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On Dit. Adelaide Uni Student Paper vol. 74 ed. 7



Nosotros preferimos vivir  
y estudiar rodeada de aire limpio, agua  
limpio y muchos árboles sanos y bonitos. Entonces, naturalmente  
nosotros siempre usamos energía no perjudicial para el  
medio ambiente, y nunca contaminamos el ambiente.

# EDITORIAL

You know what's wrong with the environment? Environmentalists. Not one dreadlocked proofreader ventured into our subterranean lair to sort out this massive 56-page puppy of an edition. Not one. Not even the liberal in the trees. Surely he understands the importance of the fourth estate. Over the past two weeks, we expected our office to become a spicy hubbub of debate, organic chai tea and bongos.

But we got nothin'.

Sure, it's eco-minded people that will save us all, but what's the use if they can't properly delegate comma usage to their, ahem, natural state of being? As editors, we're Greenpeace-d off. Not only have we had to go bi-weekly due to our newfound financial, uh, freedom, but now you expect us to proofread 56 pages without so much as a gluten-free vegan muffin to keep us going?

Unfortunately, it went past organic snacks a long time ago.

On a more saccharine note, congratulations to Izzy, whose impressive Jefferson Airplane rendition of last edition's cover deserves a prize. Come on down to the office for a hug and some really shitty CDs Izzy.

As for all you eco-minded people out there, stop yer reading and go save the planet.

Go on.

We dare you.

*Janna and Steph*

P.S- On Dit is printed on 100% recycled paper using soy-based ink, so stick that in your pipe and smoke it.

PP.S- We challenge *Entropy* to a font off.

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## about the cover...

By Robin Tatlow-Lord

This drawing shows an Adelaide Uni 'environment': the view of North Terrace through the window of my Spanish classroom in the Education building. The caption translates to: 'We prefer to live and study surrounded by clean air, clean water and many healthy, beautiful trees. So naturally, we always use environmentally-friendly energy, and never pollute our surroundings.' Sure it's corny, but as language students and designers of cheap Keroppi merchandise alike well know, the lamest, most obvious or even nonsensical sentiments are transported to stirring heights of wisdom, coolness and/or hilarity through the simple process of (mis)translation.  
LOS VERBOS;HAZLOS!

# THANKS

Smooches to our gorge sub-eds who never fail, especially the dream teams of Jakin + Darren (and the darling t.riddy), Karlie + Sunni and Andrew + Claire. Layout is a burden you happily bear. And we are thankful. Stanny as always. Alexis and Jimmy, Laura, Evan, Mo and Jessica, Clementine for doing her job oh-so-nicely, everyone at Urtext films, Chloe, le Klub des Loosers and Mike Skinner. Extra special thanks to the irrepressible Matt Salleh, lanto Ware for peppermint tea at 901.b85c.2, Brendan (just because) and Phil for absolutely nothing. You are all superb. Except for Phil.

**Next edition:** The Advertising Edition. Haw haw.

**Deadline for submissions:** July 14

**Published:** July 24

We'll be working on our brand new Advertising team over the holidays, so if you wanna join the cause, e-mail us at [ondit@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:ondit@adelaide.edu.au) and we'll talk capitalism. And maybe crack open a packet of Sao biscuits.

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# EnvironDit

Volume 74 Edition 7

1 JUN 2005

4. Ads for important uni stuff
5. Letters to the editor with handsome giraffe
6. News with Sophie, Jesus & Lordi
7. Media Watch
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- 14-15. Shiny & Ireland, Comics
16. Re: Pete
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- 18-25 Super Enviro section
- 26-27. Ad for Life Impact. Vote [www.life...etc](http://www.life...etc)
- 28-29. My mum's favourite section Vox to P
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Yay! EnvirOnDit.

Well, what a great time to be on campus. The Environment Edition is out and Environment Day is on Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of May.

Having an edition of On DIt dedicated to the environment is so refreshing. It reinforces the need for independent media and allows all sides to air their opinions on important issues. The reason I find this so refreshing is that just last week, *The Australian* (Wed 17/5, pg 44-45) published the biggest load of shit I've ever read. The front page advertisement read "Don't panic: Why we'll adapt to climate change". The article itself was bullshit. It argued that people had evolved to suit climatic changes in the past and therefore they can do it again. Professor Bob Hill, Head of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Adelaide University, described this conclusion as "drawing a very long bow". It talked of periods of thousands of years where people changed their food, habitat, lifestyles, physical condition, etc. It failed to compare the time scales of these climatic changes to the current MAN-made one that is expected to change the climate significantly in much less than 100 years. It also failed to discuss what evolutionary changes we would have to make, changing our way of life, patterns of consumption, energy usage and social organisation. If so, telling people not to worry about it seems a little counter-evolutionary to me.

The *Australian* should be ashamed of itself for deliberately ignoring and clouding the public perception of an important issue. They published an article from an academic, whose archaeological discipline, is barely connected to the issue he is discussing. They also chopped big sections of the original article to make their version seem more decisive, and then inflated it with grandiose headlines for everyone to see. It just reinforces the paper's image as one of poor journalistic integrity that's right-wing, ruled by conservative values and big business interests.

Thank Murdoch...for EnvirOnDit.

**Reece Kinnane**  
 Environment Officer  
[reece.kinnane@student.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:reece.kinnane@student.adelaide.edu.au)

**Wanna write?** Why bother? Honestly, cutting down trees is waaaayyy more satisfying than cutting down 2000 words to 650. But if you choose a life of guerilla newspaper-making, mosey on down the stairs to the George Murray building basement for some serious sense of purpose. Or call 8303 5404. Or e-mail [ondit@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:ondit@adelaide.edu.au) with your submissions. Or flood us with work experience people who'll do it all for us.

On DIt is the stinkin' publication of the Student's Association of the University of Adelaide. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editors or the University or the Student's Association or Gaia. Why would she bother with print media? She's got a planet to regulate. Sheesh.



I ♥  
On Dit

## Sports Association

Want valuable experience in marketing, advertising or administration? Want to help us make university a better experience for students? Then check out these positions!

### General Secretary

The Students' Association is looking for a new General Secretary. The position is voluntary and non-political, being administrative only. The duties include putting together Council packs once a fortnight, taking minutes at the meeting itself, and distributing the SAUA's fortnightly e-newsletter.

### Sponsorship Officer

We are also seeking someone to fill the position of a new office bearer! The Sponsorship Officer is a voluntary position that has just been created to seek and gain sponsorship for the SAUA and its activities. The holder of the position will gain experience in negotiating sponsorship deals, marketing, and will play a key role in events like Orientation and PROSH.

If anyone is interested in either of the above positions please contact SAUA President, John Pezy, at [john.pezy@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:john.pezy@adelaide.edu.au) or on 0400 253 651.

### On Dit Advertising Committee

An Advertising Committee has been formed to assist *On Dit* in gaining advertising \$\$\$. As a member of the committee, not only will you get valuable experience in negotiating, but also a 10% commission on every advertisement you bring in!

If you are interested in a position on the committee contact the *On Dit* editors at [ondit@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:ondit@adelaide.edu.au).

As at the close of nominations Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm for the positions of:

President  
Deputy President  
Hon. Treasurer  
Hon Secretary

on the AU Sports Association Board of Management the following people have nominated:

Nominations for President:

Andres Munoz-Lamilla  
Daren Potts

Nominations for Deputy President:

Michael Headland  
Adelaide Boylan

Nominations for Hon. Treasurer:

Adrian Oest

Nominations for Hon. Secretary:

Victoria Hards

As such, elections will now be conducted for the positions of President and Deputy President but NOT for the Positions of Hon. Treasurer and Secretary as they have been appointed unopposed.

Voting for the positions of President and Deputy President will take place in the AUU Reception area (Cloisters) from 9am Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May and finishing at 5pm on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

Only currently enrolled students of the University of Adelaide (as well as members of the BOM) as stated below will be entitled to vote:

3.8.2 Only ordinary members and members of the Board shall have voting rights at any, general meeting, referendum of the Association or general

election not being an election by Council

For more information please contact the Sports Association on 8303 5403.


**URGENT REFUGEE RALLY**

**kids don't belong in detention!**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> June the Federal Government will vote to again lock refugee children in detention.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1pm  
Parliament House  
North Tce, Adelaide

[www.sant.arnesty.org.au](http://www.sant.arnesty.org.au)

 **amnesty international australia**

## DO YOU DREAM OF LIVING IN A LIBRARY? I DO!

As of June 3, Everyone's favourite Library, The Barr Smith will be open on Saturday's & Sunday's\* from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

The Loans desk & the Reserve collection will be open from 10.00am to 5.00pm

The Information desk will be open from 1.00pm to 5.00pm

\*Except during the mid-year break, 1-23 July.

The Barr Smith Library will also be open from 9.00am to 5.00pm on the Queen's Birthday public holiday, Monday 12 June.



## LETTERS

Dear Editors,  
Michael Adams' article on the plight of Abdul Rahman certainly provides some food for thought, and may even prompt a (re)reading of Noam

Chomsky's wonderful book, 'Manufacturing Consent' in the context of the 'War on Terror'.  
As for the modern world's abhorrence of state punishment for apostasy, I have two words:

'David Hicks'.

Regards

Dr. Dan

Dear Editors,

*I just wanted to send you guys a bit of encouragement over the last issue I loved it. I love the new size too, actually, as it makes it easier to read/hold/whatever.*

*The one gripe that I do have is that on some of the pages it looks like you took the original format just shrunk it all down...that makes it a little hard to read. Then again, I haven't gotten my new reading glasses yet, so it could just be me.*

*Still, keep up the good work, I thoroughly enjoyed the issue this week.*

*-Jess Barlow*

Dear students and staff,

Have a faith? Love the environment?

Write something for [ecofaith.org](http://ecofaith.org)

Successful submissions may:

Be published on the web, compiled in a little 'zine type thing, give you a glow of warm satisfaction.

Contributions or more details from [jason@ecofaith.org](mailto:jason@ecofaith.org)



**CHEAP UNI CARD SPECIALS**

**\$7 JUGS OF COOPERS**

**\$2.50 VODKA SUNRISE**

**\$3 TOOHEYS EXTRA DRY**

**5-8PM MON-SAT**

**\$10 PARMIGIANO & PINT**

**MON - WED LUNCH**

**CHECK IT OUT NOW!!!!**

**[www.londontavern.com.au](http://www.londontavern.com.au)**

100,000 protesters took to the streets of Jakarta to support proposed legislation which would not only ban pornography, but also making kissing in public illegal. Other areas which would fall under heavy scrutiny are dance, film and literature. Although organisers fell short of the 1 million participants they had claimed would turn up, they still managed to virtually shut down many main roads and generally cause a nuisance. Critics say that the law will go a long way towards damaging Indonesia's secular traditions. The bill is unlikely to be passed in its current form, which is some comfort to liberal Muslim groups, artists, those of minority faiths and people living in rural areas, who fear that their traditional dances may be made illegal.

Montenegro has voted to separate from Serbia in a referendum which will end a union created 88 years ago. Despite strong divisions between those loyal to Serbia and those who favour independence, preliminary counts show that over 55% of Montenegrins voted to split from Serbia. 86% of the population participated in the vote, which smashed the European Union's stipulation that at least 50% turnout was necessary for the vote to count. Once the results of the vote are put into action, it will spell the ultimate end of the experiment that was the former Yugoslavia.

The leader of South Korea's opposition party was attacked by a drunk wielding a knife earlier this week whilst she was out canvassing for her party's candidate for Mayor of Seoul. Park Geun-hye had to be taken to hospital after receiving a gash to her face which required 17 stitches. No one has ascertained the drunken man's motives, but some suspect that as the incident occurred so close to the mayoral elections, it may be politically motivated.

Four people were killed and one left wounded after a gunman opened fire in a church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Anthony Bell then fled the scene, abducting his wife and one of his children in the process. Bell was later apprehended in an apartment complex, where police also found the body of his wife, whose name has not been released. The child was unharmed and the couple's other two children were found safe at the family home. The motive for the killing spree has not been discovered, but police have announced that at least two of those shot in the church were Bell's in-laws.

And finally, major kudos to Finland, not just for winning Eurovision, but for pleasantly surprising me by entering a group that was actually good. I'm a convert. Go Lordi! Woo!



AND NOW, SOME NEWS VAGUELY RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT:  
KORANIC FISH AND CHRIST-LIKE ASPARAGUS

A fish displaying what are apparently excerpts from the Koran on its skin has been found after it was allegedly stolen last week. The fish was returned to the fish shop in Mombasa where its unusual markings were first noticed. It was caught by Said Ali and drew large crowds until it was removed to the Kenyan fisheries department for safekeeping. It then went missing. It is still being debated whether the fish, known as the 'Koranic tuna' is genuine or a vicious hoax.

Not to be outdone, a British man was more than slightly surprised when he dug up an asparagus plant and was confronted with the face of Jesus. Whilst Martin Gregory believes that his ten year old plant took on this extraordinary shape due to the roots being squashed against stones, his local priest has said that perhaps Jesus wants Mr Gregory to take it as a sign. Locals are wondering whether the fact that he lives opposite the ruins of an abbey might also have something to do with it. The plant has been christened 'Judas Asparagus'. The fish and the asparagus are both infinitely more interesting than the toastie which apparently displayed the face of The Virgin Mary.

A novel allegedly written by toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein has gone on sale in Japan. The publishers of 'Devil's Dance' claim that the manuscript (apparently completed the day before the start of the U.S. invasion/liberation thingy) was carried out of Iraq by one of his daughters. The novel, which was translated by a Japanese journalist, is about a tribe living on the Euphrates 1500 years ago, which successfully resists a foreign invader. Hmm...

The long awaited film 'The Da Vinci Code' finally hit screens around the world, to mixed reactions. The movie has already been banned in a few countries, and may be subject to censorship in others. The Catholic Church's views about it are already known. The film's distributor, Columbia, has announced that the movie had the second most successful opening ever, as it took \$US224 million over the weekend. The most successful? 'Revenge of the Sith', which took \$253 million in its opening weekend. (Which suggests that making huge amounts of cash may not necessarily be an indicator of quality.)



## NEWS BYTE

brought to you by  
Soph, Lordi & Jesus



Well Doiley, while we're here, I'd like to draw attention to the fact that I'm an eejit. My favourite things to do are make superfluous comments of a mysoginistic nature and be bald.

# Media Watch

Fleeting Media Personality Encounters of the Week  

## ...in WHICH MEL and KOCHIE FACE THE MELBOURNE MAGISTRATES' COURT - AND Win!

Now this has nothing to do with the environment theme of this issue but as a story it was too good to pass up...

The tables have turned on Channel 7 news personalities and producers, who recently became the subjects of media attention when they were taken to court over charges of contempt.

The allegations concerned reports made in 2004 by Channel 7's *Sunrise*, *Today Tonight* and news services, as well as Melbourne's *Sunday Herald Sun*, of a fourteen year old boy who had purportedly applied for a divorce from his parents. It appears that, by reporting on proceedings taking place in the Children's Court and making public the boy's identity, the journalists were in breach of the Children and Young Persons Act.

On May 18, a verdict was reached by the Melbourne Magistrate's Court. *The Australian's* online news service reported that Alan Howe, the *Sunday Herald Sun's* former editor, Steve Carey, Channel 7's Melbourne news director, and Craig McPherson, executive producer for Melbourne's *Today Tonight*, although managing to avoid conviction were ordered to pay various sums to charity totaling \$50 000. The *Herald* and *Weekly Times* were convicted of breaching the Children and Young Persons Act and have been put on a two-year good behaviour bond. Ditto for Channel 7.

And what of Kochie, Mel, *Today Tonight* presenter Naomi Robson, newsreaders Jennifer Keyte and Natalie Barr, and the *Sunday Herald Sun's* Chris Tinkler? It seems that they have emerged unscathed from proceedings, as the court found that they were not in breach of the law by exposing the story. As reported in ABC News Online, the court ruled that "journalists cannot be held responsible for their published stories." The accused parties' defense was based on the notion that, essentially, on-air personalities and print journalists cannot be held accountable for any stories made public, as it is the producers and editors who have the final say over what is broadcast or published. As Kochie, Mel et al didn't physically put the stories to air and had no say over their news segments, they cannot be found guilty.

Although it enabled them to avoid charges, the Court's ruling has cemented the not-so-secret fact that news personalities are just that - screen personalities, and conduits of information rather than bona fide investigative reporters.

And there I was thinking Leigh McLusky chased all those schonky builders herself...

Ola B

Who: Triple J's *Hack* presenter Steve Cannane

Where: On a bus in Sydney

Fleeting Encounter: Jess, of Sydney, was traveling on the 428 bus from the city. "When we stopped at the uni, who should get on but Mr. Cannane! I looked straight at him, with eyes wide and jaw dropped open, he looked at me, noticed I was somewhat staring at him, and he hastily moved to the back of the bus".

Who: *Media Watch* fave, Adelaide radio personality Bob Francis

Where: Dining at a city restaurant

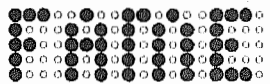
Fleeting Encounter: Waiter: "Cracked pepper, sir?"

(\*Waiter does not recall whether Francis accepted or declined offer of said pepper\*)

Have you recently had a vague, fleeting encounter with a Media Personality? Let *Media Watch* know about it and have the brief moment immortalised forever in print! The more obscure or C-grade the Personality, the better!

\*In light of the outcome of the Channel 7 trial, *Media Watch* claims no responsibility for any celebrity encounters that may be put to print... so feel free to keep them sordid!!

We're so glad you asked Ola. We went to the premiere of *The Da Vinci Code* with Anne Wills and her sister last week. Anne is a Libra and likes her fur boots to match her waistcoat.



*To Oudit  
With Love  
Please Explain  
Anne's Hair  
28.4.06*



Back in April, we also lunched with Pauline Hanson. Pauline is a Gemini and likes her shoes to match her lipstick. She has no regrets... Pauline must have thought that we were real nice cause she gave us her mobile number so we could give her a call sometime. If you have a question for Pauline, e-mail [oudit@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:oudit@adelaide.edu.au)

*Anna and Steph +11*

The rich are to blame for Poverty,

So Let's Transfer all Funds to the Rich since this will Solve Poverty.

Here's An Odd Thought: The rich are to blame for Poverty, So Let's Transfer all Funds to the Rich since this will Solve Poverty.

I want here to look at some issues falling out of the recent budget, notably changes in superannuation and funds for the environment. There are also strange arguments running around in economic spheres, which lead to some surprising conclusions; notably the fault for countries being in debt is that other countries have money to lend. I will be touching on general economic issues here, of which I am highly unqualified, but still I have these thoughts and would like to share them.

The budget makes Australians over 60 exempt from any income tax on 'end benefits' from a taxed superannuation fund. The old superannuation system involved double-dipping. The fund itself was taxed and the income derived from that fund, in either a lump-sum payout or superannuation pension was taxed. The budget removes that. We might approve of this, since it seems unfair to tax superannuation contributions twice - once on investment and again on the dividends of that investment. The trouble is that this change has disproportionate effects. According to Ross Gittens, the main beneficiaries will be the high-income earners.<sup>1</sup>

Only one quarter of lump sum payouts for men in 2002 were over \$185,000; one quarter of lump sum payouts for women in 2002 were over \$95,000. The first \$130,000 of such payouts are untaxed anyway. Gittens points out that the proposed benefits of the changes in superannuation are not felt by the majority of people. They only go to the high income earners, those with significantly large superannuation funds. Here's how Mike Steketee works out the benefits; a lump sum of \$150,000 will save \$2272 in tax; a lump sum payment of \$400,000 saves \$43,522; savings increase at a far greater rate the higher up you go<sup>2</sup>. Converting a superannuation pension for someone retiring at 65, someone with \$150 000 will get a \$6 increase in weekly income to \$472; the rise for someone with \$400,000 increases from \$94 to \$662.

Several other things get abolished to simplify the system; age based limits get abolished, the reasonable benefit limits goes. This would make superannuation decisions far simpler, so Mr Costello claims. But look also at the benefits of removing the 'reasonable benefit limit'. Reasonable Benefit Limits (RBL) are the maximum amount of retirement and termination of employment benefits that you can receive over your lifetime at concessional tax rates. Currently RBL applies only where people receive a lump sum of \$648,000 or above. According to Gittens, only 500 people had to pay the 38% tax on this excess.

In other words, the benefits of the superannuation reform go to those most able to afford the current system. The majority of people will not benefit from such changes; yet it is portrayed as "the most significant change to Australia's superannuation system in decades".<sup>3</sup>

In fact most will be worse off. Here's why, and where the relevance to the future comes into play; the changes apply to all those over 60. This entails that, with an ageing population, less and less people will be paying tax. Gittens notes that in 30 - 40 years time most retirees will be retiring with a full income that goes untaxed. This entails that a shrinking labour force will exist, upon whom that tax burden will fall. We are selling the future to pay for the present.

Superannuation is our own money, giving it back to us at a less taxed rate is fair. Why should those wise enough to invest be blamed for the poverty of those less wise? These changes encourage us all to save and this can only be a good thing. Perhaps, but this type of thinking is being challenged when it comes to international savings etc. More of that later but first some mention of the environment is required, since we might think an economy is only viable when humans can survive.

Compare the tax cuts and business investment with investment in the sustainability of the environment. \$500 million goes to the Murray-Darling Basin Commission to undertake capital works to protect environmental flows to the river. Compare this with \$3.439 billion to be spent on roads and rail, \$3.7 billion over four years to raise the depreciation allowances from 150% to 200% for the purchase of new equipment. In comparison to these, \$500 million demonstrates a partial commitment to one part of the environment.

There are other reasons to think this budget quite inadequate. For example, \$3.7 billion is allocated to lifting the diminishing value rate for depreciation. This is the percentage you get back through tax due to the diminishing value of your equipment. If a computer depreciates at 25% say, you now get 200% of that depreciated value (25%) counted as a loss to offset your profits. This applies to the purchase of new technology. What is the effect of this? Well it means that companies will get money spent on new technology counted as a loss at a greater rate than before. Who pays for this? Other tax-payers. So, some poor bugger on \$35,000 a year who marginally benefits from the budget gets to subsidise his boss who upgrades their laptop. Just as in the superannuation case, the poor get to subsidise the wealthy.

Well, it sounds like I'm blaming the rich and this is wrong. They are making something of themselves and Australia is benefiting as a result. If we overly tax the rich and place extra burdens on business then society will lose because there will be no incentive for individuals to achieve and fewer businesses to employ people. This is the orthodoxy. But this is getting challenged in the international sphere which, if applied to this orthodoxy, would come across as down-right socialist. This becomes clear if we look at issues about the current account deficit.

Mr Costello claimed recently that Australia is now debt free. Yet in March the ABC reported that net foreign debt had risen to \$422 billion. How might we pay off this debt? Well, we could pay it off in two ways: by borrowing from overseas

or increasing equity investment by foreigners in Australia.<sup>4</sup> Given the woeful state of our manufacturing industry what motivation is there for inward investment in Australia? Well, perhaps the new IR laws address that a little. We could borrow the money. If so, then a strengthening dollar should help our deficit, since if the Aust Dollar buys more Japanese Yen when we come around to paying it off then it would cost less to pay off the debt. In any case, Australia is not debt free, only the Australian Government is debt free. So why lord it over the rest of us?

Deficits used to be seen as a bad thing, but this orthodoxy is being challenged. Now, Ian MacFarlane (Chairman of the Reserve Bank), following the US's lead, is starting to think that current account surpluses are just as problematic.<sup>5</sup> The surplus has to be invested somewhere, and this usually means somewhere else. Then the presence of current account deficits, in Australia and the US are a good thing, since this gives a place for these surpluses to go. The thought is, Gittens points out, that the blame for the deficit is not the Anglo-western countries such as Australia and US, borrowing money to pay off deficits but the surpluses in Asia. In fact, if it weren't for such deficits the world would have fallen into recession.<sup>6</sup> Great: not our fault, their fault for having too much money and if it wasn't for our debt the world would have gone belly up. That's a good argument; McFarlane thinks it better explains the movement of global funds.

Well, let's test this last claim. See how it translates into the individual sphere; the reason why young Johnny is buried in debt is because big George has too much money; in fact, if it wasn't for Johnny's poverty, everyone would have gone broke. The rich are to be blamed for poverty, but we need the poor to maintain the rich. Now that is unconventional economic wisdom in Libertarian thought. Usually the poor are to blame for their poverty and the rich to be praised for their success. Here the success is because of the poor, the poverty because of the rich. In the personal sphere, the argument fails. But that might be because international finance and personal finance have different dynamics. The 'glut of savings' argument (in Gitten's terminology) is gaining ground on the international sphere.

But return the argument from the individual to the international and it still seems funny and socialist in fact. The reason why Australia is in debt, i.e. poor, is that Asia is rich. Poverty gets blamed on the rich. But the reason why Johnny is poor is that he has failed to make a man of himself. No role is attributed to George's wealth. Which is why the tax system transfers money from Johnny to George. After all, as a Liberal Candidate is reported to have said in New South Wales during the last election, people earning less than \$51,000 don't deserve a tax cut because they are losers.<sup>7</sup>

Note also that personal taxation compensates the wealthy for their losses but leaves the poor untouched. A poor person who buys a computer to look for work gets nothing (as students get



# WHAT THE F\*\*\*\*?



image: alexandar chin www.wanderlustmaganda.com

nothing for buying required books for their courses), whilst businesses get depreciation costs etc., for their equipment. This might be fair because the poor pay less tax, and no mechanism exists to compensate them for their expenditure (unless we have a card that gives them discount). Mr Moss pays somewhere in the region of \$8 - 9 million in tax for example, so a \$312,000 reduction is not that much in comparison to his tax burden. But this argument has no legs. Just because no mechanism exists does not mean we should not have one.

What does all this tell us? It tells us that the Government is sacrificing tomorrow for today and that it is rewarding the winners at the expense of the losers. This is because the winners deserve their spoils, and the losers deserve their poverty. This gets turned upside down on the international level though; the rich get blamed for the debt of the poor. I wonder whether McFarlane's thinking could infest economic rationalism. I can only hope. Note that I've been portraying Australia as poor and you might reject this. Well, would you say that someone who owed \$422 billion was rich, or heavily in debt? We owe \$422 billion dollars<sup>9</sup>. But hey, I think the title says it all.

Andrew J Turner

#### (Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Gitcons, R., 2006, Others will pay for this saving grace Sydney Morning Herald, May 17 2006

<sup>2</sup> Stekateo, M., 2006, Universal Benefits a fair go, The Australian, May 18 2006

<sup>3</sup> Costello, P., 2006, Budget Speech, available at <http://www.budget.gov.au/>, p. 6

<sup>4</sup> See Kryger, T., 1995, Relationship Between the Current Account Deficit and Foreign Debt, available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/libary/pubs/rm/1995-96/96rm40.htm>

<sup>5</sup> McFarlane, I., 2005, Recent Trends In World Saving and Investment Patterns, available at [http://rba.gov.au/PublicationsAndResearch/Bulletin/bu\\_0cc05/PDF/bu\\_1005\\_4.pdf](http://rba.gov.au/PublicationsAndResearch/Bulletin/bu_0cc05/PDF/bu_1005_4.pdf), downloaded May 19 2006

<sup>6</sup> Gitcons, R., 2005, Rethinking the evils of current account deficits, Sydney Morning Herald, October 22 2005

<sup>7</sup> Unashamedly adopted as fact from hearsay as reported in the letters of the Sydney Morning Herald, May 18 2006

<sup>8</sup> Of course this is a statistically bad way of arguing. Our net current account deficit is \$422 billion. No individual actually owes that and Australia as a nation does not owe that. Rather it is distributed unevenly throughout society. But buggers that. If the debt was called in tomorrow we would be buggered, and we should know that.

**URGENT REFUGEE RALLY**  
kids don't belong  
in detention!

On the 13th June the Federal  
Government will vote to again lock  
refugee children in detention.

Sunday 4th June, 1pm  
Parliament House  
North Tce, Adelaide

[www.unitednations.org.au](http://www.unitednations.org.au)

amnesty international australia

Peter Costello (on Allan Moss, CEO of Macquarie Bank earning \$21.1 million); "it is hard to think that anybody would be worth that kind of salary"

Effect of Mr Costello's Budget cuts; an extra \$6 000 a week for Mr Moss (\$312 000 pa).

Mal Brough; calls a summit to discuss 'suspected' paedophile rings in indigenous communities but does not invite indigenous people: "Indigenous people have spoken, they have told us what they need. We now, as politicians and as people who run the judicial systems, are the ones who have to step up to the plate".

**Better not invite the accused to their trial, since the lawyers, police and barristers are the experts.**

Andrew J Turner

## PAULINE HANSON POWER

The distinctive logo of a well-known global real estate corporation dripped from the ceiling of Alberton Oval's thoughtfully-named Oval Room, overlooking one of South Australia's most famous sporting battle grounds. The Port Adelaide Football Club, whose brand is based on consistent success and working-class identity, was once again whoring itself for corporate dollars (the 'history' and 'tradition' sections of the PAFC website were temporarily blank when I accessed it during the preparation of this article!) as part of its new commitment to its commercial benefactors following the club's elevation to the increasingly shiny national league in 1997.

Consistent success, and working-class identity. Occupying the round tables the suits and ties, hiding distinctively Anglo-Celtic bodies, were 'working-class' in the sense that a Labor-voting, Port-supporting ex-bank teller turned mortgage broker now pulling \$200,000-plus per annum can be 'working-class'. These monthly corporate luncheons are good for 'networking' (as are the occasional sponsored 'Business Series' events at the Hyatt - July 14<sup>th</sup>'s is titled "Getting the Best Out of Yourself"), and feature a guest speaker, usually an ex-sportsperson, or somebody 'inspirational'.

And when this month's speaker rumbaed her way into the Oval Room - a tribute to her recent appearance on Dancing with the Stars (a favourite with Liberal voters, according to Morgan polling) - she received a reception as rousing as if the long-absent princess had finally returned to her adoring kingdom. This Alberton Oval corporate luncheon was, for whatever reason, Pauline Hanson's heartland.

Breathless and nervous, Hanson - or "Pauline" as she was known - launched into a truncated and choppy history of her political career, emphasising her independence and overinflating her apparently singular ability to 'get things done' at a community level. Her anecdotes were amusing (apparently Alexander Downer hardly ever knows what he's voting on), her naiveté and self-delusion perplexing, and her strong independent streak surprisingly refreshing. Away from the sanctity of the politics tutorial room, hearing her side of the whole sordid One Nation affair, which ended in a jail term and martyrdom, was instructive.

In an era dominated by party-machine politics, Hanson's style - taking her privileged position as elected representative seriously, refusing to be bullied by factional bosses, forming her own opinions on proposed legislation - is exactly what we need in federal (and state) Parliament. Her actual politics are deplorable, mainly because she lacks the ability to stand in the shoes of others, preferring to judge from the outer (or the corporate box) like her footy-mad audience.

And her footy-mad audience was Pauline-mad in the Oval Room that day.

Russell Marks

# CHRISTOPHER PYNE



Interview by  
Russell Marks & Tim Wetherall

have been many cases of endemic corruption and mafia-style behaviour by the union movement. They can't avoid that fact. When the unions behave in a positive and good fashion, sure, they've got a role to play. But I think the fact that 17% of Australians are members of unions, and 83% of workers are not, tells us that, except when Labor is in power and compulsorily acquires the fees of workers, people don't think the unions' products and services are as good as the union bosses think they are.

**RM: The Australian Medical Association has recommended banning junk food advertisements during children's TV programs. Will the government be implementing those recommendations?**

CP: We're not going to implement that recommendation. We don't support banning junk food advertisements.

**RM: Why not?**

CP: Because we think people should be able to make their own choices about what they watch on television.

**RM: Including six year old children?**

CP: I think parents have a role to play in deciding what their children watch. In my household, we don't even have channels 7, 9 and 10 tuned in. We only have SBS and ABC tuned in.

