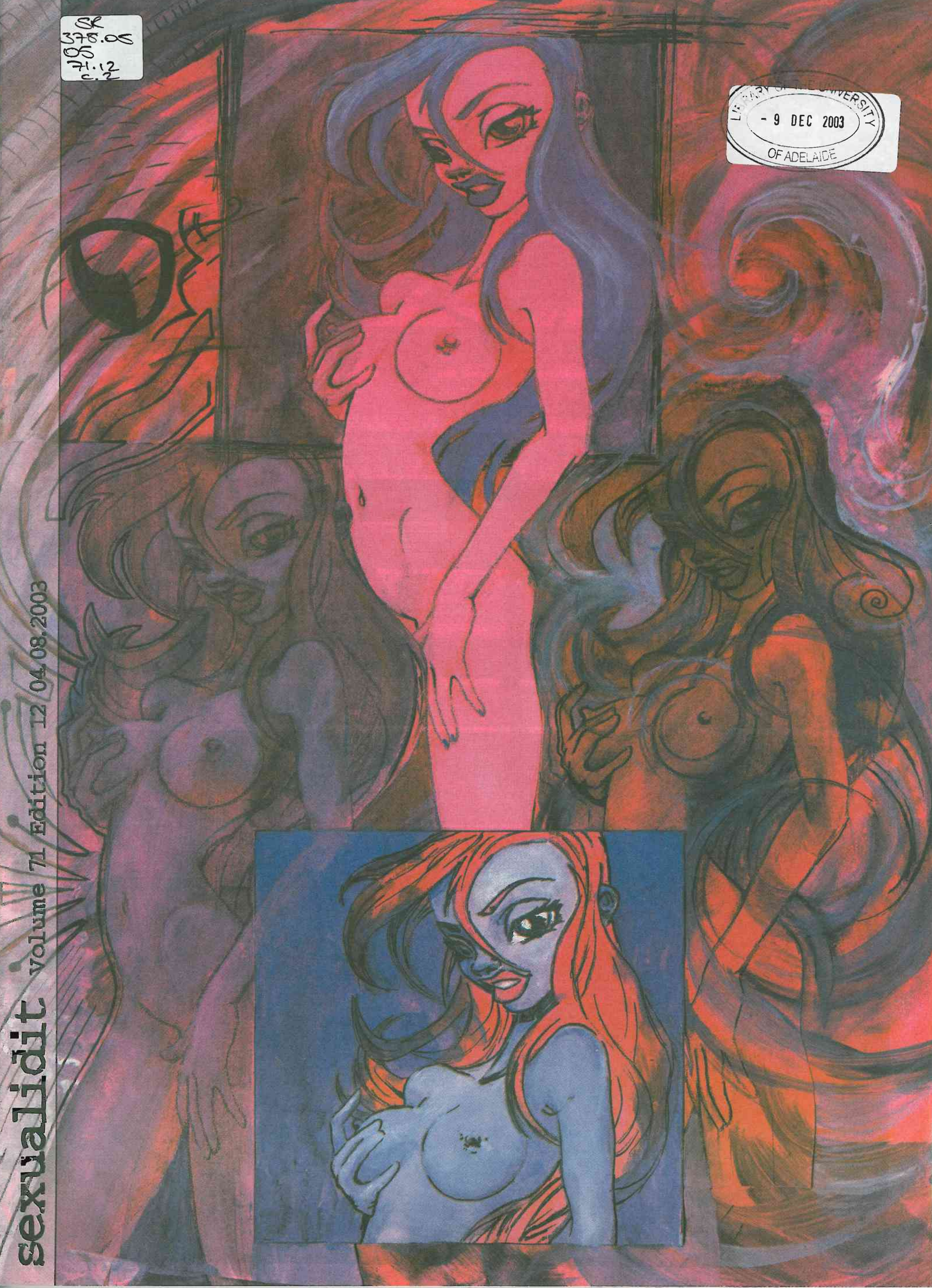


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On Dit is the weekly publication of the Students' Association of the University of Adelaide. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editors or the Association.

Editors

Bonnie Cruickshank,
Gemma Clark
& Triatan Mahoney

Advertising
Michael Pye

Subeditors

Current Affairs: Rosie Sidey
Opinion: Steven Robert
Vox Pop: Dan Murphy & Jo O'Connor
Bar & Restaurant: Belle Hammond & Sarah Eckermann
Literature: Rosie Lovell
Arts & Theatre: Leo Greenfield & Maxim Sharaglazov
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Fancy yourself as a Wordsmith?

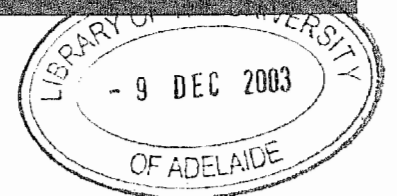
Then come on down to the *On Dit* hovel, located in the basement of the George Murray Building (wedged between two sets of poorly maintained male toilets) and adjacent to the Barr Smith Library. Or for a more pleasant aroma, email us at ondit@adelaide.edu.au or call us on 8303 5404 or 8303 6490.

Next Edition:

Deadline August 6, published August 11.

Spinks very much:

Danica, Matt, Sucky, Dan, Murphy, Yek, Emma, Julia, Julie, Sara, Maxim, Emily, Nathan, Wade, Aaron, Grouse, Toral, E. Boyed, all of our



This is an excerpt from Johnny Valentine's 1994 children's picture book, One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dads (Alyson Publications. Unfortunately, for copyright reasons I can't print the rest of the story!) It's a fun, lyrical story that encourages children to think about non-nuclear families, and family structures that lay outside the mainstream version presented to them by conservative mass media.

Perhaps inevitably, the book created massive controversy when in 1997, James Chamberlain, an openly gay kindergarten teacher, sought permission from the Surrey School Board just outside of Vancouver, British Columbia to read the story to his class. Despite written approval from 17 of the 20 families of children in Chamberlain's class, the Board refused to approve the book, on the grounds that a number of parents were concerned that their religious beliefs would be compromised.

So Chamberlain took the case all the way to the Supreme Court, Canada's highest court - and won in 2002. The win was unexpected, according to Chamberlain's lawyer, Joseph J. Arvey, QC, winner of the 2000 Walter S. Tarnopolsky Human Rights Award.

I had the privilege of hearing Arvey speak at a one-off lecture at the University of Victoria, on Vancouver Island. A former associate professor and then senior counsel for the British Columbia Ministry of the Attorney General who now operates a private civil litigation firm with two partners, Arvey, with long, unkempt hair and a pronounced limp, is everything but your traditional 'lawyer'.

After branding the Surrey School Board - which had previously banned books teaching grade 10, 11 and 12 students about safe sex - overtly Christian and "homophobic", Arvey commenced a short but highly entertaining history of the case's progress through the courts.

That history ended with the majority Supreme Court judgement, which held that the Board "violated the principles of secularism and tolerance in s.76" of

the School's Act 1996. Responding to the concerns of Christian parents and Board members, in a strong message, the Court held that it was not going to give effect to any beliefs that encouraged children to be disrespectful of others.

It was a landmark decision, which applied to each and every school board across Canada. But it was also a contentious and very progressive one; in essence, the Supreme Court placed inalienable human rights, most notably the right to be free from discrimination, ahead of the beliefs of Catholics, Protestants, Hindus and Sikhs, who together filed 65 affidavits with the

entitled Family in the Modern World, which included Crancher's "Lesbian mothers and their children".

Most promising, however, is the new Share health and physical development package being currently trialed in fifteen South Australian schools. Share, developed and administered by SHineSA, a company devoted to sexual health information networking and education, is the product of SHineSA's November 2000 report on the role of relationships and sexual health education, entitled Having Their Say. The report is available at <www.shinesa.org.au/pdf/having_their_say_nov2000.pdf>

After consultation with parents, teachers and, most importantly, students, SHineSA learned that health and sex education in schools needs to be more relevant for young people. Students want, rightly, to learn about "how to respect and learn to love your own body", masturbation, more about the opposite sex's body, breast cancer, and how to have sex. The most controversial aspects of the course being trialed, however, are those dealing with same-sex and transgender couples.

There is currently a wide gulf between what schools are teaching their students, and what is available in the way of sex education on websites such as Canada's <www.sexualityandu.ca> and the United States' Sex, Etc. <www.sxetc.org> It is

hoped that SHineSA's Share program will work to bridge that gulf and make primary and secondary school health, gender and sex education more relevant and more informative for children and teenagers.

Oh, in case you were wondering: the Surrey School Board had the last word on One Dad, Two Dads, accepting the Supreme Court's decision but refusing to approve it anyway because of "lack of literary merit". This is despite the book being used in schools all over the lower mainland.

Russell Marks

One dad, two dads. Brown dad, blue dads.
"Blue dads? BLUE dads?! I don't know who has dads that are blue!"
"I do! My name is Lou. I have two dads who both are blue.
They both have blue hair, that's the color it grows.
Blue arms and blue fingers, blue legs and blue toes."
"What I'd like to know now," I went on to say,
"is, just how did your dads end up looking this way?
Did they go through the wash with a ball-point pen?
Or were they both blue since the young age of ten?
Did they drink too much blueberry juice as young boys?
Or as kids, did they play with too many blue toys?"

Supreme Court in support of the Surrey Board.

Real Women of Canada, a conservative women's movement, accused the Supreme Court majority of ordering "homosexual propaganda" in BC schools.

Justice Clair L'Heureux-Dube, however, likened the situation to one involving racism. "Parents may be extremely racist, but we don't prevent the school from teaching that racism is bad," she said.

South Australian schools

In South Australia, there is a surprising and encouraging diversity among the range of literature available to students at secondary schools, both government and independent, religious and secular. In one school library I found a compendium of essays

The issue of homosexuality in the Christian world has heated up in the last few months, with fierce debate over same-sex marriage and the ordination of homosexual priests taking place in a number of countries including Britain, Canada and Australia. Recent developments, particularly within the Anglican Church of Canada and the Uniting Church of Australia, have given hope to queer identifying believers across the globe.

Last month, the Uniting Church - Australia's third largest church denomination - voted to allow the ordination of "practising homosexuals". About 75 percent of the 260 delegates at the assembly voted in favour of the resolution. It is the first mainstream denomination in Australia to do so, signalling what could turn out to be a watershed on the issue.

However, it's not all good news. While allowing that sexual orientation should not be a barrier to ordination, the assembly resolved not to take disciplinary action against any congregation that chooses not to accept a candidate on the grounds

of sexual orientation. A toothless resolution if ever there was one. In addition, candidates are not to be considered if they are suspected of concealing their sexual orientation, which is more than likely given that homosexual candidates for ordination will find it difficult to be accepted by local parishes, let alone hesitant congregations.

Essentially, these two provisions freeze the status quo, while at the same time blessing liberal change within the Uniting Church. A step, then, by a church that ultimately aims to unite with a number of other, more conservative protestant denominations.

A number of prominent Australian Anglican leaders - stunned by the recent British ordination of a homosexual Bishop - have openly condemned the move. Many Anglicans claim that the assembly's decision is counter to scripture. And the annual gathering of the Uniting Church in Australia meeting with the Anglican Church.

The move is not uncontroversial within the church either. Just days after the vote, the Reverend Fred Nile

became the first to announce his departure over the decision. Nile, UCA minister and an outspoken critic of the homosexual advocacy movement, said in a statement he had "resigned to resign" over the decision. He is the first of several resignations that have followed the announcement over the issue.

While the issue remains controversial, the assembly's decision, combined with similar moves in Britain and Canada, is a huge step toward the eventual reconciliation between homosexuality and the Protestant church.

The Catholics on the other hand...

Tristan Mahoney

In a society that condemns discrimination in *The Racial Discrimination Act 1975* and *The Sex Discrimination Act 1984*, it seems hypocritical that Australian marriage legislation makes it impossible for homosexual couples to enjoy the social, economic and legal benefits of marriage.

Although recent years demonstrate an increased social acceptance of non-traditional families and homosexual relationships, the law in this area does not. Instead, *The Family Law Act 1975* continues to define marriage as the "union of a man and a woman".

The legal benefits of marriage include access to divorce and the equitable distribution of property following the dissolution of the marital relationship. The Family Court also has the power to make decisions about the welfare of children.

State legislation enacted in Australia in the past decade (*The South Australian De Facto Relationships Act 1996*) also makes it possible for de facto couples to apply to the Court for property settlement and gives rise to other economic privileges such as the right to file joint tax returns. However, this legislation is also restricted to heterosexual couples and fails to recognize gay and lesbian relationships, regardless of their nature and duration.

An important argument for the legal recognition of same-sex marriage is that it would create equal rights for homosexuals in Australia, enabling them to enjoy social recognition of their relationships and economic equality, entitling them to receive employment and health care benefits. Perhaps of greater importance since the advent of AIDS, same-sex marriage in Australia would enable homosexual partners to be recognised for inheritance purposes as well as bereavement leave. Although same-sex partners are able to create legal wills and use trusts and the power of attorney, these rights are often challenged by the family members of the deceased, particularly those who fail to accept the existence of a same-sex relationship.

At the end of the 18th Century, Lord Mansfield stated that "the law must adapt to the various situations of mankind", an observation that has resounding importance in contemporary Australia. By denying gay and lesbian couples the right to legal marriage and the benefits

which ensue, Australian law is failing to acknowledge societal, medical and scientific changes, particularly those which make it possible for same-sex couples to conceive children via IVF and the need for the law to protect these non-traditional families.

Opposition to same-sex marriage often stems from the belief that marriage has traditionally been viewed by the Church as a heterosexual union and thus it is often asserted that homosexual marriage violates Christian ideals. However, in his book *Same-Sex Unions in Premodern Europe*, John Boswell, a Professor of History at Yale University, provides a history of same-sex marriage in Europe revealing that same-sex

Same-sex marriage: The need for change

unions were accepted in both Christian and non-Christian communities until the 19th century. Not only does the research of Boswell and other historians identify the incidence of same-sex marriage in the past, but more surprisingly reveals that the Catholic Church, in spite of its vocal condemnation of homosexuality, did in fact sanctify same-sex marriages in Europe for over 1,500 years.

Similarly, other arguments against same-sex marriage are fuelled by ignorance rather than knowledge about same-sex relationships and include the belief that support of same-sex marriage will invalidate the heterosexual union and undermine the family, the primary purpose of which is the rearing of children. There is, however, no evidence that the legalisation of same-sex marriage will result in a decline in heterosexual marriages. Furthermore, the concept of 'marriage' for the purpose of procreation and the ideal of the 'nuclear family' are outdated in modern society in which de facto relationships are widespread and marriage is no longer necessary in order to adopt or conceive children.

The only notable concerns about same-sex marriage stem from the protection and welfare of children. It is, however, not surprising that these concerns are also vastly overrated. Firstly, not all homosexual couples wish

to become parents and it is unjust to exclude them from the legal, economic and social benefits of marriage on this ground. More importantly, there is no evidence that same-sex partners are unable to provide a loving and caring environment in which to raise a child, and contrary to popular opinion, research suggests that the children of homosexual couples are no more likely to be homosexual than are the children of heterosexual couples.

It is also suggested that the children of homosexual parents may be more likely to experience discrimination within the community, particularly from other children who may perceive them as 'different'. Given the social stigma and

prejudice towards homosexuals that is still present in Australian society, it is probable that the children of same-sex relationships will also be exposed to some degree of discrimination. This is a valid concern and thus has important implications for the adoption rights of same-sex couples. However, same-sex couples can and will continue to have children regardless of legislative reform and thus the recognition of same-sex marriage is particularly important as it promotes both the acceptance and equality of homosexuals in the future.

In spite of challenges to Australian marriage legislation in the past decade, legislative reform seems unlikely under the present Government. In August 2001, John Howard made it clear that he does not think homosexual couples should be entitled to a legal marriage. "My view is we should be completely tolerant and fair-minded about people's sexual preferences, but I don't believe homosexual relationships should be given the same place in our society as concepts such as marriage" said the Prime Minister.

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of Australia recently recommended that gay and

lesbian rights be recognised as law and effective legislation reform has already been achieved throughout the western world. Registered Partnership Legislation was enacted in Denmark in 1988 and Norway in April of 1993, enabling same-sex couples to formalise their relationships and to enjoy the same rights and duties of legally married couples. Although the registered partnership in these nations does not enable same-sex partners to adopt children it does invoke the obligation to pay maintenance to a partner if the relationship breaks down and thus affords homosexuals an important degree of legal protection.

In April 2001, The Netherlands became the first modern state to recognise the right of same-sex couples to legally marry, extending its legislation beyond that of the registered partnership, giving same-sex couples the ability to enjoy a civil marriage and to adopt children. In January 2003, after years of debate, Belgium also passed legislation permitting same-sex marriage, becoming only the second country to do so. "Mentalities have changed. There is no longer any reason not to open marriage to people of the same-sex," said Belgian Justice Minister Marc Verwilghen, before the bill was unanimously passed by the Belgian parliament. Although the Belgian legislation does not enable homosexual couples to adopt children, it does provide married gays and lesbians with rights that are almost identical to those of heterosexual couples, particularly automatic inheritance rights to the property and assets of a deceased partner.

Registered partnership is also available in Sweden, Iceland and some American cities, and although the Independent Church of Australia and the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) both offer commitment ceremonies there are currently no registered partnership or civil union laws in Australia.

Instead, Australian marriage laws continue to dehumanize homosexuals by denying them equal rights in the eyes of the law.

Rosie Sidey

What do you want?



To be more connected? To get to know other guys? Safer sex? A safe place to explore issues in your life? Information about HIV treatments and staying healthy? Help finding gay-friendly GPs and other health professionals? Access to a library with a great range of material for and by gay men?

Gay Men's Health

Darling House, 64 Fullarton Road, Norwood

Phone: (08) 8362 1617 Country Men: 1800 671 582 (Freecall)

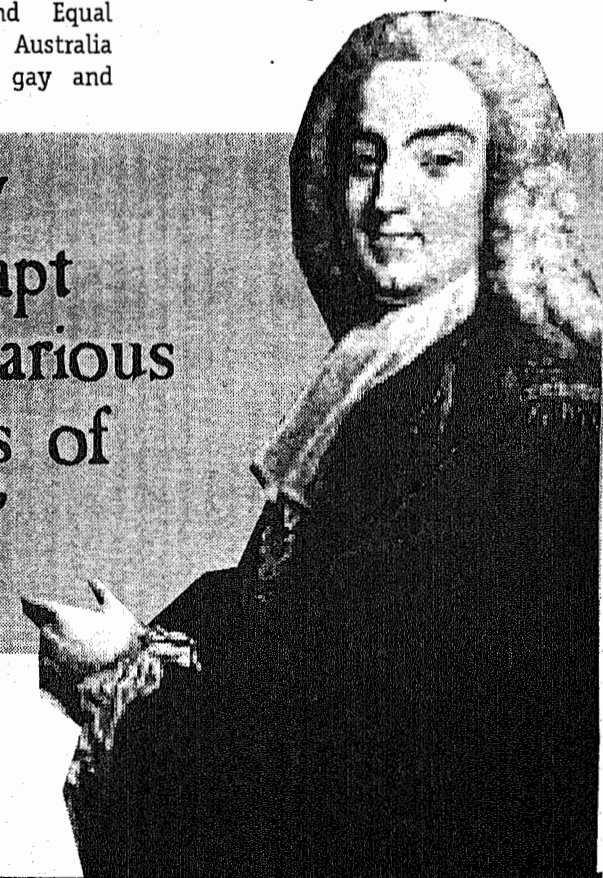
Bisexual & Married Men: (08) 8362 7931 GMH Counselling Service: (08) 8362 1617

Gay Men's Health Email: gmhealth@gmhealth.org.au Web: www.aidsCouncil.org.au/gmh.html

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"The law
must adapt
to the various
situations of
mankind"

Lord Mansfield





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University launches Statement of Reconciliation

The University of Adelaide Statement of Reconciliation was officially launched amidst the usual pomp and fancy on Tuesday July 8 in the foyer of the Mitchell Building. Special guests on the day included Shirley Peisley and Justice Ted Mullighan of the Reconciliation Council, Kurna Elder Uncle Lewis O'Brien, Roger Thomas of the Centre of Australian Indigenous Research and Studies (CAIRS), and State Labor MP and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Terry Roberts.

Representing the University's commitment to the recognition of Indigenous culture, values and heritage, the Statement sets out a framework on which reconciliation can take place - it's a foundation on which a better relationship can be built between the University, Indigenous students and the wider community.

Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said the Statement was more than just words on a document. It represents a commitment in writing about what the University will embrace. Speaking about reconciliation, Professor McWha said it is about bringing individuals and other Australians together to understand the importance of the land, sea and environment to Indigenous Australians. He said it's about understanding the disadvantages Indigenous people have faced in the past and still experience today.

In practical terms, this means the



University will endeavour to increase the number of Indigenous students through greater provision of their needs. It means recognising the unique qualities of Aboriginal culture in programs and courses, increasing Indigenous employment across the University and involving people from the University and wider community in working parties set up to develop plans and initiate the implementation of these. Professor McWha closed his speech by announcing the construction of a Reconciliation

monument to be officially recognised in May 2004.

As Roger Thomas, Director (CAIRS) will be managing the activities and probably chairing the working parties, I will be holding a meeting with him to discuss the involvement of my position, the Students' Association's ATSI Officer, in these initiatives to ensure student representation in the decision-making processes.

Darren Kurtzer

Public forum held on the fate of higher education Turnout suggests outlook bleak

A public forum organised by the Students' Association was held on July 16 in Elder Hall with the theme "That education is a right, and not a privilege". About 80 people attended the event, which began at 6.30pm. Senators Penny Wong and Linda Kirk from the ALP, Bradley Smith, higher education

advisor to the Australian Democrats, Clare McCarty of the Australian Greens, National Union of Students President Daniel Kyriacou and past president of the Australian Medical Students' Association Matthew Holman addressed the audience, as well as organiser and SAUA President Sarah Hanson-Young. Whilst the speakers

representing their respective political parties tended to parrot their respective party lines, of particular interest was Holman's speech, which highlighted the little known and catastrophic results the Crossroads review of higher education would have on students of medicine, including contractual 'bonding' of med students to a job chosen by the Federal Government at the end of their training. An informative and lively question and answer session was held at the end of the speeches.

The small but dedicated turnout was disappointing, given its direct promotion at the packed Festival of Ideas just days earlier. However, the holding of such events are important steps towards educating the public about the destructive changes to higher education currently being considered in the Federal Parliament.

Gemma Clark

Page 8: Letters

Student elections loom

Candidates urged to find out what they're getting themselves into

The Students' Association annual elections are fast approaching and this year we will be running information sessions for students who want to know what being a student representative in the SAUA is all about.

For too long the Students' Association has been slack at encouraging general students to get involved with the running of the organisation and more so in making students aware of what the roles and responsibilities of each position within the Students' Association are. Well, things are changing; this year there will be two sessions run to help let all students know what is going on. The first session will be held on Thursday August 7 at 12.30pm in the Union Cinema. This will be an introductory session aimed at educating people on the Students' Association's structure and letting students know what positions are up for election. There will be an opportunity for students to get help from the Returning Officer in clarifying the nomination process and any other questions people may have.

All those who nominate for positions in the Students' Association will be asked to attend the second session that will be run on Monday August 25 at 4pm also in the Union Cinema. This session will go through the requirements of each position in more detail, including time commitments and legalities of being a director of the organisation. The Returning Officer will go through the specific requirements and regulations for the elections, including appropriate election materials and behaviour of candidates.

The Students' Association is run by students, for students and is the peak representative body to the university and the wider community. In order for the SAUA to continue we need committed and enthused students to nominate and become part of the SAUA family.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Students' Association and would like to know how please contact the SAUA President Sarah Hanson-Young by emailing saua@adelaide.edu.au or phone 83035406.

Sarah Hanson-Young

**Important election dates
(don't say we didn't warn you!)**

Information Sessions: August 7 and 25

Nominations Open: August 7

Nominations Close: August 15, 4pm (ballot draw night).

SAUA Election Week: September 1-5

SAUA YEEHAW! ROUNDUP

A winter break of fairly poorly attended yet quorate SAUA Council meetings (partly due to the usual spate of mid-year conferences) was rounded off by a relatively focussed gathering on the evening of Wednesday, July 23.

The absence of National Union of Students State President Taso Filippou and Education Officer Nat Enright, who had been invited to attend this and earlier meetings prompted President Sarah Hanson-Young to give a report back on the progress of the NUS state executive which had met earlier that morning. President Hanson-Young was blunt in her summary: "To tell you the truth, it was a complete waste of time... I don't think we are getting our money's worth from NUS." The \$69,000 or so paid each year to Australian students' peak representative body for seemingly little more than spoonfeeding campaign materials to campus-based office bearers has been debated at length in previous council meetings and so was wound up this time with the President being directed to extend an invitation to all NUS state office bearers to attend the next SAUA Council and campaigns meetings.

With student elections just around the corner and nominations for office bearer and other positions closing in less than two weeks, it was interesting to see the possibility of introducing a welfare officer to the SAUA fold being raised. **Activities/Campaigns** Vice-President Adelle Neary led the charge with this one, going so far as to suggest that the Activities Department - her own - be downsized or abolished altogether to finance this restructure. Stating that the Activities Department - most famous for the provision of beer, bands and barbecues, in recent years anyway - was the "least relevant to the Students' Association's aims", Vice-President Neary assessed her own portfolio as being "the easiest department to sacrifice". "I didn't set out to destroy the department", she added. Other councillors were wary but not altogether opposed to this proposition. Sexuality Officer Emma O'Loughlin expressed concern that with the Adelaide University Union already providing three full-time Education and Welfare Officers, all of whom would be more qualified than a student welfare officer, a SAUA welfare officer could merely duplicate an existing student service. Several councillors expressed support for a welfare position that would cover the portfolios of social justice and human rights. In the end, a motion was carried for the President and Activities/Campaigns Vice-President to draft welfare officer policy to be presented to the next SAUA Council meeting - just in time for a hastily written referendum question to potentially create the position in the upcoming elections.

The 2004 Adelaide Fringe has forced

the SAUA to think even further ahead regarding its Orientation plans. Current negotiations see the SAUA claiming the top half of the Barr Smith Lawns, the Union Building and the Maths Lawns for its celebrations, which is certainly doable. This year's losses through O'Ball will be avoided with a downscaling of O'Ball as we know it to a more financially secure Friday night O'Week after party. This Orientation discussion precipitated suggestion by Vice-President Neary that the AUU be asked to take on some kind of responsibility for the annual initiation of first-years. Despite concerns from some councillors regarding a potential takeover of "student control of student affairs" by a largely financial, administrative body, a motion was carried to direct the President to meet with the AUU to "discuss whether there are any specific elements of Orientation for which they are willing to formally provide financial, logistical or administrative support".

Perhaps the most memorable aspect of July 23's meeting was President Hanson-Young's desperate appeal to office bearers to lift their game. "We're in the most devastating situation with a review of higher education that could slip through our fingers by just one vote of an independent senator, where we could lose the whole thing (the SAUA)," she opened. Hanson-Young demanded the office bearers pull their weight, stating she had to "constantly keep covering people's arses" and felt "like (she didn't) have a vice-president", without dropping any specific names. A plea for new campaign ideas and "thinking outside the square" was also made, which was backed up by On Dit Editor Tristan Mahoney's suggestion to "Smoke pot! Get drunk with your friends! It's not that hard - think of some fun, original ideas!" Hanson-Young was straight to the point regarding financials, saying "At the end of the day, I'd rather spend your honorarium on running a campaign than not having you committed." Vice-President Neary noted that the SAUA office had been curiously deserted over the winter break, observing that "yesterday it felt chock-a-block because there were three office bearers in there together." Partitioning was suggested as a way to increase productivity, imitating the corporate open-plan office layout - although it could be argued that imitating a corporate work ethic and sense of responsibility is a necessary supplement to office décor for this to be successful. In the end, a motion was carried that office bearers must endeavour to partake in their work during office hours and minimise after-hours work. Will this result in a productive population boom in the SAUA office for semester two? Stay tuned as On Dit eagerly observes the SAUA office as the academic term resumes...

Queer Collaborations Melbourne 2003

During the last holidays, four students from the University of Adelaide found themselves trekking across the country to Melbourne. This was in order to attend a conference being held at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. This conference is known as Queer Collaborations (QC) and is held annually. Last year the conference was held in Canberra. QC this year was held from July 7 - 11. Queer Collaborations is a conference where queer identifying university students from across the country can get together to discuss queer issues. These issues include law reform, coming out, women's issues, labels, and queer youth. With over 400 delegates, the conference this year was one of the largest student conferences this year. This year the conference was also held during the same week as NAIDOC week. Thus the conference had an indigenous flavour to it, with the catchphrase of the conference being 'Validate Here' which expresses the purpose of the conference - to be, to be visible, to be valid and to respect those around us. This indigenous vibe was great to see with a prominent Indigenous Lesbian in Melbourne, Annette Xiberus, presenting a wonderful speech on the first day of the conference. All conference delegates were invited to participate in

the NAIDOC March that was held on the Friday of the conference.

Each day the conference consisted of a plenary, and some seminars and workshops. The seminars and workshops were the more in-depth sessions of the conference where delegates got to discuss between themselves the issues on hand.

Besides the normal conference proceedings, there were also the social events that were held each night, including an '80s Bowling Night, queer short film screenings, and Q-Topia, a dance party. On the Wednesday night, there was the launch of *Querelle*, the annual queer publication containing poetry, short stories and writings of queer uni students from around Australia.

Much fun was had by all delegates and many new friendships spanning the country were forged. Next year the conference will be in Queensland due to the Queensland universities joining together to make a successful bid. We all look forward to an exciting conference in 2004. Many thanks go to the organisers, especially Jenelle Davy and Brent Hayward in Melbourne, for all the effort that went in to putting together an incredible conference.

Adam Roe

WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOUR EDUCATION?

The Adelaide University Union and the Students' Association are holding a **GENERAL STUDENT MEETING** at 12:30pm TUESDAY 12th AUGUST in The Wills Student Lounge (Union House) to discuss the implications of the Government's 'Backing Australia's Future' plans for Higher Education.

