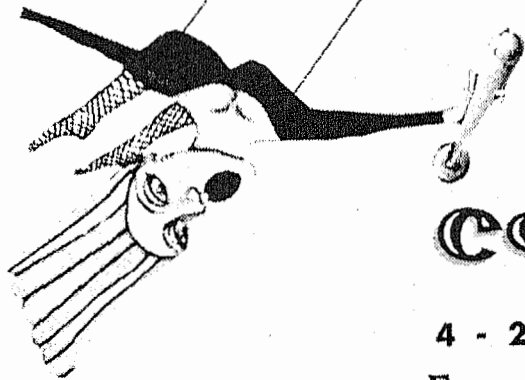
A Champion Prize is awarded to the best (outright highest point scoring) beer of the exhibition. In 2000, this prize was awarded to an international entry, Hoegaarden White (a

Belgian style Witbier). This followed on from successful overseas champions in 1997, Lion Lager (South Africa) and 1996 Carling Black Label (South African). The recent success of international beers is a reflection of the growing importance of the Australian event on the world brewing circuit, with the number of overseas entries increasing each year. However, Australian beers broke the trend in 1999 (Hahn Premium) and 1998 (Boags Premium). South Australian brewers also have an excellent track record, with Southwark Old Stout having been crowned Grand Champion in 1988 and 1991, whilst Coopers Stout topped the list in 1994. Both these stouts along with Coopers Sparkling and Southwark Premium have been consistent Gold medal winners.

What will be the Grand Champion beer when the 2001 results are announced in Melbourne on the 21st June?

That is anyone's guess, but you can be sure that the South Australian brews will be up there amongst the Gold medallists, giving it our very best shot.

Student Rush! \$5 tickets*



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DILAPIDATED DIVA

Divine Nature
11-13 May 10pm

MERRI-MAY GIL

*Merri-May! Doesn't
Everybody?*
11-13 May 6.45pm

THE STIFF GINS

8 May 8.45pm
9-10 May 6.15pm

NEIL MURRAY & SHELLIE MORRIS STORYTELLERS

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PROSH IS COMING

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details of prank idea or float/parade idea: (please delete where applicable)

should these details be kept underwraps?

yes no

please make your pranks legal. we, the students' association will not bail you out or pay for damages.

for further information please contact mark henderson, activities/campaigns vice president at the saua on 8303 5406

HELPERS ARE REQUIRED FOR PROSH01. TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST, APPLY AT THE SAUA OFFICE



SOUTHWARK

HINTS FOR THE HETEROSEXUAL WOMAN WHEN FIRST SHE MEETS A LESBIAN.

1. Do not run screaming from the room. This is rude.
2. If you must back away, do so slowly and with discretion.
3. Do not assume she is attracted to you.
4. Do not assume she is not attracted to you.
5. Do not assume you are not attracted to her.
6. Do not expect her to be as excited about meeting a heterosexual as you may be about meeting a lesbian. She was probably raised with them.
7. Do not immediately start talking about your boyfriend or husband in order to make it clear that you are straight. She probably already knows.
8. Do not tell her that it is sexist to prefer women, that people are people, and that she should be able to love everybody. Do not tell her that men are as oppressed by sexism as women, and women should help men fight their oppression. These are common fallacies and should be understood as such.
9. Do not invite her someplace where there will be men unless you tell her in advance. She may not want to be with them.
10. Do not ask her how she got this way. Instead, ask yourself how you got that way.
11. Do not assume that she is dying to talk about being a lesbian.
12. Do not expect her to refrain from talking about being a lesbian.
13. Do not trivialize her experience by assuming it is a bedroom issue only. She is a lesbian twenty-four hours a day.
14. Do not assume that because she's a lesbian she wants to be treated like a man.
15. Do not assume that her heart will leap with joy if you touch her arm (condescendingly? . . . flirtatiously? . . . power-testingly?). It makes her angry.
16. If you are tempted to tell her she's taking the easy way out, THINK ABOUT THAT.
17. OTHER: _____

.....
Cut along dotted line: add or delete items as desired; xerox; and give to all your straight women friends. Compliments of the ALFA newsletter Ad Hoc Public Relations Committee, Atlanta, Georgia.



*Eleanor, Karen and Susan
from Lesbian Connection*

64.

Blast from the Past

This week's B.F.T.P. comes to you courtesy of a 1974 Australian Union of Students Sexuality Booklet (revised in 1979).
Read it, and live by its wisdom.

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Caption Competition

The last caption competition was in Edition 8, when we asked people to come up with captions for this charming photo of Nat and Meg:

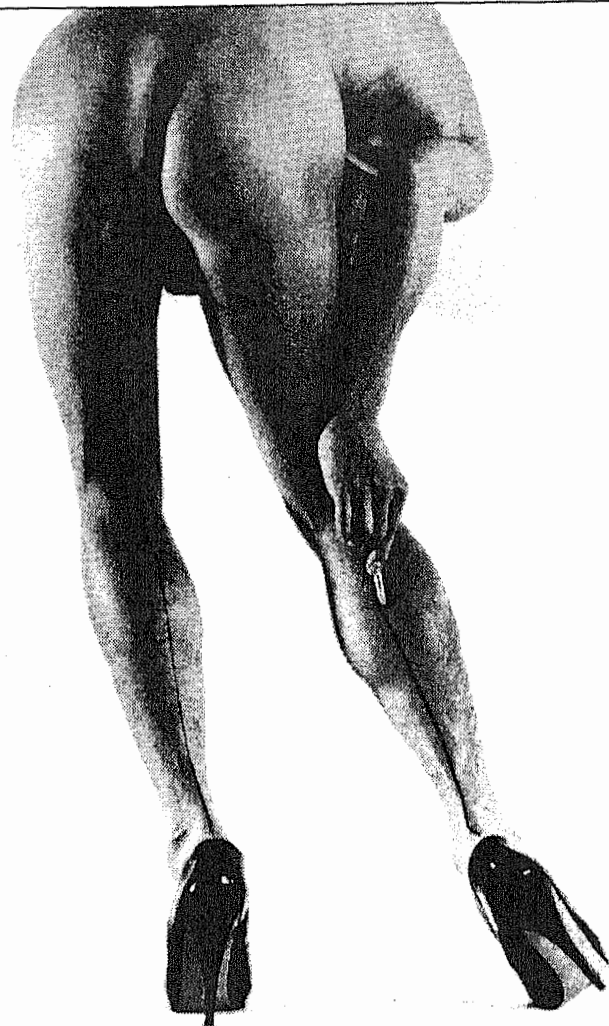
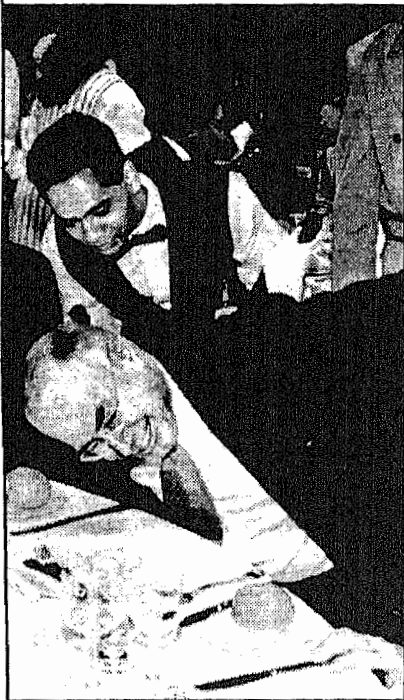


The only entry we received was from Patrick Tapping:
"Not visible in this photograph is Natasha's crushing grip on Meg's testicles."
You sick bastard.

This Week's Photo

Here we are. Apparently John was making some kind of joke about being knifed in the back, but he could just as well have been trying to break open a bread roll with his head. Whatever.

Get your captions in quick-smart and you could win a year's supply of the little blue plastic strips that hold bundles of *On Dits* together when they get delivered from the printers. Or anything else from the *On Dit* Cabinet of Mystery.



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& others

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Love Letters

Men's Day?

Dear Editors,

I would just like to say that if the men of the world want to organise an International Men's Day they can go for it.

Yours sincerely,
Anna Ryder

Go Green

In Defence of *Green Left Weekly*,

In response to Clementine Ford's article "Fill'er up - the secrets of print media" (*On Dit* two weeks ago) - *Green Left Weekly* does not contain filler. Hundreds of activists around Australia, as well as several international correspondents, contribute to this paper, which is entirely non-profit and accepts no corporate sponsorship. *Green Left Weekly* is internationally acclaimed as an informative, engaging and inspirational political paper. John Pilger is quoted as saying "*Green Left Weekly* is superb, and particularly important now with the media monopoly in Australia, which is unique in a First World country". *Green Left Weekly* supports a view that puts people before profits. It is both well written and relevant. Perhaps Clementine should actually read a copy.

Lisa Lines
Resistance

Smelly Stereotypes

Dear Eds,

I'm just writing in response to the letter, "Hippies Smell" in the last issue of *On Dit*. Obviously Nigel Gareth are themselves highly uneducated individuals. They made stereotypical assumptions about people based purely on the way that they look (kinda reminds me of racism). If I were to stereotype the authors of the letter, (which I don't really, but let's pretend for argument's sake) I would probably assume that they were disgruntled Dawson-wannabe commerce students who hate difference cos their mummy told them so and believe that an "education" is getting a business degree, starting a company and making lots of money so that they will be rich blokes who just have a distorted view on reality. I myself have dreadlocks and had a fuckin great time in Nimbin and contradictory to your unfounded generalisations am actually doing something useful for our community. And as for your whingeing about protests, why don't you get off **your** lazy arses and organ-

ise a protest about cures for cancer or hospital beds..... didn't think you would!

Patrick Duigan
1st year Medicine

Eliza-best!

Dear Eds,

I just have to give a big thumbs up to Georgia Heath's article about the huge misconception about dwellers in the northern suburbs.

Being from the north myself, I have heard a lot of disgusting comments from pathetic, stupid, ignorant snobs who have probably never even been to Elizabeth.

Plus I don't even live in that suburb, just near it and still I have heard comments like "those hillbillies from Elizabeth" and "I shouldn't be talking to you 'cause you're from Elizabeth". Where do these morons get off?

Since when does the distance in which you live from a capital city determine your worth as a human being?

I have also lived in other areas close to town and it was no different to where I live now except for the fact that when you say you live in Paradise you get treated a lot better than if you say your suburb is 'just past Elizabeth'. I love my home and the suburb in which I live. It's time for this ignorance and snobbery to end once and for all!

Thanks for listening,
Belinda Harwood.

Bugger 'em

DEAR EDS.

The name's Eddo. In my opinion, I reckon the whole country's bugged. Yep, you erd me! We all want to be America, yet we all hate the Bastards. See ow we didn't let the Japanese march in the ANZAC Day parade, because we fought agenst em. But think, which country cut off Japan's oil supply in the Second World War and forced them to join the War? The Fuckn Yanks, that's who. Then, these Seppo arseholes knew the Japanese were gonna invade Pearl Harbour lata on, but did they stop em? Na, the cunning bastards evacuated the Submarines and big ships and left the little fucka ships ta be bombed, just as an excuse ta involve 'emselves in the war. I won't even start on those big-arse Nuclear bombs that were unnecessarily dropped on major cities after the Japanese had surrendered. But we seem ta 'ave the time for 'em bastards ta let 'em march. I mean, eh, bloody ell. That's not enough though. They put this bloody tax on our fuckn Aussie lamb that's sold there an then encourage free trade. Ungrateful bas-

tards. So soft cock Howard goes over ta Clinton's place to tell im ta stop an Bill gives im a pat on the back, a "thank ya muthu for thu rabbits" an sends im on is way back ta Oz. But ya reckon it'll end there? Nah. Now I'm in thu big smoke in Adelaide an me new mates are sayn crap like "Wassup," an "Yo, bro," doin this Seppo Bullshit handshakn an shit. Strike me pink!

Strewth. Per'aps I'm the only singlet wearin', sheep shearin' bloody true blue fair dinkum Ozzy bloke left who still reckons Yanks are dopey bastards. If any you's loudmouth yanks are reading this, ya wouldn know what ard work woz if it belted ya in the arse, nothn like us Aussie battlers.

From David. Not Barry or Kev, Mick, Donk, Dodge, or Ledge. And I don't chuck shrimp on the barby an that dingo dudndt ave my baby. Christ, gotta grab a beer now, me mouth's 's dry as a dead dingos donga.

David Edson

Phone Sex

I write with regards to episode II of Lady Symon's column (*On Dit* vol. 69, ed 8, 23.4.2001) on sexual deviancy, and more specifically her mention of the infamous "Mr. X", and his rather sordid dream involving a public telephone. This being the sexuality issue of *On Dit*, I felt it the appropriate forum to reveal more information about the "alternative" sexual act that Mr X dreamt about. Whilst I will of course not reveal the identity of Mr X himself, I shall divulge the identity of second party involved. In the interests of public hygiene, I would advise all readers of *On Dit* to never use the public phone box at the northern end of King William Rd.

TB

Queer Dept?

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to express my concern for a problem that I feel to be of great importance to the students of Adelaide University. The Sexuality Department is a department that deals with issues of sexuality and promotes a safe non-homophobic environment for all students. Despite the great work that our sexuality officers are doing, their scope of assistance is limited by the ambiguity of the department's name. There is statistically an 8-11% of the population who identify as queer, and need the support and information provided by these officers, however, the term 'Sexuality Department' is not specific and consequently can act as a deterrent for a student who is trying to access such facilities.

If the department were to be re-named the Queer Department, its purpose would become less ambiguous. This action would also pave the way for a new code of rules to be considered on whom can be allowed to act as a Queer Department Officer. With the work that our sexuality officers are doing now, there is a need for them to identify as queer. My intention of this is not to discriminate, but it is more realistic to receive advice on being queer from a person who has actual knowledge of what it is like.

The Departments of Adelaide University exist so to provide a service for its students, with this in mind it becomes a logical assumption that there should be no ambiguity surrounding their purposes. Students need to be able to recognise the facilities available, and the renaming of the Sexuality Department to the Queer Department would allow just that.

No Idea

Author of letter to Eds, 1/5/01, (mysoginist guy, "Equal Opportunity Issues")

Were you being sarcastic? Your letter made me feel as if I'd just had an enema involuntarily shoved up me. I was all shaky and ill and most of all angry. I do not think we live in an "age of equality". To cite an obvious example: the differences in pay between men and women in equivalent jobs (women earn approximately 83% of the average earnings of Australian men). You men still hold the majority of power in the world. Why should an International Women's Day exist at all? Because we're still angry, and, as incredulous as you might be, men and women are not equal. And for fuck's sake, if men wanted their own day, why don't they have one? It's not as if IWD is government-funded.

It's a drag this whole business, but man, are you going to explain to your daughter why, just because she's a girl, she already has a 1 in 4 chance of being raped?

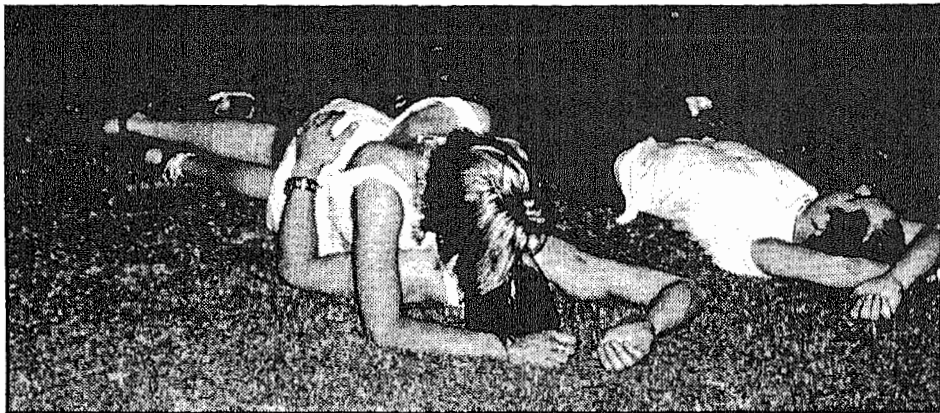
I'm glad you wrote in and displayed your ignorance to everyone: it proves to me that there is still an actual visible group of people who are opposed to feminism, and that I'm not just fighting an invisible force of oppression. You're a delusive fool if you think the "days of women being discriminated against in Australia are long gone".

You said you were fully prepared for violence, well I think you're mistaking women for men - women are the recipients of violence, not the instigators. In fact, almost 50% of wives are battered or abused by their spouses in their lifetimes. (Faludi, '92).

Jessie MacGillivray,
1st year Computer Science
 PS no name = gutless.

Sex on the Lawns

By Lady Symon



Episode 4: Perchance to Dream

I was sitting down to lunch the other day with Mr X's friend, Mr Y, when, over cocktails and caviar, he told me about his high school French teacher. Apparently this particular young lady had one eye pointing down whilst the other, a glass eye, pointed up beneath the folds of her carefully positioned beret. She didn't sound entirely sexually appealing, but I was assured that her demeanour was nothing less than exquisite. The story goes that one night Mr Y had an intensely sexually pleasing dream where his French teacher removed her glass eye, thereby enabling him to have sex with her eye socket.

Uh huh, it's true, just as Mr X gave new meaning to the term 'phone sex', Mr Y managed to tap into the underestimated allure of copulating with eye sockets. Such thoughts and desires seem straight out of the tales of the Marquis de Sade who wrote that 'If it is the dirty element that gives pleasure to the act of lust, then the dirtier it is, the more pleasurable it is bound to be.' In the realm of dreams the untapped part of our brain releases images of such, well, gratuitous perversity that we can never quite look at our French teacher in the same way. Or at glass eyes for that matter.

Nevertheless, if you're a proud member of the "I have a libido" club then you can probably admit to having a few bizarre dreams of your own. You might wake up in the middle of the night with the sheets tangled about your sweaty, heat flushed body, and sense an insistent throbbing between your legs that seems somewhat inappropriate considering the bile upon your pillow. The next morning you have trouble looking at your mother for fear her all seeing eyes discover your secret perversion for bestiality, and you hope like hell that she doesn't notice you shying away from the family dog.

Repress it or admit it, do as you please, the real question is what do these dreams mean? Are we simply releasing our repressed frustrations from toilet training? Or do we truly want to tie up our psychology lecturer and smother him in body paint?

Let's take an example. Sheikh Nefzaoui wrote that 'The man who dreams that his member has been cut off is certain not to live long after that dream, for it presages the loss of his memory and the extinction of his race'. Sweet idea, but I think the only thing the Sheikh got right in this interpretation was the location of a man's brain and hence his memory. If you're a young boy fresh into the emasculating confines of Adelaide University, such a dream is entirely understandable. It was probably just the result of another feisty girl calling you a chicken-legged little college boy that resulted in mental castration. Put it behind you and be thankful that you're not an Iroquois. To avoid sickness of the body and mind they developed a system of allowing people to act out their dreams (this includes having sex with another person's spouse, however, I think they might be a bit tighter with their pigs). The next time the boys got together in the smokehouse to discuss their night's adventures, you could have found your member on the grinding stone. Nasty.

Rather than castration you're more likely to encounter snakes in your dream - the only truly obvious phallic symbol. Apparently the position of a snake can determine from whom your sexuality stems. If the snake is in a tree, your sexuality stems from your father, in water - your mother, in a garden - your friend, or in a house - yourself. If your snake doesn't appear in any of these habitats then you should perhaps consider spending less time with your grandparents.

In sum, my advice is pretty clear and simple. Rather than interpret your dream, just enjoy it, because chances are you're not an Iroquois and you won't ever get the chance to perform such deeds in real life. Your erotic dream possibly won't be Penthouse material, but you might as well go with it. The truth of the matter is that if it achieves the desired result, who are you to complain?

(Note: Names have been changed)

i act str8

I had planned on writing an article about being gay in a small country town. I also wanted to write about fears of coming out and how people come to the realisation that they may be gay. I couldn't decide how to present this or even how to go about putting it together.

I was in a gay chat room and was discussing the article with a friend of mine called (for the sake of this article) Steve. After we chatted for a while I realised the value in the content of our discussion. He gave me permission to copy the exact text of our chat and use it in an article. It may seem a bit grammatically poor which is natural in a chat room where you're trying to type fast and save time to keep the conversation rolling.

<Steve>it's not only about coming out
<George>what else?

<Steve>it's also about weather i want
2 b gay or not

<George>What do you mean by that?

<Steve>well u c i'm not actually gay

<George>Are you bi?

<Steve>ive done hardly anything with
a guy

<George>So do you think you're
straight or bi?

<Steve>well it has it's moments

<Steve>when i'm on the net i think
i'm gay and check out all the gay
sites i even get some free pics of
guys sent 2 my email

<George>What about when you're not
on the net?

<Steve>well that's where it's wierd

<Steve>i usually look at both genders

<Steve>butt i think i'm more gay than
str8

<Steve>i might b bi not really sure

<George>Do you feel more attracted
to one than another?

<Steve>hope this is making some
sense

<Steve>well that all depends on the
person

<George>sure it is. I went through
total confusion when I was trying
to figure out if I was gay or not

<Steve>i feel more attracted 2 a
blonde chick than i do 2 a fat slob
of a guy

<George>common, you've got to compare
apples with apples.....do you
feel more attracted to a blonde guy
who's reasonably attractive compared
to a blonde woman who's equally
attractive?

<Steve>mmm tough ?

<Steve>the guy i'd say

<Steve>so i guess i'm gay ah

<George>I don't know, that's really up
to you. YOU may find the guy
MORE attractive but you can still
find the woman attractive.

<Steve>true

<George>Does anyone know you feel
attracted to men?

<Steve>noway mate i wouldn,t have
the guts 2 tell anyone

<Steve>except 4 the guys in here

<George>why?

<Steve>well just scared the family
will find out

<Steve>and if they did they would
hate me and wouldn't want 2
knowme

<George>Do you think that maybe
you're just being paranoid or is it
really that bad?

<Steve>if i went away and didn't tell
them about everything would b ok
i think

<George>You mean, when you move
out, you might tell them then?

<Steve>no i don't think i would

<Steve>butt they'll probably find out
anyway

<George>How?

<Steve>i don't know it's a small world

<Steve>and parents usually do don't
they

<Steve>i was talking 2 a guy in here
who's parents have just found out
about him and his bf

<George>often they do, I don't know
if I'd say usually. A lot of my gay
and out friends never have and
never will tell their parents and
their parents have no idea.

<George>What did the guy say?

<Steve>well his mum was angry and
really upset and then he blasted
her because she said where did i
go wrong

<Steve>which really hit the nerve

<Steve>i mean imagine your parents
saying where did i go wrong

<Steve>as if there's something wrong
with u

<George>A lot do. They just don't re-
alise that it's ok to be gay. A lot
come around and eventually real-
ise there's nothing wrong with it.
They just need time like you
needed time when you first
thought you may be gay

<Steve>and hearing that has scared
the hell out of me

<George>It would be a lot more diffi-
cult for you living in a small coun-
try town?

<Steve>yeah true

<Steve>it's smaller and news travels
quicker

<Steve>u have 2 b more careful in
how u act

<George>do you mean so that no one
figures out that you like guys or
just how you act in general?

<Steve>such as at footy u can't stare
at a guy when he's in the shower 2
long b4 someone c that your
perving on him and u can't check
out a guy 4 2 long at a pub or club
b4 some1 relises that your staring
at him and that will travel very
quickly around town

<Steve>i act str8

<George>how old are you?

<Steve>20

<George>Do you plan on living in
your home town much longer?

<Steve>mm i don't think so

<Steve>i think i really need 2 get out
of the riverland if u know what i
mean

<George>Yeah, I now what you mean.
Thanks Steve, you've really
helped. I better get writing now.
This articles due tomorrow.

George Valiotis

Stanley George

'And the weak shall be made mighty'.

Somewhere in the Bible

Continued from last week

Two menthol lights and three good belts of gin later, I was loose enough to put such ugliness behind me. Cassandra Evans, however, seemed far too interesting a character to miss. Was she behind the pamphlet campaign? The address – Flat One, New Street – seemed clumsily made-up, which led me to believe that the pamphlets were instead some kind of juvenile hoax designed to embarrass an ex-girlfriend. Regardless, I decided to seek out this Cassandra, if only to warn her that some lunatic was distributing defamatory pamphlets about her.

I loaded my tape recorder and headed for the only block of flats on New Street. The place was three or four stories high, and had a well looked-after lawn with manicured conifers and a bluestone path. It seemed hardly the kind of place where a man could get a "cheap head job." As I made my way towards the door to the first flat, I noticed a well-built woman dressed in what appeared to be some kind of tailored mumu. She had bleach-blond hair and a matching pair of boat shoes. This woman seemed to be watching me, but only as much as I was surreptitiously watching her. I knocked on the door.

"That's a maintenance closet, sunshine," the woman chortled.

"Right – thanks."

"Come for a head job have we?"

"Holy shit no – I just wanted to –"

"Wanted to what? Buy me flowers?"

Things were no longer cool. Here I was spending Christmas with my ultra-conservative parents, accosting a cheap hooker in broad daylight! I had to think fast.

"Look, Ms Evans, I don't want anything. I'm just a reporter for a student paper in SA. I'll pay you for your time,

if that's –"

"I'm not a fucking hooker, if that's what you're thinking."

"Sweet Jesus, I thought, *she isn't Cassandra Evans*. 'Are you Cassandra Evans?' I asked, showing her one of the crumpled pamphlets. "The Cassandra Evans on this note?" She snatched the note without looking at it. She was Cassandra Evans all right – there was a distinct Cassandra-ness to the way she stuffed the note down the front of her mumu.

"Sure I'm Cassandra Evans – but you still aren't getting a blowjob." She grinned. Things were lightening up a shade and I was grateful. I'm not sure if I could have handled another embarrassing argument about fellatio.