**RM: You can't actually get those channels?**

CP: We can't see them. We don't want our children to watch all those things about Barbie dolls and action figure heroes, because then they ask for them. So they watch ABC. Now as parents, we've made that decision, and our children are 5, 5 (we have twins) and 3. But when they're 15, or 10, or 12, or whatever, I guess they'll make their own decisions about what they watch. We wouldn't have television at all, but it's nice to have it because we like the ABC and the SBS. And, of course, I love the commercial channels. [Snigger]

**RM: So you believe the subversive power of advertising can be neutralised by simply not watching the commercial channels?**

CP: We think it's about people's individual choice and families have a role to play in that. That's why, when people ring me or write to me and say they "I was watching SBS at 11.30pm last night and this movie came on, and I had to watch the whole thing because I was so disgusted, what are you going to do about it?", I always say, "well, why didn't you change the channel? No-one's forcing you to watch those programs."

**RM: So if people were to do that on**

**a mass level – switch off from commercial television – the government's WorkChoices advertisements, which have cost in the vicinity of \$40-\$50 million, would be fairly useless.**

CP: If people didn't watch those three channels, they wouldn't be in business! So of course, you're right, but what's your point?

**TW: Well, the WorkChoices advertisements were supposed to 'inform' people.**

CP: That's why, if people weren't watching commercial television, we'd probably put more into newspapers. Or the internet. Your point is that junk food advertising is bad. Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. But I actually think that people can make their own decisions about what they eat. No-one's going to force anything into my mouth. Or my children's mouths. When we drive past McDonald's, and my children say "stop, can we have McDonald's?", we don't stop.

**RM: Do you accept that for some people, in moments of weakness, it can be difficult to make that decision? For some people, who are perhaps very tired, overworked, whatever, to have their children sitting in the back seat crying about the fact that they might want McDonald's –**

CP: But I just don't think, philosophically, that government should be playing that role in society, of deciding how much stress someone is under and whether we should make a parental decision for them. I am a small government person. I believe that market capitalism is a better economic model – I think that's been proven by the collapse of communism – and I think that government should play as little a role as possible in directing people's lives.

**RM: But there are a lot of parents and parents groups out there specifically requesting some form of assistance – whether it be banning junk food advertisements or some other form of assistance – from someone outside of their own family structure to help mitigate the influences of that very subversive advertising.**

CP: And I think those people, rather than requesting government to act on their behalf, should feel empowered as individuals to make their own decisions on their own behalf and on behalf of their children, to turn the TV off, rather than to allow them to watch a program that contains too many junk food advertisements. It's just a different philosophical position. I actually don't think government is the answer to every problem. I think government already has too big a role to play in our lives, and I believe that government does have a role in making sure everyone gets a share, and reaching back and making sure no-one gets left behind, and many of my colleagues would regard me as an interventionist when it comes to trying to mitigate the worst aspects of poverty, to provide welfare and support to those people who can't get jobs for whatever reason. But I don't believe that government should decide what should be in ads on television.

**TW: You said at the time of the invasion of Iraq that, within caucus, there was unanimous support for that invasion. So you didn't have any personal reservations?**

CP: No. None at all.

**RM: What's your personal view of the union movement? Do you see any benefit in the movement?**

CP: Sure! I'm all in favour of the union movement! If the union is about voluntarily getting members because they are offering good services, then good luck to them. If a union says to a workforce, "these are the things we can do for you, and if you'd like to join us, this is our fee", and someone pays that, that's terrific! And probably, if I was in a large workplace – a manufacturing plant or something like that – I'd probably think it would be better to be a member of the union because the union is trying to get work practices and wages and things that would affect all of us, and I shouldn't be the beneficiary of what they do just because they're doing it for others. That's my choice.

**RM: But the WorkChoices legislation does restrict union access to---**

CP: No, all the legislation does is make unions have to compete for their members, as opposed to being able to...well, for the individual to decide whether they're going to be better served by being a member of the union, or whether they're going to be better served by doing it on their own, or whether they should bring an advocate for themselves who's not a member of the union – an industrial advocate of some kind, or a family friend. A union's not the only person who can advocate on behalf of an individual. But I think unions play a very important part in society. They have, historically, been extremely important in improving the state of our fellow men and women, when they've been good, and positive. But they've also done some terrible things, and destroyed businesses, and destroyed industries, and harmed and damaged people, and malmed them, and probably killed people in various strikes and riots and standover tactics. I think there

**TW: Journalist Robert Fisk, who is frequently on the ground in Iraq, has recently described the Iraq war as a "black cloud" that is following the United States, and believes that the US will have to pull out very soon. When you see what's on the ABC and the SBS every night, do you have any regrets, any reservations?**

CP: I supported the war in Iraq, because I believed at the time, and so did the rest of the world, that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and wasn't prepared to cooperate with the West to either dismantle those or give us an opportunity to remove them. Secondly, he ran a tyrannical, dictatorial, bloodthirsty regime that persecuted the vulnerable people of his community in particular, and ethnic groups in particular, and he used his weapons of mass destruction against his own people, whether it was the people of the marshes in the south or the Kurds in the north. Therefore, to remove a tyrant of that nature, and trying to install democracy in a Middle Eastern Muslim country, would be a step forward for the world. If people could at least see that democracy can work anywhere, then that might lead to a general breakdown of antidemocratic traditions across the Middle East, and I think that is a positive step forward. There is a thriving democracy in Israel, and now there's a democracy in Lebanon, and there is democracy in Iraq. My view is that we are making great progress in Iraq. We have a democratic constitution in place; we have had two rounds of fair and democratic elections; there are now the majority of school children going to school, a huge improvement in hospital services, educational services, transport infrastructure,

electricity, gas, water; all the things that, in 2005, Australians take for granted. We are now getting an opportunity to start in what should be a very rich country. Iraq is an oil-rich country, and for its people to be amongst the most illiterate, and have some of the worst health outcomes and to be some of the poorest people in the world is utterly disgraceful. So, do I regret Australia's involvement in Iraq? I don't regret it for one moment. Do I hope that the insurgency stops and that people respect the democratic decisions of their fellow Iraqis? Yes, I hope that happens, and if Australians can play a role in making that happen then I would feel very proud of that.

**TW: That's what the Western leaders are telling us, but a lot of the people on the ground have been telling us something completely different. Dr Robert Fisk, with respect, is on the ground, and he is saying that the insurgency is running things. Now, that is deeply worrying if an insurgency will eventually take over. And that's the responsibility of us, as an invader, that our policy has resulted in this. Now, no-one disputes that removing Saddam Hussein was the right thing to do. People are worried about the policy that's in place now, which may result in an insurgent government.**

CP: Well, there isn't an insurgent government. There's a democratically-elected Iraqi government in place. They've just had elections in Iraq to adopt the constitution, and the insurgents managed to win just two of the provinces, out of 19 or 20 or something. And I have a friend who lives in Fallujah and works for one of the

international aid agencies who's been there for two years, and I speak to him on his phone, you know, not regularly, but irregularly, and he tells me quite the opposite to what Mr [sic] Fisk said, and he is very much in the thick of it, because Fallujah is one of the hot spots of Iraq. He says that most of the people in Iraq are very much opposed to the insurgency, and wish those people would stop blowing up their children and their friends, and I can understand that because they're just human beings like everybody else. So, I don't believe Mr [sic] Fisk.

**TW: Do you agree with the Fairfax journalist Paul McGeogh when he says there's a ten-year test in Iraq? That we can really determine only determine that the policy of the Coalition has been a success after ten years?**

CP: Look, I don't know when we'll be able to declare the policy a success to the extent that pleases everybody. But if the objective was to remove Saddam Hussein, make sure that Iraq didn't have weapons of mass destruction, and try to restore a democratic regime as an example to the rest of the Middle East, well, we're sort of mostly there. I think that, eventually, we'll be able to declare Iraq a complete success when the West can withdraw its forces, and when the Iraqi people can manage their own affairs entirely free of any interference. At the moment, they need Western forces to help rebuild the country, and to protect the nascent democratic regime from bloodthirsty terrorists.



*You! Yes, you, with the face!  
Jump on a computer, start typing  
with your pert, soft hands & tell  
us you want to be the next:*

**President - Vice President -  
Secretary - Treasurer - Clubs As-  
sociation Rep - Activities Officer -  
Women's Officer - Publicity Offi-  
cer - Industry Representative**

*Send amusing anecdotes, oint-  
ment recipes, home loan advice,  
random scientific facts and your  
AUMA Executive nominations to  
auma@adelaide.edu.au*

## MEDIA STUDENTS THE EMPIRE COULD BE YOURS!

**ADELAIDE UNI MEDIA ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
followed by the President's Keg

**THURSDAY 8 JUNE AT 8PM  
THE ELEPHANT BRITISH PUB**



Nominations are **OPEN NOW** for the new Execu-  
tive Committee we will vote in at the meeting.

No experience necessary—you just need to be a  
Bachelor of Media student & an AUMA member.

Have a **FREE BEER** with us when you vote and  
stay for the celebration afterwards. \$7 jugs of  
Pale Ale and \$8 jugs cider for all your friends!

# DRINKING.

It Can **Ruin**  
Your Whole  
**Sunday**



## Free BBQ!

**'It Can Ruin Your Whole Sunday'  
& the SAUA Women's Department  
will host a BBQ on the Barr Smith  
Lawns on**

**Thursday 1 June from 12-2pm**

Come and enjoy the free lunch, cordial, alcohol-themed music and silly competitions. Contribute to our survey and receive your free PartySafe pack full of girl stuff and information (including drink bottles, pencil cases, lip glosses, condoms and other such important material...) Look out for more information, activities and events at Adelaide metropolitan university campuses over the next 12 months!

Are you keen to get  
experience in  
Event Management?

We are currently seeking to create a street crew for events at Adelaide Uni and can offer you valuable hands on experience. Email [activities@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:activities@adelaide.edu.au) or keep an eye out for the campaign coming soon!!

to have your event listed email [activities@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:activities@adelaide.edu.au)  
Union Activities is a service of  
the Adelaide University Union  
"your life on campus"



## Male Sexo...

Isn't it funny how VSU has sent student representatives across the country into a mad frenzy, in which student organisations have now entered a survivor style competition as to who will outlast, outwit and outplay each other for the title of STUDENT UNION SURVIVOR! While this may seem like another lacklustre reality television program alongside *Skating with Celebrities* and *It Takes Two*, the stakes have been raised, the claws are out and the competition is just heating up!

It seems that student politicians are divided as to what the future of student organisations should be. Here at Adelaide, there seems to be those that live in a fanciful dream that the SAUA will continue to exist regardless of the fact it will not receive another cash grant from the Union and those that recognise that the SAUA's days are numbered, so perhaps we should get our act together and actually start DOING SOMETHING! Now before all of you out there jump up and down in hysteria saying 'how can you be part of an organisation if you don't believe in it', let me make this quite clear - I absolutely believe in the SAUA and what it stands for. If there were any possibility that we could have some miracle injection of funding, I would be the first to get in there and become as active as ever. However, it's about time that we shift our focus from preserving it for as long as possible, at a rate that the only thing the SAUA does is... well nothing really. I would argue that rather than simply existing but being inactive for 5 years, we should be as active as possible for the final year, and ensure that students get the representation, events and activities the Adelaide University is renowned for. It's about time that SAUA Office Bearers had the incentive, motivation and financial backing to do some awesome things - with Sandy Biar as UAC Chair to look up to.

There is a dedicated bunch of people in this organisation and yet, due to the constant bickering and conservatism in Council, any creativity, ingenuity and raw passion is instantly crushed. I mean if Rhiannon, the queen of SAUA policy and most extreme left person I have ever met, is disheartened then we certainly have a problem on our hands. Thankfully, there is some light at the end of the tunnel. We are having a SAUA strategic planning day. And rather than blocking a potential 'talk fest' as NT Chief Minister Claire Martin has snubbed the Indigenous Conference, I hope each and every one of the SAUA's people will be proactive, demand change and create a better future for this organisation. I know that this article doesn't really relate to my portfolio but if something isn't done soon then this portfolio and that of many others may cease to exist by the time someone with leadership has the courage and vision to take a stand.

And because I forgot to include a quote in last week's column, I'm going to give you two:

TIP #6: When you're interested in another person, is it really worth the effort of chasing them for six hours, between two clubs, which involves taking your shirt off and putting it on again (three times) just to get a pash and head home?

TIP #7: Never trust a man without a bum... Apart from the obvious reason that you don't know where his 'waste' is going, they're often the type of person who gets extremely emotional while drunk but extremely horny to= Not a good combination if I do say so myself.

Cheers, David  
Male Sexuality Officer  
[david.wilkins@student.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:david.wilkins@student.adelaide.edu.au)

Hey Guys!

You may have noticed that it's been a pretty busy month for the Welfare Department, with 'Your Rights at Uni,' 'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea' and 'Reconciliation Day' all occurring last week. So it has come to the last week of term and there are only three events left (other than end of semester party) and they are: Environment Day, 'Women in Black' on the 31st and Party Safe on the 1st. So what can I entertain you with since I've had my spiel about joining your union last edition? I could give you a few paragraphs about what I intend to do next semester but frankly, I think that's a bit of a waste of column space when I have so many ideas and so few words.

Basically, I'm going to tell you why you should want to be involved in student representation. I'm not going to lie. Sometimes it's the most thankless task you can imagine: hours of postering, phone calls, emails, arguing with people who don't share your passion and beliefs and feel the need to abuse you for it. Sometimes the factional bickering, infighting and general bitchiness can really wear you down. So what makes it worth it? When you give someone a different perspective or change someone's opinion. When you actually make a positive difference and you can see change in effect- that's why you put up with the shit and the reward is worth it.

That's why YOU need to get involved. You can change things, you can help people, you can make a difference! We need to prove that VSU isn't the death of representation or student control of student affairs! We need to prove that we care about our services, that we care about issues that the community so often sweeps under the rug and that we are willing to do something about them! So don't be apathetic! Don't let a piece of anti-student legislation passed with a dodgy deal dictate the future of student representation! Join your student union (knew I could slip it in there somewhere!). Take part in the debate and make sure that you are one of the people keeping up the fight. It's not over till it's over and in my opinion the adversity that VSU presents should be making you angry not apathetic! Make sure our union lives to fight another day and continues to be run by US!

So that's my spiel for now- remember its more fun if you're involved and (hopefully without being pretentious) to quote Gandhi, "Be the change you want to see in the world."

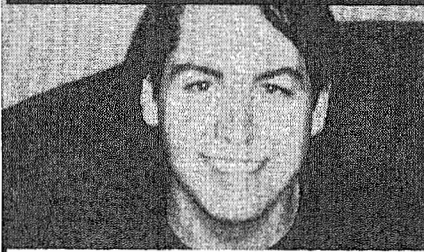
Rhiannon Newman  
Equity and Welfare Officer  
rhiannon.newman@student.adelaide.edu.au



**Equity Babe...**

# SAUA Office Bearers

## Prez Sayz...



Money, money, money. Everyone wants it; no one seems to have enough, particularly if you're a student. If you're having financial troubles, then remember that you can always visit and Education and Welfare Officer (EWO) in the Cloisters. Just look for the door with a banner saying "Union Information" over the top.

Students are working more and more frequently these days just to keep their heads above water, many skipping class to do so. After students finally finish there's a great big debt waiting for them at the end. Not really the sort of graduation present to look forward to. Here is some info about the graduation present the government gives to all students:

Student contributions to higher education have increased 85% since 1996.

Student contributions account for 37.5% of higher education expenditure, compared with 20% when HECS was first introduced in 1987.

On October 14, 1999 John Howard told Parliament: "We have no intention of deregulating university fees. The Government will not be introducing an American-style higher education system."

There will be no \$100,000 university fees under this Government".

The total HECS debt is in excess of \$9 billion at the moment.

Australia now has among the highest rates of private contribution to the cost of university education among developed countries.

In an international comparison of 36 selected universities, the Productivity Commission found Australian universities occupied eight of the top ten places in terms of the proportion of revenue coming from students.

According to the Howard Government's own figures, almost 20 per cent of the outstanding HECS debt may never be repaid.

Student contributions as a proportion of university income is at its highest level in more than 50 years. At the same time however, Commonwealth Government funding as a proportion of university income is at its lowest since the Commonwealth assumed responsibility for higher education.

Immm... no wonder some students who graduated in the same year as me thought coming to university is too expensive. If you want to let Prime Minister know how unbelievably expensive it is to be a student there's an official site on which you can contact him (or at least his office): <http://www.pm.gov.au/email.cfm>. Isn't that nice? Actually, it'd be even nicer if we didn't have such outrageous levels of debt in the first place.

John Pezy  
SAUA President  
[john.pezy@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:john.pezy@adelaide.edu.au)

## Women's VP...

**Sunday, 11.54am:**

So so hot / can't sleep / can't move / kill for a drink / kitchen tap too far / no chance of finishing essay today / that's it I am never drinking again... / I wonder...did I do anything stupid last nite? / hunger taking over from gullt and pain / OMG flashback / / sooo wrong / What was I thinking? - I AM NEVER DRINKING AGAIN!

Okay. So we've all had these experiences - waking up the morning after a 'Big One' with soreness, thirst, hunger, regrets, missing cash, missing memories, ripped clothes, lost stuff and of course, depleted brain cells!

These ideas have come together for a Party Safe campaign, titled 'It Can Ruin Your Whole Sunday', focusing on young women and alcohol and also considering the attitudes of young men in relation to young women and drinking.

To give away FREE Party Safe bags (including information, drink

bottles, pencil cases, lip glosses, condoms and other such important material), we are having a having a BBQ on the Barr Smith Lawns on Thursday 1 June between 12noon-2pm. There will be free lunch & cordial, alcohol-themed music, silly competitions and, of course, free showbags!

So come join us on the Lawns on Thursday of Week 12 for free stuff and fun!

Tara Bates  
Women's Vice-President  
ph: 8303 3898  
[womens.saua@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:womens.saua@adelaide.edu.au)





## SANCTUARIES FOR OUR SEAS

With over 3,700km of coastline, South Australia's marine and coastal environments are some of the most spectacular and diverse on earth, supporting an abundance of rare and endangered marine mammals, plants and fish species, within eight distinctive bio-regions.

Despite this incredibly unique marine life, only about 4% of South Australian waters have any form of protection. SA now lags behind other states in protecting its marine environment, despite government rhetoric that promised a system of protection for marine areas in place by 2003.

**Be a part of the solution and become a Wilderness Defender Campaigner and join our face to face fund raising team in Adelaide.**

**By becoming a Wilderness Defender Campaigner you can help us get the message out there and get paid for it! We offer the following:**

- Base Wage + Commission
- Minimum of 3 days work
- Full in house training is provided
- Fun supportive environment
- Career Development and Travel Opportunities

To get involved and be part of this campaign call our recruitment line on 1300 138 174 or visit our website at

[defenders.wilderness.org.au](http://defenders.wilderness.org.au)

skinny & ireland

This week in On Dit, I thought I'd write about those little sacrifices that women tend to make for men these days. Do they bring these pressures on themselves? Or does society force women to wax, exfoliate and apply make up? (Tyson will probably write about a whole different other topic!)

Brazil. Just another South American country? Or the new waxing style which every woman HAS to have in order to compete with those models in porn magazines? This is just one of the questions everyday women may contemplate when considering how to please the man of her dreams. But did this guy force her to be poked and prodded by another female in order to achieve hairless 'perfection'? Or was it Cosmo that encouraged this kind of behaviour? In countries like France, the home of Christian Dior, Yves Saint Laurent, and Chanel, hair growth is traditionally considered to be sexy and natural by men and women, so why hasn't this ideal flourished in other parts of the world and into beauty salons where there are at least twenty different forms of waxing, electrolysis and tanning treatments available? Ladies, take all these random and probably useless questions into consideration the next time you're willing to let another woman wax 'down there'; if you want that sexy look make sure your doing it for yourself.

Lisa is right...I will be writing about a completely different topic... not even one specified to me by the lovely On Dit editors, instead this week I will be writing about a plethora of subjects...actually no, it's just the one.

Confronting, though it was, one Friday morning after attending St Ann's weekly Thursday pub night, I had to wonder why it is that my body aches after a night on the piss. Undoubtedly there is a medical explanation I'm sure, but I like to look at things in a generalised simple view...The lemmings in my arm must be tired from all the lifting of the glass to my mouth, so they have opted, instead, to sleep in this morning and leave my muscles to function at half capacity...that's that one explained, but why then does my head hurt when I have to stick up with listening to the bullshit my friends spew? And why does my tolerance wane every time that some friend craps on about superiority complexes and hook up rejections and puppies being the devil?...my head hurts, but I stick up with the bullshit I get from all my friends, because I know that every second I have with them is precious, be it full of crap, laughter or reliance. The lemmings in my arm can go to hell, slack bastards. But remember kids, when your lemmings are asleep, your friends are there to help you.

The Filth  
Writer: Grant Morrison  
Artist: Chris Weston & Gary Erskine

The Universe is made of stories, not atoms - Murid Ruboyser

Isn't that a lovely quote! You come across some real trips on the internet but sometimes you strike pure gold. Although it has nothing to do with The Filth, I thought it would be a nice way to mix into the whole Eurotrash-post-Communist-free-wheelin'-style theme this particular graphic novel does so well. At first the story is a bit hard to get into, but the supernatural amounts of cybersex seemed to fill that void nicely. Pretty much, this wrinkly old pervert character finds himself in the shower with a supervisory, blowjob-on-legs secret agent from another dimension and ends up having to regain his stolen former identity from some sort of thoughtpolice thingy you know. The 'post-modern' condition, albeit in awesome comic aesthetic form.

To put it simply, the story's a bit shit, but it's worth \$40 on pure art value. The depleted superhero theme is chintzy at times, however the accompanying illustrations are nothing short of shibby. Seriously, some of these pictures make you want to vomit from the sheer audacity of Weston/Erskine's baroque vision of a sullied future mindscape, and in context that's a good thing. Brimming with pe-mo irony, The Filth is sexy, funny, depressing and a rather technical blurp on the pop culture radar.

Shakia Mountcheuney

Available @ Pulp Fiction Comics  
34 a King William Street in the City

## COMICS



More Secret Pictures of You is one of the coolest concepts ever. Writer Ben Bullock has collaborated with nine Adelaide artists to create the exhibition that opened in May at the Exeter.

Bullock was peevish with writing comics and never getting any fruition from it. Not only was it hard to give artists his writing and say, 'umm here they are for this', it was also a matter of cash. Unless you've got big smackers, you're not going to be able to publish. Instead, what Ben did was write around thirty five scripts. He asked friends and friends of friends who were into comics to interpret and draw what he'd written in nine panels. What you'll see at the Exeter is what Ben describes as 'a huge publishing suite'.

All of the proceeds from the exhibition go to the Animal Welfare League and are reasonably priced from \$25-\$150. Ben felt that the idea of a graphic story in exhibition form had not been explored that deeply, and wanted to incorporate the writer into the idea of a graphic story.

Whilst each piece is a story unto it's own, there's a definite thread of violence and a disturbed mood that flows through it. Ooooh, that must be Ben.

It's quite strange to get your head around. The warm, fuzzy idea of artists collaborating on a project to donate to charity just doesn't match the walls adorned with a heroin-dependent baby and a guy shooting himself in the head. Some of the work is amazing, most of it is unsettling. I asked Ben if it was the artists that had interpreted the violence or if he had written it like that. He felt that a lot of the artists had toned it down.

The Artists involved include Glenn Luedden of Eternal Warrior and The Phantom fame, Evildaw McGunness (Angry Comic Shop Guy), Dan Fennell, Harper, Aaron Parrant, Simon Gray, Datsun Train, Emma Mere, Michael Sneyd, Dan Fennell, Owen Neillson and Sarah Milne.

More Secret Pictures of You is sponsored by Pulp Fiction Comics and runs from May 7 - June 14 at The Exeter.

Aaron Spelling

Background image by Emma Mere



There is one I prepared earlier

<insert fart noise here>

EDITORS WARNING:  
GROSS

Opinion columnists, they're the obligatory carrots in the tabloid vomit, spewing their personal brand of inane observation into the public domain. Good on them. In an apathetic society where mindless consumerism is rampant, people need to be told what is what. What I don't understand is the need for the little binary and often contradictory lists to be tacked on to the article e.g. "What's hot and what's not". If something is not hot surely that makes it cool? If something is out, maybe it could be so out there, that it's in? Doesn't sweet imply some form of sugarcoating? Whereas sour could be considered sharp, edgy with a hint of nonconformity? (ook, maybe that's pushing it a little).

I'll tell you what is hot. Winter, it is like, so now. If winter was a cool nightspot, it would be the hottest place in town and my name would be on the door because I love it. I would call it something like: "Frost", "Snow" or "Powder" (ook, maybe that's a little too obvious). Winter, its walking down frosty backstreets amongst mist intermingled with the smoke from wood fires. Looking in at the warm glow from huddles of cottages and thinking of stew with dumplings, incense, trackies, ugg boots and cuddles. Arriving at the local, cheeks glowing red in front of the amber embers of an open fire, it's all about Stout and chocolate cake. It is Sunday afternoon football or the aroma of the kitchen's compatibility with the cooking show on television.

It's no secret that around the world, ecosystems are in danger and the blame can be leveled quite obviously in the direction of the television chef. Their increased popularity has turned half normal citizens into crazed foodies on a constant quest to devour evermore exotic cuisine. While on the shows themselves it has become a competition to see who can use the most unattainable / inaccessible ingredients, "try the braised Bilby on a bed of Bush Baby, it's simply divine!"

It's no secret that I haven't always been the most environmentally conscious guy. Sometimes putting things in the recycling is just too hard and while I have made quite reasonable donations to Greenpeace, quite frankly I couldn't give a fuck about the whales, I bet they taste delicious. I try to eat organic. Is that helping the environment? My car has been off the road for months now, but I guess that has been a choice dictated by my unemployed/student/welfare lifestyle more than an environmentally based decision, it is how I make a difference. The aforementioned lifestyle has allowed me to watch more television chefs and indulge in a passion for food. Combined with all the organic produce, the results have been a bit gassy. By having one less car on the road I feel I have indirectly contributed to a decrease in exhaust emissions, however exhaust emissions coming directly from my arse have sky rocketed.

In between managing my obsession of wanting to eat everything and burning my own personal hole in the ozone layer I sometimes squeeze in a bit of study, it is about learning about learning. Have you ever noticed in the library or supermarket, you can be in a seemingly completely vacant aisle and as soon as you decide to sneakily let fluffy of the chain the hottest chick in the place will appear behind you (mmm chicken, fennel and tarragon soup with poached egg). Anyway, it's guaranteed to happen every time. She'll give you this disturbed look and you'll be like, what? It was the roasted vegetable cous cous.

A typical day at uni involves a walk through the city, so as I was taking a gas propelled stroll recently I was accosted by one of those smelly enviro types with a clipboard. "Excuse me sir, do you care about the environment?" Shut up you self righteous cow (mmm Wagyu cappiccio with toasted sourdough crumbs and roasted garlic), it's pigs like you that give environmentalists a bad rep (mmm pork polpetta with pistachios, lemon and Cannellini beans). Seriously baby, I can handle a bit of fur pie but do something about those pits, you look like a sheep (mmm lamb and rosemary tart with sour cream crust and wet polenta). I made my way through the stench and into the park.

It was a glorious day, the sun was shining and the birds were singing (mmm quail saltimbocca with grappa and raisins) a soft cool breeze came of the lake as a soft warm breeze came out of the seat of my pants. Plants wilted behind me, birds spiraled from the sky and possums fell from the trees (mmm slow baked possum with pineapple and molasses). As usual, the mystery hottie appeared out of nowhere, standing amongst the ducks beside the lake (mmm petto d'anitra al mango with duck terrine). A buxom brunette sort of like a

non-ugly version of Nigella Lawson, the sun reflecting in the lake and glittering in her clear eyes. There was nothing fishy about it but these were the type of eyes Rick Stein had told me to look for. This girl was a fresh catch, but what did she taste like?

I've been a long time campaigner for cunninglingus to be incorporated into gourmet traveller. I want to know if the tart in tartan is going to complement the rhubarb tart in my cake pan. For the curious, most women actually taste the same and sharp tart flavours tend to provide the best contrast. I work on a sort of sliding scale e.g.: Moet Chandon for if I really want to get it on and work my way down to cheap Semillion for skanks. ahem... FIG! Yeah, you are all acting grossed out by it now but by the end of the week the dudes are going to be trawling the bottle shop cabinet for a white to match snatch and the girls are going to be swaying a champagne flute before playing skin flute.

You cannot find a partner by taste alone and I can tell you that you definitely won't find them by writing articles in bad taste. here here But relationships are built around the necessity for nourishment, we all gotta. Perhaps in these perilous times for true love and the traditional household, our increased interest in the television chef offers a notion of stability. The popularity of comfort food signifies a wanting to retreat from an increasingly fragmented and maybe even hostile environment.

I remember coming in from the cold as a kid, from sport or something like that on a Sunday afternoon to be greeted by the aroma of Osso Bucco or a curry, red wine and freshly brewed coffee percolating throughout the house. My dad would always be cooking in the kitchen on a winter weekend afternoon and I would fall asleep in the back room watching a movie by an open fire eating white rabbit lollies. That is an environment I hope to be able to replicate for someone one day, my current desired scenario involves a bit more wine, Allison Goldfrapp, a bottle of Moet, a few white huskies running around with pink collars on an alpine property. I'll readjust it as fashion dictates. Oh yeah, I'll blame the flatulence on the dogs.

I think that cooking and sharing a meal with someone can be one of the most loving and comforting things you can do with someone. It can be the cornerstone of building a stable and healthy environment (excuse me for a second, I'm typing this in the library and two complete fucken chodes are feeding each other starburst across from me, just let me go and vomit on them, now there talking and kissing Ga!! You should see this guy's hair. It's a fucken disgrace, doing study together what is this? The bloody OC? I'm sorry, I've totally lost my train of thought, ew! What's the deal with uni at the moment? Are they putting loser juice in the water? These guys have bible club written all over them.)

Nah, sorry that's it for today, what was I talking about? Go home and cook for someone who is special to you. It is great if it's family, it will count for something one day. If it's for a lover get a bottle of wine and get it on.

**Love (barely) Re: Pete.**

*There is a prize for anyone who can pick the life impact on campus references.*

**O B L I G A T O R Y**

**H O T O R N O T**

**So Hot/Cool Right Now**

**Young Love:** First years making out in the Barr Smith... sweet  
**Life Impact on Campus:** Wicky media kids cutting it up.

**TV Chefs:** Geoff Janz. House dads want to crack a coldie with him, house mums get moist.

**Opinion Columnists:** They type what we are all thinking.  
Oh no you didn't, oh yes I did girlfriend!

**So Gag/Vomit Right Now**

**Young Love:** Take it home. Not to the library or computer lab. Your barely post pubescent over the top displays of affection are cute but sometimes they make jaded old clowns like me want to bring up my sushi.

**Life Impact on Campus:** More clichés and cheese in the taglines than I can take seriously, let the ridicule begin.

**TV Chefs:** Ian Hewitson. Condescending demeanor, podgy fingers, sub-standard ingredients / recipes.  
I actually saw him prepare toasted cheese once.

**Opinion Columnists:** Revert to offensive and crude personal narrative when low on ideas and make broad ill-informed judgments. May fail to finish articles properly.

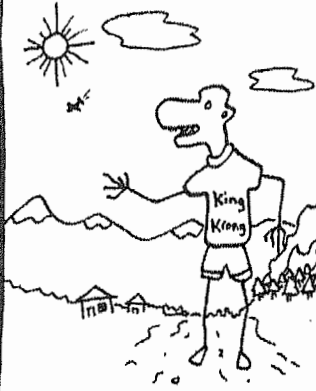
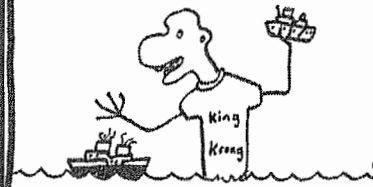
# KING

# KRONG



The story of a giant monster's rampage through a modern city.

King Krong emerged from the ocean, wrecking havoc on local shipping. He becomes enraged! Local shipping pays a terrible price, further extended by a lack of adequate insurance.