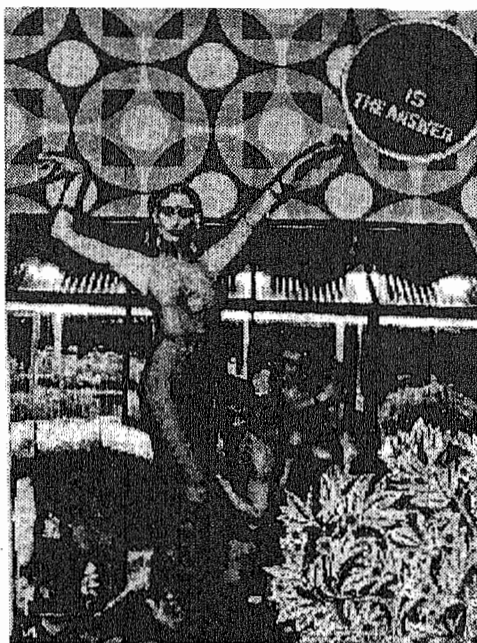
Come along if you would like to know more about how these plans will effect you and your education.

For more information contact Union Information on 8303 5401 or the Students' Association on 8303 5406 or saua@adelaide.edu.au.



French Letters

This week's Letter of the Week goes to "Satisfied" for their deliciously ironic take on Rumours Cafe. The winner of Letter of the Week receives a free meal and a beer at the London Tavern. Righteous! Send your letters to ondit@adelaide.edu.au or drop them by the On Dit office in the basement of the George Murray Building.



Grown up

hippies?

Dear Editor,

I was both heartened and disappointed by the Public forum last night to discuss the 'Nelson' review of tertiary education funding. Heartened that there are students and politicians who are concerned about this issue, disappointed at the paucity of academics and the small numbers generally.

I trained at Sydney University from 1974 - 1978 and am the mother of a 2nd year student at the University of Adelaide. The '70s were halcyon years. We were free to think, to be creative, to be politically active. We were not forced into serious inflexible vocational training at a time when our young brains were settling into their life-time patterns. We have become the 'grown-up hippies' who continue to appear in our thousands at anti-war marches and make up the majority of the numbers at the Festival of Ideas.

I see the enormous stress we are putting our students under today. Overseas students have huge pressures on them to pass because of their parents' financial investment. They live in constant fear of failing or not doing well. With an increase in full fee-paying places and a limit on the number of years in which to complete a degree, more students will be living under the mantle of pressure and fear. Have the politicians not seen the rising youth suicide rates, the literature linking unemployment to depression, and the global trend of increased standard of living with the better education of women?

At a time when our young people's brains are cementing the patterns that will guide their futures, why are we destining them to inflexibility, fear and destructive risk-taking? Aren't

universities about hope, creative thinking and inquisitiveness?

Overarching the current government's view of many areas is the lack of respect for anything or anyone that is different or challenging. If we don't respect our young people, they will not learn to respect themselves and will be destined to a life of insecurity and xenophobia. Is this what we want?

Am I a voice in the wilderness or are there other baby-boomers on this campus who are thankful for what we were given and would like to pass that legacy on to the next generation?

Sincerely,
R*E*S*P*E*C*T

Aw, shucks.

Alack! Alack! Of *On Dit*, that is...

It's been a long, cold winter without *On Dit*. No, I'm not homeless, but as someone who is condemned to meander the hallowed dusty halls of this fine sandstone campus during all holiday periods, there's very little to do without our beloved campus newspaper.

If only it came out more often... [insert gay joke here].

Thank you *On Dit*, for producing a publication we can all be proud of. Huzzah! Well worth the fee.

blingblingboy

Spaff

Dear Eds,

Does spaff have any kind of consciousness? How do they all know where to go and what to do when they get there? Should I feel guilty about wasted spaff? Could this be why the Pope is so hung up on French letters?

Regards
Johnny

It is believed that the sperm and ovum have what is called 'single cell consciousness', which can be roughly defined as a cell's rudimentary awareness of its own structure. Some maintain that the cellular consciousness of the egg and sperm merge and ultimately form the dynamic sentience that defines the human condition.

As for knowing where to go, a sperm merely navigates by way of hard-wired responses to chemical and physical stimuli. We doubt that there is anything more to it - if there was, the little blighters probably would have enslaved us by now.

Eds

I can't get no...

Dear Eds,

How wonderful that the Union has finally given us a licensed café as an alternative to the smoky environment of the Uni Bar. Don't get me wrong, the Uni Bar serves its purposes on Friday nights. However, Rumours is finally offering alcohol after 4pm, and for those of us who like a little vino while we study... we salute this decision! Rumours has a pleasant ambience, some of the friendliest staff I have come across and better egg and bacon brekkie muffins than McDonalds. Without sounding like a Rumours Café endorsement... thank you once again for giving us options.

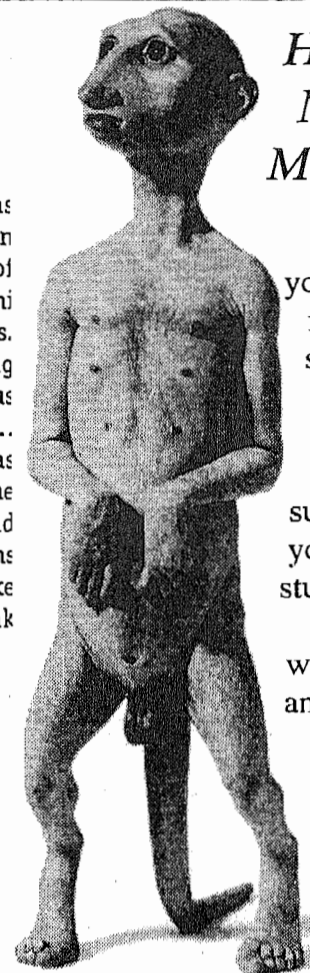
Sincerely,
Satisfied

Unionomics

Dear eds,

Something 'bout Union catering has been puzzling me for quite some time. With a lack of any real form of health food outlet on campus I usually stroll into the Mayo, cringe my way past the bainmarie and head to the self serve baguette bar. If I purchase a plain bun I'm charged 90 cents, yet when I add lettuce, 1 slice of tomato, 1 slice of cheese and the equivalent of 1 sliced pickled onion I'm charged \$4.60 !*!#. The added ingredients must have a wholesale value of approximately 12 cents, there's no service to speak of, I dress and wrap the bun myself and take it up to the register. No amount of shaky logic or Unionomics could possibly explain away the discrepancy. Is this a tax on vegetarians? At any Subway I could have at least a six inch roll with any number of toppings wrapped and handed to me with a smile for around \$3. Not keen to support a 'race to the bottom' with global franchises, I don't mind paying a bit extra at the Mayo but I need the kind of sustenance that a plain roll cannot provide. I'm concerned that many patrons like myself are being forced to hide their toppings within a half sliced bun and then claim it is simply buttered. I dislike being dishonest but before I pay the extra \$3.70 I just need to know why.

Confused,
Dissatisfied
and Skint



Harry the Meercat Man says...

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I was fucked by the steel fist of God

The ill-informed musings of a reformed masochist

It would be a great thing to understand pain in all its meanings.

- Peter Mere Latham

Some months ago, I found myself on my front porch, sharing a bottle of whisky with an old friend of mine. There was a storm coming in from the south, and we could feel the pressure dropping as the weather rolled in across the foothills. Passing that bottle back and forth, listening for the first thunder, we knew that this was going to be a weird night.

With my head in her lap, she looked at me for a moment, then at her lit cigarette. "Would you mind if I burnt you a little?" Were it for the mischievous look in her eye, it would have seemed like a perfectly innocent question, as if burning me with cigarettes was a routine way of passing the time.

'Why not?' I offered her my arm, and tried to remember what my Lutheran Sunday school teacher used to say about man's need to suffer the pain of Christ. Needless to say, this would not be my finest hour. Thunderclouds and whisky are a dangerous mix.

The next morning I woke up in an empty bed with a depressing hangover and half a dozen hideous welts on the back of my right hand. In her whisky-fuelled exuberance, it hadn't dawned on my friend that there were more localised and less visible parts of my anatomy that she could have burned. As such, I knew that last night's drunken experiment in sadomasochism would haunt me for as long as it would take the scars to heal. Nevertheless, I didn't regret the experience. I knew that explaining the marks to my friends and hiding them from everyone else would be an embarrassing annoyance, but I deemed this a small price to pay for the self knowledge

Sadomasochism has been misunderstood, stigmatised and dismissed since Richard von Krafft-Ebing first derived the term from the names of the Marquis de Sade and erotic author Leopold von Sacher-Masoch in the mid nineteenth century. Despite his status as a pioneering psychologist, Krafft-Ebing's attitude toward the idea was disappointingly cynical, essentially defining masochism in particular as the derivation of 'imaginary' pleasure from pain.

Imaginary pleasure, I'm sure you'll agree, is a ridiculous notion, used to dismiss a phenomenon that the psychology of the time could not understand.

For a start, pain, as many a neuropsychologist will attest, is central to our understanding of the basic operation of the nervous system. Further, any kind of sensory overload - from amphetamines to nipple clamps - is a perfectly logical

source of kicks. Aside from this, sadists and masochists are interested in pain because they are aware, at least on some level, of its profound significance to the headier aspects of psychology, cognitive science and phenomenology.

Nevertheless, there is a substantial difference between the study of pain and the outright enjoyment of it. Binge drinking aside, why would I allow myself to be subjected to the kind of pain and scarring that most people associate with abusive parents, drug addiction and late night soap opera? The short answer is, I don't know, but I'm pretty sure it has something to do with the uniquely personal nature of consciousness and subjectivity.

Indulge me for a moment. One of the few things I took away from first year Philosophy was a more tangible understanding of consciousness. At the time, I had a vague understanding of the consciousness problem, due to a series of childhood waking nightmares in my childhood and a newfound appreciation of psychedelic drugs. I knew that there was definitely something peculiar about the human condition that science and philosophy had no chance of resolving.

For me, the one characteristic of the problem that struck home back in First Year Philosophy was the fact that consciousness exists purely in the first person. Unlike matter or energy, the singular quality of consciousness can only be experienced by the individual. Unlike thunder, sunlight and bubblegum, consciousness cannot be shared or appreciated by others. This may seem obvious, but realising that the core of my existence on earth appeared for all the world to reside in an intangible reality all of its own floored me. I'm almost embarrassed to say that I spent an all together irresponsible amount of time neglecting my studies and discussing this problem with like-minded amateur philosophers on the balcony of the bar.

What does this have to do with pain? On the surface, not much. But delve deeper into the consciousness problem and you'll discover some interesting loopholes. According to some of the more spiritual mind philosophers, it is possible to glimpse another's consciousness with the aid of the peculiarly human characteristics such as empathy and love. Forging a subjective connection with another human being is often a uniquely profound and satisfying experience - aesthetic philosophers often argue that this kind of shared experience forms the definitive basis of art and literature.

Pain is universal. Because each of us possesses a similar nervous system, we share a common understanding of pain and the immediacy with which it affects us.

Freudian issues of dominance and submission aside, sadomasochism is concerned with intense ways of engaging with another, of connecting with some one else's sense of pain. Both masochist and sadist share a rare and fascinating understanding of someone else through a mutual understanding of pain. Aggression and sexuality are adapted to this end of intense connectedness with another person.

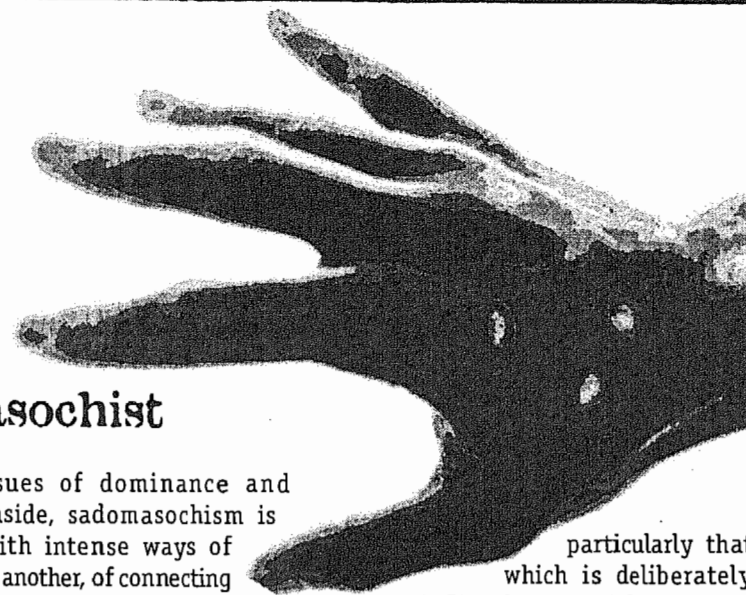
In this respect, and to a similar extent, it is possible to argue that sadomasochism and homosexuality share a certain similarity. From my (albeit impoverished) perspective, homosexual couples have a better understanding of each other's pleasure, by virtue of the fact that they share similar equipment. They can relate to one another's pleasure. Similarly, the sadist and masochist can relate to one another through a powerful and immediate understanding of pain.

With this in mind, I must point out that I glean little sexual satisfaction from pain. You won't catch me giving myself paper cuts or pulling hairs out of my nose. I do however, appreciate the need to understand the psychology of pain,

particularly that which is deliberately inflicted. Freud might maintain that the masochist seeks pain as a result of suppressed childhood memories of abuse and humiliation, but I for one am pretty sure that my folks weren't excessively abusive. No, I'm afraid my fleeting experiment in consensual harm had more to do with alcohol and curiosity than much else.

To tell the truth, it was more of a sad kind of drunken machismo that drove me to endure the ordeal. As the thunder of the storm crashed around us on the darkened porch, it occurred to me that I was the master of the pain that my sadistic friend was inflicting. As she drove the cigarette further into my flesh, I was astonished by my ability to apprehend the pain - to acquaint myself with the singular quality of it. Having said that, I would loathe to repeat the experience in any less a drunken or sexually-charged situation.

(Barely) Anonymous



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Lesbica Italiana?

Being queer and ethnic is a difficult thing. Lifestyle clashes with tradition and you're stuck in the middle. It takes a lot of guts to confront the moral stance of your cultural background, but it can be done... and I did it!

The reality is that religion is deeply embedded in culture, especially if you're Italian. The house will be adorned with many Jesus figurines and pictures. There will be a tapestry of the Madonna (not the pop star) hung directly above the bed head, and you're expected to go to church every Sunday to prostrate yourself in front of God in his delicately ornate church. There are hierarchies to follow too: respect your elders; do as your grandfather says; obey your grandma over your mum. Going out clubbing with friends gets you a curfew. When dating you require a chaperone and (at least by the second date) must introduce your

potential partner to your scrutinising parents. You can't live with your partner or leave home either, not until you're married. From day one, your life is planned for you. You will date a boy, marry one at 24, have many children (for grandma to play with) and cook and clean for your family.

I, unfortunately, disagreed with all of the above and became somewhat of a black sheep. It was a foreign concept that I thought for myself and questioned tradition. I was trying to find my sexuality while still living in a hostile environment. The Italian culture in Australia is the same as it was in Italy in the 1950s (even though the culture has changed dramatically overseas). In Italy right now being queer is tolerated, if not accepted (especially in the larger cities). You will not be harassed, or attacked, or kicked out of home. What saddened me was that this attitude to queer folk had

not translated to the Australian Italian community and the intolerance here had just stagnated. The male members of my family actually took my coming out quite well. It was my mother and grandma I was frightened to tell. I knew it would disappoint them, that it implied I wouldn't have children, and that they'd feel like they had failed in bringing me up right. As expected, all of these fears and more were voiced. I was asked not to talk to others about my sexuality because it would ruin my, and their, reputation and embarrass them.

If it weren't for their inability to accept my current lifestyle I would perhaps see my family more often. They won't visit my 'house of sin' (as I live in the same house as my girlfriend). I have come to terms with this inability and so I try to keep all topics of conversation away from 'me coming home again' and 'what I did with my girlfriend this week'

as they are both still sensitive areas which we haven't the emotional tools to deal with yet. I understand shying away from topics, which cause pain to talk about but I still want to share my life with my partner with my family. It's the thing that makes me happiest yet I can't share that because it will hurt them. I still love the traditions I grew up with but now I want to make my own traditions. I want to raise a child to be open-minded and accepting but I want them to know my family too. Discovering your sexuality is hard enough but complicate that with being ethnic and it seems all too much. I only hope I can do as much as possible to change these attitudes, to show them that the old ways are not the only ones.

Anne

WE WANT A PEDRO'S PIZZA

This week is Sex Week and the paper that you are holding in your hands (or laid out on the floor in the dunny if you prefer) is jam packed with the ideas, opinions and yearnings of people who care about all things sexual. People with a passion for same-sex pashin', people who fight for the right to rumble at night - warriors against discrimination and guilty masturbation creating a world of free copulation and hearty fornication. These upstanding individuals see the sexual injustice that exists in our society, don't like it, and often have the wherewithal to stand up and do something about it.

And that's what separates them from me. Like most self respecting Australians there are plenty of things in the world that I have decided ain't right, but short of getting hot under the collar and blowing some of the resultant hot air - I don't actually do anything about it. I don't have the passion or motivation to change the world, fight for a cause, something I truly believe in. Sure, I signed the petition to keep beer prices down a couple of years ago, and vote whenever legally bound to do so, but I rarely march or have an answer to the question 'What do we want?' let alone know when do I want it.

It wasn't always like this. I can

remember my heady days as a first-year eagerly, or drunkenly, signing up for clubs and societies and attending meetings and the ilk. I even got myself on a plane and train to Townsville to attend a national student conference on environmental issues, which is where my life as an activist or responsible citizen began its rapid demise.

Outraged at the wastage of plastic bags I witnessed every day in my brief life as a checkout chick (or laser-lad, if you will), I headed to the conference with a head of steam and a fistful of ideas about rubbish reduction. I was looking forward to getting together with intelligent, likeminded university types and nutting out some practical ideas and marketing them to the world. It didn't happen.

I should have been more prepared for the dreadlocks, firesticks and vegan vegetable-bakes I was to encounter. I was disappointed by the fact that the seminars and workshops seemed to consist largely of complaining and headshaking at the state of society and the evils of government and the corporate world. Instead of working towards solutions, we were constantly identifying the problems, bemoaning the state of the world and generally preaching to the converted that something had to change. Just what that something was, nobody seemed to sure of. What surprised me most of all about the conference was the

political / faction type undercurrents that were bubbling about the place. There were murmurings of pre-selections of environmental officers and NUS delegate junkets and so forth, the kind of chatter that seems omnipresent at university world-changing organizations.

I returned to Adelaide disheartened and defeated by my one and only conference experience, and this is part of the reason why I gave up on campaigning and improving society, but mostly it was because I was just too lazy. The reality TV phenomenon was just kicking off and I had recently discovered the joys of tawny port and sitting on my arse.


In short, I no longer have a cause. I admire those who do though, and volunteer their time and efforts and above all their hearts and dedication to worthwhile issues. Issues of student politicking are usually trifling or can be ignored, and in spite of my ranting a good deal can be achieved at a conference or even a standing committee meeting. Hats off to the campaigners, marchers, activists and letter writers. If it wasn't for them we'd all be sitting around drinking port and wondering why nothing ever changed or was done in the world.

Steven Robert

withdrawal and apology

In the last issue I wrote a lighthearted and rather glib piece about unwellness called 'Fully Sick', in which I made fun of being confined to bed for a week and mused about how nice it was to be well again. Well, all that was complete crap because it turned out I wasn't well at all and indeed had pneumonia, then developed a DVT and was hospitalised for 12 days and spent most of the break catching up on essays. I therefore apologise and withdraw the said article and will state, for the record, that there is nothing funny or good about being sick and if you are, go to a doctor and complain until they do something about it. Thank you.

S.R.

Did You Know.. 

You should never, ever, allow anyone to blow air into your vagina! It can cause serious problems ranging from Toxic Shock Syndrome to an air embolism in your blood stream that can KILL YOU! I am saying this because it occurs to me that someone might say "Gee, honey, let's see what it would sound like if you did have air in your vagina!" (and then blew into it).

Thanks to www.sexdoc.com

WE WANT IT NOW!

The Deal With KYLIE

I'm sure there's a list published somewhere: "What to say upon meeting a gay guy". Number One: When did you know? Number Two: Just what exactly is the deal with Kylie? For me, question one is easy (the answer is I went to an all-boy school, so pretty damned early!), but question two is far more complex, and much more important. Listen up peoples and come into my world of those oh-so-short, bright and sparkly hot pants.

There are several rites of passage that many a gay guy finds himself passing through as if by fate or accident. Dare I admit to be well experienced in these matters; in the past two years alone I have bleached, dyed, spiked, shaved and tipped my hair, waxed and shaved my legs, waxed my snail trail, pierced my ear, gone through the designer label phase, sequin and glitter phase, reflective silver pants with midriff short-sleeved T-shirt phase, and learnt 20 variations on pronouncing 'fabulous'. Now I stand just plain me: no piercings, natural hair, comfortable clothes and minimal gay accent (my boyfriend will debate this), yet one thing about me screams gay like nothing else: I like Kylie. No, I love Kylie. Am I ashamed?

No. Do I still get excited when the Kylie Megamix comes on for the fifth time that night at the Mars Bar? You betcha, just look for the guy on the dance floor screaming along.

To my defence, if we step back in time I wasn't always so pathetic. As a kid, Kylie did nothing for me. I would see her on TV, but it was never a case of love at first sight. As the nation was doing the locomotion, I was swaying to Tori Amos and Kate Bush. I seem to remember Kylie's fame-deprived sister Dannii infiltrating my life more than Kylie. Even when I came clean to myself and realised my love of guys was no phase and I made my first tentative steps into the gay world, the enigma of Kylie mystified me. The questions I had then mirror the questions I receive today... after all, Kylie is a hot, scantily dressed girl, and excuse me for being so direct, but aren't gay males supposed to like guys? I knew that Kylie had gay dancers, so was it a case of mutual back scratching? I don't have the answer as to why the gay world is so obsessed with Ms Minogue; the only thing I can do is explain how I came to be under her spell.

The weekend Kylie's 2001 Light Years Tour played in Adelaide, I avoided

gay venues like the plague lest I be surrounded by those with the fever, holding unofficial after-parties. My indifference to Kylie caused much angst in my relationships, especially when dating scene queens (never a good move anyway!). Put yourself in my place; countless nights I would be over at my then boyfriend's house watching Kylie concerts *hysterical scream 1* on VHS *hysterical scream 2*. I remember thinking 'so much glitter, such a little body'. Despite not enjoying the music, I was shocked by the power Kylie had over gay guys ... to have the kind of effect I was seeing, the woman had something that I just wasn't clicking onto.

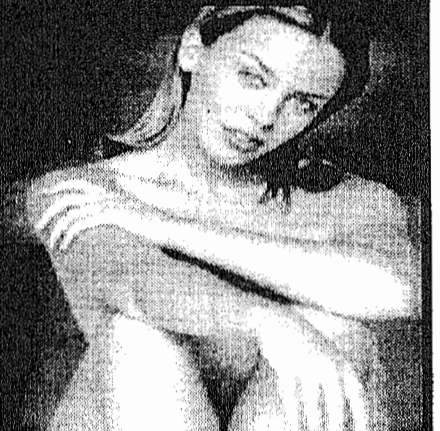
Half my summer 01/02 was spent in a small flat in inner Sydney with another gay guy and two drag queens. That period was a very educational one indeed. I found out how exciting but grimy Sydney was, and overcame my apprehension of drag queens. It was just before this time that Kylie released the Fever album, and in the Sydney clubs all I heard was 'It's in Your Eyes' and 'Love at First Sight'. Upon my return to Adelaide I went out and bought Fever, my first Kylie CD. I only really bought it for the two songs, but within a few days I couldn't stop playing the entire album. I decided that every song was single release quality, an assertion I still stand by. Without even meaning to, I had become one of those gay Kylie fans. The rest really is history. I went to the 2002 Fever concert in Melbourne where I screamed and danced like a sissy. While I don't own many older albums (I like her new stuff better than her old stuff), I have Kylie's concerts on DVD, and am eagerly awaiting the release

of a new album, whenever that may be. I want more, more, more.

Although it's unclear why Kylie has enchanted the gay community, it's a good thing she has, for I believe she brings the community together. Sounds like hogwash I know, but stuck for conversation amongst brethren, the topic is always a crowd-pleaser. Whether hate her or love her, everyone is at ease on the subject. Such a unifying topic is rare, for apart from being same-sex attracted, the gay community is as eclectic as the wider general community. Despite there being perhaps more appropriate gay icons such as spunky solo singers or English boy bands, Kylie prevails at the top of the Australian gay scene. A case of better the devil you know?

As a closer, can you honestly put your hand on your heart and tell me you can't get out of your head those dancers in 'Dancing Queen' from Kylie's Light Years Tour? One is tempted to think those two dancers are wholly responsible for the deal with Kylie.

Richard



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The Lesbian Body

For a long time I looked for a lesbian.
 For a long time I looked for a body that was female.
 For a long time I looked for a lesbian body that was female.
 For a long time I found nothing...

As a lesbian I do not feel that my body is the same as the body of the woman in a Wonderbra on the bus stop. She is part of a double process of surveillance and control. That woman is seen by two lots of men. There are the physical men for whom she is performing and there are the men inside her head who she is imagining are her audience. In this way she is measured and judged by male standards even by her own female mind. I do not present my body as an object to men. I acknowledge that I am unable to live beyond the influence of patriarchy, however by seeing and acknowledging this influence I hope that I can live beyond being a slave to it. I have female friends who do not masturbate and this worries me. I have female friends who are size 12 and do not feel sexy when naked because they feel so fat. This also worries me. By being a lesbian I am choosing to occupy a body and a social position in which I endeavour everyday to live in a body that does not feel the need to conform to these attitudes. Because of these representations of sexualised femininity in the media I feel

that my body, which does not conform to them, is silenced. I feel that women, in turn, are silenced. I see my body in the mirror and in my lover's eyes and I know that it exists, however I do not see it in the wider discourse of the media, which reflects my body only in negatives.

My body is made up of circles. I am a curve, a smooth line. If I were to draw myself, the lines would radiate outwards and be soft. There would be no harsh angles or sharp points. These lines define my body; they define me. My body is the vehicle through which I present myself to the world. I wear the marks of my experience to show where I have grown. My scars tell my experiences, the tiny creases on my face tell my years, the stretch marks remind me that my body is alive and that it will change. I do not fear my body aging because I value that my life, that my story, is recorded on my skin. I know that this is real.

Sometimes being a lesbian, I feel that I am unintelligible. I have looked for myself on billboards, on the television and in magazines and I have looked hard. I am



not there. Does this mean that I do not exist? There are the women who fuck other women with big red lips and long red nails. This fuel for male fantasy, the women ever aware of the camera, is passionless to me. They do not reflect my experience. There are the quietly understated characters like Miranda and Chloe but they are not lesbians, Miranda told us herself. There are the schoolgirl lesbians who are infantilised; after all it's not real sex, just a phase. There are the women who have sex with other women and it's an original sin, especially when they are wearing Levi's. But I do not see my lifestyle or myself in these images. My body, which is a lesbian body and reflects my lifestyle, is absent from this barrage of images. Some people say, "get women's bodies out of the media", but I say get women's bodies in the media. Women's bodies, men's bodies, old, young, gay, straight. Bodies. Celebrate the diversity of shape and size and explore difference. I want bodies made public. I want validation by the images with which I am surrounded. I want my friends to start masturbating again.

My lover's body is so like mine yet so different. The lines of her body are fluent and sure. If I was to draw her body the lines would radiate inward. She covers her body, hides it away from the gaze of the public. She only shares it with me and I celebrate it with her. When she comes to me at night I must feel her body into existence. I detail the familiar curves and lines in my head as she reminds me of how I know her vulnerability. When we fall asleep her body is firm from the rapid circulation of blood that I have provoked. When we wake up in the morning it is soft and the lines that define and enclose her body in the

daytime have softened with sleep and melded with mine. I know that this is real.

Why are so many women afraid and ashamed of their cunts? Why don't they touch them, discuss them, and celebrate them? So many of my female friends don't let their boyfriends go down on them because they are afraid of the smell, or that it is ugly, or that they are dirty. My partner's mother tried to give her some "feminine deodoriser" but thankfully she declined. I cannot think of a more invented need than "feminine deodoriser". The product is invented to treat an imaginary problem. So many of my friends are sexually unsatisfied and are not aware of their own sexual needs. I have suggested masturbation but predominantly they feel that this is dirty or unnecessary. No wonder they are unsatisfied, they do not understand their own bodies. I celebrate my cunt and my lovers. I revel in the sensory experience of sex. I want all my senses engaged in the way that a cunt feels and tastes and smells. I want to live in a society in which women celebrate the wonder of their whole bodies.

My lover likes me to put pressure on her abdomen when we fuck. The moan that she makes when I am inside her is different to the noise that she makes when my tongue is on her clit. When I run my hand over her body it is so soft and so strong. When she is on top of me and her hips are moving and her head is thrown back, her hair would be nearly long enough to touch my thighs except that she ties it up when we go to bed. My lover tastes like a mouthful of olives. She tastes good.

My lover also likes me to kiss her back in the morning as I climb over her to get out of bed for work.

I know that this is real.

Anonymous

North Terrace

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Queer Families

When I came out as a lesbian to my family over nine years ago, I remember one specific comment from my dad, who said, "You can understand our disappointment, can't you, because we were expecting grandkids". My immediate response was, "Nothing has changed. I still want to find someone to share my life in a committed relationship, own a house, have some kids, and live happily ever after." I was firm in my resolve, regardless of the new direction my life was taking, because I have wanted to bear and raise children since my teenage years - I just became more determined to make it happen.

Not long after coming out, I began a committed relationship with Kelly, and luckily, she shared my enthusiasm for having children. Deciding it was a long-term goal, we saved our pennies and concentrated on our careers, knowing one day we would add to our 'family'.

Our fervent desire to have children is complicated by the numerous discriminatory laws in S.A. surrounding gay/lesbian relationships. Kelly and I are as committed to each other as any two people can be, we jointly own a house,

and our families are accepting and supportive, yet we have no legal recognition of our relationship and all that this entails. In a heterosexual marriage, both parents share custody of any children, joint assets immediately fall to one should the other die, support payments are automatic if the relationship fails, medical responsibility for each other and dependents is automatic, access to fertility programmes and adoption processes are granted, and society has an expectation that you will procreate and provide a loving, nurturing environment for your children. Because we are two women creating a family, we are denied such basic rights and it seems every step we take toward achieving our aim will be challenged by a society that rejects the notion that gay men and lesbians can be suitable or responsible parents.

