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Lot's Wife

monash university student newspaper | oh four



addiction | edition three



| monash education rally & occupation liftout inside



so, pretty

thursdays **station hotel**

\$1 Pots 8-9pm, \$1.50 9-10pm, \$2 - close

Music by Nick Foley **Station HOTEL** **+ \$4.50 Spirits + \$3 Champagne**

96 greville st, prahran, 9521-2200

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• Dust bag indicator
• Cloth bag



STUDENT PACK

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• Fast boil element
• 3-way safety system



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19 Litre Microwave

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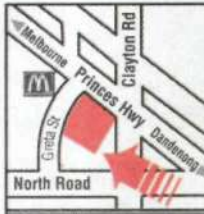
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NEXT TO McDONALDS

GGVCL988

Contiki Resorts are offering Lot's Wife readers the chance to win a special holiday pack to relieve the stresses of being back at uni. The pack includes a pair of sexy Silhouette Sunglasses (worth over \$250 a pair), and a CD from a summer selection thanks to Festival Mushroom Records. To win you must answer this question "Who played Andy Warhol in the film Basquiat?"
Send your answers to lotswife@adm.monash.edu.au
Winner will be announced during writers meeting.



ARBEIT IM ERFOLG -
ARBEIT IN DER
ERFOLGLOSIGKEIT



Transmissions: from here and there

Works by Imants Tillers

Thursday 25 March & Saturday 15 May 2004, (Museum closed Easter 9 & 13 April), MUMA Monash University Museum of Art

A leading exponent of postmodern appropriation, Tillers appropriates imagery from other artists' works to create new works, commenting on contemporary society, diasporic experience, spirituality, the human condition and originality in art.

Transmissions presents some of the artist's lesser-known works including many that have not been shown in Australia before. The works inform and provide a wider context for the two Tillers' works held in the Monash University Collection.

Image: Imants Tillers Korrespondenzen (detail) 1995 oil on canvas, synthetic polymer paint on 104 canvas boards 200.4 x 533.4 cm. Reproduced courtesy of the artist.

MONASH University
Museum of Art



Addiction. It is truly the force that destroys a person. However, substance abuse is but one aspect of addiction. My favourite addiction to examine is image.

A clean cut socialite may be addicted to their image, as they continue to shop for the latest clothes, pay for the latest haircuts and visit the latest clubs, unable to satisfy the growing sense of urgency to be cutting edge.

On the flipside, an independent personality may be addicted to the image of

sub-culture. To them the irony of their image is appearing to be anything but the mainstream, continuing to make themselves appear more original and obscure than anyone else.

Another angle would be an intellectual addicted to maintaining their image of high intellectual average.

But image, something people regard so highly in life, is insignificant in comparison to the greatest addiction of all.

All people, regardless of

their identity, are addicted to life.

At different times we will bitch about it, enjoy it or try to change it. But regardless the human mind eventually loses track and clarity in realising that one day it will have to end. That you do actually die, were dying from the minute we are born and will have to come to terms with this fact in order to properly understand and appreciate life. It is very easy when you are addicted to something become meta-cognitively myopic, unable to see the forest from the trees.

I guess what I am trying to say is; take care of others and yourself. Don't let trivial bullshit get in the way of friends, family and your most beloved. And make the most of your time. Because everyone does go away in the end.

On a personal note I've just quit smoking, after five solid years. You shouldn't fuck yourself up. Life seems to do a pretty good job of it as it is.

Daniel

I remember reading somewhere that a bunch of democratic people fought in a pretty big war against a fascist dictatorship for the protection of basic human rights. They fought not for themselves but for their children and future generations to come. Today we still fight for those same causes. They never thought when they came home that we would have to be fighting years after they had. Long gone are those days where your enemy was easy to see and problems easier to

solve with a gun. How times have changed, today it's hard to know who your enemy is and even harder to know how to solve the problems. Who knows whom and on what battlefield we will fight again. Last week I saw over a thousand students rally together and stand up to the heads of the university, who should have been on their side, to try and stop an increase in HECS fees by up to 25%. An increase that would almost certainly begin excluding everyday people from

accessing an education. Every one of those students fought against a power that should always be on their side, even though the fee increase would not effect them. Those students were fighting not for their own rights but for the rights of their children and future generations. Looks like not much has changed after all.



John-Luis

If you look around at the society that we have created for ourselves, the theme of addiction is rife throughout. People's day to day lives are punctuated by the need to fulfil their many vices. From the first coffee and cigarette in the morning, to the reality television program at night, we need things that are far from essentially for our survival. Yet the gaunt heroin addict will still be the first image that springs to peoples mind when you mention the word "Addiction". However this is merely one aspect of drug taking in our society. There is nothing new about people consuming illicit substances, as human history is littered with references to all kinds of "mood enhancers". Nonetheless the apparent rise in amphetamine usage among my generation, especially in regards to the mood altering drug, ecstasy, concerns me. Every generation has their drug of choice. Grass and LSD were the drugs of choice for the youth in the 70's and it would seem that we will be known as the generation that was raised under the euphoric glow of ecstasy. I am happy for people to do whatever they want to do, I am passing no

judgements here, yet I would like everybody to remember one thing. Little is known about the long term effects of this innocent looking pill. Fun as it may be, many are playing the role of guinea pig for the next generation, and it is only when we the club kids of today are being diagnosed with dementia, depression and amnesia on the thirtieth birthdays, that we will begin to see how reckless we all were being.

And just briefly...

Much has been said about the protests that have been held at Monash in the last week, especially in regards to whether or not the appropriate action was taken. In my view, Dylan Thomas said it best.

"Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light"

And rage we did and rage will keep doing until we are heard.



Peter

writers meetings
1pm | lot's wife office
first floor
campus centre

Lot's Wife acknowledges the Kulin Nations as the original and ongoing owners of the land upon which this paper is produced.

Editorial Policy

Lot's Wife will not publish anything that is sexist, racist, militaristic or homophobic. Lot's believes in giving all Monash students opportunity to express themselves without intervention or judgement. As such the views reflected in this paper do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or the MSA. Try not to get addicted to writing bad articles either, we definitely won't accept that. Remember... everything in moderation, and make sure you are rocking out for the kids.

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Will Duffy
Sam K.

Thanks

The always rad Sarah Oates, Phil Norton, Ruth, Jono, all our wonderful sub-eds, Lisa, Jeremy, Sarah, Duffy (legend), Ben Sutton, Rachel & Charlotte, Nick R (love the cake man), all who wrote stuff for the education guide, Aamer, Angie, Amanda, Shen and Liz, Eng, all the good times had with vices and Sam for his bagpipes and photos.

No Thanks

Indecisive office bearers, Socialist Alternative (passion is great, but you need to listen to other people's opinions), Paul Coates (get it together, you are a national ob), Richard Larkins, last minute changes.

lets start with a plug

Dear Lot's Wife,

It is interesting to note that while both edition one and two contained articles on the plight of asylum seekers. However neither named organisations in the wider community beyond Monash which aim for the end of mandatory detention or even those that oppose having children in detention. It is a good start to be informed but the next step is to be involved. One organisation that opposes children in detention is Children Out Of Detention (ChilOut). On their website there is a wealth of information, for instance they estimate there are at least 159 children in detention, as well as links to other relevant websites. ChilOut is also involved with various events, from plays to fund raising to protests. Protests include the flotilla of hope which is a protest on a boat going to Nauru in the near future.

A.R. Beissel.

i don't know art...

Hello,

I was walking through the airport lounge recently and noticed that the DIY posters for an upcoming event had all been defaced with pink stickers. The poster showed a picture of a female statue, not in any way vulgar or distasteful, but artistic. The stickering, most obviously orchestrated by the womens group, expressed disgust at the way a naked woman's body was being used to advertise an event that obviously had nothing to do with a woman's body.

It is actions like this that make it so impossible to respect the womens group. To me, it should be a place where women can go to feel comfortable and enjoy themselves, and somewhere they can receive support if need be. In reality it seems that they go out searching for any possible insult against women, and are constantly taking things out of context, and much too far, giving themselves a lack of credibility.

Why did the womens group not approach DIY before defacing their property? If the same action had been effected against them, there would be a social outcry. Even if the posters had contained pornography, the way the issue was dealt with was immature. Instead of looking at the posters as a naked woman, why not appreciate them for the beautiful photography and talent that would have gone into the creation of the statue? Michelangelo's David is never considered vulgar, and this should be no different.

I find this action particularly difficult to swallow after reading the latest women's group magazine and

looking at the somewhat graphic artwork of a woman's clitoris. Of course, that was artistic and beautiful, because it was done by a woman.

Heather

pedalling on

I reckon it's ironic - our Formula One "heroes" are doing little more than glorifying our Car Culture which massively fuels global warming. The real heroes are the humble urban cyclists.

Hershtofski Crofflemire

a continuing crisis

I have two things id like to get off my chest.

Firstly the police at the protest couldn't help being there. The protestors who compared them to nazi soldiers (due to their failure to hop off their horses and join in on the rampant destruction of the campus by overly excited people!) should be ashamed. we are not in a world war, the police aren't out to get students, they really were just doing their jobs and should not be abused or belittled for doing so. Everyone one has the right to do their job without fear of reprisal!!! Secondly where the hell can i purchase CC's on campus?? Any advice on this would be highly appreciated!

C.W. 2nd year science

the fat parking controller

Whats with the new parking patrol?? I rocked up first day of semester to find people (all men) dressed in very official looking orange vests telling me what to do in the carpark. Figuring it was probably just for the first week I let it go...but its now week three and the bastards are still out there. OK so I know that I'm not a HD student but shit I can cross a road without assistance (especially when theres a zebra crossing). I find it very disturbing to think that yet another area of my life needs controlling!! Please can't I just park my car in peace!

