COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
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Thanks to:

Our most enthusiastic subby Goldy, for rocking up at 6am on On Dit delivery morning to distribute when no On Dits were in sight. The reluctant work experience girl, Natty, as you only wanted us for our references (although we still got a few errands out of here...watch this space).

All of our subbies for last edition’s AMAZING distribution, special mention to whoever did the law building...damn that place was plastered with our little sexual baby!

The fanatical submissions from non-subbies (not all could be printed this edition).

*TWEEK*

Clubs for letting us stay in our office this year.
Lots Wifey for thanking us in their thanks last edition, thanks.
To for being the first article submitted but the last article layed out.
Clappy for the uber awesome chicken salad dinner and for being ignorant towards vegans.

Busty Rusty, for her delivery of MSG-filled dumplings *drools*

Proshes rocks, especially Millie, Clare B, Ben J and Hannah.

Catty for the malt-flavoured chocolate treats.

Loved ones and not so loved ones for keeping us sane and fed and nurtured and loved.

Birds of a Feather themed On Dit - the edition that will never be, Amanda from On-Campus...more like Off-Campus, we don’t need you!

Jeff, Hairiest Dog in the World (Incoming), D-Link and The Beige House of Pleasure for hanging in there for this edition (please don’t crash until our new computers come along).

Lavinia - for being a great source of our amusement.

Finally, our fanatical cover guy/Simpson’s paraphernalia THAT much has GOF to be cool.
The Simpsons’ paraphernalia THAT much has GOT to be cool.

Finally, our fanatical cover man; someone who loves collecting Lavinia - for being a great source of our amusement. (don't crash until our new computers come along).

House of Pleasure for hanging in there for this edition (please Jeff, Hairiest Dog in the World (Incoming), D-Link and The Beige you!

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Front Cover:
Name: Shaw Hendry

Occupation: Technical Officer at the University of South Australia/Artist/Arts Writer/Curator/Editor/All-Round-Cool-Guy

Type of Collection: The Simpsons

Class of Collector: Extreme

Worth of Collection: Priceless

Favourite Item: The Simpsons Pinball Machine

Favourite Simpsons Character: Tie between Ralph and Dr Frick

Favourite Simpsons Episode: Mr Sparkle

Shaw has been collecting for over 15 years and says the thrill is not just in having the items but the chase to obtain them. He has collected things from all over the world, not limiting himself to trademark items (see the Krusty Bong). When Shaw isn’t at home wondering where to squeeze in another box of collectables, he is busy organising exhibitions for his online gallery Vitamin. He began the project as a zine that had an online presence and a limited printed run. Go to http://www.vitaminarchive.com/ to check out the current exhibition titled Urban Differences.
Apology:
The “Studio 2000” labelled photo of our Prez, Lavinia, was taken by everyone’s favourite University of Adelaide photographer, Robert Fletcher. Sorry for not crediting it in the Festival Edition.

Dear Eds.

Just a short note to say kind hearted people still do exist despite the way things seem. I’d like to say thanks to the fellow student who so kindly bought me the pastie I’d been planning to buy but found I had no cash for. She saved a tired mum a walk to the bank and gave her the chance to do a bit of study! Thanks again!

Sarah Kuchar

Are you a positive and constructive thinker? Hate people who whinge but do nothing to change the status quo? Want to learn more about what’s happening and help to improve Adelaide and South Australia?

Join us and help us make a difference!

http://www.sensational-adelaide.com

Notice of an Annual General Meeting

Adelaide University Sports Association Inc will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 29th May 2008 from 1:10pm in the WP Rogers Room level 4, Union House to be followed directly by Sports Council.

Nominations for the following positions will open on the 5th May:

A one (1) year term for:
President
Deputy President
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer

(Please note that the Secretary and Treasurer MUST be currently enrolled students of the University of Adelaide)
Have you ever felt that more can be done to make change among youth in Australia? Are you interested in youth empowerment, environmental issues, or social justice? Do you want an experience that will challenge you, build community, and spread positive ideas about sustainable consumption?

We might just have the answer...

The Otesha Project (Australia): Cycling for Sustainability has finalised our bicycle tours and are now seeking out 4 coordinators (2 for each tour) that will help us make our New South Wales (starting in November) and Victorian (starting in January) tours something amazing.

You will help to coordinate one of two tours that will create a mob of 15-20 youth that wish to "be the change they wish to see in the world", create a collective roving community of hilarious actors, help empower rural Australian youth, and all the while learn amazing skills (to pay the bills) while setting the tour up with your other side-kick.