As a gay woman, I have never been backward in coming forward, so no discriminatory, outdated laws will prevent me from living my life and achieving my goals. I dream of being pregnant and sharing parenting duties with my partner, and I also see Kelly in that role. I imagine my hand on her swollen belly, talking to our son/daughter in the womb, mopping her sweaty brow and asking her not to hold my hand *that* tight during labour, holding our child for the first time, and taking him/her for our daily walks with our faithful brown kelpie.

We have made inroads into fighting against prejudicial laws by writing wills, creating enduring powers of attorney and guardianship, taking legal advice in the purchase of our house, stating our clear intentions to our families, ensuring our workplaces are aware of our relationship, and having our doctor involved in the pregnancy process. I am challenging the 'traditional nuclear family' by creating my own, ensuring all my friends and family are fully aware of our decisions and demanding respect for how we choose to live our lives. Despite having heard countless times "You two will make great parents", not everyone within our immediate family agrees with our decision to have children. Even within ourselves, we sometimes question our financial position, and doubt our ability to provide all the right answers at all the right times, but deep down, we know we can provide a loving, caring home within a larger support network of families and friends.

Over the course of nine years, Kelly and I have had countless conversations about who would give birth, who would be the donor, custody issues, medical and legal rights over the child, the rights of

the non-biological mother, involvement level of donor, childcare issues, and work entitlements (ie. parental leave for the co-parent). There are even more issues like what name will the child use for the co-parent, the child's surname, how to explain our family to our child, how and when to give answers about 'daddy', and teaching our kids how to deal with prejudice.

About 12 months ago, we found a donor willing and able to meet our terms, and began inseminations with Kelly (we both want to be a birth mother, but she is older and therefore gets to 'go first'). Despite a wonderfully supportive doctor (we are the first lesbians he has helped to have children) and all the lesbian pregnancy books ever written, there are obvious problems such as restricted access to sperm and no help with reproductive technology, so our persistence is being sorely tested. How much easier this would be if we could adopt or have access to IVF!

In creating our family 'outside the law', we need to protect ourselves legally as much as possible because traditionally, the courts will favour biological parents, not necessarily primary caregivers. If we have a child from our donor and assume full and sole responsibility from day one, with no financial or moral input from the 'father', at any time during the child's life he will have a legitimate claim to take full custody. Despite having documents signed by all parties (ie. donor and intended family) outlining our intentions from birth and the father surrenders his parental obligations, we still face the threat of someone with biological ties to the child challenging our decisions. The donor has to trust we will not chase him for support payments, and we need to have faith he will not contest for custody - if either party 'changed their mind', the 'biological' aspect takes precedence and can tear my family apart. Should my relationship with Kelly fail, the non-biological mother has no legal claim, regardless of her impact on the child's upbringing, and no onus to provide support payments. This is how I live with the law in South Australia. Remind me again - why do I want kids?

Jenny O'Loughlin

Gawler Place Dental Centre

**DR. ANNA
ROZITIS** BDS (Adel.)

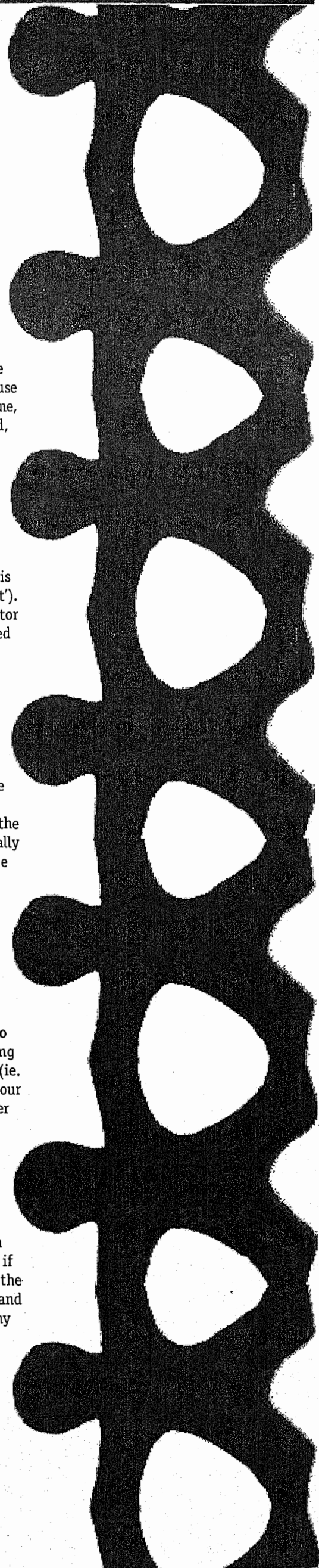
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teeth or they will be
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HINT #12

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Labels

Lesbian. Dyke. Faggot. Poof. Gay. Queer. Intersex. Transgender. Bisexual.

LABELS. Even within these labels, we insist on applying them to ourselves, somehow validating our existence by the nature of the label we are given, and that we give ourselves. Many people have been known to ask "Why can't we exist without it?"

First and foremost, I am a woman. I enjoy being different to a man, I enjoy wearing skirts and pretty dresses, I enjoy wearing makeup and doing my hair, I enjoy knowing that thousands of women over hundreds of years, have fought for the rights that I now live with and I enjoy continuing that fight, knowing that my children will be proud of me because of the woman that I am today. I am also a lesbian. I know that's what I am and I am proud of that. I like liking women, I like making love to women, I like kissing them, I like holding hands with them, I like spending time with them. I am a lesbian, but first and foremost I am a woman. I don't deny either aspect of my personality, I embrace and celebrate both of these identities. If someone asked me, I would tell them I am a lesbian, but I would hope they would respect and celebrate my womanhood before they would judge me on my sexuality.

I don't feel the need to 'come out'

and identify as a woman, I just am, and if people have a problem with me because of that, surely they don't need me to point out my gender to them. I'm not trying to be cool and challenge traditional labels by refusing to identify as something; I fully accept the labels that are placed upon me, but that's not how I identify myself. I find it very frustrating when people who are gay say they aren't, just to challenge traditional roles in society. People fought fucking hard to get us the right to openly identify as gay, and if you are enjoying that privilege in every aspect of your life, except in terms of the label you have, I don't think you are challenging societal boundaries, I think you are ignorant and selfish.

If you live a lesbian life, accept the fact that you are a lesbian. If you live a queer life, accept the fact that you are queer. If you live a heterosexual life, accept the heterosexual label. Don't

come to me and tell me you aren't queer when at this very moment in time, I am fighting so that you have the right to identify as that. Sometimes challenging traditional hierarchical methodology means breaking out from within. You won't challenge homophobia by refusing to identify as homosexual. You won't tear down the societal boundaries by hiding within an accepted position.

I hate the word 'lesbian', but I know that's what I am. I respect and thank the women who have fought for me, and with me, for the right to maintain that role, for the right to live openly

as a lesbian, to walk down the street holding my girlfriend's hand, and work in the position that I work in today. I am a woman and I am proud. But I am also a lesbian, I am gay, I am queer and yes, I am proud. Don't hide behind indifference, don't tell me that you aren't when I know that you are, don't deny our rights and pretend you don't care, don't shy away

and then act like you have those rights, you don't. Tell the people who rioted at Stonewall that you don't identify as lesbian, gay or queer, tell the people who are lobbying government that you don't care, if you have equal rights, tell the people who are demonstrating and protesting, screaming in the streets and challenging the boundaries, that you don't believe in our community.

Or take a stand, choose to own your own identity, take a proactive approach to life, challenge the labels by accepting that we can't live without them, change society by choosing to identify yourself clearly and positively so that others can learn from you. Choosing not to identify yourself is taking the easy way out of life, it's saying that you don't give a damn. I used to think I was fighting for people, fighting to achieve a better community for my friends and peers but when you won't stand up and demand the rights I am fighting for, why should I bother? I am a woman, but I am also a lesbian. I don't deny either; I know who I am and I want society to know and respect that too.

If you aren't prepared to stand up and say who you are, you don't deserve the privilege.

Emma

Take a proactive approach to life, challenge the labels by accepting that we can't live without them, change society by choosing to identify yourself clearly and positively so that others can learn from you. Choosing not to identify yourself is taking the easy way out of life. It's saying that you don't give a damn.

Queer TV: where are we now?

The appearance of queer people on television is nothing new. Well before Ellen created a media talking point and staged her much publicised coming out there have been queer characters on television, though obviously in various stages of being out. Advances made in the gay and lesbian movement seem to have produced a very tokenistic place for the queer character, however more recent shows like *Buffy*, *Six Feet Under*, *Queer as Folk* and *Will & Grace* have shifted the plot focus to devote much more time and space to diverse sexualities.

Although in a sense I consider any increasingly gay and lesbian visibility on television to be a good thing, this is not without its qualifications. Sometimes, I wonder what sort of 'equality' is being allowed. Both *Queer as Folk* and *Will & Grace* use gay and lesbian characters as the central focus of the story: it's about them and for them. While obviously having many good points, they often stereotype excessively, and portray unrealistic standards of how gay life is and should be lived. In my mind, a focus on the hedonistic world of muscle-bound men wearing various types of not much and the occasional cowboy hat is good for a laugh, but it can be an unrealistic model for a long-term gay lifestyle, despite stereotypical prevalence.

My point, though somewhat

convoluted, is that while *Will & Grace* and *Queer as Folk* are good, entertaining shows, they allow and in fact demand themselves to be labelled as 'queer' shows and suffer for it. Viewers may find the often-shocking subject matter more palatable because it is removed from reality by its exclusive queer subject matter and hyper-camped-up showiness. The beauty of a show like *Six Feet Under* is that David's sexuality, while a very important issue, is shown within the context of other complicated emotional, career and family issues. His relationship with Keith seems a much more realistic portrayal of how real gay relationships may work. The show is one in which gay and non-gay relationships may get equal time, and the queer characters are allowed to be as sexual and human as their heterosexual counterparts. The two worlds may interact seamlessly.

Similarly, Willow and Tara's relationship in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* isn't all about shagging, but shows a level of intimacy, growth and connection that removes it from the realms of tokenism. More importantly, their time together gives airtime to lesbian relationships which are so often portrayed as too domestic, boring or unworthy of attention, while avoiding a construction based on the male gaze. Obviously I am aware that the paranormal content of



Buffy does discount my whole 'please portray gay relationships as realistic' shtick, but I would argue the relationships and feelings expressed therein are often more realistic than many other prime time shows

despite the odd demon or vampire.

The appearance of queer characters on television has come a very long way, but it's important to be critical of what we receive. Whether we like it or not, television provides social models both for what people will aspire to and how they will be perceived in the broader community. While *Queer as Folk's* brazenness for example can be an asset, we must be wary of excessive stereotyping and superficiality. Although this may make queer people more acceptable - relegated in part to the realm of the over-the-top and easily dismissed - we should ask for more. Personally I applaud

Six Feet Under's portrayal of David as a complicated, intense character, whose sexuality is an integral but not all-consuming focus of his personality. Sexuality and the exploration of those issues associated with it are integral to understanding and acceptance, but needs to be done without excessive or shallow stereotyping. Otherwise, it can be easy to lose more than is gained. Queer television may have come a long way, but need not forget to look where it's going.

Michael Fyfe

Lesbian feminist activism probably crystallised in 1969, when matriarch of second wave feminism Betty Friedan made the mistake of referring to lesbians as the 'lavender herring' of the women's liberation movement. The women's liberation movement, dominated by white, straight, middle-class women, had a significant faction who saw lesbians as volatile and a risk to discrediting the movement as a whole. In response, a group of about 20 women formed a splinter group known as the Lavender Menace, who agitated for lesbian issues to be put on the women's lib agenda.

Just over 20 years later, there are a plethora of lesbian feminist groups actively organising, but it's clear from contemporary Australian debates such as that over same-sex marriage, same-sex parenting and IVF for lesbians and single women that queer women's issues are still in desperate need of discussion.

This week for your entertainment and inspiration I present to you...



The Lesbian Avengers are a network of lesbian activists who convert their political ideals into concrete, direct action.

The Lesbian Avengers were born in New York in 1992, starting with six experienced activists, and there are now around 55 chapters, mainly throughout the United States. Their manifesto and volatile-looking logo were created by painter and graphic designer Carrie Moyer, who was also co-responsible for founding the Dyke Action Machine! (DAM!) in 1991 with photographer Sue Schaffner. DAM! is most famous for its poster campaigns of culture jammed images of heteronormative advertising. The Avengers' slogan, 'We recruit!' is an indication of their feisty yet cheeky attitude. Some chapters in the United States have even taken it further, proclaiming 'We reload!'

The Avengers' objective is simple: to organise in local groups (or chapters), meet regularly, and devise and execute actions to further the discussion, recognition and valuing of lesbian issues. What is a lesbian issue? Well, it's pretty much anything in a lesbian's life that she's keen to see improved or changed. Often, Lesbian Avenger campaigns focus on fatphobia, racism, domestic violence, and the growing power of the Religious Right or Moral Majority (particularly in the United States, and around reproductive or civil rights).

Direct action means not only thinking about something, but doing something that may make a difference to the situation. This can be anything from a letter writing campaign or a visibility action to guerrilla publicity stunts. See *** for just a glimpse of what the Lesbian Avengers have gotten up to in the US.

One thing in particular the Lesbian Avengers are famous for is fire-eating. Aside from being an eye-catching tool for publicity stunts, fire-eating is a symbolic act. In 1992, a lesbian and a gay man were burned alive in their home in Oregon after skinheads threw a Molotov cocktail through their window for their lobbying against a homophobic legislative amendment. By fire-eating, Avengers consume the element that was used against them (the less gutsy, non-fire-eating Avengers may instead chant "The fire will not consume us - we take it and make it our own"). Detailed fire-eating tips for Avengers can be found at <http://www.frontiernet.net/~billijo/fire.htm>.

GREAT LESBIAN AVENGER ACTIONS OF THE 1990S



Rookie Lesbian Avengers in Fire-Eating 101

San Rafael, February 1995: Five Lesbian Avengers released 1000 crickets into the offices of Exodus International, a cult-like organisation whose mission is to 'cure' people of homosexuality. They stormed the office, holding signs proclaiming "Queer Love is Not a Disease", and chanting "Exodus, stop your hate and fear! Help like yours is killing queers!" As a freaked out Exodus secretary said after dialling 911, "there are lesbians here with bugs!" Avenger Liz Harris explained, "If anyone deserves a plague of Biblical proportions right now, it's the Radical Right."

San Francisco, March 1997: An Avenger disguised herself as an enormous walking alarm clock and rang constantly with the slogan 'Wake up! Hate crimes happen!' This was to highlight a recent spate of homophobic hate crimes.

San Francisco, December 1996: a group of Lesbian Avengers and friends gathered outside a shopping centre at rush hour to sing some queerified Christmas carols, including 'I'll Be a Homo for Christmas', 'Silent Night, Horny Dyke', and 'Lesbians We Have Heard on High'.

San Francisco, October 1996: Avengers gave out 200 lollipops labelled with facts about queer youth and a crisis hotline outside Everett Middle School at hometime.

San Francisco, July 1995: Avengers in black veils lugged a body bag in a mass demonstration outside the large Chowchilla women's prison to demand better care for women inmates with HIV.

San Francisco, November 1994: Thirty lesbians and some gay men packed out a restaurant to protest a recent homophobic incident where a lesbian couple were told they had to either stop sitting in each other's laps or leave. The 'lap-in' resulted in the owner taking down a framed award for being the 'Best Place to Get Cosy with your Lover'.

Gemma Clark



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FREE LOVE FANTASY: ADELAIDE UNI IN THE HIPPIE DAYS

So, where was Adelaide University placed in the scheme of things when it came to liberated sexual attitudes and behaviour on campus here in the 1960s – a liberation we have come to think of as being characteristic of those times in general?

Was it the full-on 'sex, drugs and rock and roll' thing? Letting it all hang out in the refectory between lectures? All caftans, jeans, long hair and marijuana, free love and free thought to our hearts content? Humping at will on the Barr Smith Lawns in the afternoon sun? Generally doing our own thing unfettered by any felt need for social conformity – sexual or otherwise? Tripping our way through our academic courses in a self-induced euphoria? If it felt good doing it just as long as it didn't hurt anybody? Utterly cavalier in our attitude to exams and employment – to social responsibility in general?

Well, hardly. Not just like that anyway. It's a lovely thought but any such notion could never be more than a wonderful myth – a fantasy – somewhat at odds with the campus reality at that time.

However, that said, there are elements of truth in the fantasy.

There was, indeed, a liberated feel on campus at that time and they were great days because of it. Certainly politically speaking things were jumping. Vietnam and all that. And in a theoretical sense there was a certain feeling of sexual liberation in the air here at that time. But in practice it was not the unbridled licentiousness – sexual or otherwise – that the broad hippie stereotype for that time might suggest.

Certainly not in 1964 if the July 16 edition of *On Dit* in that year is any guide.

For example, in that issue the Letters to the Editor section was dominated by matters sexual and scatological. The general flavour of the column can be seen in the headings to the letters: 'Sex and nature'; 'You can't hide sex'; 'Virgins rampant'; 'Fornication'; 'Bare bosoms' – you get the idea.

In some of these letters, at least, the editor seems to have been having some fun mischievously attaching salacious headings and endings to letters with puritanical messages.

This was a time when the contraceptive pill, with its promise of sex without reproductive consequences, was a novelty and this had given rise on campus to a discussion: 'Is chastity

outmoded?'

The previous issue of the paper had published the views of broadminded students who thought that chastity was outmoded and rightly so. Not all students in the subsequent edition agreed. 'Hymen worshipper', in a letter entitled 'Virgins rampant', rejected the idea that student chastity was a myth, asserting that 70 per cent of students on campus were virgins. The broadminded students were, he or she thought, unrepresentative of the student body as a whole.

Under the heading 'Fornication' Anthony G. Nancarrow saw grave employment consequences arising from student promiscuity:

All the students of our university hope one day to fulfill some position of authority in our community. But I ask you, what man would give a position of authority to a person who flitted promiscuously from girl to girl.

Fornication, Anthony wrote, was indicative of a general weakness in a person's character:

The fact that a person commits fornication is possibly symptomatic of weaknesses which will also show themselves in other directions. We may find instability, the inability to love and be loved, inability to find satisfaction in one's work, or a lack of the sense of responsibility. All these tendencies could lead to fornication.

Eric Frank thought that pre-marital sex was wrong in part because "human genitals are meant for propagation". They are not, he emphasized, "there to play with".

Clearly at this time in the university's history not all students supported free love.

What is clear is that there was freer talk about sexual matters on campus as we can see from this past edition of *On Dit*. This freer expression went well beyond the Letters column. The paper at that time carried a regular column on current events that was headed 'Abreast of the times'. The illustration for this was always a photograph of a sometimes headless upper female torso displaying bare breasts of varying dimensions. One Prosh rag in those days had the image of

a painted naked art student on the front page. And so on.

How far this freedom of expression on sexuality translated out into active sexual liberation in a participatory sense is another matter and much harder to gauge.

Us students of the '60s had our formative years in the nasty, religious, McCarthyist, sexually repressed 1950s and so it is hard to imagine that this would have been easily cast aside in favour of a widespread joyous sexual liberation in the decade that followed. If such liberation came along at all – if it was ever real in a widespread participatory sense – then it is more likely to have been a later phenomenon arising at a time when liberation of this kind had started to take hold – say from the late '60s on into the '70s. If I had to pick a year out of the hat I would say 1968 was the year sexual liberation – indeed liberation generally – really started to gather momentum. The Age of Aquarius may have dawned in the '60s but it probably only took full effect in

The Age of Aquarius may have dawned in the '60s but it probably only took full effect in the hallowed halls on North Terrace in the decade that followed.

the hallowed halls on North Terrace in the decade that followed.

But who knows. I am only guessing here. I

am unaware of any socially scientific evidence that would take us towards a definitive understanding of this phenomenon, for our campus for this period of time. I can only therefore fall back on personal recollections and literary evidence such as that in *On Dit*.

Certainly in my case sexual liberation was there in the '60s but mainly – almost entirely – as something in the mind. An upbringing steeped in Methodism (a religion for which I otherwise have a soft spot) helped to make it so. My wife and I were courting on campus in the late 1960s. In the nicest possible way it was well away from being a romance conducted in an orgiastic undergraduate atmosphere. I remember her (my lovely wife) as being innocent, charming and coy rather than urbane and sophisticated in a hippie sense at that time.

Other ex-students of the '60s may remember it all differently. Maybe I was unusually repressed and life was passing



me by. It would be interesting to know how other contemporaries see it, looking back on it from this point in time.

Of course it's a hell of a lot different these days. In the '60s we were restrained in our sexuality by conscience, the fear of moral censure, the thought of unwanted pregnancy (reduced, as I say, by the advent of oral contraception) and the risk of a dose of the clap. Today, all of these adverse consequences remain, though in different proportions. And of course the real novelty since the '60s is that sex can now kill you (AIDS). Free love could be lethal. Nothing like the thought of ending up six feet under to cool the ardour – to stem the passion for liberated sexuality.

It may well be that when we look back on our campus sexuality post-WWII it will turn out that the '60s (and '70s) period, while it was not the free-for-all of the stereotype, was a lesser golden age of student sexuality between the sexual repression that was Adelaide in the 1950s and the current AIDS-afflicted neo-puritanical restraint putting the brakes on youthful – student – sexuality today.

**Terry Hewton
Law student**

Photographs of Adelaide Uni students of the inglorious past courtesy of the amazing On Dit photo archive



How many closed minds can you fit in an open forum?

The homophobic response to the Share Education Project

In 2002 Shine SA (Sexual Health, Information, Networking and Education) in conjunction with the Department of Education and Children's Services developed a new and progressive sex education curriculum. The new programme, entitled *Share: Sexual Health and Relationship Education* was introduced into 15 government secondary schools. All government secondary schools were invited to nominate to be focus schools, and the 15 were selected from the 25 who agreed.

The Share programme is based on the findings contained in 'Having Their Say: The Role of Relationships and Sexual Health Education - a Report on the

Consultation with Parent, Teachers and School Students.' This report was conducted by Shine SA in November of 2000 and included responses from close to 200 parents, the majority of whom had children under the age of 13. The report showed that over 80 per cent of parents, teachers and students identified the following as priority areas for relationships and sexual health education programmes:

- Personal safety
- Relationships and communication
- Prevention of unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, rape and sexual assault and other forms of violence including homophobic violence.

An information leaflet that was sent home to parents of children enrolled in participating high schools explained that the Share curriculum covered topics for students in years 8, 9 and 10 and was structured around the areas of:

- Respect, health and life
- Puberty
- Sexuality
- Diversity
- Relationships
- Gender/power/stereotypes
- Safer sex, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases
- Negotiation and decision making
- Places to go for help and support.

The Share project is comprised of three different resource areas. There is the Teach It Like It Is curriculum resource for teachers of middle students (years 8,9,10), the Talk It Like It Is resource for parents of students learning the Share curriculum and for students there is the Tell It Like It Is manual. This booklet, and online resource (http://www.shinesa.org.au/general_new_share.php) is designed to help students

with the Share curriculum as well as being for personal reference.

Since the introduction of the programme into schools there has been considerable response to the content of the curriculum. A series of open forums have been organised by parents and concerned family groups such as The Australian Family Association and the Family First Party. The general belief held by those opposed to the Share curriculum is that the extent of the Share curriculum, and the type of topics included are an attempt to usurp parental values and attempt to eradicate the framework of family values. Others further argue that the home and family unit is the appropriate place in which to provide children with sex and relationship education.

However the pretext of 'parental values', and 'family structure' fails to hide the serious levels of homophobia prevalent through much of the concern.

An open forum held on July 7 saw a panel of six speakers voice their concerns and the concerns of their various organisations. The Liberal Party, Family First, and the Australian Family Association were all represented, as well as the teaching and medical professions.

Each speaker, after assuring the audience that they were, of course, not opposed to homosexuality, addressed the attendees for over 10 minutes. The statements included in their presentations ranged from inane to blatantly offensive. One speaker commented that reading the curriculum actually taught her things about sex and relationship education that she did not know. She then went on to agree that the project's content covered areas best taught at home under parental guidance. Another speaker commented that parents do not want their children to be gay or lesbian and that the Share programme presents homosexuality as another "choice on the smorgasbord of sexual experience." The risk of disturbing 'normal' adolescents was also addressed as a concern with the Share curriculum.

Unlike the speakers on the panel, the comments from the attendees - from parents and families carried no such caveats of insincere tolerance. During question time at the forum there were claims made that the Shine SA and the Share project is using schools to 'recruit' for the gay and lesbian cause, the gay and lesbian rights lobby was likened to a dictatorship in Nazi Germany. It was suggested that Shine SA should be called

"Filth SA" and there was discussion regarding ways to prevent things such as the Bedford Bill (same-sex couples superannuation) from happening again. There was one question posed to the panel in support of the curriculum - they refused to answer.

Several handouts were prepared for the event. A handout entitled Sex "Education" in Our Schools looked at aspects of the curriculum that were being viewed as problematic. The curriculum examples provided included:

- Students are given various words and asked to come up with definitions. These words include "homosexual", "lesbian", "gay", "bisexual", "coming out", and "homophobia".

- Teachers should teach students about love, attraction and desire in a manner inclusive of both same-sex and opposite-sex relationships, and not based on an assumption that all students are heterosexual.

- Students are given scenario cards and asked to think about things from the perspective of "a young Asian man who is gay", "a gay captain of the school football team", "a lesbian who is a successful television star".

All but two of the examples of objectionable curriculum content were regarding same-sex issues. The leaflet goes on to comment that parents have not been informed of the "over-emphasis on same-sex relationships". Statistics about the number of high school students who do not identify exclusively as heterosexual have also been labelled objectionable and in opposition to family values.

Port Lincoln Concerned Parents compiled another handout available at the open forum. They list 10 points of concern with the Share programme, mainly dealing with the 'undermining of family values'. Their fifth concern deals with the validity of same-sex relationships. The concern voiced by the Port Lincoln Concerned Parents is: "How can respect for gay people be taught without giving the impression that homosexuality is a perfectly legitimate option? ... Considerable effort [in the curriculum] is put into teaching understanding and respect for gay people."

A third flyer included a section covering the "dangerous assertions" included in the Share project curriculum. Dangerous assertion number three is that the Teach It Like It Is teaching manual asserts that homosexual relationships are equally as valid as heterosexual relationships. This comment is followed by statements such as that 92 per cent of people diagnosed

with HIV positive are male, and that the overwhelming majority contracted the virus through homosexual contact - HIV is predominantly a 'gay disease'. However, the flyer contained no mention of the statistics about percentages of sexually transmitted infections contracted through heterosexual sexual activity. Another "dangerous assertion" given is that anal sex is "simply another option of sexual activity."

Students consulted as part of the 'Having Their Say' report overwhelmingly identified the need for teachers to establish safe, supportive and friendly education environments for relationships and sexual health education. This is the environment that young people are asking for; this is where they want to learn about sex and relationships, and this type of environment cannot exist concurrently with homophobia. By excluding progressive learning and awareness of queer issues from the classroom, and restricting them to the realm of home learning, we run the risk of never breaking the cycle of homophobia. Fortunately, not every family unit shares the views of those opposed to the same-sex content in the Share curriculum, but the danger lies in letting those who do, those who want to programme removed from schools pass their views on to their children.

Sex and relationship education, like any other form of education, does not necessarily need to be exclusive to one learning environment or another. The Share project is not a barrier to a parent's contribution to their children's education. However, the very sad and very real truth of the matter is that the Share programme and other progressive and necessary education endeavours like it may be the only place that young

By excluding progressive learning and awareness of queer issues from the classroom, and restricting them to the realm of home learning, we run the risk of never breaking the cycle of homophobia.

people will get to hear, and more importantly learn and believe, that identifying as non-heterosexual is a valid, loving, justified and normal part of life. I know I for one will be a happier person if the man

who felt the need to leave the forum screaming "homosexuality is a fucking perversion" does not get the exclusive right to educate his children about the validity of same-sex relationships and the horror of homophobic violence.

Naomi Vaughan
SAUA Project / Research Officer

Sources:

Having Their Say: The Role of Relationships and Sexual Health Education
http://www.shinesa.org.au/pdf/having_their_say_nov2000.pdf
Tell It Like It Is
http://www.shinesa.org.au/general_new_share.php

Queer Youth Suicide

As a queer youth I thought about suicide a few times. It's hard growing up not knowing who you are and being teased for liking someone you shouldn't. Somehow I made it through my teens and am all the better for it but for some the pressure of their life can be suffocating.

Coming out can take years, or a lifetime, but going through this process of self-discovery can take its toll. When homophobic people and their comments surround you, you feel put down. You feel abnormal and that you don't fit in. All your friends talk about hot guys they're dating or those they like but you can't join in and be part of that. Being teased at school can make your life hell. We all know how cruel teenagers can be. If you can't see anyone like yourself, though, you don't feel like you belong anywhere. If you can't find anyone who is 'that way inclined' then what chance do you have of dating? Family expectations weighed me down too; they all believed I'd get married and pop out grandkids. I had a lot of responsibility to live up to but I cringed at the thought of disappointing them. I kept my sexuality a secret for so long; I felt like I would explode if the truth didn't come out soon. I would cry in bed late at night thinking how different I was and how I longed to have someone of my own to love me. If just one person loved me, that would be enough. It all got too much when I saw my younger brother flaunting his girlfriend around and I had no one. They all praised him and ask me when I was going to find someone. I thought about ending

my life a couple of times; ending the heartache that I felt constantly. Not being able to indulge my romantic side and lavish affection on someone I loved was torture.

I held on to the idea that once I had reached uni, I would meet new people and get out of the homophobic circle in which I had circulated for so long. I did make new friends but it was the uni Pride group (a group for non-heterosexual individuals) that gave me hope. These were all people just like me. Sexuality was celebrated here, not degraded. I revelled in the positive atmosphere of the group and it boosted my confidence and self-esteem no end. If you only live just to be around good friends then it's a life well spent. The positive energy it gave me inspired me to take my life back into my own hands and enjoy it as much as I could. I decided I would find someone one day, who loves me as I do them. I decided to be picky because only someone special would have the privilege of being with such a kind person as myself. Today, still, I remind myself that I am worthy of respect and love just like any other human being. This makes me strong and proud of myself because I know how far I've come.