"Hey, that's fine by me. I'm just curious about the note. Would you mind if I asked you a few questions about it? I mean, you don't have to if you don't want to." Her face lightened, and so did mine. We were finally beginning to understand each other – she wasn't a hooker and I wasn't a guy after a fifty-cent head job.

"South Australia eh? I went there once with my ex. It's a shit hole, if you ask me." She began opening the door opposite the maintenance closet. Inside, I noticed a ceiling fan and the quiet hum of an evaporative air-conditioner. She motioned indoors. "Would you like a drink, son?"

"Hell yes – got any whisky?" And so it transpired that I was invited into the bizarre and twisted world of Cassandra Evans, who lives at the end of my parents' street and looks more than respectable in a mumu.

After she had politely offered me a seat on her couch, Cassandra began to explain to me the mystery of the handwritten pamphlets. As it turned out she was neither a cheap hooker nor the victim of a tasteless hoax. She had written the pamphlets all right,



After this interview, Stan and Cassandra danced the night away

but there was no way she was sucking cocks for fifty cents a pop.

"That would be revolting! I mean, can you imagine how much slimy cock I would have to deal with? It would be inhuman!" She handed me a short glass of whisky, plenty of ice. "No – I was just interested in who was going to show up. You'd be surprised at how many respectable residents of New Street are willing to pay fifty cents to have their cocks sucked by a stranger."

"But you don't actually touch them?"

"Fuck no! I'm in it for the laughs. These poor geezers show up looking for kicks and I send them away embarrassed and limp. It's hilarious!"

Hilarious? Perhaps. Manipulative? Definitely. Worthy of my respect? You bet your goddamn arse it was. I sipped my drink and listened to Cassandra gush about the feeling of power that the dirty pamphlet campaign had given her. This was harmless entrapment so simple and yet so obviously empowering that it gave Cassandra the hypothetical wood over every sick fuck on the street – sick fucks who would otherwise have looked down on the superintendent's wilting squeeze.

Here was a dubious spinster who could walk proudly past a rod-arsed and balding godbotherer without fear of scorn. Now every dirty old man on New Street knows not to fuck with Cassandra Evans, lest she explain to Henry's Misses the real reason why

he had left their copy of the Karma Sutra open at the page with all the nobs on it.

Right there, on that ratty old couch, I fell hopelessly in love with Cassandra Evans. To this day I have loved her like a dark saint, and whenever I think about her I find it hard not to mewl like a smitten schoolboy. She's a suburban angel of poetic justice. A can-do champion of quiet revenge. A ruthless politician, gleefully embarrassing her supposed social betters. Man, I wanted to marry her. I wanted to have her babies and kiss her on the lips.

But much more than all that, I found in Cassandra the kind of greatness that transcends gender and class. It was the kind of greatness that can turn a shy Hindu lawyer into a Mahatma, or a washed-up housewife into a larrikin and a pure soul.

I spent almost an hour on that couch, listening to Cassandra talk about her life and what it could have been and how she didn't really give a fuck anyway. Finally, as I took my leave, she shook my hand and gave me permission to use her real name.

A storm was brewing over the lake as I walked back up New Street. When I arrived at my parents' house I heard my mother cackling as she tried to explain fellatio to my old man. I found a second bottle of gin in the towel cupboard.

"I know I'm not a man...and I've come to the conclusion that I'm probably not a woman either. The trouble is, we're living in a world that insists we be one or the other."

Kate Bornstein

"I guess I'm bisexual. Or maybe when I quit smoking I just needed something to put in my mouth."

Stephanie Smith

"Whoever expects acceptance doesn't want to be known"

Michael Klein

"It may be an academically interesting puzzle as to why we are gay...but it is much more interesting and important to find out why people are homophobic"

Peter Nardi

"...gay people are smarter. If you weren't smart you wouldn't figure out what it was. You'd probably grow up, get married, and just think that you liked your buddies a lot and your wife was a lousy lay."

Eric Townes

Advantages and Disadvantages of Celibacy

Adapted from The Celibate FAQ version 1.7
<http://mail.bris.ac.uk/~plmlp/celibate.html>

Advantages

- A whole load of worries are taken off your mind. Contraception, venereal disease, who sleeps on the wet patch, impotence, frigidity, whether to swallow, sexual fidelity, how to stop the bed from creaking, shave or not shave, wash or not wash, orgasm faking or which flavour of condom to choose.
- The enormous amount of time and effort that other people expend in order to get laid is freed up for other things. No more hanging around in sweaty nightclubs. No more searching through 'lifestyle magazine' articles for the latest and cleverest way to pick someone up. No more garrotting your body with tight underwear. No more worry about whether you are adequately filling out your bra/shorts. No longer will you go to a dull party just because there's someone there that you fancy.
- People you talk to will know that you're not interested in them for their body.
- If you don't have sex, you can't have any Sexual Disasters. None of those embarrassing moments like when you just can't undo her bra, or when you can't get out of your bondage gear, or when you realise that your partner is in fact amazingly ugly, or when you smear them all over with peanut butter and then remember that you don't like peanut butter, or when you wake up the next morning and you've forgotten their name, or their gender.
- You will save money. How much money you save depends on how you were getting your sex in the first place.
- Nobody will be able to blackmail you with photographs of you in flagrante delicto. James Bond would be more effective if he were celibate, because then attractive enemy agents would not be able to seduce and capture him.
- You have a reserve of energy that you can expend on other things. Life will come into a more sensible perspective when it isn't dominated by the search for a mate.
- Celibacy significantly decreases your chances of becoming pregnant. That is, unless you're a man.
- If you spontaneously combust, you don't take anyone with you.

Disadvantages

- You don't get any sex.

"No Sex Please, I'm Celibate"

Celibacy as an alternative lifestyle choice

In conversations about sex there is sometimes a word that everyone is reluctant to use ... the C-word. No, not c***** or even c*** but "celibacy". The very notion conjures up images of frigid old spinsters, sexually repressed nuns or lecherous priests preying on innocent altar boys. (Or perhaps that just says something about the engineering students I surveyed who walked past my computer in the CAT Suite? Moving right along...)

Let me first define the word celibacy as used in this article (I promise not to turn this into a year 11 social studies essay) as the voluntary choice to refrain from sexual activity, whether for a temporary period or permanently.

I did a search on the Internet (from whence all last minute research data flow) and I was surprised to find so many comments and writings from people who openly described themselves as celibates. And I don't mean Catholic priests and nuns, either. So without further ado, I present for your edification some reasons for being celibate, or, "Why the expletive deleted would anyone give up sex?"

Believe it or not, there are some people out there whose hormones just didn't turn on. Why have sex when you have no sex drive? In a survey of women in the UK in 1999, nearly 20% claimed to be not interested in sex. A large survey conducted in 1992 showed that 15% of men aged 18-59 and 30% of women have a low sex drive (from <http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v281n6/full/joc80785.html>). These celibates are just not interested.

Pursuing a sexual relationship takes time, effort and energy. Some people find that being celibate frees them to focus more on things like their work, creativity, study, spirituality or

family and friends. These celibates just don't have time.

A period of celibacy can be useful when recovering from a bad sexual experience or relationship. It gives one the emotional space to recover and is far more beneficial than immediately entering into another "rebound" relationship. As my friend Mahalalel (not his real name) attests, "it's better to have no sex than to jump into meaningless sex." These celibates are wary of being hurt again.

Many celibates report that their relationships with persons of the opposite sex (or the same sex, as the case may be) are greatly improved and enriched because there is no longer a sexual undertone. A celibate is free to relate to other people as persons, not sexual objects or potential bedmates. "People you talk to will know that you're not interested in them for their body."

There are other reasons for people to choose celibacy, not least of all spiritual and religious reasons. Treatment of this however would require a separate article in itself (and also an awful lot more research than I've done for this). Next Sex Week, perhaps.

So, if after reading all this you are still convinced that celibacy is not for you, that's fine! Celibacy is not for everyone, but then neither is marriage or indeed any specific type of sexual relationship.

I protest against the social norm which suggests that I am not a complete person unless I have sex, that I cannot be happy and fulfilled unless I am partnered, that I won't be a "real woman" until I'm married with kids. If I don't want to have sex, that doesn't make me a freak. *I'm not frigid or a repressed homosexual if I choose not to be in a sexual relationship.*

I hope in this article I have contributed to promoting the awareness

and tolerance of celibacy as a valid sexual lifestyle choice. This quote from a paper entitled "Why I practise premarital chastity" by Vernon Kleinig reflects my feelings on this topic: "...I am arguing for greater freedom of choice against a monolithic conforming totalitarianism which pressures people into doing something their heart is not really in, by calling their normality into question if they do not indulge in premarital or extramarital coitus."

H. Cecilia Tudo



These celibates find a substitute for their oral fixations

"Gee, you don't look very gay today"

What exactly am I supposed to feel when I hear this sort of thing? What's more, it came from what I would consider to be a friend, and someone who for all intents and purposes would consider themselves open-minded.

To 'come out' or identify as gay in our society seems just one more step towards categorisation. Personally what I expected to be a very liberating experience has often turned out to be another way to limit me. Although many of my friends who identify as straight have been unbelievably supportive, there seems a fear amongst some of them for me to blur the boundaries. It's not so much that being gay isn't OK, it's just that things become uncomfortable when I step out of acceptable modes of behaviour – or gay stereotypes for want of a better term. I doubt my friends would consider this to be offensive: after all if I've chosen to come out then why not happily identify with this gay model? But the truth is it's both limiting and patronising.

To affirm that I may not "look very gay today" is to create a limited window of identity for who you can viably be as a gay person. Who exactly gets to create this range of identity? Apparently not gay people themselves. I suppose the problem lies in (here we go with Foucault I can hear everyone sigh) the need to dichotomise, to create gay as something very different from the heterosexual norm. Apparently in my haste to get dressed in the morning I had inadvertently chosen my non-gay clothes and therefore stepped dangerously close to the boundaries between gay and straight. Obviously she found this a little too scary. Whenever I try to broach the subject of a sexual reconsideration, a curiosity perhaps towards potential bisexuality for example, friends often aren't very receptive. They've categorised me and aren't willing to take the time to reconsider it.

What I would much prefer is to be able to create my own identity without having to conform to socially acceptable stereotypes and patterns. I suppose this would be both destabilising and 'subversive' in our current society, with its vehement insistence that we be one or the other. I'd like the freedom to choose who I want to be. That's why the umbrella term queer is so appealing, because it allows much more freedom of choice.

Elijah

Queer? What's that, dear?

Some people just don't know that queer can mean homosexual, bisexual, transgender, lesbian, gay, kinky, and it's not just grandma who hasn't heard of the queer revolution.

The Queer Collective is not a club for crazy people who like to do wacky things.

In the past queer has been in the same basket as faggot, poofter, butch and pansy for general, handy, homosexual degrading words. But now it seems that if you called certain homosexuals a bloody queer they would laugh at you, thinking to themselves 'Yeah, I'm a queer!?!'.

Why do people embrace the term 'queer'?

- It's an excellent umbrella term and is inclusive of an infinite amount of sexualities discovered and undiscovered.

- This enables a certain amount of sister/brotherhood and helps the community identifying as queer to unite under one name for one cause.

- It rolls off the tongue nicely.

- Some people enjoy the fact that it's reclaiming a negative derogatory term and throwing it back in the face of the conservative society that created the term.

Why don't people embrace the term 'queer'?

- Some people do not identify with other non-heterosexualities and pre-

fer to be known specifically as bisexual or lesbian or gay etc.

- Many people don't actually understand what the word queer means.

- Some find it derogatory.

- Some find it too political a word to be associated with.

Identifying specifically as lesbian or gay is particularly relevant for people who fought during the seventies; this was highlighted by Michael Bronski when he said, "After Stonewall we were fighting for the right to behave homosexually, to commit homosexual acts. Now the goal has shifted; we are arguing for the right to identify as homosexuals". Identifying as gay has been interpreted as saying 'I AM gay' whereas identifying as queer could be saying 'I AM NOT straight'.

Many heterosexuals who have never questioned their sexuality often understand the term queer to have two meanings - one is that it is interchangeable with the terms gay or lesbian; the other is that it means anything unusual or bizarre. It was through the 'anything unusual or bizarre' definition that the activist movement reclaimed the word which was once used to label homosexual behaviour as abnormal "those gays

are queer!"

Given that now the word has been reclaimed, unlike the many heterosexuals, many queer identifying people do not find the term interchangeable with gay or lesbian. There was a trend that some people (male and female) initially fought to identify as homosexual but then found the term not to be political enough and chose gay as a statement.

As the lesbian and gay movements merged with other sexuality originated movements, the term queer became all encompassing and more political. Some embraced this term while others still preferred homosexual or gay while others found the labelling debate too exhaustive and chose to take no label.

Rachel and George



Weird Sex-Laws from America...

It's against the law in Willowdale, Oregon, for a husband to curse during sex.

In Carlsbad, New Mexico, it's legal for couples to have sex in a parked vehicle during their lunch break from work as long as the car or van has drawn curtains to stop strangers from peeking in.


A law in Helena, Montana, mandates that a woman can't dance on a table in a saloon or bar unless she has on at least three pounds, two ounces of clothing.

Warn your hubby that after lovemaking in Ames, Iowa, he isn't allowed to take more than three gulps of beer while lying in bed with you - or holding you in his arms.

Women aren't allowed to wear patent leather shoes in Cleveland, Ohio - a man might see the reflection of something "he oughtn't".

No man is allowed to make love to his wife with the smell of garlic, onions or sardines on his breath in Alexandria, Minnesota. If his wife so requests, law mandates that he must brush his teeth.

Thanks to Magnus Taurus, Edition 4, 1998



77.2% of Adelaide University Students are light drinkers

(drink between 0-5 drinks per week)

Student Care

*Based on the findings of the 1999 CORE Survey

Darling House Community Library...

...is run by the AIDS Council and they have what is probably the biggest range of gay/lesbian material (books, magazines, journals etc) in the State.

Membership is free.
call 83623106

Queer Action and Adventure

with George and Rachel

Are you lost for queer things to do? Don't feel that gay clubs and pubs are satisfying your queer social thirst? Aside from bringing you fun things to do we also recognise the need for maintaining queer people's rights. This does not mean becoming a political fanatic but taking simple peaceful actions that make a difference.

Adventure

This bit is so easy this week. Just turn to page 12 where you will find the Sex Week itinerary and you will see a list of events. Try to go to all of them - you can rest assured that they will all be terrific. We'll make only two mentions because the column's already a bit longer this week.

The Coming Out booklet is being launched on Tuesday the 8th at 7pm in the Gallery. This is also the venue of the Queer Art show which may include nudity so be excited/warned?! There will also be performances as part of the evening, including the amazing Luke Ashby, with his sexy voice and guitar to entertain you.

The Pride Dance Party is on Thursday May 10th, 9:00pm at Enigma Bar on Hindley Street. The theme is 'Pop', not so much because of the music but more because of the hundreds of metres (literally) of orange bubble wrap that we stole in broad daylight one sunny Sunday.

Action

This week is Sex Week and this entire edition of *On Dit* is devoted to sexuality issues. We're writing this column without knowing what's going to be in this edition but we trust there will be some thought-provoking articles. This week, make sure you read them all and then get your parents or friends or someone that normally wouldn't access such information to read them.

With the launch of the coming out booklet, if you're queer you will no doubt find it a fascinating read and will identify greatly with it. If you're straight, read it to understand some of the pressures that we go through and learn to be tolerant of the issues that the authors have raised.

VOX

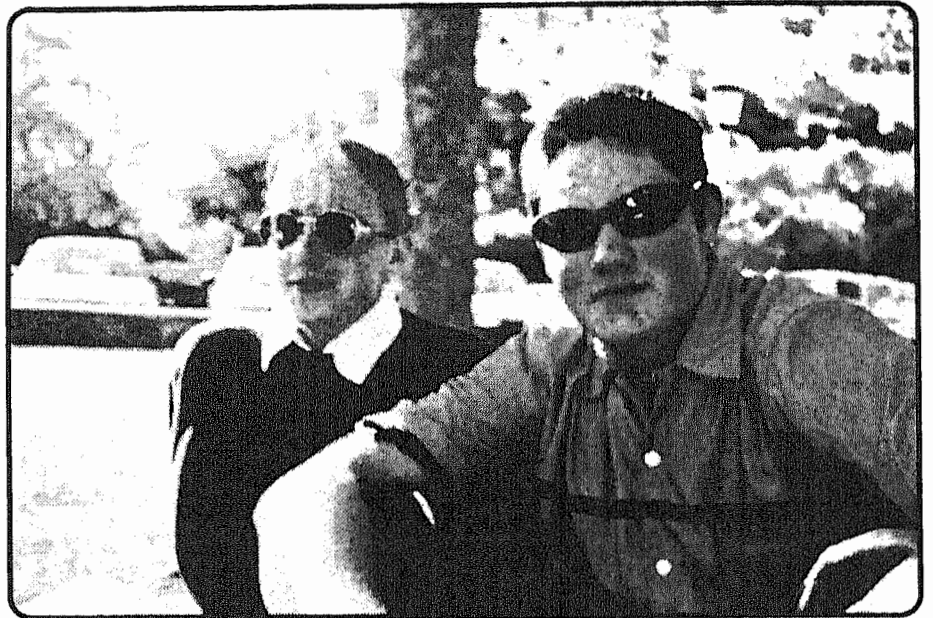
Questions:

1. What do you find sexy?
2. If you could have sex with any inanimate object what would it be?
3. What part of the human body turns you off?

Renee & Mark

Sexy is a tall Coke machine without cold sores

1. R: Tall and toned guys.
M: Lips free of cold sores.
2. R: Lollipop.
M: Coke machine.
3. R: An overactive voice box.
M: Chicks with hairy arms.



Chaea

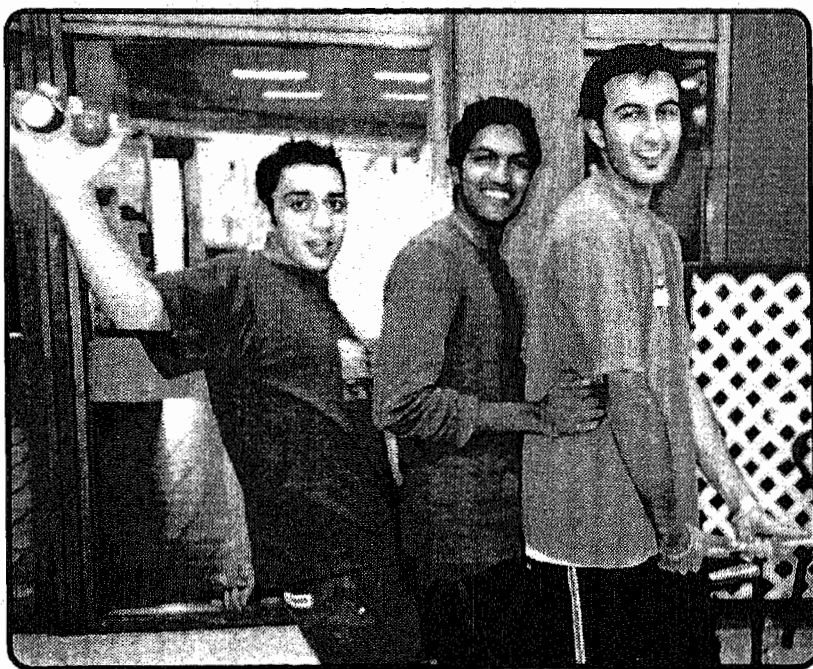
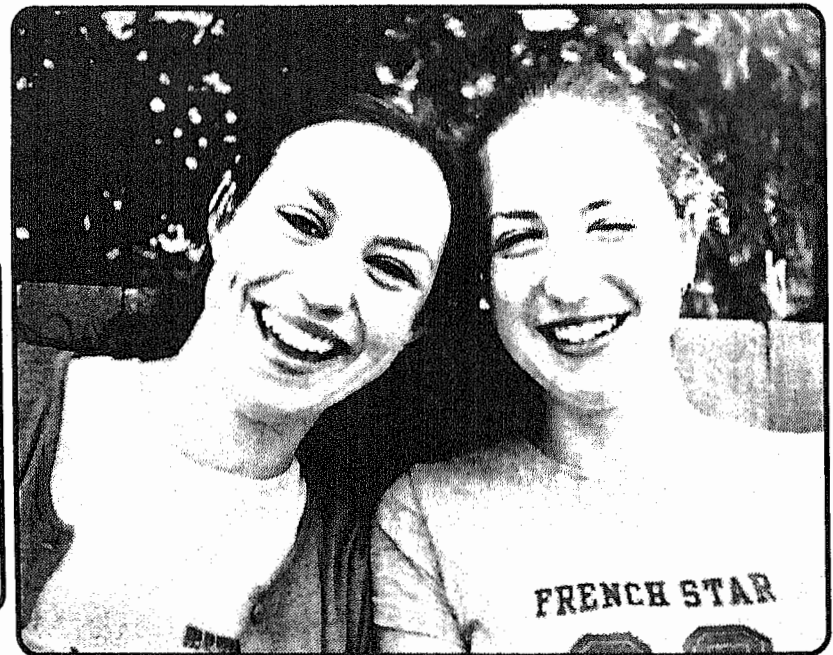
Sexy is no comment

1. Lips.
2. No comment.
3. Feet.

Holly & Lisa

Sexy is a bottle of smiling perfume

1. H: Perfume.
L: Smiles.
2. H: My teddy bear.
L: My bike.
3. H: Bad feet.
L: Body odour.



Louie, Craig David, & Remix

Sexy is the chick from Tom Cats hitting a cover drive

1. L: The chick from the *Tom Cats* commercial
CD: A beautiful cover drive (*he then indicates fluid motion of a cover drive*).
R: Cue sticks.
2. L: Desk.
CD: Coke bottle.
R: Socks.
3. L: Hairy chicks.
CD: Cellulite.
R: The female moustache.

BREWED WITH WHEAT.
NOTHING TASTES QUITE LIKE A WHITE.



Special Liftout

**Information
Technology at
Adelaide
University
Survey**

Information Technology at Adelaide University

Why have a Survey?

Information Technology is assuming a larger level of importance within the higher education sector. With this increasing level of importance being placed on IT skills and programs, there needs to be a corresponding increase in the level of research, infrastructure and assistance given to students who are utilising these facilities.

Traditionally, IT skills have been thought of as a bonus skill to have while studying at University. Now, however, it has reached the point where skills in word processing and internet searching have become an unstated prerequisite for most subjects. This increasing demand by universities on IT skills is reflected in the increases in funding and resources to IT based departments within the University. Adelaide University has ITS or the Information Technology Service, whose job it is to facilitate and assist in the development of online teaching resources and support services to both students and staff within the University.

ITS has asked the Students' Association to assist them with the formulation of the new University web site, with particular reference to what information and what type of delivery for that information should be included in the University's web site. ITS have recognised the need to have direct student input into the

IT facilities on campus. They have agreed to tailor the web site structure in response to the requests of the students, through the Students' Association. ITS has also asked for the SAUA's input into the different modes of on-line learning that are available.

This provides both the SAUA and, more importantly, all students with an input into what they want out of their IT services within the University. The opportunity exists for the students of Adelaide University to direct a critically important aspect of the University and to have control over one of the most important changes to the delivery of education at Adelaide University.

What is PLATO?

One of the main purposes of the survey on the opposite page is to guide the implementation of the online learning program that the University is implementing.

PLATO stands for Providing Learning And Teaching Online and is the major task of the Information Technology Service (ITS) for 2001. The ITS web site describes PLATO as "... an initiative to implement the first centrally supported IT infrastructure and support environment for full online course development and delivery at Adelaide University".

For those of us not graced with an in depth knowledge of IT jargon,

what this is saying is that PLATO is to supersede the current Adelaide University web project and to provide a complete and comprehensive coverage of all IT aspects of the University under the one umbrella.

PLATO stems from a strategic initiative of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Education to streamline and reduce duplication of effort and services throughout the University. The idea at least is to then take these pooled resources and the resources saved from the rationalisation of the current IT system and to pour these into the integrated PLATO system which has links with the University's much touted PeopleSoft system. Whether the nett benefit will outweigh the implementation cost is yet to be seen.

The main area of concern and interest for students will be the PLATO system which contains within it two umbrella programs that will theoretically handle all aspects of a student's online education. These are MyUni and Blackboard.

MyUni is, in the language of ITS, a "portal". This portal is essentially a homepage that will be generated for all students at Adelaide University which is unique to them. MyUni will provide a list of all of the courses a student is enrolled in, provide other web based tools and links to information that will assist students in choosing subjects and amending their enrolment.

Blackboard is: "...a

course management and content creation tool that allows lecturers and tutors to create and deliver courses on the WWW."

The worrying thing about this is the apparent push for less face-to-face interaction between students and lecturers. What this survey has the opportunity to achieve is to give an indication as to the level of IT teaching that students feel is appropriate for them. I would encourage all students who have an interest in the quality of their education to fill this survey in.

For further information about PLATO or any aspect of online learning at Adelaide University, please either contact me or visit the ITS web site at <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ITS>

SURVEY FORMS CAN BE RETURNED TO THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR OF THE GEORGE MURRAY BUILDING, CLOISTERS, DROPPED INTO THE *ON DIT* OFFICES, OR INTO ANY OF THE COLLECTION BOXES LOCATED IN THE MAYO AND WILLS REFACTORY, OR IN THE COMPUTER LABS IN ENGINEERING NORTH, ENGINEERING MATHS BUILDING OR COMPUTER SCIENCE SUITES.

OR LOOK FOR MYSELF AND OTHER OFFICE BEARERS WANDERING AROUND DURING THE WEEK WITH SURVEYS.