Stupid, but not THAT stupid!

love that jaded feeling.

Dear Lot's

We are up to week five now, can I stop pretending that I am committed to my studies?

James Smith
Arts 3

and a word from god

There is no way that "Lot's Wife" (or anyone involved with it) is bigger than The Beatles.

From Jesus

PS This is hate mail.

and a word from some other entity

Dear Lot's,

I worship Satan. I sacrifice virgins (which is risky, because I'm a First Year). I like to drink blood (it's a new UDL flavour). I also mutilate bodies (I work as a bouncer). Somebody said that I'm going to go to Hell. The problem is, I don't want to do anything gross like spend eternity with Richard Larkins. Can you help?

Damien, Med 1

the art of clapping

Dear lots

While standing in the crowd protesting in the last few week, I sometimes found myself feeling a little awkward? Not because I was protesting but I couldn't work out the perfect clapping and timing ratio. Sometimes I would do one clap per word, other times two claps per word, sometimes I only clapped in the chorus, and sometimes no clapping at all. However if I chose to only chant and not clap, I could feel the disapproving stares from the protester next to me. In their eyes I wasn't a dedicated protestor. If I decided to clap and not chant, I just felt insane, like the man who stands in the park congratulating the trees on their shade. Therefore the cycle would begin again, of trying to find the right clapping to chanting ratio. I believe someone should publish a book, kind of in the same vein as a percussion book, one that teaches its reader all the word, clapping combinations used by famous protesters around the world. Just a thought.

Mary Heart
Biomed 1

fascism is the new black.

Thank you, Vice-Chancellor Larkins for showing us that corporate fascism at Monash did not die with the departure of David Robinson. Lock students out of a meeting,

direct the police to go in with batons and horses, then accuse the students of resorting to 'non-democratic' methods. Nice. Thousands of students collectively organising to fuck up your degree factory is democracy, loser.

letter of the edition

why don't you go down to the store and buy yourself a clue

Dear Prof. Larkins,

Instead of making Australian Monash students pay for the struggling private South Africa campus (which is draining Australian campuses of \$10 million a year, and no one in South Africa can afford anyway) why don't you just close it down? Then you wouldn't have to charge us more HECS.

Instead of locking students out of the decision making process on issues regarding our own future, why don't you look at the petitions and hear us?

Instead of making this decision now, why didn't you wait for a federal election? Little Johnny is struggling after all. And then you wouldn't need to pass the Nelson "reforms."

Instead of ignoring the resignation of your own council member, why don't you admit that you don't have the full support of your administration and that your people are starting to get pissed off?

Instead of making the public think that students would have had a say if they had come to that council meeting, why don't you just admit that it was a formality? And that the decision had already been made?

You have raised HECS fees by 25%-- that is one thing. But nothing has hurt the student body more than your authorisation for police to use force against students. Capsicum spray and batons against unarmed students doesn't keep a protest peaceful. It means students get injured and knocked out cold.

These moves have given the student body no reason to respect your decisions.

Diana Costaras
Arts/Law IV

Congratulation Sandra Dee. For writing the letter of the edition you have won your tertiary education for free. You lucky bastard!





Lot's Wife
Monash University Student Newspaper | Oh Four

If you'd like to write a letter, ask a question or have a rant; drop off your submission at the office or email us: lotswife@adm.monash.edu.au

drinky drinky

Its great to see Lot's wife dealing this year with the popular student pastime of drinking. The tips and advice about good beers and wines and places to go have been very important, but I'd like to discuss, in this article, a potentially crucial element of your night out - the agent of supply. I've been a liquor assistant for 5 years and a drinker for about twice as long and have therefore known many people in the business. Whilst recognising the broad spectrum of interest and experience, I reckon most of these people can be lumped into two categories: the dumb and the numb. If you are in need of advice while in the bottle-o these people have the power to make or break your evening (or afternoon, depending on how hard-core you are). I expect this discussion relates more to buying wine, but it can also be applied to beer and spirits.

The "numb" are those who know their stuff and have gained their knowledge at great expense to their liver. They are harder to find as they tend to work more in smaller, independent shops but if you are uneducated and need, say, a nice bottle of wine to take out, make use of them! They take great pleasure in being able to boast their seemingly endless product knowledge and if you give them a rough idea of how much you want to spend, they'll typically keep to your budget and still get you something good.

Then there are the dumb. The dumb are far more common and are to be found mainly in the large chain or supermarket annexe bottle shops. BEWARE, as most of them know buggar all about what they're selling. I must point out that there's nothing wrong with this - when I worked at Safeway there were no free samples of wine lying around and it's hard to develop your palate when you're on \$8.50 per hour. It seemed much easier to develop my skills as a liar.

If you approach one of the dumb, you will usually be met with a short pause (which the staff member uses to curse themselves for not taking the deli shift instead) and then they will either fess up, recognising their lack of knowledge, or take you on a trip to planet bullshit. As you now know that you're not going to get what you want, you might as well have some fun with them. See how fanciful and romantic they can make a description of a product, get them to pronounce tongue-twisting varieties such as "Semillon Sauvignon Blanc", "Grenache Mourverde" and "Pinot Meunier", invent a dish like poached oysters on rye in a Napoli sauce and ask what goes best with it. You'll be enjoying winding the assistant up as much as they're enjoying thinking they're really creative and cunning. This is where the bullshitters are separated from the bullshit artists.

If you enjoy a drink, the characteristics of your supplier can be as important as what you end up buying. Take a close look: how red is their nose? What about the beer gut - is it prominent? Are they clad in a polyester uniform or loose fitting clothes that give away as little as possible? If they're hands are shaking, is it because of the DTs or are they just nervous that you're going to ask them a question? Get yourself a good agent and take the thinking out of selection.

Or just go and roll yourself a big fat spliff.

Cheers,
Julien Gronbach
Arts V

some inter-campus communication

Hi,

Tony Abbott lectured at Adelaide Uni last Tuesday as a guest of the conservative Democratic Club.

There was a massive police presence, and students had to submit to a metal detector at the door. The cops removed one student from the theatre, and barred several protesters from entering.

We've always assumed that it was only Federal Police who were allowed on university campuses. Is this true?

Stan & Jimmy
On Dit (the other weekly)

From memory, a university can issue an open invitation to the police which allows them to enter the grounds of the uni at will, so their ability to enter is all dependent on whether such an invitation has been issued or not.

Hey Stan,

Take it from Monash students - universities are only too happy to let the state police onto the uni, particularly if they want to use them as security guards, and especially if the police bring those nice big horsies with them,

Sarah

an escalating crisis

Dear Lot's,

I am sick to fucking death of students who make it their business to stand still when reaching the top of an escalator in the Mezzies building. How can you forget that there are 200 odd people behind you?

Trent
Arts III,

a word from Earle

TO THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF MONASH UNIVERSITY

I BELIEVE YOUR "CLOSED DOOR" STRATEGY TO BE FLAWED IN THAT IT GOES AGAINST THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT OF THE FOUNDER OF THIS INSTITUTION. INSTEAD OF OPENING UP DEBATE TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, YOU HAVE DECIDED ON A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WILL LEAD TO ESCALATING VIOLENCE AND NOT GOING TO HELP ANYONE.

THE MONASH COMMUNITY NO LONGER TRUSTS YOU TO "WORK FOR THEM" AND BELIEVES YOU ARE JUST FULFILLING THE HOWARD/NELSON ECONOMIC RATIONALIST AGENDA.

YES THE ALP COULD ALSO FOLLOW THE SAME COURSE, AS A HIDDEN AGENDA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES PAY YOUR WAGE.

YOUR IMMEDIATE PREDECESSORS HAVE FOLLOWED THE SAME "CLOSED DOOR" POLICY (POWER ABUSE) - BUT NOT ALL OF THEM. DR. MATHESON THE ORIGINAL VICE- CHANCELLOR ENCOURAGED OPEN DEBATE (HE EVEN AGREED TO HAVE PERSONAL DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS). HE ALSO CANCELLED ALL CLASSES TO ALLOW FOR MASS MEETINGS OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WHERE MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS ON DISCIPLINE STATUTES TOOK PLACE.

AS THE DESIGNATED LEADER OF THE COMMUNITY I EMPLORE YOU THE CHANGE YOUR STRATEGY AND OPEN DEBATE TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY ON THE HECS/FEES ISSUE AND FUNDING IN GENERAL.

LETTER TO THE MSA PRESIDENT.

I BELIEVE YOUR STRATEGY OF USING COLLECTIVES IS USEFUL BUT DOES NOT ALLOW ROOM FOR THE EXPRESSION OF DIVERGENT OPINIONS. I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU (OR YOUR PREDECESSORS) HAVE PLACED PROPER EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE OF STUDENT GENERAL MEETINGS. I BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE FALLEN INTO THE "SELF-FULFILLING YOUR OWN PROPHECY" TRAP. ANY ACTION AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIONS INTRANSIGENCE SHOULD BE SANCTIONED BY AN SGM. TRYING TO SANCTION ACTIONS AFTER THE FACT IS BETTER THAN NOT AT ALL, BUT SGM'S WHERE ANY INDIVIDUALS CAN PUT UP MOTIONS AND HAVE

MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS, NOT SOLELY DEPENDENT ON PRIOR COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS IS NOT ONLY FRUITFUL BUT I BELIEVE ESSENTIAL FOR THE BUILDING OF ANY GROUP INTO A HEALTHY AND VIBRANT ORGANISATION

TRUST IN THE METHOD AND PROCESS OF OPEN DEBATE!
EARLE KEEGEL-
GRAD.DIP. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE.