When I was at my lowest I knew I needed help but I didn't know where to turn. You can get support from counsellors and groups (such as Pride) or you might want to feel part of something by just being on the scene and meeting people like yourself. I never knew of these places but here's a list of where to go if you'd like to; whatever makes you feel comfortable.

Anne Romeo

THE FACTS

Queer youth are three times more likely to commit suicide than their heterosexual counterparts

10 young people commit suicide each week

One in every 14 people between the ages of 14 and 24 has attempted suicide

Between 40,000 and 60,000 young Australians attempt suicide each year; 30 per cent relate to homophobia and sexuality

THE CONTACTS

Counsellors:

Your school / uni counsellor

Your Students' Association Sexuality Officer 8303 5406

Youth Health Line (cost of a local call) 1300 131 719

Second Storey Youth Health Centre, 57 Hyde Street City, 8232 0233

Meeting places

Adelaide Uni Pride group, sixth floor, Union Building (opposite Rumours café entrance)

Feast Festival (every year around November)

The Scene

The Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright Street, city

The Grace Emily Hotel (for the girls usually on Thursday nights), 232 Waymouth Street, city

The Edinburgh Castle Hotel, 233 Currie Street, city

The Mars Bar, 120 Gouger Street, city

Newspaper

Blaze - pick up a copy at uni, cool retail outlets and in newsagents

Sistergirls: just one aspect of

Indigenous sexuality

Attitudes towards Indigenous sexuality and homosexuality vary across different groups of Indigenous people in the same way attitudes vary amongst the non-Indigenous groups and individuals. However, the impact of government policies, church missions, and forced adoption and fostering of children have and still do affect different groups in varying ways.

Within many Indigenous communities the term "sistergirls" is used affectionately between Aboriginal women and it is also used to identify people who identify as transgender or transsexual. While there exists no one term that covers lesbians, gay men and sistergirls some communities use terms

like "two-one" to show their view that two spirits (both male and female) live in the one person.

While Indigenous people are very over-represented as victims/survivors of violence, it is likely that they also experience far greater levels of homophobic violence. Those who identify as lesbian, gay, transgender or sistergirl have to find a place within their own communities as well as deal with the racism and homophobia. In reality, there is some evidence that those who harbour homophobic attitudes are also likely to be racist and other evidence indicates Indigenous lesbians, gay men and sistergirls are likely to experience higher levels of violence due to their

sexual orientation.

In dealing with the violence it is important to seek help from Indigenous Elders from the local community and other organisations set up to provide guidelines and support.

Shine SA offers a great resource for finding the help you may need in dealing with any issues related to Indigenous sexuality and they have a full-time officer employed to provide support and guidance. They can be contacted at www.shinesa.org.au or by telephone on (08) 8431 5177 and ask to speak with Roz Pierce.

If you are an Indigenous gay, lesbian or sistergirl there are a number of organisations that can assist you.

These include:

Shine SA (see above)

AIDS Council of SA, Confidential Information about HIV/AIDS (08) 8362 1611

Or FREECALL 1800 888 559

Positive Living Centre, 16 Malwa St. Glandore, (08) 8293 3700

Sexual Health Centre, Royal Adelaide Hospital, **Clinic 275**, (08) 8226 6025

NunkuWurrin Yunti, 185 Wakefield Street, Adelaide, (08) 8223 5217

Special thanks to www.stophomophobia.org

Darren Kurtzer

Gay, healthy and happy

Different segments of the community have differing health care needs and potential health problems, and this is also true of gay men. Like everyone else, while most gay guys spend most of their time living happy and healthy lives there are some things worth watching out for, as lots of help is available.

Mental health is a key aspect in gay men's health. Australian studies have shown that gay men can feel lonely, afraid and anxious, and can lack self-worth. Often this is the result of family tension, fear of speaking out, discrimination, or even verbal and physical abuse. "Coming out" can also be very challenging for gay men of any age - establishing an identity and understanding of who you are, and where you fit into the scheme of things can be difficult in a society that is built around heterosexuality. Sadly, poor mental health can result in depression, anxiety problems, risk-taking behaviour, and even suicide.

Members of the gay community can be pressured to be a particular body type that they simply are not. Eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia are serious health concerns, and do occur amongst gay men. While keeping fit and exercising is a good thing, there is such a thing as over doing it and becoming a gym or diet junkie.

For the sexually active gay man, like everyone else, safer sex should be high on the list of priorities to reduce the risk of contracting many very annoying but curable, and some not so curable and more serious sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). I suggest that safer sex also extends to knowing where your individual boundaries are, being cautious if using beats or internet chat rooms to meet partners, and ensuring that sex is respectful and fun. I won't go into the details of safer sex here, but if you're not sure, ask - it's important... there are lots of helpful people around (see below).

Some gay men party hard, and this can include excess alcohol, smoking, and illicit drugs. New studies are showing that tobacco use amongst gay men is higher than that of the general population, and that alcohol abuse can also become a problem for many gay men. There are also studies that suggest that gay men use illicit drugs such as marijuana, ecstasy, amphetamines and amyl nitrate at higher rates than in the general community. The effects of smoking, excess alcohol and illicit drugs can have a tremendous impact on your life - make informed decisions, don't feel pressured, and be aware that your decision making ability is likely to be affected by drugs and alcohol.

There are lots of people around who can help answer questions or deal with potential problems, here are just a few:

The **University of Adelaide** has really helpful and friendly **Sexuality Officers** and a great **counselling service** that can help you confidentially, answer questions, and direct you to other services;

The state government offers **Second Story**, a helpful counselling / social service for we youngish folk;

The **B'Friend** project run through Adelaide Central Mission helps gay men with social contacts and support;

The **STD clinic** on North Terrace (275) can confidentially help with any lumps or bumps free of charge;

and finally, there are a huge number of gay and gay friendly doctors around town. I firmly believe that every person should have a friendly **General Practitioner**, as they are a great resource too.

Stay healthy and happy!

AJ

References:

Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (USA): 10 things gay men should discuss with their doctors (2002)

Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health: The Health of Young Australians (1995)

Hillier / Walsh: Abused, Silenced and Ignored, Youth Suicide Prevention Bulletin No.3, Australian Institute of Family Studies (1999)

Brown: Here For Life Youth Sexuality Project - An Overview of Some Early Results, Youth Suicide Prevention Bulletin No.3, Australian Institute of Family Studies (1999)

Adelaide University Medical School: Resources for Gay and Lesbian Medical Students (2000)

Most people would expect me to talk about sexual health here, but lesbian health is so much more than that. For example, one of the most astounding facts I discovered when researching for this article was that lesbians are 30 per cent more likely to develop breast cancer than their heterosexual counterparts. So for this article, I will talk about much more than sexual health.

Breast Care

Lesbians are known to have fewer mammograms than heterosexual women in breast screening after the age of 50.

Lesbians have a greater risk of breast cancer, and risk factors of a higher rate of smoking, less pregnancies and breast-feeding, higher body mass, more breast biopsies and higher consumption rate of alcohol.

Lesbians are 30 per cent more likely to develop breast cancer than heterosexual women.

Mental Health

The impact of homophobia on lesbians is high, increasing feelings of isolation and risk of depression and anxiety.

One study has found that lesbians have twice the risk of depression and twice the risk of anxiety compared to that of straight women.

A New Zealand study has found that 80 per cent of lesbians have used a mental health service, 53 per cent contemplated suicide and 20 per cent attempted suicide.

36 per cent of lesbians encounter physical violence leading to mental health issues compared with 13 per cent of heterosexual women.

38 per cent of lesbians suffer sexual abuse compared with 17 per cent of heterosexual women.

48 per cent of lesbians suffer emotional violence compared with 25 per cent of heterosexual women.

Tobacco & Alcohol Abuse

Lesbians are more likely to be current smokers (46 per cent vs 25 per cent)

Lesbians are more likely to have ever smoked (63 per cent vs 39 per cent)

Lesbians are more likely to consume alcohol at dangerous levels (4.3 per cent vs 2.6 per cent)

It is thought that lesbians have a higher rate of alcoholism than heterosexual women, and there are many reasons suggested to account for this difference, one of the reasons being that bars are still the only lesbian social centre and until this changes, the figures will reflect this.

Pap Smears

Lesbians are found to have a Pap Smear every 21-34 months, vs 8-9 months for heterosexual women.

Despite common perception, lesbians DO need to have regular pap smears

Sexual Health

Common vaginal infections include Bacterial Vaginosis & Candida, prevention of these diseases include the use of gloves and condoms on sex toys.

External infections include genital and oral herpes, and Human Papilloma Virus (warts). Dental dams can be used to prevent this.

Cervix infections include HPV, Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea, prevention includes the use of gloves and condoms.

Blood contact infections include Hepatitis B, HIV and Hepatitis C, to prevent these infections, avoid sex during your period, or sexual contact with broken skin.

It is still true that lesbians have fewer sexually transmitted infections than any other social group, but this is not a reason to be less vigilant in our safe sex practices.

Not all lesbians have access to good health care professionals, and this is perhaps the most important health risk factor today. Lesbian activism has made it easier for us to speak out about issues that affect us, but we still encounter homophobia in our endeavours to find queer-friendly practices. It is always important to feel safe with your doctor and to be open about issues which are important to you.

All information in this article has been sourced from Dr. Ruth McNair, and 'The New Our Right to Love'. For further information, contact me, your SAUA Sexuality Officer, on 8303 5404.

Emma O'Loughlin

Did you know?

Faeces can and often do contain bacteria that are non-pathological in the lower gastrointestinal tract but which can cause very serious illness elsewhere. You've heard of having "strep throat"? There are lots of strains of the streptococcus bacterium and one that can be embarrassing is a diagnosis of streptococcus faecalis from a throat culture.

Thanks to sexdoc.com

Questions

1. What is the most pertinent sexuality issue facing young people today?
2. What is the weirdest or funniest thing ever said during a sexual encounter of yours?
3. What advice was given to you by your parents during the 'sex talk'?
4. If applicable in five words or less, sum up your first time.

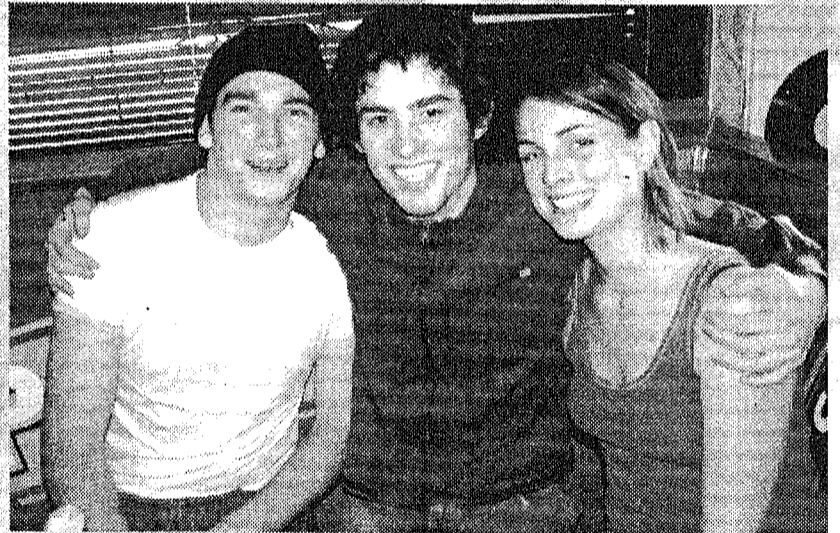


Dexta & Monkey Minowa

1.
D: Not enough Catholic school girls.
MM: Pink or brown: you do the math.
2.
D: You'd look better as a Catholic school girl... Mum
MM: Don't tell your father.
3.
D: Don't get arrested.
MM: If you ever travel back in time, don't step on anything... because even the tiniest change can alter the future in ways you can't imagine.
4.
D: Catholic school girls rule.
MM: Thankfully the lights were off.

Hannah

1. Female masturbation.
2. Oh fuck... they're home!
3. That I would be considered promiscuous if I had had more than one sexual partner.
4. Over before I realised.



Casanova, Daf and Emma

1.
C: STIs - No, not the cool Subaru either.
D: I concur.
E: Pregnancy.
2.
C: Du Hast ein Lange Slange (you have a long snake).
D: Mojo, get off the bed. (Mojo is a pet dog.)
E: Sorry what's your name again?
3.
C: Use a fucking helmet.
D: Wear a dinger.
E: Don't get pregnant.
4.
C: You must work out.
D: Quiet - my parents are downstairs.
E: Average.

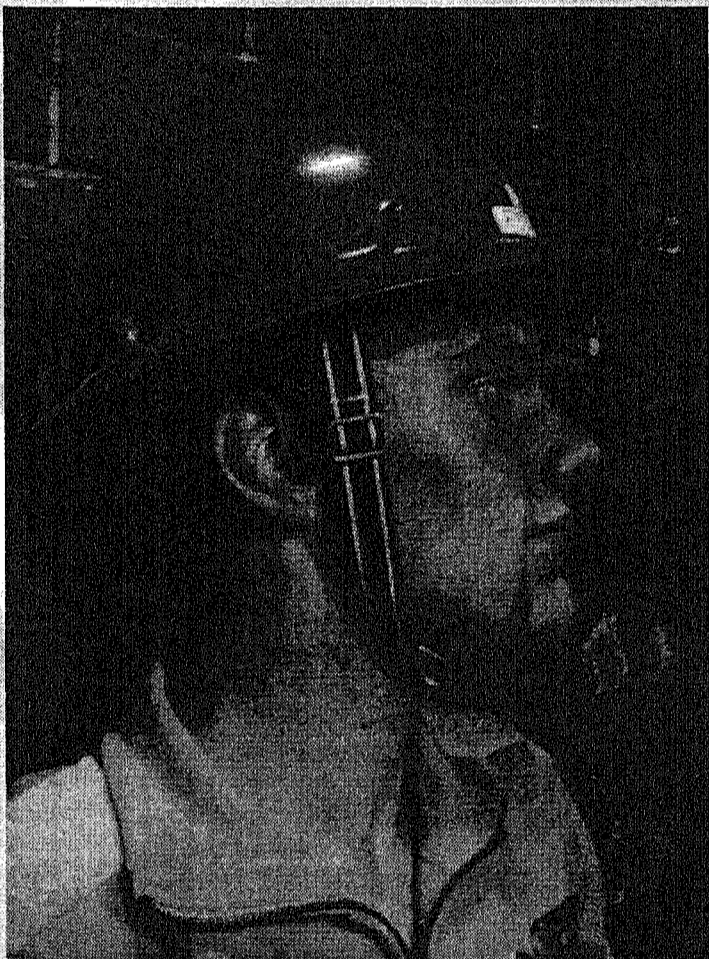
Chris & Dylan

1.
Dylan: Fear of repression and not being able to get it when you want it.
Chris: Same as Dylan.
2.
C: What's the sound of one hand clapping?
D: Does a fanny fart count?
3.
C: If you can't be good, be careful.
D: Use a condom, because you only have one penis and you have to live with it forever.
4.
C: Whips, chains, leather, baby oil.
D: She said yes.



Andrew Whale

1. A general disorganisation amongst the Trade Community. No rosters, expiry dates or schedules... what is this world coming to?
2. Are you into cigar porn?
3. No sex talk ever... quite a let down really. Self-taught by experience.
4. But a distant memory...



Andrew G and James (Australian Idol & Channel V)

1.
AG: Fuck it... deep...
J: STIs - yes, the cool Subaru.
2.
AG: Condoms... love 'em. Lube... love it. Strawberry lube really gets me off. I'm not gonna call you and if I see you I'm not gonna talk to ya... Let's go... Oh yeah... Oh yeah...
J: Urgh... Sexlexcia
3.
AG: Use a giant Buffy poster above your bed.
J: You can't just stop at one.
4.
AG: I love you with me.
J: That was classic intercourse.

sexy saua staffers



Worried about the consequences of unplanned or coerced sex?

Did the condom break?

Or maybe you forgot to take the pill?

Did you know that you can now take ECP (Emergency Contraceptive Pill) up to 5 days (120 hours) after unprotected sex to reduce the possibility of pregnancy?

So if pregnancy is not part of your immediate future, see a doctor as soon as possible and ask for ECP.

The earlier ECP is taken, the more effective it is in reducing the risk of unplanned pregnancy.

Where to go?

You can go to your doctor or see a doctor at:

- * Shine Clinics
- * Second Story
- * Street Link
- * Pregnancy Advisory Centre
- * Community and University Health Clinics
- * Emergency Departments

For more information on ECP or SHine SA go to www.shinesa.org.au or contact one of the following

Primary Health Care Teams
 East/West 8431 5177
 Northern 8252 7955
 Southern 8325 8164

Sexual Health Line
 (9am - 1pm Mon to Fri)
 Telephone 8364 0444
 Toll Free 1800 188 171
 TTY 8431 5177

The best way to plan your future is to practise safe sex until you are ready to become pregnant. Remember using a condom is the only way to prevent Sexually Transmitted Infections.



leah marrone
 education vice-president

Howdy Ho. Hope you are all well rested after the semester break and ready for some fighting and action. To refresh your memory, Dr Brendan Nelson (Federal Minister for Higher Education, Dr Med-degree-for-free-at-Flinders-Uni Nelson), has put before us a stack of unsightly reforms to the higher education sector. Amongst these reforms he is allowing 50% of students, including med students, who didn't get the marks to buy a place at University. The introduction of the reforms would mean that there would be a five-year time limit on your degree; if you took any longer (say you had to work to support yourself...) then you would have to pay upfront fees. There is also a host of other evil reforms. On the bright side, these reforms need to get through the Senate, and we can stop them by **writing submissions to the Senate** (due **August 15**, please see me asap). Also if you're interested in getting involved in the actions around campus, there is a **National Day of Action on August 27**.

These reforms will not just affect your brothers and sisters, they will affect you.

Help us fight for your education.

Email me: leah.marrone@student.adelaide.edu.au

Watch this space.



georgia phillips
 women's officer

Hi everyone! Welcome back to another semester jam-packed with loads of exciting events and happenings, brought to you by your Students' Association. This week, of course, is no different, with Sexuality Week being put on by your Sexuality Department.

NOWSA

Over the semester break, I attended the National Women's Conference, which was held in Sydney at Macquarie University. It was an ideal time to gather with other Women's Representatives from other universities, and to share skills and campaign ideas with other interested women. It was also good to share experiences of campaigns with people from other universities.

Next year's NOWSA is going to be held at Southern Cross University in Lismore. I encourage all interested women to think about attending this conference.

Semester 2 Campaigns

The Women's Department will be running a lot of exciting campaigns this semester, based around the ideas of Fairwear, Safe Sanitary Products, Violence Against Women and, of course, Women in Education.

The Women's Department will also be taking an active role in the SAUA's campaigns against the Federal Government's Higher Education Reforms.

If any women have any ideas of what they would like to see their Department get involved in, or run a campaign on, please do not hesitate to contact me in the SAUA on 8303 5406, or by email at georgia.phillips@adelaide.edu.au

Have a great Sexuality Week!!

Georgia



adelle neary
 activities & campaigns
 vice-president

Phew, are we back at uni already? Hope your holidays were more exciting than mine!

This semester you are going to hear a lot from your student representatives as the Higher Education Attacks are debated in Parliament. We will be collecting **submissions** to send to the **Senate Inquiry** into the proposed Higher Education changes. For more information about writing a submission on how the introduction of full upfront fees and fee deregulation (for example) would affect your university experience please contact either myself or Leah Marrone. Submissions close on **August 15**. There will be a second **National Day of Action against the Higher Education Attacks on August 27**. Planning for this is underway, but if you are interested in getting involved contact any of your SAUA office bearers. Alternatively you may want to consider getting involved in the **Tertiary Education Alliance**, which was launched during the break. Contact the SAUA for more details.

The Activities department will also be holding a **Market Day on Wednesday August 13**, on the Barr Smith Lawns (weather permitting). There will be a SAUA second-hand stall as well as jewellery, crafty items and food! If you are interested in setting up a stall please contact me ASAP so that I can book you a place.

Finally, the **Theatre Guild** will be performing **Equus** by Peter Shaffer from August 2-16 in the Little Theatre. They have kindly given me a **double pass** to any performance between August 5-9 for the first person to come into the Students' Association and tell me which actor will be playing the character of Alan (go to www.adelaide.edu.au/clubs/thatre Guild to find out).

Until next week, call 8303 3901 if you need to speak to me, or email adelle.neary@adelaide.edu.au! Bye!

saua market day
wednesday august 13
barr smith lawns

Food
 Second-hand gear
 Jewellery
 Crafts

Contact Adelle Neary on 8303 3901 or at
adelle.neary@student.adelaide.edu.au to book your stall now!



sarah hanson-young president

Welcome back to semester two. The next 11 weeks are going to be very full-on for all of us at Adelaide Uni. Over the break the Federal Government announced their proposed education reforms in full. Our worst fears were revealed in this package as we have been anticipating since this time last year. In a nutshell, the federal Education Minister Brendan Nelson wants to:

- Make education a privilege, not a right
- Make 50% of university courses dependent on expensive upfront fees
- Increase HECS by 30%
- Establish generational debt for students and their families who cannot afford over \$25,000 per year for a university degree
- Disable student services & representation by establishing VSU
- Blackmail universities into unfair workplace agreements
- Force universities to deprioritise courses like humanities & social science, visual & performing arts, etc.

The Senate has launched a special committee to look at these changes and is seeking submissions both from individuals and organisations. If you would like more detailed information or to find out what you can do to help lobby Australian Senators to block these reforms and encourage them to establish a better education system please contact me by emailing sarah.hanson@adelaide.edu.au or calling the Students' Association on 8303 5406.

The SAUA is hosting a **General Student Meeting** on **August 12** at **12.30** in the **Wills** area of the Union Building, to inform us on the substance of the government's higher education reforms. Please come along, listen and vote on how you feel about these changes and their effect on students and the wider community.

Cheers,

Sarah Hanson-Young

P.S Good luck to those of you who are graduating this week and I hope that the SAUA, along with the rest of our beautiful uni has been a fun, exciting and worthwhile experience!



darren kurtzer atsi officer

For those of you who are returning to university, welcome back. Hope you had a great break. For those who are returning from up North - you suck, you lucky buggers! Anyway, it won't take long before the cold gets you wishing you were home again. For anyone who is new to university, welcome also. You can find me, Darren, at the Students' Association on most Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 12pm and 1pm or you can contact me at e-mail address darren.kurtzer@adelaide.edu.au

For those of you who were involved in the talks held last year with the Adelaide University Union and the SAUA you should know that the time to run for student elections is close and the need for nominations is fast approaching. At this stage, I assume that the referendum needed to make the ATSI Officer position permanent will go ahead, and if (I mean when) successful the ATSI Officer representative will be elected following this. So, for those of you who are looking to establish a political career for yourself or if you are just passionate about representing Indigenous student needs, now is the time to do something that has the backing and support of your Students' Association.

See the article in next edition for information on the University's Statement of Reconciliation and my report on how students will be represented in the working parties set up to initiate these policy commitments. I hope that some real initiatives can be established that will result in more Indigenous people gaining tertiary qualifications and not just more Indigenous people coming to university only to fail or pull out because of inadequate support or secondary education. This serves to reinforce the belief Indigenous people are incompetent, yet I know we aren't.



sexuality officers

emma o'loughlin & jaeyn walsh

Hey everyone, welcome to Semester Two!

In this edition you will find queer-ness everywhere! We aim to promote and celebrate a homophobia-free university, so come along and join in with the events this week, talk to us, we are really friendly, loving, caring, interesting, funny people!

To add to the funness of the week, we are entertaining you with hot soup and bread rolls on Monday and Wednesday, hamburgers and vegieburgers on Tuesday and Thursday and sausages on Friday (including vegie friendly variety). We are fans of variety here in the SAUA Sexuality Department!

There will be queer films playing in the Union Cinema on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday so come along and support your Sex-O's in their venture to create a better world for you all!

Thank you to my faithful friends, students, Pridesters and family for your contributions to Sexualidit your support throughout preparations for the week!

The Students' Association of the University of Adelaide has proposed to change section seven of the Election Regulations to eliminate the wasteful production of over 13,000 hard copies of the election broadsheet.

Section 7: THE ELECTION BROADSHEET (Proposed Changes):

7.1 As soon as possible after nominations close, the RO shall ensure an election broadsheet is produced and made accessible to all students via email and an electronic copy is posted on the SAUA's webpage. This Broadsheet must also be available in hardcopy, a number of which to be decided upon by the SAUA Council.

This Broadsheet must include:

- (i) Notice of the dates, times and places of polling;
- (ii) A policy statement from each candidate who submits one before the close of nominations;
- (iii) A recent photograph of each candidate who submits one before the close of nominations;
- (iv) Each candidate's year and course of study;
- (v) A sample ballot paper;
- (vi) A brief explanation of the Hare-Clarke Optional Proportional Voting System and an explanation of "No Candidate" and "Council/Committee Vacant";
- (vii) A list of those cards which may be used for identification as per Clause 9.4(i);
- (viii) A specification of the minimum time requirements of the paid SAUA positions: full time paid position, half time paid position, quarter time paid position, honorarium paid position.

7.2 Hard copy election broadsheets must be placed in polling booths as per Clause 10.1



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS INSTITUTE FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH

EXPLORE THE CUTTING EDGE OF COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH

The Institute for Telecommunications Research (ITR) is one of Australia's foremost research organisations specialising in technology for digital wireless communications, including both fixed and mobile satellite and terrestrial radio services. ITR is a core partner in the CRC for Satellite Systems, and leads the Satellite Communications Research Program in that CRC.

The Institute has a reputation for finding elegant solutions to complex telecommunications problems. It's mission is to be Australia's premier organisation for world class research and postgraduate studies in the applications of coding, signal processing and protocol engineering in the areas of satellite communications, mobile radio systems and networks.

We are currently inviting applications for postgraduate scholarships, leading to the award of MEng or PhD, from bright, highly motivated students who expect to obtain a 1st Class Honours degree in 2003, or persons who have previously completed an honours degree and have some work experience.

Advantages for ITR postgraduates include an excellent research environment, extensive commercial linkages, international exchange programs, scholarships and top-ups and an opportunity to be part of an organisation supporting development of Australia's telecommunications future.

Women are encouraged to apply.

Visit our website on: <http://www.itr.unisa.edu.au/>

For further information contact Ms Sonia Watts: Student Support Officer, on telephone: +61 8 8302 3890, facsimile: +61 8 8302 3873,

email: sonia.watts@unisa.edu.au

Closing date: Applications for Australian students will be received up to 31st October 2003

saua services survey >>

DEAR STUDENT,

As part of a plan to improve the services currently being offered by the Students Association, we are undertaking a survey of student's attitudes towards the SAUA.

For the chance to win a voucher from Uni Books, please take 1-2 minutes to complete this survey. All results will be kept confidential and you will be helping the SAUA to better address the needs and concerns of students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

SARAH HANSON - YOUNG

SAUA President 2003, and

ELLY WRIGHT

SAUA Market Research Officer

■ WHAT DEGREE AND YEAR OF STUDY ARE YOU CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING?

■ PLEASE STATE YOUR STUDENT NUMBER HERE IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE UNI BOOKS PRIZE!

■ ARE YOU GENERALLY AWARE OF THE RANGE OF SERVICES THAT THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION PROVIDES?

Yes No Unsure

■ HOW WOULD YOU RANK THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION ON THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS?

EFFICIENCY OF STUDENT OFFICE BEARERS

Excellent Good Neutral Poor Very Poor

QUALITY OF RESPONSE TO CONCERNS

Excellent Good Neutral Poor Very Poor

RANGE OF STUDENT SERVICES PROVIDED

Excellent Good Neutral Poor Very Poor

QUALITY OF STUDENT SERVICES PROVIDED

Excellent Good Neutral Poor Very Poor

■ WHICH STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION SERVICES (IF ANY) DO YOU USE?

- Student representation
- Counselling service
- Education assistance
- Entertainment activities and events
- Student Media - Radio and On DIT

■ WHAT ADDITIONAL SERVICES WOULD YOU LIKE THE SAUA TO PROVIDE?

■ ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OR STUDENT MEDIA?

Yes No

■ IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME INVOLVED, IN WHAT AREA(S) WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED?

■ ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS REGARDING HOW THE SAUA CAN WORK BETTER FOR YOU?

If you have any problems or queries regarding this survey please contact the SAUA on 8303 5406 or email saua@adelaide.edu.au. Completed surveys can be returned to the Students' Association, Level 1, Lady Symon Building just off the Cloisters

Surveys can also be completed online by following the links from the Cloisterphobia newsletter. (delivered to your student email account fortnightly, or from www.union.adelaide.edu.au).

elections

preliminary notice of 2003

annual student elections

STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE AND THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY UNION

Election week for the 2003 SAUA and AUU Elections shall be:

Monday, 1st September until Friday, 5th September 2003.

AUU nominations open: 9.00am, Monday 11th August 2003.

SAUA nominations open: 9.00am, Thursday 7th August, 2003.

All nominations close: 4.00pm, Friday 15th August 2003.

NOMINATION FORMS SHALL BE AVAILABLE FROM AND LODGED WITH:

- Students' Association Office, Level 2, Lady Symon Building, Union Complex, North Terrace Campus (9.00 am - 5.00 pm)
- Union Information Office, Level 2, Lady Symon Building, Union Complex, North Terrace Campus (9.00 am - 5.00 pm)
- RACSUC Office, Union Building, Roseworthy Campus (8.30 am - 3.00 pm)
- WISA Office, Waite Campus (9.00 am - 3.30 pm)

Please Note: Nominations close at RACSUC and WISA offices at close of business, Thursday 14th August.

Nominations from Roseworthy & Waite Campuses can be forwarded to North Terrace until 4pm, Friday 15th August.

ABOUT NOMINATIONS

Nomination forms shall be available from the opening of nominations at the above locations. Completed nomination forms (including 200 word policy statement and photograph (if desired) for SAUA paid positions, Union Board and Union Activities, and a 100 word policy statement and photograph (if desired) for all other positions) shall be lodged at the above locations by the close of nominations. Upon lodging a nomination form a receipt shall be issued, and candidates shall receive:- SAUA ... a general guide for the conduct of the election and the SAUA Election Regulations; AUU ... a general guide for the conduct of the election and the Union's Election Regulations.