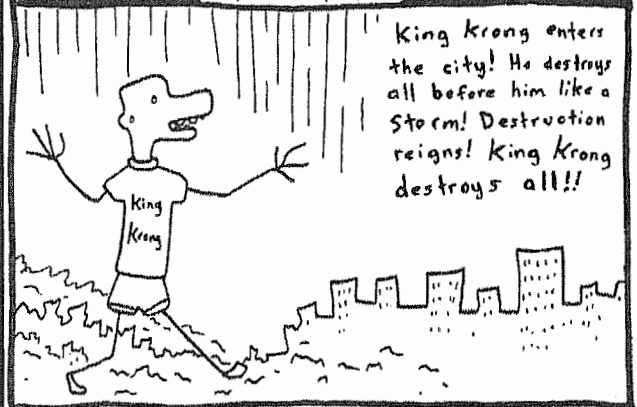
King Krong reaches land. He wanders the countryside. He inadvertently starts several major fires. He also crushes a number of small towns. In his wake he leaves destruction and mayhem.



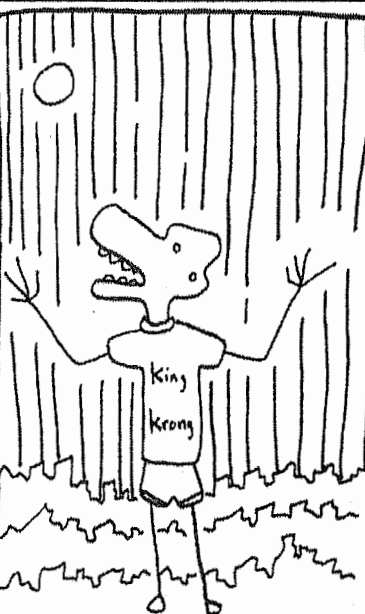
King Krong comes to the city bridge. He promptly destroys it. The city's inhabitants await his coming with terror and awe.



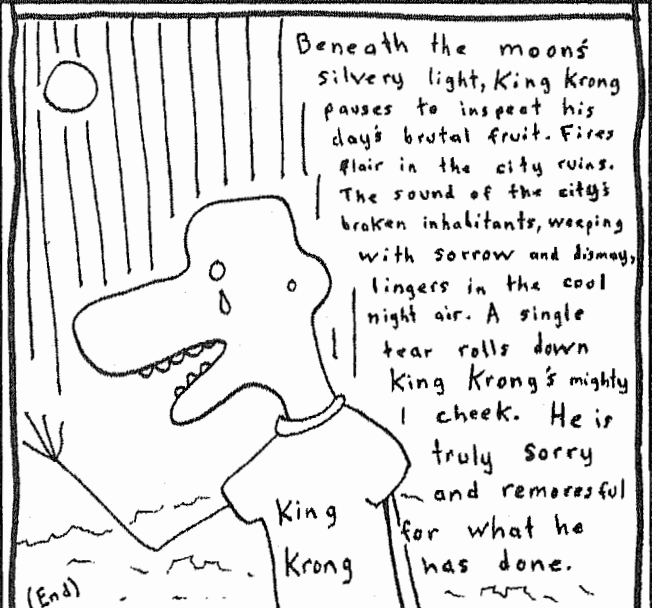
King Krong enters the city limits. The air force is called to stop him, but he simply bats them away with his mighty fists. The city lies before him, lacking defence and gripped by panic.



King Krong enters the city! He destroys all before him like a storm! Destruction reigns! King Krong destroys all!!



The city is destroyed! Its once mighty sky scrapers lay in tatters before King Krong! Its once great public transport system ceases to run! Its once proud citizens are left dead, dying and crippled! Its public monuments and cultural institutions are crushed and burning! Town Hall is a smoking crater! Only King Krong remains! He surveys the damage he has caused and emits a Mighty Roar!!



Beneath the moon's silvery light, King Krong pauses to inspect his day's brutal fruit. Fires flair in the city ruins. The sound of the city's broken inhabitants, weeping with sorrow and dismay, lingers in the cool night air. A single tear rolls down King Krong's mighty cheek. He is truly sorry and remorseful for what he has done.

(End)



What is climate compatible gardening? What authority do I have to write about this issue? I am a Landscape Designer studying a Bachelor of Environmental Studies. I have had 30 years (yes, I'm a mature age student) hands-on experience in the horticulture industry, with 12 years as a registered designer. I am committed to the environment and am exceedingly frustrated with the direction in which our gardening 'gurus' are directing us. Are they even aware of the changing climate, or are they too frightened to discuss it in case it frightens the consumer?

I live and garden in Mintaro, in the Clare Valley. My garden, Timandra, is multi award winning, for both Landscape and Tourism. It is accredited by ECO Tourism as a sustainable garden; the only garden in Australia with this distinction. I am a member of the Horticultural Media Association, but am sure that I am regarded as a 'fruit loop' because of my contentious ideas.

What is 'climate compatible gardening'? Have you ever considered that when the temperature reaches 45° in the shade, the ambient temperature is *at least* 50°? If it is so unpleasant for us to be outside in this weather, consider the poor plant that has to manage with such extremes. Limited rainfall and high heat only exacerbates the problem. With climate compatible gardening, these major issues are addressed in order to have a sustainable garden. Ecological sustainability is:

*"Using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological development processes, on which life depends, are maintained and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be sustained."*

Ecotourism Australia, ECO Certification Handbook, 3rd ed., 2003. Brisbane, Qld

Soil is the most critical factor when selecting plants. Soils with a higher pH range (i.e. the measure of acidity or alkalinity of a solution) are usually representative of a higher rainfall than those with a lower pH. This range varies from 0 to 14, with midway being neutral. 7 to 14 is alkaline and 0-7 is acidic; anything over 10 or under 7 is unsustainable to life. Modifications can be made to the existing soil, but why bother when plants selected for the existing soil fare much better than those that need enduring soil alterations? Climate compatibility works within the existing parameters that are dictated by the site's climate, and the ensuing changes that are occurring need to be taken into consideration.

In Timandra, our soil is alkaline; so much so, that upon starting the garden 11 years ago, we had areas of soil with a pH of 10 (what is regarded as a *Red Dermosol* soil, or *Terra Rossa* soil). We have a shallow depth of well-drained clay loam over a thin calcrete pan underlaid with soft rock. The soil is great for viticulture, but has proven a challenge for gardening. Rainfall has an average of 550mls per annum with 2 winter droughts in the time that we have been here (11 years) and increasing lengths of time between summer and autumn falls. Timandra has experienced severe frosts, with temperatures reaching

-7°. Our garden is situated in an area of considerable extremes, and yet it is still open to the public every day of the year. *Terra Rossa* soil is quite typical of the Mediterranean region, and it is plants from this area, mixed with Australian natives, that I have selected for my garden.

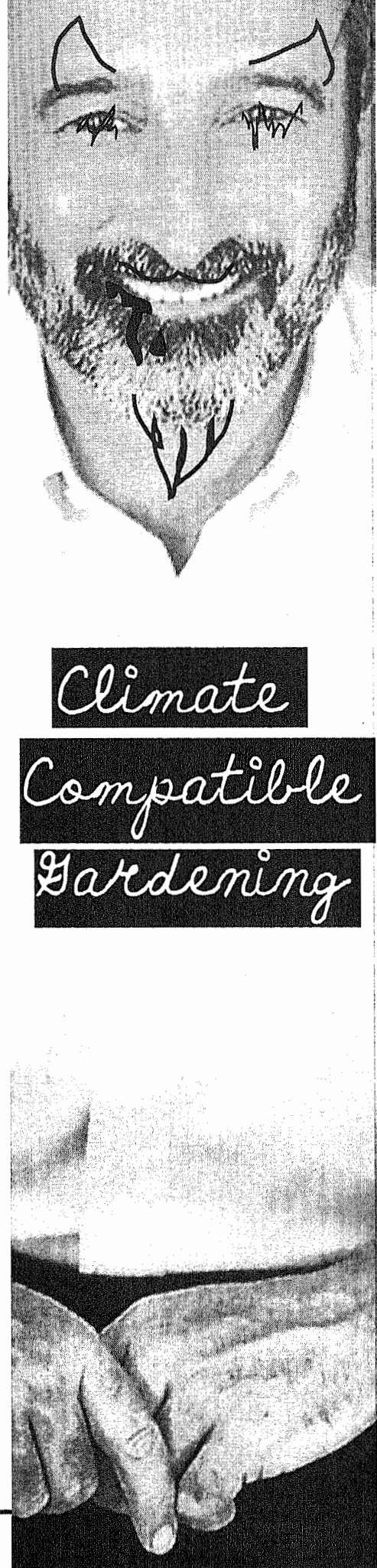
There are certain groups who've assiduously promoted the use of indigenous plants as the preferred choice of plant selection. I question this, because with climate change, whether conditions are variable. The rainfall on the SW tip of Western Australia has had a profound effect on indigenous vegetation. Many species are being planted in NSW where the rainfall is higher, to keep the strain alive. Humidity is a factor; many of the plants from WA must be grafted onto humidity-tolerant rootstock in order to enable the viability of the plant. In this way, it is hoped that certain plants can be saved from extinction.

'Getting it right' is a challenge that hasn't been important to many gardeners. Too many think that if it is hot, add extra water to plants to keep them alive. This is wrong. If plant selection for the garden is based on water-efficient plants, why add water? Thick layers of mulch (I only use pea straw in Timandra) act as a soil insulator, keeping the roots underneath cool. Water should be used **ONLY** to keep plants alive, not actively growing. Plants modify their own growth rates, depending on their natural water supply (i.e. rain). All plants selected for the garden should be reflective of the soil type - is it clay or sand? Is it acidic or alkaline? There are many plants from which to choose (except those subjected to desert conditions) that will flourish, given the right conditions. If in doubt, plant a native from a similar climatic range and soil type. It will never look out of place, especially native grasses. They will even give the garden a 'sense of place', as though they belong.

I am frustrated by the lack of acknowledgement of climate control gardening by the horticultural industry. The advice given by irrigation 'experts' to the government is totally at odds with my views on how we should be managing our external sites. No outlooks appear to be remotely visionary, which has resulted in an ignorant public who are in denial about the future direction of climate change (CC). I have read that CC is at 0.6° above the normal range. The predictions claim that CC could go as high as 3° above average, a marked increase on the current situation.

We should be developing a more visionary approach to how we design and manage our gardens. I am astounded that so few in my industry are even aware of the impending changes, let alone care! We cannot bury our heads in the sand forever and keep refusing to accept even the small element of change that has already occurred. Because I have been relegated to the 'fruit loop' brigade due to my outspokenness within my industry, it is through articles like this that I hope to make future generations aware of a lack of visionary impetus relating to environmental issues, especially in relation to the design of commercial and domestic landscapes.

Alison Aplin



# Climate Compatible Gardening

# Genetically Modified Food:

SAFE FOR HUMANS  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT?

Food is a necessity for humans to survive. Therefore, most of us take an interest in its future. Currently, concerns about the future of our food supply are founded on both factual evidence, assumptions and superstitions. A major issue of food manufacture, and certainly one with the most media interest, is that of genetically modified food. Genetically modified food or G.M food involves a change at gene level of a food product, thereby altering the finished product. Both environmental and health and safety issues become involved at this point, involving not only labeling and marketing, but also the growth of these products.

Some of the concerns people hold over genetic manipulation may appear unfounded, stemming from a basic mistrust of new technology. However, even from a scientific point of view, there are many factors that haven't been properly tested. The first problem: is it safe? This is the question which drives consumers: it's the make or break question for the industry. The labeling issue stems back to issues of possible inadequate testing, particularly concerning potential long-term risks associated with the consumption of GM foods.

When gene technology is used to alter the genetic make up of any food crop, ingredient or animal product, it is considered to be GM food (though the term can describe any manipulation of food from selective breeding to hybridization where two related plants are cross-fertilized resulting in offspring containing characteristics of both parent plants). In contemporary vernacular, the words 'Genetically Modified Food' refer to the process of foreign proteins spliced into, or out of, common food products, changing them genetically.

Using this process, a gene can be inserted into a plant to give it a specific new characteristic, instead of mixing the genes from two plants and seeing what comes out. This makes the breeding process more reliable by carrying over the gene that codes for the desired trait, rather than relying on pot luck. Once in the plant, the new gene does what all genes do: it directs the production of a specific protein, developing from that gene the desired trait in the final plant. The most common form of GM food has had a trait removed, such as seedless watermelons, or a gene added to make the food base product.

One argument for labeling GM food is the issue of allergies. If a food containing a gene which someone is allergic to is then moved to another plant, consequently the person allergic to that gene will be allergic

to the other genetically modified item as well.

Legally, all common attributes of food that cause allergic reactions are listed on packaging. Currently, the list of GM food products intersects with many of the common food allergens, such as wheat, nuts and milk. Labeling of GM food for those people allergic to the particular gene is vital in order to prevent allergic reactions that threaten the health of the consumer. On the other hand, the likelihood that the gene inserted in the GM food produces an allergic protein is slim. Other potential long-term risks associated with the consumption of GM food should be recognized.

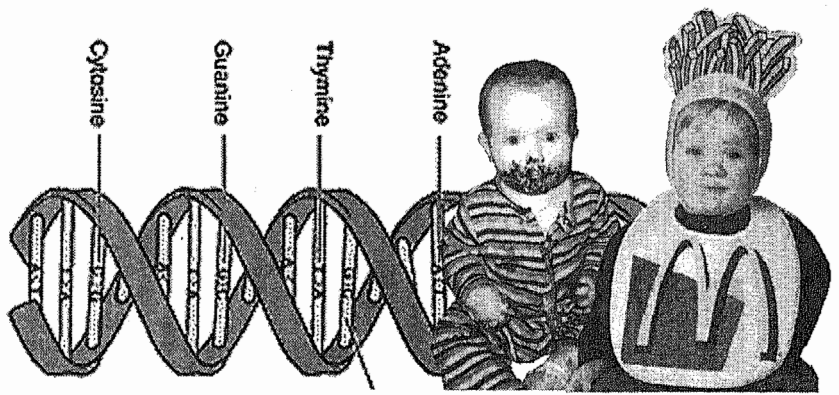
The issue of whether or not to label GM food is specific to *humans* in terms of health, culture and religion, but *global* in terms of environmental impact. Environmental groups have expressed concern that genetically modified plants could have unintended side effects, including killing beneficial insects and, through the spread of pollen, promoting growth of herbicide-resistant 'super weeds' and antibiotic resistant 'superbugs'.

Furthermore, some products have been proved unsafe. Genetically engineered corn contained a special protein that took longer than normal to break down in the digestive system. For this reason, it was not approved for human consumption. However, this was established after it was grown, altering its local eco system. Other unsafe products, potentially containing an allergen protein, can slip through the cracks of the system and be sold to the public. It is vital, especially to those who obtain severe reactions from certain foods, that these products are labeled.

There are also cultural and religious issues regarding GM food. If a gene is taken from a pig and then inserted into another product, would for example a Jewish person be able to eat that other product? Labeling would be essential to those with similar food standards. To do any less would insult that person's right to uphold their religion.

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (or FSANZ) currently regulate the sale of genetically modified foods, including the possibilities of labeling. Their standard requires that food and food ingredients (including food additives and processing aids) must be labeled with the words 'genetically modified' if novel DNA and/or novel protein is present in the final food, or where the food has altered characteristics.

Also, all food that requires a label does so in the name of the product or in the ingredients list, specifying the manipulated



material used. However, the safety testing of GM food lies with the particular developer of that product. How reliable can this be when no consideration to the environmental impact of their product is made?

"Long-term animal toxicity studies are not generally applicable to the testing of whole foods." As this is a concern for many environmentalists and the public, this issue of longevity should be further investigated. The safety evaluation of GM food relies on information from animal toxicity studies, regarding only the new protein instead of the final food product containing the protein. So whilst mandatory pre-market safety assessment requirements and labeling requirements are enforced by the FSANZ, exceptions like this are unavoidable because of the technology and time available to test the product.

Another loop hole for avoiding labeling is shown in the statement "foods, ingredients or processing aids in which the genetically modified food is unintentionally present in a quantity of no more than 10g/kg (1%) per ingredient. This tolerance level only applies where the manufacturer has sought to source non-genetically modified foods or ingredients". It seems that to try and avoid using GM products warrants no labeling on their products. And to those with cultural or religious food standards, that 1% would be important to them, yet the product is not labeled. Ministers also resolved to exempt ingredients from GM labeling where they contain up to 1% of genetically modified material but only where its presence is unintended. How can consumers make a stand, if they so choose, against GM foods when they don't know they're eating it?

Current management regarding the safety of the GM product seems faulty, as loopholes give room for exploitation of companies trying to get their product to those who would normally be against GM food, particularly if the presence of GM food is low. Furthermore it is being left to the producers to choose whether or not to be environmentally aware, nothing is overtly enforced.

Management regarding religious, allergen and long term effects needs to be improved, and by labeling all GM products this can be improved, especially for those GM food concerns. Furthermore consideration for the environment has completely fallen by the wayside. What impact will GM grown foods have on our ecosystem, on non-GM grown crops and industry and all else in-between? It seems only time will tell.

Genevieve Williamson

# Sustainability

# How to Reduce Your Global Footprint

Sustainability is what we enviro kids are always harping on about! We want to see a world where social justice, environmental awareness, action and happiness reign. And we work damn hard to help make it happen. And at the same time, we are studying, working, having families, relationships, looking after the dog, cleaning our dishes, making love, reading.... I know I often get overwhelmed, struggling to fulfil all the things I want to in any given day, week, month. And I think, well, if I wasn't doing this, or I didn't do that, then I could fit it all in. My big question is, how can I be self-sustainable?

I guess the main point of this article is to encourage myself and others to help maintain our own energy, motivation and fulfillment at all levels. I have a sticker on my bike which says Remember to Breathe. I take this as a reminder to stop, notice my breath and remember that I'm alive and doing the best I can.

I read Naomi Klein's *No logo* at the start of last year and I still have the image in my head of a young woman who plastered stickers and posters all over the city's highly corporatised buildings and spaces. Sometimes I feel like that girl, on the streets, putting the word out, taking action, and other times, I feel like I'm simply ignoring the chaos outside and focussing in, trying to make my life flow the way I want it to. I want both. I want to be taking action. And I want to be focussing in.

How can we, as activists and passionate students, get the balance? I think it starts with talking. Getting your voice out there to your friends and colleagues, saying yes, I want to take action, I want to be involved, but I need to focus on me too. As a collectives we need to be ready to be personally and collectively sustainable.

It's all well and good to talk about what we want, but where to from there? These are some things I've come up with in my own personal journey to help keep the balance:

- Recognise what are the key things we want as individuals in our lives: close relationships, helping in enviro-collective (or whatever it may be), achieving well at uni

- Recognise the things we have to do (but maybe wish we didn't): working, dishes!

- And most importantly: Recognise how best to bring elements of all of these together to achieve what we want in our lives!

In some ways this is really hard to do. How do we list out our priorities and let go of all the things we want but can't expect ourselves to be able to achieve? One of my little tricks is the concept of infinite patience; this means trust and acceptance that I can have everything that I want, just not all at the same time! Ha! So simple and yet, a life time journey to understand and accept!

Whilst I am at it, I want to remind us that we are all doing an amazing thing. And that is living, existing, breathing AND being ourselves, living with awareness of the world, others, animals, Gaia etc. Even if you don't feel like you are making a difference, simply being true to yourself is a difference.

And make sure you remember to breathe.

Amy Macken

If everyone lived like the average Australian, we would need over 4 planets to support the world's population! The average Australian needs 7.6 global hectares to support their lifestyle even though there is only 1.8 biologically-productive global hectares per person, but of course we are doing better than those infamous North Americans. I can't quite fathom how the geniuses behind the Ecological Footprint calculated it all, but it's good to see your impact on the world in a measurable way. It's well worth calculating your footprint at one of the many websites that provide the service, e.g. [www.myfootprint.org](http://www.myfootprint.org). However, if you are left dismayed at the size of your footprint and the seeming impossibility of decreasing it when living in a modern industrialised city of a rich country, read on! Here are some tips:

- Join a food co-operative for cheap basic food that's predominantly local and organic and free of processing, packaging and food miles. The co-op at Flinders Uni provides fresh fruit and veg once a week, and the co-op at Clarence Park community centre provides dry food stuffs as well as fresh produce.

- Grow your own food and trade with neighbours and friends, or join a community garden where you can also participate in organic gardening workshops

- Glean food from trees in your area or other places (like dumpsters) where food is going to waste. Make a map of all the free produce in your area and what time of the year it's available.

- Try to cook food in large amounts for energy efficiency, or use an insulated hotbox to continue cooking food for a few hours after it's already been brought to the boil on the stove.

- Try to avoid gas or electric stoves and ovens by using solar dryers, mud ovens and other homemade technologies.

- Save water by collecting water from your shower (as long as you use eco-friendly bath products) in buckets, or the cold water you run in the kitchen sink while you're waiting for the hot, and then give your plants a drink.

- Glean all the furniture you can from hard rubbish rather than be tempted by Ikea's cheap furniture solutions which quickly become waste problems

- There is really little excuse for driving a car when most people have the capability to ride a bike everywhere! (especially when you take it on a train). Actually there are excuses - poor road planning that marginalises cyclists, verbal abuse from drivers, lack of safety...etc. But things will only change if more people get in the cycle lane, or attend the monthly Critical Mass bike carnival to give our leaders the message that we want a people-friendly city. Add panniers or a bike trailer to cart around heavier items. Or car pool for country road trips.

- If you've done the Ecological Footprint test, you will have noticed that it increases drastically if you catch a plane anywhere. The greenhouse emissions generated by air travel is the best-kept secret of our time. Everyone worries about their car-based emissions so they opt to fly everywhere instead, taking advantage of airline warfare. This is completely unsustainable. Bus-ing and train-ing it for interstate travel will reduce your impact enormously, and hey, it will give you a sense of how great and beautiful and BIG this land really is...

- For those menstruators out there, try re-usable pads, rubber cups, or sea sponges which are easily purchasable online or can be homemade.

- Make recycled paper pads out of once used paper you can find around uni or at home, and then give away all your extras as presents. It's so interesting using a pad which has someone else's essay or notes on every second page!

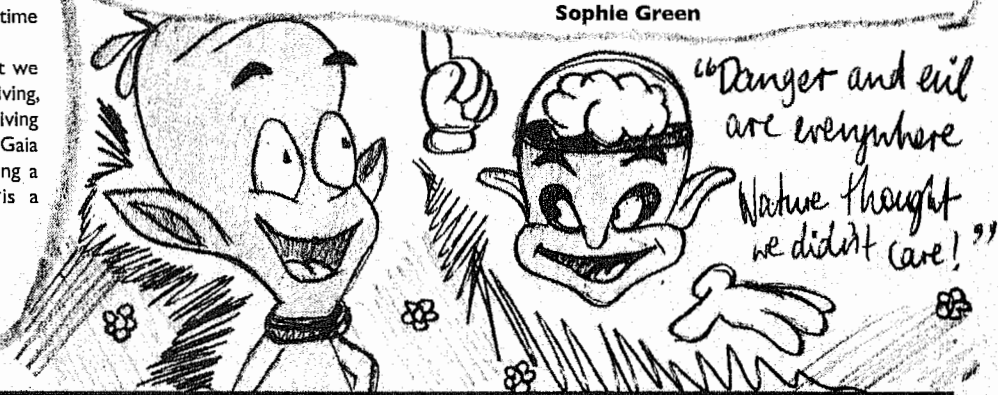
- There's little excuse for not using 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper when it is almost as cheap as conventional pulped native forest paper. You can even get 'Evolve' from WC Penfold now and it's the purest of whites.

- Make homemade eco-friendly cleaning products (pretty much all household cleaning can be done using a combination of bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, lemons, pure soap, eucalyptus oil, and cloudy ammonia), or buy eco products from shops like 'The Honey and Soap Shoppe' at the Central Market or 'Waste Not Want Not' on Goodwood Rd.

- Mmm and toilets get flushed way too often...

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR WASTE! SEEK LOCAL, COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS!

Sophie Green



# THE BUSINESS OF

# environmental conservation



Your friendly Environment Student Collective!

Did you know that there's a rad group of kids on campus who are making your university more sustainable, while also creating a more ecologically-aware world??

While being in existence for less than a year, the collective has already hosted a national environmental and social justice film festival, saved and redistributed tonnes of wasted paper on campus by turning it into student unlogged books, held chai stalls, talked with high level administrators about changing the university's paper contract to a 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper manufacturer, initiated a campaign to get 100% renewable energy on campus, organised a major benefit gig and submitted proposals for a community permaculture garden on campus. Dirty hands = happy hearts!

We have five major campaign focuses to create a sustainable campus - the permaculture garden, recycled paper, recycling bins, green waste recycling, and the sustainable energy vision - while enjoying pot luck dinners, banner painting sessions, talking, drumming, and singing together!

How can a beautiful person such as yourself get involved you ask??

All are welcome to attend meetings, which are held every Tuesday 4pm on the Barr Smith lawns. Look for the happy little cluster!

Or come along to the Eco-Action benefit gig, June 3rd at No. 9 Light Square (above Night Train) from 7.30pm onwards, which is being held to raise money to send students to the major national Students of Sustainability conference. Bands include The Mandala Project, Fire Santa Rosa, Fire, mkB, Business as Usual, Sunsound, plus DJs, for only \$10. There'll be environmental stalls and many Eco.s members to chat with!

Or you could become part of the Eco.s online community through the e-group, sign up by emailing [eco\\_students@yahoo.com](mailto:eco_students@yahoo.com).

Or contact [eco\\_students@gmail.com](mailto:eco_students@gmail.com) for more information. We write back with love.



Picket signs, petitions, rallies, and demonstrations- all absolutely useless. This statement may be a bit harsh but unfortunately, it's true.

I was on my way to the library when I noticed a couple of students standing outside feebly attempting to get passers by to sign a petition attempting to convince the University executives to create a program forcing the recycling of paper on campus. Intrigued, I stopped to talk the poor guy who hadn't gotten very many people to stop, let alone sign the petition. HE seemed crushed by his failure and a little upset that he had wasted a beautiful summer day in Adelaide standing around as people who just didn't give a damn that he was even there walked by. Maybe some cute eco-chick had promised him some 'private picket' time for his work in front of the library. Nevertheless, it was obvious from his expression that no amount of lovin' was worth this much public embarrassment. We spoke for a few minutes and I realized something. This group, whose name I can't remember, had all the best intentions but absolutely no clue how to get what they wanted. They forgot about the business of environmental conservation.

What is the business of environmental conservation? If environmental conservation is the act of saving the environment and business is the act of making money, then the business of environmental conservation is saving the world by making money. Sounds a little bit like an oxymoron, doesn't it? Just look at it this way: if you want the University to mandate paper recycling on campus, then you have to convince the powers that be that by doing so, it will have a financial benefit to the school.

I know, everyone should be concerned about the environment. We need to save the natural resources for our children. We are killing all of our old growth forests. This is all obvious. Anyone who has two ears and even the smallest amount of brain function should and does know this. But in all reality, who cares. Not that it's not important but the average person on the street could care less. Between exams, mortgages and whether or not your girlfriend is cheating on you with your best friend of five years, recycling is just not at the top of most peoples to do list. Besides, adults only have an attention span of 45 minutes tops and...umm... what was I talking about? Oh yeah! The same applies to business leaders and the Universities leadership. If you want them to Institute mandatory recycling, then show them how it will benefit them. NOW! Not in the future, not for their children but now! And as Jerry McGuire says: SHOW ME THE MONEY!!!!!!

This is not to say that the University is money hungry or that finances are all that they care about. The truth is they are concerned with finances just like any other business. If they have money, they can improve their educational programs, which make them more popular, which raises enrolment which in turn brings in more money.

With all that being said, make them see the money. There are a number of business in this country that need recyclable white paper to create more white paper that they can in turn label as 'made with recycled paper' This gives you, the environmentally-minded individual, recycled paper to buy. Beside, that cute eco-chick will be far more impressed by your success at getting the University to support the program than you ability to get 25 signature in 6 hours! Anyways, find a company that wants it and sell it to them. Yes, sell it to them! If you find one of these companies and can prove to them that they can get an enormous amount to raw product at a reasonable price, there is no reason that they won't bite. They want the paper and if they can get it a good price and easily then they will be willing to join into a business venture with the university. Create a student run organization that will collect the paper from all over campus and take it to a trailer that the recycling company can pick up easily. After the club is set up, get the recycling company to co-sponsor the student group. Then turn around and present this information to the university. Show them that by making a commitment to the environment, that they can make a profit. Show them that it will not cost them anything and that your organization will be responsible for distributing and collecting the receptacles. At worst the income that comes in from the paper being recycled will pay for the clubs activities. At best, it will pay for activities and create a little cash flow for scholarships. If you can make this case to them, they will have no choice but to join you. The good news is you will get what you want, the school will be recycling paper and the world will be a better place.

I know the tone of this article is a little condescending. But in this capitalistic society, you have to show that your vision is a) double and b) of immediate benefit to those you want to convince. This is not a treatise on how cash-focused the university is. This is an attempt to show how, in life, you have to show the benefit of your vision to those around you. The University, thankfully, is concerned with the quality of education it is providing to its students. It needs to use all of its resources, financial and otherwise, to continually improve it product and create well qualified graduates who will enter the work world and be captains of industry, like paper recycling!

Mohamed H. Naga

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## ABOVE THE LAW?

### ROXBY DOWNS AND BHP BILLITON'S LEGAL PRIVILEGES

What would you say if you were told that a large portion of South Australia is subject to an entirely different set of laws to the rest of the state? How would you feel if you knew that those legally responsible for this land consume more energy and water, create more waste and dangerous material and extract more resources than any other body in South Australia?

Over 20 years ago the South Australian Government enacted the *Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Act 1982* (Indenture Act). In a single document the Government legislated that some 1.5 million hectares in central South Australia, including the Roxby Downs mine and surrounding areas, would be exempt from some of our most important environmental and indigenous rights legislation. The Indenture Act provides BHP Billiton the legal authority to override the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*, *Development Act 1993*, *Environmental Protection Act 1993*, *Freedom of Information Act 1991*, *Mining Act 1971*, *Natural Resources Act 2004* (including the *Water Resources Act 1997*).

This decision undermines community expectations that corporations should be regulated to limit the potential damage they can cause and to ensure they remain accountable for their actions. It also challenges the South Australian Government's expressed commitment to the "strictest environmental standards" for the Roxby Downs/Olympic Dam mine. Such sweeping legislative power is unprecedented and inconsistent with modern practices and government promises.

#### The Indenture Act and Aboriginal Heritage

The inclusion of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* (AHA) in the Indenture Act has significant consequences for issues of equality and questions how seriously our State Government treats Indigenous rights and interests.

The AHA is the key legislative enactment aimed at protecting Indigenous heritage in South Australia. Prior to the operation of Native Title in the early 90s the AHA governed most government/Indigenous relations concerning land and cultural heritage. The Act continues to play an important function for Indigenous cultural heritage. However, under the Indenture Act the traditional owners of the land surrounding Roxby Downs, the Kokatha, Arabunna and Barnarla peoples, are now forced to deal with BHP Billiton to have their heritage recognised. As ACF nuclear campaigner David Noonan noted, BHP Billiton is

[I]n a legal position to undertake any consultation that occurs, decide which Aboriginal groups they consult and the manner of that consultation. As the commercial operator and proponent of expansion within these areas, [BHP Billiton is] in a position of deciding the level of protection that Aboriginal heritage sites received and which sites they recognised.

Through the Indenture Act, the government has abdicated its responsibility to address Aboriginal Heritage issues in relation to the Roxby Downs mine. They have placed BHP Billiton in a legal position to, ignore the provisions of the 1988 Act designed to protect Aboriginal heritage; determine the nature and manner of any consultation with Indigenous communities; choose which Aboriginal groups to consult with; decide the level of protection that Aboriginal Heritage sites receive; decide which Aboriginal Heritage sites they recognise

As owners of the Olympic Dam mine, BHP Billiton clearly cannot participate in decisions concerning the recognition and protection of Aboriginal sites without a gross conflict of interest.