Tom Radzevicius

Information Technology at Adelaide University Survey

PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY:

The SAUA is preparing a submission to the University's Information Technology Service (ITS) assist in the setting of a direction for the University's online learning program. ITS have approached the Students' Association with a request for guidance and direction with regards to what students want out of their online and computing systems at Adelaide University. As a result the SAUA is performing this survey to ascertain the most important issues surrounding information technology so as to better direct the University's online teaching program. Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey and for contributing to the improvement of computing resources at your university.

This is a completely anonymous survey.

COURSE OF STUDY: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____

YEAR OF STUDY: _____

GENDER: _____

What do you think of the overall quality of Information Technology services available at Adelaide University (number of computer suites, access, support given etc)?
[1=Very poor and 10=Excellent. Please circle]

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Are computing skills a necessary and expected prerequisite in courses that you study (ie skills with word processing, excel, other programming skills)?

All courses Some Courses No courses

Overall how would you rate your computer skills?
[1=Very Poor and 10=Excellent. Please circle]

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Does your faculty/department/school offer any form of remedial computer skills training?

Yes No

If so what?

What level of difficulties do you experience in accessing computer facilities at Adelaide University?

No Difficulty Some Difficulty Extreme Difficulty

Is the level of computing infrastructure adequate to the needs of your course in terms of appropriate software and upgrades and hardware to execute your work?

Not adequate Adequate More than Adequate

How relevant is the software installed in your departmental computer to your research use?

Irrelevant Don't know Relevant

Would you support the introduction of staff accounts for postgraduate and honors students to cope with the massive amounts of information required?

Yes No Don't Know

Do you have to pay for your printing needs?

Yes No

If so how much (on average)?

Do you use the Universities Online resource for your studies?

Never Sometimes Frequently

Do you feel that the Online resource (web site) caters for your needs as a student?

Yes No Don't know

Number the following from highest priority (1) to lowest ()

- Access to Computer facilities
- Access to appropriate support services
- Ease of access to online materials
- Training in online research and information handling
- Emphasising on online teaching.

Do you feel that online learning provides the same depth of study as face to face teaching?

Yes No Don't Know

Would you be happy with a tutorial that was conducted through a chat site?

Yes No Don't Know

Do you have access to a computer at home?

Yes No

Do you have access to the internet at home?

Yes No

Have you used Adelaide Online?

Yes No

Number the following from highest priority (1) to lowest (10) for what you want out of the Adelaide University Online site.

- Course Information
- Access to resources (tutorials, practical information etc)
- Time tables
- Information on student support services (Accommodation, counseling, employment etc)
- Lecturer contact information
- Departmental news and events
- Departmental advertising and promotion
- Email Access
- Access to online learning modules for IT skills
- Links to department specific data bases and research sites

Do you feel that there is a need for a twenty four hour computer suite that is available to all students?

Yes No

Given the large discrepancy between faculties with regards to computer services and facilities do you think that there is a need for a complete review of the IT facilities at Adelaide University?

Yes No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please return your completed form to one of the marked boxes in your faculty computer suite, the Students' Association Office or the On Dit Office (George Murray Building)



POP

Luke & Tom

Sexy is a long haired Valiant wearing a polo shirt

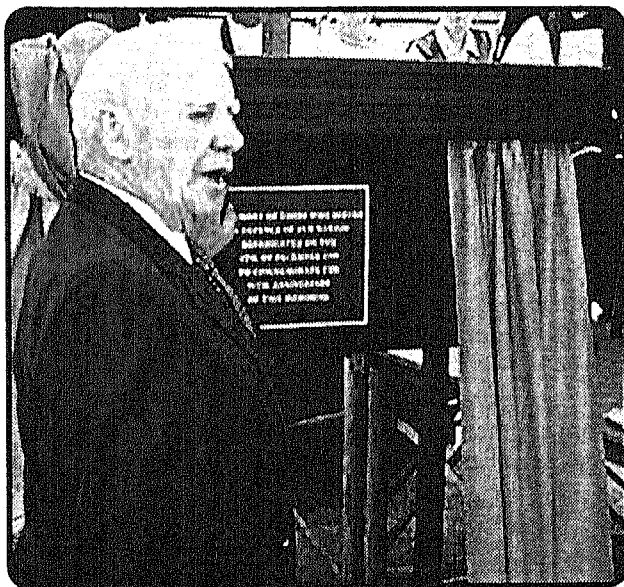
- 1. L: Long hair, dark skin, and the sound of a V8.
T: Yellow polo t-shirts.
- 2. L: 1970 VF Valiant 2-door coupe.
T: Not the pyramids.
- 3. L: Chicks with more facial hair than me.
T: Elbows can be unattractive.



Bruce Ruxton

Warm, fuzzy love to spread to the children of the world (multiple answers put - brainstormin)

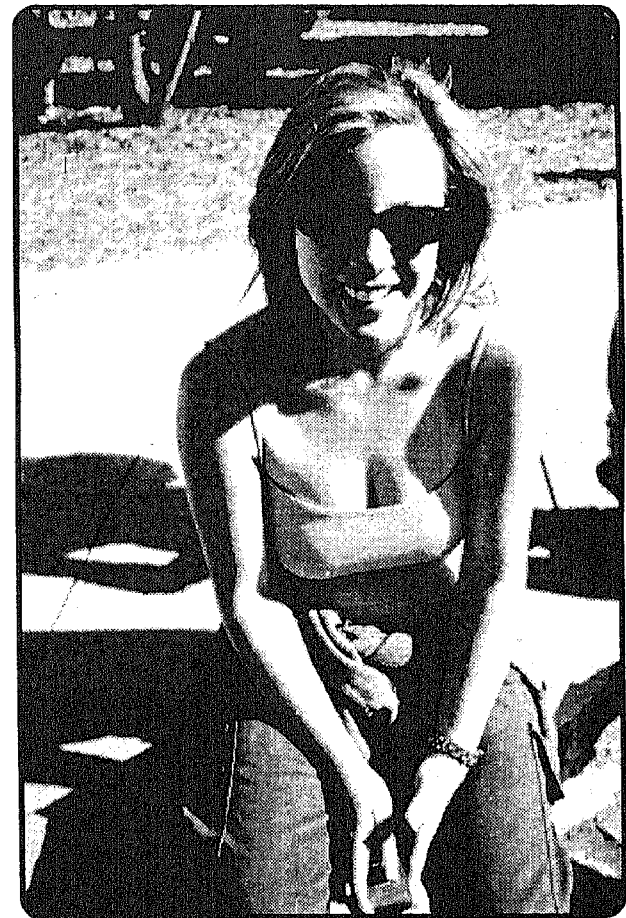
- 1. Pauline Hanson wrapped in the National Action flag, eating a fat handful of Australian bacon.
- 2. What? That reminds me of all this new-fangled DVD technology - to me DVD will always stand for Die Vietcong Die! A 10 foot anti-aircraft cannon.
- 3. All parts of the human body turn me off, which brings me to my next point: Asian trouser-wearing lefty dykes should be kicked out of our army!! Anything that's hairier than my arse turns me off.



BEER WINNER

If we here at *On Dit* could wish for just one thing, it would be for each and every one of our Vox Poppee's to win the glorious prize of beer. But there can be only one group of winners, and they are... Louie, Craig David and Remix.

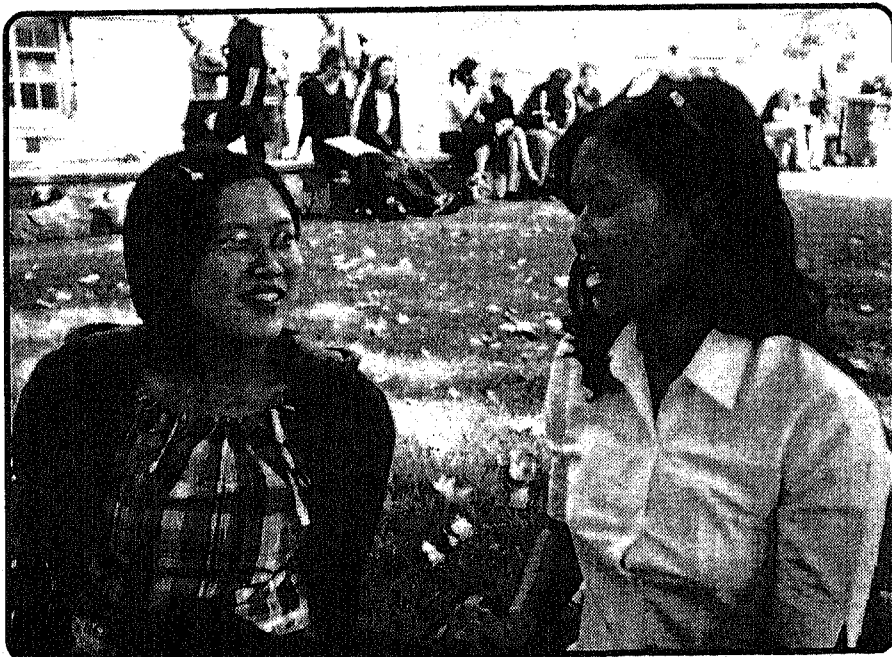
Thanks to Southwark for donating the prizes.



Nicola

Sexy is the armpit of a naked stereo

- 1. Naked men holding stereos.
- 2. My stereo.
- 3. Armpits.



Limahri & Rose

Sexy is overweight men in tight short shorts

- 1. L: Fit men in tight shirts.
R: Overweight men in short shorts.
- 2. L: Blow up toys.
R: The Bee on Bee Hive corner.
- 3. L: Teeth.
R: The cochlea.



Tom Radzevicius
President

IT Survey - Please complete one!
For those of you interested, in the centre of *On Dit* this week is a survey regarding the level of Information Technology skills and infrastructure of the students and the University. I would encourage all students who are interested or feel that there are issues that should be addressed regarding any aspect of Information Technology I would encourage them to complete a survey. The survey will form the basis of a report to be given to the Information Technology Service. For more information please read the article on the facing page to the survey. Locations of drop off for the survey and further background information is contained in the article.

Academic Board
As I promised earlier in the year I

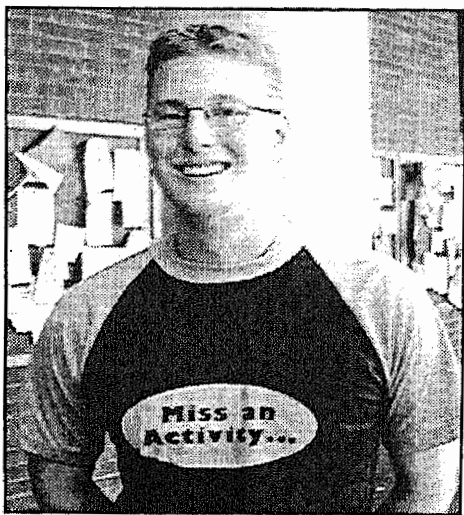
would give an update as and when Academic Board meetings were held. The second meeting of the year was held last Wednesday and a number of important issues were raised and discussed. Among these, the Vice Chancellor presented the outcomes of the recent University Council Retreat, including new projects, restructures and income raising goals of the University for the coming year. These included new projects of: The Santos School of Petroleum Engineering, the Whyalla Clinical Medical School and the Adelaide Institute of Oral Health. Restructures included: the new Faculty and research structure, the Law School, and the Music School merger.

Increasing revenue options include: increasing returns from international student numbers, increasing returns

from post-graduate course work numbers, and attracting and increasing corporate institutional and individual support.

Other issues raised included the working party's report on the comparability of Honours Standards, which took up a considerable amount of debate. The University is attempting to generate a policy and criteria by which all Honours programs are assessed irrespective of which department or faculty that they come from. This was endorsed by the board for approval by University Council. Look for further updates of this as the implementation phase begins.

For more detail then please come and see me or email on tomas.radzevicius@adelaide.edu.au



Mark Henderson
**Activities/
Campaigns
Vice-President**

Hey everyone!
Hope you are all having a great Sexuality Week! If you're not, get out there and enjoy it and come back to reading this when you are finished. Sam and Elise have heaps going on this week so check out their column and the Sexuality Week timetable for details.

Speaking of big weeks brought to you by the SAUA...

Prosh

Next week is Prosh week. If you didn't know that already then take notice now. There is going to be free breakfast at 9am and free lunch at 12 noon every day with lunch going out to parts of the campus that aren't the Barr Smith Lawns. Here is a bit of a run down of what will be going on:

Scavenger Hunt begins on Tuesday at lunchtime. Come down to the lawns to get your list for the Scavenger Hunt. See me in the SAUA for more details if you would like to be involved.

Wednesday noon: Soup Kitchen on the Barr Smith Lawns (bring your SAUA Cup for cheaper soup)

Satellite Activities

This Wednesday the Education Department and the Women's department will be holding a pancake brunch at the Med School as part of our commitment to take the SAUA to all areas of the campus. We will be distributing information about the SAUA as well as handing out all the material for Sexuality week. Make sure you come across to the Med School on Wednesday.

Ancillary Fees

The term the Education Department is concentrating on pushing for a full University review of Ancillary fees. We want to hear about your experiences with Ancillary fees so we can provide evidence to the University for the need for a review of the practices of charging students extra fees for notes and materials.

E-mail education@saua.asn.au with your experiences of ancillary fees at Adelaide Uni.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at lunchtime: Cheap Southwark Beer on the Barr Smith Lawns (bring your SAUA Cup for cheaper beer)

Wednesday 9:30pm: Film screening: *15 Minutes* at Academy Cinema City only \$7, tickets now on sale

Thursday Night: Pub Night at the East End Exchange

Friday 11am: Early lunch and beer in anticipation of the Prosh Parade.

Friday 12 noon: Prosh Parade leaves from the Union Cloisters

Friday 4pm: Happy hour in the UniBar when the prizewinners for the week will be announced.

Friday 8pm-3am: Prosh After Dark, brought to you with the support of Uni-Activities and Featuring HMC.

Prankery

I have been telling you all year about the great pranks that have been pulled off in the past and I am sure that you are just itching to have a go. If you would like to be remembered as one of the greatest pranksters of all time, come and see me and I will do my best to make your dream a reality.

Student Forums

Ever wanted to tell the SAUA where you think they are going wrong? Ever wanted to have your say about the campaigns, activities or the general direction of the SAUA? Now you can. The SAUA Education department will be venturing out into your Faculties in Week 5 of this term and will be hosting a series of Student Forums. You will get your chance to address us, tell us what you think, your ideas, criticisms and questions. Details about the times and locations will be e-mailed to students, and will be posted in *On Dit* and in your Faculties in the next week. Have your say about the SAUA.

Youth Allowance/Centrelink Forum

Last week we held our first ever Youth Allowance/Centrelink forum for students. We launched a new publication of NUS, which is a student's guide

Prosh Parade

Get yourself a car and come along on what is one of the most fun events of Prosh. We line up a whole bunch of cars behind a big truck with a band on it and drive and walk through the city centre, asking the general public for money.

Film Night

There will be a charity film night at the Academy Cinema City on Wednesday the 16th of May at 9:30pm. Tickets are just \$7 for everyone and are available from the SAUA office or at the cinema on the night.

Finding Me

In case you didn't know, you can find me in the SAUA Office, which is in the North-East corner of the Union Cloisters. If I'm not there then you can try to email me on activities@saua.asn.au or leave a message or try to call me later on 8303 5406.

Have a great Sexuality Week and then go home and have a quiet weekend so that you're ready to have a huge Prosh next week.



Brad Kitshke
**Education
Vice-President**

to Youth Allowance and Austudy. We will be looking to run another forum toward the end of this term for all those students who couldn't make it to the first one. If you have any queries about Youth Allowance drop into the SAUA and pick up a copy of the NUS Guide to Youth Allowance.

Law School

The first meeting of the interim management committee of the Law school was held last week, the committee which is to gear the Law school toward the implementation of the recommendations of the Review. If students have concerns or questions about the Law School or the review please feel free to contact me on 08 8303 3898 or e-mail education@saua.asn.au. I will be informing students at regular intervals about changes being made to the school, and would appreciate any feedback which students can provide.

Victor Harbour Water Pollution

I have received emails this week from concerned residents of Victor Harbour asking for urgent action on the pollution of their waterways. For 5 years the Victor Harbour community (population 8,000 swelling to 24,000 in summer) has had raw sewage flowing into the sea via the small 'Inman River'. The treatment works are situated 2 kms from the beach and the untreated water flows directly into the river, and then to the sea. The river runs past a high school and is 400 metres from the Hospital. Many times the staff have had to close windows and ring council to complain of the smell, with little response. It runs behind a caravan park where many tourists have left due to the smell. Weekly *e coli* tests are taken and the river is closed due to the health risks. The coast is populated with many pen-

Hi there and welcome to this sexy edition of *On Dit* (if you have gotten this far into *On Dit* you will have already run into numerous bad jokes/comments about the 'sexiness' of various things)

Security and Safety

On the 24th of May we will be running an open day in conjunction with Adelaide University Security Services and other community organisations that have been involved with the Women's Departments' 'Security on Campus' campaign. There will be info and contact details for many organisations such as Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service, S.A. Police and Second Story Youth Centre. The staff from the campus Security Service will also be on hand for you to meet. Safety and security on campus are not issues that only affect women, and this day is open and will be of benefit to all

Sexuality/Pride Week

You guessed it! This is the week we've been telling you about for ages, planning and plotting, organising and stressing.... at last it has arrived. See the timetable on page 12 for details, and come along to everything. It should be a fantastic week with many fun things planned. Especially come along to the 'Pop' Dance Party at Enigma bar, 9pm on Thursday night. Tickets are only \$8 for all students.

T-Shirts

As many of you would be aware, there are groovy, excellent SAUA Sexu-

guins and seals and is also a popular surfing area.

The community has been promised time and again that a safer water treatment plant will be installed, but it never has. Many community and environmental groups have had press coverage over the years with no result. Just out to sea there is a pipeline that takes water into the artificial housing estate lakes. Last week, for the second time the lakes were closed to swimmers due to a high level of *e coli*. They know where it came from but no-one with the power to do anything will admit it!

The local council is trying to move the state government on the issue. The money (18 million) was apparently allocated for the new treatment plant 12 months ago but no action has been taken. SA Water is yet to purchase the land for the plant. Last week the head

students (and possibly even staff).

Iraqi Women's Radio

While sifting through some new materials from the National Union of Students' Women's Officer, Sarah McBratney, I read an article about a student from Victoria who escaped from Iraq as a refugee. She is now trying to bring the plight of women in Iraq to the attention of Australians. In Iraq, women are still punished by stoning and domestic violence is a common - and accepted - practice and they have no way of learning how they can remove themselves from the situation. NUS has started a campaign to raise money for a radio station that provides information to these women. The radio operates out of London and is in desperate need of funding. We are trying to raise US\$1000 to enable this lifesaving resource to continue. If you

ality Department T-shirts. If you want to fit in and look cool during the week (and in fact for the rest of your life) we suggest to buy one from us. They are only \$16, a small price to pay for being eternally sexy. You can grab yours from the Students' Association or chat with one of us during the week and we'll find you one.

'2001 A Coming Out Odyssey'

At last it has arrived! The coming out booklet that we have been working on for the last month or so has been layed out and printed (Many thanks to Fiona Dalton for working way beyond human limits, what a legend). Get your copy from the Students' Association,

of the Fisheries department visited Victor Harbour and informed the residents that there are no longer fish in the Inman as there is no food source due to cutting down of trees. Several dead fish were collected from the banks just last week. During the summer months the river was covered by blue green algal blooms due to increased temperatures and nutrient levels. The smell is unbearable.

Dean Brown is the local MP who has promised the plant twice. John Hill has asked questions in Parliament but got no straight answers. Email your concerns to Janine Hartley on janine@dove.net.au or contact Dianne Sinclair, President of Coast Care and Preservation on 8552 1261. Send a letter to the local MP Dean Brown and SA water.

are interested, please contact me so I can give you the contact details.

TWPR

This week on Totally Women Powered Radio we will be interviewing Dr. Lesley Shore about cervical (Pap) smear tests. This is often an issue that young women ignore, however, young women are still at risk. The show will be at 9pm on Saturday, 531am. FYI - women should have their first Pap smear 1-2 years after they first have sexual intercourse. The rest of the show will be a Women's Pride show.

Enjoy Sexuality/ Pride week, I'll be out on the lawns doing Student radio on Monday and Tuesday and make sure you head along to 'POP' at the Enigma Bar on Thursday!

Anais Chevalier - 8303 5406 or women@saua.asn.au

the Rainbow Room, and various other places around campus. You can see some of the stories in this edition. We are of course launching the booklet on Tuesday night at the Gallery Coffee Shop from 6:30pm.

Monkey's Mask

At last, an Australian feature film about LESBIANS!!!! It's showing at Nova and Palace from this week, so make sure you go and see it. Elise sure will be.

See you all during the week. Hope you like the edition.

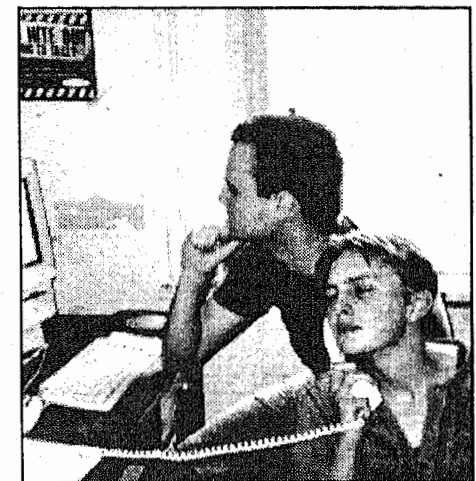
Love Elise and Sam.



**Georsie Perks
Environment
Officer**



**Anais Chevalier
Women's
Officer**



**Elise & Sam
Sexuality
Officers**

OSA Notice

Looking for an opportunity to represent your country?

Go and sign up as part of an elite team: the Multicultural Week committee.

To contact the Overseas Students' Association:

Office - Level 3 George Murray Building, East End of the Cloisters (next to the Barr Smith Lawns)

Phone - 8303 5852

E-mail -

osa@smug.adelaide.edu.au

**Tanisha Menanpola
Union President**

Hi everyone, and welcome back to another exciting week at Adelaide Uni! Prosh After Dark

Union Activities is presenting Prosh After Dark on Friday, 18th May. Prosh After Dark is set to be a massive dance party held in the UniBar and Games Room from 8pm to 3am. HMC, Souli and heaps of other leading Adelaide DJs shall be performing, and it looks set to be a great night- the perfect preparation for both the Med and Law Balls!

**Surveys**

For all those students who completed the Union Catering surveys that were being distributed last week, thank you. The results of these are being used to give us an idea of what you want, and how we can better give it to you!

Fee Refund Winners

Last week the draw was held for the 2001 Student Diary Student Services Fee Refund Competition. Congratulations to the following winners:

- 1st Luke Simmons (full-fee refund)
 - 2nd Tara Kennedy (half-fee refund)
 - 3rd Melinda Cheung (half-fee refund)
- Remember, the Union Provides- Free BBQ every Friday night on the Unibar Balcony

A Legal Service, for when you're in trouble
A fully equipped Craft Studio on Level Four of Union House...

Anyway, Have a good Sex Week. Have good sex this week, and I'll see you all again next week!

Pub Review

The Cumberland Arms

Where it is: A skip, hop and a step away from the Grace Emily on the Western end of Waymouth Street. An excellent springboard to the wonder that is Western Hindley.

Who goes there? People too laid back to bother with the funky expectations of Supermild and Cargo. Generally, the people you will find at the Cumby are pretty cool in an alternative fashion concious kind of a, "I'm too hip to be seen on Rundle Street", but at the same time they're a relaxed rabble. Having said this, you won't be fixed with a piercing stare if you dare to enter the pub wearing Billabong. Okay, maybe Billabong, but definately not Gap.

Why we like it: There's lots of

little rooms which creates a very intimate atmosphere. Whilst this could be seen in other places as being pretentious and wanky (think Kumfy Klub), the Cumberland seems to avoid this by still being accomodating of the kinds of people that will wait for the bartenders to disappear into the other rooms so they can steal some beer straight from the taps. Or wine glasses. We can't stress the casual atmosphere of the Cumby too much. There's no fear of being appraised by the beautiful people here, and most importantly you don't usually have to line up for the toilets. There's a decent beer garden equipped with a pool table (although you're lucky if you get to use it), and the music is really cool. Basically, the Cumberland is the west end's answer

to Kumfy in every way, minus the social pressure and wankistocracy.

What they serve: Stella and Heineken on tap! What more do you need? As well as this, they have a decent cocktail list, and the queer-friendly barstaff aren't opposed to dishing out more strawberries when you've misjudged the delicate balance between sipping and eating. The two bars enable more service, so you're unlikely to wait ages for a drink, plus the clientele will generally not loiter around the bar engaging in wanky conversation whilst simultaneously preventing you from even getting a look in at the aforementioned precious Heineken. Prices range from \$2.70 for a normal schooner to \$5.70 for a pint of Stella or Heiny. Cocktails are also decently

priced, at around \$10 and no charge for extra strawberries.

When they're Open: All throughout the week. We didn't actually check this, but we do know that they're always packed when we wander over there from Hindley St. Hmm...let's say...weeknight from early till late and weekends from, ooh, early till late.

One Final Word: If you're tiring of the endless boredom of Rundle St. (let's face it - it's gone to the dogs) and you can't be bothered keeping up appearances in Supermild or the Minke Bar, then the Cumberland is the ideal spot for you. Just don't go in a pair - this place favours groups.

Sally and Steve

Restaurant Review

Vego 'n' Loven' it

240 Rundle Street
Opening hours: 10am-5pm
Monday-Friday

This would have to be, without a doubt, my favourite restaurant. Nestled upstairs above the bustle of Rundle Street, the atmosphere is intimate and eclectic; the kind of feeling you get from someone's sharehouse lounge. Furry speakers, mosaic artwork and a generous use of tin and vinyl make me feel soft, fuzzy and welcome. A retro, rustic textual feast.