Students who cannot get to the above locations during those hours may receive and/or lodge their nomination form by contacting the Students' Association office by telephone on (08) 8303 5406 or by post (mail to The Returning Officer, Students' Association, University of Adelaide, 5005) or by contacting the Union Information Office by telephone on (08) 8303 5401 or by post (mail to The Returning Officer, Adelaide University Union, University of Adelaide, 5005). Nomination forms by post **MUST BE RECEIVED** by the respective offices by close of nomination.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR ELECTION:

GENERAL MEMBER OF UNION BOARD (18 positions) Union board is the governing body of the Union. Board is directly responsible for the Union Complex. The Union also provides funding for affiliate bodies of the organisation. The Board meets monthly and has various sub-committees in which Board members are expected to participate. Any members wishing to stand for this position must be over 18.

GENERAL MEMBER OF UNION ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (5 positions) The Union Activities Committee is responsible for organising Union activities for students. The Committee meets monthly and members are expected to help in creating Union activities projects.

SAUA PRESIDENT (1 position, paid, full time) Responsible for the overall co-ordination of SAUA's activities, chief spokesperson for the SAUA and Chair of SAUA Council.

SAUA EDUCATION VICE-PRESIDENT (1 position, paid, half time) Chief student advocate in academic matters and assists students who are having problems with the University's academic procedure.

SAUA ACTIVITIES/CAMPAIGNS VICE-PRESIDENT (1 position, paid, half time) Co-ordinator and facilitator of SAUA's activities for students and campaigns to promote student interests during the year.

SAUA WOMEN'S OFFICER (1 position, paid, half time, candidates must be female) Responsible for promoting a positive role for women within the University and the community at large, an advocate for women's interests, co-ordinator of women's action on campus and assists student with problems such as sexual harassment and discrimination.

SAUA ENVIRONMENT OFFICER (1 position, paid, quarter time) Responsible for co-ordinating SAUA and student projects designed to promote, protect and/or regenerate a sustainable environment in Adelaide, Australia and/or the world.

SAUA SEXUALITY OFFICERS (2 positions (1 female, 1 male), paid, each position quarter time,) Responsible for creating awareness of sexuality issues, and to act as a referral service to assist students in locating appropriate organisations, persons & social groups.

SAUA ORIENTATION CO-ORDINATOR (1 position, paid, requires a great deal of time in summer holidays, position until mid-March 2004) Responsible for SAUA's 2004 Orientation Programme which includes O'Week, O'Campus, O'Ball and O'Guide.

ON DIT EDITOR(S) (1 position, paid, requires many weekends during 2004, up to three students may nominate together to be joint editors) Responsible for the publication of SAUA's student newspaper which is published most weeks during academic term. It is highly desirable that the successful candidate(s) have some knowledge of producing a student newspaper (if you are considering nominating please find out what is involved).

STUDENT RADIO DIRECTOR(S) (1 position, paid, up to two students may nominate to be joint-directors) Responsible for the co-ordination of the Student Radio programs on SUJ, the co-ordination and training of students involved in producing programs. It is highly desirable that the successful candidate(s) have knowledge of producing radio programs.

GENERAL MEMBER OF SAUA COUNCIL (8 positions, meets fortnightly) The group responsible for determining SAUA policy and the watchdog of SAUA Office Bearers.

Members are expected to contribute to the activities of SAUA.

GENERAL MEMBER OF SAUA EDUCATION/SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE (6 positions)

GENERAL MEMBER OF SAUA ACTIVITIES STANDING COMMITTEE (6 positions)

GENERAL MEMBER OF SAUA WOMEN'S STANDING COMMITTEE (6 positions)

GENERAL MEMBER OF SAUA ENVIRONMENT STANDING COMMITTEE (6 positions)

GENERAL MEMBER OF SAUA SEXUALITY STANDING COMMITTEE (6 positions: 3 female, 3 male)

Standing Committees meet monthly, or more often if a special need arises, and are charged with the responsibility of developing action in the respective fields in co-operation with the responsible SAUA office bearer. Members are expected to contribute towards these activities.

NUS DELEGATES (5 positions) The National Union of Students is the body that is charged with the responsibility of representing student interests. Delegates are expected to attend State and National conferences of NUS and contribute to the development of policy and action at a State and National Level.

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE CLOSE OF NOMINATIONS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Only students of the University of Adelaide may nominate. A student may only nominate for one paid position.

For time and place of voting, please see the forthcoming notice that details polling places.

For further information, contact the respective office bearer, Sarah Hanson-Young - SAUA President,

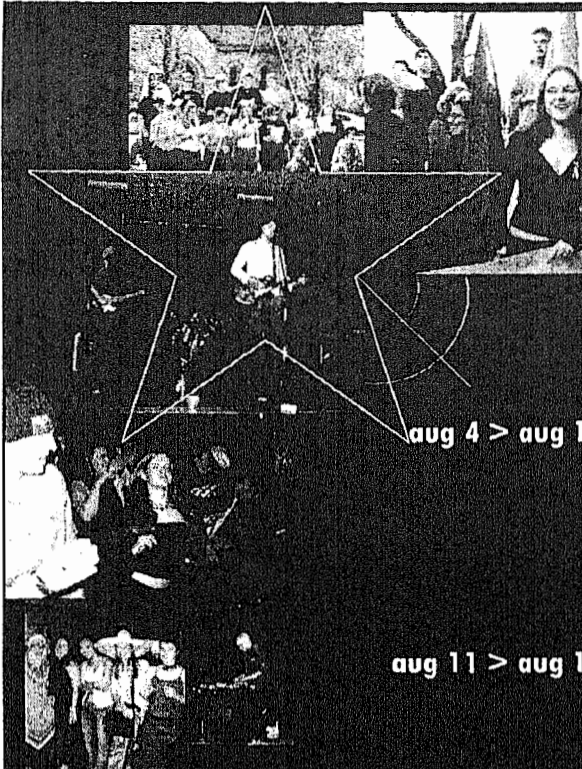
Natalie Teakle - Executive Assistant.

Telephone (08) 8303 5406 / (08) 8303 5401



activities calendar

your guide to activities on campus



aug 4 > aug 10

aug 11 > aug 17

aug 18 > aug 24

To have your event included on this calendar, email details to:

activities@adelaide.edu.au

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Sexuality Week Wills Lounge Free TAX help ph 8303 5401	Sexuality Week Wills Lounge Free TAX help ph 8303 5401 Equus - Little Theatre bookings 8303 5999	Sexuality Week Wills Lounge Equus - Little Theatre bookings 8303 5999	Sexuality Week Wills Lounge Equus - Little Theatre bookings 8303 5999 Film Society Screenings 6pm Union Cinema	Sexuality Week Wills Lounge Netball Club Quiz night Eclipse Function room Equus - Little Theatre bookings 8303 5999	SATURDAY Equus - Little Theatre bookings 8303 5999
Islamic Awareness Eclipse Function room & Cinema Free TAX help ph 8303 5401	Islamic Awareness Eclipse Function room Free TAX help ph 8303 5401 Equus - Little Theatre bookings 8303 5999	Islamic Awareness Eclipse Function room SAUA Market Day Lawns or Cloisters Equus - Little Theatre bookings 8303 5999	Islamic Awareness Eclipse Function room Equus - Little Theatre bookings 8303 5999 Film Society Screenings 6pm Union Cinema	Islamic Awareness Eclipse Function room Equus - Little Theatre bookings 8303 5999 ELECTION BALLOT DRAW Wills Student Lounge	SATURDAY Equus - Little Theatre bookings 8303 5999 SUNDAY University Open Day
Education Week Wills Lounge Free TAX help ph 8303 5401	Education Week Wills Lounge Free TAX help ph 8303 5401	Education Week Wills Lounge	Education Week Wills Lounge Film Society Screenings 6pm Union Cinema AUMaSS Quiz Night Eclipse Function room	Education Week Wills Lounge UAC lunchtime band Barr Smith Lawns	

www.union.adelaide.edu.au/events

Prez Sez

Welcome back! The semester break has ended up being one of the busiest times for the Union so far this year. Whilst most of you were on holiday, hundreds of students flocked to Adelaide from around the country to participate in the many conferences which were being hosted by the AUU.

The National Education Conference was held from July 3rd-5th and was an opportunity for student activists from around Australia to debate the effects of the Liberal Government's higher education reforms. There were many heated discussions about the best way to combat these reforms and I am sure that the Students' Association's Education department will keep you updated on both the progress of the reforms and on the actions in which you can take part.

The Post Graduate Students' Association held Australia's first conference on post-graduate coursework shortly after. This conference allowed both students and academics to discuss the special requirements of postgraduate coursework and to address an area of study which is often forgotten when it comes to academic policy and decision making.

The Overseas Students' Association also participated in the annual conference of the National Liason Committee for Overseas Students. This conference was jointly held by Adelaide University and the University of South Australia and all reports indicate that this conference was highly successful.

The last of the student conferences to be held at Adelaide Uni was the Australian University Sports Southern Games.

Congratulations to all who participated and helped to achieve an excellent result for Adelaide Uni - 3rd overall. The Australian finals will be held in Newcastle in September and Adelaide is set to send one of our biggest teams yet!

This semester is looking even busier with more activities and campaigns. The Union Activities committee is running the annual Battle of the Bands competition over the next few weeks in the Unibar. This is an exciting opportunity for Adelaide Uni to showcase our best student bands. The state final will be held here later this term - keep an eye out and come to cheer on our bands as they compete against Uni SA and Flinders Uni.

The craft studio and Sports Hub have courses starting over the next few weeks for anything from yoga to photography - these classes are inexpensive and are an excellent way to fill in time between lectures and tutes. Also, if you need help filling in your tax return, Tax Help is here every Monday and Tuesday - ask at Union Information for more info on this free service.

Georgia Heath
President
Adelaide University Union

RUMOURS

CAFE

**RUMOURS CAFE
IS NOW LICENSED
AFTER 4pm!**

BEER >> WINE >> PRE MIXES

**Glasses of wine just \$3!
Bottles start at \$11!**

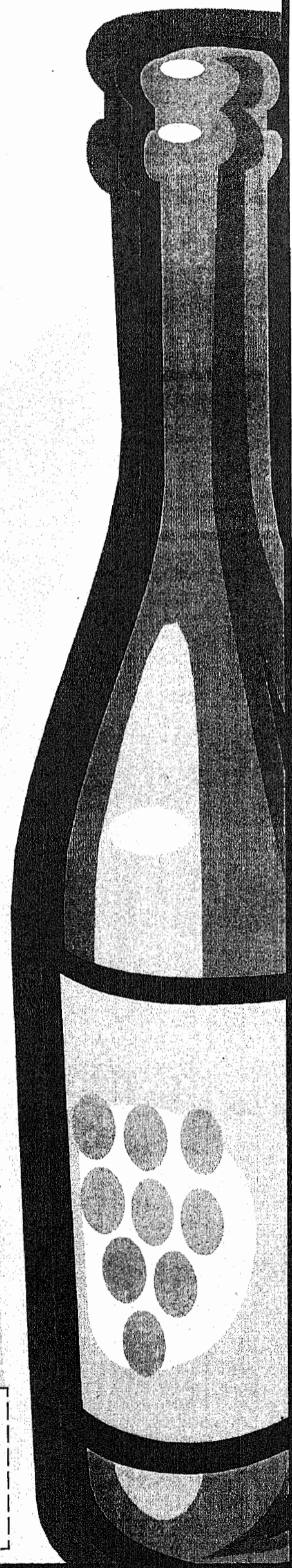
**Check out the menu and wine list at
www.union.adelaide.edu.au
under Food, Bars, Coffee...**

**Rumours Café
Top Floor, Union House
Open 8am - 8pm
(kitchen closes 7:30pm)
Monday to Friday
Ph 8303 5834**

Present this voucher when you buy 4 or more main or pasta dishes and receive 20% off the total bill PLUS a bottle of house wine FREE...

Valid after 4pm. Valid till August 29, 2003.
Not valid with any other offer.

RUMOURS
CAFE



The Blackshirts

The Blackshirts is a Brunswick-based fascist group intent on harassing single mothers and members of the lesbian and gay community. They are concerned with protecting "traditional family values", and are strongly opposed to divorce and homosexuality. Blackshirts members wear black para-military uniforms, swastika-like badges and masks to hide their identity. This vigilante group poses a direct threat to the entire culturally diverse community as a whole.

This group was formerly known as the Southern Cross Good Fathers, an ultra-conservative group made up of men who believe that those who are not in "traditional" father-headed families are in some sense evil- they greatly oppose same-sex relationships and single parenting. Many of the group's members have had intervention and restraining orders placed on them, but continue to make threats against people who are caring for children and not living in conventional households.

The Blackshirts believe that marriage is for life, they oppose divorce completely and accuse the Family Court system of destroying the family unit. They borrow many of their ideas/symbols from fascist ideology and are particularly outspoken about their conservative homophobic and sexist views.

The Blackshirts are committed to "direct action" and want to make up for what they see are the shortcomings of mainstream men's advocacy groups. They have already set up an organisation in South Australia, and are looking to develop a "youth wing", as well as expand into New South Wales and Queensland.

In the name of "protecting the family"...

The Blackshirts have done a number of harassing and damaging things to various members of the community, including:

- * Distributing abusive 'open letters' in victims' neighbourhoods
- * Gathering outside victims' houses howling abuse through megaphones
- * Making phantom phone calls
- * Stalking women
- * Physically attacking law practitioners and disrupting Family
- * Court proceedings
- * Harassing the audience of a play

put on by a queer youth group
* Pasting up homophobic leaflets attacking same-sex parenting,

Their leader...

The leader and the main spokesperson for the Blackshirts has used various names, including John Abbotto, or John Abbott. John Abbott claims to be a driving force behind John Howard's new plans to introduce rebuttable joint custody (which means assuming divorcing parents will share equal care of their children, unless there are strong reasons against it), which will undermine the current principle of deciding custody in the "best interests of the child". He owns the Dane Centre, a recording studio and entertainment venue in Leslie Street, Brunswick and in recent elections, Abbott has represented the No GST Party and the Family Law Reform Party.

The score so far...

Within Victoria, a coalition of residents, student groups, unionists and community workers have formed DiSC (Diversity in Safe Communities), a group that is committed to countering the Blackshirts. DiSC has:

- * Established an effective rapid response network, which has been called out several times to counter Blackshirt demonstrations;
- * Obtained widespread anti-Blackshirt media coverage;
- * Provided court support to Blackshirt targets and held counter demonstrations outside the Family Court;
- * Organised a 200 strong Brunswick public meeting; an art exhibition, a street party and an anti-Blackshirt demonstration.

What can you do to help?

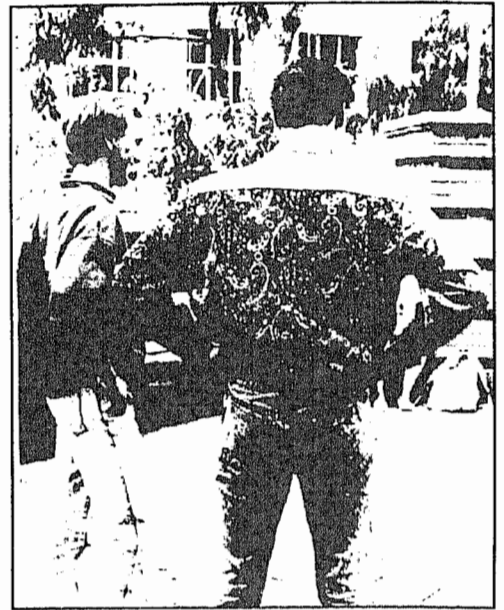
Basically, the Blackshirts are not going to go away overnight. With the influence of other conservative men's rights organisations, Blackshirts-type views are taking hold in the Government and the community. Every person who supports diversity and fundamental freedoms needs to speak out against this type of fascism.

For more information

To find out more about the DiSC campaign, the Blackshirts and how we can fight against them, contact Georgia Phillips (SAUA Women's Officer) at georgia.phillips@adelaide.edu.au

Georgia Phillips

Even uglier than this shirt, pictured in the Barr Smith Circle, circa 1987. Thanks to the amazing On Dit



Did you know?

The anal sphincters (there are two -- an internal and an external) tend to try to contract all the time, and if you have something sloped from big to small, and if you insert the big end in first, and if it is slippery enough, it'll just zoom right in. There are web sites on "Foreign Rectal Objects" and there are medical articles written about the lawyer who came into the emergency room with a light bulb in his rectum. Anything you put in your rectum must have a safe removal mechanism, and a string sometimes just won't do (if the object turns sideways once inside, think about it).

Thanks to sexdoc.com

sexual harassment on campus

It is a policy of the University of Adelaide to provide a work and study environment, which is free from sexual harassment for all members of the University community. Sexual harassment is unlawful and unacceptable within the University.

What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, unsolicited acts of physical intimacy, unwelcome requests for sexual favours or other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature.

Behaviour which may constitute sexual harassment is impossible to describe exhaustively but includes any verbal or physical conduct of an explicitly or implicitly sexual nature which is unsolicited and unwelcome, and may include:

- leering, patting, pinching, touching, embracing, hugging, kissing

repeated requests for dates or social activities, especially after prior refusal

- requests for sexual favours
- sexual comments or innuendo about a person's physical appearance
- sexual comments or innuendo about a person's sexual preferences
- sexually offensive written or electronic messages and offensive telephone calls, or smutty jokes or comments

groups of people leering, wolf whistling or making sexual comments at a person or group of people

offensive or humiliating displays of sexually graphic material including

posters, pictures, cartoons and graffiti

invasion of personal space

persistent questions, of an implicitly or explicitly sexual nature, about a person's private life

Some forms of behaviour with a sexual element to them are criminal matters, such as sexual violence and obscene communications.

Sexual harassment can occur in any aspect of university life. It is an exercise of power, most commonly exerted by men over women, and often occurs where there is an inequality of formal status between those involved.

Behaviour that is thought mild or trivial by some may constitute sexual harassment, where the recipient perceives it as offensive, humiliating or distressing.

What can you do if you feel you are being sexually harassed?

If you feel you are being sexually harassed, please do not hesitate to get in contact with one of your Sexual Harassment Contact Officers, in the Students' Association (Ground Floor, Lady Symon Building):

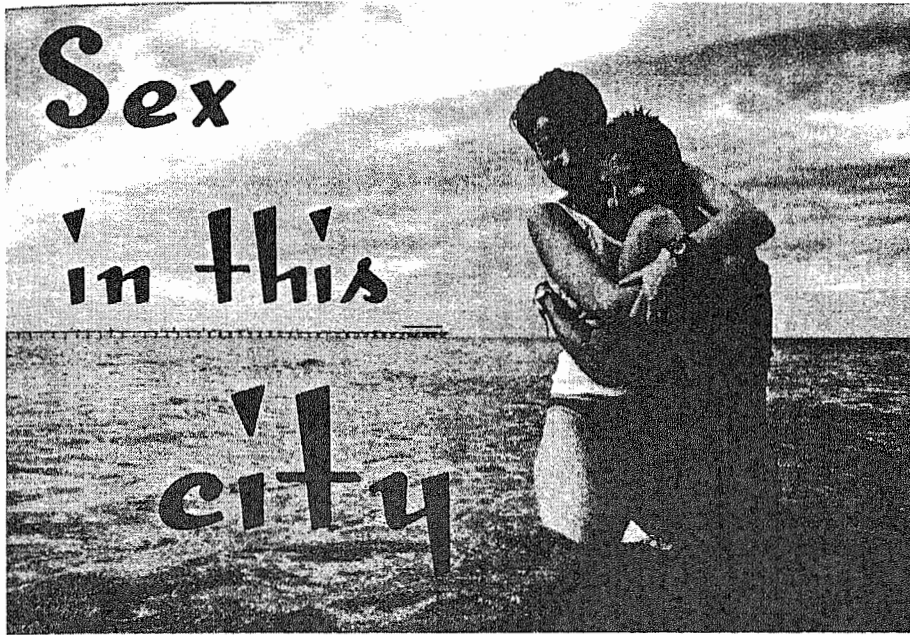
SAUA President - Sarah Hanson-Young

Women's Officer - Georgia Phillips

Female Sexuality Officer - Emma O'Loughlin

Male Sexuality Officer - Jasyn Walsh

Georgia Phillips



I'm in the latter stages of a PhD in Anthropology, looking specifically at sexual health and other aspects of sexuality among young women and men in Adelaide. Within social anthropology, sexuality is mainly considered to be shaped by cultural contexts. That is, sexual behaviour is not some special category of behaviour and experience, separate to the rest of existence. Rather, sexual behaviour and experience carries many meanings for individuals and groups within the wider community. These meanings are not stable. They are individually and collectively formed, and change with context. In my research, I'm particularly interested in how specific examples of sexual behaviours and understandings provoke reflection on the taken-for-granted assumptions of their meanings.

In my research, I discuss meanings, beliefs and attitudes towards sexuality among sex performers and workers, young single mothers and young people in detention, among others. These groups are all stigmatised in various ways, and for some, the stigmatisation is specifically addressed at their sexual expressions. What is interesting is how dominant meanings of experiences are not wholly accepted by these individuals. Dominant meanings are sometimes reproduced by them, but also there are instances where these meanings are challenged or otherwise reconfigured.

I spent time with young men and women in detention centres. These were people who had been imprisoned for a crime committed while they were under 18 years old. They had a wide variety of sexual histories, although there were some common themes. The young men appeared fairly confident about their sexual experiences. They had a good working knowledge of most sexual health issues, although they freely admitted that they were not careful in practicing 'safe' sex. Sexual pleasure was a major preoccupation, especially while they were incarcerated. They were mostly not interested in relationships so much as being able to access sexual partners. They all identified strongly as heterosexual, and during our association, I discovered some were in prison for 'gay bashing'. We spoke at length about their attitudes, which I identify as homophobic, and these attitudes seemed deeply entrenched, and

especially so when voiced within a group of young men.

This was in strong contrast to the young women I spoke with. These young women were very accepting of differences in sexual orientation. They said things like "it's the person you get attracted to, not whether they're a boy or a girl", and "everyone should be free to have sex with who they want, as long as it's respectful". I heard views like this from almost all of the young women I contacted. This phenomenon - widespread homophobia among young men and acceptance of diversity among young women - was confirmed by many workers in the youth work and sexual health fields. Part of the reason seems to be that sex is defined by the majority of young people as penis in vagina, with male ejaculation. By this definition, lesbian sex is not 'real' sex, and 'pseudo-lesbian' sex, as seen in magazines and videos, is performed for male titillation. Many of the young men said they would not object to, would even encourage, their girlfriends to engage in sexual behaviour with other women, although most added "if I could watch". Sex between men was characterised by the young men as "disgusting", because of the assumption that this always involves anal sex. However, many of the young men said they would have anal sex with a woman. The young women defined sexual behaviour almost always within the context of a relationship, and they could imagine their relationships with other young women as potentially sexual. While some young women talked about desiring and actively seeking sexual pleasure, most steered conversations about sex into talk about 'love' and wanting affection rather than orgasms.

This has been a very brief sketch of some of my research into sexuality in Adelaide. While some of the findings are unsurprising, there are also correctives to taking for granted understandings of sexuality, especially among marginalised populations. Examples that contradict dominant understandings of sexuality allow us to more clearly map the intersections of power, sex and gender in our society.

Fiona Sutherland

Q&A:

Some gems On DIT just had to share...

Q: Have you heard of anyone having orgasms while exercising intensely? I'm female, now age 46. I had my first orgasm when I was around 20 years old while doing sit-ups. (yes, I developed strong abs to say the least!) At first I wasn't sure what it was - I remember the sensation going through my middle to lower thigh muscles as they tightened was so incredible after doing around 100 sit-ups that I didn't want to stop - I continued the sit-ups up to and through orgasm - sometimes doing 200+ sit-ups. For a few years following, exercise was the only way I knew how to reach orgasm. Besides the sit-ups, I discovered that raised leg lifts also gave me climaxes. In later years, when I learned how to have orgasms through sexual stimulation, I realized the orgasms I experienced through exercise were nearly the same - (The ones through exercise spread the tingling throughout my body more.)

Have you heard of this before?

A: The nerves in the brain get short-circuited on orgasm and some women cry, some laugh, some sneeze (uncontrollably for several minutes) and some lose bladder or bowel control (and there are other weird things, too). Be thankful for your unique short-circuit! And, because medical scientists see no academic merit in these anomalies, they are not researched.

Q: Since our youngest child's birth, my wife has begun to produce an abundance of lubrication during the rare times we have sex. It is to the point where everything in the vicinity gets sopping wet. At times, there is so much and it comes out with such force that it actually sprays all over my face.

Although I do find this quite erotic, there is one big problem. She gets so lubed up that when I enter her, I can hardly feel anything. There isn't enough friction to keep me hard very long, let alone get me to cum. We've tried wiping it out with a paper towel, but that doesn't work. It has become very frustrating. I haven't had an orgasm inside her in months and months. I keep trying to initiate sex again and again, I do like to have my urge to penetrate satisfied at the least, but in the end, I just don't get off in that very wet pussy.

What should I/we do?

A: You can also try positions that tilt the vaginal opening and make for a tighter fit, such as rear entry (doggy style) or anal sex. Using a condom, female or male, could give you a little more grip. I have heard of some women

inserting a tampon during foreplay to soak up the moisture and then pulling it out right before intercourse (i.e. you eat her out and she floods everywhere, she wipes the excess fluid away and inserts a tampon to soak up the additional liquid and while the tampon is soaking it up she blows you. Right before intercourse, pull the tampon out and go at it.)

Q: My lover raised the question of peeing inside me after we have finished climaxing while his penis is still inside either my vagina or anal passage.

We have discussed how we feel about this and would both enjoy to try but are unsure of any health issues that may arise from doing this. I am 42, he is 30 and we are both healthy. Are there any health issues we should be aware of when practicing this? Aside from the 'wet bed' issue is there anything else we should be careful of?

A: There are several reasons why you should not do this. Both the vagina and the rectum have their own eco-system of flora and fauna that are functional in "doing their job." Women often get vaginal infections and yeast infections because the acid-base balance in the vagina gets out of wack.

Urine is sterile unless the host has a disease, and then some germs can be passed by urine (which is a bodily fluid). Urine also contains uric acid, and in both the vagina and the rectum that can kill good organisms and upset the acid-base balance.

PLUS: The uric acid can irritate the vaginal and rectal mucosa causing unpleasant side effects.

Additionally, he might not be able to urinate in you! Because uric acid also kills sperm, men have a sphincter (circular muscle) around their urethra that shuts off flow from the bladder whenever they have an erection. He would have to lose the erection after climaxing before he could release urine. That might be possible in the vagina, but it could be problematic rectally if your anus were to squeeze tightly enough around his penis.

I suggest that you experiment with a simulation using a douche syringe and/or an enema using warm tap water.

Get your fix at
www.sexdoc.com

The Purity Test

Are you squeaky clean or sick and obscene? Calculate your purity percentage using this handy reckoner! Start with a score of 100 and knock one point off for each question to which your answer is yes.

Have you ever?

1. had sex in three or more positions in one session?
2. had sex continuously for an hour or more?
3. devoted an entire day to sex and sexual activity (with breaks for eating, etc)?
4. been so loud having sex that housemates/neighbours commented or complained?
5. had your sexual technique/skill/style openly praised?
6. written an explicitly erotic story?
7. brought your partner to orgasm using only your hands?
8. had sex while both fully dressed (unzip fly, hike up skirt...)?
9. had sex while both standing up?
10. licked or sucked someone else's feet and/or toes?
11. performed oral sex on a man (fellatio)?
12. performed oral sex on a woman (cunnilingus)?
13. received oral sex from a man?
14. received oral sex from a woman?
15. used position number 69?
16. intentionally swallowed semen (your own counts)?
17. woken someone up by performing oral sex on them?
18. had heterosexual intercourse using no birth control?
19. had sex during menstruation?
20. used whipped cream for sexual purposes?
21. used ice for sexual purposes?
22. used hot/melted wax for sexual purposes?
23. completely shaved off your pubic hair?
24. purchased a sex toy?
25. inserted your finger in to someone's anus, or had this done to you?
26. licked someone's anus?
27. performed anal intercourse on someone (on the giving end, toys count)?
28. received anal intercourse (receiving end, toys still count)?
29. used a vibrator or dildo on a partner, or had your partner use one on you?
30. used another inanimate object for penetration (cucumber, beer bottle, anything)?
31. been involved in use of cock ring?
32. been involved in use of strap-on?
33. participated in fist-fucking?
34. contracted a venereal disease?
35. received money or some favour in exchange for sexual activities?
36. given a sympathy fuck?
37. forced or coerced someone to have sex with you?
38. had sex with a virgin?
39. paid for sex with a prostitute?
40. been involved in adultery?
41. committed statutory rape?
42. fondled a pre-pubescent when you were post-pubescent?
43. had sex with someone 10 years older or younger than yourself?
44. had sex with a housemate/roommate/landlord (not a pre-existing relationship)?
45. had sex with your boss or teacher?
46. willingly committed incest (including 1st cousins)?
47. ever had sex with two people from the same family (ie siblings, etc- not related through marriage)?
48. had sex with someone the same day you met them?
49. had sex with someone whose name you did not know (at least until afterwards)?
50. had sex with someone you had never spoken with, or who did not know any of the same languages as you?
51. been openly homosexual or bisexual (out of the closet for all to see)?
52. had more than 10 sex partners?
53. ...more than 100?
54. had sex with two partners within 24 hours (but seperately)?
55. been engaged in menage-a-trois?
56. engaged in group sex (more than three people)?
57. visited an orgy parlour or swap club?
58. had two or more regular sex partners at the same time, while all involved were aware of your actions?
59. had two or more sex partners at the same time, without telling all of them about the others?
60. had sex in a public place?
61. had sex outdoors at night?
62. had sex outdoors in direct, unshadowed sunlight?
63. had sex in a stationary car?
64. had sex while you or your partner were driving?
65. become a member of the mile high club?
66. had sex in your partner's parent's bedroom?
67. had sex in a classroom, office, or other place of work (not in a private residence)?
69. had sex in the water (bathtub, hottub, ocean...)?
70. had sex in a stairwell or elevator?
71. had sex in a place of the dead (cemetery, mortuary, coffin, etc)?
72. used alcohol to lower someone's resistance?
73. had sex while under the influence of illegal drugs?
74. ever taken drugs for the express purposes of enhancing the sexual experience?
75. seen a live professional stripper?
76. committed an act of voyeurism (watched someone who did not know you were there)?
77. committed an act of public exhibitionism (stripping, streaking...)?
78. masturbated in someone else's presence?
79. had sex while you knew someone else was watching?
80. been walked in on while having sex?
81. watched a pornographic movie with your sex partner?
82. been the photographer or subject of a nude photo shoot?
83. had pictures/video taken of you having sex?
84. watched your usual sex partner having sex with someone else while you were not involved?
85. had a genital or nipple pierced?
86. practiced sexual role-playing (doctor/nurse, student/teacher etc)?
87. engaged in transvestitism for sexual enjoyment?
88. engaged in bondage as a 'top' (someone tied up)?
89. engaged in bondage as a 'bottom' (been tied up)?
90. been blindfolded during sex?
91. intentionally inflicted pain while performing sexual activities (sadism)?
92. willingly had pain inflicted on you during sexual activities (masochism)?
93. had a 'safe word' arranged with your partner for use in SM activities?
94. used nipple clips (clothes pegs count)?
95. used a whip, cat-o'-nine-tails, or something similar for pain?
96. inflicted or recieved an electric shock during sexual activities?
97. drawn blood by biting or scratching while performing sexual activities?
98. engaged in 'golden showers'?
99. committed bestiality?
100. practiced necrophilia?