25% of nothing is nothing

Dear Lot's,

With our 25% fee increases, can we also have the following:

- Blue Permit Parking spaces being oversold by another 25%, at a price which is 25% more inflated than what it currently is?
- 25% more escalators not working in the Menzies Building?
- An increase of 25% on the number of stupid, ridiculous fucking water features dumped about campus?
- 25% more bull-shit to work out when trying to enrol?
- 25% more down time when the Monash Server is unable to work so that students are unable to do any of their assignments?
- 25% increase in library fines?
- 25% more 2 Minute Noodles in my diet - I might still be able afford them, so long as I sell my health and well-being...
- 25% more security cameras with 25% more scary spikes on the end - What is the point of these cameras? Maybe the increase in scary spikes is wise, because I've been tempted to scale the pole to disconnect the camera before falling to my death, but I've been put off by the scary spikes.
- A 25% increase in superfluous, non-threatening, bored security guards outside the Admin building. Hey wait a minute, if those cameras are there, why worry about having superfluous security guards outside the Admin building? Maybe they should put scary spikes out the front instead.
- 25% more academic staff who have no form of teaching qualification. Even TAFE lecturers are required to have some kind of teaching qualification, but at uni, 25% higher fees still won't provides us with that!
- 25% Jerry Springer on daytime television. You see, my kids won't be able to afford an education, because they'll be helping me pay off mine. So when my offspring are unemployed, I want them to think the world is shit, so that they won't realise that what could have been wonderful and worthwhile, was destroyed by one narrow-minded, greedy, tunnel-visioned man.

Trevor, Arts II



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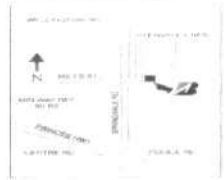
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THE NEED TO READ

SO SAD, IT'S TRUE.

By Meg O'Brien

As a seemingly innocuous pastime, those among us who enjoy pouring over the gossip, glamour and fashion found in countless glossy magazines are rarely subject to public censure. When an individual stands at the end of checkout flipping through the horoscopes they may be considered cheap (I mean, if you want it that bad, it's only \$3.50) but never are they considered deviant. People who seem to have this compulsive physiological need are never placed in the same category as smokers who have to deal with a predominantly anti-smoking population, or alcoholics who are usually typecast as the friendly-neighborhood-drunk or the malevolent-wife-bashing kind.

In the case of cigarettes, like alcohol, we are aware of the risks involved in substance use and abuse. Yet the harm caused by the subtle propagandizing of the glossies comes with no details of their eventual consequences and no warning attached. I don't mean to be alarmist here; by I sincerely believe many people out there have their priorities confused. Of course, I'm not concerned about the occasionally user who sporadically dabbles in some juicy goss about J.Lo and Ben's on again/off again romance, quite the opposite. In some cases it can be an outlet to numb the mind and calm the senses after an intense session debating how to eliminate third-world debt. This is kind of like how Marijuana can be used for medicinal purposes.

My main gripe is that these magazines help people deceive themselves into an unhealthy state - and NO-ONE SEEMS TO CARE. Celebrities are worshipped for all the wrong reasons and we lose sight of the men and women who do not simply seem great because they are famous but are famous because they are great. In a society that makes a fetish of

competition, we are constantly told to become slimmer (and therefore more attractive), to give our children some truly cringe-worthy names and spend ridiculous amounts of money on clothes and the like so that we too, can be like 'them'.

Like all forms of media, they tell us what we want to read. As a result, we grant these 'newsworthy' stories a greater degree of importance than say, yet another suicide-bombing in the Middle-East. However, instead of just spouting my grievances, I thought I would take a look at the big issues and headlines breaking news in some of Australia's favourite magazines.

Woman's Day

- Nicole Kidman and Lenny Kravitz have apparently reunited
- Gwyneth Paltrow is suffering from pregnancy dramas
- Julia (Roberts) wants Jude (Law) - (I think we are supposed to be on a first name basis with these two)
- Claudia Schiffer is apparently suffering from anorexia
- There is a 'Two-Day-Diet' in which you can 'eat more food without gaining weight'

New Idea

- Rachel and Rod Hunter - are they back together?
- Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas have got their 'neighbors offside' before they have even moved in. Apparently the other houses aren't up to their standard
- 'How Safe is Botox?'

New Weekly (NW)

- Is Melanie Griffiths addicted to plastic surgery?
- 'Celebrity Body Battles', featuring Kate Hudson (don't mind the fact she just had a baby), Kelly Osbourne, Kate Winslet and Robbie Williams
- Plastic Surgery on a budget
- Catherine Zeta-Jones has one freaky toe (based on the evidence of one photo)

TV Week

- Some girl off Home and Away gets pregnant

Cleo

- 'What Men think When you Whinge About Your Weight'
- 'Tricks Your Boyfriend can Learn from Lesbians'

Cosmo

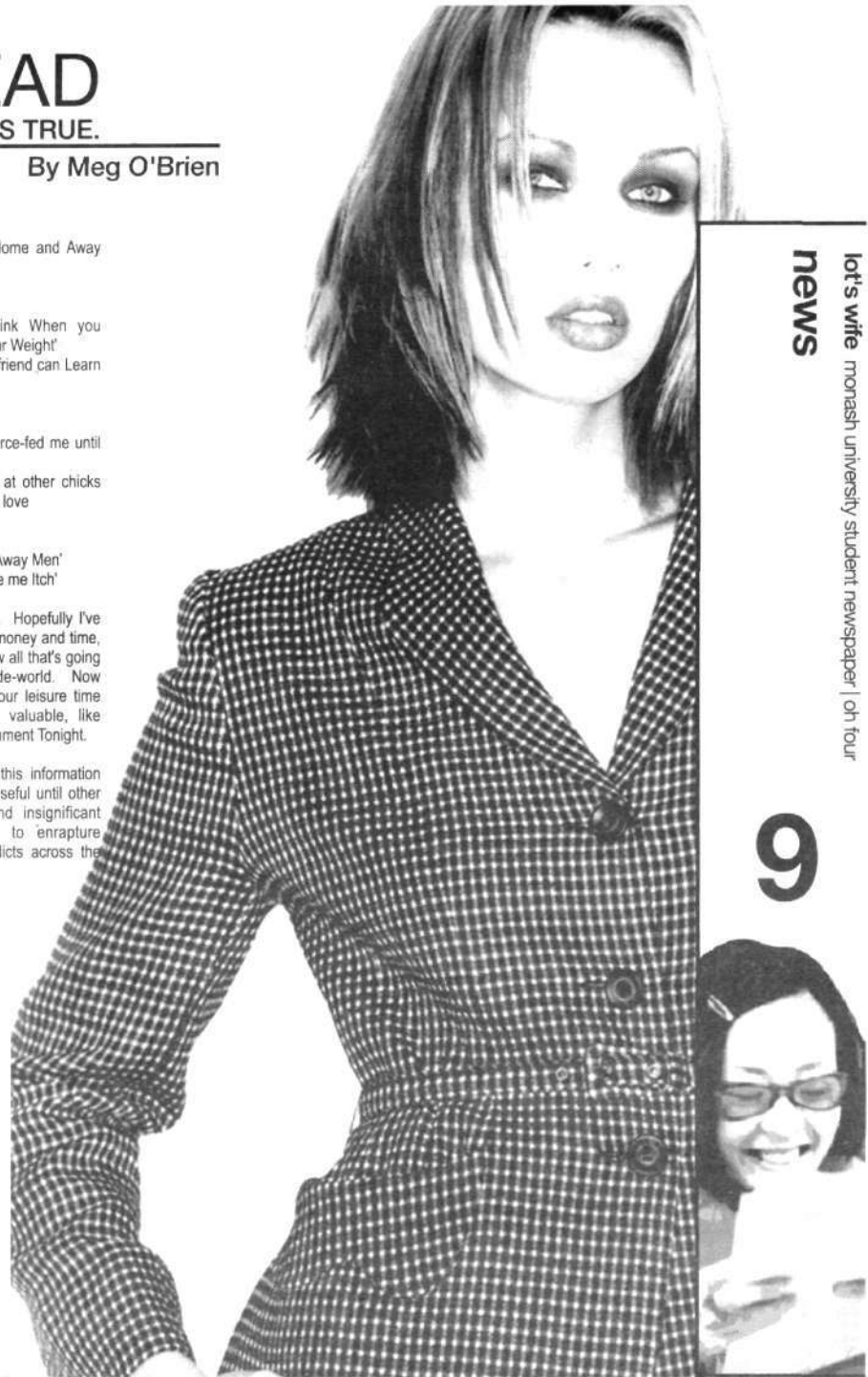
- 'My Boyfriend force-fed me until I was a size 14'
- Why he perves at other chicks even when he's in love

That's Life

- 'My Cat Scares Away Men'
- 'Pregnancy Made me Itch'

So that's about it. Hopefully I've saved you some money and time, now that you know all that's going on in the big-wide-world. Now you can spend your leisure time doing something valuable, like watching Entertainment Tonight.

Note to Reader: this information will only remain useful until other equally banal and insignificant stories continue to enrapture thousands of addicts across the country.