For more info:
www.otesha.org.au
shane@otesha.org.au

Research Participants Needed
For a project examining headache psychophysiology, being conducted by the School of Psychology.

Wanted:
Headache sufferers = headaches 3 days a week and not Migraine diagnosed
‘non-headache’= rarely or never get a headache, and had none in the last 3 months.

Participants will have their sensitivity to stress and pain assessed in a laboratory procedure lasting up to 2 hours. They will also receive a chart to take home and record headache in over a 24 hour period.

Participants will be compensated $30.00

For more information please contact Stuart Cathcart.
EMAIL: stuartcathcart@hotmail.com TEL: 0438 002151

Send letters, comments, announcements, requests, edition ideas, submissions, free money etc to:
ondit@adelaide.edu.au

Our inbox just got upgraded and it is very lonely!

three (3) general positions for a two (2) year term
to be determined at the Council Meeting following the AGM

Nomination Forms will be available from the Sports Association Office (ground floor George Murray Building) from 9am Monday 5th May 2008.

Nomination Forms MUST be submitted by 4:45pm Friday 16th May to the Sports Association Office and must be signed by two (2) members of the Association. Only FINANCIAL members of the AUSA will be eligible to nominate for a position.

Voting will take place from 9am Monday 26th May - 5pm Wednesday 28th May, if necessary (with campaigning to run from Monday 19th May - Friday 23rd May), for the 4 Executive positions at the Student Hub, level 4, Union House.

If anyone has any queries please contact the Sports Association Office on 8303 5403.

The Adelaide University Fencing Club wishes to notify students that its AGM will take place Tuesday May 13th, at its training venue, the Sports Centre at the Thebarton Campus, off Winwood Street. The meeting will start around 7:30pm.

Meredith Coleman
Secretary of AUFeC.

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Welcome to a bright new term at the University of Adelaide, and another edition of On Dit News with Eric Smith. This time we’re focusing on fanatics, so strap in, it’s going to be a wild ride!

In sports news, the recent 20/20 Premier League in India was derided as terrible. Cricket fans the world over turned off as wickets fell during commercial breaks and the standard of what was actually shown was abysmal.

Adelaide soccer fans have been more unreasonable than usual, demanding a new multi-purpose stadium in the city to host AFL matches and assist in a potential bid by Australia for the soccer World Cup in 2018. Apparently people still believe in the rain following the plough. It didn’t work north of Goyder’s line, and it’s not going to work here. We barely fill the stadium we have, building a second, larger, single-use stadium is the whitest pachyderm you could hope to see. The problem with AAMI is not location, but transport. If the design of the grandstands is wrong, it wouldn’t take more than a couple of seasons to re-build them all on a rotating basis to match current criteria. Fans of a flutter will have to troop down to Morphettville from now on, with the South Australian Jockey Club officially withdrawing from Victoria Park. Given their treatment of the heritage-listed grandstand they had, good riddance, I say.

On to that other home of the fanatic, religion, and what’s new? Well, Osama bin Laden issued a warning on the 20th of March to Dutch newspapers that published the controversial caricatures of Mohammed, also threatening the Pope as an “accessory to the crime”.

I haven’t heard anything from Australia’s very own fundamentalist Christian church, Hillsong in Sydney, so we can only assume they’re behaving themselves for the time being.

Hamas, the fundamentally anti-Semitic political party representing Palestinians, is busy exposing the West’s hypocrisy over Israel. Every time the Palestinians shoot an Israeli, there is uproar, but Israelis are killing Palestinians daily and with impunity. Are we over-compensating for WW II?

And of course religious fundamentalism in Tibet is headline news lately with every leg and arm of the Olympic torch relay beset with anti-Chinese protesters. But in essence, Tibet would be a theocracy ruled by the Dalai Lama, a leader born with the divine right to rule. I wonder sometimes how it is the West supports this. Sure he’s a nice guy this time round. But can you guarantee it every time?

For all those pop-fanatics out there, a new show by Japan’s Andy Warhol, Takashi Murakami, has opened in the Brooklyn Museum. Pointy-headed aliens surrounded by marshmallow sentries are not even the highlight, but the shop in the middle. The artist describes it as “the heart of the exhibition”.

I hope that by the time this goes to press, either Clinton or Obama have won, but at the time of writing, Clinton needed a 60-40 win in Pennsylvania to genuinely stay in the race. In an interesting twist, both Democrat candidates supported their Republican rival’s legitimacy. To be a president, one must be a natural-born citizen. Mr. McCain was actually born on a US military base in Panama, but has been declared natural-born by a Senate vote. It makes me wonder why he left it so late. And imagine the blow to the Republicans if the vote had gone the other way!