A bone of contention for poten-

tial customers is of course, the lack of meat. I find it hard to drag some of my friends here due to their die-hard belief that if every meal doesn't have meat in it, then it doesn't deserve to be called food. This is the sort of place that just might turn them around. The food, while simple, tastes amazing. There's a range of burgers for around 6 or 7 dollars each; I would recommend the Gourmet Tofu, or the Ab Fab, the personal favourite of Visual Arts Sub-Editor and Culinary Critic Jenny Kalionis. The price may seem a little steep, but the burgers are huge: you can safely

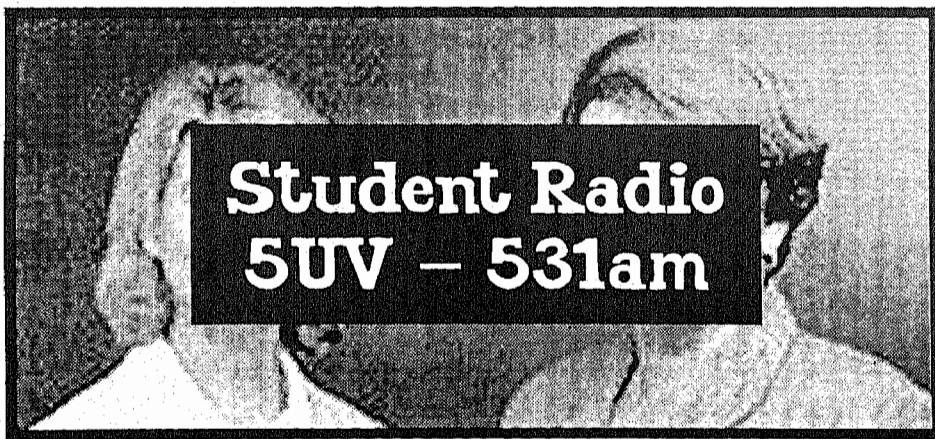
choose the cheaper half serve without losing face. Smoothies (cheaper than Boost Juice and dammit just as tasty), salads, sandwiches, wraps, desserts, herbal teas and coffee round off the menu. You do have to pay for water but it's only 50 cents a glass, which is no real cause for concern.

The staff here only add to the appeal. There is actually only one waitress who does practically everything, as well as helping the cook now and then (she's a little dynamo!). Wait at your table, choose from the menu on the wall and she'll take your or-

der. When you're finished, you simply head to the register and state everything you had and she adds it all up. What a beautiful trusting atmosphere! I love it! Everything is prepared in sight of the customers which only adds to the feeling of being at a friend's house.

Cool atmosphere. Huge Burgers. Friendly Staff. A great place to meet, chat and sit around for hours. Fantastic.

Mikey



Why are you reading this when you could be joining us on the lawns or in the cloisters? For Sex Week, Student Radio's comin' atcha 11-3 Monday and Tuesday on the Barr-Smith Lawns and the cloisters, respectively. So we'll be providing the soundtrack to your sexual education.

Next week, of course, we'll be out and about for prosh. Mark Henderson, your ACVP thinks we're going to be on the lawns Tuesday through Thursday lunchtimes, 12-2pm. That would be the case if we didn't have so many devious schemes. So we may be set-

ting up in a lecture theatre near you. Previous years have seen Student Radio tour campus with a karaoke show, a wrestling match and even some freelance breakdancing. Plans are being bandied about as I write this column...

One final note, this Sunday should see the Eurovision Song Contest on SBS. Get your friends together, it would be a crime to waste anything this gloriously funny.

Luke

Show Profile: Urban Legend

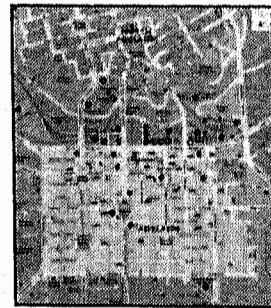
Hear about all the truly interesting, unique and legendary things about Adelaide with Jakin and Stacey. Yes, there are some!!

This show is as the name suggests about urban legends but not the urban legends of the movie that immediately spring to mind. It centres around the legends of Adelaide; the interesting and exciting things that are unique to our city, the people and places that we all take for granted and disregard, making us think that we live in a boring, sleepy town.

How can life in Adelaide ever be boring knowing that there are only three degrees of separation between yourself and every other citizen? No matter how unconnected you may think you are to a person it is only a

matter of time until you find the links. It is things like this that make Adelaide unique and interesting, things that everyone knows but doesn't see the comic contribution they make to our city. South Australia is the only state in Australia that has decriminalised marijuana, which most of us know but what does it mean? Can the Gold-Painted Man outside Shiels speak? Who is the man in the funky lycra and/or footy gear we all know from Rundle Mall? For the

answers to these and many other questions join Stacey and Jakin from 9-10pm on Saturday Week 1 to explore the legends of Adelaide we encounter as we travel through the urban and suburban streets of our city of churches.



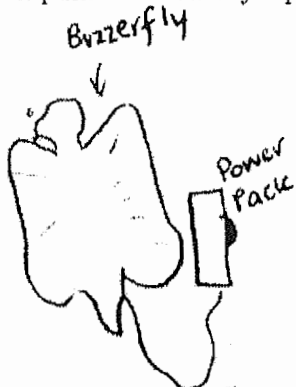
Sex with the Consumer Watchdog:

The buzz on the best sex toys on the market

Sex toys. Those who don't have them, want them. Those who do, well they just can't get enough of that motorised love. Buzz buzz, whirrrrrrrrr. This being the sexuality edition, our resident sex workers, Amy and Sophie, decided to get together and consumer watchdog all things fun, electronic or simply saucy enough to get your juices flowing.

The Four Inch Vibrating Lady Finger

As far as the humble sex toy goes, you can't really beat this one. Compact, light and discreet, the four inch lady finger is both easy to use and satisfying. Working on the principle of good vibrations, it can be used for both insertion or clitoral stimulation. Both couple and solo friendly, this one comes in a variety of colours to suit the most elaborate of bedroom themes. This is probably the best bet for those of you out there who are a little apprehensive about sex toys in general. Retailing at about \$14.95, it can be found in all good sex shops, and is a good starting point for those seeking to expand their sex toy repertoire.



The Stimulating Butterfly

Adhering to the novelty factor is this little treasure. Suitable for ladies, this is a discreet clitoral stimulator in the shape of a butterfly. Attached to straps, you simply hook it over your thighs and let the butterfly do its job. With a battery pack, you're apparently able to wear this one throughout the day. However, we think this might be a bit tricky, as you'll have to figure out a way to house the battery pack in your pocket, and this may require some placement of holes. Really too much bother, so best to keep it in the bedroom. Retailing for approximately \$39.95, it's probably best to wait for this one as a gift, because it's a lot of hassle. Word of warning - make sure you put it on the right way round. The butterfly's nose vibrates, so it's a bit of a waste of time if you've misread the instructions.

Kinky Shit

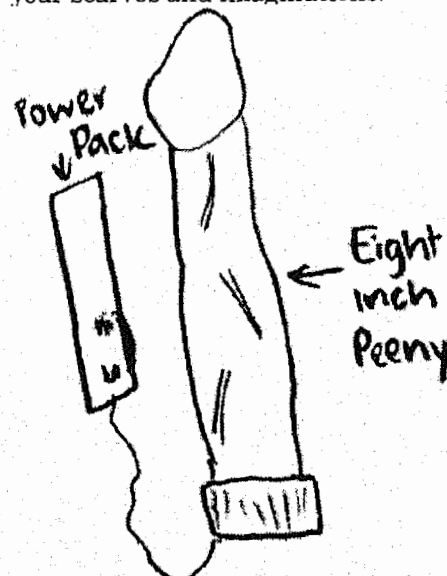
Most of you will only be prepared to delve into softcore kinky action. In this case, you really can't go past a pair of crotchless knickers. Easy access means easy sex. The fact you are boofing with your undies on will also add to the dirty quickie aspect of it all. Personally, we say a big no to crotchless knickers. You wear undies for a reason, and this isn't so Big Jim can go poking around your nether regions whenever the urge overcomes him. We say, if he can't wait for you to even remove your bondsies, then he's not the man for you anyway. When you find one who is though, you can try out the vast array of massage oils that are available. Massage can be fun, and whilst not particularly kinky by itself, teamed with a blindfold, some scarves, a headboard and a cube of ice, it can spell "Hello smut". You might also like to try reading erotic fiction to each other. For the hardcore porn fans out there, you'll get the best fiction at sex shops for a minimal price. However, for those of you who just want to feel a little bit funny, and possible a bit moist, you can find some pretty good erotic fiction on the web. Bear in mind though, it is amateur stuff. Perhaps it will make you laugh more than anything else. Expect a lot of talk about big breasted wives and ten inch cocks.

The Love Balls

The love balls...a mysterious and somewhat rarer sex toy probably because they are a little bit scary to use. But rest assured that they come firmly attached to a tough nylon string which hangs outside of the body to ensure an easy and painless removal. Unfortunately in our experience these are practically useless, unless you're on a motorbike or in a car without suspension, then they really come alive. But make sure you aren't driving or accidents may follow. Priced at about \$29.95, we suggest giving them a miss. Who wants balls shoved up their clacker? Not us.

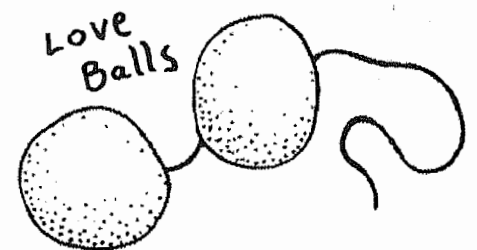
Toys, Games etc.

There's a vast array of toys and games out there that can make an appearance in your bedroom. Mostly applicable to couples, you can choose from sex dice, handcuffs and all other things fluffy. Not a particular favourite of ours, the toys and games sexcapade is built up to be much more than it actually is. The dice are crap. Basically, they usually come in the form of directions on one and areas on the other. This can be body parts and actions, or sex positions and rooms of the house. An exciting idea, but really, that much planning shouldn't be put into boofing. Same goes for the fluffy handcuffs and ticklers etc. If you're going to tie someone up, it should really be a spontaneous thing and the mere action of purchasing a pair of garishly coloured handcuffs defeats this purpose. Say a big no, and stick to improvising with your scarves and imaginations.



The Eight Inch (Sometimes Vibrating) Love Muscle

With built in veins, this one cannot be matched for both its realism and its hardcore cock action. A good step up from the four inch lady finger, this can be a very satisfying activity for either couples or sad lonely singletons. The plain eight inch dildo can get a bit tiresome because it requires a lot of manual labour to really get off. However, in this respect it can be fun for couples. For the lazy ones out there, you might want to invest in a vibrating eight inch dildo, because you just whack it where you want and let it go by itself. Particularly pleasing is the dual use of both the four inch lady finger and the eight inch dildo, as you're really able to target both the clitoral and the vaginal areas. Retailing anywhere from \$29.95 to \$139.95 (for the really exotic of vibrators - beaded shafts etc), you can have a lot of fun picking your eight inch dildo. Some of them are even novelty, and come in an assortment of colours that light up when you turn them on full throttle. Fill 'er up!



Anal Beads

They operate on the same principal as the last apparatus with one obvious difference. Basically a string of beads is inserted one by one into the back passage. The beads are then swiftly removed at the point of orgasm, the theory being that the experience will increase arousal. When using wooden beads it is recommended that they're sealed with varnish to prevent splinters. Cheap, easy to use, but we steer clear of them. Too much opportunity for rectal damage we say.

Lewd, Crude and all things Food

Because we're running out of space, we'll have to end with food. Obviously there's stacks more out there we could consume and then watchdog for you, but we only have a page. So food it is. You can find all manner of stuff in the fridge or pantry to aid you in your sexual quest, and the good news is it can be a solitary activity. For girls, cucumbers, aubergines and mandarins make a cheap alternative to dildos and love balls. For boys, we hear that mangoes and watermelons can be very satisfying. For the singletons out there, we suggest you raid your kitchen and hibernate in your room for a few days. Just don't celebrate your newfound euphoria by making roasted eggplant for your flatmates afterwards. For the couples, food spells saucy sexy fun. Melted chocolate, cream and strawberries can make for a nice body sundae, but it is a little unimaginative. That's why we like to experiment. We did have one particular idea that was extremely saucy, but apparently the editors found it as attractive as garlic breath. So it's a no go for sex tips from us. However, let your imagination run wild and who knows? Maybe you'll be consumer watchdogging for *On Dit's* sexuality edition next year. The possibilities are endless...

Working Woman

The Life of a Drag Queen

By day, I am just an ordinary third year Arts student. Lounging on the lawns, lazing in a lecture, sauntering past the library leaving a trail of crumbs behind me as I demolish yet another tasty morsel born of Union Catering's tremendously fertile womb. But night time is a very different story. At night time, I am a beautiful ballerina. Well, I'm actually a drag queen. It's not even close at all but it sounds dramatic, don't you think? I have big hair, big makeup and very big shoes, and the best part about it all is that it's all so versatile. I'm just like a life-size Mrs. Potato Head, but with a lot more glitter and a penchant for lime green and fuschia. I'm a veritable whirling dervish of frou-frou love pixie psychadelia and I love it.

I work as a dancer/entertainer (not of THAT variety mind you) on average once a week at various establishments around Adelaide. My 'job' entails, as Guy Pearce put it so eloquently in Priscilla, 'parading around in women's clothing mouthing the words to other people's songs,' but it's not as shallow as it might seem. The world of drag is, in fact, quite com-

plex - contrary to popular belief, there are many different types of drag queens, and, although there are a lot of grey areas, there are three basic categories.

First of all there are the 'S & M' queens (Standing and Modelling). These are the 'girls' who are all about looking great. They don't really do much, but they usually have nice frocks. Next are the 'trannie' or 'girly' drags, who try as hard as they can to emulate real women. They use a lot of beige in their makeup and more often than not don't wear anything but black. Some of them perform, and some don't; some are on their way towards gender reassignment and some just enjoy playing with gender illusion.

Last but not least comes the category of 'big drag,' which is where I fit in. Big drag is about outrageous costumes, outrageous humour and outrageous fun. Queens who are into big drag can probably best be seen as comedians who use drag as a medium rather than the other way around. Big drag is concerned primarily with entertainment, and quite often I find myself acting more as a social lubri-



Roxy hams it up in the HJ's Drive Thru

cant than as a dancer, which, if you've ever seen me dance, is probably a blessing in disguise.

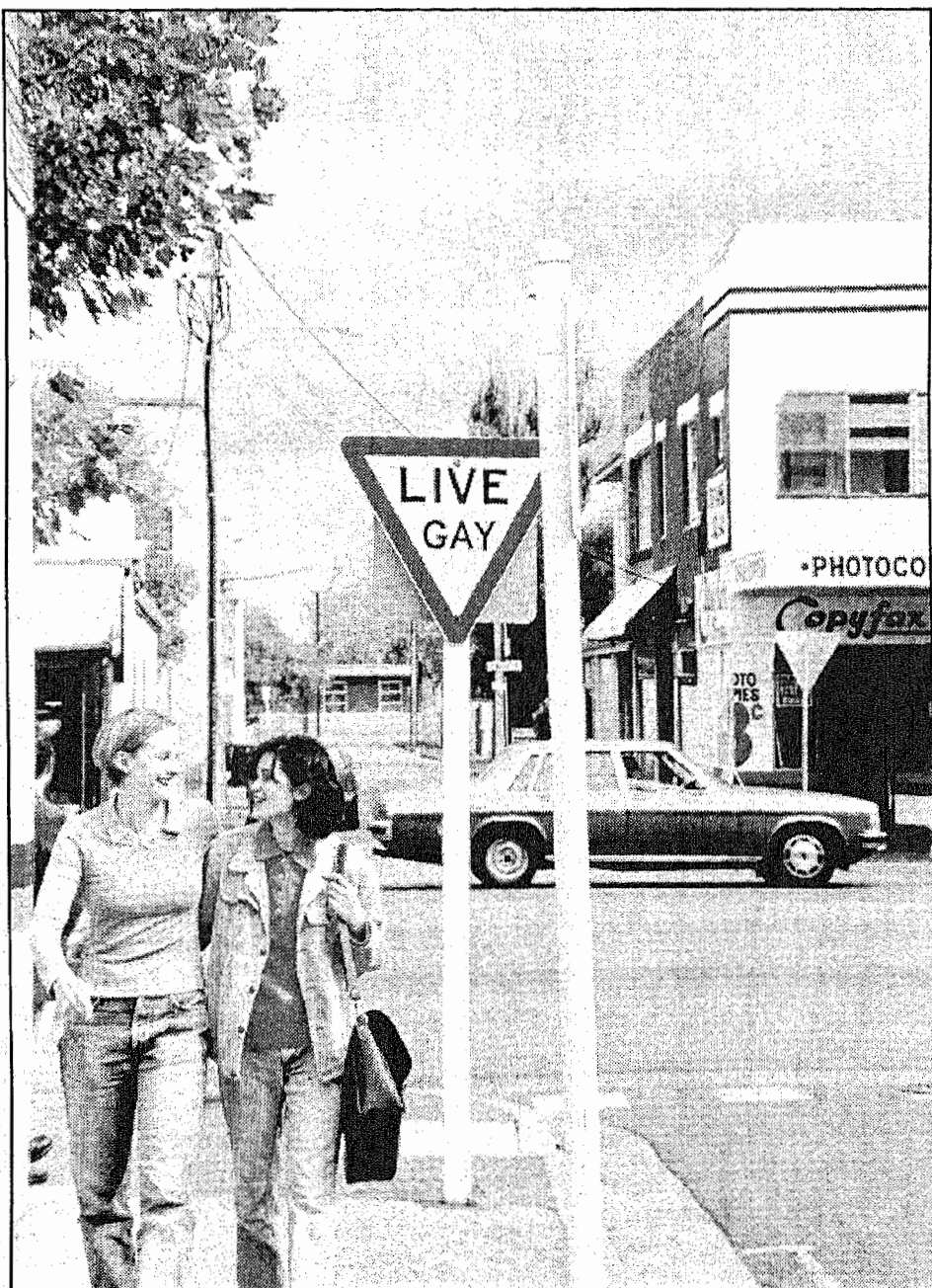
Some might find it hard to believe that I have never wanted to be a woman. Quite frankly, years of hormonal treatments and painful plastic surgery is not really my idea of a lark. However, it's not just the physically gruelling part of gender reassignment that puts me off. The main reason is that I simply don't want to. I'm not a woman in a man's body - I'm just a boy who enjoys playing a character who just happens to be a girl. I don't function sexually as a drag queen - it all looks a bit messy to me - and as far as I'm concerned I will always just be a boy in a frock, but the drag genre offers many opportunities for comic and creative expression that I think are a lot of fun.

Gosh darn it - its all about fun really. Its all about taking the mickey out of oneself. Nothing beats the looks on the burger kid's faces as I front up to McDonalds on West Terrace at five o'clock on a Sunday morning to enquire as to why it appears to take twenty minutes to fry some nuggets as I sit languishing in the waiting bay in a car full of sequins. What other comic medium allows you to go out dressed as an ultra-polyester Christmas tree or early eighties Madonna and have people laugh with you rather than at you? Quite frankly, its fun to be a bit silly sometimes. More to the point, what could be sillier than a boy in a dress synchronised swimming to Peter Allen's 'I go to Rio?'

Roxy Bullwinkle



Gotta show a bit of leg if you want to get far in this world



Picture by Tom Scott

Life Beyond the Closet

Excerpts from 2001, A Coming Out Odyssey

The following form part of a compilation of people's stories and thoughts about their experiences coming out. You can find these and more stories in "2001, A Coming Out Odyssey", a booklet produced by the SAUA Sexuality Department.

It is a fortunate few who come out to a welcoming, receptive and understanding audience. Most people who decide to be true to themselves and their sexual expression, experience some kind of disappointment, rejection, hostility or condemnation from those whom they decide to tell, be it family, friends, co-workers or peers.

The enormity of coming out can never be understated. When someone spends months, even years, struggling to come to terms with the fact that they are not "straight", to come out and announce this fact should be a liberating and joyful experience. Instead, people are often made to feel like they should have stayed in the closet, miserable and unfulfilled. The purpose of these stories is not to suggest that coming out is easy and/or should be done right away. They are a compilation of very diverse accounts from very diverse people about what coming out means to them, their experiences when they came out and what advice they may have for others. We hope readers will see that they are not the only one experiencing problems and, in particular, that there ARE solutions to complex problems and that coming out can be the BEST thing you ever do. By coming out, you do not suddenly become a different person. You are still the same student, or athlete, or artist, or son/daughter you were before, just more honest to yourself and others.

So read on. And good luck.

Sam Butler and Elise Duffield, SAUA Sexuality Officers.

I suppose it was fear that held me back, but you could say it was denial. After all those years of secretly knowing, putting it off as far away in the future, something to be worried about when the time came. But the time does come eventually, when the pent up tensions and frustrations of unfulfillment reach critical mass, or when the whispers and questions of other people feel like they're finally closing in on you.

It's at that point you either contemplate becoming a monk, or coming out. I chose the latter. Maybe it was through some martyr-like effort to take the harder path, to sponsor my own spiritual growth and development. I suppose I just decided one day to take the plunge, and the decision was taken out of your hands.

I guess you have to realise that it will happen inevitably, so why not now? This can obviously be a very disquieting thought. Sometimes you may not be ready. But I

thought hell, I'll never really be ready. And in a way, I'm not sure you can be. I think doing it actually makes you ready.

The biggest thing holding me back was what I thought I was associating myself with. After years of cultural conditioning, you can't help but balk at what people will think, what assumptions they will make of you, what they will recategorise you as. But essentially, coming out is a way to break free of what society has set for you, so I don't see why it shouldn't always continue to do so. I don't feel a need to associate myself with any particular stereotype; I think coming out gives me the strength to define myself absolutely. Sure, people may not always appreciate this, but in the end is it really your happiness and fulfillment you should be worried about or everyone else's?

It may be the hardest decision you'll ever make, but that's what makes it the best.

Simon

I turned into my street and I was feeling pretty happy. I had taken my girlfriend to my school formal 2 nights before and I was just returning home. I had one of the best nights of my life and it had nothing to do with being the Queen of the Prom. At the top of my driveway I could hear my mum grilling my brother about my whereabouts as the friend whose house I was supposed to be staying at had rung asking something or other. The phrase "shit hit the fan" doesn't go anywhere near describing the 5 minutes proceeding my entry into that house. It was a package deal - tears, sweat, stomping, door slamming, yelling, screaming, fuming, foaming, frothing and some more tears. Twelve months of unvoiced suspicions came flooding out in a colourful array of language that I never knew existed let alone in my mum's vocabulary. The pinnacle of these was truly like some "Deliverance" type, southern American fries chicken, KKK type situation. As I ran from the house of pain, formally the house of fun, my mum stood on the front porch and yelled for all and sundry to hear, "If I ever see Allison 'round 'ere agin, I'll shoot 'er". A sawn off and some chewing tobacco was all that was missing from this particularly happy families scene. As I fled down the street to work (four hours early), I realised one curious and unavoidable fact - I hadn't actually come out.

The words "mum, I'm gay, I'm a lesbian, I'm in love with a woman, are you gay, Rachel?, is Allison your girlfriend?" had never been uttered by my mum or myself. So incredulous was this idea to me, the one thought that kept bouncing around my closet with me was "my god, imagine the fire works when I do come out"

Rachel

That night at work in between the Hallmark aisle of the newsagency I worked in, tissues under the counter and the occasional teary outburst which sent me packing into the magazine stock pile to hide, I made up my mind to move out, and not to come out.

I told my mum the next day. She has never been an open woman and doesn't like confrontation, so a star and a brownie point for what mum said next.

"Is Allison your girlfriend?" I almost fell off my perch but instead I answered yes and that was kind of it. She said she had known for ages and I asked her why she would treat me so badly and made it so hard for me to come out. I had her stumped there. She didn't cry, she didn't hug me, she didn't kick me out, she didn't forbid me to see her (again). In her true style it was shoved under the carpet with all the other imminent family issues that never got discussed. I suggested to mum that she clean out one of the kitchen cupboards as the carpet was getting lumpy and the spare fridge downstairs was leaking unresolved nuclear family waste. I moved out 2 months later, working 6-7 days a week to do so while my girlfriend was in America. I never actually told my dad but he probably figured something out between my appearance on the Mardi Gras broadcast and being in the newspaper in the country town in which I lived for being an innovative gay youth. My brother and my dad love my current girlfriend and she even got the all versatile box o' chocolates for Christmas along with a hideous glass flying horse with golden edging that has been passed around the family for years.

I think I'll take a slightly different approach here. My parents and all of my friends know I am a lesbian. I told them in various ways and at various times, and I was met with a huge array of responses. Luckily for me, the vast majority were positive, and my coming out experience has been full of drama, but not much heart break.

The one thing that has scared me the most in the last year about my sexuality is the way my boss would react if she found out. You see, I teach children to swim. I love my job, I love teaching all my kids, watching them improve, seeing their faces light up when we play games, seeing how excited they are when they step into the water, and how proud their parents are when they see their child put their face into the water for the first time, or kick their legs, or swim by themselves. But there has been one thing that has always troubled me. What if the parents knew I was gay? What if the other swimming teachers found out I had a girlfriend? What if, what if, what if....

Ordinarily I wouldn't care. If anyone asked I would tell them and not be afraid of the consequences but this time I felt differently. This is because of a social stigma attached to being gay. Many people in society think that gay people are paedophiles. While this is untrue, and the insinuation pains me deeply, it is nevertheless a fact that many people still think that gay people should not be around children.