Sexuality Week

Monday – Sexual Health Day

- Music from 11:30am (feel free to offer personal choices of music!)
- Soup (vegie friendly) & bread rolls from 12pm
- More music!
- SHineSA, ACSA & Second Storey will be at information tables for advice & help

Wednesday – Queer Community Day

- Music from 11:30am
- Soup & Bread Rolls from 12pm
- Mixed film @ Union Cinema at 2:30pm
- B-friend, PFLAG & GLCS will be at information tables for advice & help

Friday – Queer Party Day

- Music from 11:30am
- Meat & Vegie Sausages from 12pm
- PARTY!!

Tuesday – Queers in Education Day

- Music from 11:30am
- Vegie & Meat Burgers w' Lettuce & Tomato 12pm
- Boy's film @ Union Cinema at 2:30pm
- Education Information will be available from the SAUA Sexuality Dept. table.

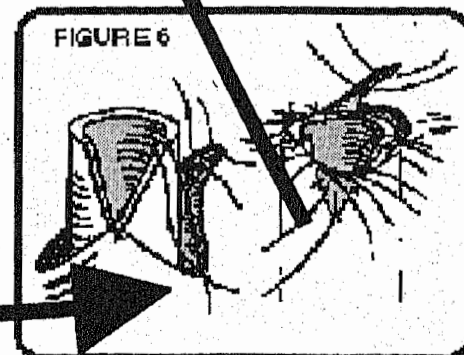
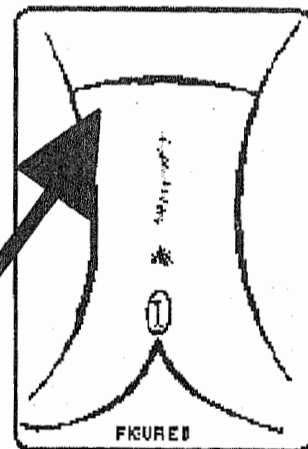
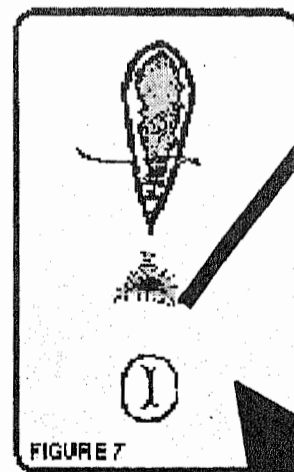
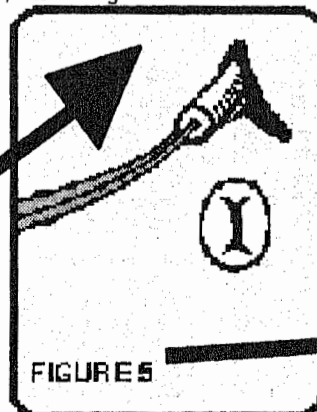
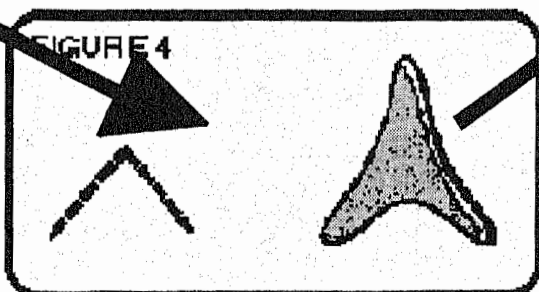
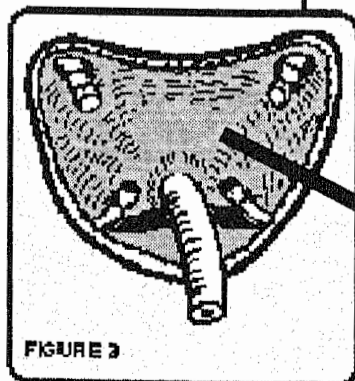
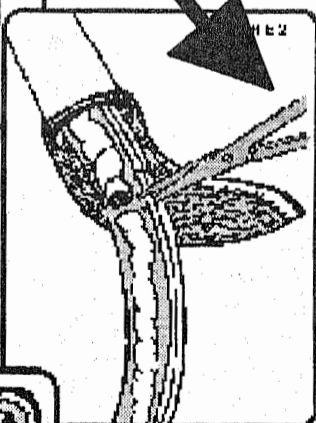
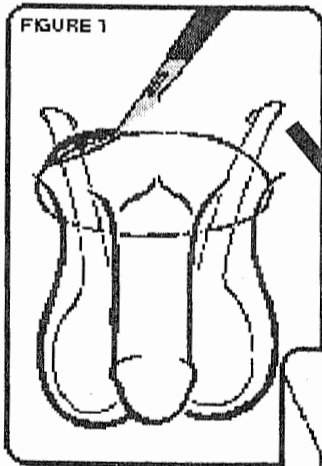
Thursday – Queer Safety Day

- Music from 11:30am
- Vegie & Meat Burgers w' Lettuce & Tomato 12pm
- Girl's film @ Union Cinema at 2:30pm
- Safety & Security information will be available from the SAUA Sexuality Dept. table.

Meet

TOM the EUNUCH

Starring in... **SURGICAL EMASCULATION**



// This is a very brief description of the surgical procedure for total removal of the male genitals. There are many variations on this, but the following is the most direct and simple medically approved method I have found described in many years of looking into this, and is roughly the technique used on me in 1988.

One of the great differences between this and less medically oriented methods is that the urinary opening (meatus) is placed farther down and back, rather than where the penis formerly attached to the body, to allow urination while seated.

While this is a fairly straightforward procedure that any reasonably good urological surgeon could perform, finding one willing to do this on a 'elective' basis (not a medical necessity) is nearly impossible, and before you ask, no I don't personally know any surgeons willing to do this on a totally elective basis without psychological screening... (If, however you know of one, let me know, since I get a lot of inquiries.) //

Direct inquiries to <http://www.bmeworld.com/smooth/>



South Australia's Own



Looking for an up-market healthy alternative that won't leave you destitute? Located just off Rundle Street, the intimate and cosy Citrus Blu offers quality gourmet nosh at a more than reasonable price. Plus you can eat guilt free knowing that your money will stay right here as all the furniture is made by South Australian artists and the food is all grown and manufactured in SA.

The result of the merging of two smaller ideas (gourmet food and crazy specialy smoothies), Citrus Blu arrived at the beginning of this year and has become a hit amongst hip young night owles and Rundle bunnies tired of falafel and focaccia.

Upstairs is an intimate dining restaurant where you can impress that special someone without breaking the budget. The menu brims with the kind of food you would expect to see in a five star restaurant (oysters, marron, lobster and crispy roast duck), served sans the snooty contempt of equivalent establishments.

Downstairs - forget Boost Juice - Citrus Blu provides a unique blend of exotic designer juices, replete with more laboratory tested nourishment than you can shake a swizzle stick at. I had a blu syrup, "a blueberry heaven with a splash of apple and banana and mango".

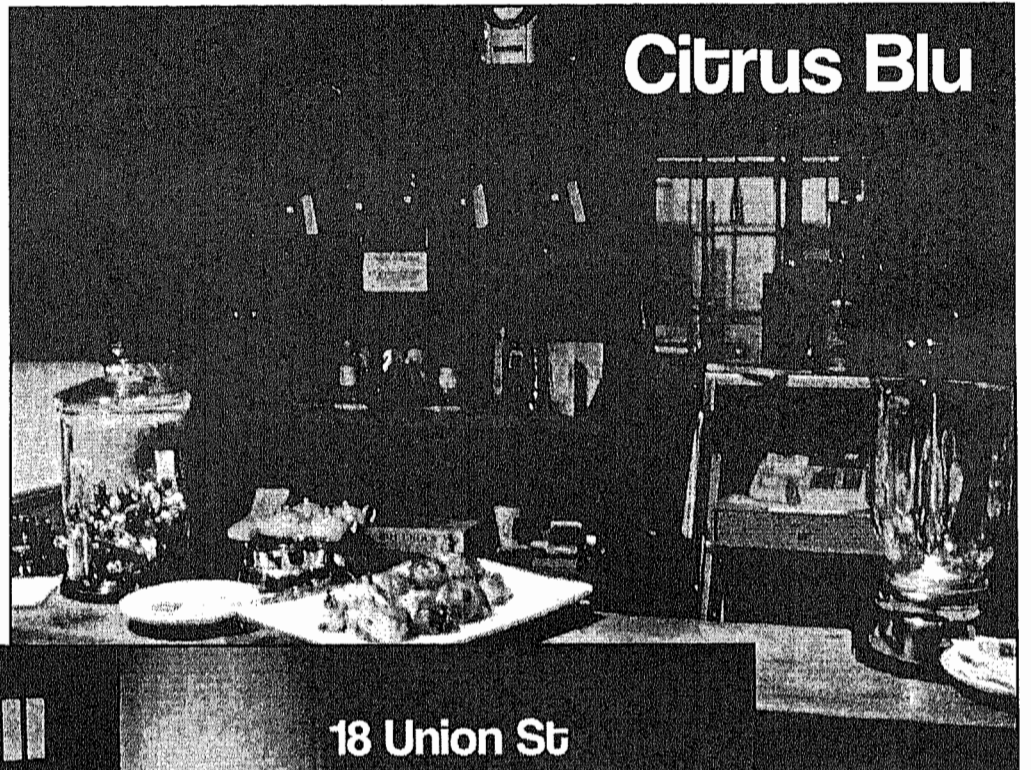
Juice supplements called Kabooms are also available separately for that instant pick-me-up, and at only \$1.50 for two shots they're great value. My juice had a healing Kaboom that assists healing pain relief and inflammatory conditions. There are 80 to 120 herbs in each Kaboom, developed with scientists to maximise the results, dontchyaknow.

Citrus Blu is one of the only places in Adelaide that you can get chilli chocolate coffee. Some say that chilli has healing properties, and when combined with chocolate and coffee it one of the nicest medicines you'll ever have. There are three varieties: mild, medium and hot. They also come with a touch of coconut or ginger. You're nuts not to try one.

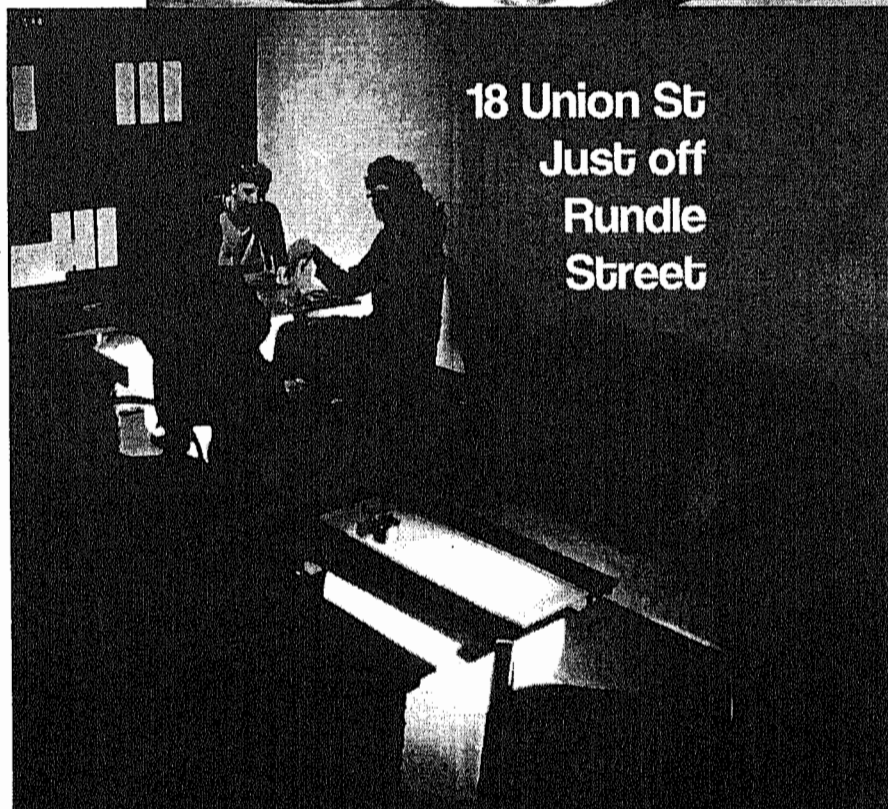
The best value was the Big Breakfast. For a measly tenner you get a cup of coffee, two free range eggs, bacon, mushrooms, a pancake stack with maple syrup and a scrumptious compas cheddar salsa spinach tomato and venison chipolata on toasted bread. Crikey Moses!

Citrus Blu has heaps to offer, including student discounts, movie deals and a sneaky half price menu on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Head on down and check it out!

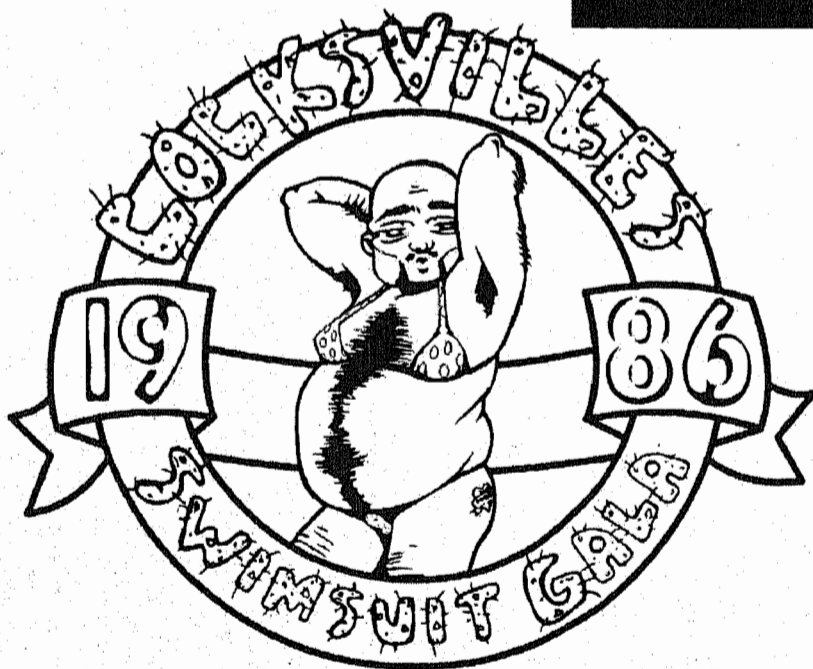
Belle



Citrus Blu



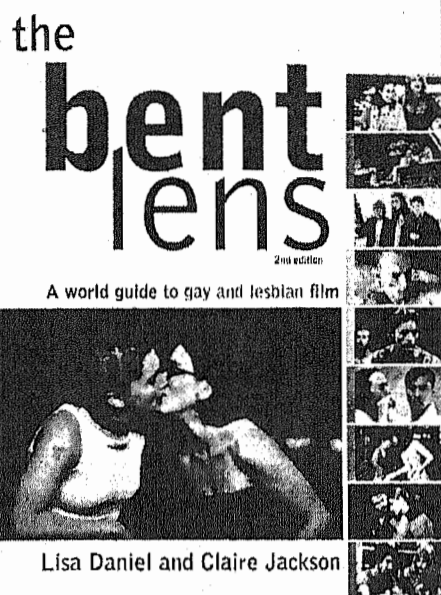
18 Union St
Just off
Rundle
Street



On Dit's
Bar & Restaurant Page
is proudly brought to you by
Coopers Breweries
and the
**1986 Cocksville
Swimsuit Gala.**

Hand-made by the Cooper family.

Literature



The Bent Lens:
A World Guide to Gay
and Lesbian Film
 Lisa Daniel
 and Claire Jackson
 Allen and Unwin
 \$45.00

The Bent Lens positions itself as the only definitive international guide to gay and lesbian cinema, and in my opinion succeeds brilliantly in being just that. The guide pulls together over 2,500 titles from 50 countries from 1914 to the present, asserting that it is thoroughly comprehensive. Although I have no way of proving or disproving this, the exhaustive length of the guide goes a long way to convincing me. However, one need not be daunted by the length, for the queer gold within is intelligently indexed in several ways. Feature films, documentaries and short films are listed in a handy A-Z format for ease of retrieval for those you're already familiar with. Films are also arranged into indexes of genre, country of origin, and films of special interest, such as bisexual or transgender. It is also simple to locate films with your favourite actors and directors using the guide in the back. There are listings of over 500 film distributors and sales agents, as well as gay and lesbian film festivals around the world.

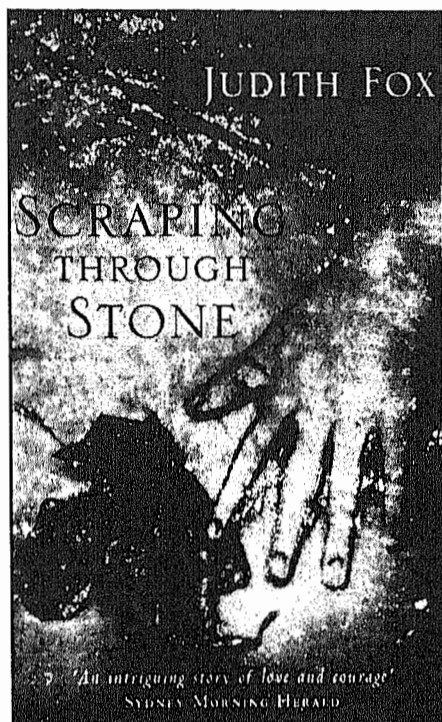
This is actually second edition of *The Bent Lens*, and includes in this new edition essays from academics which explore gay and lesbian film traditions and how gay identity is viewed in Western and non-Western film cultures. These provide an interesting backdrop to queer cinema and increased my interest in the films I watched from the guide.

OK, it may seem like I am overly singing the praises of this bent tome, but I assure you it's fantastic. The authors have set out to provide a comprehensive listing of queer cinema and I honestly am stuck to think of anything they could have done to make it more useful or accessible, although I suppose some extra pictures would have been nice. Frankly, I think even the cover looks cool too. So if you're interested in

queer film, personally or academically, I would highly recommend this book. It's an invaluable resource, and I'm quietly pleased that I managed to snap it up for review.

Actually, reading back over this, I suppose it's not so quietly.

Michael Fyfe



Scraping Through Stone
 Judith Fox
 Allen & Unwin

As I finished this novel I realised I had not only read a medieval love story but a mirror of the religious divide that still separates our world, the same ignorance and intolerance that caused generations of men to die in the crusades, the backdrop to which this novel is written, is the same reason terror is now gripping our world. As they say history doesn't change it only repeats itself! I think it only fitting that the author did not in anyway question the crusades only explained the faith of the time, thus giving the reader a semi-understanding of the actions taken by seemingly educated young and indeed old people of this horrible era in history.

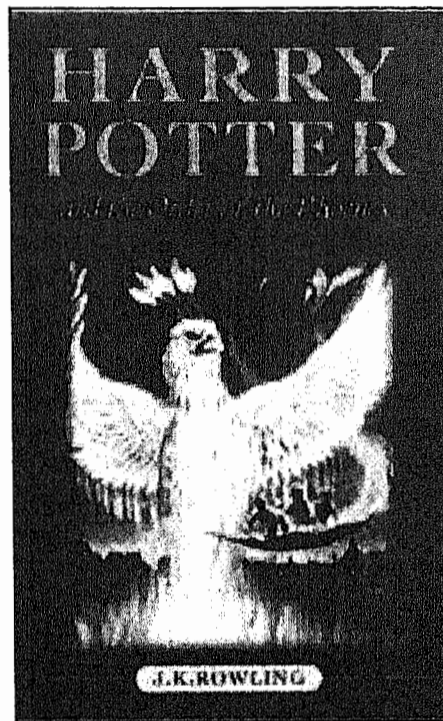
Scraping Through Stone though loosely based on the 2nd crusades, in 1140s (give or take) is a love story of the best kind, one that ultimately ends in death. We follow the lives of two different characters, a girl who wants nothing more than to be a boy and fight like her brother in the crusades for something she is completely passionate about: her faith. And a young boy who labours to bring honour back to his family, which his father had destroyed on his return from the holy land after an upsetting defeat, leaving him vulgar and barbaric towards his wife and son.

The story takes us to a monastery in France and the highlands of Scotland, the coast of Italy and the shores of Jerusalem (the holy land). Although a fictitious story, the account of the armies' location and the path in which King Richard took his

men is accurate. The descriptions of the way the men lived are also accurate and made me appreciate electricity. The descriptions of setting and composition of words leave you wanting for nothing as you delve deeper into the past and the desires of the characters. However, Fox's competent rendition of history does not neglect the violence of the time, this is also beautifully retold in all its gory and painful truth of a barbaric time in our history.

Although a well written novel I would not recommend this book to everyone, but if you like a bit of history and don't mind some violence and can handle the odd bit of sex, this book is for you. A perfect blend of fact and fiction.

Kim Littler



Harry Potter
and the Order of the
Phoenix
 Joanne Kathleen Rowling
 Bloomsbury
 RRP \$45.00

Well. What can I say? Possibly the most anticipated book of all time, and at 700 plus pages, one wouldn't think it would be an anti-climax. Sorry to those people who haven't read it yet, (if there are any out there) but this book is extremely depressing, and when one looks back on it, not much more than an interim tale between the lead up to Voldemort's return in books one to four, and the wizarding community's second war against him, presumably to be written in books six and seven.

Don't get me wrong, I still couldn't put it down and I have already read it twice and probably would have a couple of more times if my family and friends didn't keep borrowing it. But really, it is no longer a child's book, and the most lovable factor of the rest of the series, humour, is sadly lacking. But hey, Voldemort returned and had already killed several people at the end of *Goblet*, and anyone who expected a fun, light-hearted school tale after that event, must have been extremely naïve.

If there is anyone who hasn't yet read the book, I don't want to do any spoilers, but basically, the majority of the wizarding

community does not believe that Voldemort has returned, and spends most of the year discrediting Dumbledore and Harry, who is angry the entire year. (Hands up whoever wanted to strangle that God damned Cornelius Fudge). We do also find out why Voldemort attempted to kill Harry as a baby, but that revelation is somewhat of an anti-climax. I for one was expecting some huge incredible connection between the two and was a bit disappointed at the explanation; it does however let us know what is going to happen at the end of book seven.

I found Ginny the best character of the new book, all the kids are growing up and beginning relationships, and not only does she start getting around, she develops into a new version of Fred and George, obviously to keep the pranks rolling into the next two books (the twins leaving school this year).

The death of the major character was also purported to be a huge issue in this book, but it happens at the end of the book and is done so quickly you barely realise it, but Harry's later conversation with Dumbledore is a real tearjerker.

In a nutshell, by the end of the book, a character has died, Harry's past is explained and his future predicted, and the wizarding world finally realises Voldemort has returned and prepares for the war to end all wars. Why did all that need to be written in 700 plus pages you ask? I don't know, but I'm not complaining as it will give me that much more to read over and over again until the next book comes out.

Not your best effort, Ms Rowling, but you have certainly laid all the pieces very carefully for what I expect will be two thrilling final books.

Natalie Atkinson

Over
 Harry
 Potter?
 SO ARE WE!

That whole satirical Harry Potter countdown thing we were doing last semester, that was just a schmoose for the publishing company so we could score a review copy and some giveaways for you lot. Suffice to say that they weren't overly impressed and we ended up with squat. Poostains.

Abhh... the joy of holidays. Weeks of sleeping, catching up on daytime television, seeing friends, resolving to move to Melbourne and drinking more than you should. If your finances allowed, you may have even seen a movie. There sure were some fine releases, as well as the usual bucket of tripe, but we'll give you the lowdown on some of the many...

Films of Winter

Confessions of a Dangerous Mind>> Sam Rockwell, Julia Roberts, Drew Barrymore and George Clooney (in his directing debut) headline this remarkable film about Chuck Barris (Rockwell), the creator of a host of Americana game shows, such as *The Dating Game*, based on his 1984 autobiography. As well as working in the television industry, Barris is hired by the CIA as an assassin, outrageous as it sounds. Charlie Kaufman's script is dynamic and engaging, with all of the players delivering outstanding performances. A must-see movie.

Wrong Turn>> There is always a real temptation to use the film's title to help describe what a film is about, often cleverly twisting it to create a double entendre or witty pun. In this case, no manipulation is required. What begins as a teen slasher movie in Hixsonville, USA soon becomes a case of wrenching at the insanely B-grade nature of other villain scenarios and dialogue. But Eliza Dushku heads up a cast less MTV-hip than one's expectations, but nevertheless, the experience is entertaining.

A Man Apart>> Just when Vin Diesel was in danger of becoming typecast as a buff badass, comes a role as a buff badass cop who loses his wife in a underworld drug cartel operation. His pursuit of justice/revenge creates a nice emotional mix, which is just what expands Vin's acting range. There's some nice parallels with the corruption in Mexico and that in Hollywood, and the production is top-notch. Rent it because its cinematic release is up.

Bruce Almighty>> Liar Liar is one of Jim Carrey's better efforts post-Mask, so why not get his old director Tom Shadyac back and try to recapture the magic? The chemistry between Bruce (Carrey) and his Christian girlfriend (Jennifer Aniston) is almost enough to make you forget about *The Majestic* et al, and Morgan Freeman's performance as God is an inspired casting decision. Given God's power after despairingly admitting he could do a better job, Bruce's journey of self-discovery is sharp and thoroughly enjoyable.

Confidence>> In perhaps the best rip-off movie Hollywood has made since Guy Ritchie's *Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* revived the genre, hunky Ed Burns, Rachel Weisz (from *The Mummy*), Andy Garcia and Dustin Hoffman get caught up in the scam to end all scams. All four deliver great scenes again and again, Jake Gyllenhaal (Burns) recounting how eccentric crime boss King (the fantastic Hoffman) was ripped-off, repayed and then ripped off again. With more twists than a Quibby Checker performance, this is dynamite.

I Capture The Castle>> This 1930s English period drama is sure to please all *Pride & Prejudice* fans. It doesn't have the linguistic and social limitations that makes *P&P* so dear. Also based on a novel, the autobiography

of Dodie Smith, this film revolves around Cassandra Mortmain and her family who move to a derelict castle to provide their unconventional father with inspiration to write. Falling into poverty, Cassie and her older sister Rose try to get married into money to save the family. A pleasant story.

Auto Focus>> This is the unfortunate true story of the gradual decline of Bob Crane, the star of the popular sitcom *Hogan's Heroes*. Crane falls victim to chronic sex addiction, which eventually ruins his career. The overwhelming sadness of the film is more than a little depressing, especially for those of us who, like the late Bob Crane, are fond of totty. Willem Dafoe, performance as the greasy, beat film album characterous swinger is outstanding.

The Real Cancun>> Taking quality television to the big screen, one must wonder how this gimmick became a film. With the promise, and delivery, of lots of young and lusty American college students partying, drinking and shagging. 16 students are followed around, acting as a shameless attempt to create a market for themselves in movies. It's voyeuristic, and at no point does the audience feel like this is reality. Think pro-wrestling with lots more booty and a unrelentingly loud soundtrack.

Terminator 3>> About two decades since the highly alternative Terminator, comes the third instalment of the franchise. Hard core fans will have some gripes; Arnie being too funny, the noir atmosphere being replaced with an abundance of daytimes sequences, the action not lifting to Matrix standards, but it remains an excellent film. Arnie's new adversary is Kristanna Loken, the incredibly sexy and dangerous T-X, but isn't nearly as menacing as Robert Patrick's T-1000. The inevitable T4 will continue to take the story in the interesting direction begun here, which will please me to no end.

The Hulk>> Yet another superhero story, this time with Bruce Banner (Eric Bana) getting pissed off and kicking the crap out of random people as the Hulk. CGI plays a large part, but it is primarily a psychological story about repression and the multifaceted nature of personality. Director Ang Lee has successfully brought the comic to the screen thanks to inventive editing, but the plot is too incoherent to sustain the film. It's not as good as *Spider-Man* or the *X-Men* movies, but crash all over *Daredevil*.

Wilbur Wants To Die>> This strangely inspiring film centres on Robbie Williams look-alike Jamie Sives as Wilbur, whose death wish concerns his brother and his sister-in-law, played gracefully by Shirley Henderson. While the pace of the film is slow, the characterisation is developed and enriched by the fine performances of the supporting cast. Shot primarily in the bookshop owned by the brothers, the quaint feel is enticing and allows for extremely funny and touchingly sad scenes. Highly recommended.

bad eggs

It's Australian, it's a comedy and it stars Mick Molloy, Judith Lucy and Bill Hunter, but it's not *Crackerjack 2*, or so Tony Martin, director of the new Aussie comedy *Bad Eggs* claims. And having seen the film the previous evening at the illustrious Adelaide premiere, I would have to agree. "This film had better be good... it does have Arnie in it, right?" he quipped as he strolled down the red carpet into the cinema. Indeed, none of the comic genius that is so readily apparent in his other D Generation projects, including *The Late Show*, seems to have been lost since they ceased to exist.