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Just briefly

According to one of the toilets on the Clayton campus, 'life is a waste of time, time is a waste of life, so get wasted all of the time and have the time of your life.' Here are some other thoughts on the matter:

Cocaine isn't habit forming. I should know - I've been using it for years.
Tallulah Bankhead

'Every form of addiction is bad, no matter whether the narcotic be alcohol or morphine or idealism'.
Carl Jung

'Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut'.
Ernest Hemingway

'Yes, madam, I am drunk. But in the morning I will be sober and you will still be ugly'.
Winston Churchill

'Alcoholism is the only disease that you can get yelled at for having'.
Mitch Hedberg

'Smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics'.
Fletcher Knebel

'To alcohol, the nights that you'll never remember, with the friends you'll never forget'.
Anonymous

'To alcohol! The cause of, and solution to, all of life's problems!'
Homer Simpson

'I feel sorry for people who don't drink, because when they wake up in the morning, that's the best they're gonna feel all day'.
Frank Sinatra

'Time is never wasted when you're wasted all the time'.
Catherine Zandonella

'What contemptible scoundrel has stolen the cork to my lunch?'.
W.C. Fields

'I distrust camels and anyone else who can go a week without a drink'.
Joe E. Lewis

'Beer makes you feel the way you ought to feel without beer'.
Henry Lawson

'Reality is an illusion that occurs due to lack of alcohol'.
Anonymous

'Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind'.
Rudyard Kipling

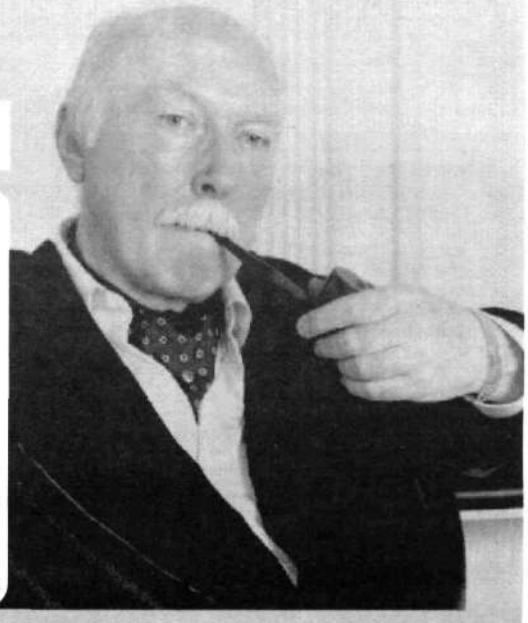
'Drugs are bad, mmkay?'.
South Park

'Reality is a crutch for people who can't cope with drugs'.
Lily Tomlin

'I wouldn't recommend sex, drugs or insanity for everyone, but they've always worked for me'.
Hunter S. Thompson

'Giving up smoking is easy... I've done it hundreds of times'.
Mark Twain

'It is not I who become addicted, it is my body'.
Jean Cocteau



Sexual Assault and The Code of Silence in Australian Sport

By Ruth Parker

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Anyone who hasn't been living in a hovel for the past week would have heard about the recent allegations of sexual assault levelled at Canterbury Bulldogs rugby players, and St Kilda AFL players Stephen Milne and Leigh Montagna. They have, after all, stirred up a media feeding frenzy. However, what I find interesting about these unrelated but simultaneously timed incidents is the debate that has arisen concerning sexual aggression in sport and, more widely, the way in which our culture embraces this pack mentality which sport creates. Now, before you lick the envelope carrying the hate mail addressed to me, let me make it clear that I have nothing against sport. I have played and enjoyed team sports.

However, the issue at hand has revealed a different dimension to the team sports that our culture embraces. A code of silence concerning sexual violence against women in team sports such as NRL and AFL, has been fractured and people are listening. Team sports may emphasise "mateship" but they seem to have revealed a sexually charged pack mentality, which is supported by Australian culture.

Our culture idolises sportspeople. A perfect example of this is the death of David Hookes. Yes, it was violent and tragically premature. However, the death of this one sportsman dominated the nation's newspapers for a week when only five months earlier twenty-six UN workers, including renowned UN worker Sergio Vieira de Mello, were killed in a targeted truck bomb attack in Iraq and the incident went largely unnoticed. Sports stars seem to have earned our faith and forgiveness. Shane Warne was all over the media last year for using performance enhancing drugs and engaging in sexual harassment, but has returned to the adoration of a welcoming audience. It is little wonder that women who have been sexually assaulted by sportsmen have stayed silent. In a culture that turns sportsmen in to Gods and offers them total support and unconditional forgiveness, who would be brave enough to speak out? Furthermore, who would expect to be heard?

Evidently, victims in the past haven't. The AFL in particular has been rumoured to have covered up past sexual assaults to protect the players and (more importantly) the team.

The team is a forbidding entity in itself. In sports such as NRL and AFL, players are physically trained for the corporeal challenges ahead, and mentally hardened for the intimidation, which inevitably accompanies it. This resistance to intimidation verges on acute egotism - which doesn't terminate with the end of the game. And why would it? Female fans throw themselves at these Adonis' of the field and male fans admire them for this, almost as much as they admire their sporting ability. No matter what, these men cannot lose - at least not until now. This attitude of infallibility couldn't have been made more evident than with the conduct of Bulldogs players during police interviews. Their casual dress during these interviews conveyed most clearly their utter disregard, both at player and management levels, for the seriousness of the offences levelled against them. On Thursday, Football Manager Garry Hughes was dismissed for not upholding the management directive, which laid out the appropriate dress code for the interviews. Moreover, team captains for all AFL teams have warned their players to be cautious in their social and professional practices. We can hope that these warnings

may crack through the insufferable egotism and psychological resistance that is obviously an epidemic amongst these deities of the turf. I am sceptical.

I truly believe that whether these allegations lead to convictions or not, they have been enough to crack the exterior of a code of silence, which has probably smothered allegations of sexual assault within the sporting community in the past. However, I also think that sporting leagues and fans alike have to re-evaluate the role that sport plays (pardon the pun) in our culture, and the support and status that we wholeheartedly bequeath these cultural icons. This support and status does not end with the demise of a match or season. It lives on in the adoration that we have for our sports stars, and is reproduced in each new prodigy that steps out on to the field, court or pitch.

AFL Footballers: hunter or prey? Eddie McGuire talks to Lot's Wife

By Alexandra Roginski

Eddie McGuire knows several Sensitive New Age Footballers. In fact, according to him they are not the exception in a milieu currently being associated with androcentricity. As he sees it, maltreatment of women is not a problem specific to AFL, but one that the community at large has to address. "In this situation we have to be careful that we don't go mad on the football side of things - it's a societal problem," he asserts. The unofficial voice of football, in recent weeks McGuire has been working the media circuit even more vigorously than usual, keen to defend the honour of AFL as it becomes drawn into the ignominy of its poorer cousin - the NRL. Initially, the hard word was only being put on league, but footy soon made its own headlines as two high-profile St Kilda players were accused of sexual assault. Nevertheless, McGuire maintains that AFL doesn't deserve the criticisms currently being levelled at it. "Is there a culture of treating women badly in football, no I don't think there

is...I disagree vehemently," he says. But even though McGuire maintains that chauvinism is not the social currency of footy, he has still seen it as necessary to lecture his team that "No, means no, means no". "I've had conversations with our players, and explained in no uncertain terms what the definition of rape is, as opposed to maybe for a young bloke thinking that it's some guy with a balaclava on and a gun in their pocket pulling some unsuspecting woman off a train or in a park or something," he says, discounting my disbelief that rookie footballers can really be that naive. "They are!" He affirms, alluding to the fresh-faced boys who flock to the big smoke in order to play the game. "They're young kids who are doing football, who have just come from country areas...Suddenly, they have a level of celebrity and they're being approached for the first time in their life." The cult of celebrity is a key issue in McGuire's eyes, one which he believes taints music, television and - most

importantly - football. But while many football commentators are denouncing the dazzling glow of fame as breeding arrogant and anti-social behaviour, McGuire is taking a slightly more controversial tack. "There is as many predator women, whereas once upon a time that may not have been the situation," he said in an interview on Stateline last Friday. Some furor has emerged following this comment, but the president of Collingwood stands by this statement as one that is integral to the debate. "You only have to go to a nightclub, or go to training to see it. If we're going to have an open and balanced discussion on why these things are happening and why, we have to look at all aspects of it," he says. In the same way that it survived revelations of racial vilification in years gone by, McGuire hopes that, following some sound social education, AFL will once again manage to regain its favourable footing in the public arena.



Drug Addiction: The Debate Continues

By Lucy Fitzpatrick

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So, you're addicted. Whether to alcohol, nicotine, heroin, amphetamines or another drug all together, you need treatment. Well, congratulations, not only do you have a crippling drug dependency, you have just become intimately involved in one great big political controversy. There is something about drugs that gets the community going. It sparks impassioned debate and what to do with "the addicts" is always a hot topic.

If you are an alcoholic (and you would not believe how little you need to drink per week to be considered clinically alcoholic: no more than four standard drinks a day per men and two standard drinks per day for females with one to two days off per week), it's relatively easy to get help. Alcoholics Anonymous offers a rigorous 12 step program based upon the principles of abstinence: step one "admit that you are powerless over alcohol"; step two "come to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity," great if it works for you. Various medicines are also available to help prevent you from turning back to the bottle. If you are addicted to nicotine, help is also easily accessed. The government funds the anti-smoking initiative QUIT which offers counselling and information for those who want to give up. Nicotine patches, nicotine gum, pseudo-cigarettes (smoke, nicotine and carcinogen free), macabre warnings on cigarette packaging and other such paraphernalia are also available to prevent a lapse back into old habits.

No great cloud of controversy so far it seems (overlooking the obvious irony that if you smoke or drink too much you are addicted to a substance that the government has willingly collected vast amounts of tax from). That's because its when you become addicted to an illicit drug use that the real hullabaloo begins. In 1953, the importation of heroin was banned by the Australian government on the premise that "if heroin can be suppressed in decent countries, the manufacture of it is likely to cease". From 1979 to 1999 we saw an average doubling of death by heroin overdose approximately every 5.8 years, a heroin drought eventually causing a decrease in overdoses. Clearly the legislation based on wishful optimism was never going to treat or prevent drug addiction. Thus we have seen debate rage around drug users as Australia oscillates between a prohibitionist and harm minimisation approach to drug abusers.