One day I was in a newspaper article about queer and sexuality officers. It mentioned that I had come out. There was a colour photo of me for all to see. Naturally I was very proud.

The next day I went to work as usual, having completely forgotten about the article. I was greeted joyfully at the door by my boss's husband. He gave me a big hug and a kiss and said, "Elise! We saw your picture in the paper! It was great!" I kept walking alongside the pool towards the changerooms in a state of complete shock. As I approached I saw my boss showing something to a parent. I went over to see her and realised what was being shown. She had cut out the article and had brought it to work to show all the instructors. She was beaming. She put her arm around me and told me she thought it was great. She looked so proud I felt like crying. When I went into the changeroom after teaching that day, one of the instructors started telling me about the days when she was at uni and how she had a gay male friend who was a sexual harassment officer and how everyone loved him. I felt so relieved that day. It was one of the most heartwarming and affirming experiences of my life. You can be so fearful of coming out, of what people's reactions will be, but when you do, you may be pleasantly surprised.

Elise

More Stories, they just keep Coming Out

Parties are things you are supposed to look forward to, especially when they are your own. Everyone is there just for you. It's supposed to be flattering. Everyone wants to say hello. It's meant to be your night. Everyone wants to shower you with attention. It should be fun. All your friends in the same place, at the same time - but that's just the problem. You see, some of your friends know you better than others. Some of them know how you got really drunk and graciously spewed at that party last year. Some of them know about the time you ran away from the police. Some of them even know about that incriminating, image-jeopardising, teeny-bopper single that you bought only a week ago.

Some of them know you're queer.

It's kind of okay though - you've seen lots of your friends trashed, everyone's had their unlawful adventures when they were young, and we've all got that part of our cd collection that we hope no one ever finds out about.

But queer?

It's not really that some people

know, rather it's that a few of them don't. Well, they don't for now, but come the party they are all going to find out. Those few friends you've known for years, those friends from way back are going to rock up, bringing you a card, wanting to buy you a drink, and they're going to walk through those doors, and they're going to find out that you're queer. Sure, the room might not be decked out in pink balloons with champers and raspberry at the bar and Kylie on the turntable, but they will know.

You think about it. For hours, for days, you think about it.

Perhaps you shouldn't invite them, don't tell them, let it slip by. Screw them, they'll have plenty of other parties - no, screw you for even thinking that. They are your friends. This is your damn party. If you can't have your friends at your party, then what's the point?

Maybe you could have two parties, one where you get to be queer, and one where you get to pretend (again) that you're not. You do make a pretty convincing straight boy when you try (nine out of ten hetero friends can't tell the difference!).

But screw that too - If you can't

be yourself at your party, then why even bother? You could not mention it, just invite them and let them deal with it. Yeah, and I'm sure they'd appreciate it! Some party to remember, hey?

You could always tell them.

You wonder how they might react. They might freak out, start screaming and never talk to you again. They might go around and tell every single person they know ("I had this friend once and then I found out he was gay"). They might even pretend to be cool with it, but you'd be able to pick up on the nervous, uncomfortable reality.

Then again, they might be okay with it.

You go right back to the start and think it over again, one hundred times your mind moves in circles and circles. If your life were a cartoon, this is the bit where the faces of all of your friends go orbiting around your head, whispering different things in your ear until you can't distinguish the voices any more. Then your little trance ends and you're zapped back to reality.

The date is set, the venue is booked, and it's time to send the invites. Some take longer than others

to write; several, in fact, take days. Most fit two to a sheet of coloured A4 paper; a few take about a dozen pages. Most take only the push of a photocopier button to prepare; others take mornings sitting up until 3am with strong coffee and sad, familiar music. Most of them get hurriedly posted in bulk on the way to work; others have you standing frozen, zombie-like, for an apparent eternity by the mailbox in the middle of the mall. All of them get a silver star sticker.

Your heart races, then almost seems to stop as your truth slips from your fingers, into the blackness, carried defiantly by five self-sealing messengers.

The big night arrives. There are balloons (purple and silver - not pink), there is plenty of cake, there is plenty to drink. You get cards, you get presents, and you get pretty drunk. Everyone is there just for you. It's very flattering. Everyone says hello. It's your night. Everyone showers you with attention. It's so much fun. All your friends in the same place, at the same time, and they all know you a little better.

Dale

What is it like to be gay? Poof, dyke, queer, lezzo, call it what you want. What is it all about? I get this question all the time. A majority of my friends are heterosexual, and so I meet a lot of people who are very curious. Sometimes maybe a little too curious... but that is beside the point! They always ask, "Why are you gay?" or "What makes you want to be gay?" or (my favourite) "You really *are* gay? What a waste!" I can understand the curiosity, but they are always left a little confused at my usual retort: "Stuffed if I know!" But it's the honest truth. The question that they never ask, though, which is far more important, is "Why did I come out?" and I'm not so sure if I can answer that one either. Looking back on my past kind of complicates it all a bit. I grew up like any other bloke, pashing girls at underage discos, smoking cigarettes behind the shed at school, and chucking my guts up after my first drinking binge! Later, at the age of about 18, when I first admitted to myself that I might be gay, I went through this whole stage of "Oh my God!!! I'm disgusting!!!! I can't tell anyone about this. Ever!!!!" I was dead-set about that, too. I had plans of finding some girl to trick her into marrying me, to save myself from the disgrace of telling people what a dirty pervert I was! So, I firmly locked the doors of my closet and threw away the key. Or so I thought. But then I learned something. Once you admit to yourself that you are gay, staying in the closet is bloody hard work! It was okay before, because I hadn't admitted it to myself. I was deluded, in denial, call it what you want. But once you are consciously aware of that closet, it's tough going staying there. You can't breathe. So, I opened the doors, just a little, to let some air in. I told my best friend that I kinda,

sorta, maybe had a bit of an attraction to blokes. It was a scary thing to do, you know, tell someone for the first time. But after that, it became easier and easier. I soon realised that I could relax a bit more with the friends that knew I was gay. I could drop the "straight" act and just be who I was. So the circle of people who knew that I was gay got larger and larger, until suddenly there was no distinction. I was out. Once I saw this, I remember this great sense of relief. Sexuality was not something I had to worry about anymore, and I haven't looked back since. Generally speaking, I've had a pretty easy ride. I have my problems. Coming from a European background, I have certain family members who are still stuck in a bit of a timewarp with their opinions of homosexuality (I always tell them, "Come on, get over it. That attitude was so last century!"), and co-running a queer group at a Catholic university can't be that easy, but all-in-all I have found people to be pretty cool about the whole thing. Which is the way it should be. I am very fond of saying, to anyone who is scared of coming out, 'being gay is not any better or any worse than being straight'. It's just different. But, if truth be told, I have a little secret to let you all in on: I actually like being gay. I am glad that I am gay. I am thankful to whoever, or whatever, made me the way I am. Whether it was God, Mother Nature, genetics, the way I was brought up, who cares? Coming out was the best thing I have ever done, and I am proud of the person I have become because of it. I wouldn't change a thing... except, in the next life, can I be born into a rich family?

Damien

Things I've discovered since coming out

1. Good news travels fast
2. Don't let anyone tell you that you **HAVE** to come out. It's always **YOUR** choice
3. People who matter don't mind and people who mind don't matter
4. How many other gay people there are!
5. Never come out to hurt someone you are arguing with
6. Expect the mood of the room to change if you come out during your 21st speech
7. Don't assume people you see on the 'scene' are out to everyone, just because they are in a public space
8. Everyone wants to know how lesbians have sex
9. It's always easier to come out when you're seeing someone - but don't let being single stop you
10. Coming out was the best thing I've ever done for myself

My own experiences in coming out as a Lesbian to my family and friends were many and varied. I learnt a lot about peoples attitudes, and I also learnt a lot about acceptance and tolerance. One of the things I learnt that really stuck out in my mind, was my complete inability to predict what someone might say when I told them that I was a Lesbian, although, this did not always prove to be a bad thing.

My initial coming out experiences were not all positive ones. I came out to my best friend, my sister, my mum, my dad and my brother over a period of about 18 months (and in that order). My best friend initially was okay with it, but as time rolled on, it became quite obvious that she was very uncomfortable with the idea of homosexuality. This put a strain on our relationship because I found that I was no longer comfortable talking to her about what was happening in my life. We discussed this a lot, but the end result was we lost our understanding of each other, and although we are still friends, we are no longer as close as we used to be.

My sister was a bit better. She actually was only mad at me for not telling her earlier! My brother had to be the least reactive of all, and all he did was shrug his shoulders when I told him, then indi-

cated it was no big deal to him. We do talk a fair bit about our respective girlfriends, which is kinda cool!

The worst had to be my mum. When I first told her, she didn't say much. But about two days later we had 'the talk', during which she tried to tell me that I couldn't be gay. Of course, it all ended in tears, and mum and I did not speak to each other for about two weeks (my dad did not know at this time). Eventually, I decided to move out, and when mum found out, she was obviously upset. My dad came home to the two of us really upset and not speaking to each other, and of course wanted to know what happened, so I came out to him. He gave me a hug, and tried to get mum to calm down. About two days later, mum talked me out of leaving home, so I ended up staying home for another year or so before I moved out on better terms.

Of course, this all happened about three years ago, and things have been looking up. As I had always been close to my parents, I found it very difficult not to discuss with them what was happening in my life. Although I did not push the subject too much to start with, I did try to discuss my sexuality with my parents (especially with mum) whenever I had the chance. And there was a light at the end of the tunnel. I found the reason for a lot of the arguments I had with my par-

ents were often motivated by ignorance on the subject of homosexuality. Although my dad never said anything against my sexuality, he also was unsure of what it all meant, and has had to try and rethink what it all means. I suspect this was as difficult for him as it was for my mum, he just did not show it as much. Over time, as I was about to answer their questions and demonstrate to them I was still the same person, that I wasn't perverted, that I wasn't going to live some sort of double life because of my sexuality, and they started to accept it a bit better. Both of them still worry about discrimination or persecution I may face as a Lesbian, but I have been able to show to them that not everyone is out to get me, and it is possible for me to do something about it if there is a problem.

The real clincher has been me taking on the role as the Queer Representative at USASA. Because of my role, I have come out to all of my family and friends. And I have not had one negative response. My friends may have been surprised, but all of them have been supportive, and some seemed surprised that I had kept my sexuality so quiet for so long. I have been able to discuss these reactions with my parents, and they have become more relaxed as it is obvious that most people are not going to cause problems for me.

My advice to you, the reader, about coming out is this. Come out in your own time. Do it when you are ready to handle any initial reactions. It is also difficult to judge what people's reactions will be, some will be really good about it, and others may react badly simply due to ignorance, or just inexperience. Try to find out as much information as possible to answer any questions/statements ('where did we go wrong?', 'I should have never let you play with toy cars/dolls'). But be aware that you can change peoples attitudes, and most people will be ok with your sexuality, given time.

Of course, you really never stop coming out. Every time you meet someone new, or you change jobs or whatever, you will be faced with the situation that you will have to come out, again. But it does get easier, and the added bonus is you may open someone's mind to new ideas and perspectives. And don't forget that person who is still closeted who is watching you come out to others, and getting to see first hand that it is not as bad as they think. It may just give them the courage to do the same.

Liz Wallace

Each person's coming out story is unique and individual. Despite this anyone who is wanting to come out, is in the midst of it or has done it can relate, learn and sympathise with others. Unfortunately it is a process with many unpredictable results. Many people panic and imagine the worst possible outcomes only to be pleasantly shocked by the ease of the process while others face great harassment and hardships as a result.

With each experience being so unique, it is difficult to give broad spectrum advice on making the coming out process easier. There are however a few hints and tips that can be of great help to all individuals. The first and most important is to make sure you've come out to yourself first. It's one thing to know you are gay but another to be able to accept that fact and be proud of it. If you can't accept that you are gay, don't expect anyone else to.

When telling others it is very effective to tell them openly, honestly and confidently. Your audience will often respond to your news with the same emotions as you use. This is similar to helping a small child who has cut herself, if you panic and fuss, so will she. If you're embarrassed and nervous when coming out, your audience may feel that your news is something to be embarrassed and nervous about.

It may be advisable to tell people whom you feel will be more supportive and understanding first. This will give you the confidence to deal with the more difficult people later. If you feel that someone will be a particular problem you may want to have a friend or relative there to support you.

It is always difficult to deal with people that are shocked, upset and angered by your coming out but it is important to be patient. I used to get furiously angry at people that would tell me to be patient with these people when they were not being patient with me but it's better not to sink to the sad levels of others. More importantly you should remember how long it took you to accept for yourself that you're gay and give others the same amount of time.

If you really envision a worst case scenario then make sure you have somewhere safe to go if things do go bad. Perhaps call someone you know will support you and check to see if you may be able to stay with them for a few days or so if things get bad. Make sure you also have some money to tie you over in such a time.

It is also really important to consider safe sex advice when coming out. These days a lot of young people are getting over the safe sex messages. We've heard the slogans, we know the theory but still a lot of us avoid the practice. Sexually transmitted infections are still just as threatening and real to us today as they were to the generation before us. Having an STI is the last thing you want to add to the stress of coming out.

George Vallotis

**Think these stories
were interesting?
Want to read
some more?
Then come to the
launch of the**

Coming Out Booklet

**Tuesday 8th May
6:30 in the Gallery
with a Queer Art
Show and Acoustic
Performers**

The Falls
Ian Rankin
Orion (Allen & Unwin)

The Falls is the latest Inspector Rebus novel by Ian Rankin (15th in the series). Normally I try to avoid coming in so late in a series as quite often the characters have become too complex for a new reader to understand what is going on, not to mention the inability to begin to understand the complex relationship tree that has occurred in the last 14 books. Because of usual bias, I was pleasantly surprised with how much I enjoyed *The Falls*.

Set in Edinburgh, the story involves the investigation by the police of the disappearance of a student from the University. There is no background story given, the first chapter throws the reader straight into the interrogation of a suspect and the book continues to be fast moving. There are several stories

inter-written with one another with considerable skill, keeping both the characters and the reader guessing. The characters, while obviously having significant backgrounds, are excellently written, such that they have a sense of reality both in their dialogue and their actions and thought processes.

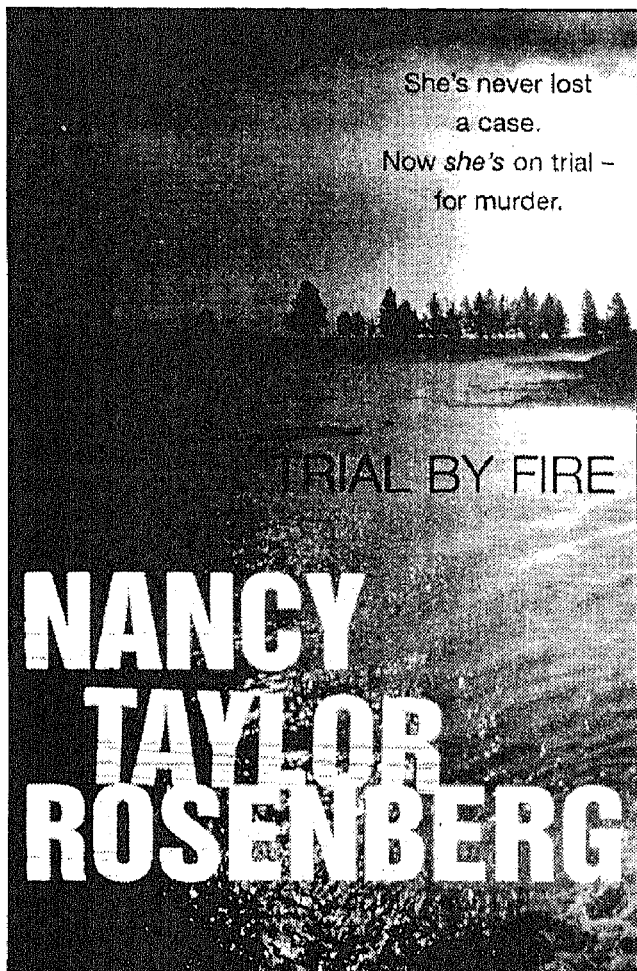
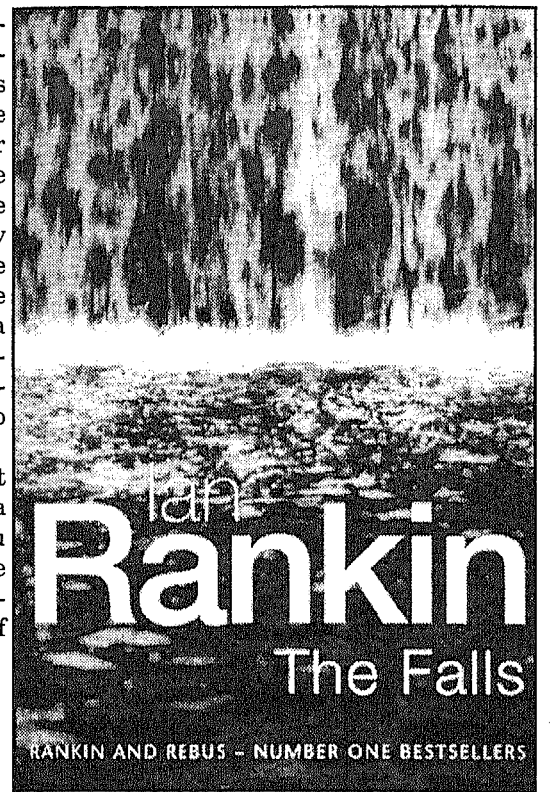
It was a real pleasure to read a detective story where the IQ of the main investigator didn't leap several thousand points to make some amazing conclusion in the last five pages. In fact, for much of the book, it almost seems that Rebus and his co-workers are managing to do more damage to each other's investigations than advancing their own.

The reality of both the locations and the characters were reminiscent in many ways of earlier episodes of *The Bill*, especially in the ability of the characters (main or otherwise) to make mistakes, and completely misunderstand what's going on. The contemporary set-

ting of the book allows the characters to use modern techniques of investigation. While the author has introduced a significant part of the investigation using the internet, for once I wasn't embarrassed by the lack of understanding of how the internet actually works. The only time I felt slightly uncomfortable with the characters use of the internet was when there was a multi-hour dial up through a mobile, and even then only out of sympathy for whoever would have to pay the bill.

The Falls has definite 'cannot put down' potential if you enjoy a good murder mystery. Even if you have previously despised this genre for its lame attempts to glorify police work, you may find the style of Ian Rankin pleasantly refreshing.

Ian Milne



Trial by Fire and Interest of Justice
Nancy Taylor Rosenberg
Orion

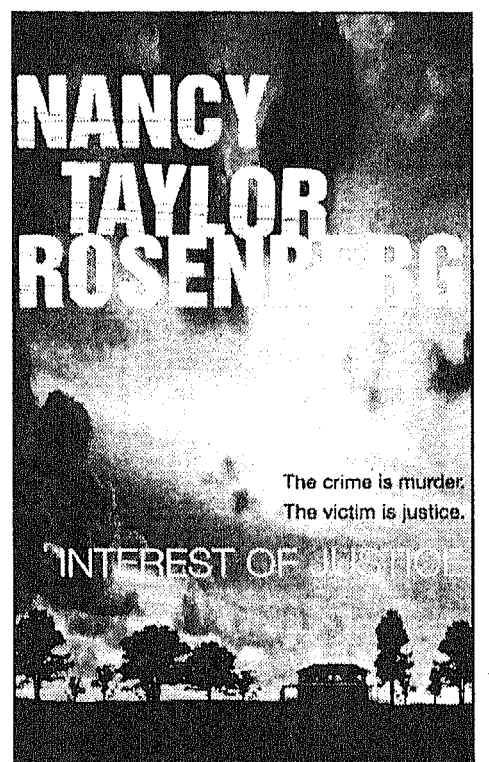
Many of the reviews in this esteemed literary section of *On Dit* contain a sentence that attempts to sum up the type of individual who may be drawn to a particular book. You know the type: 'if you're a fun-loving Marxist you'll love this book', or 'those with at least nine sisters will relish this one...' etc. In order to continue this rich literary tradition, I should let you know that anyone who is grounded in 1950s racism, sexism and homophobia and who enjoys predictable and meaningless plots and characters should read a novel by Nancy Taylor Rosenberg. Especially if you love a crappy sex scene.

It's just so achingly simplistic. Characters are always assessed in terms of their physical appearance so that anyone with

large breasts is a goodie while those with zits are automatically evil. When the central character of *Trial by Fire* is described as 'curvaceous' you know there's serious trouble. Stella, a bimbo attorney, has one dramatic concern that dominates her entire existence: scars on her face. Ouch. How will she ever have wild rampaging sex with the lights on? Dilemma.

While *Interest of Justice* has a slightly more engaging central character - a judge this time - it still fails to break free of tedious views and values that prevent it actually getting anywhere. Lara Sanderstone's life is made complete when a burly police officer takes her from behind on the back seat of her Jaguar. Would you trust this woman with your homicide conviction?

What makes Rosenberg most annoying, however, is her well-established prejudices. The resident Jew has 'a friend who owns a travel agency', allowing financial concerns to be solved. A black investigator, Brenda, asserts that in the African American community 'it's hard to find someone who hasn't been arrested at one time or another'. This woman, predictably enough, is gunned down in the line of duty. Her central concern at such a time of extreme physical pain? 'I'll never be able to wear a bikini again. All those damn situps were for nothing'. Grrr.



And so, dear Reader, there it is. If all of this excitement appeals to your sense of fun and adventure, become addicted to the prolific work of Nancy Taylor Rosenberg. You'll find her middle name highlighted in a crazy blue colour.

Philip Thiel

Agapanthus Tango
David Francis
Fourth Estate

It seems to me that there are a lot of books around at the moment that run along the lines of: troubled adult with bad relationships investigates his more troubled childhood, reveals secrets he never knew, learns about himself, is able to mend his relationships and ends the book looking forward to a brighter future. If you add in a bit of international travel and a love of horses, you have *Agapanthus Tango*. I would like to be able to say 'what makes *Agapanthus Tango* different is...' but I'm not sure there is anything that makes it stand out from the others.

This said, *Agapanthus Tango* is a good read. Narrated in the first person, the central character, Day, and those closest to him are truly believable - they

could be the proverbial people next door. David Francis doesn't shy away from showing his characters' flaws or from making them human, with mixed motives and numerous sides (to my relief - I can't stand central characters which are the embodiment of human perfection). Day, like the other characters, is sometimes nice and sometimes not, sometimes portrayed as the victim and other times as being partly to blame for his misfortunes.

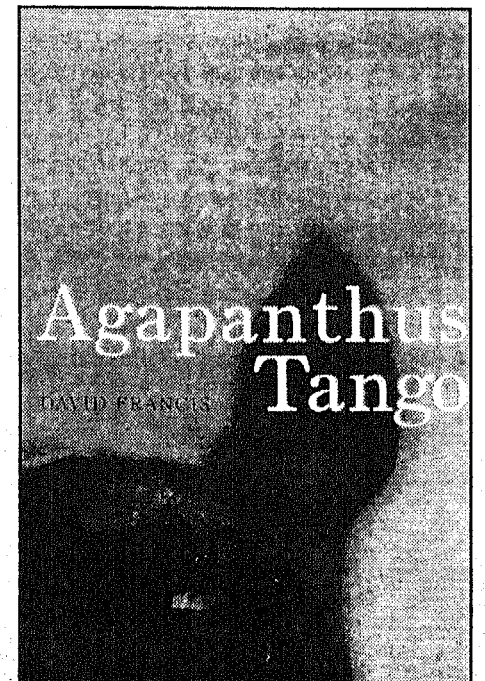
Read a bit about Francis' life, his travels and his work with horses and it is clear he is writing about things he has experienced in his own life. Maybe this helps add to the sense of reality. Then again, I don't read many books by Australian authors, so when I do I love recognising place names and so forth, which takes the book a huge step closer in my own mind.

Agapanthus Tango has no grand,

flourishing descriptive passages and perhaps unlike the other books on similar lines, is written without excess emotional wallowing. Much to my relief once again, you don't have to wade through paragraphs of Day's angst or detailed descriptions of emotional growth. Instead it jumps chronologically through different times of Day's life, his 'journey' (and I flinch at the word) is seen by the reader clearly enough through the narrative of the events. Francis has a clean writing style - he doesn't write more than is needed to let the reader fully experience the story he is telling.

While I didn't find the secrets of the past or Day's emotional journey particularly original, I enjoyed *Agapanthus Tango* for the story that it tells through Francis' clear narrative.

Cheryl



The Chalon Heads
Barry Maitland
Allen & Unwin

The worlds of stamp collecting and thriller writing have never connected so successfully as in Barry Maitland's latest thriller. And it's a good one; for a Professor of Architecture he's pretty skilled in the art of suspense and intrigue. The complex characters that inhabit his novel are superbly crafted, with only just enough information given about each of them for readers to create spooky truths about them in their own mind.

Maitland has made a female detective the central character in his book - a well-worn technique to keep the crime scene free from patriarchal dominance.

Kathy Kolla is far from naïve and pretty, however, clear-headed and intelligent, she offers just enough emotion to carry the narrative while keeping the gory events coming thick and fast.