#### Freedom of Information

In October 2002 Premier Mike Rann and the Minister for Administrative Services, Jay Weatherill, signed the 'Citizens Right to Information' charter. This Charter commits the Government of South Australia to making information in Government documents and records readily accessible to the citizens of South Australia. Contained within this document is a promise that the "South Australian Government is committed to attaining the highest standards of openness and accountability."

To fulfil this promise the Charter directs citizens to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI) and provides information about how to use the legislation. On this point Friends of the Earth campaigner Joel Catchlove notes,

Freedom of Information legislation is an indispensable element of any society represented by a government. The legislation promotes government accountability and fosters informed public participation in government.

Legally, the FOI consists of rights and obligations concerning access to and amendment of, information in the hands of government. The principal right conferred is a general right of access to a document of an agency or an official document of a minister.

Under confidentiality clause 35 of the Indenture Act, BHP Billiton have veto power over information relating to activities undertaken within the 1.5 million hectares covered by the indenture. Mr Catchlove notes:

There is thus a massive portion of South Australia where mining giant BHP Billiton operates which is not subject to open public review or discussion and the fundamental tenancies of representative government have been laid to waste. The government promises openness and accountability with one hand and takes it away with the other.

This fact was also commented on by Hedley Bachmann in his 2002 report to the State Government on reporting procedures for the South Australian uranium industry. In his report Bachmann recommended:

In order to allow the release of information about incidents, which may cause or threaten to cause, serious or material environmental harm or risks to the public or employees, the government should revise and appropriately amend the secrecy/confidentiality causes in the legislation.

The Bachmann report addressed a range of transparency or secrecy clauses contained in legislation relating to uranium mining. At the conclusion of his work the State government amended two pieces of legislation to comply with his recommendations. They were the

*Radiation Protection Act 1982*: Section 19 and the *Mines and Workers Inspection Act 1920*: Section 9

While the veto power held by BHP Billiton remains intact, citizen confidence and faith in the South Australian government cannot. South Australian citizens have a right to know exactly what actions, decisions or activities our representatives and corporations are undertaking, particularly in such a high-risk operation as the Roxby Downs uranium mine. The mine consumes more resources than any other enterprise in the state and has the potential to serious damage the health of South Australian workers and South Australia's natural heritage. Many natural wonders, which are of deep significance to the land's Traditional Owners, come under the Indenture Area. Responsible, accountable governments and corporations should have no need for secrecy, and in a project the scale of Roxby Downs, there is too much at stake to maintain it.

#### Environmental Protection

At 2006 levels of operation, the Roxby Downs/Olympic Dam uranium mine is licensed to take 40 million litres of water a day from the Great Artesian Basin (GAB). The GAB is a vast and ancient body of water that lies deep under the surface of central Australia. It begins in far north Queensland and is a source of water for many pastoral properties and habitats, including the fragile and unique mound springs in South Australia's arid north. Currently BHP Billiton extracts 33 million litres a day from the GAB and farmers, environmentalists and traditional owners have reported dramatic reductions in water pressure threatening and sometimes extinguishing rare ecosystems. Under the Indenture Act, BHP Billiton is not required to pay for this water.

The radioactive waste tailings dam at Olympic Dam amounts to 60 million tonnes and is growing at 10 million tonnes annually. The tailings dam has been plagued by spills – most significantly in 1994, when the mine operators admitted some five million cubic litres had leaked from the dams over two years. Environmental audits provided to the Rann Government continue to emphasise that the mine tailings are inadequately managed and "an issue of real concern" requiring "the implementation of urgent remedial measures". BHP Billiton has no long-term plans for the management of these tailings, which because of their radioactivity may remain dangerous for thousands of years. When all valuable resources have been extracted BHP Billiton simply plans to 'cap' the tailings dump with soil.

Additionally, Olympic Dam consumes more electricity than any other body in the State, ten percent of the state's production, effectively making it SA's single biggest producer of greenhouse gas.

The Indenture Act provides an override to the *Environmental Protection Act 1993* (EPA) and the powers and functions contained within. The EPA was enacted to provide for the protection of the environment and the establishment of an Environmental Protection Authority to monitor and enforce compliance with the Act. The key objective of this legislation is the avoidance of 'environmental harm', a term that is defined in the legislation to mean any harm or potential harm to the environment, of whatever degree or duration. Potential harm includes risk of harm and future harm.

The legislation imposes different penalties for offences causing environmental harm. The most heavily penalised offence is the offence of causing serious environmental harm by polluting the environment intentionally or recklessly and with knowledge that serious environmental harm will or might result. A lower penalty is imposed where a person, by polluting the environment, causes serious environmental harm.

The Environmental Protection Authority is charged with enforcing these provisions. The Authority has the power to serve notices on people violating the EPA and order them to comply; place conditions on licences and other environmental approvals; impose or vary a condition of an environmental authorisation; demand financial assurance to be made where there is a high risk that operation will result in environmental harm. This money is used to counteract resulting environmental or community damage; require an organization to prepare a plan of action in the event of emergencies that might arise out of the operation.

These provisions are South Australia's most important and strongest environmental safeguards and they are absent from BHP Billiton's Olympic Dam operation. In fact, under the Indenture, Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (PIRSA), is responsible for overseeing the project's environmental standards. As a government body dedicated to promoting mining, PIRSA has a clear conflict of interest in this role. Friends of the Earth Campaigner Sophie Green notes:

Whether you support the mining operations at Olympic Dam or not commonsense dictates that where a massive project is being undertaken which has the potential (and indeed likelihood) of damaging vast portions of the environment, our strongest environmental safeguards should apply. We are only asking that BHP Billiton be held to the same standard as every other corporation in Australia.

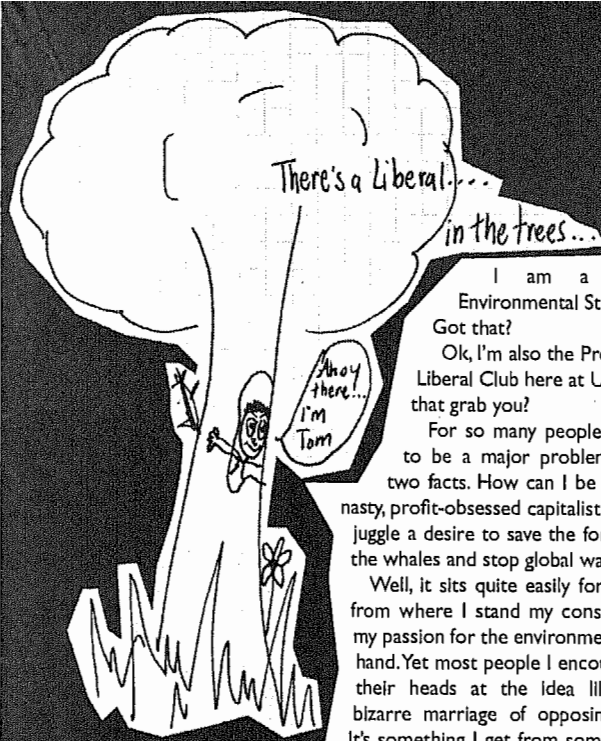
In reviewing the conditions surrounding the massive 1994 leak, Dr. Gavin Mudd emphasises that the Indenture Act essentially prevents the mine from environmental responsibility and "until the [Indenture] Act is revoked entirely there can be no truly independent, external environmental assessment of the impacts of Olympic Dam".

Legal accountability and guarantees of BHP Billiton's environmental performance are crucial, particularly in light of the proposed expansion of the Olympic Dam mine into the largest open cut mine in the world. The scale of this operation and the associated risks threaten damage to the environment on a scale we have not yet seen. Ms Green notes,

Our Government is playing a dangerous balancing game with promises on one hand and contrary legislative action on the other. Actions speak louder than words and its time we demanded more from our representatives.

#### Take action

For more information, contact Peter Burdon at [peter.burdon@foe.org.au](mailto:peter.burdon@foe.org.au) or visit [www.geocities.com/olympicdam](http://www.geocities.com/olympicdam),



I am a final year Environmental Studies student. Got that? Ok, I'm also the President of the Liberal Club here at Uni. How does that grab you? For so many people there seems to be a major problem with those two facts. How can I be one of those nasty, profit-obsessed capitalist bastards and juggle a desire to save the forests, protect the whales and stop global warming? Well, it sits quite easily for me because from where I stand my conservatism and my passion for the environment go hand in hand. Yet most people I encounter scratch their heads at the idea like it's some bizarre marriage of opposing ideologies. It's something I get from some fellow Libs as much as I get from my mates on the left.

I grew up on a farm on the banks of the Gawler River with quite a conservative family, so I guess it's fair to say my perspective on the world was always likely to be right-of-centre. Yet living on the land was also a great way to grow up with an appreciation for the natural world. Whether it was exploring the dry riverbank for all kinds of wildlife in the summer or hurriedly shifting stock from a raging flood's path in the winter, sometime in my youth I developed into a passionate environmentalist with a real appreciation for the countless levels on which we engage with our natural surroundings.

Yet there's some underlying belief that the environmental cause is a fight for those on the left only – and it comes from both sides of the ideological wilderness.

Frankly, it's complete bullshit – but you can see why some good folks still think that.

Back in the day, those who rode the early waves of environmental activism were quite radical and made it their business to challenge some of the stubborn 'conservative' views about resource management of the day. It didn't really matter which party was in power, both Labor and the Liberals were as hard to budge as each other on the development more environmentally friendly policies. Yet, the battle lines were drawn and greenies were born. Yes, those fine men and women in their dishevelled attire and unkempt, long locks marched out of the Tasmanian rainforest and into the political sphere. Their demands threatened primary industries and jobs – for the Libs that meant profits were in danger and for the ALP, thousands of friendly union members could lose their jobs. Let the feather ruffling commence boys.

There were protests and love-ins a plenty but there was no real political relevance to the movement until Bob "A yard glass for brekkie is good for you" Hawke stepped up to the plate and started introducing some good policies for the protection of significant areas. While it caused a bit of shit-fight in the ALP it got Uncle Bob back into The Lodge and brought the environment into the political arena. Good thing too, really.

Meanwhile, as communism was pushed further underground, some Reds came out from under the bed and found themselves members of the Greens. This further galvanized the left's claim to environmental legitimacy and many a young tree hugger ended up becoming attached to Bob Brown's eternal crusade against everything.

Well that's the idiot's guide to it anyway.

In modern-day Australia, while I appreciate how those political divides came about, I don't subscribe to them and certainly don't see the benefit of fighting any ideological battles in the name of the environment. Our natural resources are simply too significant to be used as political footballs.

The fact is, however, that environmental issues are tied closely to the economic, social and other factors that are so politically divisive – but I see that as more of a challenge than a setback.

We all have our own ways of securing our natural resources for the future and, of course, those avenues will include economic and social concerns.

While I do have some concerns about certain aspects of the Liberal

approach to a greener, more sustainable future, I firmly maintain that it is the best approach of any party.

In my opinion, the best way to promote the environment is to do it with (not against) the capitalist tides that dictate so much of our lives. Simply put, if you make doing things in a sustainable and clean way the most economically viable option, people will go for it, full steam ahead. It's the economy, stupid.

If you have to throw a few subsidies in here, bung a couple of tariffs on there, then you'll start getting results pretty soon. Of course, you'd want to be pretty cautious about interfering with the free marketplace, but as a government trying to promote a greener, cleaner tomorrow, it would be in everyone's interests. Not doing the commonsense thing because of some stupid 'principled' stand (owing to your inability to depart even slightly from the ideology you identify with) is childish and deserves a solid kick up the backside.

Alternative approaches I've heard are bloody mind-boggling.

Bob Brown shouldn't be in parliament, he should write fairytales. I admire the bloke's passion but he just does nothing for the cause. At least if Greenpeace taped him up with explosives and launched him at a Japanese whaling boat he might save a few whales. At the moment he is totally irrelevant and does bugger-all.

Labor remains in no-man's land. (But they're fully legit mate, they've got Peter Garrett on side. Right?) No, sorry big fella. I'd actually love to hear more (hmmm...or anything) from Garrett. He's a top Aussie and it's a shame the ALP heavies are not letting him get to work.

It's guys like Garrett that are could bring environmental issues to the fore more often, if given the opportunity. For anyone who is truly concerned with the state of our natural resources, that's a good thing.

Ultimately and regardless of political persuasion, if someone is doing good things for the environment I'll pat them on the back. As far as the environment is concerned, political games and partisan bickering can get stuffed.

Hopefully more people take an active interest in environmental issues. While we've got a growing number of environmentalists in Australia, we still need more.

Our natural resources and our future are just far too important.

**Thomas Dawkins**



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## God: nature's destroyer?

Christians, Jews and Muslims share two common stories about the creation of the world and the relationship between God, humans and the environment. Is the repetition of these stories in 21<sup>st</sup> century Australia good news for other forms of life in this part of the world?

At a shallow level, possibly. At a deeper level, no.

At the shallow level, followers of these faiths are increasingly emphasising the second creation story, which calls humans to serve and protect the Earth (often translated in the narrow sense of till and keep, revealing our agricultural bias). The first creation story, with its emphasis on man (yes, man) treading down and having dominion over life on earth has a little less currency. At the very least, environmentalists and socialist/capitalists each have a creation story.

But at the deeper level, these stories have little to offer in the way of good news for life, or even specifically for humans.

Most people of these faiths accepted long ago that these stories contain theology (ideas about God and humans) rather than science. Anybody who is nervous about abandoning a literal understanding of Genesis need only read the stories of Noah and the flood. If events really happened as described, then God is directly responsible for the largest scale environmental catastrophe and genocide in human history! The God of a literal Genesis account is nothing but bad news for the environment and for humans.

Of course, theology and science cannot be untangled that easily. Science cannot prove a theological idea, but it can certainly disprove it. Studying our environment through sciences like geology, evolution and ecology has liberated us from some of the theological errors in the creation stories of the world's three major faiths.

For example, the story of Adam and Eve and their disobedience is backwards. They supposedly spoiled God's perfect world of harmony and brought pain, sickness and death into the world. God made a lovely, perfect environment, and we ruined it. Therefore everything bad in the world is humans fault! We are 100% bad news for ourselves and the Earth.

But this is backwards! Humans didn't create pain and death; rather, pain and death gave rise to humanity. Pain and death are not evil. Pain, for the most part, keeps us safe. Death, as part of natural selection, makes room for new forms of life.

The sciences also liberate us from the misconception that humans are in control of the planet. It is the microbes, and then the plants, which drive the cycles of life on Earth. We are a very recent arrival, and we will be gone soon, most likely. While we are here we should try to enjoy life, and live it, rather than control it.

Further, by showing the intimate genetic and ecological links between all life, the sciences show us that if there is any such thing as an image of God on earth, it is all living things, not just humans- life in all its evolutionary past and ecological present. Reflecting on the sciences reminds theologians that every aspect of life on Earth contributes to God's richness of experience, and therefore has value. Life, as the image of God, enhances our appreciation of God. Without reverence for Life, there is no reverence for God.

If all of this sounds like good news to you, then you might like to put August 20<sup>th</sup> in your diary: Genesis 1-9: What is baby, what is bathwater? See <http://ecofaith.org> for more, and for a longer version of this article.

**Rev. Dr Jason John**  
Ecofaith ministry  
[jason@scotchurch.org.au](mailto:jason@scotchurch.org.au)

The environment?  
The world is soooooo  
over.

# AGAINST the Guilty ecology. THE DEATH OF "NATURE"

This point of interacting unity between the human and the world is the realm in which the shaper is shaped by what she shapes. The idea that everything natural is valued and processed by the human is coupled to the idea that everything that happens in the human world has as an ecological concomitant. For example, the new Workplace Relation laws create a more atomised workforce, competing and performing under a constant threat which makes expedient a psychological attitude of mutual antagonism, driven to psychopathic lengths in the promotion of their professional image, which

## the shaper

deletes and replaces their self-invention. This is not a human type capable of involvement in reinventing the vital material relationships that determine life. Ultimately this impoverishment of the mental landscape will result in the further degradation of the physical world.

Ecology: final collapse, death and the future society organised as a palliative mechanism for a failed evolutionary experiment. The whole question of ecology seems to be a question of having reached a negative limit. Now, in order to preserve and conserve, it is necessary to restrict human creativity according to a strict economisation of energy. Collectively we experience the sudden consciousness of a possible dead world, a fucked planet, life as a giant global cancer and humanity characterised in terms of pathological virology: all this to the point where the only positive affirmation of existence would be suicidally hedonistic: "We're already fucked, lets burn up the last resources and rage against the dying of the light" But, I insist that something fundamentally creative and exciting is posed in the challenge of our ecological impasse. Part of the traumatic experience of our separation from nature as a living entity is realising the impossibility of the idea of nature as culture's absolute other, a false residual from a world fixed by Christian theology. The planet has churned us out as a huge experiment. Nature is a random gambler and the gambit is of such high stakes that the human world has become the determinate nexus through which each evolutionary flow in continuing evolution of the planet as a whole moves. That mind and world are the same has become materially evident, but not in terms of elevation of world into a humanistic spiritual essence. There is only dynamic interaction that leaves no element within it unaffected. There is the sudden presence in our formerly sealed, autistic world of a creative resistance in the form of Nature's violent refusal of our interference.

### Footnote 1

Consider that what we see today as the natural world. One can underline this point by thinking about the way in which the great 'last wildernesses' and the mystical 'untouched' crop up in discourse already bracketed by our imagination, granted the value of special existence through this imagination, and by this imagination effaced of the very value which they hold as images. Their radical separateness from a human world is, in fact, unified entirely to the causal factuality of our human species. Think again about this word 'untouched', which is so important in rhetoric around the environment. For something to gain a special cachet by being 'untouched', let us forget for a moment that in physical actuality almost nothing is, it does so by direct comparison to the no longer pure nature of that which has been 'touched'. Thus, it is precisely as an effect of the pervasively devalued, trammelled, altered, not-quite-wilderness that something becomes 'touched' by the special aura of being 'untouched'.

### Footnote 2

A dual poison in one place: the place where occurs the collapse of the divisibility of human world and inhuman earth, producing instead a conjoined process- biological, technological, spiritual and political- which is, largely unconsciously, deciding whether or not to commit suicide, and if it will not, under which form it will live. The natural world is

blended with artifice, something that has been filtered through the inhumanity of the human machines. Its toxicity registers our own image of what nature is, and that image collapses back on and immediately is our image of ourselves.

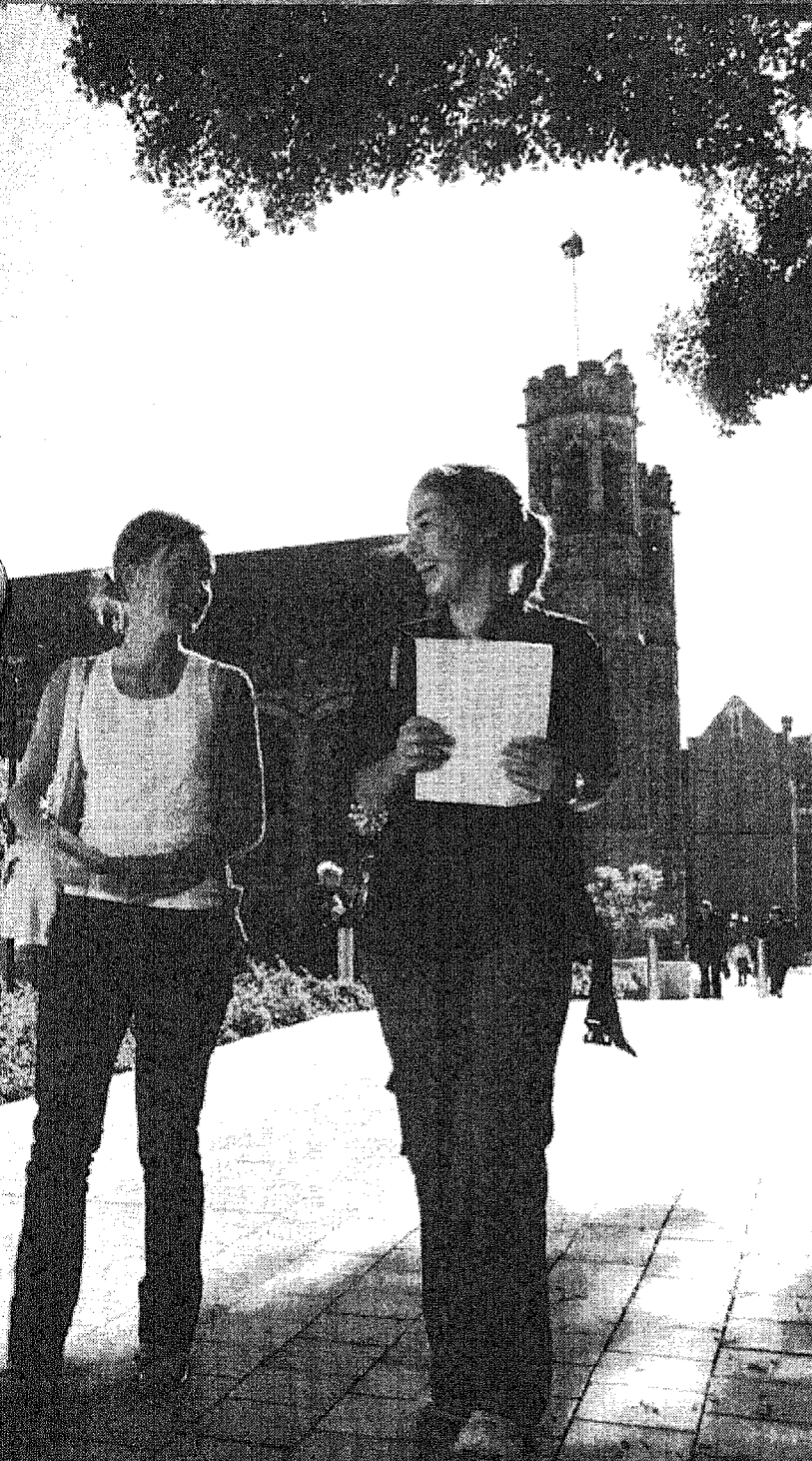
A paradox of suicide: you cannot kill yourself because if you do so by willful choice, to avoid a humiliating slow death, you do so in order to preserve an image of this will and its ability to choose. If you do so out of self-hatred and from a conviction of your unsuitability to live, you erase yourself because you know that the pain of living will erode you soon enough anyway, so then it is the unbearable vigour of life, which kills you, and not yourself. Yet it is precisely the structure of yourself, in both cases, which necessitates the death. This paradox also applies to the death of God, of which the death of Nature is a joyous continuation: if God was a fiction, a semi-unconscious structuring of the human into a specific social structure coordinated around the unity of God as an idea actualised through the ritual psychokinetic physicality of religion, then his death has to mean that something other was released into the social bloodstream as God was built. Perhaps it is a shadow at first, an impression of the very creative forces that were binding us to God, turning the whole of our world into a drama built around our being bound to God. Then God becomes other than his own structure, and this structure demands its death. In the case of the death of Nature the paradox becomes: if we have become the antithesis of Nature (become bound to a fate of simultaneous annihilation) then all the same, all this remains a natural phenomenon. The common element in each case is a structure that is implicated in its own decay: yet, it remains pure nihilism to declare that the destruction of what we consider the natural world is 'natural' as though it were an expression of the will of nature. In fact, what has been expressed is that all structures are part of contesting forces and no unifying will exists which subsumes decay back onto itself, negating the fact of our role and the role of other energies yet to be played out. The most complex field of this interaction is the interplay of mental and physical ecology, containing the densest nexus of energetic relations, thus it can be seen as a relation with the strongest determinant force for all other relations. Hence, we must recognise that the ecological crisis, one: possibly implicates every network whereby energy is processed through a human intervention, and demands that these networks be opened to reinvention.

We cannot appeal to a 'natural' relationship between the human and the earth to help us out of this bind, because it has been the mediation of our thoughts about the biological through this single god-like construct which has been part of the fuck-up in the first-place.

Yet, we can see that there was nothing 'natural' about the old order, or its primitive predecessors, nor need there be any restraint on the invention of a new order except that arising from a rigorous analysis of effects aiming at a maximization of creative potential. This presupposes a huge shift in the balance of power, away from the corporate plutocracy and automated systems of bureaucracy and vestige democracy we see today.

Brendan De-Paor Moore





# Life Impact on Campus

Help us select the best of 12 testimonials filmed by our students to become advertisements for broadcast television.

Visit [www.adelaide.edu.au/lifeimpactoncampus](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/lifeimpactoncampus) to vote for your choice and you could win an Apple computer package, including a Dual-Core 2.0GHz processor (M9590X/A), 30" Cinema High Definition monitor (M91979X/A), and Final Cut digital film editing software (MA2852/A). Total value of package: \$9432.50.

For full terms and conditions visit [www.adelaide.edu.au/lifeimpactoncampus](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/lifeimpactoncampus)  
Entries open on Monday 15 May, 2006 and close at 4pm (CST) on Friday 16 June, 2006.  
The prizewinner will be drawn from the people who vote for the most popular "Life Impact on Campus" testimonial and register for a prize. The draw will take place on Monday 19 June, 2006 at 12noon (CST) in the Basten Room, Mitchell Building, North Terrace Campus, the University of Adelaide.  
The winner will be notified by email. The name, suburb and state of residence of the winner will be published in *The Australian* on Monday 26 June, 2006.  
The competition is being conducted by the University of Adelaide, South Australia 5005, ABN 61249878937. Vic permit number: 06/1597; NSW permit number: TPL 06/04939; ACT permit number: TP 06/01809; SA permit number: T06/1865.

*Although voting will influence the choice of testimonials to be made into an advertisement, the final selection is at the discretion of the University. There is no guarantee that the testimonial receiving the highest number of votes will be selected to be made into a television advertisement.*

## Life Impact

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA

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Jasmine, Phoebe and Amity

- J - Panda.  
P - Platypus.  
A - Tasmanian Devil.
- J - Plagues of rats.  
P - Cause the world to freeze over.  
A - Floods are always nice.
- J - An increase in tourism for Australia.  
P - More beaches and higher boat sales.  
A - An all year round summer.
- J - Fire, the red head.  
P - Weeler, the sleazy one.  
A - Linka.
- J - The guy from the John Butler Trio.  
P - My friend Nicky Heb, she wears a dolphin necklace.  
A - Spacy, wacky people.

Questions

1. What endangered animal do you think would be the tastiest?
2. If you were an evil genius and could cause an ecological disaster, what would you do?
3. What do you think the benefits of global warming will be?
4. Who was your favourite planeteer?
5. Describe the characteristics of a stereotypical environmentalist.



Sanchez and Nacho

- S - The bearded sloth, especially the beard.  
N - The dodo, definitely.
- S - Breed more Hoff lovers and more idiots for *Big Brother*.  
N - Breed an army of David Hasselhoffs.
- S - Naked eskimos, it would solve a lot of mysteries.  
N - Rising flood waters could potentially wipe out Port Adelaide.
- S - 'Heart' - every show needs their token pretty boy.  
N - The hot one, Linka.
- S - Alternative clothing, alternative music and left wing newspapers.  
N - Smokes too much pot, hasn't washed their hair in 3 weeks and listens to a lot of "Phish".



Peter Alexander

1. The Canadian Lake Beaver. It tastes like duck.
2. Genocide.
3. Bikini's, although I'm still a fan of a good one-piece... you know.
4. Striperella, or whoever 'Water' was. 'Heart' was as camp as a jamboree.
5. Ugly, dirty, self-righteous and smelly.

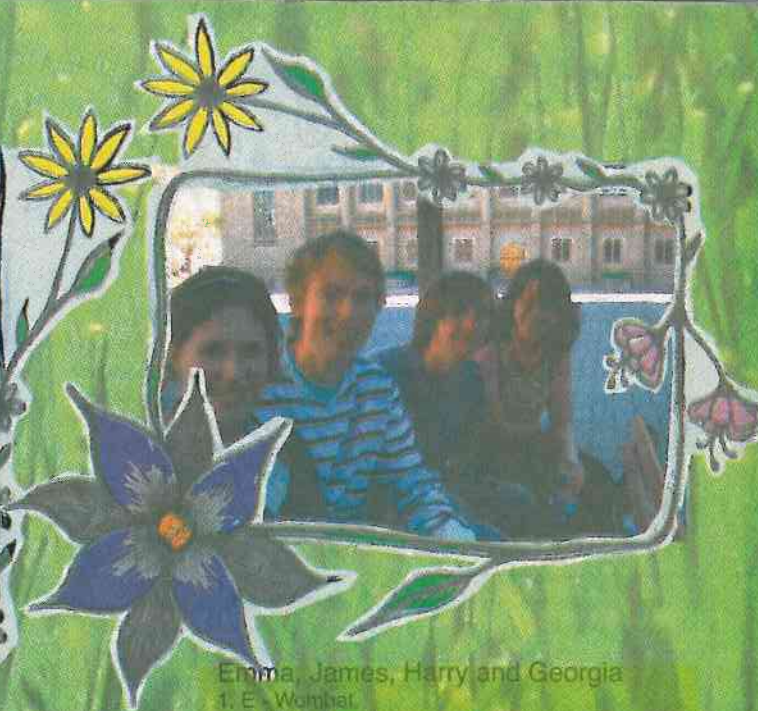
Heath

1. Great White Shark.
2. An oil spill in Antarctica to eliminate all the penguins.
3. Wearing these lovely shorts all year round.
4. The acid faced bad girl.
5. Unshaven and unkempt. Possibly handing out a poorly photocopied communist manifesto.



Danny and Fanny

- D - The White Rhino.  
F - The Bilby.
- D - A plague of *The Wizard of Oz* flying monkeys.  
F - I'd create a mutated biological disease.
- D - The beaches will be closer.  
F - More air-conditioning.
- D - 'Heart' was a bit of a pussy and Weeler was a shit. Linka, because she was saucy.  
F - Linka.
- D - Alternative hippies, have the ability to annoy people.  
F - Green clothes, green hair, green skin.



Emma, James, Harry and Georgia

- E - Wombat.  
J - Dodo's sound tasty, or a Panda but apparently they're oily.  
H - Armadillo.  
G - Bilby.
- E - Ultra violet fry-up of the earth.  
J - A tsunami.  
H - An "Avenger" like machine that controls the weather.  
B - I claim responsibility for the volcano in Indonesia.
- E - I don't think global warming exists.  
J - I'll kill all the penguins. No more *Mercy of the Penguins*, no more Morgan Freeman narrations.  
H - We will all be closer to the beach.  
G - More skanks, oh wait - that's a bad thing.
- E - Gee.  
J - Linka.  
H - Heart.  
G - Weeler.
- E - De-fanged and stupid.  
J - Hair and rabbit.  
H - Talkative.  
G - Illogical.



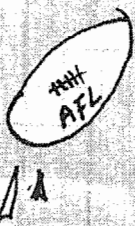
YAY The environment... But who gives a shit really? Imagine how much the forest animals would appreciate it when all those gloomy trees are cut down and they can bask in the sun and have tea-parties on the stumps. Global warming isn't bad... think of the whole year summer baby David Suzuki is cool but I bet the CEO of Shell Oil could kick his ass. To relax... it's the next generation that is really going to cop it.



Chris

1. Those baboons that have red bums.
2. A tsunami.
3. Spending less money on pants.
4. The baddy Loren Plunder.
5. Dirty and being a Bachelor of Arts.

# The Changing Environment of Football



Late last year, the Australian Rules Football (AFL) landscape was changed forever when Channels Seven and Ten outbid rival Channel Nine for the rights to broadcast football games from 2007 to 2011. The Seven/Ten consortium paid a total of \$780 million for the five year deal, compared to the previous deal of \$500 million, which is a 156% increase. But with the increase in the income of the AFL, should the league then pass on those benefits to clubs and grounds, or are they able to keep the money for themselves?