When it comes to Australian heroin addicts, opinions are somewhat half way between these two approaches to treating their problem. Debate rages over the possible introduction of harm minimising safe heroin injecting rooms with the Salvation Army and the Howard government opposing such strategies on the basis that they send the wrong message to the community. In 2002, the first of such a service was opened in Kings Cross, Sydney. Whilst supporters Family and Friends for Drug Law Reform credited the facility with drawing into treatment a substantial proportion of users not reached by existing services, saving lives,

reducing public nuisance and gaining large and increasing support from the local community, opponents condemned the \$2 million annual running cost as better spent on rehabilitation programs as of the 3810 individuals who registered at the centre, only 235 clients were referred for treatment of drug dependence and only 140 took up the referral. Heroin users remain in a state of limbo as the nation teeters on the edge of either more progressive or more conservative treatment facilities and options.

On a global scale, Sweden has adopted a prohibitionist approach to drug use and the treatment of addicts. Since 1980, Sweden has taken a world leading tough line on illegal drugs and particularly in respect to the treatment of illicit drug addicts. Under the LVM Act (Care of Alcohol and Drug Abusers Special Provisions Act), and the LVU Act (Care of Young Persons Special Provisions Act), adult and young drug addicts can be forced to undergo drug rehabilitation. Drug treatment is the responsibility of local social services with methadone programmes, which provide heroin addicts with a substance that blocks the effect of heroin and reduces cravings, employed prolifically throughout Sweden. Methadone programmes in Sweden, however, have a high entrance threshold, with the criteria to participate in a programme including severe limits. Whilst such an approach has seen the use of illicit drugs by Swedish teenagers drop to just 3% (33% in Australia admit to experimenting with drugs), rates drug related deaths in Sweden are among the highest in

Europe. Furthermore, needle exchange programmes that prevent the spread of disease are limited in Sweden to only two cities.

On the other hand, neighbouring Scandinavian country Switzerland has adopted an equally world famous harm minimization approach to the treatment of drug addicts. Heroin injecting rooms, that allow a user to safely inject his or her own heroin, have operated in Switzerland since 1988, and since 1995 prescription heroin has been available to extreme addicts. Needle exchanges in prisons also exist and the "safe injecting rooms" run by Swiss programs aim to get addicts into treatment, to stabilise them in areas of health and social integration and, in the long term, get them off drugs. In 16 years of operation, a safe injecting room in Berne experienced no deaths by overdose of heroin. Furthermore, Switzerland has one of the lowest drug related death rates in Europe.

Regardless of international approaches to drug addiction, there exists 80,000 to 100,000 heroin users, maybe only a quarter of who are on a methadone program, in Australian society. Furthermore, 70% or 80% of women in our prisons are there because of drug related offences. Drugs are a prolific part of our society. Perhaps, as such a debate over prohibition versus harm minimization continues to rage, we are left only with the hope that the Australian government and broader society looks towards the most humane and effective treatment of drug addicts.

addicted to porn

By Angeline Lim

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Let's not mince about, there's no business like porn business and with the wide reaching capacity of the internet, grows by the day, always leaving its consumers screaming for more. It's a bit like the Maxines (Australia's Hottest Shippers are Waiting) ad I always catch on late night TV, "welcome to the sex smorgasbord" where what ever you fancy is always on the menu. But what about the men - as it mainly is, but women are subject too - who gorge themselves so voraciously and consistently on porn, that it becomes an addiction?

With porn and the porn industry invading popular culture, where the Playboy bunny logo is tres chic and hip pop clips leave you never needing to subscribe to cable adult channels again, you may think porn, sooo yesterday, so what? However like all addictions, it can be harmful to the person concerned, and its negative impact on the wider community cannot be ignored.

The porn industry is formidable in size and scope to say the least, there are 4.2 million porn-related websites - accounting for 12% of all websites - and estimated \$57 billion in revenue yearly (Alexa 2003), it hardly comes as a

surprise that addiction to porn is on the rise. The question is why and how do these people get addicted to porn?

A R Childress, an associate professor in the department of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania's Treatment Research Centre in Philadelphia states, "sexual stimuli can be very powerful...there's a strong, imperative 'must look' quality to them...as with other addictions, there is likely a vulnerable subgroup who now find themselves having trouble putting on the brakes, they crave it. They find it beginning to interfere with other activities and relationships...these are the hallmarks of addiction." (MSNBC June 27 '00). The statement sums up the mechanisms of porn addiction, it's about a subgroup of people craving intimacy, that sexual "buzz" but replacing it with a potentially dangerous unreality.

A casual porn observer (like yourself no doubt) may visit a few sites and take the free tour (or claim something just popped up out of no where, I swear!) save a few pictures for "alone time" or one-on-one time if you're lucky, and be done with it, however a porn addict spends several hours trawling across sites looking for the next "hit" to achieve the same level of stimuli

as the last time. The addict becomes caught in a cycle of routine sensory desensitization, thus having to replace it with stronger more explicit material.

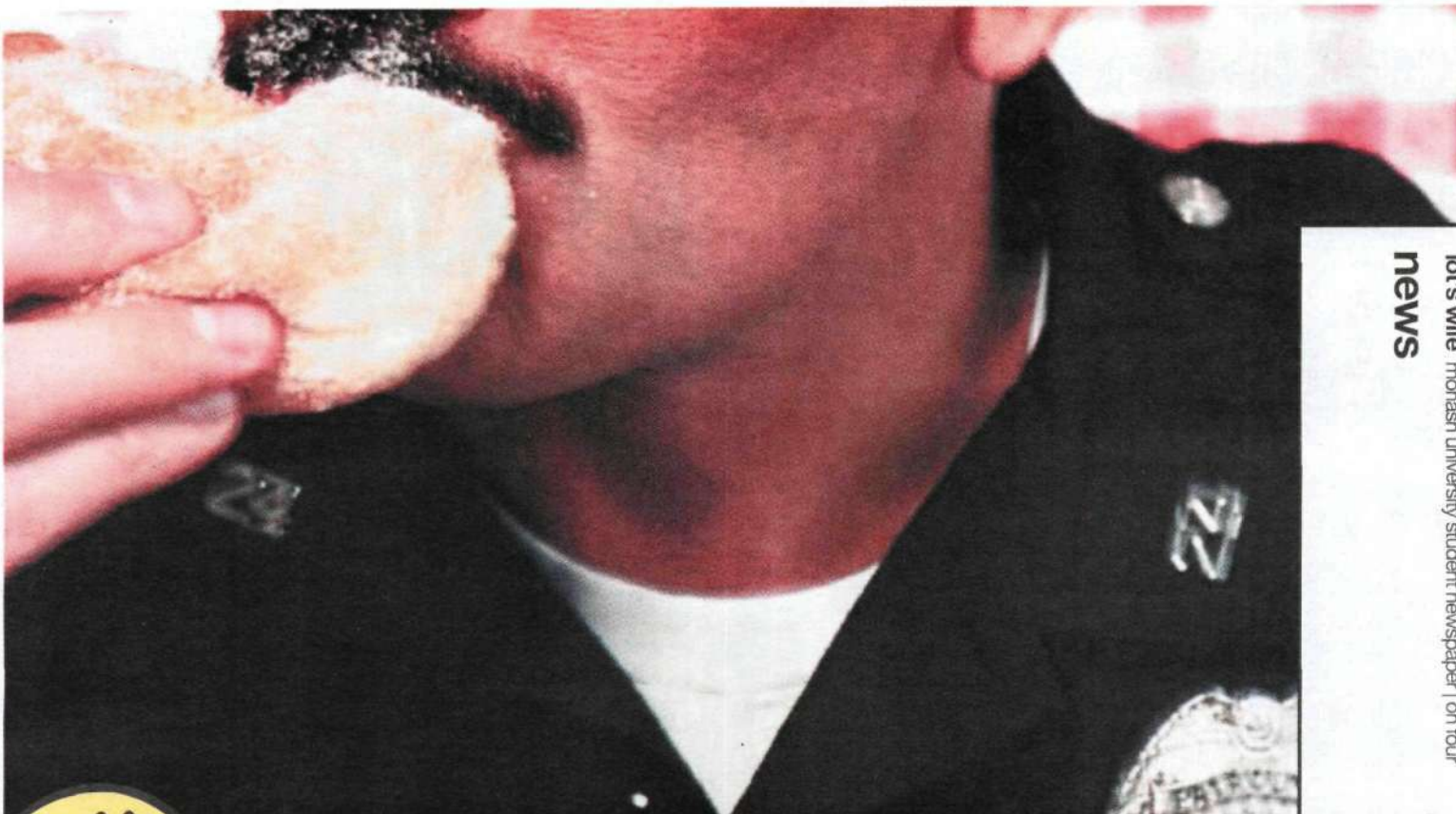
The more time is spent trying to gratify this sexual abyss, the more it helps to create a stronger foundation in unreality. Pornography is unreality, its audience is unarguably male-dominated and subsequently panders to male fantasies where complying and ready females are waiting and willing to be used in 1001 ways. Porn addicts will find it harder and harder to make a meaningful and intimate connection in the real world, as "interacting" with a graphic picture (or clip for that matter) of Jenna Jameson - amongst others (Ron Jeremy excluded) - is a lot easier.

Is porn addiction harmful to society at large? The lines are blurred, there's obviously pornography that's clearly illegal like child-porn, but then there is a whole lot that isn't. Who judges the latter? Within the scope of this article it's too complex to properly discuss. In saying that however some words from Ted Bundy showcase the end of the spectrum. "I've met a lot of men who were motivated to commit violence, just like me. And,

without exception, every one of them was deeply involved in pornography... I would keep looking for more potent, more explicit, more graphic kinds of material. Like an addiction, you keep craving something which is harder, harder, something which gives you a greater sense of excitement, until you reach the point where the pornography only goes so far... you begin to wonder if, maybe, actually doing it will give you that which is beyond just reading about it or looking at it." And Bundy did, he raped and murdered a total of 28 women and was sentenced to death on Jan 1989.