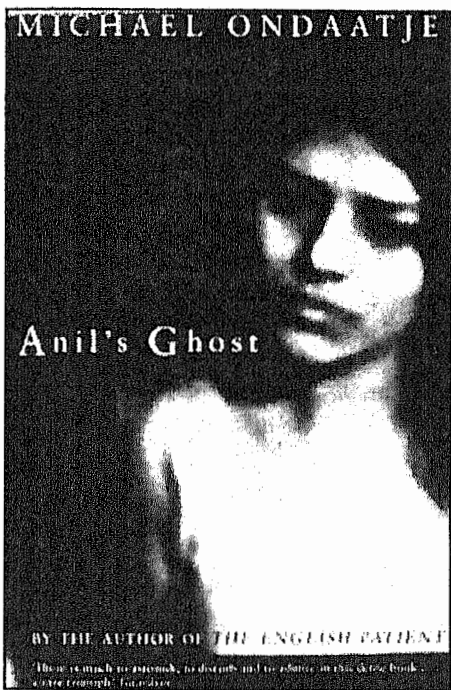
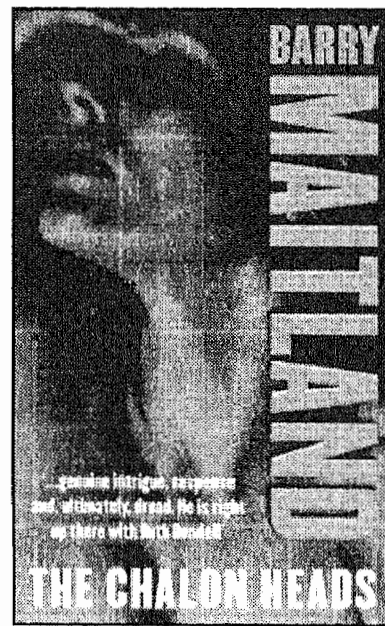
I've never found philately so intense. Maitland has taken what is perhaps the world's most boring hobby and uncovered the obsessions it can generate in its devotees. At least half of the book's characters are avid stamp collectors, and the murder plot revolves around the art form. Even Kolla becomes intrigued by the 'Chalon Heads' - a valuable set of colonial stamps depicting the alluring head of a young Queen Victoria. But would anybody actually commit murder to acquire the stamps? Apparently so.

Maitland is a master of succinct

dialogue and he works hard to keep his encounters between characters as sharp as possible. Equally impressive is his ability to portray the dark interiors of London's police buildings and crook hideouts in eerie detail - perhaps that's where the architecture skills come in. The bleakness of his landscape is matched only by the stark characters that inhabit it, and both of these elements are masterfully developed and utterly believable.

I'd recommend this thriller to anyone who is interested in human obsession, the workings of London's police force, or the symbolic importance of severed heads. And if you're a stamp collector, you'll find it particularly hard to resist.

Philip Thiel



Anil's Ghost
Michael Ondaatje
Picador

Severed heads on stakes, men crucified to the ground, abductions and tortures; these atrocities of war are hurled at the reader of *Anil's Ghost* with the abrupt spontaneity of bombs, disturbing the tranquillity with which Michael Ondaatje delivers this rest of this disturbing yet beautiful story. *Anil's Ghost* is set in Sri Lanka during the 1980s civil war between the government, anti-government insurgents and separatist guerrillas.

Anil's Ghost is not a typical war novel, however. In a similar style to Ondaatje's famous novel, *The English Patient*, war provides a backdrop to an intimate exploration of the life of the central female character, Anil, and the lives of the motley collection of individuals with whom

she works. Anil is a forensic anthropologist who is sent to Sri Lanka to investigate the skeletal remains of war casualties in the hope of determining whom may be responsible for their death. Anil's investigation of one skeleton in particular, affectionately given the unexplained name, 'Sailor', parallels an investigation into herself as she ponders her views on the standard human philosophical preoccupations of love, death, pain, culture and solitude.

Reflecting upon the apparent futility of her work, an investigation into one of countless deaths, Anil concludes that sometimes "one victim can count for many victims". I think this is the crux of *Anil's Ghost*, the depth of understanding which the reader gains about Anil reveals that one individual's experience of war can count for many individuals. This is a book for anyone who enjoyed *The English Patient* and for anyone who

enjoys learning facts while reading fiction. Ondaatje educates the reader about a wide range of subjects ranging from the geography and politics of Sri Lanka to how an anthropologist can determine a two-hundred year old skeleton's occupation from the shape of the bones.

This is a very interesting and stimulating read but requires maximum concentration as the plot tends to jump between different episodes of different individual's lives with no apparent continuity. This may be frustrating at first but I urge the reader to approach *Anil's Ghost* with this quote from the novel in mind: "The important thing is to say out loud what your first impressions are. Then rethink them..(i)f you are wrong the first time, redraw the picture. Maybe you can catch what was overlooked".

Alex Stillwell

Radiohead - From A Great Height
Jonathan Hale
ECW Press

An interesting book recounting the history of Radiohead up until just after the release of *OK Computer*. As such, don't expect any informative information regarding the recording of *Kid A* or *Amnesiac*, however, there are interesting asides regarding songs in process or songs that didn't make it onto *OK Computer* that in hindsight may have been floating around for a while. Jonathan Hale is quite unashamedly a huge Radiohead fan, which tends to come through, at times annoyingly. Even so, it is well written and easy to read which makes it perfect for someone to pick up and finish in one session

provided they have a slight interest and knowledge in the band already. Each band member's childhood is delved into briefly highlighting a relatively normal upbringing as opposed to most 'rock-stars' infamous stories. Not surprisingly, the book tends to focus on singer/songwriter Thom Yorke's background and comments throughout. There is quite a bit of time spent talking about the band's early formation (when they were called On A Friday) and the recording and touring phases of *Pablo Honey*. The two main features of this book would have to be the band photos, spanning their career - including photos from 1988 when the band had a brass section, and the wonderful song description and discography provided at the back of the book. Here each and every

Radiohead (and On A Friday) song is given a brief rundown in which the origin of the song is explained by band members themselves (compiled from various interviews) and any associated stories are told. The discography is also invaluable for those of us that must search for each and every song by a band. Mr. Hale derives a lot of his sources from acquaintances of the band from their college days, himself having only conducted two interviews with various members of the band. I'm sure there is quite a bit of interesting information present even for long-time, devoted fans. So if you're keen to gain a bit of knowledge about the history of Radiohead, this book would be a pretty good place to start.

Jorn



Repeating The Leaving
Charles Waterstreet
Sceptre

Charles Waterstreet uses the perspective and hindsight of the adult, yet the voice of the youth to reflect on the life of the youth in a Christian Brothers boarding school.

The book is well written in an easily readable storytelling style and language. Each chapter is a semi-separate anecdote that together craft Charles' final year in school before he commences university as an arts/law student. A pattern of (sometimes) innocent fun and lessons learned through pain is developed.

The build-up of Charles' literary

character mirrors that of Charles' development through life. The book begins with Charles in a mental institution and ends with him resolving the pain inflicted by his mother's long illness and subsequent death.

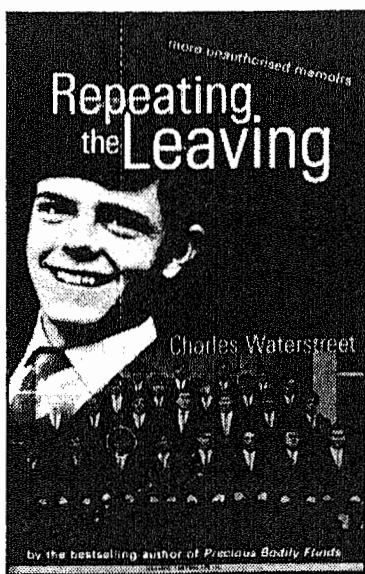
Charles Waterstreet has written a deceptively simple memoir. There are few themes for the reader to grasp, and the reader can easily identify and relate to Charles on a translucent 'been there, done that' basis. Sex is a big theme, as it is in the lives of many adolescents and several amusing incidents are described in humorous detail. Charles' family also form a major theme, though a less projected one. Charles' relationships with his family are important in his later life, where the reader

begins and ends the journey.

On the whole the book struck me most for its writing. The author captures one year of his life in a manner that is historically accurate yet wonderfully engaging and alive. No attempt is made to state anything explicitly and yet lucid pictures and snapshots of football, prayers and mates are presented to the reader to savour.

Repeating The Leaving is an effortless memoir to read and absorb. While life is a mixture of pain and pleasure, the text leaves the reader uplifted and honoured to have shared a glimpse of a boy growing up and learning to live, learn and love.

Mags Addicoat



It's an Ugly Planet...

Interview with Stephen Johnson

Stephen Johnson is the director of the exciting new Australian film *Yolngu Boy*. It tells the story of the friendship between three Yolngu (pronounced 'Yongu') teenagers caught between traditional Indigenous culture and Western values. I spoke with Stephen about his work over the phone from Darwin.

'Wonderful!' is his first reply when I ask him what it was like to work with such young and inexperienced actors as the three Aboriginal leads in the film. He tells me that the team actually saw over 12 000 boys before deciding on John Sebastian Pilakui, Nathan Daniels and Sean Mununggurr. Stephen was looking for raw energy and natural talent to bring truth and understanding to the roles. The boys had to be from that world themselves to bring authenticity to Botj, Lorrpu and Milika.

According to Stephen, the film was made from the inside out, meaning that much is based on real life events. 'I wanted an honest portrayal of life with real characters,' he says and continues to elaborate on how *Yolngu Boy* offers a unique insight into contemporary Aboriginal community life.

During the shoot the Yolngu elders were very helpful and they even allowed a traditional ceremony to make its way into the film. These ceremonies are still being practiced but most Australians would never get a chance to see them in real life. *Yolngu Boy* is a project that has been very close to Stephen's heart for many years. He collaborated well with scriptwriter Chris Anastassiades and they both spent time with Aboriginal kids in the Northern Territory over a period of five years. The challenge was to craft a contemporary story that would connect with an audience worldwide and yet reflect the specific concerns of Yolngu teenagers. The script managed to convince the investors to take on what had originally been perceived as a commercially questionable project.

As much as Stephen loved the intense seven weeks of filming *Yolngu Boy* in the Northern Territory, he freely admits that there were obstacles. For a start, the film was shot on remote locations, which were tricky to get to, let alone bring equipment and crew to. 'We worked in crocodile infested areas' Stephen says 'but the

most difficult thing was probably to keep it all moving'. The film, as most Australian films, had a fairly limited budget and in the film industry time is money. That was one point where the two cultures clashed. According to Stephen, time does not matter much in the north. 'But I have to say that the women are just amazing. They just get things done.' Apparently local women helped the art department produce many of the items needed, amongst them the paintings that get destroyed in the community centre when Botj accidentally sets it ablaze when high on petrol.

In the production notes for the film, Stephen expresses his concern about alcohol abuse and petrol sniffing in Aboriginal communities; 'I believe that in some ways indirect genocide is still taking place.' I asked Stephen if he considers *Yolngu Boy* to be a political film and he made clear that so was not the case. 'I don't want to see it as an Aboriginal movie. It's a great Australian movie!' It draws people in because of its story line. 'Anyone can be affected by it' he says and goes on to explain how he thinks problems such as petrol sniffing and do-

mestic violence are underlying issues. The film is not *about* these things, it is essentially about friendship. I agree but I don't think that makes it less political. I don't see the need to shy away from the issues touched upon in the film. It *is* political because it is about Indigenous people (how often do we see a film where Aboriginal characters take center stage?) but also because it is about youth, addiction and severed family ties

So finally, the finished product has now made it to the big screen. According to Stephen, *Yolngu Boy* has so far been very well received by critics and audiences in Australia as well as internationally. I think it deserves all the attention it can get, especially for the stunning views of the remote landscape most of us can only dream about ever visiting. When I ask Stephen about his next venture he grows quiet. There are obviously several projects being considered but none yet decided on. Whatever develops out of his silence, I'm already looking forward to seeing it.

Sol

HOT DOCS: film fest AUSTRALIA BY NUMBERS

Tuesday 24 – Sunday 29 April
Mercury Cinema

The opening night of the Hot Docs film fest showcased two of the South Australian entries in the 'Australia By Numbers' initiative. This is a series of half-hour documentaries exploring themes of 'people and place'. A joint project funded by SBS Independent and the South Australian Film Corporation, it is aimed at emerging directors seeking their first broadcast documentary credit.

Throughout history people's identity has been formed through a sense of belonging and being in a 'place'. How we locate ourselves, is part of our individual desire to become part of 'something'. Both of these films highlight the importance of place and the way identity is formed through belonging to a place, and destroyed through disruption to place. The first of the two documentaries *Gepps Cross 5094* directed by Amy Gebhardt and produced by Dale Fairbairn, centres on the Gepps Cross Drive-In, which is one of the last working drive-ins in Australia and an iconic symbol in the outer suburbs. Interviews with an ethnically diverse group of locals who have a nostalgic attachment to the screen no matter what their age, race or gender draw on people's family connections, their first kiss, growing up, cars and fashion (were you a Bodgee or a Widgee, a Mod or a Rocker???) yet ultimately reminds us of the imposition of big business and development. I couldn't help but be reminded of Cinema Paradiso during this film.

Kumarangk 5124 directed by Jessica Wallace and produced by Rebecca Summerton also draws heavily on this theme. This is a beautiful, sensitive portrayal of the Ngarrindjeri women, and their relationship with each other, and the land Kumarangk, otherwise known as Hindmarsh Island.

The significance of Kumarangk is mapped through the cosmology of these women, their belonging to this land invaded by the presence of a modern structure over precious, symbolic water, blocking the formation of stars known as the seven sisters. The tradition of basket weaving and story telling evokes powerful images that force us as an audience to confront the cultural insensitivity that has been played out over the course of these developments.

Both these films are extremely well shot, the camera never seeming to be invasive. The directors engage with their 'actors' and allow them authorship of their truths, leaving us with a powerful, compelling narrative. This is a talent that is a tribute to both these women, and the presence of the deep bonds of friendship that formed between the participants and the directors were evident to all of us who attended the screening. Both Amy Gebhardt and Jessica Wallace have a HUGE future...so keep watching...

Karen Turner

Yolngu Boy
Now Showing
Palace/ Nova Cinemas

In a period spanning 40 years only two Australian films featuring an Aboriginal theme have come close to enjoying some degree of commercial success: *Jedda* and *Walkabout*. Neither of these films featured a full Aboriginal cast and their portrayal of Indigenous culture is today seen as questionable. Why is there such a lack of films with serious treatment of Aboriginal lives and why do the few that appear, such as *Dead Heart*, quickly fall into oblivion without enjoying much success in the cinemas? It is a risky business telling serious cinematic stories about the oldest living culture on Earth. The films have to balance the commercially viable and the politically correct with the culturally acceptable. *Yolngu Boy* tries, more or less successfully, to do all that.

First feature from director Stephen Johnson, who is perhaps best known for his work on Yothu Yindi's music videos, *Yolngu Boy* tells the story of three teenage boys who are stuck between two cultures. They once shared a childhood dream of becoming great hunters together but times have changed. Botj (Sean Mununggurr) has already spent some time in detention, and Milika (Nathan Daniels) is more interested in football and music than the traditional knowledge he is being taught. Only Lorrpu (John Sebbie Pilakui) still cares for their dream. In a desperate attempt

to bring the friends back together and help Botj out of more trouble he persuades Botj and Milika to come on a trek to Darwin. It is this journey through the unforgiving wilderness of Arnhem Land that is the pivotal part of the film.

Yolngu Boy has an absolutely stunning look. Johnson is very skilful when it comes to portraying the landscape and the boys' interaction with it. The land becomes a main character, as important as any other. All three of the young actors are good but I must say I was especially impressed by the intensity of Mununggurr's performance. The main problem with the film is the script. Unfortunately, it does not quite manage the balance discussed earlier but tries too hard to fit the ancient culture into a commercial adventure story. Ironically, this will probably help the film get a wider audience, particularly amongst teenagers. Although *Yolngu Boy* isn't completely satisfying on all levels, it is definitely an exciting project well worth all the attention it can get. And for those of us who have been longing to see more Aboriginal characters on the big screen, *Yolngu Boy* has already written itself into Australian cinematic history.

Sol

...A Bug Planet

Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles

Now Showing
At the Megaplex

He's back! Classic Aussie Michael J. Crocodile Dundee stands up to fight yet another round, but I'd think twice before I slipped another shrimp on the barbie. Classic Hoges? I don't think so. Sporting a new face, Paul Hogan has made an attempt to replenish his funds with yet another episode in the Crocodile Dundee saga.

This time we see Mick at home in the Australian outback, still hunting seven-foot crocs. Now with a young son, Mikey (played by on screen virgin, Serge Cockburn), Mick finds himself part of a dying industry. So of course, when long time girlfriend Sue Charlton (again played Linda Kozlowski - and she still can't act!) gets called back to her United States homeland on business, Mick jumps at the chance to visit that strange land of America.

As you'd expect, Mick quickly begins wreaking havoc on the unsuspecting American public in his typical naive Aussie way. While much of this is quite funny (in fact, some of the jokes are absolutely hilarious), we've seen it all before. Mick does his animal mesmerising trick, tells the time from the sun (seems he does it

properly this time), is victim of an attempted mugging, catches a thief, plays with his knife, and has fun with the new technology. Come on Paul, are the ideas that thin on the ground?

Joining Mick on his American exodus is Jacko, another bushwhacked croc hunter (played by Alec Wilson, who played Denning in Dundee II). Needless to say, Jacko also has an interesting time in the US.

Also making appearances in the movie are the legendary Adelaide boy, Grant Piro (does anyone remember him???) as an American tour guide of all things (!?) and Mike Tyson, who teaches Mick how to meditate.

Oh yeah, there is also some mystery Bond style plot happening somewhere in the background here, but like in the other Dundee movies, it is of secondary concern and will pass you by if you don't pay attention.

Well, I must say Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles wasn't a bad movie. It certainly wasn't great, but it wasn't bad. If you're a die-hard Dundee fan then see this, otherwise just hire the first two again. They were far superior. Hoges, give it up mate!

Luke Balzan



Scary Movie Roadshow Home Entertainment

As someone who has yet to watch any of the teen slasher films that inspired *Scary Movie*, I feel that I am at a significant disadvantage in trying to review it. Because if one thing quickly becomes apparent about the film, it is that everything in it (the plot, the characters, even the ambience) is taken from somewhere else (at a guess, the *Scream* movies and *I Know What You Did Last Summer*).

In fact, there really isn't a plot as such; it is more like watching a series of sketches on a comedy show. And the characters are little more than cardboard imitations there to facilitate the (many) jokes. But of course these are the qualities that define genre comedies in the first place. And happily *Scary Movie* has a lot of funny mo-

ments buried amid all the stupidity. The improvised bong scene is the funniest thing I've seen in a while, and the 'Black TV' reporter made me rewind the tape half a dozen times.

The interesting thing is how far director Keenen Wayans is prepared to push the boundaries of taste to get the laughs. Apart from the usual array of bodily function and oral sex jokes, there is an erect (though prosthetic) penis, a veritable forest of pubic hair, and the most semen this side of a German hardcore porn film. Of course, Wayans didn't intend *Scary Movie* to be any other way. The jokes are there to smack you hard upside the head, and if that's the way you like your comedies, then I definitely recommend *Scary Movie* to you. Grade: B.

Daniel McCarthy
Special thanks to Sally
Molyneux-Boyd

GRATNOST - Ed Wood

1994 Dir: Tim Burton, Johnny Depp, Sarah Jessica Parker, Martin Landau.
Touchstone Home Video

Tim Burton is a genius, an eccentric filmmaker who, in his second collaboration with Johnny Depp, displays his distinctive style of moviemaking once again. A former cartoonist for Disney, Burton has a talent for bringing his quirky characters to the big screen. His creation of the life story of *Ed Wood* is a sensational and jocular portrayal of an enduring young film director, a B-grade master who is striving for accomplishment that he will never realize. The cross-dressing Ed (Johnny Depp) is a wacky fellow who, despite being trashed by the critics, continues his dream of storytelling. Ed stumbles upon Bela Lugosi (Martin Landau), a former star that Ed admires and a friendship begins. His relationship with his lady friend (Sarah Jessica Parker) deteriorates as she refuses to embrace his impractical friends and his penchant for cross-dressing.



Ed Wood is the only person who believes in Bela. Ed wants to make a star out of him again and give him back the confidence he once had. Johnny Depp is faultless as the oddball Ed and gives one of his finest performances in his fantastic career. He provides much of this classic film's humor, largely through some wonderful facial mannerisms. His timing as an actor is marvelous; a divine portrayal of a man destined for failure. Watch closely for comic whiz Bill Murray in a small role.

Martin Landau has been given a role of a lifetime and does some great work as the fading star Bela Lugosi. For other appealing Landau roles check out *North by Northwest* (1959) and *Pork Chop Hill* (1959) which he made with Gregory Peck.

Matthew Herfurth

Love is a Four Letter Word ABC Network Tuesday 9:30 - 10:00

ABC Executive 1: We need to broaden our audience. Perhaps we should tap into that whole under 40's market I've been hearing so much about.

ABC Executive 2: Brilliant! But how? More *Degrassi Junior High* reruns? *Temptation Island Down Under*?

ABC Executive 1: No, I have an even better idea. We can hire a group of up-and-coming writers, and have them write about themselves! It can be a snapshot into their whole generation!

ABC Executive 2: (Very excitedly) By Jove, I think you have it! I'm sick of listening to the *Zit Remedy* anyway.

Angus is a jaded twentysomething who has given up his chance at law school to live in and manage a pub with his father, his best friend Paul, his girlfriend and her sister. Unfortunately he has a talent for cocking things up, and this is why he has his father's young Spanish fiancée up the duff, is on and off with his girlfriend's sister and frequently exchanges punches with Paul.

Love is a Four Letter Word follows Angus' attempts to get his life into order, as written by a crack team of today's up-and-coming writers, and the show is acted by, you guessed it,

Australia's young up-and-coming actors. Strange camera angles, cut-aways to the characters speaking their mind in pun filled monologues dripping with sarcasm, and strong anti-pokie, pro-live-music messages all go towards making this the ABC's 'coolest' new drama.

It's a great idea. It worked for the BBC with *This Life*, which with its cult following almost single-handedly rekindled youth interest in the BBC. So why doesn't it work here? What's unfortunate is that with so much crammed into the one show it seems they overlooked what makes all great dramas great: character development. Interesting situations do not automatically mean interesting characters. Although some pretty weird and even at times interesting stuff is happening to these people, I found myself only marginally interested in the outcome.

However, if you're like me and you were watching *Temptation Island* for the sole purpose of seeing the couples break up, then *Love is a Four Letter Word* may provide some comfort for you now that your Tuesday schedule is left with a depressing hole. This television show won't save the ABC, but it is a small step in the right direction. Perhaps by the time we're old enough to hate it, youth-orientated television will once again find its home on ABC.

Adam 'is a four letter word'
Moore

It doesn't get any Queerer than this

Tony Tuckson.

"Painting Forever"

**Art Gallery of South Australia,
28th March – 11th June.**

What do pyjama pants, a *Herald* newspaper and a truckload of paint have in common? They all feature in one of the highlight pieces of the Tony Tuckson exhibition "Pyjamas and Herald." Anyone who can stick his pyjama pants on a canvas and call it art is all right by me. This highly diverse exhibition traces Tuckson's career as an artist, from his days as a successful student of figurative watercolours, to the eventual abstract expressionism which defines his later work. Tuckson worked for most of his life as an arts administrator and freely described himself as a Sunday painter. He was responsible for Australia's first museum collection of Aboriginal and Melanesian art. These indigenous art forms are a subtle influence on Tuckson's work, which ranges from abstract studies of figure and landscape to pieces of explicit expressionism. Just as "Painting forever" is diverse in content so it is di-

verse in media. From fast and florid oils and aggressive pencil work to soft watercolours and inky charcoal, this exhibition proves Tuckson's skill in a range of themes and techniques.

Tuckson is said to be Australia's greatest abstract expressionist and from just a quick scout around the exhibition it's easy to see why. With influences such as Cezanne, Picasso, Matisse and Klee, Tuckson's work is extremely experimental while maintaining a human sensibility full of sensitivity and devotion. This is very obvious in the range of self portraits displayed, where some express a controlled, impressionist's style, while others display a ferocity of apparent rage in dark lines of pencil sprawled across his own face.

Some viewers may find similarities with the works of Albert Tucker and the Angry Penguins in several of Tuckson's pieces. A feeling of bleakness exists in just some of the works

which can be compared to the post-war angst expressed by artists such as Albert Tucker and Arthur Boyd. But fear not, Tuckson's work is not all bleak and depressing – far from it. Other works such as "Pyjamas and Herald" express the relaxed joyfulness of a Sunday morning. We see an intense dissolving beauty in "Watery" as a foreign, spidery script drips through shades of cobalt blue and pastel red, fading into nothingness.

Tuckson left the majority of his work untitled, which is testimony to his modesty. He refrained from exhibiting the majority of his work throughout his life, as he did not want to use his position as an arts administrator to favour the exhibition of what he believed could be seen as second rate work. However Tuckson's art is far from that. "Painting Forever" is an exhibition that expresses the wonderful diversity and scope of Tuckson's work, which through a childish playfulness mixed with obvious technical skill expresses a very adult conception of human emotion and drive.