It has been well publicised that AFL is the most popular sport in the country, despite the fact that two of our three most populated states, New South Wales and Queensland, are the smallest consumers of and participants in the game itself. However, the Gold Coast in Queensland is thought to be the most quickly growing area in regards to AFL and with Sydney's recent Grand Final win, popularity in both of these states are going to rise. The problem here is that there becomes a conflict with the current fans of Rugby and the growing interest in AFL. According to an interview broadcast on ABC's 7.30 Report earlier this year, "The last deal was going to improve the coverage for the northern states and I think if you ask the average AFL supporter anywhere from here [Canberra] to Toowoomba, they'd probably disagree with you". The simple fact is that the northern states often miss out on the AFL games, or receive broadcasts that are so late at night that they are unable to stay up to watch them. The Seven/Ten consortium has already promised to address this issue and have promised that the northern states will receive better broadcasts of AFL.

As well as the benefits to fans who watch on television, there are calls from those fans that make the effort to go to games. They want ticket prices for matches to fall so as they can continue to afford to go to games. The average ticket price for games are \$30 per adult and so it is easy to see over 22 games, not including traveling costs, as a reason for why fans want these prices to fall - especially when you think that the AFL have recently received an extra \$280 million payment.

So what are the benefits to players and clubs from this deal? So far, the AFL have not offered an increase on clubs' salary caps, although the AFL Players' Association (AFLPA) CEO Brendon Gale has indicated that the AFLPA will sit down with the AFL and seek payment increases for both the 2007 and 2008 seasons. A salary increase would not just benefit those players who are already earning large amounts, but would be much more beneficial to those players in their first or second years of playing whose payments would increase significantly.

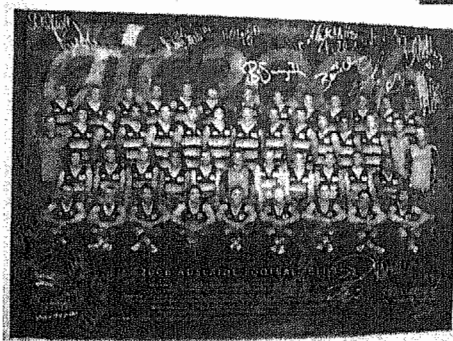
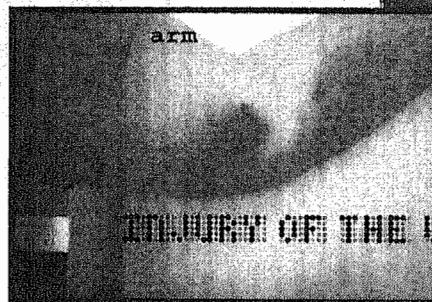
The truth of the matter is that it would be both wrong and unfair for the AFL to keep the cash all for itself. An increase to the players' payments, both through the salary cap and with game payments is likely and will probably be negotiated through the course of this year. Ticket prices for matches should decrease, although neither AFL nor playing grounds have made any comment on this so far.

\$780 million is a lot of money for only a share of the 176 games that are played in the premiership season. However, because the change of networks is still just over nine months away, not many of the details of how Seven and Ten will handle the game have been released. Channel Seven is the historical home of the AFL and until five years ago had been the only home the AFL had ever known. Many believe that this is the AFL's homecoming, while others believe that it is the beginning of a whole new era of football broadcasting. Whatever the opinions or details, one thing is for sure. The AFL will never again be the same. This is not said in either a positive or negative way, because right now no one knows what will happen. The landscape of both AFL and sports broadcasting in general has changed forever and only time will tell if this change is for the better.

**Ashleigh Newton**



uncle moneybags



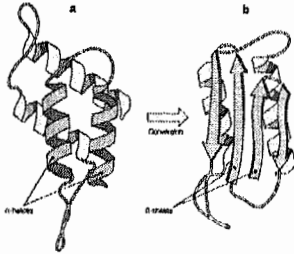
**HEY! Are you a crows fan? Want to get your hands on a signed 2006 team poster? Keep your eyes on E-Bay in June to have the chance to purchase this individually signed poster. All money raised will go towards making sure that *On Dit* continues to get published.**

with Thomas Tu

## MAD COW DISEASE

*Why something so delicious can be so deadly.*

Those who have read my previous articles and don't have memories like sieves may have noticed that I've concentrated mostly on bacteria and viruses. This is because I specialise in microbiology and infectious diseases, which, for the greater part, are caused by these two "organisms" (there's a whole debate over whether viruses are alive or not, but I digress). Today, just for shits and giggles, I'm going to discuss something that's a little weird, prions.



Conversion of normal prion protein (a) to pathogenic structure (b)

(Picture stolen from BSE Inquiry Report -

[http://www.bseinquiry.gov.uk/report/volume2/fig2\\_1.htm](http://www.bseinquiry.gov.uk/report/volume2/fig2_1.htm)

### Sexy, sexy proteins

In year 11, my biology teacher (Hi Mr. Everett!) told the class the answer was always proteins; it was what you wrote in exams when you didn't know the answer. This was because proteins rock. I'm sure I won't make too many biologists hound after my blood if I say that proteins do practically everything in any organism anywhere.

A quick rehash on where proteins come from and what they do: DNA codes for RNA codes for proteins. Proteins can and *do* do everything in the body: they are signals to cells, they sense the signal and translate it into something the cell can understand, they can be structural supports, but most importantly, they catalyse reactions. This last function is so important, proteins that do it are given a special name; enzymes. Catalysing a reaction is basically making a chemical reaction go with less start up energy (which is usually supplied by surrounding heat). This needs to happen in biological systems or there'd be no way for us to get enough energy needed to free up energy (breaking up sugar molecules gives us energy we need to break the sugar molecules up with; a catch-22 in any case, it's just easier to escape it with enzymes).

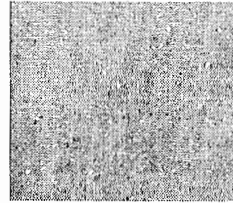
### All get to mad cow disease soon, I swear

OK, now we have the background needed to understand prions. There's a certain protein called prion protein, common version ( $\text{PrP}^{\text{C}}$ ) that's naturally present on the surface of all cells of vertebrates, but found predominantly on the cells of the central nervous system (i.e. the brain and spinal cord). The function of the protein is unknown, but must be important; as it shows very little change between mammals (things that are vital for an animal tend not to show much variation because that'd change their function => dead animal => natural selection weeds the change out).

$\text{PrP}^{\text{C}}$ , like many proteins, is rather fragile. UV, heat, proteases (enzymes that break up proteins), acidity, base and desiccation can all break it down. Also like other proteins, it can spontaneously fold up into different 3D shapes by chance. Most of these are useless and subsequently broken down by the cell, but one of such conformations form an extremely stable version, commonly called  $\text{PrP}^{\text{Sc}}$ . This cannot be easily broken down by the previously mentioned factors. However, what makes this an infectious agent is the fact that  $\text{PrP}^{\text{Sc}}$  has enzymatic activity that converts normal cellular  $\text{PrP}^{\text{C}}$  into  $\text{PrP}^{\text{Sc}}$ . The produced  $\text{PrP}^{\text{Sc}}$  can then go on to produce more of itself in the body. The simplicity of proteins producing themselves and being such an acute example of evolution by just existing is, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful things in the world (on re-reading this last sentence, I seem a bit nerdy; I should have just said it was sexy).

### The section that actually mentions mad cow disease

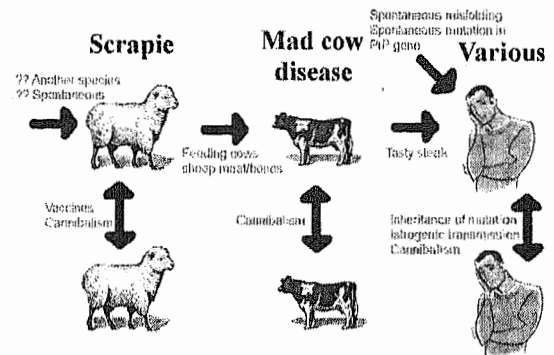
Since there's no way for the body to break down  $\text{PrP}^{\text{Sc}}$  molecules and they keep producing themselves, they build up in the body, especially near the nerve cells of the brain and spinal cord. Too much of anything in the body is not good and this is no exception. Neurons get holes in them so that under a microscope the brain looks like a sponge (see picture below). This gives this type of prion disease the technical umbrella name of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE), which basically means you can catch it and it turns your brain into a literal sponge. The exact mechanism of how this happens is not understood yet, so I guess I still have a job when I get out of Uni.



(Picture stolen from Comparative Placentation - <http://medicine.ncsd.edu/cpn/sheep.html>)

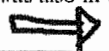
This brain damage causes a whole lot of symptoms that vary within species and may depend on the route of infection. In humans, common symptoms are dementia, muscle spasms, tremors, behavioural abnormalities, strange skin sensations (such as stickiness) and, in later stages, inability to control breathing muscles and therefore death. Incubation periods for this disease are extremely long, but once symptoms are observed, the patient soon dies within 8 months to 8 years, depending on the type. No treatments or vaccines exist for TSEs; the patient *will* die with it.

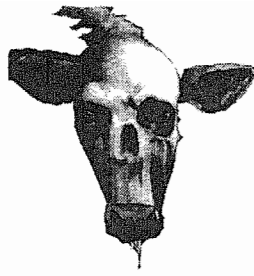
To explain transmission between and within species, I have used an example of my horrible picture-making skillz:



As you can see, Mad Cow Disease (technically known as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) is just a middle man for the prion. The earliest prion-based disease we know of was first discovered in sheep. We really don't know how the first sheep got it; perhaps  $\text{PrP}^{\text{Sc}}$  folded spontaneously, perhaps it was infected by another species before that. Regardless of how the first sheep got it, it caused infected sheep to scrape against the cages holding them, either because of their crap motor skills or to scratch imaginary itches, both resulting from the brain damage. This earned the affliction the name "scrapie". It also caused the sheep have involuntary spasms, to be agitated, be paralysed and, eventually, dead.

As described in earlier articles, creating vaccines sometimes involves extracting the serum of an infected animal and putting it into those with the disease (passive immunisation, for those playing at home). Scrapie was shown to be transmissible when, in 1943, sheep injected with a batch of vaccine for an unrelated virus all died of scrapie. Turns out the vaccine was made from the serum of a scrapie-infected sheep. This helped its transmission between sheep. Also, since sheep food was made from sheep carcasses, if any  $\text{PrP}^{\text{Sc}}$  from dead sheep got into it, the eaters could be infected. Transmission was made easier by the fact that scrapie caused sheep to die, therefore more would be found in the feed. TSE not only spread between sheep, but it's believed that this is how it hopped the species gap to cows, since some battery cows are fed with meal derived from sheep and cow meat/bones. It was also in this way that mad cow disease spread among cows.





...continued from page 31

Of course, once people ate the flesh of infected cows, they got PrP<sup>Sc</sup> in their systems as well. Over 100 cases of this have reached humans in this fashion (given the name new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, or nvCJD). Around 25 new cases are reported each year since 2000 in the UK (the epicentre of the whole mad cow incident). This number may increase dramatically in the future as the only way of detecting prion-based diseases is to see if people have the right brain damage once symptoms start. However, this mode of transmission is among the least significant ways of getting prion-based disease. Similar cases have been reported in deer and elk hunters who eat the animals they've killed, but these are even rarer.

Most human cases of TSE come in the form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), which comes about when a rogue PrP<sup>C</sup> molecule is spontaneously (i.e. just by pure chance) misfolded into PrP<sup>Sc</sup>. This occurs in about 1 in a million people, which means, by my calculations, about 6 500 people have it right now (at the moment of the typing of this article (23:05, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2006) the world population is 6 497 249 631, according to census.gov). Feel free to forget this fact if you're a hypochondriac.

There is also another mode of infection: having a mutation in the PrP gene. Any mutations that increase the chance that PrP<sup>C</sup> is misfolded into PrP<sup>Sc</sup> may contribute to familial CJD. Due to their extremely long incubation times, the disease starts to show symptoms at around 45 - 49 years. Because most people have their children by this time, there is also a mechanism of transmission by inheritance.

Transmission between unrelated humans is completely due to human behaviour. Iatrogenic (arising from medical treatment) CJD comes about due to corneal or nerve membrane transplants from CJD-infected people. This is because these parts contain especially high concentrations of PrP<sup>Sc</sup>.

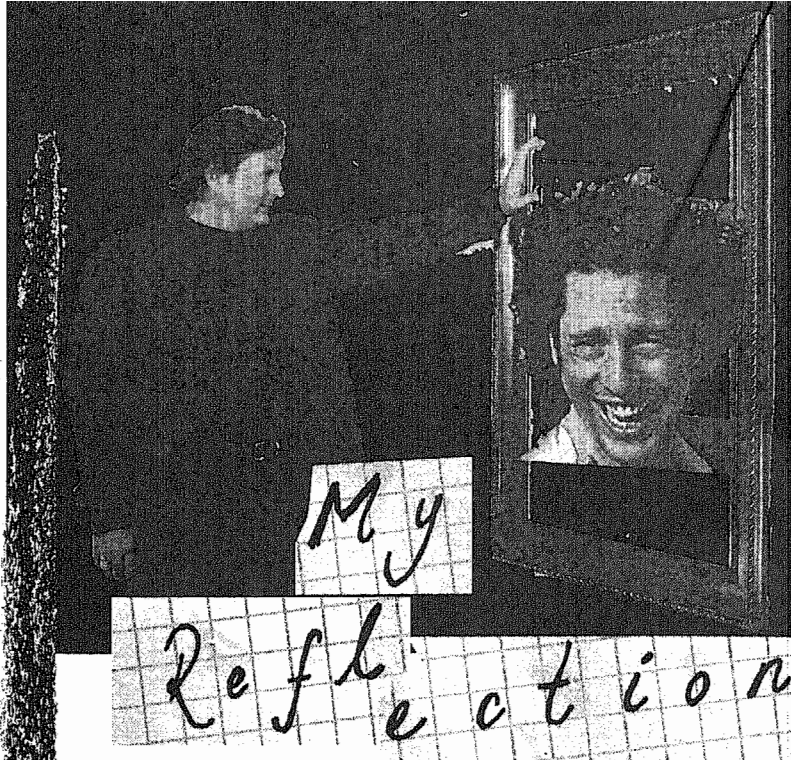
A much more interesting case of human transmission and the first prion-based disease to be discovered, is Kuru. The Fore tribe in New Guinea used to eat their dead relatives as some kind of tradition. Both eaters and the children of those who didn't wash their hands afterwards contracted the disease after a sufferer of sporadic CJD was eaten. This spread the disease throughout the tribe. Ever since the cannibalism has ceased in this tribe, the disease has subsided.

There is plenty of more interesting stuff about prions (the whole prion/virion debate, Stanley Prusiner winning the 1998 Nobel Prize for medicine for studies in the matter, other potential prion based diseases) but if the article gets any longer, the editors are going to cut off my writing fingers. Which would be all of them.

*Thomas Tu lives on the internet living at  
thomas.tu@student.adelaide.edu.au.  
Ask him questions ...NOW!*

#### Sources

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There was a time that I was, if not comfortable, then at least at ease using a mirror. I'd get up, look at the mess that was my reflection and shrug. That's me, like it or not, that's what I'm stuck with... It'll do I s'pose. But lately a troubling thought has been insinuating its way to the front my mind, and I can't seem to shake it.

It first came to me one morning while I was getting dressed. I was at the deodorant stage, left hand to the right armpit, right hand to the left - my reflection did the same... but did he? When you're facing someone, your right hand faces their left. So was my reflection really putting deodorant in his left armpit, or was it his right? This led to a few minutes of pointless waving my arms around in front of the mirror while the thought process progressed. Until, that is, I realised my girlfriend was standing in the doorway with one eyebrow cocked in an unspoken "what the fuck!"

I covered that one with a half-arsed story about stretching a sore shoulder, but the question had anchored itself in my consciousness. And once there, it began to reproduce like bacteria under a microscope; one became two, two became four and so on. Questions started to crop up at unexpected moments. Is that really me, or is it me in a parallel universe (or at least someone who looks a lot like me)? Is he in fact not only a mirror image of me, but my exact opposite? I know he dresses like me, but is that only to lull me into a false sense of security? Does he get changed as soon as my back is turned into stovepipe jeans, polo shirts with the collar turned up and mirrored aviator sunglasses?

And what about other stuff... is he satisfied in his job, comfortable in a crowd, a fitness freak, gay? Does he feel at ease in suburbia, eat at macca's... oh God, will he dance when he's sober? Is he comfortable with the state of the environment, fearful of the 'muslim menace', believe in the honourable motives behind American foreign policy, support the war in Iraq... do his preferences flow to the Liberals!?!?

Does my alter ego believe in God, the nuclear family, that politicians are fine, upstanding pillars of the community who only have my best interests at heart and are in no way only interested in their own political survival? Jesus, who is this dickhead walking around with my face!?

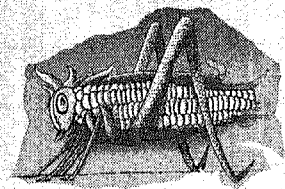
But then another, even more troubling thought occurred to me; Am I the real one, or is he? Am I the mirror image, the fictional construct of my reflection's obviously troubled imagination (assuming that the other me would have any imagination)? Oh god, I'm so confused!

However, despite my pending existential meltdown, I don't think it's getting those media essays any closer to finished. I'd ask my reflection to write them, except that the bastard's probably studying business. Whatever the answer, I don't think it'll make it any more likely that my tutor will grant me an extension... but maybe if I asked his reflection?

**Cass Selwood**

# MUTANT FOOD?

## Genetically Modified Food. What is it?



A lot of media attention has been placed on Genetically Modified Food (Or GMO, as they are called). Trying to explain exact genetic science would be, frankly, very boring. Nonetheless, it is important to have a reasonable understanding of a science that affects the food supply of everyone in the world.

The simple definition of GMO is a food product that has been genetically manipulated to achieve a desired characteristic. The desired characteristics can be flavour or appearance, but most often it is a more substantial product. It can be used to promote a resistance to pests or fungal rot, or even to change a food to lengthen its shelf life and make it easier to transport over long distances.

Sounds simple enough, right? In reality, it is merely a scientific advancement to what has been done for centuries. How you ask? We think of natural foods as clean and unadulterated but, if you think about it, all of the fruits and vegetables that we eat are the product of humans manipulating genetics and carefully choosing and breeding out certain unwanted traits. The beautiful, round, crisp apples that you find in the grocery store are often specifically selected species that have been refined to produce desired characteristics through selective breeding. The simple banana is probably one of the most processed fruits. Often picked under ripe, they are shipped green and stored at warehouses where they are exposed to ethylene (in all honesty, a gas that occurs naturally in bananas anyways) to finish the ripening before

retailing. The same things happen on their own by natural selection. When faced with pests and other diseases, the stronger crops survive and flourish while the weaker ones die off.

So why is it such a big deal? That answer is quite complicated. The actions of the added or manipulated genes are sometimes unpredictable. Look at this example: you add a gene to a plant in order to increase the plant's resistance to a given bacteria. The modification is successful, so you decide that by adding the same modified gene to a different plant, you will get the same result. But when you modify the second plant, the modification counteracts the other gene and protein structures and the food becomes toxic. In addition, GMO's can contaminate other products by cross-pollination or simply overtaking native plants. There is also a concern that these modified genes, when consumed by humans, will effect them biologically.

But, the biggest concern is actual ownership of the entire food supply by a handful of transnational corporations. Let's say, for example, one of these companies creates a successful strain of wheat, trademarks it, and sells seeds to a farmer. The farmer who purchases the seeds is required by the large company to also purchase certain pesticides and fertilizers for the 'privilege' of using the high yielding seeds. This farmer has a neighbor who is a 'seed-saver' or someone who, year to year, keeps seeds from the best of the harvest to use the following year. Through cross pollination, the seed-savers crop is contaminated by the GMO

wheat. Now the crop of this farmer is, in essence, GMO. But because the farmer did not purchase the seed from the corporation directly, he is sued by the corporation and loses. Not only is he stripped of the money for the legal fight, but he loses his current crop and any future crop that is discovered to contain any trace of the GMO. Could not happen, right? No decent person in the world would let that kind of injustice occur. Sadly, it has. A canola farmer in Canada has been fighting the transnational corporation, Monsanto, for years over this very issue.

I don't think there's any clear-cut answer as to whether GMO's should be banned. Almost all developed nations (Australia and the US included) have a significant portion of their food supply that is GMO. Many of us, thinking that we are simply eating fresh fruit, are eating GMO's everyday. Nevertheless, the effects on the environment, the farmers and the still unknown effect on the human body cannot be ignored. It is everyone's responsibility to fight to ensure a certain amount of transparency in the food industry and to have an understanding of what's in their food. Whether you are concerned about the environment, social welfare, or simply your own personal health, the "Mutant Food" debate should be very important to you.

Mohammed Naga

## Roast Chook with Stuffing & Vegies

### Ingredients

#### Chook + Stuffing

One raw chook (I recommend free range but they can be expensive).

A quarter of an old loaf of bread (can be stale but avoid mouldy).

One lemon.

One bunch of Sage, one of Parsley.

Salt and Pepper + Olive Oil.

#### Vegies

Potatoes (1 medium-large per person eating).

One or two Sweet Potatoes.

One quarter of a Pumpkin.

One onion.

One whole head of Garlic.

Two or three sprigs of Rosemary.

Salt & Pepper + Olive Oil.

### Instructions

#### WASH YOUR HANDS!

Preheat oven to 190°C. (very important)

Stuffing the Chook:

Break up the bread by hand into a mixing bowl, tearing it into chunks about 2cm square. Cut the lemon in half lengthwise, then cut each of these in half again and then once more (you should have



this is not cass, but he's pretty gnarly

8 pieces of lemon by now) and chuck it in with the bread chunks. Finely chop half the Sage and Parsley and chuck it in too. Add a generous pinch each of salt and pepper then drizzle in about two to three tablespoons of olive oil. Mix it all together enthusiastically, remembering to keep enough in the bowl to fill the chicken up.

Now comes the fun part. You're going to have to use your hands, so if you're squeamish, now's the time to get over it! Grab the chook by a drumstick and start stuffing the mix up its... well, you know. Remember, it's already dead so it won't feel a thing, so shove it in til it's nice and full. Drizzle a little of the oil over your now-stuffed chook and rub it all over, then sprinkle it with salt and pepper, and rub that in too (trust me, it'll taste much better this way). Now you can wash your hands again.

#### The Vegies:

First make sure all the dirt is off your potatoes, then cut them in half lengthwise, then again and again. As with the lemon, you should now have eight pieces per potato. Chuck it all into the same mixing bowl you used for the stuffing. Cut your sweet potato and pumpkin into similar sized lumps and add to the potato. Now cut your onion, with the skin still on, into quarters lengthwise. This is important because it holds it together for better presentation. Break up your head of garlic and chuck about half the cloves, skin on, along with the onion, in with all the rest. Drizzle two to three tablespoons of olive oil over the lot, add a generous pinch of salt and pepper and the rosemary sprigs, then toss it about until all the vegies have a relatively even coating of oil.

#### Cooking:

Pour the vegies onto a baking tray around the chicken and cook them all together for around one and a half hours. Check your bird after forty-five minutes or so, then every twenty minutes after this, just to make sure everything's going OK. It's ready when the legs can be pulled away from the body without much effort at all and the chook has gone a lovely, crispy brown. If it's going black, well that's not my fault. Turn the oven down and keep cooking, or give up and order a pizza.

A nice bottle of Pinot Gris or Sauvignon Blanc from the Adelaide Hills would go really well with your chook, or, alternatively, a sixpack of Cooper's Pale.

Cass Selwood

## Apathy runs rampant: Our generation and the environmental movement

Has the Government gone mental? It seems ludicrous that Australia is leading an international movement to sign another climate change deal when we are still not a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol. The fact that this deal is actually intended to follow on from the successes made by the protocol only leads me to the conclusion that our government is insane. Oh wait, already knew that! Want more proof? How about selling uranium to countries with poor human rights records with no actual guarantee that it will not be used for weapons or military research? If that wasn't bad enough how about then considering offering to store the nuclear waste back in our country thereby allowing other nations to have all the 'benefits' of uranium with none of the ugly parts? What about the state of the Murray? Tassie Forests? Excessive packaging? No subsidies for people who want to start wind farms? Not to mention the millions of plastic bags that continue to be released into the environment! All of this just gives further evidence for my theory that we live in a country led by a government that has prioritised the economy at all costs and relations with foreign nations over common sense.

One of the wisest people I know recently made the comment 'people suck.' She was right. We do suck! How many of us who didn't agree with the actions described above actually did anything about it? I think I may have signed a petition about the nuclear one somewhere along the line but I don't recall any form of active protest on my part against this kind of action taken by our Government. So often we sit around and talk about how horrible the latest legislation is and how it seems as though the government doesn't care etc etc. How often do we jump up and down and make a fuss about it though?

Most likely the answer is never. So now I'm

going to let you in on a little secret. When you live in a democracy its supposed to work like this- if enough people tell the Government that they don't like a policy then the government changes it. Why? Because they want to be re-elected! 'Amazing!' I hear you thinking! 'It's almost like I have a degree of power over the government and it sounds as though you are saying the government is accountable to me, what a novel idea!' Who would have thought?

Ever heard of people power? That crazy concept from the 70's where people actually changed stuff? Well guess what? (I have more little secrets to share!) People power didn't go out with love beads, peasant skirts and the Vietnam War! It still exists lying dormant for when our apathetic generation decides they aren't going to take it anymore. How long is it going to take before we realise that we are being screwed over? That the future of the entire world is being put in jeopardy every single day? That we have the power to change the way the environmental movement is going? What gives us the right to sit around and do nothing? Do we feel no responsibility for our actions? We are lucky enough to live in a privileged nation and attend university, we are the people who are supposed to be doing something about this!

So here's the plan people listen up! The next time the Government does something you don't like, tell them! Email your local member or the minister in question, sign a petition (sometimes they even work!) or come on down to the Students' Association and we will help you. Because here's a newsflash- I'm sick of being a part of the apathetic generation as we are so often labelled and until I can figure out a way to be retrospectively born in the sixties I'm stuck here, so I'm going to make the best of it. See if you can too.

See you on the picket line!

Rhiannon Newman

## Local Noise /

### Student Radio 101.5fm

Local Noise is a radio program that goes to air at 10pm every Tuesday on Student Radio (101.5fm). The show is dedicated to broadcasting local bands live to air. In the past we have broadcast bands such as Something for Kate, Radiohead, Cordrazine, Pornland! Recently acts as diverse as It Wasn't the Poison, A Tribe is Forming, and Special Guest have played. If you are interested in the local live scene, listen to Local Noise, every Tuesday. Any local band that wants to appear, all they need do is go to the Radio Adelaide website [www.radio.adelaide.edu.au](http://www.radio.adelaide.edu.au) go to the What's On section and click on the links below Local Noise. We'll book you in and put you out. Can't say fairer than that.

(Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Well, Radiohead was a lie!

Amnesty Adelaide Uni and Palace Nova Cinemas present the Adelaide Premiere of...



# Ten Canoes



A film by Rolf de Heer

This film is the first feature to be made in an Australian indigenous language. It was also recently selected for the Cannes International Film Festival.

'Ten Canoes' is mythical tale of desire denied, tracking the experiences of a young man who pines for the third and youngest wife of his older brother. This is a story of impassioned conflict and sorcery and is set in Australia's exquisite swamp and bush regions over a thousand years ago. 'Ten Canoes' is a unique film that not only explores an Indigenous Australian language group's culture but which utilises raw Australian talent and satisfies the senses! A must see!



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Use your Freedom!

**Where and When:** Palace Nova (East End, off Rundle Street), June 29.

**Time:** 8:45pm

**Tickets:** \$10 (available at door)

Please contact Amnesty Resource Centre:

**Ph: 8110-8100**

for bookings and further information.

## Cut down the trees, save the forest

"It's time we all woke up and reconsidered many of our old assumptions and heartfelt beliefs, because the change has just begun".

Paul Gilding was talking about climate change when he wrote this in *The Australian* two weeks back and faced with the dramatic environmental shift to play out in coming decades we would be fools not to listen. In the spirit of reflection, then, let us rethink the value of the National Park. Conventional environmental wisdom teaches us to embrace this sacrosanct environmental institution, without a second thought, as the preferred model for protecting forests. This indiscriminate embrace is blind and damaging. We need to recognise the limits of the National Park and openly reject it as a universal model for conservation if we are to seriously reverse our impact on the Earth.

Undeniably the National Park system has led to the successful conservation of some of the world's most bio-diverse and fragile ecosystems. But there are also situations where the creation of a National Park contributes to the degradation of the forest it is intended to protect. Before you choke on your fair-trade coffee, consider what it means to implement a National Park regime in a country where people depend on that forest to survive. Conceived in the West in the nineteenth century, the model of preserving tracts of forest from human use is now national policy in almost every country. In the less economically developed countries where communities depend on the forest for their livelihood and have done so for generations, this conversion of forest into protected National Parkland, owned and administered by the state, can have serious negative repercussions. Not only do the forest-dependent communities suffer from dispossession: this process also exposes the forest to far greater risk of degradation.

To understand this we need to look at the situation before and after a forest becomes a National Park. For the 'before' scenario, imagine an area of forest that is home to a number of forest user-groups. Each community recognises the others' rights over ownership and access under a traditional common law regime that exists outside of the formal state system. With the security provided by these community-based property rights, the forest user-groups have the framework and incentive to regulate the extraction of resources from the forest according to a 'forest-friendly' time horizon. With secure ownership over their portion of the forest, they extract resources in a way that ensures, 20 years down the track, there is still a forest left to support them. When you take away that ownership security – when the state converts the forest into a National Park – the incentive to deforest sustainably is also removed.

If the communities are relocated and the National Park policed effectively to avoid any illegal incursions into the forest, this scenario presents a positive outcome from an environmental perspective. Unfortunately, it doesn't work like this in many tropical developing countries. Instead, the communities are pushed to the fringes of the National Park, from where they continue to extract forest resources, only in a way that resembles an open access scenario. With no incentive to look after the forest, they plunder it in a far more damaging way. At the risk of persecution, the forest-dependent communities now extract resources to maximise their immediate gains without investing in methods that will sustain the forest.

It is true that the National Park is only a problem in this scenario because it has failed to be a National Park: the forest is not protected from human use. But this ignores the complexity of the situation in diverse and less wealthy countries, and especially those with a long tradition of forest-human coexistence. There are many factors that can lead to the collapse of a National Park strategy – the forest may be too remote for the government to effectively enforce Park rules, the officials too corrupt, the forest region too heavily populated.

In such a scenario, to save the forest there must be a system that provides security for the forest-users to cut down trees. With the right legal framework that grants secure land tenure to the forest users while regulating resource extraction at a sustainable level, there is a far better chance to reduce deforestation.

The warning is clear: beware when advocating for the establishment of a National Park. More effective protection often comes from strengthening private ownership. Rather than nationalise the forest, grant those who depend on it the right to sustainably manage it. Indeed, there are times when National Parks are the best option, but there are also times when forests are saved when users are permitted to cut down the trees.

Shane Chalmers





# THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS OF CAPITALISM

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Environmentalism is not an issue represented solely by the left side of the political spectrum. It is a concern for all and likewise potential solutions to impending ecological crisis have emerged from all sides of politics, left and right. It is however my opinion that the left offers the only real solutions to environmental crisis and degradation.

I believe that many of the environmental issues we face today are inherent or at least typical of capitalism. On the left, ideologies such as eco-socialism place capitalism at the center of not only the exploitation of people but also the exploitation of the environment. It rejects solutions based on correcting capitalism through regulation as fanciful because if regulation affects profit then the regulations will inevitably be rejected in order to maintain profit, economic growth and increasing wealth that keeps everyone happy and in order.

When push comes to shove capitalism needs to grow or it will collapse.