Certainly not all porn addicts turn into rapists or murderers, and not all porn addicts fantasize about violence to women. The crime they instantly commit is a crime unto themselves, numbing and entrapping themselves in a world of pixelated lies and empty allusions to real intimacy. Vincent Carby (senior Times film critic 1969 - 1993) leaves us with this, "I think it quite likely that there is no such thing as good pornography. If it's good, then it's not pornography".

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SICKLY SWEET

THE ADDICTIVE NATURE OF SUGAR

BY HAYLEY MAHER

When we think of addiction to sugar a cheeky grin appears on our faces as we think, "mmm...I'm a sugar addict!" However the magnitude of the frequency and concerning nature of sugar addiction is horrifically great. There is something that is wickedly appealing about eating food that is bad for us. Why? We know we will feel guilty afterwards, maybe, but we continue to increase the sugar in our diets. Perhaps it is human nature. Perhaps there is a scientific answer. Or perhaps it is not us that are consciously consuming more sugar but our culinary culture in which food is getting faster and faster.

When I typed 'sugar addiction' into a search engine hundreds of sites and web forums returned with 'sugar addiction' reading as their titles. There are hundreds of self help books on the subject convinced that through self motivation and "empowering self-hypnotic techniques" this particular addiction can be cured. There is even, in the same manner as Alcoholics Anonymous, an organization called Overeaters Anonymous, which operates in over 50 countries. This evident demand for information is caused from the growing issue of sugar addiction and its link to such degenerative diseases as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, Hypoglycaemia, Asthma, arthritis, chronic Candida infection, Osteoporosis, inflammatory bowel disease and tooth decay, to name but a few. How can an excess of sugar be a contributor to the diagnosis of so many diseases? And

how do people become addicted? Before that can be answered the actual content of sugar needs to be addressed.

Sugars can be found in most foods, both natural and unnatural, as lactose, maltose, fructose and sucrose. Sugar in the form of lactose appears in most dairy products, maltose in barley grain, fructose in vegetables and fruit and sucrose in sugar cane and sugar beet. Once ingested these sugars are turned into glucose, which supplies our bodies with a source of energy to nervous tissue and muscles. It is the sucrose strand that is addictive. In its natural state, sugar cane or beet, provides the body with such nutrients as vitamins A, C, B1, B2, B6, iron, phosphorus, niacin, potassium, zinc, copper, pantothenic acid, chromium and magnesium. However, the state in which we eat sucrose lacks all minerals and vitamins but is the most common food additive. Because it is an empty substance our bodies regards it as foreign and the digestive enzymes are immobilized, as they are not able to cope with the excesses of sugar being consumed. Thus it goes through the digestive tract in a partially digested state and therefore causing serious problems.

The human body has not significantly evolved since sugar was first introduced into the diets of the European nobility of the sixteenth century, so it may be said that sugar, in its refined state, is not necessary to our survival. However, this does suggest

that are culture and life styles of today may be of great consideration to the source of the addiction. We are living in a society that is time poor, where the quicker, the cheaper, the better. Supermarkets are our main source for food and are stocked with countless items containing sugar additives. They are the main source to get a sugar fix. And how can we escape such food items laced with sucrose when fast foods are the most highly marketed commercial product? Coca Cola spent \$1.6 billion on worldwide marketing in 1999, who opposition has recently announced the release of Pepsi Edge containing half the calories, carbohydrates and sugar of regular Pepsi. At least Pepsi is attempting to address this serious topic, where as Coca Cola has made their influence upon the World Health Organization and in particular its 'Plan of Action' as the proposal omitted the issue of sugar all together.

There is nothing, however, after a horrible or great day like digging into a slab of chocolate cake. The emotional value of food is extraordinarily great and I feel this can be best expressed through Bridget Jones, her two best friends and what they ate on a "delicious night of drunken feminist ranting":

- 1 tub hummus & pkt mini-pittas.
- 12 smoked salmon and cream cheese pinwheels.
- 12 mini-pizzas
- 1 raspberry pavlova.

1 tiramisu (party size).
2 Swiss Mountain Bars"
As in this case, food is of great comfort in times of woe. However, sugar addicts make any excuse justifiable, as all addicts do. When we eat sugar it automatically gives us a burst of energy, elevating our blood sugar levels, which causes the pancreas to produce enough insulin to compensate for the excess blood sugar levels. Yet soon after the blood sugar levels dramatically drop creating a depression of sugar levels and state of mind. To conquer this more sugar is consumed and the cycle continues. Sugar addiction can be seen to have similar withdrawal symptoms to drug addiction. Studies show that the brain, when its owner is a drug addict, gets addicted to its own natural opioids. This has also been seen to happen with addiction to sugar, though not to the same degree. Experiments show that sugar addicts experience chattering teeth, anxiety, shakes and a reversal in the balance of Neuro chemicals in the motivation system of the brain when withdrawn from sugar.

It is interesting to see that something thought to be such a trivial addiction can have serious implications both physical and emotional. Even though that slab of chocolate cake still sounds good it is something to consider. If the whole of the western world ate in moderation the rate of preventable death and obesity would be a lot healthier.

Online Chat. The addiction of anonymity.

By Julie Cao

WWW.COM



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In the world of online chat rooms, nothing is credible.

Concurrent with other new developments, they were introduced in the last decade with their use becoming ubiquitous amongst the adolescent community. This 'lazy' form of communication has become yet another invention to cater for our already indolent society.

Its stuttering speed makes live television look prerecorded. When asking a simple question such as 'how are you?' it is not unusual to wait for thirty seconds in order to receive an answer. Emotions are denoted by 'emojicons', miniature clipart faces with stuper like expressions and jaundice coloured skin. Ending the conversation is simple. All that is required is to exit the web page and the chances of ever seeing this person again become virtually impossible.

Ostensibly chat rooms are a harmless novelty, an activity that is not taken too seriously. Nevertheless, there is a certain contingent that devotes themselves to this form of communication. The 'chat room junkie' is, as the appellation suggests, a person who is addicted to having virtual conversations. But why are they fixated with such a superficial activity? Some of their perceptions are listed

below.
The addict says - the anonymity of the practice is exciting.

The writer says - the anonymity of the practice is disturbing. The different types of people that you may be talking to could range from an innocent youth to an egregious criminal.

The addict says - Not everyone lies.

The writer says - Its reciprocity. If you are lying to them, they are probably lying to you.

The addict says - I've met the love of my life

The writer says - the rich sweetheart that you have been talking to is probably an unemployed hermit who cannot afford to feed u lunch let alone provide you with a life of grandeur and luxury.

Its an inexpensive pastime.

The writer says - so is sleeping...

The addict says - cybering is fun

The writer says - having sex in solitude, in front of your p.c? No comment...

Chat room addicts may result from low self-esteem. One who frequently enters chat rooms assuming the antithesis of their own character is probably suffering from undiagnosed depression. The addict needs to realize that pretending to have non-existent attributes is not the right step towards adopting an optimistic attitude. One needs to stop dwelling on what he or she deems as the 'blighted' parts of his or her personality and concentrate on the strengths.

Whilst there is nothing wrong with chatting per se, antisocial tendencies may eventuate if done in excess. Exchanging instant messages on the web may be enjoyable, but the skills one can acquire when conversing with real people, in real life, are profoundly invaluable.

But in the meantime, for those who are chatting right now, or planning to chat some time in the future, I will share with you an exciting discovery; if you highlight the smiley face emoticon it takes on a somewhat gothic appearance.

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WHY CAN'T I HITCHHIKE ANYMORE?

Thirty years ago hitchhiking was an accepted form of transportation for the poor traveller. There was a recognised freedom in trusting a stranger to give you a lift to "wherever". In the last thirty years hitchhiking has lost its idealistic connotations and is now considered an act performed by those who are officially titled "foolish". Furthermore, those raped or sexually assaulted whilst hitchhiking are often blamed for putting themselves in such a position. What has happened, that we now deem this mode of transport, based on trusting one another, wrong?

Is it that in this technological era that we have become less reliant on socialising to survive and thus there is a limited need to trust each other? Or is it that in this day of litigation it is too dangerous for the driver involved as the hitchhiker may sue if the car crashes (again leading to the idea of a deteriorating ability to trust)? More likely many choose not to hitch anymore because there is a greater awareness of the risks involved. In the last thirty years, as rape has become a more acknowledged and accepted concept (and it is now commonly understood that victims are not to blame for rapes) reports and statistics have been devised and the dangers of hitchhiking have become widely publicised.

A saddening fact (and another reason the I can't hitchhike anymore) is that the law does not protect one who is assaulted whilst hitchhiking; they are blamed for putting themselves into the position. Several authors have compiled lists of reasons given by

police for un-founding rape complaints all outlined in research done by Professor Field in "Rape in the Criminal Justice System". Reason Number 5 was: She exposed herself to risk of rape, or in the vernacular, "she asked for it", by accompanying the man voluntarily to the site of the alleged rape, or engaging in risky behavior such as hitchhiking.

Brownmiller's analysis of rape in 1999 discussed three situations where a rape victim would be overlooked in the eyes of the law. Second on this list was a female hitchhiker. It appears that the victim becomes a moral outcast whom the law does not protect. Hitchhiking demonstrates that legally, victims of rape are still being accused of "bringing it upon themselves." A report on the consequences of sexual assault in NSW states that cases were less likely to be classified as rape if the victim was engaged in some kind of "misconduct" such as hitchhiking. Thus Australian courts are still placing the responsibility of rape on the victims. We would like to think that society has advanced in its understanding of rape in the past thirty years, but our justice system demonstrates otherwise.