The New Zealand-born writer/performer has had his fingers in many different pies for many years now, dabbling in radio, television, stand-up, comedy CDs, and now, filmmaking. His debut result is *Bad Eggs*, surrounding the misadventures of police officers Ben Kinnear (Molloy) and Mike Paddock (the subtle and sharp Bob

Franklin), with Julie Bale (Lucy) as an investigative and highly biased reporter, having previously been in a relationship with Kinnear. While Molloy and Lucy may not be the archetypal leading couple, the deadpan and abundance of throwaway lines more than makes up for a lack of passion or chemistry. It's also a case of Martin surrounding himself with his many friends and acquaintances to make the process of creating a feature film a less taxing experience. *Bad Eggs* is a great film, made all the more better by the fact that it is a local product, and one that "isn't like anything else that has come before it. It's got police corruption, death, double crossing and intrigue but it's still a comedy," Martin proudly proclaims. And on a modest budget of \$4.8 million, no less.

Much of Melbourne's geography and culture assumes a central role, with Premiers Bracks and Kennet taking a beating from Shaun Micallef's portrayal as the slick and corrupt Premier Gray. There is substance under the surface of laughs, with themes of police corruption and conspiracy, but the medium of film doesn't allow for such a proper satire of these issues. "I'd like to develop these

characters in a television series to really address all the other stuff, and run some parody, taking the piss out of *Water Rats* and *Blue Heelers*. These are really good characters. In some ways, it's like we took a serious story and a comedy, crashed them into each other and watched what happened," Martin suggests.

As we speak, Tony Martin will glance over to a pile of advertising posters on the floor every so often, almost as if he cannot believe that his film has finally been made, having previously written another two scripts that were not pursued. Having now made his debut, what has he learnt, I ask.

"There does seem to be a mentality that if you make an Australian movie, it must be a real 'Australian' movie that makes points about our national identity and if you don't, you've squandered your opportunity, but I just wanted to make an enjoyable movie."

And enjoyable it is, with an irreverency that will appeal to D Gen fans and newcomers alike. Watch out for Martin's hilarious cameo as a television host and the movie's sole fart joke (no mere feat for the creators of *The Brown Album*).

Matty

Lusty Giveaway Action

now that we've got your cinematic tastebuds eagerly anticipating your next trip to the movies...

how about free passes to either *Wrong Turn* or *Bad Eggs*!

thanks to Picture This! and Foster Workshop PR, we've got doubles of each for your enjoyment.

O List?

Due to this amazingly packed edition, the O List had to be cut. Please send your condolences to Matthew Osborn, courtesy of somebody who cares. Here's a snippet of what you missed:

Sexy Moments in Modern Cinema:

- 1) Mary Jane and Spider-Man sharing a kiss in the rain (*Spider-Man*)
- 2) The fishtank scene (*Romeo + Juliet*)
- 3) Betty and Rita's goodnight kiss (*Mulholland Drive*)
- 4) Kevin Bacon, Denise Richards and Neve Campbell (*Wild Things*)
- 5) Richard Gere kissing Julia Roberts for the first time, awww (*Pretty Woman*)

Adelaide Uni Band Competition

It's back and bigger than ever! TWENTY-NINE Adelaide Uni bands over 6 massive heats!!
Who will be crowned supreme winner for Adelaide Uni?
Who will make it through to the State Final (this year proudly hosted by the Adelaide UniBar)?

Come and support your favourite band to help make their night a success.
Heats start at 6pm in the Adelaide UniBar, level 5 Union House, and entry is free to all heats.

Heat one * wed, august 6th * HOT n HEAVY

- 6pm >> Aitch
- 6:45pm >> Tricycle
- 7:30pm >> stigMARTYR
- 8:15pm >> Deafening Silence
- 9pm >> Cadence

Heat two * thurs, august 7th * Funky rock

- 6pm >> Kyri
- 6:45pm >> Sledgehammer
- 7:30pm >> None the Wiser
- 8:15pm >> Leomax
- 9pm >> Semantik (pictured top)

Heat three * wed, august 13th * alternative mix

- 6pm >> Confessions of a crap artist
- 6:45pm >> Pseudo Models
- 7:30pm >> The White Noise
- 8:15pm >> Walters Bald

Heat four * thurs, august 14th * indie & punk

- 6pm >> Third grade curfew
- 6:45pm >> Clinic
- 7:30pm >> Lazarus
- 8:15pm >> Close Call
- 9pm >> Pale Face (pictured bottom)

Heat five * wed, august 20th * pop metal punk

- 6pm >> Capital Jack
- 6:45pm >> The Officials
- 7:30pm >> Arkanum
- 8:15pm >> Insect Seeking Technology
- 9pm >> AUFSCHLAG



Heat six * thurs, august 21st * Folk n experimental

- 6pm >> Simon Basey
- 6:45pm >> Treehouse
- 7:30pm >> Dan Woolford & the Diffusers
- 8:15pm >> Alabama Shutdown
- 9pm >> patch

campus final (top band from each heat):

Thursday August 28th - UniBar

state final (top two bands from each campus):

Friday September 12th - UniBar

The 2003 Band Competition is brought to you by:

AACA

SONY

JIM BEAM

Juice MAGAZINE

LIVESIDE.COM.AU

MAKING WAVES



Union
Activities
Committee



Adelaide
University
Union

Jet, The Trafalgars & The Mess Hall @ The Enigma Bar Saturday the Fuck-knows-when.

This immensely enjoyable night showcased three of the essential ingredients to a good 'garage' night. The healthy respect for 60's rock by The Trafalgars, the swampy Delta-blues of The Mess Hall and the low-down, dirty pub rock of Jet.

Along with a handful of eager punters, my cohorts and I arrived early to receive the promised 'Free Jet CD' for the first hundred people through the door. Unfortunately the CD only contained one track, but this didn't matter, as my super-fashionable tight pants didn't really have room for much else, so I inevitably lost the CD by the end of the night anyway.

The Trafalgars kicked off the night in terrific form. They sounded absolutely fantastic on stage, and belted through their mod/garage repertoire with an excited enthusiasm. The acoustics of the extended Enigma Bar really suited their sound, which was more full blooded than I'd ever heard them. From the gloriously Modd-ish show, the only gripe I could possibly have was that it seemed like they had a wee bit of an inferiority complex at the prospect of opening for Jet. This timidity showed up slightly in their between-song banter, but otherwise they were a fantastic opener to the night.

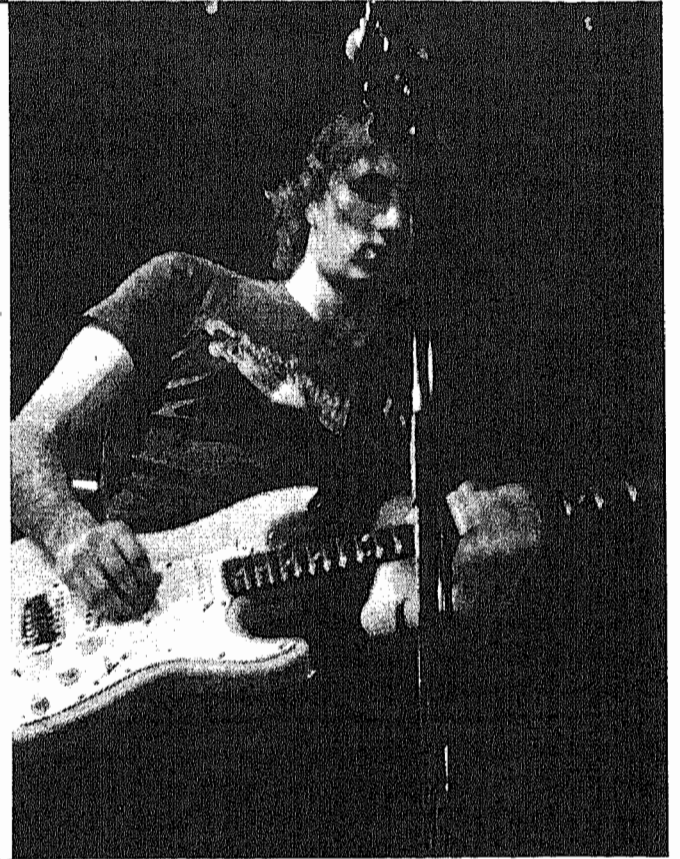
Next up where The Mess Hall - my reason for turning up to the night, my reason for washing my hair, my

reason for getting out of bed. These two guys floored me with their intensity. Both the drummer and guitarist set up their gear right at the front of the stage, and put every ounce of energy they had into the performance. The five foot five, thirty something drummer was cute, almost cartoonish in his baseball cap and cueing the guitarist with a nervous energy. Handsome Guitar-singer Jed Kurzel played swampy blues riffs and such noisy power chords that the absence of any other instruments wasn't noticeable, but welcome. The Mess Hall were louder than a Motorhead concert, which is the only explanation I have for the languidness of the large audience. The way they related to each other on stage, and the spread-legged, guitar-swinging moves of the lead singer was absolute eye candy. Crowd favourites included 'Shake Shake' and 'I Feel Like A Dog', but unfortunately the audience didn't get as sweaty as the band.

The response of the crowd proved the majority had obviously come specifically for Jet. These guys' appearance was immediately ballsy, tight denim all round, and they wasted no time getting straight into a very cock rock set. While they looked like they were having fun, and they performed cool rock stunts and

swapped vocals around, I just couldn't seem to bend my mind around the fact I was watching an ACDC cover band. Now I love Akka Dakka, but these guys just weren't any different. They had plenty of "Oi" and even a semi-heart rendering ballad or two, making it an enjoyable gig, but still, originality went out of the door. However Jet's cute rock-star good looks pulled them through, and it was cool to see such an Aussie slant on their garage. They held the keen audience in the palms of their sweaty hands, and their dirty rock charisma was charming, yet it was a far cry from the passion of The Mess Hall a half hour earlier.

Jimmy Trash



This year's Splendour Weekender was, unarguably, one of the best weekends of my life. It all ended with the Splendour by the Glass aftershow party, featuring cameos from, among others, The Music, Ladytron, Death in Vegas and Gerling. A muddy and tiring, but exciting weekend.

Julia Kaz

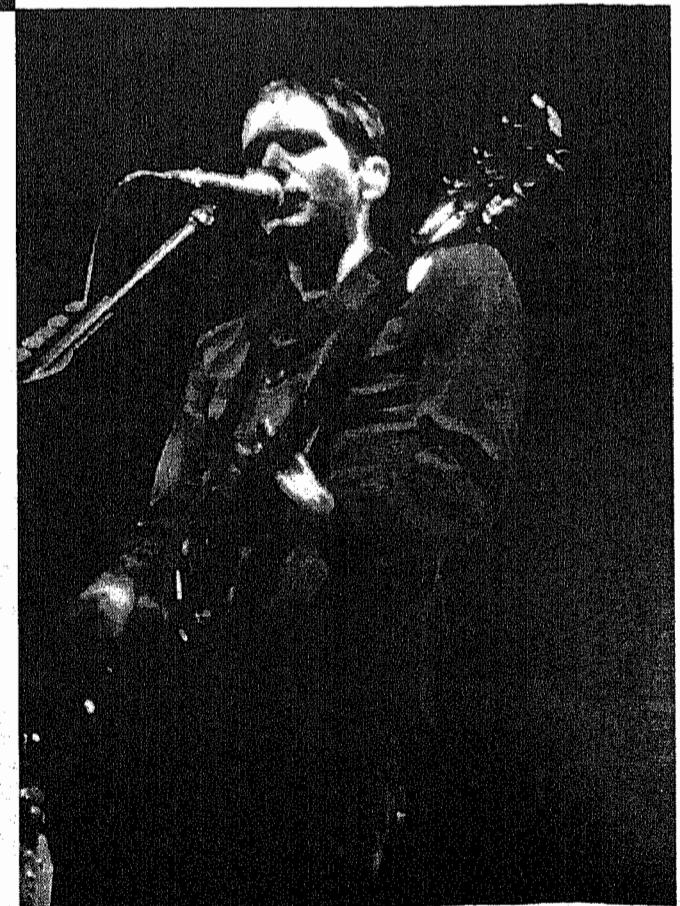
"GOD GAVE US SPLENDOUR IN THE GRASS"

For the last few weeks, Byron Bay has been remarkably warm. This, however, all changed on the Friday before the much anticipated Splendour in the Grass Festival. The non-stop rain from Friday afternoon to Saturday morning successfully turned Belongil Fields into the biggest mud-bath I have ever seen, causing an abundance of not-so-happy-campers.

Getting to the festival late Saturday afternoon, The Sleepy Jackson were the first band on my list. They finished up with an awesome rendition of 'Vampire Racecourse'. Next up were Melbourne's Jet, who failed to live up to my expectations and were quite uneventful. Gerling were one of the highlights of Saturdays line-up. No surprises here though, as Gerling always put on a good live show, playing everything from their "question-and-answer" song 'Who's Ya Daddy?' through to 'Enter Space Capsule', which got the crowd jumping up-and-down so much that you could not move unless you wanted a backpack jammed in your face and ending with lead singer, Darren Cross miming to the Carpenters' 'Close To You'. I had not heard much of Manchester's Alpinestars before Splendour, but was impressed with what they produced, they dedicated their song '77 Sunset Strip' to Gerling. Goldfrapp, Saturday's headlining act, managed to complete their set without Alison Goldfrapp going hysterical at the sound guy, who she motioned to angrily throughout the set, when there were, really, no audible technical problems as far as the

audience could hear. She still performed the most amazing live vocals I have ever heard despite this. Setting the atmosphere perfectly for Goldfrapp's set was the two metre diameter mirror-ball, hanging in the Mix-Up Tent.

Sunday started off a bit earlier for me. Caught The Mess Hall early, who spewed fourth raw guitar-and-drum rock and undoubtedly would be sick of all the comparisons with The White Stripes. Unfortunately, I missed Ugly Duckling and the Ladytron DJ Team, but did see the final three bands of the festival; Placebo, Death In Vegas and Coldplay, who were all amazing. The highlight of Placebo's set was 'Taste In Men', with Brian Molko, before leaving the stage saying "Thank you. See you in the summer", which I thought was rather promising. Death in Vegas gave a good overview of all three albums, with recorded vocals and a great live show. Finally, the headlining act, Coldplay, were probably the best way the festival could have ended, in The Supertop, with a few thousand people tired and covered in mud singing along with Chris "too-much-hottie-on-one-hottie" Martin. During 'God Put a Smile On Your Face', he excited the crowd by singing "God gave you style and gave you class. God gave us Splendour in the Grass." I went to Coldplay with great expectations and was not disappointed with the result, even though Gwyneth Paltrow was spotted side-of-stage. Yelch.



Local Reviews

Cor Blimey! A whole page of demo and local release reviews! During the week I collected a horde of these lovely things and so consequently no Adelaide Band Arc this week. So peruse this local harvest, take a look at what takes your fancy, and support local music!

Luna Moonbus

I found this demo with a cute post-it note on it saying "please contact details or explanation of any sort. It is an electronic genre of styles, ranging from quite 'intelligent' and cruisy beats ('Rod Sh... hardcore industrial ('Zyll', 'Catgirl is my Girlfriend'), and chilled ('Bee', 'Empty Dub'). The eclectic mixture of different styles on this CD confuses you to what style Luna actually are, but hell, there's a lot of tracks on this CD; especially as it seems to have been recorded in a home computer room.

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Jihad Against America Adelaide Tour July '03

IF you missed the three gigs Jihad did while quite sorry for you. This live demo they were part of their live performance - destructively loud sounds and betwixt-song humour and tomfoolery by Liz Turner are almost inaudible, but funny when she is joined by the whole six-strong band for "black", you cannot help but to smile at their a cool 2d artwork of planes crashing into churches politics of Jihad to a 't', really. Its just unfortunate demo is a dud - especially since it is entitled "

Adelaide then I feel here captures every range toy keyboard ing vocals provided near them, and when Terrorism is the new over also contains speed, noise and fifth track on every low Up Yanks".

Amberlist In a Small Room

I thought these three guys (including Howie from the Mayo Refectory) were pretty brave sending me a bio condemning indefinite article garage bands (have they ever read my section?). However, *In A Small Room* is a very good recording. They play heavy rock bordering between Nickelback and maybe late Metallica, with a hint of Q.O.T.S.A.. The production of this album is very professional, and sounds like they spent a lot of money recording it.

The Laybacks Feel Lighter Tonight

I've heard The Laybacks' music described as to describe their release *Feel Lighter Tonight*. It's very atmospheric, using both sadistic minor keys to create a hollow feeling that is very cool and keen sense of humour in their lyrics, with songs about girls and proclaiming to their listeners to refrain from their music is both whirring and touching, and

before. This seems apt avant garde rock is and repetitive drones them. They also have a ing out with Swedish along. Generally, all it beautiful.

BabyDoll Self Titled Release The Records!

Now here's an album I really dig. This recording contains all the excitement of a BabyDoll live performance - and it's meaner than a 70 year old singer. Lead with this h this l describes hip-shakin' ongy slide of their man in pealing on

excitement ner. Lead h this l describes hip-shakin' ongy slide of their man in pealing on

Jimmy T's Back to Skool Gig Guide

Just the two gigs this week. Be sure to send the details of your band's next gig to ondit@adelaide.edu.au if you fancy a mention!

The Adelaide Uni Band Competition is running in the UniBar over the next two Wednesdays and Thursdays starting this week. Each night has a musical theme, so check out the imetable. Be sure to support Psuedo Model, playing next Wednesday, featuring many members of the On Dit family!

On Thursday August 21 you can hear the hilaious and thought provoking folk songs of Sousob Bob with the spoken word performer Fin at the FAD Bar on Waymouth St.



Proof



Proof is an multi-award winning play written by David Auburn and currently showing at the Space Theatre (25 July-16 August). The production explores the close relationship between madness and genius. It relates the story of Robert (David Kendall), a mathematical freak who is burnt out by his early twenties and the relationship between his daughters Catherine (Amber McMahon), Claire (Caroline Mignone) and former pupil Hal (Nathaniel Davison). On Dit spoke with Amber and Nat about *Proof* and the experience of youth.

O.D.- Can you give a brief breakdown of *Proof*?

Nat- Okay. It is primarily about mathematics, proof being a theorem or an explanation of a theorem. Without going into too much detail, I find an amazing proof and it is from there determining exactly where this proof came from and along the way there is love, tears and dramas. It is also looking at the fine line between madness and genius.

O.D.- Are there any comparisons of the script to any other contemporary plays or films?

drawing. I have always loved Manga and the first one I saw was *Ninja Scroll*, which I think is still one of the classics. Recently I have really enjoyed *Spirited Away* and *Cowboy Bebop*; I had never seen Manga quite like that before. Some of the stories in *Animatrix* are fucking brilliant.

What has your involvement been in receiving coin from art, how has that been different from what you do otherwise?

People get me to do all sorts of back of a bit of about I find probably easy for

when

I started at fifteen. My first session was funny because the life drawing model was one of the ugliest naked men I had ever seen, but I actually really enjoyed it. A lot of people don't understand the whole life drawing thing and think it's just a bit of a perve, but when you're drawing you're too busy trying to accurately represent what you are seeing on paper to even think, "oh yeah that's a bit of orright" or any of that. It's in such a completely different context. It teaches you to

Amber+Nat- *A Beautiful Mind!*

O.D - Where do you draw your inspiration from, how do you get some spark back?

Amber - This production has been gruelling and what's been hard is this is essentially a play for actors so a lot of the action comes out of the words and so it's really about the language and when you're slogging it out day after day after day, that language loses its intensity to you. After five weeks or so that's been hard to keep finding the magic all the time but then it's funny, you put it in perspective when you go home and read the script again. It is just really good writing. I guess that's inspiration.

Nat - and you're finding new stuff all the time, like driving down today I went with one particular part of the script that I had been misreading and it's like how the "hell did I not know that was there before?"

O.D - How do you see the youth market and this production?

Amber - This is a modern play in terms of what State Theatre or what most theatre companies would be producing at this time. It is very filmic in its themes and the way it is portrayed, it's very naturalistic. There's the element of it being quite contemporary that will draw that crowd. It is very rare to see a play

centering around young people with professional theatre, especially where the theme of youth and genius is strongly associated. Also the academic world you are so in touch with in your early twenties, that's when you're at university and a lot of that comes into it. The father has been a professor for so many years, that's his whole world and that's a world set up on stage, so it would be engaging for a young audience.

Nat - Essentially you're looking at Catherine where she's placed now having been living with her father, being a product of her father almost.

Amber - Not having an identity away from her father, she has given up her life to care for this man. There is never any issue of her being involved, it is always dad, dad, dad.

Amber - Also there's the question of are women capable? People don't even have the knowledge that she would be capable of it.

Don't forget Wednesday night ticket specials for students.

Maxim.

This week's cover was spawned by Danica Haightman-Wells, a twilight dweller and definitely a powered mutant of the otherkind. On Dit shared the love with this intrepid creature as we probed between *Pink Bits*, *Blue Bits* and an ugly man.

Can you tell us about *Pink Bits* and *Blue Bits*, this week's cover?

Pink Bits was pretty much my attempt at an abstract kind of thing. Even when I try to do something abstract I usually end up with too much detail. People seem to love it so I guess it was a success. *Blue Bits* is the back cover and I thought it would be kind of nice to have a set, something for everyone!

How has your drawing evolved?

I have always drawn since I could pick up a crayon. My style is very much inspired by James Hewlitt, the guy who drew the Tank Girl comics. I fell in love with it when I was about thirteen. I would take a page of the comic and try to copy it as spot on as possible. I love his style, something about the way he draws his lines, he uses very simple lines.

Any other comic strip stuff that has influenced you?

Not so much comic strip stuff, more of the fantasy type, and life

look at things in a completely different way. Sometimes what you see and what it should look like are two completely different things, to see the truth of what things are rather than what you expect them to look like.

How do you like drawing or film to happen?

Attention to detail is very important; the camera angles, the way you subtly try and include the audience to try and create the emotion you need them to

be feeling, to receive the story in the correct manner. I don't just like to watch stuff, I like to pull it apart and find hidden meanings that I am certain people who create those types of things chuck 'em in there. It's just a matter of trying to figure out which ones they are and which ones are accidental.

Maxim.



Cabaret

Cabaret is not your average musical, as it captures the atmosphere of a world on the brink of war. *Cabaret*, directed by Sam Mendes, takes the audience deep into the seedy underworld of the Weimar Republic, depicting drug addiction and sexual ambiguity. The additive nature of the Berlin cabaret scene is revealed when the characters of the production become entrapped by its allure. These flamboyant characters contrast with the threatening presence of the Nazis, but despite comic relief and catchy numbers, one cannot forget the horror of what World War II was to bring.

The dark atmosphere of the performance is created by an effective set that is transformed from scene to scene with the use of clever lighting techniques. The lighting silhouettes the cast and gives the performance a deep red glow. Within this space the characters of *Cabaret* are brought to life by many well known Australian actors including; Rachael Beck, Ian Stenlake and the particularly memorable Todd McKenney. McKenney as Emcee gives a running commentary of the performance and guides the audience through the world of *Cabaret*.

Cabaret the musical is a far cry from the Hollywood film version that saw Liza

Minelli play Sally Bowles as the central character. In the musical production Sally Bowles, performed by Rachel Beck does not act as a central character, rather the performance revolves around a group of people as they face a turbulent era. This version of *Cabaret* looks far more closely at the origin of this tale, the novel *Berlin Stories*.

The relationship between characters Fraulein Schneider and Herr Schultz played by Judi Connell and Henri Szeps, represents one of the key romances in the production. This adds an interesting element to *Cabaret*, as today romance between older people is hardly ever depicted. Fraulein Schneider and Herr Schultz's romance also captures the political developments of the dark era, as difference between cultures is played upon. The fact that Herr Schultz is a Jew changes everything, as the will of the Nazis grows stronger in Berlin.

Cabaret, performed by a dynamic cast truly recreates the atmosphere of a world coming to conformity and fascism, as the lifestyle of the swinging Kit Kat Club comes to a dramatic and moving end.

Leo Greenfield

Dead Man Walking

The State Opera Company of South Australia, in association with San Francisco Opera, is pleased to present the Australian premiere and exclusive Adelaide season of *Dead Man Walking*, in the Festival Theatre from August 7-16.

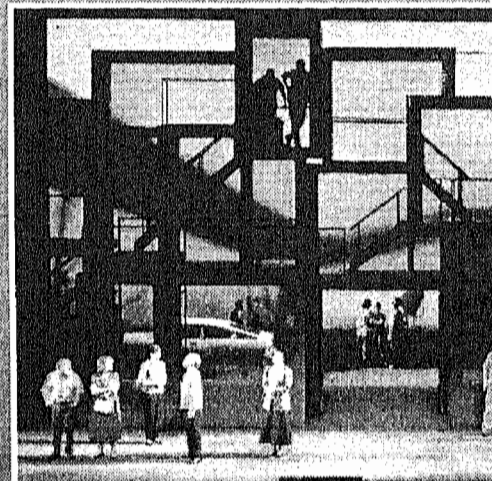
The curtain rises to reveal the edge of a lake in Louisiana, USA. It is late at night. A carefree teenage couple emerge from the water, turn on the car radio and spread a blanket on the ground, engrossed in the pleasure of each others company. The radio suddenly goes quiet. The couple sit up and look around in the dark. They are no longer alone...

The best-selling novel, *Dead Man Walking* by Sister Helen Prejean, that became an Academy Award winning film in 1996, is now a brilliant new opera.

With music by Jake Heggie, one of America's most gifted young composers, and a libretto by acclaimed playwright, Terrence McNally, *Dead Man Walking* effortlessly combines this challenging contemporary drama with the lyricism classical opera and superb theatrical staging.

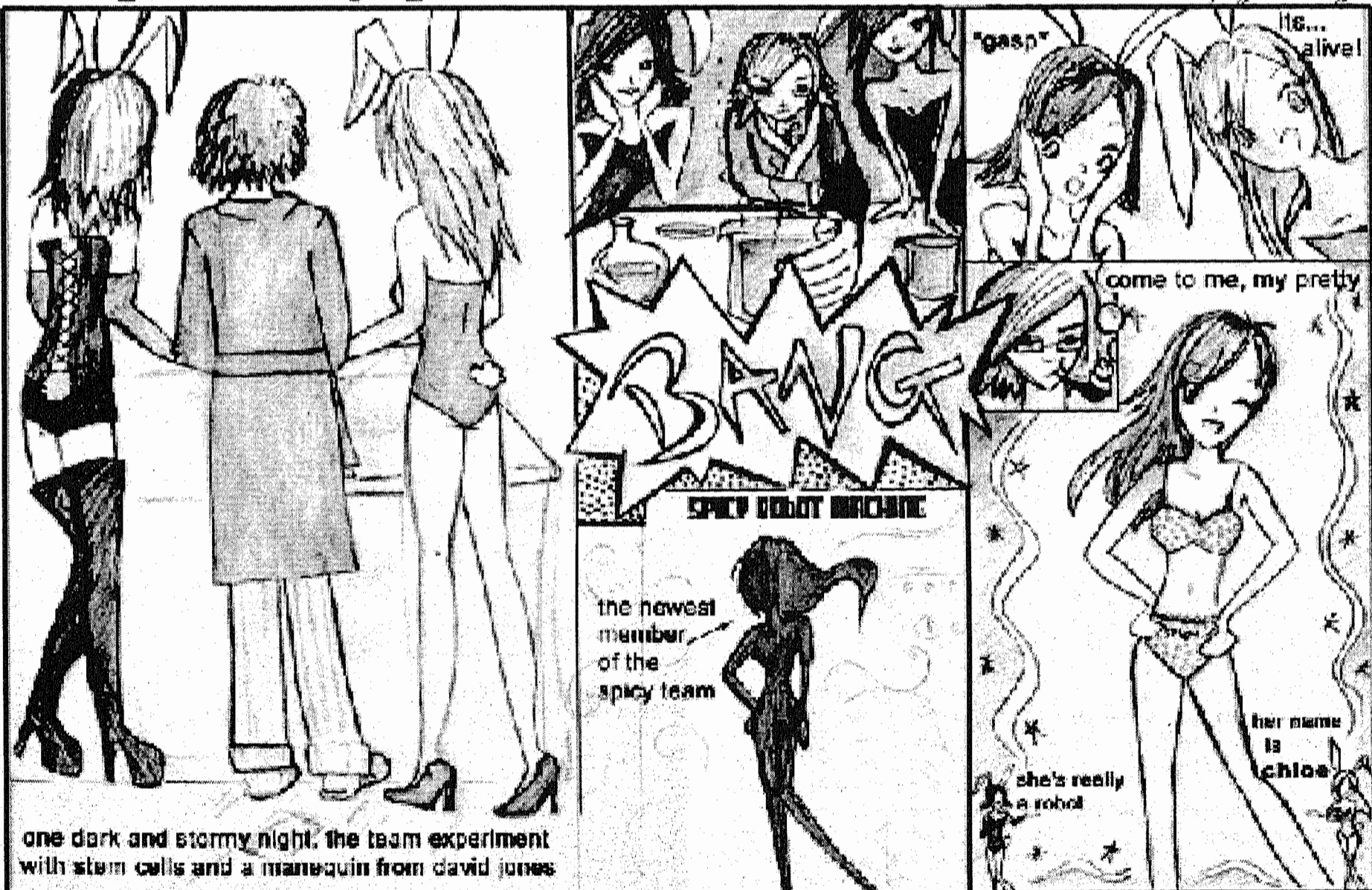
The Australian premier production of this remarkable new work will

be conducted by eminent American conductor John DeMain, and features the rising star, NZ baritone Teddy Tahu Rhodes, as the inmate on death row, the role he performed to great acclaim in the premiere season in San Francisco. Also starring Australian favourites Kirsti Harms as Sister Helen, and Elizabeth Campbell as the inmate's mother, *Dead Man Walking* will be a compelling and memorable night at the theatre.



one night at the spicy mansion...

Spicy Curiosity



one dark and stormy night, the team experiment with stem cells and a mannequin from david jones

And now, without further ado, it's the page you've been waiting for. dan V's epic treatise on...

There's not a time goes when someone mentions Metallica without some clarifying reference between the old and the new Metallica. Leather clad fans waxing lyrical about the old Cliff Burton days, the days when Metallica was an underground thrash monster.

It's easy for some to write it off as silly bogan nostalgia, but for many, Metallica was the sound of our youth. When I was 12 years old, something happened to me that changed my life forever. A primary school classmate called Petro slipped a dubbed cassette copy of *Kill 'Em All* into the school's old Atachi one day during recess time.

Whoa! Fuck man!

Weeks earlier my older, high school attending brother had introduced me to the joys of the potty mouthed, Jim Beam fuelled world of Guns 'n Roses' seminal *Appetite For Destruction*, and that in itself was a Marshall-powered breath of fresh air to my young, SA/FM raised ears.