If there is no growth then those that seek more wealth cannot obtain profit unless they take it from other capitalists or other social groups such as the working class. If they do not obtain profit there is no incentive to do anything productive. If the capitalist class—those with all of the power through owning property and other forms of capital—are to obtain profit then they will have to take it from the working people that have nothing but their labour to sell. Marx suggested that the workers would then rebel against the system due to the increasing wealth divide and impoverishment. This means that green-consumerism (sometimes-encouraging green-marketing rather than green production) and environmental economics (that attribute a monetary value to the environment bringing it within the market) are rejected by eco-socialism as false solutions that only act to preserve capitalism.

So even though, hypothetically, regulation could solve all of our problems, it simply won't.

Everyday, people and society as a whole are forced to make decisions between money and the environment. How can it be in the best interest of society to build cars that break down in ten years or to make clothing that goes out of fashion or falls apart on

one year? It is obviously not in the best interest of society to waste our collective resources, but we do it all of the time. It is in the interest of economic growth and capitalism that we do this. Think of all of the inventions and technology that have been heralded as timesavers for people. The last century was full of them and yet the working hours people perform day in, day out have not changed. Instead consumption has risen so that production and growth can increase. I know of someone that owns two I-Pods, one is portable but best suited to the car and home and the other, smaller one is lighter and best for jogging. It is not necessary and a hundred years ago it was not desirable, however capitalism demands it, demands that the wheels of consumption and production keep on turning.

Only the left, the far left at that, can offer real solutions to the environmental crisis that is inherent to capitalism. This solution is the end of capitalism and the beginning of a system that puts people more directly in touch with their relationship with the environment. Where there is no profit-driven reason to exploit nature and to treat it as we do now—as if it did not entirely support us. Where the best interests of society as a whole were in control not the short-term interest of the greedy few.

Ghandi once said "There is sufficiency in the world for man's need but not for man's greed" and I believe it to be true. I do not believe in doomsday prophecies that say that we will consume ourselves into extinction (although it has happened before), my faith in humanity is stronger than that, but it is clear that humanity cannot continue as it is. The problem is not population or technology. Nor is it those people living without an environmental conscience. It is capitalism.

Reece Kinnane

**(Footnotes)**

<sup>1</sup> See Jared Diamond, *Collapse*

For more information see Joel Kovel, *The Enemy of Nature: The End of Capitalism or the End of the World?* or David Pepper, *Eco-socialism: From Deep Ecology to Social Justice*.

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# Good Clean Fun

Seeking Sustainable Solutions to Climate Change

The human species is at a critical point. Emissions produced from the consumption of fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal) that have made the industrialised world's affluence possible have also eroded the natural patterns of the earth's climate. During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Australia's climate warmed by 0.7°C, with global sea levels rising by 15cm and the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts a global temperature rise of 1.4°C to 5.8°C within the next century. Such a temperature rise may result in island-nations like Tuvalu being completely submerged within the next fifty years, and the displacement of up to 150 million people due to rising sea levels and other symptoms of climate change.

For South Australia, temperatures are expected to increase by up to 4.4°C, also significantly increasing the number of days above 35°C. Rainfall is predicted to decrease over most of the state, and with increased evaporation, the flow of the already seriously ailing Murray-Darling Basin may decrease by a further 45 percent by 2070. This decrease is over four times what South Australia currently uses from the Murray. Rising sea levels and increasingly severe storms will threaten low-lying coastal areas – including Port Adelaide – while growing temperatures and more frequent and severe bushfires, floods, heatwaves and droughts will impact on communities.

Underscoring the threat of climate change is a growing awareness that the same fossil fuels upon which our culture's affluence is built are rapidly diminishing. Estimates for peak oil (when world oil supplies reach maximum production before rapidly declining) vary, the US Geological Survey predicts world peak by 2040 at the latest, while others suggest it has already passed. Predictions also show world gas supplies are declining and coal is no longer acceptable because of its massive environmental consequences, including its huge carbon emissions.

In contrast to the limited resource deposits and environmental destructiveness of fossil fuel and nuclear power generation, renewable energy creates usable power from the unlimited income of natural systems – the sun, wind, tidal movements, ocean currents and biomass (organic matter). Communities across the world are recognising and responding to the threat of irreversible climate change and declining fossil fuel resources, leaving Australia, despite its vast potential, far behind.

For US energy scientist and policy expert Dan Kammen, the shift to renewables is a fundamental shift in the way we plan and manage energy; a shift from what he calls the "hunter-gatherer" pursuit of limited deposits of fossil fuels to the "farming" and harvesting of the inexhaustible flows of renewable energy.

Decentralised renewable energy generation is increasingly recognised as "the way forward" to cut carbon emissions. With up to 21 percent of energy being lost in transmission from power plant to user, distributed renewable power generation allows homes, business and communities to efficiently generate their own clean energy on or near its site of consumption.

Drawing from models in Denmark and the Netherlands, where 50 percent of energy generation is decentralised, London Mayor Ken Livingstone has expressed a vision of the city as a web of "local energy networks" where buildings generate their own renewable energy. A recent study showed that Britain's current model of centralised power generation wastes some two-thirds of the power it generates – the energy wasted at the power station and in transmission is equal to the entire water and space heating demands of all buildings in the UK.

Livingstone's vision of buildings powered by their own energy was recently echoed in the British Government's allocation of £50 million to support community-based 'microgeneration' initiatives. Such initiatives are intended to aid businesses, schools and homes in adopting community-based renewable technologies from wind turbines to solar heating. The initiative emerged after Woking, a town of 100,000 people in Surrey, reduced its carbon emissions by 78 percent and installed 10 percent of Britain's solar energy through renewable microgeneration. The Government's £50 million will also increase demand for renewable technologies, triggering mass production and thus helping to lower prices and increase accessibility to such technologies.

Decentralised, community-based renewable energy production is also being described as a strategy to ensure the majority, 'developing' world grows sustainably. One report suggests that if China developed decentralised, renewable energy generation to meet its growing energy demands, it could reduce carbon emissions by 56 percent compared to conventional energy generation and reduce its costs by 40 percent.

While the full scope of renewable energy potential is yet to be realised, wind, solar and biomass have quickly taken the lead in the new renewable economy. In the US, increasing natural gas prices have pushed the costs of conventional electricity above wind power, leading to a demand that outstrips supply – wind turbine manufacturers are sold out until at least 2008. Denmark has rapidly

become a world leader, generating 3,600 megawatts by 2002 – the equivalent of five nuclear power stations – with supply to rise to at least 25 percent of Denmark's total energy consumption by 2009. Across Europe, by 2005 wind was cleanly generating the equivalent of 35 coal-fire power plants and growing.

Meanwhile, solar technologies have been widely adopted in Japan and Germany – in 2001, Japan had 50,000 homes powered by solar electricity, selling the excess electricity generated back into the grid. In order to slice their carbon emissions, Spain announced in 2004 that all new and renovated homes must have solar panels. Advances in efficiency and its ability to be structurally incorporated into architecture mean that solar has a bright future – even at current levels of efficiency, solar energy could provide all of the US's energy needs while occupying less than a quarter of its urban space.

Seeking to entirely break its dependency on fossil fuels by 2020, biofuels manufactured from organic matter are one of many renewable technologies at the centre of Sweden's new-energy economy. The Swedish Government is working with car manufacturers SAAB and Volvo to develop vehicles designed for biofuel use, while the Swedish timber industry produces its own energy from barkchips and sawdust.

While biofuels are versatile and able to be easily used with many existing technologies, to be fully renewable, the process of transforming the raw matter into fuel must be powered by renewable energy. There are also continuing concerns about the water consumption and carbon emissions produced by some plants during the conversion process.

In March 2006, the Sustainable Development Commission, the British Government's environmental advisory board, emphasised that "there is more than enough renewable resource in the UK to provide a diverse, low-carbon energy supply", making it "possible to meet our energy needs in a carbon-constrained economy without nuclear power". In 2005, the German government resolved to begin its transition to 100 percent renewable energy generation, including phasing out nuclear power. Iceland and Sweden have pledged to become oil-free, Sweden planning on replacing all fossil fuel technologies with renewables within the next 15 years, also without nuclear power. Such steps demonstrate that the Federal Government's sudden passion for nuclear power as any kind of solution to climate change is completely unjustifiable.

Joel Catchlove

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# J AND DAZZ AT THE MOOFIES

Hey Kids, welcome to your last dose of Mooficing until semester 2. That's right this one will have to get you through those long procrastinating hours of swotvac, and the tedious holidays that follow. Since we won't be having another edition for a little while this one is chocked full of movie review goodness; your perfect guide for what to watch at the Moofies this holidays. This edition we check out *American Dreamz* mocking the establishment, Australian film *Candy* (Heath Ledger is still hot, even if he is a junkie) and *Chums*. Not to mention *Factotum*, *The Da Vinci Code*, and *How Much Do You Love Me?*. We've got a whole column of Trash with T. Riddy, and a look at *Gozilla* in Straight to DVD. Have you ever wondered what all those people who come after the actors in the movie credits do? Well this week we take a look at the life of Erik Bernstein, Best Boy of the week. Finally fitting with the environment edition our Classic Movie of the Week is *Microcosmos*.

World Environment Day is June 5, so just as you're all settling into a week of cramming, make sure you take the procrastination opportunity of trying to do your bit for the environment. If you want to know your impact on the world head to [www.myfootprint.org](http://www.myfootprint.org) and see how many worlds you need to support your lifestyle. And when you realise that you need to cut back on all of those high impact bad-for-the-environment activities, settle back with your copy of On Dit and check out some films.

Until next edition, Happy Mooficing! - J and Dazz

**Giveaways!!**

We have twenty double passes to see *Slither*. If you want one come down to the On Dit office at 1:30 Friday 2nd June to pick one up.

## American Dreamz (M15) Now Showing Everywhere

If you think Bush-bashing is sooo 2003, so passé, then *American Dreamz* might not be for you. The film takes a hearty swipe at both the state of American politics and American pop culture.

Dennis Quaid plays the obviously George Bush-esque President Staton; a bumbling moron, completely oblivious to most of the goings-on in the world. But the similarities end there when Staton begins



to take an interest in world affairs (apparently there are three different peoples in "Iraqistan") The Dick Cheney-esque character, played superbly by Willem Dafoe, doesn't like the idea of the President actually President-ing and takes action to correct this.

Meanwhile, Martin Tweed (Hugh Grant), host of *American Idol*-esque TV show *American Dreamz* (mmm imaginative) has had enough of his rubbish TV show. That is, until wannabe superstar Sally Kendoo (Mandy Moore) comes along and brings Tweed out of the rut he is in. Oh the irony! (FYI: Mandy Moore used to be one of those plastic pop "divas".)

So how do these two stories intersect? Well President Joseph Staton (Staton/ Stalin... how's that for biting social commentary!) decides to be a guest

judge on *American Dreamz* to increase his popularity. At this announcement, leaders in an Al Qaeda training camp in Pakistan think it would be a great opportunity to get one of their guys onto the TV show with the mission to kill the "head of the serpent", Staton. They choose Omer Obeidi (Sam Golzari), probably the most incompetent terrorist ever, but who can sing and has a penchant for show tunes.

OK, that's the plot explained, now for some actual reviewing... but I'm out of words. Overall, the film has great satirical content and many hilarious moments, which almost make up for the fact that it could have been a bit more polished.



fhqwgads

## Candy (MA 15+) Now Showing at PalaceNova

Based on the semi-autobiographical novel by Australian author Luke Davies, *Candy* follows Candy (Abbie Cornish) and Dan (Heath Ledger) in their love affair with each other and with heroin through heaven and earth to hell. The couple share a passionate, creative and obsessive nature which is the source of both their beauty and their demise. Unrelenting, powerful and emotive *Candy* explores the effect of Candy and Dan's lives in their relationship not only with each other but also with Candy's parents (Noni Hazelhurst and Tony Martin) and Dan's mentor, Casper (Geoffrey Rush). The strain of watching the pair's downfall is plain in Candy's parents' behaviour as well as in Casper's dark humour. As their desperation to satisfy their addiction intensifies Dan and Candy still feel that together they can handle anything but eventually the pressure becomes too much and their relationship too, hangs on the edge of destruction. The stark and realistic performances in this film clearly depict



the emotional pain felt by the characters and blatantly transfer this anguish to the viewer. There is nothing feel-good about this film (don't go and see it if you aren't prepared to be confronted

and disturbed) but it is portrayed brilliantly and with tenderness. *Candy* could be considered an Australian version of *Requiem for a Dream*; challenging and emotionally exhausting but an amazingly crafted film.



Stacey Thomson

"I'm talking about not covering every square inch with houses and strip malls until you can't remember what happens when you stand in a meadow at dusk. - Albert Markovski, *I Heart Huckabees* (2004)

## The Chumscrubber (MA 15+)

Showing at PalaceNova from June 8

Let's get this out of the way quickly: *The Chumscrubber*, one of those films which pops up unexpectedly just when you were thinking films couldn't get any stranger, is not the same as quirky cult favourite *Donnie Darko*. The two have been likened to each other by an overwhelming number of critics, and they may well share some of the same themes (teenage angst and drug use in particular). It probably is fair to say that *Donnie Darko* (and, to a degree, the suburban dissection of *American Beauty*) are points of reference for this offbeat film - but that's all they are. If one thing is certain about *The Chumscrubber*, it's that it's something completely fresh and new, which is a rarity in film.

The concept sounds bleak (and also incredibly complex) on paper; in a hyper-realistic suburban sprawl somewhere in California, Dean (*Billy Elliot*'s Jamie Bell) wanders over to visit his only friend (and also the town's resident drug dealer), Troy. When he finds that Troy has hung himself, Dean keeps it a secret, leaving it for Troy's mother, Carrie (Glenn Close) to uncover. Supposedly,



the adults wouldn't care, and when you look at the parents of this sunny slice of California, it's hard to be surprised. First of all, you have Close's disturbingly sunny reprise

of her *Stepford Wives* role as Carrie (although she gets leeway, since her son has committed suicide). The rest range from Dean's self-involved parents (Allison Janney is a vitamin-pushing salesperson, William Fichtner is a psychiatrist more interested in using Dean as the subject of his self-help books) through to Carrie-Anne Moss's new-age vixen, a mother more inclined to hit on the friends of her son, Lee (*Thumbsucker*'s Lou Pucci), than to pay attention to the fact that Lee and two of his friends are planning on holding Dean's brother ransom so he'll go and fetch Troy's remaining stash. This all happens in the first 20 minutes. In other words, I'm barely scratching the surface

Oddly enough, it not only works, but becomes one of the sharpest satires to hit cinemas in a long time. Describing the entire plot is moot; first-time writer/director Arie Posin has not only crafted a bizarrely clever take on the barriers between teens and adults, but also a film which manages to strike the right balance of dark humour, surreal horror and genuine pathos. In fact, sometimes you'll get all three at once. Finding a way to classify the film is tough. Finding a way to shake it from your mind after viewing is a great deal tougher.



Brian O'Neill

## Factotum (M 15)

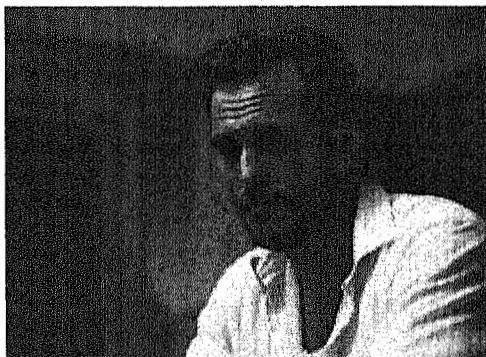
Showing at PalaceNova from June 15

A factotum is a man who is a jack-of-all-trades and sadly, master of none. This is a picaresque movie describing Charles Bukowski (as Henry Chinaski) during his drifting drunken days, moving effortlessly from woman to woman and punishingly from job to job. He is the ever-struggling writer seeking a place in the world through his own accord, of course. The book reads like a factual guide to his life and the film depicts this accurately. It is straight to the point. It is merciless. It is true. He is a man who just wants to be recognised and appreciated for his talent. This is not a version of the formulaic struggling writer biopic. Rather, it is painfully honest and kindly fantastic. Matt Dillon is super as Superman gone awry. His luck never stays, his addictions never leave and his women - well, they change. Like most stories, they may ring a bell, but this one stands alone, albeit in the dark. Lili Taylor plays one of Henry's fair-weather

women - a hooker who takes him in and shows him what it means to be with his mirror image. Marisa Tomei is delightful in her role of faded elegance. Perhaps Henry should have gone down a different path. Perhaps. But he did not. And this raw truth strikes a chord in all of us. As Charles Bukowski says himself "Some people never go crazy. What truly horrible lives they must lead".



K



## Trash Talk

with t.Riddy

Look, I know I pointed out last edition that this column was supposed to be a haven for fellow *Gyllenhaalics*, but those two crazy spaceship-worshipping freakozoid directors of the *CruiseHolmes* corporation - Tom 'I'm-not-gay-and-I'm-certainly-not-short' Cruise and Kat(i)e 'whatever-he-said' Holmes - just keep throwing one PR-spanner after another into the works. It would seem the latest modus operandi for wannabe religious hijackers is to be so blatantly screwball that aspiring columnists *à la moi* simply can't ignore them! Well I'll tell you, it's got me riled!

Latest word on the street is that they've signed a pre-nup that comes into effect even if they don't get nupped. So what are we supposed to call it, a pre-fucktual agreement? Too late kids, it would appear that Kat was long out of the bag. The terms of the agreement are that lil' miss Holmes and **Suri Cruise** (Exhibit Q, your Honour, outlining morality on the parents' behalf) will receive at least US\$19m if Tom pisses off to Gamma-Beta-Hydroxy-Centaurii or wherever prior to tying the knot. If, however, they do wed, then her penny stocks are set to boom. It seems Kat(i)e's parents, who had previously objected to their relationship citing that whole Catholicism vs. Scientology chesnut, have come out saying that they are happy now that there's an obvious level of commitment in the relationship. Has no one told them that dowries are so *passé* right now? In all honesty, my primary concern if/when they split is not how much booty'll be in the bank, rather how Kat(i)e would manage to talk without Tom's hand up her butt pulling the goofy-cyelid-bat strings that make her tick. Anyone else notice a touch of irony that as he lines up his third wife he's just released a film called *Mission: Impossible III*? ENOUGH! Their ploy is obviously working, and I've succumbed to a trap for young players. Let us never speak of them again!

In what appears to be an epidemic of baby-brain loopiness, earth-mother **Angelina Jolie** had a whole crate of her favourite pregnancy craving busters (aka Reese's Pieces - they *are* delicious) flown direct from the factory in the US to her Namibian hideaway. How's that for a little carbon-neutral snacking? Sure beats donning the Grosbies for a quick trip to the servo in the Barina.

*Herbie Fully Loaded* 'star' **Lindsay Lohan** is in a credit conundrum according to one source, after having racked up more than US\$1m in fees at the Chateau Marmont Hotel in LA last year. Apparently she likes to keep the bungalow reserved just in case she pops into town. Oh what a pleasure to be clueless.

Now, for those who need their fix, p16 in last week's *Who* has a photo spread of **Jake** on his bike. In Lycra. I kid you not.

See you in the next edition - why not pop past and we'll get trashed together?

"And when we're not saving the environment, we're thinkin' of you, naked, thigh deep in tofu."

- Bud and Doyle *Bio-Dome* (1996)

## Godzilla: Destroy All Monsters

(PG)

Directed by: Ishiro Honda

Watching old-school *Godzilla* movies in the hope of finding production values that are anything but abysmal is somewhat akin to trying to find genuine musical talent at Eurovision. Instead, you're better off accepting that what you get will be an amateurish spectacle that oscillates between wildly entertaining and utterly cringe-worthy (or both), and is ideally experienced no more than once a year. Famous amongst *Godzilla* buffs for featuring the most monsters of any movie in the franchise (until 2004's considerably more up-to-date *Godzilla: Final Wars*), *Destroy All Monsters* is at heart merely a vehicle to allow men in rubber suits to duke it out against each other and cause general



mayhem amidst hastily constructed sets. For the benefit of those who record these types of things, the plot features (in no particular order); spaceships, a UN lunar base, aliens, monsters, lots of vinyl costumes and plenty of pseudo-science.

Unfortunately, the English name is somewhat misleading as there is only one fight in which the monsters actually tackle each other, when *Godzilla's* arch-nemesis King Ghidorah is unfortunate enough to engage all 10 other monsters simultaneously just as the film climaxes. As the extras section doesn't offer a Terry Wogan commentary, but instead includes little more than a few pieces of trivia on the film, a trailer and original film posters, once you've watched it once, *Destroy All Monsters* is unlikely to come off the shelf for a long time.



Alexis Buxton-Collins

## How Much Do You Love Me? (Combien to m'aimes?)

(MA 15+)

Showing at PalaceNova from  
June 8



*How Much Do You Love Me* is a tough film to figure out. Hovering somewhere between weighty drama, light comedy and twisted fairytale, we get office worker François (Bernard Campan), enamoured of whore Daniela (Monica Bellucci, who has enough edge to make her role halfway believable). François has just won the lottery, so he persuades Daniela to live with him for an impressive fee, until his funds dissipate completely. Complicating factors: not only is François suffering from a grave heart condition, but Daniela is married to a mobster (of sorts, played by Gerard Depardieu).

This sounds straightforward enough, but writer/director Bertrand Blier plays for both laughs, drama, suspense and general surrealism, and the result is a weirdly schizophrenic film experience. The film is spattered with dreamlike sequences, presumably taking place in François' mind, but the efforts to pull off this dreamlike feel are inconsistent. Paris may be a charming city, Bellucci is inarguably gorgeous and the photography is frequently sublime, but too many moments in the 95-minute running time betray the fairytale concept that Blier was presumably running for. Combine this with an all too over-the-top ending, and one is left wondering *How Much* Blier was actually trying to tell us.



Brian O'Neill

## The Da Vinci Code

with Anna and Steph

Now showing Pretty Much Everywhere

The book was OK. There. I said it.

That bit when Robert and Sophie go to the fuck-off Swiss bank vault and realise that Saunier left them with the Priory's key, only to then dodge the posh bank guy who unveils his evil plan to snitch the holy grail by pointing a gun at them? Pretty cool. Like that episode of the *Twilight Zone* when the guy signs a contract and they cut out his tongue and put it in a jar, and it doesn't die, it just grows and pulsates and gives birth to baby tongues.

But I digress.

See, the thing that gives me the heebie jeebies about Dan Brown is the whole "let's blur the lines between faith and religion a little more by reiterating the fuzziness of medieval history for a modern audience that don't read good" schtick. Ooh, paganism condemned by the ancient papistry on account of that slut Mary Magdalene and her filthy bloodline! Genius, Dan. The proles'll soak it up more than the Colonel's 11 secret herbs and spices.



I'm wid you Steph. Derr Vinci Code. Although "people" raved about how this book was "such a page turner", I wasn't convinced enough to pick it up. So I guess I felt like a bit of a phoney going to the premiere having not read it. I don't believe that this review will change anybody's mind to see it or not see it. I'm not even going to put up an argument of why it was or wasn't good. I will tell you though, Tom Hanks is more suited to *Big*. The whole thing was a little embarrassing. This code cracking business, too much. Fact. Fiction. Whatever. It seemed to have had a lasting effect though. I kept seeing signs and symbols everywhere and wondering if they have a greater meaning. Kinda like *The Dreamers*. Have you seen that film? When the young man sits around the dinner table with the family and explains how everything in the universe fits together.

There were a lot of bits that I laughed at – questionable whether or not they were meant to be funny. There were a few bits I turned away at. But all in all, I was enthralled dammit. I get what these "people" are talking about. After interviewing a number of viewers after the premiere, the general vibe was that it was a bit of an anti-climax. And just to think, according to gospel that is *The Advertiser*, our very own Norwood historian wrote it first. Ahem. I'm sure you did sweet pea.

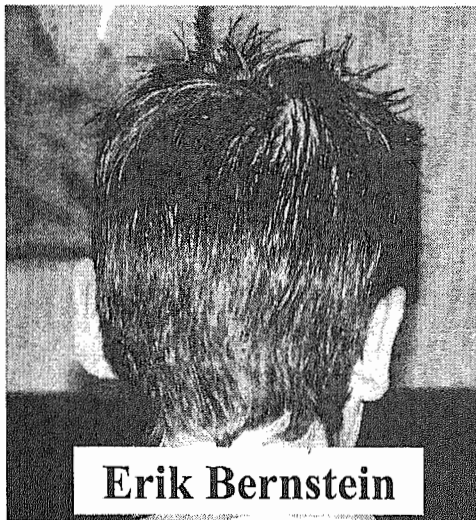
Anna & Steph

"Eat recycled food. Recycled food is good for the environment and ok for you" - Cleaning Bot Judge Dredd (1995)

# Best Boy of the Week

His name is Erik Bernstein and you may remember him from such films as *National Treasure*, *The Last Samurai* and the recently released *The Benchwarmers*. One of Hollywood's hottest stars at the moment is not to be seen in front of the lens, but rather behind the scenes, rigging up electrical cables and operating lamps. Yes, Erik Bernstein is one of the premier Best Boys in the industry at the moment. If you need someone to do whatever it is Best Boy's do\*, then check this guy out for sure.

Erik started his illustrious career on the television show *Silk Stalkings*, which for those of you who don't remember (probably all of you) was a soft-porn detective show. Ok, soft porn is probably a bit harsh but lets just say people weren't watching it for the riveting storylines. In any case he was soon noticed for his hard work and dedication and soon found himself working a number of other shows, before finally getting his big break as electrician on the sets of *Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace* the straight-to-DVD thriller inspired by the original film inspired by the writings of Stephen King. However not even this blight on his record was sufficient to prevent him getting the position



Erik Bernstein is a Best Boy and as per the BB Workers Union his face cannot be shown in print

The Sopranos (2006) [Electrical Best Boy]  
 The Benchwarmers (2006) [Electrician]  
 The Family Stone (2005) [Rigging Electric Best Boy]  
 National Treasure (2004) [Best Boy Electric]  
 The Last Samurai (2003) [Best Boy Electric]  
 Spider-Man (2002) [Best Boy Electric: re-shoot]  
 Vanilla Sky (2001) [Assistant Chief Lighting Technician]  
 The Man Who Wasn't There (2001) [Best Boy Electric]  
 That Thing You Do! (1996) [Lamp Operator]  
 The Phantom (1996) [Rigging Gaffer: Los Angeles]  
 Broken Arrow (1996) [Electrician]  
 Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace (1996) [Electrician]

of electrician on the films *Broken Arrow* and later holding the exalted position of Rigging Gaffer during the filming of *The Phantom*.

From here, the sky was the limit, with offers coming faster than he could turn them down. Settling down to a life of luxury where he was free to pick and choose which projects he would operate on, he selected only the cream of the crop, deigning to grace the sets of such films as *Vanilla Sky*, *Spiderman* (the original, not the sequel) and *The Family Stone*. However, recently he's returned to his original scene, lending his vast repertoire of experience to the filming of one very special episode of *The Sopranos*, which will air during season 6 of the long running show. Fans of Erik need not worry though, no doubt he will soon return to the silver screen where his talents are in high demand. Wherever lamps need to be operated or rigging needs to be gaffered, rest assured, Erik will be there. Best Best-Boy Ever.

\* Best Boys are generally acknowledged to be the right-hand-man of a Gaffer. A Gaffer is the guy in charge of preparing sets for filming, generally referring to anything from set construction to electrical rigging, even through to dolly construction.

# Classic Movie of the Week

## Microcosmos (1996)

Written and Directed by Claude Nuridsany & Marie Perennou

I guess that there are many people who sit and watch insects for hours on end, but until I saw *Microcosmos*, I hadn't been one of them. Set in a meadow in France, *Microcosmos* takes us on a journey into the world of ladybugs, snails, caterpillars, beetles and other assorted creatures that share our world. The cinematography is breath-taking, as we see these tiny creatures magnified until their surroundings come to look like a jungle; blades of grass become as tall as trees, small puddles of water become lakes, and small pebbles become large boulders. Part of the beauty lies in the amazing colour of all the creatures shown, colour that usually is dominated by vast expanses of green.

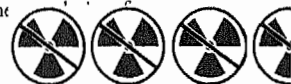
The movie plays along with no dialogue or voice over to guide us, beyond the initial explanation that we're viewing a meadow in France. The only sounds to guide us through the movie are the sounds of the insects themselves, sometimes accompanied by an orchestral score. Despite the lack of any dialogue, the viewer gets a distinct sense of character about the subjects of the different scenes, as they step through



existence. I heard or read somewhere once that insects don't have conscious thought processes, they rely on instinct and reaction (that could be a Well Acknowledged Fact, but I have no references to back it up with right now). The way this movie is filmed could call you to question that, as there

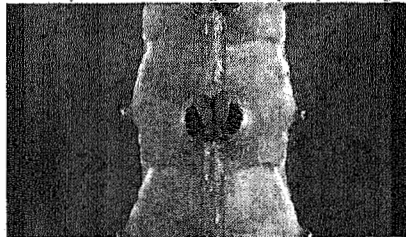
seems to be so much character in the story. Then again, channel 10 somehow gets half the population to believe that the people on Big Brother have character too, so maybe it's all in the filming.

*Microcosmos* is a pretty magical film, even sober and the insight into a world that we often fail to notice gives the viewer a sense of the



I've heard it said that certain chemical enhancements may enhance the viewing of the film."

"This is by no means an encouragement to participate in illegal



"I'm no biologist, but how many cells does a single cell organism have?" - Harry Block, *Evolution* (2001)

# Art Guide

## New Land Gallery

2 McLaren Parade, Port Adelaide  
*Obliquely: Works looking at the impact of a human footprint and the relationship between us and the environment*  
 Jackie Ellis mentored by Annette Bezor.  
 Till Sunday June 4

## Light Square Gallery

39 Light Square, Adelaide  
**THE LURE OF LIGHT**  
 Four Helpmann academy artists;  
 Dawson, Homes, Roberts & Swanson  
 Till Tuesday June 15

## Greenhill Gallery

140 Barton Terrace West, Nth Adelaide  
 Tues-Fri 10-5 Sat-Sun 2-5  
 Andrew Baines & Bryan Bulley  
 Till Tues June 13  
 Allan Hondow at Penny's Hill Winery  
 Till Wednesday June 21

## Gallery M

287 Diagonal Rd Oaklands Pk (adj. Westfield)  
*Weaving Cultures, Weaving Communities: Contemporary and traditional artwork by Aboriginal artists*  
 Monday-Friday 11-4, Saturday 12-4, Sun 1-4  
 Till June 18  
[www.gallerym.net.au](http://www.gallerym.net.au)

## Flinders Uni City Gallery

State Library, North Tce.  
*Identity? Echoes and Voices*  
 Linda Turner  
 Mon-Fri 11-4 Sat-Sun 1-4  
 Till July 23  
[www.flinders.edu.au/artmuseum](http://www.flinders.edu.au/artmuseum)

## Art Gallery of South Australia

North Tce  
*Margret Preston, Art and Life*  
 Mon-Fri 10-5  
 Till August 13  
[www.artgallery.sa.gov.au/](http://www.artgallery.sa.gov.au/)

## Hilton Adelaide

233 Victoria Square.  
 Trevor McNamara  
 Abstract, acrylics  
 Till Wed September 6

...compiled by **Will Harblson**

## Pissarro: The First Impressionist

AGNSW & NGV  
 November 19-February 19 & March 4-May 28

After the runaway success of the exhibition *Impressionists: Masterpieces from the Musee d'Orsay* held at the National Gallery of Victoria, its latest cooperation with its NSW counterpart was always going to be billed with an emphasis on Impressionism. The beauty of this exhibition was the viewer's ability to track Pissarro's development through different media and styles.

After a group of portraits, the works under the heading of 'Towards Impressionism' brought the viewer closer to what Pissarro is known for. The modestly-sized *The Road near the Farm* contained a staggering amount of detail. The minute specks of white on the shoulders of the figures and on the leaves of the trees create the illusion of light radiating from the canvas. Though it was difficult to pick a single highlight in the room, *A Cowherd on the Route du Chou, Pontoise* was a particularly beautiful evocation of a rural scene. The consistency of the texture drew attention to the subtle differences between the various shades of green and though speed of execution is a feature of Impressionism, it was obvious in this work that careful thought had been given to the balance of the composition.