What are hitchhikers doing that is so wrong the law will not protect them? They are trusting a fellow human being. Victims are not to blame for rape, under any circumstances, and this should be recognized by the law. The law needs to evolve to encourage trust and to blame those who exploit it.



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An Impossible Scenario?

By Veronica Volkov

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politics

Suppose that aliens come to Earth tomorrow and say, "We hate Australians. We want to destroy them and everything close to them." And they proceed to do just that. Australians will attempt to fight back, but without much success at all. An inferno will unveil. Many people will die. There'll be mass graves across the country. Businesses, buildings, historical heritage, all will be destroyed. The international community, now too afraid to intervene, as numerous attempts would have failed, will stand back and watch on in horror.

A little while later, a starving horrified man will be running for his life. His name will be John Howard. He will run to the city port, approach a crazy captain, who possesses a leaky boat and is the only person mad enough to attempt to flee the country. "Please," a puffed out John Howard will say, "I deplore you, help me. My house has burnt down, half of my family have been murdered, I don't know where the others are. I beg you, help me get out of this country. I'll give you \$300, all I have left in the world." The captain will frown and say "No. A trip such as this one costs \$500 and not a penny less. And that's generous on my part." After a few hours of crawling around on all fours, moaning, beating himself in the chest and humiliating himself in every possible way, John Howard will have his \$300 taken off him and will be permitted to board the ship. "Oh yes!" the captain will yell out after him. "There are about 900 people on the ship. And only one toilet!" But John Howard will be too far away already to hear this. Of course, the captain would have been bullshitting him that \$300 is not enough, many people on that boat would not have even been able to pay \$100 for their voyage.

So John Howard will find himself among starving women, screaming babies and exhausted men. The captain will not even attempt to take the boat to Indonesia or to neighbouring Pacific countries because they would have a "Tough Stance" policy, would patrol their banks on armed boats and would blow up this leaky vessel for sure. Although all those countries would strongly deplore the aliens' behaviour, and they would have sent troops to Australia before to tackle the problem. Without much success, of

course. So the boat will head further away, to a wealthy democratic country X, with a population of about 20 million. This will be a humane country, one that respects human rights. Or so its politicians would claim.

More than a month will pass by. John Howard will be looking like shit. Suddenly, a huge storm will break out. Hundreds of people will be washed overboard, only about 200 will remain alive. Among them, John Howard. Meanwhile, the idea that a boat of John Howard's sort is approaching, would have caused havoc in that brilliant country. The boat would not be permitted to land on the mainland and will be deported to some shitty neighbouring island for an indefinite period. By this time, John Howard will be in need of serious psychological help.

A few days later John Howard will be interviewed. "Dude," he'll be asked. "How do we know that you're a real refugee? Where are your papers?" John Howard, with scorched eyebrows, broken glasses, in the remains of his suit, will utter "Oh dear...Burnt, drowned...But my name is John Howard..." "With this kind of proof you may as well be Marvin the Martian." The interviewer will conclude. And they will send John Howard to a certain place on the mainland, invented by the prime minister and financed by the tax payers of that majestic country. Such a place, right in the middle of the desert, will be called a Concentra...a Detention Centre. And so, John Howard will begin to inhabit this alienated place behind barbed wire for an indefinite period, together with other men, women and children. They will have no TV, no access to books, no access to news services, children will not go to school.

Then, a few very intelligent people in that paradise of a country will say "Prime minister, you're breaching the Geneva human rights convention with regard to these people. You have told a few outraged prominent world organizations to F**k off." "Ergh," would reply the prime minister, running his hand over his Armani suit and flicking back his remaining grey hair. "I don't know shit about

these people's language and culture, so they don't arouse any empathy in me. They don't speak our language and they look like shit. They don't possess Armani suits and Gucci shoes. They are worthless." The smart people would reply. "But, for example, country Y, unlike us, receives a few million, not a few thousand Australian refugees annually and they only keep them locked up for about 10-15 days to ensure that they don't have TB, cholera or the plague. Then they are released into the community, provided basic shelter, jobs and access to education. And the tax payers are saved a lot of money as it does not go towards maintaining these concentration shitholes. That is to say, you send troops to fix the situation in that country and yet you won't give asylum to those people who have fled that very situation." The prime minister, with a noble, innocent look, will shrug off all this information.

So everything will continue as before until, one to three years later, John Howard will finally be granted refugee status. "My name," he'd be saying, is John Henry Howard. I'm the former prime minister of a country. I have a high education. I'll learn this country's language in a few months and will be able to do high quality office work. "What is that freakazoid babbling about?" will ask his potential employers. "He does not speak Shmingish (the language of that country), he's good for nothing." And so, John Howard will be given a mop and will be asked to clean toilets for \$5 a day.

In particular, what I'd like to ask is, how are legal refugees supposed to reach this country, considering that it is an island in the middle of the ocean? By plane? By luxury ship? By car? By camel? By horse? By train? Or by a leaky boat? Because the definition of a refugee is somebody who is fleeing a situation because of an immediate fear for their life and they cannot wait to be legally processed because they will probably be dead by then. My argument is that with the current policy, people who have escaped drastic circumstances are made to suffer even further. And that, is a really big shame.



Addiction to retribution. An account of the American criminal justice system

By Natasha Stojanovich

Retribution: *n.*

1. requital according to merits or deserts, especially for evil.
2. something given or inflicted in such requital.
3. Theology the distribution of rewards and punishments in a future life.

Working in a capital defence office in Louisiana, in the heart of the death belt, one simply could not turn a blind eye to the culture of retribution, which pervades American public life. The USA has one of the world's highest prison populations and is one of the few remaining western industrialized nations to endorse and indeed actively make use of capital punishment. The American prison population is nearly 8 times greater than that of Australia on a proportional basis. In the USA, over 2 million Americans are imprisoned and close to 3 ½ million are on probation. These figures translate to well over 2% of the general population being firmly entrenched within the correctional system. Over 7 million Americans spend time in jail each year - with an annual growth rate of nearly 10%.

As an Australian, living and working in the USA, I found both the insidious influence of "law and order politics" and the spectre of the death penalty difficult to comprehend. Particularly coming from an environment where capital punishment has long since been abolished. To be thrust into an environment where the capacity of the state to execute its own citizens is embraced with zeal and vigour, was both deeply shocking and quite macabre.

The tragedy of the American criminal justice system is not however restricted to its most severe legal sanction. The tragedy extends beyond the hundreds who lose their lives each year, at the hands of their own government, to the vast numbers of Americans spending the extent of their natural lives behind bars. A life sentence in most American contexts, is dissimilar to the Australian equivalent of 25 years, and does indeed constitute 'the term of one's natural life' with no possibility of parole. In the state of Louisiana, where I was based, a state with a similar population to that of Victoria - there are over 3,000 people serving life sentences. In Victoria there are perhaps a dozen people facing the same fate. Such huge discrepancies led me to interrogate what could possibly lead to such culturally comparable countries having such radically different approaches to crime and punishment. Is a higher crime rate to blame? How effective are punitive law and order policies? How does the politicisation of the process effect outcomes? And ultimately, is America simply a more punitive society?

High crime rates are often cited in defence of America's high prison populations, though comparatively they are by no means exceptionally high. More significant is the distorted public perception that the crime rate is 'out of control'. The majority of Americans believe that crime rates are on the rise, whereas in fact they have consistently decreased over the past 10 years. The media has had a significant impact upon this hysteria surrounding crime. An poignant example is given by Glassner in his seminal work *Culture of Fear* "between 1990 and 1998, when the nation's murder rate declined by 20 percent, the number of murder stories on network newscasts increased 600 percent (not including stories about OJ Simpson)".

One of the unfortunate effects of this misplaced fear is that resources are invested into police forces and correctional systems, when they could be much more wisely spent addressing some of the societal problems that often lead to crime. To quote Glassner once again:

"One of the paradoxes of a culture of fear is that serious problems remain widely ignored even though they give rise to precisely the dangers that the populace most abhors. Poverty for example correlates strongly with child abuse, crime and drug abuse. Income inequality is also associated with adverse outcomes for society as a whole."

The sizeable figure of near \$100 billion is spent on the criminal justice system in the USA annually. The majority of this is spent on police and corrections. In California more is spent annually on prisons than schools.

What is crystallised by such public expenditure is a definitive theme of individual rather than collective responsibility. The mantra being that, as a society, we bear no responsibility for the production of criminals, but rather that individuals choose to commit crimes of their own volition and of their own free will. The individual is thus punished according to the extent of their deviant behaviour.

This concept of individual responsibility lies at the heart of punitive mandatory sentencing regimes such as '3-strikes-and-you're-out' or that of 'zero-tolerance'. Aggressive 'zero-tolerance' approaches such as that seen in New York City, have been proven to have great voter appeal, but their effectiveness in reducing crime is less than clear.

Punitive sentencing and punishment regimes have been shown to achieve little in terms of reforming offenders, and recidivism rates post incarceration are consistently high. It can be said that they constitute a fairly myopic approach to dealing with crime as a symptom of societal malaise. In addition to poor rehabilitative results, punitive sentencing regimes can lead to the further dislocation of already disadvantaged groups. This has been seen in both Australia and the USA. In Australia, the effects of mandatory sentencing regimes in NT and WA can be seen in their disproportionate effect on Indigenous Australians. In the US, there is a disproportionate effect on African-Americans - who are 6 times more likely to end up in prison than white Americans. Such policies also lead to huge increases in prison populations, and relative increases in operating costs. In California for example, the effect of the "3-strikes-and-you're-out" legislation over a 6 year period, resulted in a doubling of the prison population and accordingly a drastic increase in the cost of prison operating budgets.