Ben Rowley

Doodle
OF THE WEEK



THE WIZARD OF OZ

Presented by the Hills Musical Company

in association with Tams-Witmark

STIRLING COMMUNITY THEATRE, Avenue Road, Stirling

May 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26 at 8pm, May 20 & 26 at 2pm

Bookings Stirling Newsagency and Stationers 8339 4041

Survivor Roundup

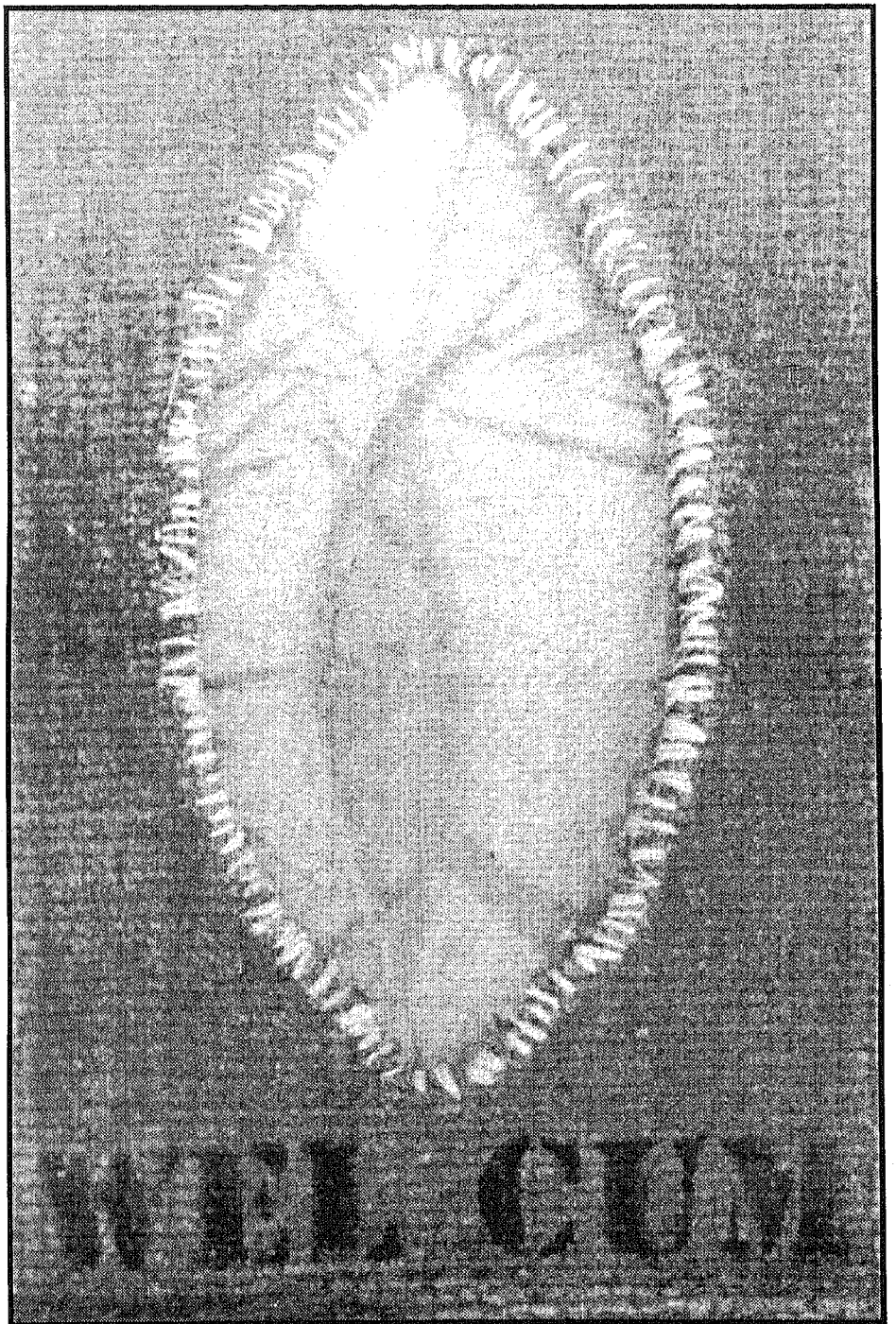
There's no real need for a Roundup this week; it's no longer necessary to keep everyone up to date, but can we all truly move on after the end of the series if there's no closure? That's why, to avoid Linley's protestations at the persistence of Reality TV talk, I've snuck this little gem into the Theatre section. Hopefully, it'll be too late before he realises...

Unquestionably, Tina was a worthy winner, certainly an office favourite. Against all odds, Colby the Immunity Machine chose Tina to be part of the final two, when choosing Keith would have almost certainly assured victory. This shows the high moral standards of this show, compared to the unquestionably ruthless tactics of Series 1. Still, to think that Tina and Colby were 'dragging Keith along the whole time' without his or the audience's knowledge was a strategic masterstroke. Tina's greatest victory was undoubtedly receiving no casting votes against her and getting herself into the final two with Colby despite failing to win any personal Immunity Challenges. That's why we love her.

However, it is time to move on, despite the fun we've had. Thus, no more Survivor Roundup until the series returns in Spring. Africa, and 16 new friends to meet, talk and fantasise about.

Sigh...

Mikey



Welcome Mat by Zanny Begg

Local Noise

Hope you've all managed to check out Local Noise some time in the last few weeks. Those who tuned in last week will surely agree that The Marble Index put on an entertaining show (not to mention the interview). Originally based around the collaboration of guitarist Jared and drummer David, they have now included Avon bass-player-and-a-half Craig to fill out the live sound. Although still fairly recently acquainted, the three members managed to pull off a tight and very enjoyable set, each instrument really coming into its own at various stages throughout the performance. We were also treated to Jared's keyboard skills – gaffer-taping down a single note on a ridiculously expensive looking keyboard and bringing the volume up and down during one song. But what a song! They informed me that they are in the process of recording an album, loosely titled *Hi-Fi Kids Are Losing*, and recorded in the comfortable surroundings of Jared's lounge room. They even managed to get notable producer Matt Hills over here to help out. A 3 song demo known as *forty-two hours* is floating about the place, and features a few of the songs from the album to be released later this year. And 3 indie-pop gems they are. Remarkably good sounds are pulled out of this lounge room, making it a very professional job indeed. The songs are well constructed and simple, yet offer plenty to the listener upon multiple hearings. Well thought-out pop music if you will. Jared cleverly incorporates plenty of subtle guitar effects, which make you forget there is only one guitarist in the group. Certainly a local band to be looking out for and an album to anticipate.

This week however, Local Noise is cranking it up another level with hard rockers ANGELIK. Featuring sweet female vocals over big guitar riffs and pounding drums, it will be interesting to see how the energetic live show comes across in the studio. Oh and in theme with this week's *On Dit*, they are pretty sexy too. Check it out.

denni d.

Roger The Band CD Launch @ Seven Stars

Well, it certainly was one hell of a weekend. The greatest AFL team ever had just won the Ansett Cup. The first non-Melbourne team to do so in the first AFL grand final to be played outside of Melbourne. Absolutely fantastic. And after such a sensational day at the football, I couldn't think of a better way to celebrate than to cruise down to the Seven Stars and party on at Roger The Band's long awaited CD launch.

By the time that I arrived, Sydney band The Brain had taken the stage, and they had already warmed up the audience which filled the venue. Their style of funky hard rock was a winner with the crowd, and I strongly recommend you see these guys the next time they're in town.

A short wait followed The Brain's set, and then it was time for Roger to shine in their moment of glory. They took the stage and the crowd went nuts. As always, vast numbers of people danced the night away to Roger's funky sounds, while everyone else present watched on, smiles on the faces of all. The guys played all the

'hits' off their newly pressed CD *Community Service Announcement*, as well as their other hits. 'Right on time', the regular Mr Bungle cover, found its way into the set, along with the other cover, the beautiful 'You're Too Good To Be True' (think Hungry Jack's commercials), both instant crowd pleasers.

Despite any pressures the guys were under due to the CD launch, their musicianship and talent never failed to shine through, and all gave superb performances. Hank's voice was spot on all night, Chris' guitar playing was top notch, while drummer Alex and bassist Andrew (affectionately introduced as Android) demonstrated why they are one of the best rhythm sections in Adelaide.

Overall, there was a very good vibe on the night, and everyone obviously had a wild time. Make sure you catch the guys the next time they play (they've got some dates coming up with Pre-Shrunk) and get a hold of their fantastic CD, *Community Service Announcement*.

Lukey

Peachment The American Public Pop Gun Records

Peachment is the debut self-produced EP from new local band The American Public, and I'll have to say it is incredibly good for such a newly formed band. The sound could be described as indie pop, incorporating some incredibly catchy melodies. The majority of the songs are guitar driven melodic tracks that I imagine would work well in a live setting. In particu-

lar, 'The American Public' is a really catchy tune. The track that grabbed my attention immediately though was the first one, a rather intriguing take on 'The Star Spangled Banner', using an organ and a backbeat. Perhaps they should use that at the Superbowl rather than inviting The Backstreet Boys to sing it. The American Public certainly rival any other guitar pop around at the moment, and the good thing is that they are local! So go along and check them out.

Poptart

Angelik



Interview with Sam Baroudi

Coinciding with the upcoming release of their debut E.P. *Disassembled*, I recently had the chance to speak with Angelik's guitarist Sam Baroudi. Formed nearly 4 years ago by Sam and the band's singer, Laken Smith, who had previously played together in a band called Slow Creep, Angelik has endured some line-up changes in the past before completing its present line-up with Shane Forster on drums and Greg Wright on bass. The group has recently been featured on compilations such as *Foot in the Door*, as well as receiving substantial airplay on 3D radio for the last few years. Angelik has also supported bands such as Bluebottle Kiss and Elephant Gun. Sam describes their music as having a grinding, guitar based rock sound, which pretty accurately describes the overall feel of the EP. Sam told me that whilst the band members may not have all had the exact same ideas as to how they should sound when Angelik was starting out, he said that there was room for the individual members to express their ideas within the band. Starting out with what Sam described as a more raw sound, he told me that the sound has since developed and that the songs are now more polished and tight, indicative of a greater understanding within the group. The songwriting process of the band was described as a whole group effort, while Laken Smith writes the lyrics. This group input into the songwriting process may go some way towards describing the diversity of the 5 track EP, which explores lots of areas within the guitar rock genre. Talking about the EP, I started by asking Sam about the recording process. He told me that the band chose Soundhouse studios (and the producer Ange from Soundhouse Studios) on recommendation by another band, and that they could not be happier with the result. The recording process took the band 6 full days, and the resulting EP turned out pretty much as the band had hoped. When I asked him to select a favourite track from the EP, he chose 'Go!' as he said it is probably one of the band's best tracks live. He went on to point out that he is proud of all five tracks, and that he can find something to like in all the tracks, something he was not able to say about the band's previous 6 track demo recording. When I asked him about their live performances, he was quick to praise Angelik's vocalist Laken Smith, telling me that she really stands out at their live shows with a great stage presence, which is easy to imagine given the quality of her vocals on this EP. He said that the band would try to push this release locally for the next few months before hopefully heading to Melbourne for a few gigs later in the year to gain interstate support and wider exposure.

The CD launch for the *Disassembled* EP is being held at the Austral Hotel on Saturday May 12, with support from Tendahook.

The band is also being featured on 5UV's Local Noise program on Tuesday May 8, at 9:30 pm which includes a live performance.

Church

Angelik Disassembled EP

This 5-track release comes more than 3 years after the band's inception, and this shows in the songwriting and musicianship. The standout tracks for me were 'Go!' and 'Alright', although all the tracks have their individual merits. Vocalist Laken Smith's vocals are a standout, and give the band a distinctive edge. *Disassembled* is a worthy debut release from this Adelaide guitar rock group.

Church

Surrounded by Sound

The new look *On Dit* local music section aims to keep you ever more informed in all that's happening music-wise in our fair town. Along with Denni's bit on Local Noise, there are more local band interviews and reviews and this here column to keep you up to date.

This weekend our town will be vibrant as ever, with quality Australian and International music 'round every corner. Wednesday night sees the nationally acclaimed **George** playing the Tivoli with **Scissor Pretty**, while on Thursday **The American Public** will probably pack out the Rhino Room for their CD launch. On Friday, you can support local radio station **Three d** by going to the In-zone for some quality bands. If that's not your thing, check out the unparalleled **Dandy Warhols** at the Thebby with **Even** and **Pretty Violet Stain**. To lend some interstate support, get along to see Melbourne's **Warped** (check out interview in this edition) play the Austral with **Muscle Car**.

On Saturday night check out this week's Local Noise guests **Angelik** as they take their turn at rocking the Austral, with **Tendahook**. Meanwhile the Unibar windows are set to shake to the sounds of **Nokturnl**, **Superheist** and local heavyweights **Truth Corroded**, and again on Sunday with **Enemy of?** as the local support.

There really is a lot going on at the moment, with the **John Butler Trio** coming to town very soon, as well as that loony trio that defy classification - **Regurgitator!** I for one am excited. And with the new Tool album coming out next week I really wish I had much more money.

Which reminds me, anyone finding themselves strapped for cash and wanting **FREE TICKETS** for an up-coming gig, if your prepared to write a review of it, come down to the On Dit office and leave me a note (along with contact details), I'll see what I can do. Also if your band has a demo CD, bring it in and we'll review it.

With this much good music on offer, treat yourself and go hear it LIVE.

mike p.

Interview with Tim Freedman The Whitlams

The third single release from the Whitlams fourth album "Love this City" is entitled, rather naughtily, "Made me Hard". But, all of you smut obsessed people out there will be disappointed to hear that the title has little to do with sexual things. Speaking to Tim Freedman, I quickly worked out that my wandering mind had been wrong, all wrong! "It's about a fellow who feels beleaguered at the end of a relationship, and he's trying to warn himself not to be too distrustful in the future." One would still wonder if the devious Freedman intellect had masterminded the double entendre, but apparently not. "It's not until I started saying the title on stage and people tittered, that I realised what was going on. I really had no intention of bringing penises into people's minds. I never do."

This single will be the third and last for the album, and comes out just as their 'Winter Lovin' - 2001 tour begins. The band will be here in Adelaide on the 27th and 28th at the Gov, supported by iOTA. We may think ourselves quite lucky considering iOTA is a Freedman favourite, "iOTA is a really hard act to follow, he just sold out the biggest gig here in Sydney at the metro, it was like Al Green performing in Memphis, he had them in the palm of his hand."

With the opportunity to talk to Freedman I couldn't help look for confirmation of his habits and rumours. Yes, he does drink between 1 1/2 and 2 bottles of red a show, his favourite being Rockfords '98 Basketpress

Shiraz. No, he did not kill a past girlfriend two years ago, and he's not married to an ex-English supermodel who is about to present him with a baby: "I told the columnist that I was having Elle McPherson's baby, and that it was going to be of tremendous



benefit to my job as a Russian TV executive. Anyone can ring up these people and say anything. Needless to say that I'm not interested in breeding at this time, I'm not married and I don't have a baby".

With the attention surrounding "Love This City" drawing to a close, you'd have to wonder what plans are for album number 5. "With the last two albums I never really knew what was going to happen until it was over. I think I have a firmer idea (for the next one) than I have for the past two, where it's been a matter of me being a ring leader for a cast of about 100 musicians, sort of dressed up as band albums. This album I'll be using the present band from the first moment,

so this will be the first band album I've done since 1995."

Before wrapping it up, I couldn't help but ask, does he really want to be Gough Whitlam, or at least which historical figure he would choose to be? Apparently not Whitlam, considering his term of office lasted only 3 years. I think he would have preferred to avoid this question at all, considering it reminded him of Women's Magazines, but he humoured me. It turns out Tim would rather be Fidel Castro.

I'll leave that to everyone to ponder for themselves.

Mikey Fyfe

The Whitlams Made Me Hard

The third single from the Whitlams Third Album is the reflective and emotional Made Me Hard. Recorded in Memphis, the single version is slightly different from that of the album, with much more emphasis on the swinging rhythm and a much richer, newer vocal from Freedman (who complained incidentally that he always had to sing the song after a long winter influenza). The best thing about this single is the live versions of 'Gough' and 'Charlie No. 3', and the acoustic 'Blow up the Pokies' which make it worth the money.

Mikey Fyfe

Interview With Warped

Warped are coming to Adelaide again, which is excellent news for all lovers of talented bands. But who the hell are warped and what do they do?

In an age where 'Aussie rock' is a celebrated thing with bands like 'The Superjesus' going around, the relatively unheard of band 'Warped' stand out as the *real deal*, (according to their bass player anyway) and I would have to agree. Beat magazine put it simply enough: 'More rock than a quarry.' Warped are indeed all about rock. The cover of their new EP 'Strychnine Girl' gives you an insight as it incorporates guitars, skulls and females. Beyond the simple description of rock Warped have been talked of in terms of stoner rock bands like the Kyuss of old and there is some similarity in the sound they produce. Being labeled stoner rock though is evidently not something that sits well with the band. 'We don't sit around and write 15 minute desert epics about tripping out on acid,' says Brett the bass player, 'we just write songs about girls.' In describing Warped Brett reckons that if you chucked all the best seventies rock in a blender

Warped would be spat out the other end, but tuned down a bit. The Kiss and AC/DC covers on the EP are testament to this.

As a live act Warped seem to be amongst great company after supporting bands such as The Melvins, Fu Manchu and the Hellacopters; hell they even supported the Donnas. This live pedigree seems to be something the band is proud of as Brett was quick to further distance Warped from stoner rock as he reckoned a stoned, lazy live ethic is far from what Warped offer. In fact you should be able to expect is, 'a rock onslaught,' incorporating all the clichéd rock moves as the band, 'just go nuts' on stage reportedly brimming full of caffeine. For those of you that have seen the John Spencer Blues Explosion their name did crop up in relation to Warped's onstage energy.

For unrefined, heavy rock and all the

live connotations that this conjures up see warped play at the Austral on the 11th of May or the night after at the Holdy. Warped seem to have slipped almost unnoticeably through Adelaide three times already but this time on the back of the newly released single, 'Strychnine girl' (which is receiving favourable airplay on 3d radio) and with an upcoming album to be released around June or July (touted as a 'rock extravaganza' that the band appear to be very, very happy with) they seem to be a band not to be missed. I like them anyway.



Interview with Pnau

Whilst Australia's underground dance circuit is already familiar with the talents of Pnau, the rerelease of their album *Sambanova* is indicative of their mainstream rise in popularity. The eclectic mix of latin sounds, hip-hop, samples, disco-feed and funk makes for stimulating listening. Speaking with Nick Littlemore, the founding member of Pnau, I was able to ask those all-important questions about their music that had been bugging me since their fantastic performance in the Boiler Room at this year's Big Day Out.

Like their name. Exactly how do you pronounce the name? Considering words like pneumatic, why do people pronounce it p-now? Apparently I'm not the only person who really cares about this. "It doesn't really matter how you pronounce the name. Feel free to say it as 'Now' if you want to. It's just a name, it just creates interest about what sort of music we might play, but it doesn't really tell you much." Oh, OK then.

A much more artistically relevant point is the influences that have made the band what they are (despite this being a drastically overdone review question.) The answer was refreshingly interesting. "Everything I buy influences me. I'm always looking for new stuff, new ways to do things. We don't want to become stagnant." It's an open attitude like this that has made Pnau's eclectic sampling and mixing what it is. "The last album I bought was actually a couple of vinyls from New York, stuff released in 83. There was a fantastic club scene

emerging there around 83/84, the sort of thing that's becoming really popular again now. I like to pick a period and concentrate on it, at the moment it just happens to be the early eighties, but the location is important too." According to Littlemore, *Sambanova* is mostly influenced from a period of 1963-72 New York and Spain.

A big issue for bands like Pnau is performance style: when your music relies on mixing and generally concentrating your attention on a desk it can be difficult to keep things visually appealing to your audience. Pnau includes a drummer and keyboard player in an attempt to combat this, while Nick likes to "dance around like an idiot and just let go. Performances should be about just letting go to the music." Doesn't he ever get self-conscious doing this? "Yeah, every time. Of course. But you get over it." Nick assured me that by the time Pnau reached the Unibar as part of their Get Lucky tour on May the 19th, he would have some props organised for the shows as well, and some graphics and video feeds that they're putting together themselves. All in all it seems set to be one big show, although fans will have a conflict of interest considering it's the same night as the Law Ball. Choose for yourselves.

But I'll be there.

And by the way, if you're a really big fan of the band, the word is they love Bertie's Pancake House on King William Street. But you didn't hear it from me.

Mikey Fyfe

Live Review: You Am I

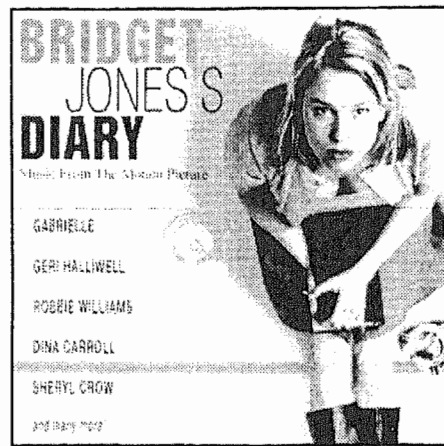
Tivoli Hotel, Fri 4th May, with Eskimo Joe and The Vines

Launching their new album last week, You Am I headed along to the Tivoli with two young Aussie bands in a show that was destined to restore all fans' faith in good old Aussie guitar rock. First up was young three-piece The Vines. Having never heard these guys before, I was most impressed with their brand of tight guitar pop/rock. Their singer/guitarist definitely gave the band something distinctive, with his blend of mellow vocals interspersed with some impressive screaming. The second band on stage was Western Australia's Eskimo Joe. Their set included an excellent version of current single 'Wake Up', as well as past singles 'Turn Up Your Stereo' and 'Sweater'. They also played a selection of tracks from their new album, including 'Who Sold Her Out?' and 'I'm A Liar', and these tracks definitely showed a musical progression from their early work. These guys really impressed me with their enthusiasm for playing live, and their touring guitarist gave them an excellent live sound. Opening with 'Purple Sneakers', the band everyone was here to see soon had the crowd playing on every word. After taking

a few tracks to get his vocals spot on after admitting to a big night after the previous evening's gig, Tim Rogers soon was in fine form. Playing an excellent mix of the classic old songs and some great new album tracks, You Am I showed great enthusiasm on stage, and despite Rusty Hopkinson breaking two snare skins in the space of 5 or 6 songs, nothing could stop the band putting on a top show. It's hard to pinpoint the highlights, but personally they would have to have been 'Jewels and Bullets', 'Berlin Chair' and 'Tuesday', with recent addition David Lane not putting a foot wrong and really giving these older tracks a new dimension when played live. New tracks 'Damage' and 'Get Up' got great crowd support, and it was obvious to all that You Am I are still one of the great live Aussie rock bands going around. Coming back for an encore, Tim Rogers dedicated a solo acoustic version of 'Heavy Heart' to his wife and daughter, before being re-joined by the rest of the band to rock on out with a great version of 'Cathy's Clown'. Ending with 'Rumble', You Am I showed that they still have the enthusiasm and the songs to pull off an excellent live show.

Church

Reviews Reviews

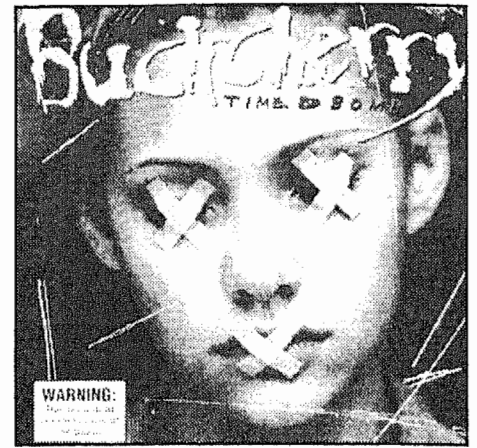


Bridget Jones's Diary
Various Artists
Universal

What can I say about this soundtrack? I haven't read the book but I will probably go and see the movie when it comes out, so I can't really say yet how suited this album is to the movie. It's full of the usual schamltzy romantic songs, the best of which are the two tracks by Robbie Williams (although I am biased towards him). His nod towards Sinatra, 'Have You Met Miss Jones?', which I imagine was written specially for the movie, is a sensational track for sipping cocktails to. There are a few older songs, like 'Respect' and 'I'm Every Woman' that sit quite well with the newer tracks by Gabrielle, Sheryl Crow and a new one by Alisha's Attic, from whom I've heard nothing for the past few years.

There is a version of the classic camp track, 'It's Raining Men' performed by Geri Halliwell, that is actually not too bad. 'Love' by an artist I have never heard of, Rosey, is one of the standout tracks, as is 'Killin' Kind'. After listening to this album you get the same feeling that you get after eating a whole bag of snakes, like you have been completely immersed in sugar from the inside out. And that's not such a bad feeling, is it?

Poptart



Time Bomb
Buckcherry
Dreamworks

"Take your clothes off and shut the door, pornographic monster on the floor, that's what you like I'll come some more, don't you know we fuck for money. I'm a big dick motherfucking porno star." There is something I just can't put my finger on, an unnamable quality that makes me dislike Buckcherry right from the outset. I cringed as I put another cliched 'bad boy' rock CD in my bag taking solace from the thought that at least I could sell it and get something good. In view of this I was almost ashamed of liking *Time Bomb*. Is rock is good. The album opens with four cranking, all out, distorted guitar, old fashioned rock songs that made me tap my feet and, after a while move the rest of my body in an aggressive yet rhythmical motion. At full bore, which they are at for the most part of this album Buckcherry are definitely well accomplished and in their element. Unfortunately for them they find the need to stray away from the great blend of ACDC and the Sex Pistols and chance their arm at a few slower more melodic, even romantic songs such as 'Place in the sun.' In my mind this experiment fails even with acoustic guitars, sitars, baritone guitars and a mandolin. For one Josh Todd's strained vocals that compliment the rock so well really don't suit. All in all though if you are interested definitely don't be put off because, softer side aside, this album does rock and who knows you might see it second hand at Uni Records.

Morgan

Giveaways!

Are you a big fan of Michael, Peter, Micky and Davy? Do people think YOU Monkee around? Would you love a copy of this groovy Limited Edition pack? Wonderful Wade from Warner has kindly donated some copies of the Definitive Monkees Collection to give away!! Come down to *On Dit*, (Wednesday, 2:00pm) and do your best impression of the 'Theme From The Monkees'... or any other Monkees tune you like. Do you love The Whitlams' tune 'Made Me Hard'? So do we. Come down to the office on Wednesday at 2:00pm (beware of crazed Monkees fans), and you could own your very own copy. Thanks Wade! Thanks Warner!