Finally, my African and Asian sections will ably be taken over by Foreign and Current Affairs with their exposes on Mugabe and Reinaudo, respectively.
CELEBRITY STALKING

Celebrity is the new cult of the modern era. Everything from fashion magazines to clothing labels, brands of tyres, chocolates and even teeth whitening products use celebrity status to create gossip, sell magazines and products or establish a fashion fad. In the media, celebrities are stalked night and day by "reputable" news reporters and paparazzi alike. We have grown used to the daily presence of stars like Britney Spears and Michael Jackson in our lives, and even if we don’t always like the exaggeration of their talents, we have learnt to put up with their influence. In the lives of those celebrities who court fame they expect the attention of fans and dissenters alike. But when fandom crosses the line into fanaticism and stalking, their lives become a lot riskier.

Stalking can be roughly defined as a fanatical obsession a person may have for a celebrity or non-celebrity that involves relentless recording and watching of their movements, while often trying bizarre methods to get their attention such as constant mail, violent displays of devotion, cyberstalking and repeated physical following. Most stalkers have either a real or imagined connection to their target which drives them on, often made worse by mental illnesses like schizophrenia. Celebrities such as Jodie Foster, Mel Gibson, Halle Berry, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Britney Spears have all experienced stalking, and the stories that came from their experiences serve to remind us of the darker side of being famous.

Jodie Foster’s stalker John Warnock Hinckley, Jr. first formed his obsession with the actress by watching the film Taxi Driver repetitively, and then deciding that he must move closer to her and become known to her in any way necessary. His techniques involved constant calls, letters and notes, and when these avenues failed to create a relationship he resolved to hijack a plane, assassinate President Ronald Reagan or commit suicide publicly. He was caught but found not guilty on grounds of insanity, and has lately been granted conditional release from a psychiatric hospital. While nothing happened to Foster, cases involving stalkers threatening violence are not unusual. Catherine Zeta-Jones received countless death threats via telephone and letters, which often stated that her stalker Dawnette Knight would “viciously slice up Jones like Sharon Tate was”, causing Jones to suffer a nervous breakdown. Other female stars such as Gwyneth Paltrow and Britney Spears experienced burglary, unwanted visitors and constant harassment, leading them to resort to restraining orders and criminal charges to get them to stop.

Stalking is a more wide spread phenomenon than most people believe, with most targets being women. Figures from the United States say that at least one out of every 12 women will be stalked at some stage during their life, while one out of 45 men will receive the same treatment. This equates to over one million women and about 380,000 men being stalked annually. Of course the majority of cases don’t reach the media unless it is a particularly wacky case or a celebrity is involved. The media capitalise on our insatiable desire for gossip surrounding celebrities, and stalkers provide that combination of violence, desire and scandalous obsession that the public love to hear about. However it is this same publication which potentially gives rise to other stalkers. In other words if its publicity celebrity stalkers crave, they certainly get it in spades, with their obsessional antics rarely failing to get the attention of their subjects.

When it comes to stalking male celebrities a whole new range of weird theories seem to crop up. For instance Mel Gibson’s stalker Zack Sinclair became obsessed with the idea that God had given him the divine mission to pray with Gibson, and accosted him while at mass and demanded that they pray together. In this case Sinclair was successfully prosecuted and sentenced to three years in jail for his behaviour. Female stalkers following male celebrities are more common, such as Richard Gere’s stalker Ursula Reichert-Habbishaw, who showed up at his office and telephoned Gere over a thousand times, although she avoided jail time by being deported. Perhaps the most bizarre case on record is Diana Napolis belief that Steven Spielberg and his wife belonged to a Satanic cult intent on inserting a micro-chip in her brain to “catch her soul”. The Spielbergs successfully placed a restraining order on Napolis, although there is no record of her getting the psychiatric treatment she obviously needs.

For all of us in blissful obscurity we can be thankful we don’t have any of these stalkers hounding us. For those in the spotlight however, the case does not end when they are granted restraining orders. The media ensures that it cannot be forgotten, and will often link any illness, loss or gain of weight or breakdown to their stalkers. Because of cases like these I believe it will be a long time before we can successfully discourage stalkers, because regardless of the legal consequences, the stalkers gain the attention they so desperately want.

Genevieve Williamson