The pointillist pieces that followed under the heading of neo-impressionism were outstanding. Seurat is said to have described Pissarro as his first convert and Pissarro was apparently quick to master the technique. In the latter work, the mixture of whites, greys, blues, yellows, pinks and any number of other colours combined to wash the canvas with 'pea soup'. As one viewer

remarked, 'who would have thought that a Frenchman would paint a cricket match?' to which came the addendum, and done such a good job of it!

Excursions into Pissarro's experimentation with printmaking provided a contrast to the greenery of his paintings, however they could not match them for visual interest. A more intriguing contrast to the countryside scenes were the paintings of Paris and Rouen. *Boulevard Montmartre, Morning, Cloudy weather*, somewhat of a study in perspective, captures the hustle and bustle of Paris at the turn of last century, while *The Stone Bridge and Barges at Rouen* shows the spread of the industrial revolution to the French countryside with a melancholy shade of grey.

Context was provided to the viewer via enlarged 18th century postcards, giving the exhibition commendable coherence. While 'blockbuster' probably isn't a suitable word to describe this survey of Pissarro's career, there are probably few things more enjoyable than meandering past a series of pleasant and occasionally breathtaking paintings, while gaining an insight into an artist who deserves a greater reputation than he possesses.

While it's too late to get to *Pissarro: The First Impressionist*, it won't be long before another exciting exhibition comes to the National Gallery of Victoria. *Picasso: Love & War 1935-1945* will explore the relationship between Picasso and his lover and muse, Dora Maar. More than three hundred works will be displayed in the exhibition, which is the third instalment of the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces series. For more details, see [www.ngv.vic.gov.au/picasso/](http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/picasso/).

**Benedict Coxon**



## AN INTRODUCTION TO ONLINE ART

If the traditional gallery is not for you, get your art fix by entering the world of online portfolios and collectives. You will soon find an endless number of talented artists to chat about with your fellow culture vultures. Here's some great sites to get you started...

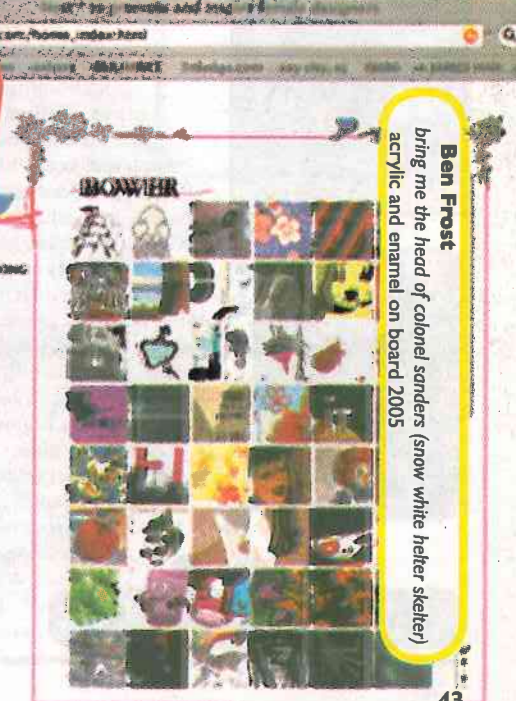
**nestcollective.com** Founded in 2004, Nest is an online community for female designers. The aim of the site is to support and raise awareness of female design talent. The simple layout allows the viewer to concentrate on the artworks without being overwhelmed by background imagery. The idea of the 'nest' is carried throughout the site. This is illustrated through the interactive menu where 'chat-room' is replaced with 'bird song' and 'young artists' replaced with 'fledglings'. In the Gallery section the viewer is presented with a large range of works through a mosaic of thumbnails. Nest uses the same layout in promoting different artists, ensuring that all works are viewed objectively. Overall, the easy navigation and clear layout of Nest is refreshing in the cluttered world of the Internet. Nest brings to the viewer what the name suggests, a comfortable environment to nurture young talent.

**benfrostisdead.com** The online gallery of painter Ben Frost is a visual feast. Frost borrows iconic signs from contemporary western society to deal with themes of alienation and perversity. Forever changing the meaning behind symbols like 'Dr Phil' and 'Colonel Sanders'. Frost makes a bold and controversial statement through his art.

**designiskinky.com**  
**australianfront.com**  
**noise.net.au**

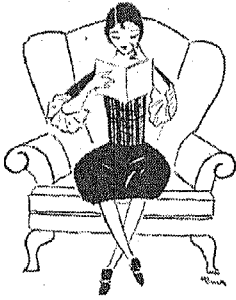
All three provide a great space for artists and designers from around the world to showcase work.

**Katie Shriner**



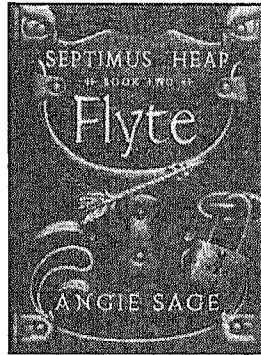
**Ben Frost**  
 bring me the head of colonel sanders (snow white hater skelter)  
 acrylic and enamel on board 2005

# NEW RELEASE OF THE WEEK...



**Editors:**  
Karlle & Sunshine

**onditliterature**  
**@yahoo.com.au**



## Septimus Heap Book 2: Flyte

Angie Sage  
Allen & Unwin

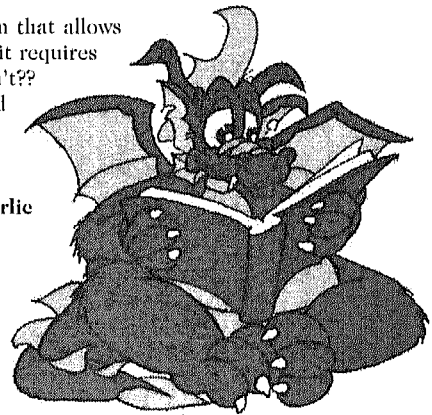
With the Harry Potter series edging towards a more sinister and adult vibe, another British author, Angie Sage, is producing some quality fantasy for young (and young at heart) readers. *Flyte* is the second book in the *Septimus Heap* series, although thankfully you don't need to read the first book to understand and appreciate this one. With plenty of charms, spells, wizards, witches and a dragon or two, *Flyte* makes for an appealing 'magyk' adventure.

The hero of this piece is the young teen, Septimus Heap (before you cringe this is the one of the few similarities to Harry Potter) who has just become the Apprentice to the Extraordinary Wizard, Marcia, after re-discovering his long lost family. Although they had seemingly defeated the evil necromancer, DomDaniel at the end of the last book, the shadow that's following Marcia indicates there's still evil lurking around the corner.

When his adopted sister Jenna, who also happens to be the princess, is kidnapped by their older brother Simon, Septimus embarks on a dangerous journey to rescue her. Simon is bent on revenge after Septimus took his place as Marcia's Apprentice and has turned to the dark side. There's an assortment of crazy characters and creatures in this fast-paced fantasy adventure, one of my favourites being Sleuth, who used to be an old tennis ball but was magically transformed into a tracking device with a brain (even though this was achieved by Dark Magyk).

The book received it's title due to the magical Flyte charm that allows the user to fly, something we've all dreamed of I'm sure. Yes it requires suspension of belief, but what what good fantasy book doesn't?? The battle of good versus evil results in the triumph of good (no surprises there), although the ending certainly wasn't definitive. I'd imagine there's more adventures with Septimus Heap to look forward to in the future...

Karlle



1, 1 was a race horse, 2, 2 was 1, 2, 1, 1,  
1, 1, race and 2, 2, 1, 1, 2  
- our illustrious (and disturbed) ed Anna

read the numbers out loud, and for more onomatopoeic fun, try saying 'Whale Oil Beef Hooked' real fast- stehp



## Pomegranate Soup

Marsha Mehran

A book that mentions a mountain, but has almost no other environmental tie-in, *Pomegranate Soup* is dominated by the relationship the three protagonists have with food. Marjan, Bahar and Layla, having escaped Iran at the beginning of the Islamic Revolution, have just started an Iranian restaurant - the Babylon Café - in a tiny Irish village. This puts them in direct competition with Thomas McGuire, the villain of the story.

This is a lovely read, with "lovely" being the operative word. A little slow, and very fluffy, the plot follows the usual patterns (and with three protagonists, it covers a lot of ground), with the stories all ending predictably well. Despite this, the characters are wonderful, especially the somewhat peripheral Estelle Delmonico, the Italian landlady, a widow who has always sweated sugar-water.

And that is a good description - very sweet, with almost no real nutritional value. However, Mehran includes some recipes for traditional Persian cuisine, and they are great, particularly the Baklava and Red Lentil Soup.

A great book to read on a rainy day, with a cup of hot chocolate by a raging fire.

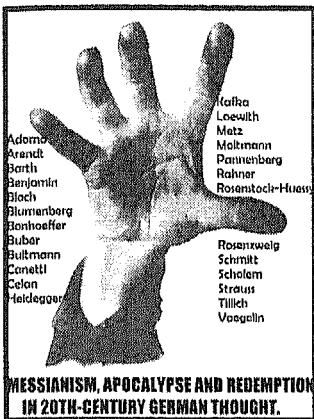
Sunshine



**eeww pomegranate soup!?!**  
**and you though nanna's tripe was bad!**

# Lit era tur e





MESSIANISM, APOCALYPSE AND REDEMPTION  
IN 20TH-CENTURY GERMAN THOUGHT.

Edited by Wayne Cristuado & Wendy Baker.

Say what? Yeah, that's right. In accordance with German tradition, this book has a title with a word count that rivals the essays inside. But don't be put off. It's merely a scrupulous attempt at describing the finger-licking fun to be had within.

This is a book of philosophy. German thought is a peculiar genre in that theology. Philosophers have a tendency to collide and synthesise, or at least react to each other, instead of calling each other stupid. Which is one of the many benefits of being grown ups.

There is a serious theological aspect to this book, as the name suggests. But don't be put off by that either. Especially all you undergrad philosophy students with your Department-inspired atheist naturalism. You'll grow up soon enough, and this book will be right there waiting for you.

Wayne Cristuado, formerly of the European Studies Department at our very own dear institution, has co-edited M.A.R. alongside the lovely Wendy Baker, as well as writing the Intro and two splendid essays on his favourite German thinkers, Eugen Rosenstock-Huysen and Franz Rosenzweig. Which is cool because no one writes essays on those guys. I mean nobody. I once cited Huysen in an undergrad essay and the lecturer expressed concerns about my sources being a little... ummm... wacky. Which speaks volumes.

Inside M.A.R. you'll find absorbing essays written by philosophers, theologians, sociologists, English/literature academics, and even a post grad student from our very own U of A. The essays

# Messianism, Apocalypse & Redemption in 20<sup>th</sup> Century German Thought

concern a very broad spectrum of German thought, for the most part dealing with one thinker and one theme at a time. There are articles on Benjamin, Bloch and Heidegger, as well as some lovely semi-departures into German Expressionism and Kafka. Oh and there's a spankin' David Kaufmann essay on Adorno. This, if you are a laydee and into the continental stuff, will make you feel strangely compelled to loosen your underwear. Which will already be sufficiently loosened after the supercool leather-jacketed Engelhard Weigl, lecturer of German right under our very noses, sets the tone with an impressively broad sketch of the topics at hand, including an account of the false(?) Jewish Messiah, Sabbatai Zevi. If tragedy-comedy started anywhere, it was surely with Sabbatai.

But I digress a little. The thing

to say about this book is that it is mostly devoid of intellectual masturbation. The title implies this. The tropes of Messianism, Apocalypse and Redemption are universal and timeless. When the shit hits the fan, these are the themes that rise to the surface.

It is fairly typical for academics to go around shouting "Crisis!" Crises legitimise their role in the world, from both an external and internal perspective. Without a crisis of some sort, there really isn't any cause or justification for thought. So every now and again they dance around screaming and pointing at a mirage. Or even worse, they create a crisis in the same way an entrepreneur might create a new market, instead of buying into a pre-existing one.

In a way, the contributors to this book have simply bought into a pre-existing crisis market. Interestingly, it seems to be an old market that isn't being used anymore. But they certainly aren't screaming at mirages. This

book is a way of rediscovering universal concerns - a way of getting back to the heart of the matter.

The unique trait to be found in the evaluations of these German thinkers is the manner with which they sought to harvest renewed vitality from ideas that have, at some time in history, been deeply ingrained in the social consciousness, but have largely been left behind in the ever advancing surge of western progress. Moving against the tide of the post-enlightenment thought, these thinkers risked being sneered at for the purpose of re-enlivening vital and hard-won human experiences and modes of thinking.

And that is exactly what the contributors to this book are somewhat vicariously attempting to



do. They're being a little uncool for the purpose of making cool possible. Which completely explains the title.

This is a damn good book. People will read it over your shoulder on buses. Then they'll probably cough and hum an advertising jingle. Still, they'll be impressed. But you won't hum a jingle. That's because you're different. You're an intellectual with a cause. You're too cool for word puzzles. And you can't be either of those - not really - until you've read this book.

Shannon Burns



## LITERATURE QUIZ PRIZES GALORE!!

Test your literary knowledge by answering the following questions...

then email the answers to us at: [onditliterature@yahoo.com](mailto:onditliterature@yahoo.com)  
The first correct response will win a lucky dip book to be collected from the On Dit Office!!

1. In what environment did Ahab spend most of his time?
2. Name two especially environmentally-minded characters in Tolken's *The Fellowship of the Ring*.
3. What was Miss Honey's house furnished with in Roald Dahl's *Matilda*?
4. On what landscape does Meursault kill the illustrious Arab in *The Outsider*?
5. Where does Winston baffle Julia in *1984*?



# MUSIC

## 200 Motels Interview

Adelaide's Kim Roberts has been gigging around Adelaide for some years now. The sound of her new ensemble (the coincidentally titled '200 Motels') has taken on a punchier dynamic. On Dit catches up with Kim Roberts this week and discusses police-video, Frank Zappa and life as a new Adelaide outfit.

**For those not in the know, can you introduce your band to On Dit readers;**

Sure! We're called 200 Motels and I guess you could describe us as indie alt rock. Most of the stuff we play is pretty moody, with loud, rocky guitars and passionate, melodic vocals, but we have some more snappy upbeat songs too. Mostly moody though. I like moody.

**What were some of your earlier influences in your songwriting?**

Other musicians, really. Two of the biggest influences when I started playing guitar were The Beatles and Nirvana. A little different from each other genre-wise I know, but they certainly taught me a lot about music. Then I went through a major Radiohead phase and couldn't get enough of them. It's just so raw and emotional and really struck a chord with me. They combined heartfelt vocals with moody, beautiful (and rocking) guitar and I guess you can kinda hear their influence in some of my stuff. Some other big influences on me are At the Drive-In and ...And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead. At the Drive-In's energy and creativity are truly amazing and ...Trail of Dead's dark, beautiful songs had a profound effect on me. Their album 'Source Tags & Codes' was like a cricket bat to the head it affected me so much! And at the moment I'm in love with Bloc Party, Interpol and Franz Ferdinand.

**What do you like to write about today?**

Oh, all sorts of things!! I tend to write about anything I see in the world around me. Whether that be about going out on the weekend, work, relationships, politics, big corporations, various emotions, youth culture, trying to suss out what

I'm about. Whatever is annoying me or interests me at the time. It's a great way of venting your feelings! Very therapeutic.

**Your name comes from the Frank Zappa movie from 1971, how has the great moustached one influenced your band (if at all)?**

Haha!! People always ask us about the Zappa thing, but truth be known, it was a total coincidence that we picked that name. One day we were brainstorming, fiddling around with band names and song titles we like. Matt likes the 80s group The Motels and Adam just whacked a number in front! It just sort of emerged! We liked it and it stuck. It was only later that we realised the Zappa connection. But I kinda like that obscure reference. Zappa was certainly one creative fella. I also like the fact that the 200 Motels movie had Ringo in it...

**What's the strangest gig you've had to play?**

Probably our strangest gig was when we played at Adelaide Uni during the day to people eating their lunch. That was kinda weird. It's hard to rock out at a picnic! There was also the time we played at the old Lizard Lounge when the police came in to take video footage. Apparently there'd been a bit of a ruckus there the day before and they were checking the place out. So we're on a police tape somewhere.

**Which Aussie bands do you look up to?**

Music-wise, I really like the Red Sun Band, Sarah Blasko, Pharaohs, Wolf & Cub, Bit By Bats, Gyroscope and early Powderfinger. I also used to be a huge fan of Custard, Sidewinder, You Am I, The Cruel Sea. There's so much great music out there, it's ridiculous. As far as admiring other bands, I really respect people like You Am I, Spiderbait, Magic Dirt, the Living End, who never give up. They are always releasing new stuff and touring,

working at it. I just love the fact that they've stuck at it, through thick and thin and obviously just love what they're doing. I find that really inspirational. 'Cause it is hard work!

**Tell us about your upcoming shows, and what people should expect.**

Hmm, what to expect? You can expect me to belt out the vocals and pull out the odd rock move. I tend to like flinging my hair about. People I work with are used to me being pretty quiet, so when they see me on stage they get a bit of a shock! I just like to get into it, I guess. Louise is one hell of a rocking lady. Matt's intensity serves him well - he doesn't move much (in-joke), but his bass lines kick butt! And Adam is a fab drummer! There's one song, Fear, where he has a drum 'freak out' and it's darned awesome! Upcoming gigs: We've got a stack of shows coming up in the next few months. The next one is at Rocket Bar on June 9. It's called 'New Girl Order' and features some of Adelaide's finest ladies! There's Blow Up Betty, LeighStarDust, Running with Horses (featuring ex Bad Girls of the Bible members), Ease Up Mother Brown DJs and us, of course! On June 23 we're playing with the wonderful Assassination of Martha and Melbourne band Loveproof at the Duke of York. It's part of Loveproof's CD launch assault on Adelaide, and from what I've heard of their stuff on MySpace I'm really looking forward to seeing them. Quite jangly and lovely. We have a few more on the way too, so you can have a look at one of our web pages for more details.

**And do you have a website?**

Sure do! [www.myspace.com/200motels](http://www.myspace.com/200motels). That page has quite a few goodies on it, including some mp3s, pics, posters, links to friends (both bands and people) etc. We also have a page on the Music SA site - [www.music.sa.com.au/artists/200motels](http://www.music.sa.com.au/artists/200motels) and that has plenty of pics and the occasional mp3.

**Chris Burford**



# The Whitlams Live

supported by **The Live Room**  
**The Governor Hindmarsh**  
Thursday 4 May 2006

The evening was growing old and so was the fire that illuminated the darkened room. Yet a new bottle of Barossa Shiraz stood atop his side table, as if explaining that the night was far from over. I clutched my own glass and greedily took in the spicy, plummy liquid, trying not to spill any as I jostled with the dense crowd also gathering to see The Whitlams.

The Gov billed them as "an all-time favourite act". The Whitlams in their many incarnations have been coming to The Gov to perform for many years, eschewing larger venues they could easily fill (considering album and ticket sales) in preference for this intimate setting. We owe their most recent visit to the release of their new album *Little Cloud*, which came out in April.

Tim Friedman, the idiosyncratic voice of The Whitlams, always invites the most interesting support acts to tour with the band- last time the other name on the bill was Dave McCormack. Tim's candid, narrated historical and musical 'tour' of The Whitlams as a live companion piece to the DVD was in stark contrast to his support. McCormack had us in hysterics as he played the ironic 'I'm Going to Execute all your Ex-boyfriends' from *The Truth About Love*. This time we were treated to The Live Room.

Think Luka Bloom meets The Dirty Three and you'll wind up with something close to The Live Room. Add a tall brunette woman wielding an electric violin standing atop a plinth, and you'll get a little closer...her name is Indi Star. She's from New Zealand. Paul Moroney, lead singer and writer, is from Ireland and the rest of the five piece band are from Sydney. Their website [www.theliveroom.com](http://www.theliveroom.com) cites Sydney as their genesis. Amidst their tight 40-minute play list, they managed to slot in their new single, aptly titled 'Put on a 45', a catchy commercial version of their back catalogue. Their new album *7" Vinyl Movie Club* came out Monday 8 May, soon after the gig. I think it'll be worth a listen.

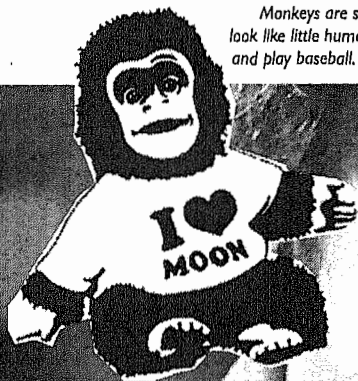
The Whitlams came on just after half-nine in this order: keyboard, then wine bottle, then the other gear and then the band. Priorities, priorities. Over the next three hours, fans old and new alike found something to hold on to or squeal over. The sexy, evocative 'Fall for You' from the last album, *Torch the Moon* is undoubtedly my favourite and the rendition here was a saucy, sultry Mae West of a song.

The set list included other nostalgic, anthemic tracks from *Torch the Moon*: 'Eternal Nightcap', 'Love this City', 'I Will not go Quietly', 'Blow Up the Pokies' and 'No Aphrodisiac'. However, the focus of the evening had to be tracks from *Little Cloud*. In fact, the night began with 'Beauty in Me' from the new album, which contains the tongue in cheek lyric that speaks of a girl who's 'nearly 20 and so very old'. I love this example of Tim's wry sense of humour, also evident in the deeply ironic 'She's Moving In'. The Beatles sobbed 'She's Leaving Home'; Tim seems to rue her migration similarly: except this time she's moving in with him and she's brought all her stuff...another crowd pleaser.

Overall, the gig was a solid introduction to The Whitlams' new material but by no means ostracized the older fans still stuck singing 'Band on Every Corner'.

Pru Hart

Monkeys are so freaking cute. Especially the ones that look like little humans and do human stuff like ride tricycles and play baseball. Right gentlemen, those friendly primates.



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world environment day

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doors open 7:30pm

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featuring:

The Mandala Project  
Fire Santa Rosa, Fire  
mkB

Business As Usual  
Sunsound

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RADIOHEAD  
JEFF  
BUCKLEY

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# CD REVIEWS



**Denison Witmer**  
*Are you a Dreamer?*  
BMI

There may be some "words you can't hum with you when you go", but I found myself humming all the same after listening to Denison Witmer's *Are you a Dreamer?* I was initially attracted by the hand-knitted cover, however the acoustic, folksy, primarily guitar-based arrangements proved to be more substantial reasons for my appreciation. Although Witmer has apparently been around for seven years and has released eight albums and two EPs in the USA and Europe, his Australian influence is as rare as hand-knitted swimwear: one more regrettable than the other I feel.

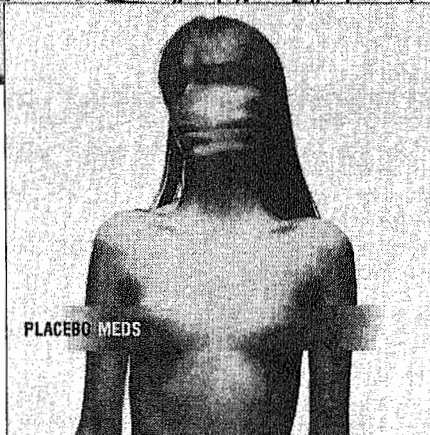
Witmer's warm-buttered-raisin-toast album is a treat. The theme divulged in the title *Are you a Dreamer* is consistent in providing a reflective, almost lethargic mood and a focus: what do you dream about? Love ('Little Flowers'), a lost grandparent who played hymns on the organ ("Grandma Mary"), maybe a castle and cathedral on the southern coast of England? Or do your dreams disturb your sleep as they did Witmer: "My room has a big white bed/ Picture on the mirror/ Books that last a year/ Everything but sleep" ('Everything but Sleep'). Antidote? Snuggle up with a good book, a cuppa and let this be your soundtrack.

Not to say that this album is boring: it's just soporific. Some may find it a little repetitive but I'd offer 'even handed'. He's been compared to Elliot Smith; no, Witmer is an argyle sweater to Smith's hot pink pringle. He lacks the acidic, slightly unhinged quality that distinguishes Smith (it probably also helped extinguish Smith). Regardless, each has their place on my CD rack, though with these early winter nights, Witmer won't be reshelfed for some time yet.

Casting off, I love *Are you a Dreamer?*. Would have given extra brownie points if the liner notes had included a pattern for the awesome knitted cover.

## Pru Hart

Earthquake Weather- Beck  
The Trees- Pulp  
Eye in the Sky- Alan Parson's Project  
Chemical World- Blur  
Ice Age- Joy Division



**Placebo**  
*Meds*  
Virgin

I am always appreciative of Placebo's music, even though I may have swayed a little with the release of their last album *Waiting for Ghosts*, which still had some cool songs on it. But this album doesn't live up to any of Placebo's previous albums, especially standouts like *Without You I'm Nothing* and *Black Market Music*. Title track 'Meds' features Alison Mosshard from The Kills but it is still unlike Placebo. 'Infrared' follows with a return to the all-rock sound of their first album. It is almost painful to listen to at times because you can tell they're trying to get their wicked sound back, that sound that singled them out and put them ahead of the pack. It's excruciating. The album has the feel, but there's no punch. It lacks the strength of songs like 'Every Me And Every You' and 'Special K', which would have torn this album apart. One reason why *Meds* is not up to par with the rest is the fact that there's only a modest 48 minutes of playing time. There are too many three-minute tracks; by the time you get into a song, it's over. This would have been sacrilegious to many of their fans, including myself. To my dismay, the long drones, machinated sounds, snares and crashes have been replaced with clear, straight-laced tunes. You could argue this album is pop and it would be hard to disagree. You may not be depressed before listening to the album, but you sure as hell will be afterwards. They have failed with Moloko's sugar-coated look at drugs, alcohol, sex and loss, which has been played to death. People may disagree, but play some of their earlier albums and you'll see what I'm talking about. The album is effective, but definitely not their best. Despite being somewhat lyrically repetitive, Placebo have evolved in this drug-depraved madness of an album. As a Placebo fan, I was hoping for something new, and this certainly is a departure from their sound.

## Kavita

Empty Cans- *The Streets*  
Genetic Engineering- *X-Ray Specs*  
Deep Blue Day- *Brian Eno*  
Fake Plastic Trees- *Radiohead*  
Cloudbursting- *Kate Bush*

Enviro  
Tunes



**Anti-Flag**  
*For Blood And Empire*  
Sony BMG

If you were forced to sit down, watch all the press footage coming out of Iraq and any other war-torn region, listened to Bush and Howard talking about the axis-of evil and justice, told to form a band and start whinging, you'd produce this album, *For Blood And Empire*.

"But is it good, or bad?" I hear you ask. Well, for someone that's not a huge fan of take-turns screaming/whinging vocals, generic punk voice and generic punk guitar riff/sound, I'd have to say it isn't too bad. There's something vaguely intelligent behind songs such as 'The Press Corpse', which laments the death of inquisitive journalism and 'The W.T.O. Kills Farmers', calling for farmers to "make a stand and make it now" in regards to how they get gipped by global corps buying crops and have poor water and living conditions etc.

There's some interesting use of quotes, such as the introduction to 'Depleted Uranium is a War Crime', which explains how uranium is hard and therefore used as tips to some munitions, and of course a few "fuck you's" and "everything should die" for good measure.

I'm not familiar with any other Anti-Flag stuff and I'm not going to go hunting for it, but this is a pretty good album none-the-less. For those into the new punky-like scene (I'd use Emo but I think it's getting just a little old) it'll go down well. It makes a decent comment on some of the more specific problems with the world than just bitching in general and for that I'll give it some credit. Mentions on the back cover you should visit: [www.militaryfreezone.com/](http://www.militaryfreezone.com/) and [www.undergroundactionalliance.org](http://www.undergroundactionalliance.org), which are some pretty interesting anti-US military and war sites.

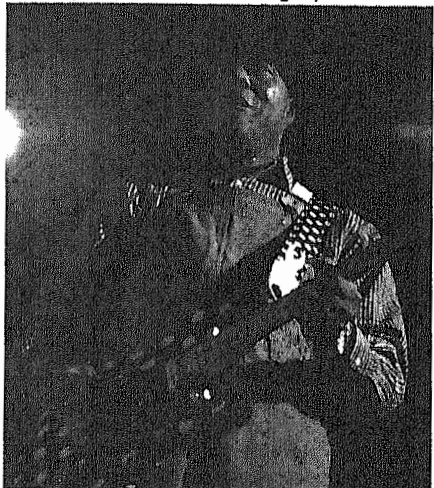
## Dan Purvis

Save the Planet... with your  
excessively packaged iPod. Why didn't  
you get an iRiver? Because U2 are  
marketing svengeal, that's why...

Cities in Dust- *Sioxsie and the Banshees*  
Planet Earth- *Duran Duran*  
Heard it through the Grapevine- *The Slits*  
Herbs, Good Hygiene and Socks-  
*Nathaniel Merryweather*

It's the same old story that we've all seen plenty of times. One of your favourite bands of all time is finally coming to Australia but they're not venturing any further west than Melbourne, no matter how much you gnash your teeth or rend your hair. Though I fought a brave war of attrition for my first twenty years, in the end it was I who relented and headed east rather than wait for my musical idols to visit fair Adelaide. Thus it was that several years ago I packed my bags and headed to Byron Bay to spend the Easter long weekend at the East Coast Blues and Roots Festival and briefly detach myself from all knowledge of the inexorable progress of Autumn with James Brown, Solomon Burke, Dr. John and Toots and The Maytals among many, many others. And I had such a good time that I've repeated the experience for the past few years, and am yet to regret making the trip up.

Any review of the mammoth five-day festival can only hope to offer brief glimpses into the



experience and all I can do is present you with these snapshots and allow you to piece them together in your own fashion. Thursday started slowly and allowed us a chance to acquaint ourselves with the grounds once more - every year there are rumours of a move to a larger venue than Red Devil Park, which is so cramped that the quieter solo acts are regularly disturbed by noise bleeding from other stages, and I just hope that this time it's true. One advantage of the smaller venue, though, is that it allows patrons to wander between stages and among stalls without ever having to walk out of earshot of the musicians. Which is exactly what two young, rather stoned and raffishly attractive young men spent the evening doing, listening contentedly to the lifting desert-tinged blues of blind Malian couple Amadou and Mariam, staring in wonder at local group Zanzband and their lead singer Bullfrog who, having recently reformed after a 20 year hiatus, performed a loungey brand of surf rock such as I have never before witnessed. Finally, the hazy evening culminated in the performance of a band that fit into neither the Blues nor Roots idiom, and yet was effectively billed as a headliner. Sigur Ros come from a cold country, and somehow their haunting ethereal chills were lost in the tropical moisture of Byron. Suffice to say, this is a festival that rewards loud and eminently danceable acts far more than those that favour a slow, atmospheric build-up.