But Metallica! When the outro solo to *Jump in the Fire* came on, it fuckin' destroyed me; it had so much attack & treble, it sounded like Satan was leaping out of the speakers to claim my soul. The guitars in *Whiplash* were helicopter fast and chainsaw raw. I could not believe that someone could play guitar that fast. From that day forth, I declared to my parents I was going to wear black every day, grow my hair long, ride a Harley-Davidson and play guitar. And that's exactly what I did. (Well, all except for the Harley bit. Bikes can kill don't you know?)

To say that I've broadened my musical tastes since then would be a gross understatement, but that fact remains I'll always have an interest in what Metallica do, not just because they were an important part of my pubescent life, but because they sounded altogether different from so many of their metal peers.

Lyricaly, Metallica had the edge over other metal bands like Slayer and Testament. Rather than singing about corpses rising from the grave ad infinitum, James wrote about everything from the horrors of war to his experiences from growing up in a strict Christian Science family. They were also musically dynamic, covering sped metal, heavy slow tempo grooves, and even emotive ballads. Long before ignorant fans poured scorn on the band for the "sappy" *Nothing Else Matters*, they had ventured into morose power ballad territory with the now infamous suicide song *Fade To Black*, the *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* inspired *Welcome Home (Sanitarium)*. And their instrumentals were melodious and grand in scale. So it seems funny that Metallica became tagged with the limiting, noose like genre "thrash", a term they began to resent as much as Nirvana and their contemporaries came to resent the "grunge" stigma.

I won't lie to you and pretend to be very familiar with the *Load* and *Re-Load* albums. I thought they blew chunks and refused to buy them. The issue isn't that a band can't change their sound, it's when they try to be something they're not. I watched with countless other fans collectively scratch their heads as the band began rehashing their past, but in a diluted form. Example: *The Unforgiven 2*. For the first time it looked like they had nothing new to say.

The theme continued with *Garage Inc.*, a repeat of an old idea to do an all covers release. (That's right newbies, I'm talking about the rare 1987 E.P. *Garage Days Re-*

Life, Youth and the new Metallica album

revisited that you needed to trade four Slayer tapes, the guitar tab to "Eruption" and your older brothers moth-eaten Led Zeppelin T-shirt with your old primary school buddy Tony just so you could get a crappy third generation cassette copy of it.) And *S & M* was an interesting exercise, but that's about it. (Don't get me wrong, I love classical music and strings more than you do, I just think Michael Kamen is one of the most overrated film scorers ever paid to wave a baton).

Most thought all hope was lost, declaring that Metallica had wimped and/or sold out. The real problem was the world's biggest uncompromising band had looked like it had started to compromise.

Now they're back with a new album, *St. Anger*. What's it like? Well, firstly, every review you will read about this album will contain these words, in some similar order: "The best/heaviest thing they've done in years. A return to form. The Metal Kings are back!" etc. For the most part, they're right, but let's hold off from awarding five stars just yet, for it's not the best it could have been. Let's start with the negatives.

If I had to sum it up in one sentence, I'd say it's like Queens of the Stone Age sounding like Sepultura circa *Chaos A.D.* production wise, as covered by Helmut. But still sounding like Metallica. Or in other terms, somewhere between the attitude of the Black album (*Metallica*) and the band's use of forms best represented on *Master of Puppets*.

Let me explain. Metallica have finally joined the rest of the metal world and experimented with down tuning, but unfortunately it's more of a "nu-metal" approach than say, a Carcass one. This leads to a sound that is in danger of being quite samey. I personally like when metal gets a little prog-rock ish. I think it's necessary to keep the listener interested. Bear Factory always bored the hell out of me because it was the same low-end riffs over and over again, and *St. Anger* avoids falling into the same trap, but only just.

This leads me to the most disappointing thing about the "new" Metallica sound; half of their guitar necks barely get used. They might have well have removed their high strings a la Max Cavalera. The utter lack of guitar solos is another sore point; Kirk Hammett's not pulling his weight in my opinion. Fine if he doesn't want to

play any flashy solos just to impress the kids, but guitarists like Andreas Kisser and Dimebag Darrell have shown you can stretch out and play something experimental, noisy and atonal in heavy music. The famous Metallica twin axe attack just isn't put to good use enough here, but at least he's left out the misplaced faux blues licks this time around.

Lyricaly, the album primarily concerns James' journey through his psyche both pre and post rehab, and whilst it's pretty powerful stuff, there are some so-so tracks. *Some Kind of Monster* will be a favourite in the summer festival moshpits, but it's not great. Likewise *Invisible Kid* and *My World* didn't do that much for me, but you might enjoy their catchiness more than I did.

There is also quite a bit of that recycling thing going on again, but at least this time it's from their prime; Lars combined drum/cymbal hits throughout are taken straight from the *Master* era and *St. Anger's* chorus is lifted from *Hit the Lights* and *Damage Inc.* (But hopefully you already knew that because reusing this far *must* make you a "real fan").

Now for all the positive things.

It is the heaviest they've sounded in a long time. Lars' almost blast beats in *St. Anger* made me grin like a teenager again. It may be a one-dimensional album, but at least it has sledgehammer dynamics rather than the poorly executed country-rock sound they briefly flirted with.

Listening to the chunky rhythm of *The Unnamed Feeling*, it occurs to me that Metallica can make good background fornication music, and *Shoot Me Again* likewise gets a smutty thumbs up.

The guitar stuff that Kirk actually does is interesting, but it's all quite low in the mix and they need to capitalise on this new approach and run with it in the future.

Sweet Amber is perhaps the first album in which a female perspective/character appears in a Metallica song that I can think of, and it's a cool track. This too is a welcome step forward.

The closing track *All Within my Hands* almost single-handedly redeems the whole album. It's a cracker of a song, as though all the similar ingredients that went into the other tracks crystallised to form a tasty concise cookie of a song instead of a lumpy cake: intelligent lyrics, quiet/loud dynamics, tempo changes, syncopation, melody, brutality.... I could go on. It's one of the few moments here where I can detect a genuine progression in the band's song writing. I just wish every track shared its experimentation, and success, with new forms.

Despite its shortcomings, this album is a welcome return to form for Metallica. If this is your first introduction to the band, then it's not a bad a place to start. If you're an old die-hard like me, then do give it a chance, you'll be surprised, but it should be a pleasant surprise overall. *St. Anger* really has started to grow on me and rejuvenated my fondness for the band, but I'll look tentatively forward to their next record.

Let's put it this way: Metallica used to lead the way, this album is the sound of them finding their way again. When they get there, rest assured it'll be either the best or worst album of their career.

dan V

Listening to the chunky rhythm of 'The Unnamed Feeling', it occurs to me that Metallica can make good background fornication music, and 'Shoot Me Again' likewise gets a smutty thumbs up.

Album of the Week



Pink Grease
All Over You
 Horse Glue Records

Pink Grease are a mix of Ultra-New York 80's post punk and pop art. In a nutshell, they sound like The Psychedelic Furs injected with a bathtub's worth of juvenile testosterone. This six-track album is very post-punk in its 'busy' production and also because of the line-up of the band - nine members including sax, a 'machine' player and a three girl backing vocal troupe called 'The Greasettes'. Most of the tracks are very post punk in their style, with Pink Grease's wailing sax, and screaming vocals and weird 'machine' keyboard sounds. However, they are also prone to more parody styles also, with the cock-rock track 'The Beast' incorporating angry vocals and wanky power chords, and also the really cool 'Susie', which is done in a punk-mock Tin Pan Alley 50's pop style, starting off with 'Wella Wella Wella Uh tell me more...'

(From Grease). The standout tracks are 'The Nasty Show' and 'Lou Reed', both noisy, out of control rock songs with dirty lyrics that seem to rampage on without the band members following any form of any sort. And any band that has lyrics proclaiming 'Try to sound like Lou Reed, make my voice real sleazy' wins over my heart. The artwork of the album - predominantly pink with random screen prints of the band members - stresses their pop art influences, as does the trashiness of their lyrics. They look like a band of garage posers, but I think they get the joke, and that makes the speed and the noise of their album even more enjoyable. On the whole, Pink Grease have provided a cool and interesting, 80's pop art influenced album, that is guaranteed to at least grab most people's attention. I'd recommend this to anyone with a penchant for heavier Dandy Warhols, Velvet Underground or The Psychedelic Furs.

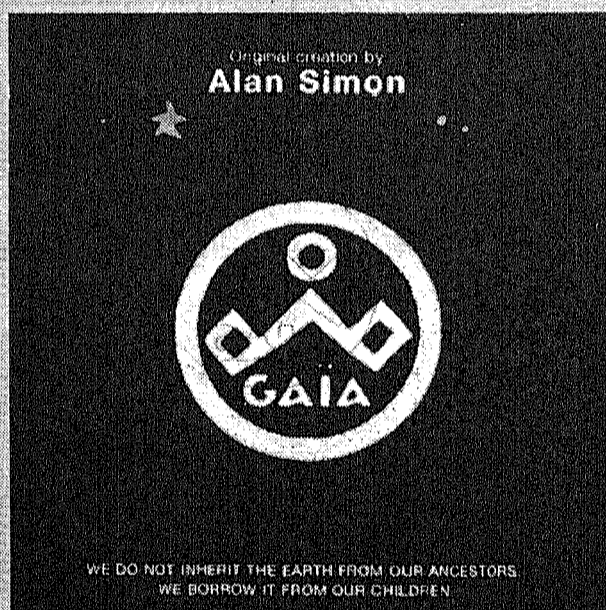
Jimmy Trash

On Dit gets
 environmental with folk artist

Alan Simon

The Gaia album has not received much commercial fanfare, but deserves its own sort of accolade (see review). Conceived by French folk musician Alan Simon, the album is the product of intensive work across the globe. Simon has spent the last twenty years of his life developing his "passion", which is, of course, music. From his beginnings in Brittany, Alan studied the piano, played with pipes and whistles and enjoyed the Beatles, folk music and Chopin. The product of this experience as well as that of the many artists who worked on the project with him, Gaia was a challenging labour of love. Written and recorded in various parts of Asia, Australia, Kathmandu and Italy, it is evident that this album was and is about much more than music. The best moment, Simon concedes, was spending a few days recording with Midnight Oil in Sydney. "I wanted to meet an artist without such an ego." It seems that this is what he found with the Oils, as well as what he refers to as a "spiritual relationship". Due to the shifted focus from the music itself to marketing, he decided that Gaia would be, "a universal message... for everybody, of every age. There are many styles." This includes pop, rock, folk jazz and hip-hop. The diversity emphasises Alan's point that "music is a universal language. There are not a lot of universal languages like that." As well as plans to expand the Gaia idea into other areas of music, Simon has plans to work on the second volume of his concept album Excalibur, and an instrumental album entitled The Whales. Most importantly, however, he hopes to make young people ask environmental questions and understand the importance of our environment. "We have to be clear", he states. "The world is too old, people are too serious." It seems that with a combination of enjoyment and a serious message, Alan Simon hopes to "push for the planet."

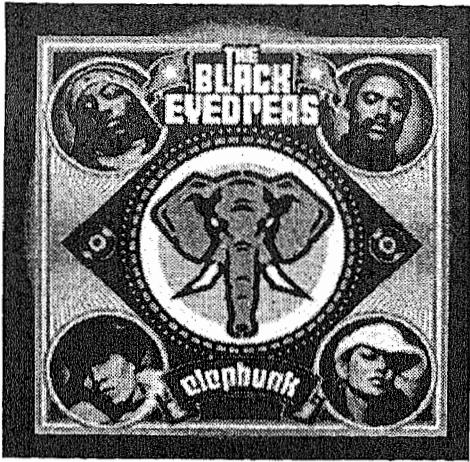
LadyLaz



Gaia
Various Artists
 Universal

Gaia is undoubtedly an emotionally driven collaboration of artists from the world over. What must be said is that, if someone as spiritually confused as myself can label something "spiritually charged", it must be provocative. There is something about the collection of culturally diverse sounds and voices that, despite a lack of lingual expertise, can make one want to dance. This is the beautiful thing about music and I believe that this is why so many different voices have joined to proclaim the same message. Tracks such as the Midnight Oil single 'No Man's Land' and the Holy Voices of Tibet's 'Incantation' are so diverse that I must applaud Alan Simon for his choice of artists and tracks (see interview). Cesaria Evora's track 'Jangadero' is a wistful and relaxed acoustic track, which also demonstrates the passion of this album. Undoubtedly, this is a compilation album for lovers of music from the world over, as well as those who are concerned for the environment.

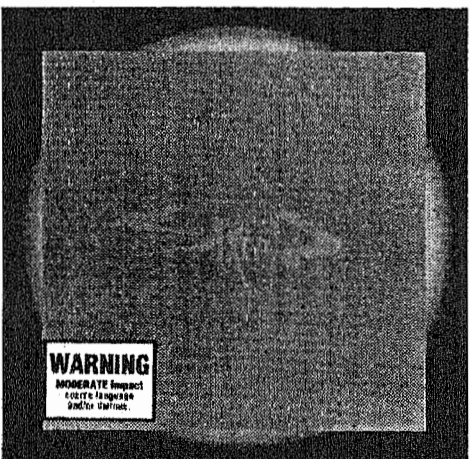
LadyLaz



The Black Eyed Peas
Elephunk
A&M Records

While every other hip hop gangsta is seemingly off clubbin' and gun totin' their way into the public spotlight, The Black Eyed Peas rely on their creativity and inventiveness, the addition of singer Fergie (who sounds a bit like P!nk) testament to the openness. Their sound has more rapping and more generic beats, but retains a healthy dose of funky bass, well written horn parts and Brian May guitar samples. The radio friendly hits in the vein of 'Request Line' and 'Weekends' are here, as well as the provocative 'Let's Get Retarded,' which is actually a criticism of the dumbed-down mainstream acts that are getting more than they deserve. The credibility of this statement does seem to come under fire from 'Shut Up' which is too much like the artists they are trying to distance themselves from in the stronger songs, 'Smells Like Funk,' 'Labor Day (It's A Holiday),' 'Hands Up,' and 'Sexy.' Justin Timberlake ducks in for the terrorism-inspired sentimental 'Where is the Love' and could even be the highlight. While Bridging the Gap is a better album, more original and with better hooks, Elephunk is a solid addition to the BEP catalogue and while not entirely a funk album, clearly Hippo Hop would have sounded ridiculous.

Matty



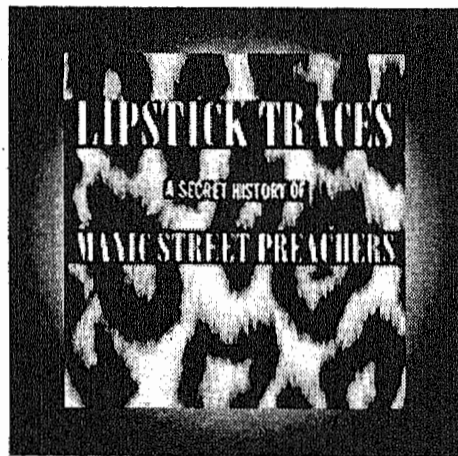
Staind
14 Shades of Grey
Flip/Elektra

Staind is well known for being given a leg-up to stardom by Fred Durst, and it's heartening to see that they haven't followed in his sickeningly commercial footsteps (yet...). While this third and

latest album, *14 Shades of Grey* shows more credence than their forefathers in Rock, I have to say that there really wasn't enough there to properly chew on. All I can really say is that they're not bad: They make decent music. They don't mind doing a couple of soft tracks, and they give good value to the fans with a fair number of tracks.

The album is crystal, and the overall composition is one of unity and flow; one track definitely follows the last. This is to such an extent, however, that it's hard to tell where one track ends and another begins. I'm afraid this boils down to the songwriting skills of Staind, who really haven't done as good a job as the boys behind the scenes. Near-trite overdriven guitar (drop-D, of course), cobbled together with some intermediate beats and fills, and a plunky bass line makes a very thin gruel for the starving rock-junkie.

Hagemann



Manic Street Preachers
Lipstick Traces: A Secret History Of Manic Street Preachers
Epic/Sony

The Manics have had a fascinating and enigmatic career, penning some of the more amazing songs of the last decade and having one of their members, Richey Edwards, vanish during a tour, never to be found again. Following the 2002 'Best Of' record, *Forever Delayed*, it only seems appropriate that this Brit pop-rock outfit produce a twin disc of b-sides, lives tracks, rarities and covers. There is no shortage of inspired songs and I suspect many of these will be as loved as their hit singles 'If You Tolerate This Then Your Children Will Be Next,' 'You Stole The Sun From My Heart' and 'Masses Against The Classes.' It is difficult to pick a clear hit from the b-sides, although 'Prologue to History' and 'Valley Boy' are my favourites. The second disc is entirely covers, interpreting songs by Nirvana (a slide guitar version of 'Been A Son'), Chuck Berry ('Rock and Roll Music'), The Rolling Stones ('Out Of Time'), Burt Bacharach ('Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head'), and The Clash ('Train In Vain, What's My Name'). The quotation on the sleeve from rock journalist Greil Marcus encapsulates this album nicely 'What appealed to me were its gaps and those moments when the story that has lost its voice somehow recovers it.'

Matty

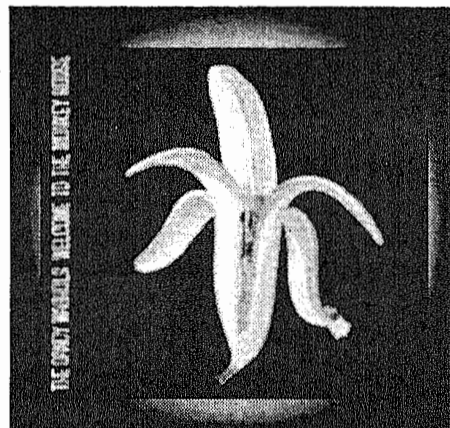


Killer Mike
Monster
Aquemini/Columbia

Okay, I fell for it. Hook, like and sinker. Not sure if that's a good thing or not. Explanation: I'm not normally much of a rap fan, but like most people who can spell the word without adding a 'c', the name "OutKast" can suck me into just about anything. In this bloke's case, not only is he on their label, not only is there a big-arse sticker on the front announcing him as protégé of Dre and Big Boi, but they produced the whole damn album under their real names. Which, you think as the title track kicks things off, would seem to be Monster's main (if not its only), selling point. Killer Mike's voice just isn't particularly distinctive or interesting and neither are his rhymes. But the music underneath them makes up for everything. More aggressive versions of the familiar inventive laid-back funk (Killer Mike is unlikely to ever write a song with an apology for a chorus, that's for sure). All in all, though, it's pretty telling that 'A.D.I.D.A.S.', the strongest track, features a verse from Big Boi...

(IT Note: The CD comes with access to a special web site -- put the disc in your computer, pull up killermike.net, and enjoy "exclusive interviews, exclusive videos, and other exclusive bonus material". In theory. All this exclusiveness managed to firmly exclude my computer.)

Jiminy Krikitt



The Dandy Warhols
Welcome To The Monkey House
Capitol

Well, I guess it was gonna happen eventually - The Dandys have grown tired of their "country hick" routine and gone disco. Not that they don't still sound like The Dandy Warhols. In fact, "Welcome To The Monkey House"

is about as natural a progression as you can expect from a band as eccentric as this. What's changed is not so much the cake as the icing - the album is, as usual, a wonderfully quirky collection of good, solid songs laced with the band's characteristically tongue-in-cheek humour (witness "The Dope [Wonderful You]" and "The Dandy Warhols Love Almost Everyone"), but this time a bit of programming has entered the mix, adding a sprinkling of 80s beats and bleeps to the occasional falsetto vocals, as well as Courtney Taylor-Taylor's usual "Bohemian Like You"-type vocals. The resultant soundscape is a bit "cleaner" and funkier than their previous albums, and sounds like a funny mix of Beck and Regurgitator. The songs are every bit as good as we've come to expect from the guys, however, and the hooks just as catchy. Highlights are "I Am A Scientist", which the English underground dance scene would welcome with open arms, and "You Were The Last High". Andy would be proud indeed.

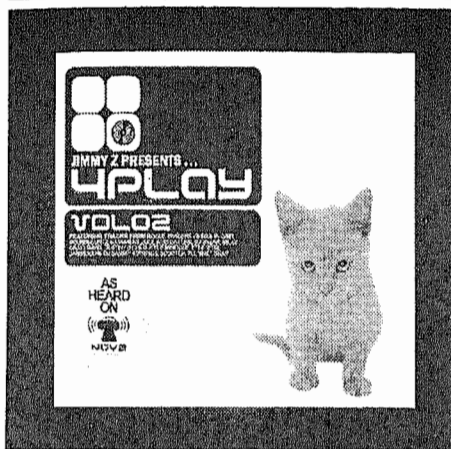
Guybrush Threepwood



Powderfinger
Vulture Street
Universal

Ahhh, Powderfinger. The Band That Can Do No Wrong. Deserving of this title, however, considering that they're one of a very few mainstream bands that are actually any good. *Vulture Street*, the latest long player from the guys, is a remarkable change of pace from the arty *Odyssey Number Five* - this time around, Powderfinger have given us their own loud, ballsy, dirty, gutsy homage to the great bluesy rock 'n' roll sounds of the sixties. There are fewer 'instant' radio hits here; rather, each track contributes to the whole, giving a wonderfully solid, impeccably well-crafted album with no weak spots - something the band failed to achieve on *Odyssey Number Five*. Tracks such as "Since You've Been Gone" and the sorrowful "How Far Have We Really Come?" display the beautiful melodies the band are so renowned for, with a few well-placed guitar hooks thrown in. The Stones are a major influence, particularly on the wonderfully catchy "Stumblin'" and "Don't Panic", a ripper of a track with Mick Jagger's ghost swaggering in the background. Bernard Fanning excels himself, displaying a truly accomplished blues voice, and giving the entire album that unmistakable Powderfinger sound. Thumbs up, guys.

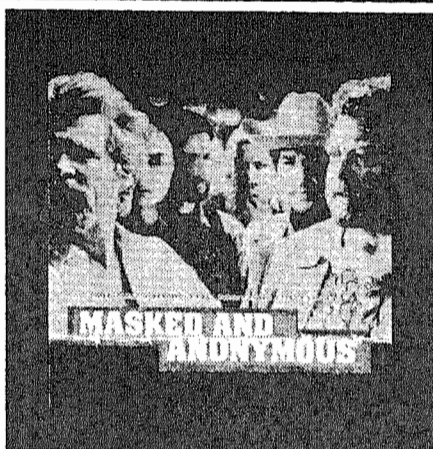
Guybrush Threepwood



Jimmy Z Presents... 4Play Volume 2
Various Artists
Ministry of Sound/ EMI

This double CD collects 12 new 4Plays. What is a 4Play? Well, "4Plays are short mixes of different dance styles, remixed and restyled for daytime radio; each 4Play has at least 4 tracks and lasts for about 10 minutes." Put out by Nova Radio and Ministry of Sound, it's an interesting take on the conventional dance mix CD, and to some extent it works. Of particular mention is the 'Stomp'n' House 4Play", comprising of Who Da Funk, Rogue Traders vs INXS, Par-T-One vs INXS, and DJ Sneak. And the very housey 'Remixes 4Play'. In true Ministry style, disk 2 is one for the trance/ NRG lovers (...and not for me...), but a surprise highlight is 4Play competition winner, DJ Nikko's Chillout Mix, featuring IIO, Layo and Bushwacka! vs. Kings of Tomorrow, 2Heads and De Nuit. *4Play Volume 2* is an interesting change from the standard dance mix CD, but as it features almost 50 tracks, you never get long enough to enjoy your favorite tracks. *4Plays* may work well for daytime radio, but as a mix CD it leaves something to be desired.

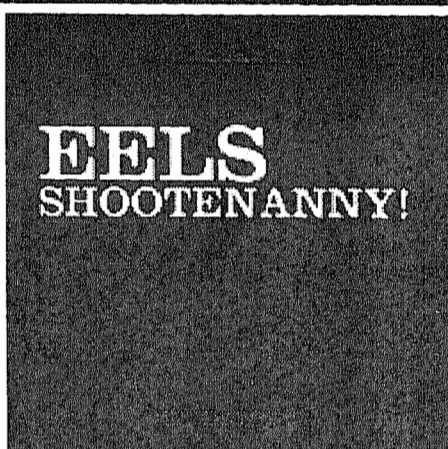
Glitz Mullet



Masked and Anonymous
Various Artists
Sony

In *Masked and Anonymous* Bob Dylan plays aging rock star Jack Fate recently emerging from prison to play a benefit concert. The accompanying soundtrack features 14 songs penned by Dylan, covered in a wide variety of styles from Gospel to Latino-Rap and Europop. The album is multi-lingual with three Spanish tracks, and the Magokoro Brothers Japanese cover of "My Back Pages." Dylan himself performs four tracks and the traditional pieces "Diamond Joe" and "Dixie," as well as two previously unheard tracks, "Down in the Flood" and "Cold Irons Bound." The pick of the covers include Shirley Caesar's Gospel version of "Gotta Serve Somebody" and Francesco de Gregori's subtly beautiful Spanish rendition of "If You See Her Say Hello." The Grateful Dead supercede high expectations with their take on "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue" where Jerry Garcia's guitar solo soars whilst remaining steeped in the song's folk-country roots. Open-minded Dylan fans looking for something new will find pleasure and surprise in this eclectic selection of covers.

Emil Kloeden



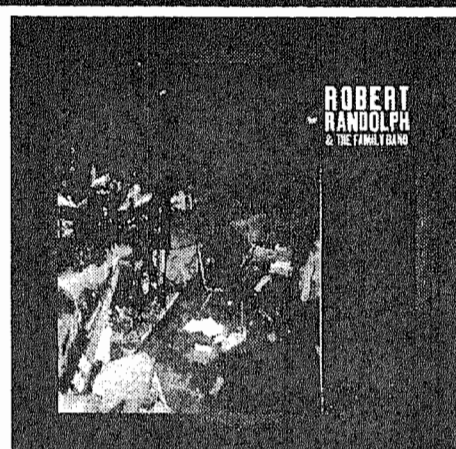
Eels
Shootenanny!
Dreamworks

Mr E, he's a busy man. With his fifth studio album, we hear him maturing in his melancholy pop sensibilities to a bluesier more heart-broken place than previously seen. The current radio friendly pop-rock rip-snorter, 'Saturday Morning' distorts the impression of the album as it moves away from the rock n' roll of Souljacker.

Mr E says it well sub-titling the album "Everybody knows these are rock hard times." Having lost some close family members to tragic ends in recent years he knows. There's the Doors like 'Agony', the honey-slide guitar of 'Restraining Order Blues', 'Lone Wolf', and the majestic 'Numbered Days'. Sadist moment: 'Fashion Awards' with the chorus of, "we'll blow off our heads in despair."

There are a lot of moments on this album that feel very strongly like Beck's Mutations or Sea Change. It's not the Eels best work, but there are some beautifully eloquent moments. Mr E makes sure he gets you back up and motivated again with the closer, 'Somebody Loves You.'

Prof. Booty



Robert Randolph & The Family Band
Live at the Wetlands
Dare Records

Recorded in late 2001 at New York's fabled (yet now defunct) Wetlands Preserve club, which hosted the first shows of some of the world's biggest acts (notably Dave Matthews and Pearl Jam), this live disc captures all of the spirit and glory of the modern jamband. Although in only his early 20's Randolph has been hailed as a modern day god of the pedal-steel guitar. Like his heroes his roots are firmly buried in gospel but infuses blues, funk and rock into his ensemble creations. I'd prefer to refer to Randolph's creations as journeys rather than songs as all but one run over 10 minutes. The brilliant blues journey 'Shake Your Hips' creates the feeling of being right there on the front-line of the dancefloor while 'Pressing My Way' conjures images of the gospel singing for redemption. If jambands aren't your cup of mochaccino then Robert Randolph may not be for you. But if you like music with soul, energy and improvisation then *Live at the Wetlands* will work for you. In Randolph's words if "you haven't come to stomp your feet.... You go outside and catch some air!"

Gaz

CLUBS & CLASSIFIEDS

AUMA events

On Wednesday the August 6 the Adelaide University Media Association will be hosting a quiz night in the Eclipse room at 7:30pm. Entry \$5, and prizes will be awarded all night. Get together your table of ten, and we'll see you on Wednesday!

The AUMA Ball is coming, August 23 at The Hyatt. Stay tuned for more details.

AU Touch Club

The AU Touch Club AGM will be held on Wednesday 30th July from 7:30pm -10pm in the Margaret Murray Room (level 4, Union House). All members and interested persons are invited to attend. For more information contact Darren Jones at djones@adelaide.edu.au

Stud Rad

Want a Student Radio show on next year but have no idea how to use the equipment?

We are running after-hours training sessions to help you put a kick-arse demo tape together come application time. These sessions will have a maximum of four people and be held when numbers and studio bookings permit. This is NOT the full training course or a guarantee of getting a show next year. It is more a way of getting acquainted with the equipment before taking the plunge into the nerve-racking demo tape production process. Contact us on dan.murphy@student.adelaide.edu.au to add your name to the list.

Watch This Space!

Peace Club coming to the University of Adelaide. Keep your eye on this section for further details.

Alumni Association

I'm under 30 and a graduate of the University of Adelaide!

I want to improve my networking opportunities

I want to mingle with other young graduates in my own and other disciplines!

I want to know where the best jobs are!

I want to hear about research opportunities!

I want to hear about grants and awards for post-grads!

I want to hear about exciting leadership development opportunities!

I want to make this happen for me and others!

If you ticked any of these, then the Young Alumni Program is for you! The University of Adelaide Alumni Association wants to provide services and information to young graduates through the newly conceived Young Alumni Program of the Alumni Association.

You can be part of this exciting venture. Come and be part of the team that develops the Young Alumni Program. We offer you a networking opportunity over some nibbles and drinks and the chance to hear some young graduates, who are prominent in their respective disciplines, share their experiences and their successes. In return we ask you to share your ideas about the Young Alumni Program. Opportunities will be available for you to take on a leadership role in the Young Alumni Program.

When? Tuesday 5 August 2003
Time? 5.30 pm to 7.00pm
Where? Ira Raymond Room Barr Smith Library
RSVP by 29 July 2003 to Alison Wood
ph: 8303 3333
email: alison.wood@adelaide.edu.au