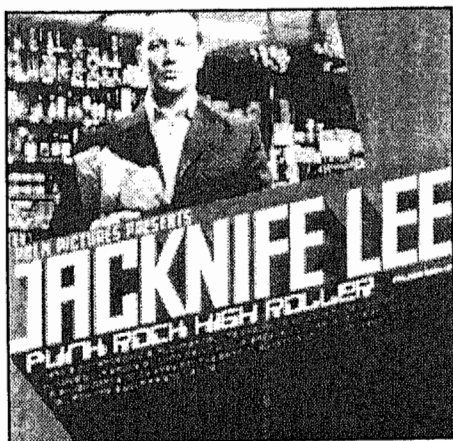
Clowns Never Laughed Before



Ash
Free All Angels
Festival/Mushroom

Brimming with songs written by vocalist Tim Wheeler, *Free All Angels* will not disappoint Ash fans. Comprising of thirteen tracks, this long-awaited album is an eclectic mix of songs which reflect their growing maturity. In an earlier edition of *On Dit*, Mark Hamilton declared that the first single, 'Shining Light', was probably the weakest track on the album. He was absolutely right. *Free All Angels* is packed with far more energetic and disparate tracks. The title track, for one, is reminiscent of the brilliant pop/rock of 1977, and is consequently one of the finer songs on the album. 'Submission', (Rick is apparently really into 'that sort of thing') is an interesting digression into the world of S&M...and a pretty fine track, too. However, the standout song is undoubtedly the jagged 'Shark'. Its energy and aggression surpasses the pleasant pop of 'Pacific Palisades' and the charming 'Someday'. Overall, Tim's vocals are strong and the songwriting is of the calibre expected from a critically acclaimed band like Ash.

jen



Jackknife Lee
Punk Rock High Roller
Festival/Mushroom

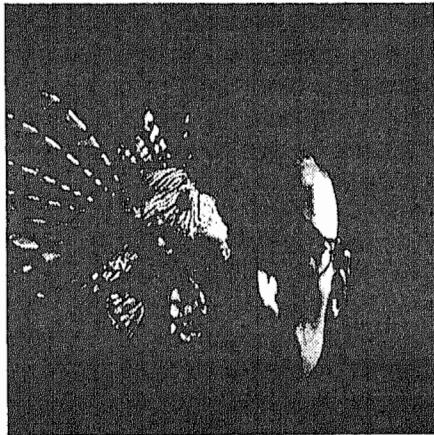
This album is full of paradoxes, and that's probably what I find particularly attractive about it. *Punk Rock High Roller* is the work of a Moby/Beck/positive/pessimistic

oxymoron, who enjoys making cheerfully dancey songs, with a little satire on the side.

Frequent listeners of JJJ will recognise the high rotation tracks, 'Easy' and 'Cookies'. 'Easy' is a very catchy, very vibrant track considering that the lyrics indicate that it's written about people who Jackknife Lee hates. 'I Love Your Sauce' is a delightful track, all about...well... loving people's sauce.

Overall, the album is very easy to listen to, packed with catchy tracks and interesting samples. Complete with great artwork, and a sarcastically blissful vibe, *Punk Rock High Roller* is well worth the effort.

jen



DJ Deep
Respect To DJ Deep
EMI

Hating house music is something that comes naturally to some. With those boring drum beats, tired sounds and corny, shallow lyrics, it's not hard

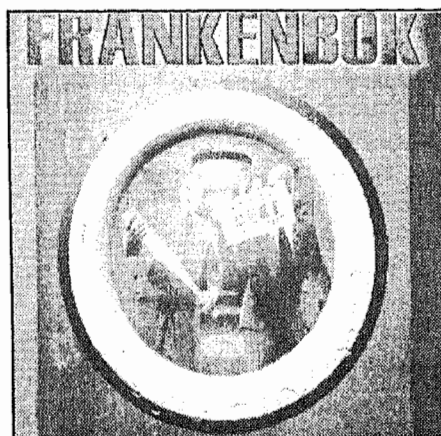
to find yourself thinking "...gee, I think house music sucks".

If you fit into the above category, then there's just one thing you need to do: *listen to this compilation*. This recommendation comes from a converted cynic who, until 79 minutes ago, held no hope for the genre.

This is a make-me-happy-anytime album, on FIRE with unique and quality music to which you could get up and do a little jig, or just sit back and sip on a comforting Southern.

Track selection ranges back from the early 90s right through to present. Indeed this album poopies all over anything you previously knew to be called 'house'. Be sure to check out the last track, 'Brother', but don't touch track 10 ('Father').

MGF



Frankenkob
The Loopholes & Great Excuses EP
Dark Carnival

This is the second release from Melbourne five piece Frankenkob, and is a continuation of their self styled 'Taco Metal' music genre incorporating lots of meat with a little bit of cheese. As great and accomplished as Frankenkob are, however, in my opinion this particular taco just has too much cheese. Frankenkob are particularly notable for vocalist Adam Glynn's amazing and very Mike Patton like range of vocals. This vocal range is on great display throughout the EP but in my view almost to a distracting extent, overpowering the chunky guitar riffs of songs like 'Monk Discipline' and 'The Virtue of Angels'. Throughout the EP Frankenkob show their willingness to experiment, as every song is far from one-dimensional. Interesting keyboards are incorporated as the songs frequently change pace from the subdued and almost funky right back into the heavy riffing. For me one of the stand out tracks is 'Cocaine', as its chunky guitars really capture Frankenkob at their best. Of particular note as well is the cover of Madison Avenue's 'Don't Call Me Baby' which finishes the EP. In short this is bloody fantastic and worth buying the EP for on its own. Here the amount of cheese is just right and the vocalist's range is used to perfection as the chunked up bass lines and vocalist's take on the verses give way to the growled 'Don't call me baby' chorus. I can't express how much of a winner this cover is and it should be appreciated by metal and non-metal fans alike.

Morgan

The Monkees Bio

Hey, Hey, We're The Monkees! Everybody loves Austin Powers, and here's a band who Austin himself would have worshipped. Straight out of the 60s kitsch that's making a resurgence at the moment, here's the Definitive collection from the band your Mother used to shake her groove thang to.

The original manufactured pop group, these four boys formed a group after answering an ad in a Hollywood newspaper. The ad called for 'insane' boys aged between 17 and 21, and Michael Nesmith, Davy Jones, Peter Thorkelson and Micky Dolenz fit the bill. A television show about the band spawned several hits, and the onset of Monkeemania. The Monkees were able to transfer the hysteria created by hip and groovy 60s bands onto television screens, and they soon became one of the most popular groups of the era. With hits like 'Daydream Believer', and 'Last Train to Clarksville', the Monkees will always be remembered as a group of amicable lads who charmed fans across the globe. In fact, the Monkees remain one of the coolest manufactured bands ever.

Album of the Week



The Definitive Monkees
The Monkees
Warner

Remember watching the Monkees on a rainy Sunday afternoon? Did you wait eagerly for every episode, every rerun? Well, if you loved the show, and the music, then this is the CD for you. You can't EVER have too much Monkees music and here are sixty tracks of pure gold. This Limited Edition package contains: a bonus disc of thirty tracks, a glossy colour booklet packed with pictures and bits of interesting information, all packaged in a groovy box set. The first disc includes the majority of the Monkees hits, such as '(Theme from) The Monkees', 'I'm A Believer', 'A Little Bit Me, A Little Bit You', 'Mary Mary', 'Pleasant Valley Sunday' and '(I'm Not Your) Stepping Stone'. For fans, the real treat is the bonus disc, full of rarities, unreleased tracks and alternate mixes. Personal favourites include 'Randy Scouse Git' and 'Valleri'. With over 150 minutes of Monkees' magic, this is a must have. A perfect album to sing along to, you can't get much more 60s than The Monkees.

Jen

Beanstalks never grew

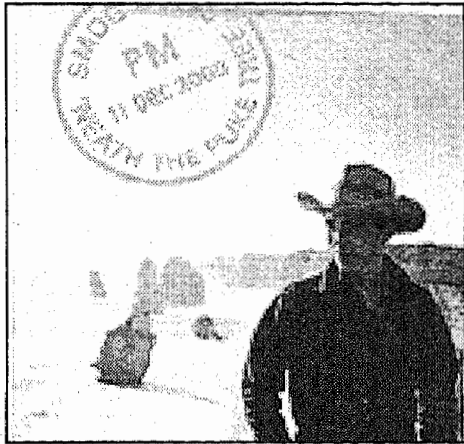
SINGLES



*** Essential Mix**
Mixed by Boy George
Essential Mix- Mixed by Boy George
Various Artists
Warner Music Australia

First thing that comes to mind when Boy George is mentioned is *Culture Club*. However, since that era of bad fluoro clothing, Boy George has become one of the world's best DJs and producers of dance music. This disc proves that fact with a variety of styles beginning with a light and fluffy re-mix of 'Girl from Impanema', through to the 2-step hit 'Let Me Be Your Fantasy' from Baby D vs. Trick or Treat. What really shines from this CD is the quality of Boy George's mixing. Track transitions are smoother than a hit of Johnny Walker Black. You really don't know where one track starts and the other ends (even if some of them are a little short). This is a lesson in professional, seamless mixing: a must buy.

Callum

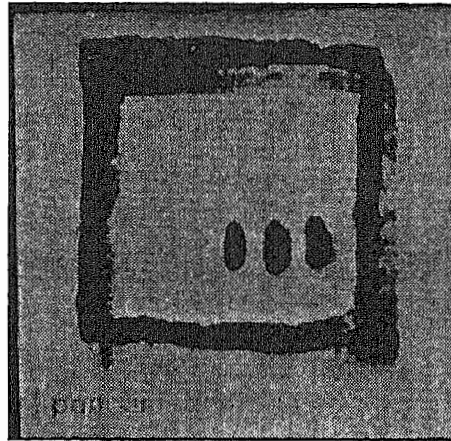


SMOG
'Neath the Puketree
URA035
Spunk/Mushroom

This disc represents SMOG's work on December 12 2000, when he recorded this EP in Melbourne, far from his American home. The SMOG sound has changed for this disc, with a somewhat grainy country/bluegrass sound to it. While it may be difficult to quantify, there is something about this disc that gives its sound an Australian tinge. 'Stranger' is an appropriate song to start the disc with, alluding to his alien status in this country. Unfortunately many of the tracks suf-

fer from what can only be described as either bad musicianship or an untuned guitar. With a depressing foot forward, and his hat tipped in awe of the '3 sisters', Bill Callaghan aka SMOG has skilfully avoided the clichéd 'tour-EP', and delivered a little piece of Australia according to his eye.

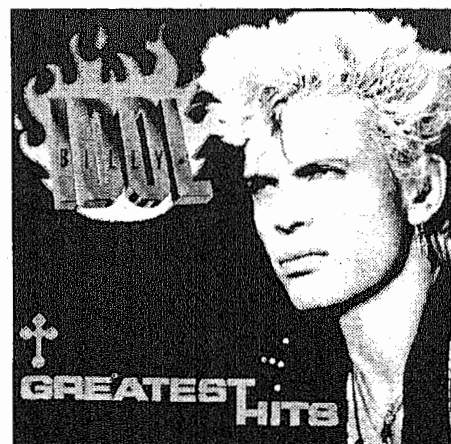
Case C. Sinclair



Parlour
Petit EP
Independent CD-R release.

Parlour is the name given to a group of three very innovative Adeladians who in this, their first release bar a split 7" last year, display some mesmerisingly beautiful electronic/emotive avant rock. The disc opens with singer Shelly's angelic vocal on 'delicious', which sets the scene for the wandering 'endearomatic'. The disc ends with a couple of catchy instrumentals which hint at psychedelia. This disc is the example of the Adelaide music's more sophisticated side, and one can only hope that Parlour decide to continue performing, despite a hiatus beginning soon with the release of a 12" on Optikut records. This EP is also packaged beautifully in a sleeve hand made by the band, what dedication!

Case C. Sinclair



Billy Idol
Greatest Hits
Capitol Records, Chrysalis, EMI

The 80s bad boy of rock. Love him or hate him, Billy Idol has released

some absolute classics. There is no doubting his place in music's history. With each track digitally remastered, this collection of his singles is superior to any other already out there. Let's see. There's 'White Wedding', 'Mony Mony', 'To Be A Lover', 'Hot In The City', 'Dancing With Myself', 'Rebel Yell', 'Sweet Sixteen', 'Cradle Of Love' and 'Eyes Without A Face' to name just the well known ones. One notable omission is the classic 'Speed'. He has also recorded a new cover to ensure that this is a must buy for fans. Surprisingly, the song he chose to cover is none other than the Simple Minds' brilliant 'Don't You (Forget About Me)'. This is one song that doesn't need covering; why attempt to beat perfection? Of course, Mr. Idol has already committed this sin previously when he covered The Doors' 'LA Woman', also included. A special live/acoustic version of 'Rebel Yell' from KROQ's Christmas in 1993 is thoughtfully provided too.

Jorm



Rammstein
Mutter
UMG

Rammstein's latest offering *Mutter* is an epic album full of the hard-hitting guitar and powerful vocals that they have become renowned for since their last album *Sehnsucht*. The album is memorable with sharp bursts of strings and electronic vocals, giving a little variation from Tim Lindemann's deep voice. The opening track 'Mein Herz Brennt' is a standout with strings of great intensity, building this track up to make something disturbing, yet appealing. I found the inability to understand engaging, as it left much to the imagination. 'Sonnen' and the title track 'Mutter' are powerful tracks, yet the album lacks the diversity needed to make a hit. Most songs feature guitar riffs rivaling ACDC, and the slow almost spoken word vocals of Lindemann do not change. *Mutter* is an interesting album containing some good tracks, but does not break away from the one style the whole album, leaving it quite bland.

Tito

Brooklyn Bounce
Beats, Bass & Melody
Sony

"Brooklyn Bounce is your destination. Excellent choice..."end quote. Apart from the free stickers, this single shits me. Actually, I couldn't get the damn thing out of my head, but with a firetruck-load of corny voiceovers, you know that this jingle has been made for all the wrong reasons.

MGF

Hatiras feat. Slarta John
Spaced Invader
Hussle Recordings

Skip straight to track 2 on this single and all you clubbers out there should instantly recognise this one. It's a consistent, house-y beat, but by no means poppy. But what are the Afro/Jamaican (you be the judge) lyrics swamping the 'original mix' version of this tune? Ug!

MGF

Incubus
Drive
Sony Music

An infectious acoustic offering from a band known for their eclectic hard rock. If this doesn't get Incubus noticed nothing will. Brandon's vocals are executed perfectly as always, and the music is simple, yet intriguing, including the DJ scratches. Excellent acoustic B-sides too; 'Stellar', 'Pardon Me' and 'Drive'. 'Crowded Elevator' from the *Scream 3* soundtrack is also thrown in for good measure.

Jorm

Depeche Mode
Dream On
Festival/Mushroom

As evasive of categorisation as ever, Depeche Mode's new single retains the depth and darkness that shapes their unique sound. 'Dream On' combines NIN reminiscent beats, with a smooth acoustic sound to create an interesting track. The Dave Clarke acoustic remix is the only one (out of five present) that captures the crisp, slick Depeche Mode sound.

jen

Clubs and Classifieds

Learn Deep Relaxation

WHEN: Every Monday for Semester 1. 1.10 - 2.00pm.
WHERE: Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Building.
FREE. BOOK NOW on 8303 5663 or CALL IN.

Counselling Centre

WEIGHT WINNER - A MIND/BODY APPROACH TO WEIGHT LOSS (PART 1)

WHEN: Tuesday 8 May. 1.10 - 2.00pm

WHERE: Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Building

FREE. BOOK NOW ON 8303 5663 OR CALL IN.

CONFIDENT TUTORIAL & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

WHEN: Wednesday 9 May. 1.10 - 2.00pm

WHERE: Counselling centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Building

FREE. BOOK NOW ON 8303 5663 OR CALL IN

Unit to Let

Gorgeous 1-bedroom unit in Hawthorn with new gas kitchen, right near shops, Bongiorno's, library, train station and bus stop, ground floor in beautifully maintained large group. Includes car space. \$105 per week. Ph. 041 2050 888.

Soccer Club AGM

Notice of AGM for the Adelaide University Soccer Club Monday 14th May from 6:30pm in the WP Rogers Room (level 5 - behind the UniBar). All enquiries should be directed to Bill Hill on 8362 3537.

Paintball Club

PAINTBALLING - join this new club, our IGM will be on Friday 11th May 1-2 pm in the WP Rogers room level 5 of Union House. for further information contact James McIntyre 0413 144 117 or email james.mcintyre@student.adelaide.edu.au

Asian Studies AGM

AGM for ASIAN STUDIES 5pm on Friday 11th May club in the North dining room on level 4 of Union house, next to the Equinox at the Western end of the building (opposite the Union Studio).

Film Society Program

Week 9, 10th May

The Truman Show (1998)
Dir: Peter Weir. Starring Jim Carrey, Ed Harris and Laura Linney
With: *Bambi Meets Godzilla* (1969) (short film)

Dir: Marv Newland
Sisyphus (1975) (short film)

Week 10, 17th May

Fitzcarraldo (1981)
Dir: Werner Herzog. Starring Klaus Kinski and Claudia Cardinale
With: *Boobs a Lot* (1970)

Dir: Aggy Read
Week 11, 24th May

The Flight of Icarus (Le Vol d'Icare)
Dir: Daniel Caccaldi. Starring Michel Galabru, Caroline Cellier and Henri Gercin
With: *Betty in Blunderland* (1933)

Dir: Dave Fleischer
Week 12, 31st May

White Zombie (1933)
Dir: Victor Halperin. Starring Bela Lugosi and Madge Bellamy
With: *The Miracle Rider: The Vanishing Indian* (1935) (short film)
Dir: Armand Schaefer and B. Reeves Eason

Notice of an Annual General Meeting

Adelaide University Sports Association Inc will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 29th May, 2001 at 1pm in the North Dining Room (level 4 - behind the Equinox) followed directly by Sports Council.

Nominations are called for the following positions:

A one (1) year term for:

President

Deputy President

Hon. Secretary

Hon. Treasurer

(Please note that the Secretary and Treasurer MUST be students of the University of Adelaide) and three (3) general positions for a two (2) year term

to be determined at the Council Meeting following the AGM

Nomination Forms will be available from the Sports Association Office.

Nomination Forms MUST be submitted by 5pm Friday, 11th May, 2001

Voting will take place from Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th May, 2001, if necessary for the Executive.

Clubs Association Council Meeting

Clubs Association COUNCIL meeting to be held in UPPER REFECTORY (level 4 Union House, same level as the Equinox and STA travel) Wednesday 16th May 1pm it is important that your club sends a representative, or Clubs Assoc delegate or President. Please send apologies to Vicki 8303 3410 or reply email or call in person to the office!!

Club Contact Details

Activity Groups:

AIESEC: International Business Students Organisation - 8303 5909

Bacchae: Georgie - 8379 2445

Bands Ass: Alex - 8364 3139/0413 339464

Chess Club: Robin Wedding - 83567075

Computing: Clubs Officer 8303 3410

Debating Society: Keith 0402 331837

Eddie Club: Ben Heathcote - 8332 0241

Film Society: Matthew - 8379 6680

Homebrewers: Will 8334 5052 Kieran 8265 1067

Hot Club: Finn 8269 6636

Japanese Animation: Silynda 8244 9598 - 0411 675 745

Japanese TV Club: Clubs office 8303 3410

Mature Students.: Greg Driver 8390 1497

Medical Social: Michael 8261 3768

Meditation Quan Yin: Nigel 84474055 041787981

Science Fiction: Ross 8384 5720/0417 838827

Stain Club: James 826 30397

SMUG (Email Accounts): Alex 8339 3632-0410422558

Soc. for Creative Anachronism: Althea 8272 9256/0417897621

Sub Lumen: Clubs Assoc 8303 3410

Wine Club: Peter Dillon - 0408008745

Issue Groups:

Amnesty International: Clubs Office 8303 3410

Democrats: Mark 8356 6372

Habitat For Humanity - Matt Hunter 8278 5369

Help: Lara 8331 3479 Adrian 83703547

Labor Club: Joel Northcott - 8254 7607/0412 210873

Liberal Club: Tessa 0409282531

Pride: Les Lowery - 8294 4644

Resistance: Lisa Lines - 8342 0235

UANTaR (Native Title & Rec) Katy 8262 6802

Religious Groups:

Anglican Tertiary Students: John Webb 8379 7640

Baha'i Society: Nava - 83383837/0400558841

Buddhist Society: Wen 8290 6042 - 0411 782 829

Catholic Community: Marguerite - 8364 4516/

0411686195

Campus Christian Movement: Helen - 8266 7774/0413809146

Christian Med & Dent F/ship - Ros 81651856 - 0414517068

Evangelical Union: Emily 8362 4338

Islamic Stud: Amy 8297 0963

Lutheran Stud. F'ship: Nigel 8380 5171

Overseas Christian F'ship: Li Ping Fang 8431 2748

Universe: Matt Burnet - 0413 753867-8333 2305

Cultural Groups:

AGUA: Greek Katina 0402228681/83362452

Asian Studies: Johnathan 8288 0168

0428116988

Chinese: Da Zheng 8303 5157 w 8165 0228 h

French Club: Kate - 83902 260 - 0427 226022

German Club: Ben 8395 5994

Indonesian: Clubs Office 8303 3410

Spanish Que Pasa: Belinda 8336 7374

Vietnamese: Phuung 8359 1373 0412655710

Faculty Groups:

American Inst. of Aeronautics & Astronautics

AIAA: Kimberley Clayfield - 8373 2343

Architecture Studs: Amy 8377 1571 0412 811247

Asia Pacific Dental: Andrew 8331 8698 0412 818537

Chemical Eng Soc: Derek - 8336 1224 0402 387 119

Chiropractic Educ. Ass.: Ben Heinsohn-Deer - 83517057

Dental Students: Andre - 0402 908 804/ 83737808

Economics & Finance Students: E.F.S.A. - Sarah 8353 2934 - 0402318489

Electrical & Electronic Engineering: Brad - 8303 6296

Engineering Soc: David 0414 241 438

Geographical & Env'l Studies - Julia 8374 2627 - 0410688577

Law Students: Laila 8264 4393/0411512422

Mawson Stud Chapter - Mining & Metallurgy: Huw 8270 2786 0414 397118

Mathematics: Katherine - 8277 1742 - 0402246884

Medical Stud. Soc.: Chris Withnall 0407611152/82272457

Rural Medical Soc: Kate 8361 9551- 0412 577816

Science Assoc.: Luke Meter 82773252- 0418 810724

SPACED: Astronomy & Physics Melanie 8395 1367 - 83035038

Theatre Production Groups:

Choral Society: John Webb - 8379 7640

Crescent Company: John Howell - 8364 0042

Theatre Guild: Melanie Hibberd - 8303 5999

Cross Cultural Dance: Doris - 8260 3464 0414 314003

Other Groups:

Adelaide Universities Regiment - Ph 8305 7326

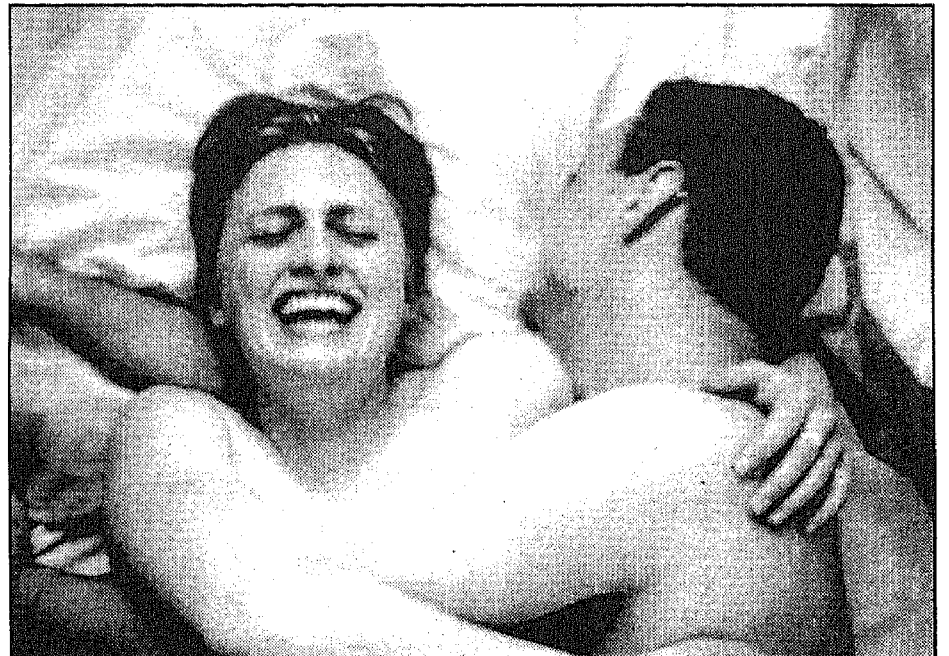
Club Theb(arton): Ramy Azer - 8354 1844/ 83033960

St Marks College: Phil 8334 5616

Submitting a Classified?

Just a few points to make our lives easier

- Please have it in by 5pm Wednesday
- Please keep it to 50 words or less
- Please do not submit anything of a commercial nature
- If you wish to have your classified run for more than one week then please resubmit it seperately each week
- Drop them into the *On Dit* office or email to ondit@smug.adelaide.edu.au





The guys adored the taste of the white beer. All except Hubert
but he was coming around fast.



BREWED WITH WHEAT. NOTHING TASTES QUITE LIKE A WHITE.