The performances over the next four days were

## Five days of Roots

far more fitting, however, and there are plenty of highlights to choose among them. Los Lobos, the cult tex-mex soft rock band and critics choice from America played the festival practically unnoticed. For a band that frequently graces late night talk shows in America, they performed to the meagre crowd with zest and flawlessness. Soulfunk purists Sharon Jones and the Dap Kings were bombastic and as talented as any of the acts in the festival. Playing as soul enthusiasts rather than revivalists lent a certain authenticity to their set and the pocket rocket would have made even more of an impact in her club gigs than on the gigantic stages which diminished her tiny stature. That said, the girl can dance like a maenad. Robert Cray soloed like a madman for the entire hour of his set, and then from the moment that Buddy Guy stepped out onstage clad in overalls and a check shirt, the consummate showman made his instrument scream as he did everything he could to go one up on Cray. The Blind Boys of Alabama have been severely reduced in number over the years, but their forceful performance, marshalled by the two surviving original members, was truly something to behold. Jamaica's Skatalites have similarly changed their line-up, though their connection to the legendary original ensemble is somewhat more tenuous, and like the Wallers last year, they disappointedly felt more like a cover band than the real thing, with even the seemingly untiring Ernie Ranglin opting out. Damian Marley, on the other hand, was a pleasant surprise as he showed that he has what it takes to move on from the template his father created and further the Marley legacy, as "Welcome To Jamrock" has shown. It was hard to ignore the fact that he received a greater cheer when he performed his father's songs than his own, though, which was a bit of a shame. There was no danger of that when Femi Kuti took the stage with his all star 13-piece group to introduce the crowd



to Afrobeat. Though few performers can claim to approach the onstage energy of the legendary Fela, and while Femi will never approach his father in terms of innovation and political relevance, few bandleaders alive today could put on a show to rival his as he skipped from sax to organ to singing duties and it was a real treat when he introduced the crowd to the next generation by bringing his 13 year old son to the front of stage for a solo. If I have ever seen a band tighter than the thirteen men in Juan De Marcos' Afro-Cuban All Stars than I cannot remember it - an utterly fabulous brass section, flawless vocalists and a bandleader who is one of the key players in the recent Cuban music renaissance challenged the crowd again and again to keep up with the irresistible rhythm and the ground in front of the stage was churned into an absolute mudbath by the time they finished. That the same stage could provide the perfect setting for the utterly charming Beth Orton is a



testament to the diversity of the crowd's musical tastes. Playing with a backing band for much of each set, the true highlights came when they took their leave and left her to take requests from the front row. One of the few performers to actually engage with the crowd, her endearingly awkward stage manner and brilliant smile were a winning combination.

Every festival comes with attendant drawbacks and the lack of intimacy that allows audience interaction is one of them, but that's simply the price you pay for the opportunity to see so many world-class acts packed together. They're not without their charm, though and French troupe Plasticiens Volants provided alluring giant sea creatures floating menacingly through the human traffic. The apparitions seemed appropriate for the antedeluvian scene that greeted festivalgoers on the last few days after a sub-tropical downpour, and the site's terrible drainage made it a messy business getting between stages. The roofed tents made little difference in front of the stages and I couldn't help thinking how much better provided patrons are at our own WOMADelaide. Nevertheless, the amount of music and the quality of the acts mean that as summer winds down, I shall once again be packing my bags and getting ready for a trip to Northern New South Wales to see the a bunch of fabulous musician's strut their stuff.

**Aristotle Bucksworth-Colby  
and Jimmy Trash**



# HOLLYWOOD...LONDON... CANNES...CROWN CASINO



Last week, the dear Mtk and I jetted off to flex our muscles as part of the red carpet press gang for the TV Week Logies. We anticipated much excitement and gleefully set to work launching our campaign to elevate the Timmins family from Neighbours to heights of popularity unrivalled by even the glory days of Scott and Charlene. 100 badges were made, each declaring "I heart the Timmins Family!" We even made a couple of t-shirts that we planned to sport while jostling on the red carpet. Stars would flock to us, excited by the prospect of our humorous questions and bored with the same-same style of NW Magazine and Channel 7.

We were like lambs to the slaughter. The disrespect, the dismissal, the looks of complete revulsion...and that was just from the other media. After scoring a prime position right near the entrance, we were promptly shoved out of place by not one, but TWO media crews. And by crew, I mean two people from community networks who just happened to be sporting a video camera. We'll call them Team Hip Hop and Team Aurora. Team Hip Hop muscled-in first with little Miss Front of Camera flashing her blue stockinged pins for all the world to see. But we dealt, and with only the minimal amount of 'just audible' comments muttered alongside our breath. We wouldn't be held down by one little setback.

Until Team Aurora smacked down from stage right.

Let me paint a picture for you of Mr Front of Camera in Team Aurora. Wearing a suit with his dirty blonde hair waxed up into that ridiculous style that's supposed to denote 'just rolled out of bed and couldn't care less about my hair I'm just lucky that my natural coolness shines through', Mr FOC proceeds not only to shove us out of the way, but then to stand with his feet spread and his

arms literally marking out a spot a metre deep! We jostled and shoved our way in next to him, but it took only a few seconds before the spread began again.

Us - "Excuse me - do you think you might give us a little space so that WE can work too?"

Mr FOC - "Where are you from? On Dit? Pffft...who's even heard of that?"

Us - "Get fucked! Besides, where are YOU from?"

Oh yeah. Great comeback. And there we were, shoved on the outer again.

Not that it mattered. Because pretty soon after this, all the B-grades you can poke a stick at began their descent towards the masses from on high. Despite our well laid plans, polite restraint flew out the window and Mtk and I became just like all the other yelling and screaming media whores - except for the fact that during the times we weren't ignored, we were treated with disdain.

I'm not saying we were completely useless. But perhaps it was a little optimistic to expect celebrities - most of whom (I'm looking at you Home and Away) achieved fame so young they never took time to develop a personality - to be able to appreciate or even understand our 'wacky' interview angles. Just how difficult is it to figure out if you'd rather be a really greasy person or a really dry person anyway? Peter Hellier certainly couldn't do it.

How could I have ever entertained thoughts about entering the media side of an industry that worships vapidity, emptiness and visible spinal columns? One stint on the red carpet was enough to drive that little silliness from my head forever.

Besides, if I had to see one more waistbelt I might have stripped it from said starlet's waist and strung myself from the metal rafters.

## Audrey Apple

### Number of waistbelts

59

### Number of potential baby bumps

6

### Number of times we yelled out 'baby bump'

107

### Potential Botox users

43

### Percentage of rude/inane 'stars'

92

### Best interviewees

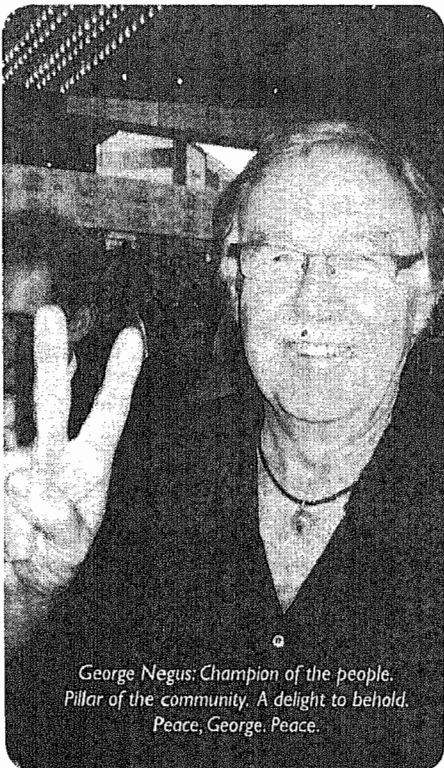
Janelle from Neighbours  
Adro from The Biggest Loser  
George Negus  
John Safran

### Worst interviewees

Peter Hellier  
Kate Langbreak  
Eddie McGuire  
Katya from Neighbours

### Number of times chastised by Team Aurora's Cameraman

7



George Negus: *Champion of the people. Pillar of the community. A delight to behold. Peace, George. Peace.*

## ANAIS' BIG BROTHER RANT: PART THE FIRST

It's simply too hard to ignore a show that provides so much fodder for a critical beastie like myself. As usual, there are few particularly interesting personalities in the house. Or at least BB is electing to hide any interesting character traits that the housemates may possess (besides those that guarantee 13-year-old girls across the nation the ability to vote off all the women first and make BB and Legion Interactive squillions in TXT voting revenue). Perhaps in an attempt to lure those who've completed puberty back to the fifth season of the show, BB has taken note of the runaway popularity of Tim in BB05 and proclaimed BB06 to be the Year of the Intelligent Housemate. Firstly, and with no disrespect to my darling Timmy, it couldn't have been hard to appear intelligent among last years collection of remedial class drop-outs. Secondly, it takes more to convince me of someone's intelligence than listing 'intelligent' as a character trait on the BB website.

While I doubt that I can be convinced of their intelligence after a month of their company, hearing less about Jamie's beautiful 'wang' and the merits mother/daughter boob jobs would go along way. As would the instant eviction of Ashley for being a bloody idiot.

While I'm not convinced by BB's boast that this is the Year of the Intelligent Housemate, I have to admit that this is the best looking bunch they've ever had on the show. At least, in a bland and unassuming 'Dolly-Special-Formal-Issue!' way. I have no problem with looking at lovely young people, with lovely young bodies lazing about not wearing very much. I just wish they'd talk about something interesting while they sun themselves and stop acting like it's year 10 camp with alcohol supplied by Headmaster.

**My Favourite Housemate:** David, even if he has proven my gaydar to be defective

**Most Adorable Housemate:** Katie. So cute and loving. Plus she looks like Barbie

**Most Irritating Voice:** Claire. Only in a post-Pauline Hanson world can a voice like this can be heard on national TV.

**Biggest Dickhead:** Dino. Shearer with a few more IQ points.

**Most Surprising:** Jamie. I thought he was a meathead, but really he's a good, sweet soul who is suffering from *keanureevus dapeyvoicus*

**Most Fake Housemate:** Krystal and Karen

**Oddest Looking Housemate:** Gaelen (see picture)

**Most Likely to Win:** Dino or Ashley. Australia likes its BB winners to be whoever I dislike - humph!

## Anais Chevallier



Reow.

# TELEVISION

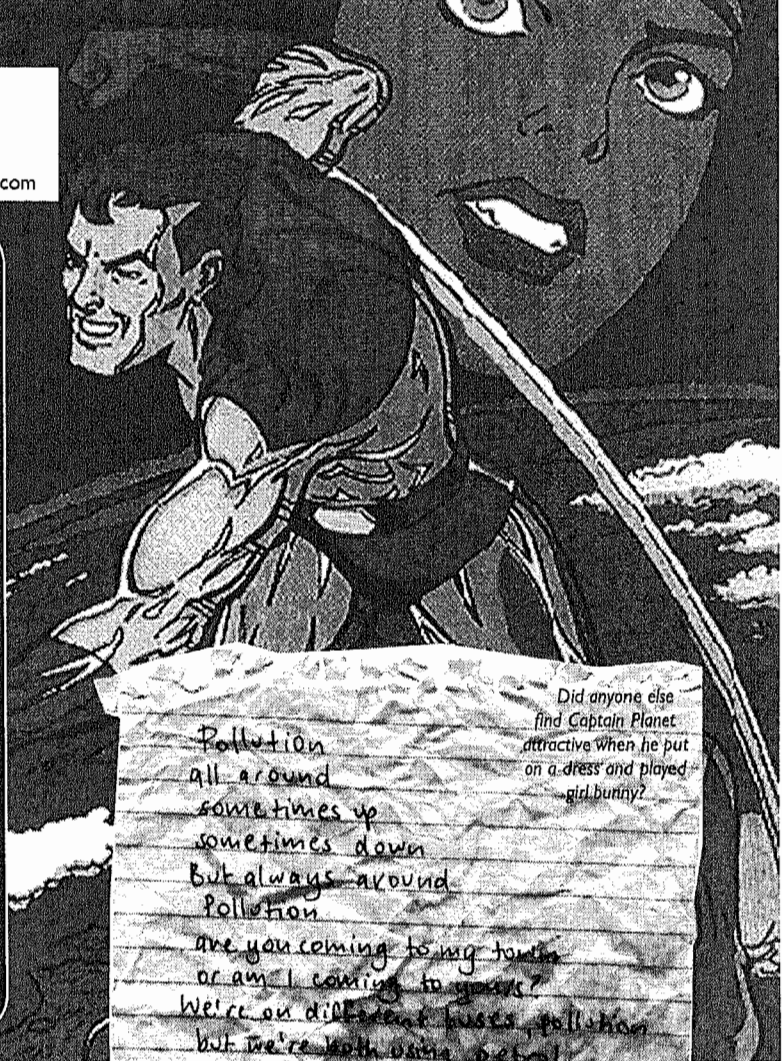
...with Anais Chevalier and Kalista Campbell. E-mail them at [ondittv@gmail.com](mailto:ondittv@gmail.com)

## THE ENVIRONMENT, KIDS & TV

Environmental issues and Children's TV go together like skanky hippies and dreadlocks.

And whilst I adamantly think this is a good thing, it is rather strange that it doesn't carry through to more "adult viewing". *Captain Planet* is undoubtedly the most famous of tele-visual environmental crusaders. He and his planetears (and lets not forget that superb bright green mullet!) travelled around the world fighting environmental (and sometimes social) injustice. Then there's *Widget the World Watcher*, a 4-foot purple alien who similarly battled against the environmentally corrupt and bankrupt. The epic *Animals of Farthing Wood* dealt with issues of environmental conservation, although in a less explicit manner than *Captain Planet*. After all, the whole reason the animals were on the move was cos their original habitat was being encroached on. Some other favourites, such as *Ship to Shore*, *Wind in the Willows*, *Babar* and *Totally Wild*, included environmental themes but the issue of environmental conservation and awareness was overlooked or marginalised in the majority of 'serious' programming. More often than not, adults who are passionate about the environment are depicted as 'crazy' lefties and/or hippies. Although I'm pleased that the kiddies are being bombarded with thoughts of reduce, reuse, recycle etc. It all seems rather futile - setting the kids up with ideals and values concerning the environment when they're just going to be ridiculed in later life. As much as I love TV, at times I think it's got a lot to answer for. Until environmental conservation becomes a given in our media, entertainment and art forms, how can we expect any real change? The power is yours!

**Kalista Campbell**



Did anyone else find Captain Planet attractive when he put on a dress and played girl bunny?

Pollution  
all around  
sometimes up  
sometimes down  
But always around  
Pollution  
are you coming to my town  
or am I coming to yours?  
We're on different buses, pollution  
but we're both using petrol.

## Qwazy Qwiz!

1. In *Captain Planet*, who performs the voice of Gaia, mother earth and voice of sappy moral lessons?

2. In the original series of *Skippy the Bush Kangaroo*, what was the name of Skippy's human sidekick?

3. Ranger Stacey appears in which Channel Ten kids wildlife program?

4. 'Crikey' is the catchphrase of which khaki loving TV personality?

5. In *The Simpson's* episode 'Lisa The Treehugger', what was the name of the celebrity environmentalist she gets a crush on?

6. Ramsay Street's resident greenie, Skye, takes after her environmental crusader mum, Kerry. How did Kerry die?

7. For the (slightly) older readers; what was the name of the incompetent super-dog who protected Ravenswood National park in *The Late Show's* kids TV spoof?

8. What happened to *The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* to make them superheroes?

9. Why are nearly all of the environmentally themed programs low budget kids shows (please submit your answer to [ondittv@gmail.com](mailto:ondittv@gmail.com))



## Captain Planet

Environmental awareness. Beautiful young people. A hero with a green mullet. Yep, CP was one pimpin' program. That stirring theme song still gets me more excited than an electron in a particle accelerator.

**Angus Maxwell - Clark**

Think you can do better? Please email us at [ondittv@gmail.com](mailto:ondittv@gmail.com) and you too can share in the glittering prize of campus-wide fame that is young Angus' reward for this stirling review of an ABCTV institution!

# VIDEO GAMES

Editor: Daniel Purvis  
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## THE OUTFIT

WAR! Huh-yeah! What is it good for? Video games if the 360 launch line is anything to go by! *Call of Duty 2*, *GRAW* (*Ghost Recon 3*) and *Battlefield Modern Combat* are just the tip of iceberg. The 360 seems like a redneck's wet dream.

This week, I've decided to review one of the lesser popularised launch titles, *The Outfit*. *The Outfit* is based around [you guessed it] war: World War II to be specific. Don't go in expecting the same harsh flavour of brutal slaughter as you'd find in *Call of Duty 2*. *The Outfit* represents an almost comical look at the war, with a selection of fictional battles against non-existent Nazi tyrants. It feels not too dissimilar to the battles you had as a kid with the old green army men out in the backyard.

*The Outfit* is a third person action game, set apart from the pack by strategy elements of Destruction on Demand (DoD). DoD puts you in charge as squad leader, allowing you to call the shots and bring in a variety of assistance from reinforcements to gun emplacements and air strikes. The action flies thick and fast and soon turns into utter chaos. It's quite an impressive representation to behold on screen, but getting a hang of the strategic commands in the heat of battle takes quite a while and often leaves you longing for a keyboard and mouse. Before you get used to the DoD system, *The Outfit* can start to feel like a rather samey action game, but it's originality soon starts to shine through. Unfortunately, even with the hefty grunt inside the 360, the amount of action seemed too much to handle for my copy of *The Outfit*, as the music would start to lock up in patches of all out war - a frustrating disruption that I felt ruined the experience.

There's a solid single player story mode in the package but it can get a little samey after a while. Multiplayer is where the real fun is, especially in teams of three. Just make sure you can arrange some games with friends online before play as the servers aren't exactly overflowing.

If you want a realistic representation of World War II, you can't go past *Call of Duty 2*. If you want to experience the most impressive strategic war experience to date, then you should go for *GRAW*. If you're looking for a less serious, more open-ended approach to gaming then *The Outfit* is well worth a look. Use the DoD often and you'll find a highly enjoyable and unique, although not perfect, take on the real time strategy genre.

Matthew Williams

## MONSTER HUNTER

So you've played *Shadow of the Colossus* and you loved the idea of bringing giant enemies to their knees (and then sticking a sword into the top of their head). Well now found on PSP is a game of a different variety, also providing you with the means to kill big things, Wyvern dragons! *Monster Hunter Freedom* is the first in the series to make it out of Japan and off the Playstation 2, and thank god it has.

Waking up in a small village, viewing your character from a third person perspective, you proclaim you wish to be a hunter and are mocked. You are then provided with a variety of different weapon classes and are thrown into a series of small introductory missions. These introductory missions teach fishing, obtaining and cooking meat, mushroom hunting, mining, how to find items that may be hidden in the fields and most important, how to slay monsters.

The game's central area is the village, from which you can upgrade Kokoto farm to increase the number of items you can gain from it; purchase and upgrade weapons and armor (provided you've found the necessary items for the upgrade and have enough cash to pay); select individual missions from the elder or join on gathering quests with other ad-hoc players to find specific items.

When you're done exploring the village and have selected a mission you'll then be sent away to a variety of different landscapes, including fields, deserts and jungles. Here in the field, a simple control scheme allows you to run, draw weapon, slash or shoot, block, roll and focus attack specific creatures. Battles are fun and fast; often you'll find yourself cornered by small raptor-like creatures, or dive rolling out the way of gigantic wyverns. The game also emphasizes trading; finding items in the field and from dead monsters. It can be a little tedious collecting items and bringing them back to camp for sale before repeating, however, the more you sell and buy the more points you get to upgrade your farm, which produces useful items for field use, armor and weapon craft or combining to create better and more useful items.

To summarize; *Monster Hunter Freedom* has some of the best game-play, graphics, sound effects, options and customization features to keep you occupied for weeks. It's unfortunate that I don't know anyone else with a PSP because I'm sure the ad-hoc multi-hunter system (to gang up and beat down wyvern) works effectively.


Dan Purvis

On Dit has one promotional copy of *Tomb Raider: Legends* to give away to the person who can best describe Lara's assets (i.e. her wit and cunning). Email [daniel.purvis@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:daniel.purvis@adelaide.edu.au) with *Tomb Raider: comp* in the header xoxo



## The 8 Rules of Nightclub...

## The Botanic ...corner of North and East Tce



The Botanic is on the corner of North Tce and East Tce opposite the Botanic Gardens in an old white building. When you get past the very strict and authoritarian wannabe bouncers, the front room includes a few booths and a DJ playing on the bar (I'm serious, on the bar). If you can manage to push past the crowd, you go further into the deep, dark depths that are Botanic, and when you hit the eco-friendly soft light, you've probably entered the back pool room. The back part of the club has a 'Pioneer' feel to it, with lacquered wood walls, dark interior, art circa the 19<sup>th</sup> century of Pioneers or landscapes and deer heads mounted on the walls. I seem to crave a cigar and brandy when I'm in that room, sitting back and laughing from the back of the throat "fha fha fha how absurd of Mable Sue... fha fha fha". Instead, you normally go back to the front room where the lighting is softer and made up of red hues (how sexy) and wait for what seems forever to get a gin and tonic. Despite the large bar, the wait is forever. Who knows why? Could be the laid back mantra of the place or maybe because the bar staff look more like models than actual hospitality-type people. Yes, it does make for good eye candy while you wait, but there is a certain point where you do want to get served. A gin and Tonic will set you back \$7.50. There is a cocktail menu too. I've yet to try any cocktails there (for no other reason except you have to wait forever) but I'm told by many that the cocktail with bits of Oreo biscuits in it is definitely worth a trip there plus the wait at the bar.

In terms of tunes, the music is House/Electro but leaning more towards Electro. The music works well with the venue, however, one major problem is that there is no dance floor. This is an issue because often some great music will be playing and all you want to do is dance but you can only really move a bit while you wait for service at the bar. Unless you're pissed and the issue of no dance floor becomes a non-issue. There is always some random dancing somewhere at the Botanic. The place is so relaxed though that no one minds, but some get a bit too relaxed and last time we were there, there was a guy reaching down the back of his pants for a scratch. Charming.

Dress code is whatever you feel Hot/Trendy/Sexy/Stylish in. As a result, everyone looks good there. The place is full of all good looking people! Except when footballers come through and all those football skanks come in hoards with their locks of feral hair and 3-sizes-too-small-attire. Thankfully they don't seem to be there often.

Botanic is open every night, but busier on Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. Often there is a line up as it gets fairly full. The place is a good starting point for a Saturday night out, otherwise hang around and indulge in eye-candy, fantastic music, a game of pool, an interesting surrounding and a drink or two. Don't go if you want to drink in a hurry or to dance your ass off in a reach-for-the-lasers kind of way.

Peace, Love and (hopefully fake) Mounted Animals,

**Natashka Miernik**

PS. - If you like New Wave Sex'lectro House, go see The Presets on the 27<sup>th</sup> this month (check street press for details).

RPS - Here are some Enviro friendly club tips:

1. If you're going in a group, car pool. This is good for too many reasons to list, but if your Designated Dave, DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE or you're a fuckwit.
2. Buses rock for traveling into the city for a big night out.
3. The Rundle Run (when you cruise through Rundle, then Hindley, then Rundle, then Hindley then maybe Jetty Road, then Hindley, then Rundle) is nothing more than a waste of petrol.
4. Avoid Bars that serve drinks in plastic cups.
5. Don't leave the tap running while you fix your make up.
6. Put your Butt in the bin or an ashtray.
7. Gum is feral, but if you must, bin it or put it in an ashtray and NEVER spit it out on the dance floor or footpath.

# The Rake's Progress

Opera Australia  
State Theatre, The Arts Centre,  
Melbourne  
April 11-May 9

In the wake of Opera Australia's successful presentation of Britten's *Death in Venice* last year, music director Richard Hickox has brought John Cox's classic production of *The Rake's Progress* by Stravinsky to Australian shores for the first time.

South Australian-born tenor John Heuzenroeder in the demanding role of Tom Rakewell was vocally secure as he successfully navigated his way through the difficult score. A little more acting and a little more spark would have improved the performance. In these respects, Joshua Bloom as Nick Shadow was superior, putting across the mischief of his character with a rich voice and a few telling glances – a pleasing performance by a young singer in his hometown. Leanne Kenneally as Anne Trulove highlighted the poignancy of the fable with gentle singing and heartfelt acting. Richard Alexander, singing the role of Trulove, was imposing both vocally and physically.

Richard Hickox kept Orchestra Victoria on track, though while the orchestral passages were full of Stravinsky's wit, the recitatives were hampered by insensitive amplification of the harpsichord. The resulting sound, not dissimilar to that of a cheap electronic keyboard, was off-putting to say the least. The Opera Australia Chorus relished the brothel scene and later the auction scene; the clarity of the enunciation was excellent.

Of course, the designs deserve attention – in the form of praise. David Hoekney's cross-hatched sets not only referred to Hogarth's engravings, but were visual delights in themselves. The switch from colourful sets, costumes and makeup to black and white versions of all three was dramatic and effective. The only criticism was the length of time that the changes of scenery took. These gave the opera a stilted feel and highlighted the slightly problematic structure of the libretto (written by W. H. Auden and Chester Kallman).

Despite the quibbles, Opera Australia is to be commended for exposing Australian audiences to such a well-known production of such an interesting work, and it is especially pleasing that the production travelled to Melbourne after its season in Sydney. Attention now moves to the 2007 season launch in August and the hope that Opera Australia will keep up the good work.

Benedict Coxon

## Lakme

Opera Australia  
State Theatre, The Arts Centre,  
Melbourne  
April 27-May 17

Adam Cook's new production of Delibes' *Lakme* has several strengths, not least of which is his decision to place trust in India. That is, at a time when travel guidebooks and television programs frequently take people out of their lounge rooms and off to exotic places around the globe, Cook has trusted India's ability to amaze people with everything from its colours to its contradictions.

The costumes, from the bright colours to the dazzling jewellery, are visual treats, while the cardboard cut-out look of the sets reminds the audience of the theatrical element of the work. Some clunky choreography of the chorus at times obscured the audience's view of the action, but technical glitches aside, this production was shown to be a worthy investment.

Having said that, Emma Matthews in the title role would have made it worth attending a concert performance of the work. Her *Bell Song* was a study in vocal control at the extremes of the soprano

range and was greeted with a suitably enthusiastic shower of applause. Joined by Sally-Anne Russell as Mallika for the *Flower Duet* in Act I, she elicited wistful sighs from audience members. The careful lilt and perfect balance between the singers were superb.

Jaewoo Kim as Gerald showed no signs of reported ill health and was convincing in his portrayal of the man torn between love and duty. Bruce Martin as Nilakantha was an imposing presence with his vocal power, despite his off-putting costume and makeup. Among the minor principals, Warwick Fyfe as Frederic and Rosemary Gunn as Mistress Benson earned mentions with their delightful comic turns.

On the whole, this production succeeds because of its intelligent directorial choices, the outstanding efforts of the designers, builders and costumiers and its fine cast. It is worth a special trip to Sydney later in the year.

While the Melbourne season of *Lakme* has ended, the production will travel to Sydney for Opera Australia's winter season. Performances take place June 28-August 3 at the Sydney Opera House. See <[www.opera-australia.org.au](http://www.opera-australia.org.au)> for details.

Benedict Coxon



# Performing Arts

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## *La Traviata*

Opera Australia  
State Theatre, The Arts Centre,  
Melbourne  
April 20-May 16

With the character of Violetta always at the centre of Verdi's *La Traviata*, the leading soprano must have vocal stamina, strong acting ability and charm. Joanna Cole showed that she possesses all three in a performance to remember in front of a hometown audience.

Elijah Moshinsky's opulent 1994 production set the dramatic backdrop and gave weight to the argument that there's nothing wrong with 'good ol' fashioned' stagings of well-loved works. The glittering Opera Australia Chorus looked a paragon of Parisian decadence and sounded equally as impressive in the rousing choruses of Act I.

Ding Yi sang his heart out as Alfredo and matched Cole for impressive acting. John Bolton-Wood, obviously an audience favourite judging by the hoots of delight that emanated from all parts of the State

Theatre at the conclusion of the first scene of Act II, was a rich-voiced Giorgio Germont. His entrance before the conclusion of the Act was appropriately grand.

Strong support was given by the minor principals, with Warwick Fyfe and Shane Lowrencev facing off as the Marquis and Baron respectively. Veteran Rosemary Gunn glittered as Flora and Jud Arthur reigned in his booming baritone in a well-judged turn as Doctor Grenvil.

Conductor Nicholas Braithwaite guided Orchestra Victoria through the classic score with aplomb and the communication between pit and stage was clear.

While not pushing the boundaries of the operatic genre, this production of *La Traviata* had everything that audiences love about opera. There were no gimmicks, but there was no shortage of visual interest (as audience members' audible gasps indicated each time that the curtain was raised) and the lush music was given a moving performance by a talented cast.

**Benedict Coxon**

## *Mozart's Requiem*

Opera Australia  
Hamer Hall, The Arts Centre, Melbourne  
May 3

In writing his famous *Requiem*, Mozart looked to Bach and Handel for inspiration. It was therefore a little bemusing to see the *Requiem* performed on a grand, nineteenth century, scale in Melbourne's Hamer Hall, with a large opera chorus being supported by a sizeable incarnation of Orchestra Victoria.

Opera Australia's gala concert this year celebrated the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Mozart and the composer's final, unfinished work was an obvious choice to perform. However, the assembled forces seemed to be overly

generous, given the Baroque conception and sparse orchestration.

Conductor Richard Hickox added Romantic touches that further puzzled the listener. But he also demonstrated his impressive talents as a choral conductor through the tumultuous *Dies irae* and *Rex tremendae* as well as the serene interpretation of the *Hostias*. Soprano Emma Matthews' clarity was a highlight of the *Introitus* and *Communio* and the ensemble of the four soloists was exceptional, most notably in the *Benedictus*.

The soloists were nothing short of breathtaking in the other offering on the program – excerpts from Mozart's youthful opera *Mitridate, re di Ponto*. The highly virtuosic music worked well in the context

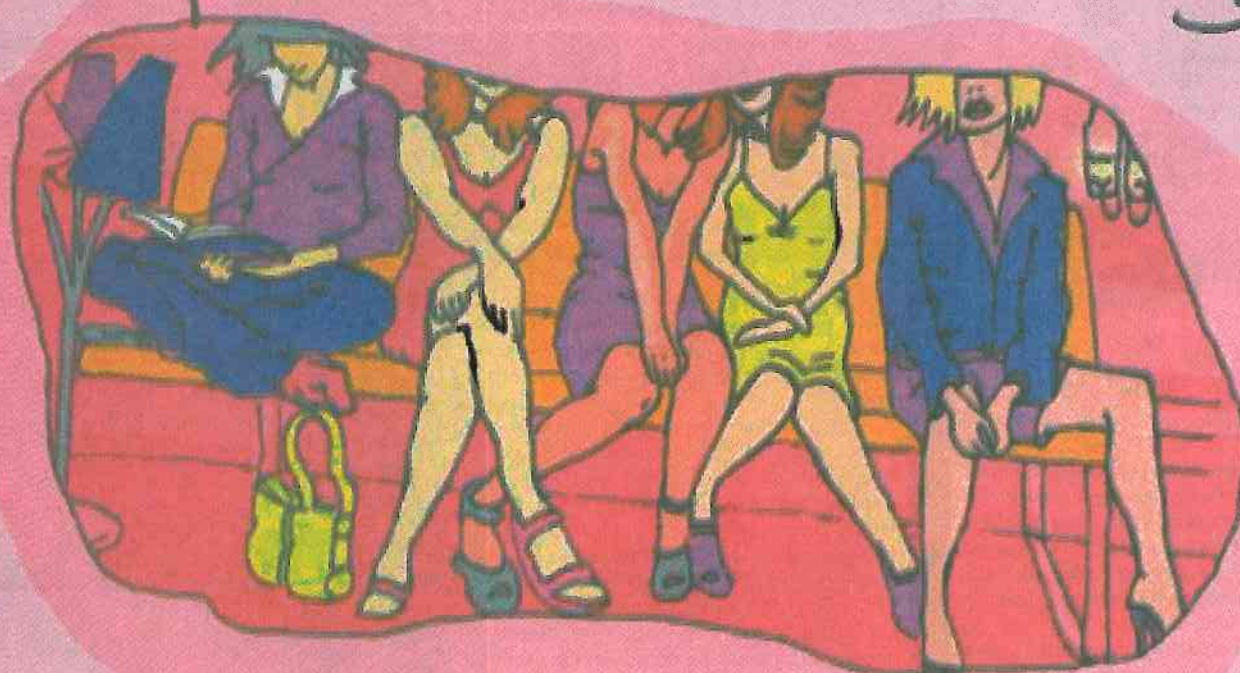
of a concert performance, with Emma Matthews again providing the highlight with some stratospheric *coloratura* passages. Countertenor Tobias Cole's tastefully restrained use of vibrato gave his performance a special quality, while Opera Australia Young Artist Henry Choo showed his readiness for a major role with some skilful negotiation of some difficult vocal leaps.

Overall, the quality of the music-making outshone any misgivings about the scale of the presentation and allowed the audience to enjoy the contrast between one of Mozart's earliest and lesser-known works and his well-known final opus.

**Benedict Coxon**

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