The focus on retribution and revenge often leads to the severe stigmatisation and disenfranchisement of offenders post incarceration. Offenders leave prisons much more economically and politically vulnerable. In economic terms, their ability to find employment, accommodation is significantly hampered - as many will not look beyond a recorded conviction. Punishment often extends well in excess of the confines of one's prison sentence. In California for instance, once convicted of a criminal offence, the offender cannot be employed within a profession, which requires any certification - and is not eligible to apply for a student loan. Thus those with recorded conviction are relegated to the lowest rungs of the employment hierarchy, and denied any opportunity for self-betterment.

In addition to the economic effects, there are also significant political repercussions. In America, those who have been convicted of an offence lose the right to vote on a permanent basis (unlike in Australia where the right to vote is returned at the termination of the custodial sentence). In this way, a significant proportion of the population is effectively silenced, and sidelined by the democratic process. Those with convictions recorded against them are effectively disenfranchised by their own political system.

Politicisation of the criminal justice system, is yet another factor which permeates American public life. This is particularly pertinent in the application of the death penalty. Whilst it is tempting to apportion a degree of blame to the media for generating hysteria around 'law and order' debates, there are also other factors, which entrench the problem, the direct election of many public officials being an example.

Unlike in Australia, where our judiciary and most of our public officials, such as prosecutors, judges, police officers, coroners, are appointed by the state, in America, many of these positions are directly elected. A *prima facie* reading suggests that this is admirable and represents a manifestation of pure democratic process. In practice however, it can lead to undue politicisation of the criminal justice system.

Judges proudly declare during elections how many death sentences they handed down in the course of their last term. Bidding wars erupt over who is tougher on crime. The combination of a wide variety of public officials, being employed upon relatively short tenure, and having a vested interest (their political survival) in appearing tough on crime - is to say the least, quite problematic.

This policy of revenge and retribution reverberates through many aspects of public life, for example recent developments in foreign policy and the litigious culture which has developed vis-a-vis tort law. The recent readiness of the US to engage in unilateral action in pursuit of 'justice' and the heavily litigious culture that has emerged out of tort law, both seem indicative of a culture eager to apportion blame and exact retribution (or compensation) in the name of justice.

The phenomenon of vengeance and retribution masquerading as justice is unfortunately nothing new. It is also not an exclusively American occurrence. Predominantly punitive policies, when played out in the criminal justice system, fail where they neglect to acknowledge crime as a product of a societal context and the great import of rehabilitation.

"The old law of an eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind"

- Martin Luther King

Natasha spent 3 months working in Louisiana for Repeive Australia. For more information about the Repeive Australia, internship program, please refer to www.repeive.org.au.





Afghanistan and drug addiction.

By Richard Houlihan.

Whilst the US forces are looking for al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters, U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan routinely come across evidence of the thriving Afghan drug trade in hashish and opium. Opium and heroin is derived from the milky sap of the poppy. However, they are doing little about combating the drug trade. The U.S. military operations while carrying out searches in eastern and southern Afghanistan in the growing areas and strongholds of the Taliban, U.S. soldiers have found hidden caches of narcotics, crude heroin processing laboratories and regular convoy transports moving across the deserts with bundles of opium and hashish headed for the Central Asia and Europe (Time Magazine, 2003). It has been alleged that al-Qaeda terrorist network benefits from the narcotics trade to finance their operations. During the latter part of 2001 and into 2002, senior U.S. officials (Powell, Rumsfeld, and Rice) made statements that the U.S. would make efforts in eradicating the narcotics problem in Afghanistan. This has not happen.

The UN Office of Drugs and Crime (ODS) conducts an annual opium survey using high-resolution satellite images, extensive ground verification and targeted ground surveys. According to ODS from 1994 to late 1990s, Afghanistan provided 70 per cent of illicit opium for the worldwide distribution, with Burma accounting for 22 per cent and Laos 3 per cent (The Age, 26 November 2002). Three years ago, Afghanistan was virtually

poppy free. This caused a shortage of heroin in Europe and by the end 2001 prices for heroin in Europe skyrocketed. In 2000, the Taliban government banned opium production under advice from the U.N. Drug Control Program. Before the ban, Afghanistan produced more than 70 percent of the world's opium in 2000 and about 80 percent of the white heroin sold in Europe, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. After the ban was imposed, according to U.N. experts, opium production shrivelled by more than 90 percent. However, in 2002, opium cultivation increased by 657 per cent over the previous year. Afghanistan's production generates \$100-200 billion per year, about one-third of the worldwide annual proceeds from trade in narcotics, estimated by the United Nations at around \$500 billion (Common Dreams NewsCenter, January 28, 2004). In 2003, the UN estimated production of 3600 tonnes representing 6 per cent year-on-year increase, whilst poppy cultivation, at almost 81,000 hectares, up from 8 per cent. A further concern is that opium poppies are grown in 28 of the 32 provinces in Afghanistan, compared with 18 in 1999 (The Age, 31 October 2003).

In 1979, the U.S. CIA covert operation against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan provided support for the narcotics trade in Central and South Asia. The CIA in conjunction with Pakistan's intelligence service allied themselves to Afghan warlords and guerrillas. The Afghan warlords and guerrillas gained CIA

support in the form of arms, training and logistics. The warlords used this support to increase their control over the heroin drug trade. Consequently, CIA's role in the heroin trade was an inadvertent by-product of the cold war (Alfred W. McCoy, Politics of Heroin: CIA complicity in the global trade, 1991, p.19-20). In November 2002, Washington Post managing editor Bob Woodward, in his book *Bush at War* (2002), revealed that the ultimate defeat of the Taliban was largely due to millions of dollars in hundred dollar bills that the CIA handed out to the Afghan warlords. During late 2001, six CIA paramilitary teams spread out over Afghanistan, bribing the warlords against the Taliban regime. The CIA distributed some \$70 million dollars to the warlords in the last three months of 2001, which ensured the swift collapse of the Taliban regime. The Taliban were forced to retreat to the mountains of eastern Afghanistan (Woodward, *Bush at War*, 2002, cited by Doug Lorimer, GLW, 2 July 2003, p.13). Since 2001, the U.S. has relied on the warlords to secure the countryside, disarm rival factions and for intelligence on al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters. Consequently, the United States military and Washington planners have turned a blind eye to the Afghan drug trade. Furthermore, certain criminal elements in the Russian military and 'mafia' have facilitated the movement of narcotics from Afghanistan, to Central Asia then onto Russia and western countries.



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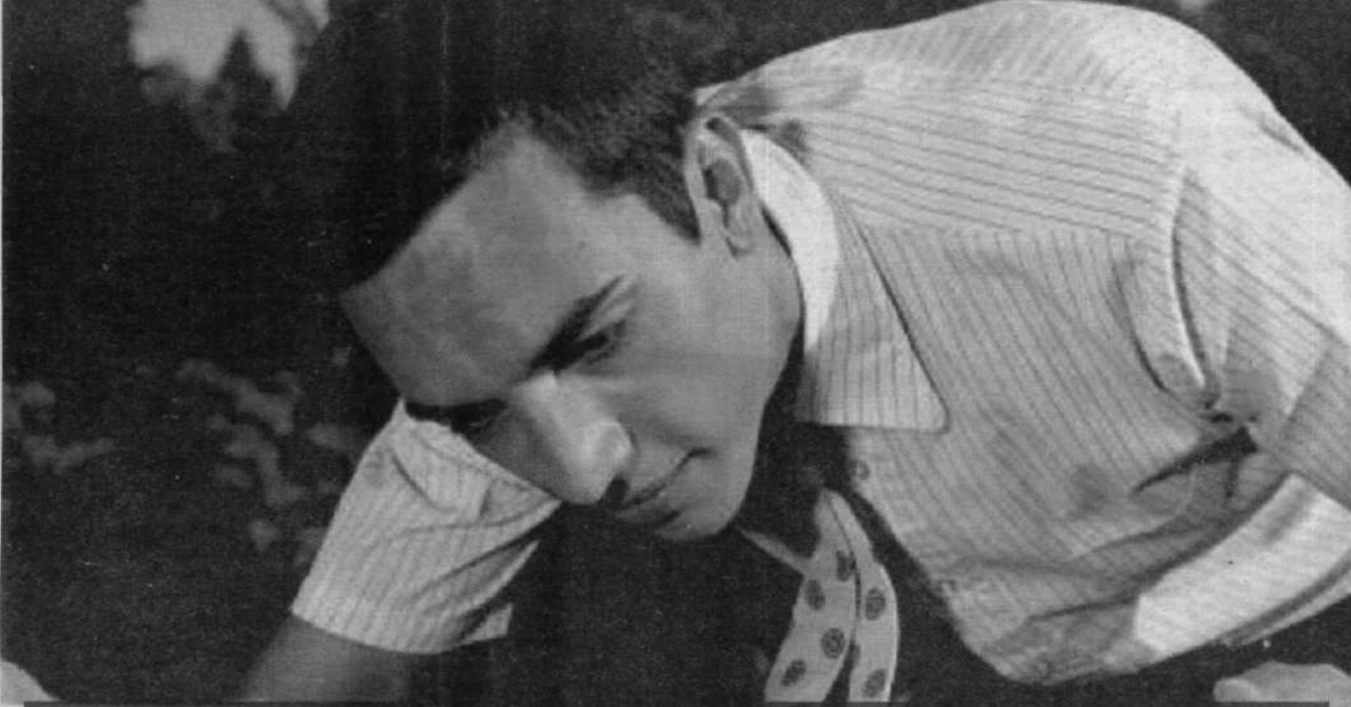
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Addicted to Order: The Science of Perfectionists

By Julie Cao

lot's wife monash university student newspaper | oh four
science and technology

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Neatly ruled margins... spelling mistakes carefully corrected with liquid paper... an essay that has been reworded at least four times... a cupboard full of neatly pressed attire. If you are guilty of any of the above or any deviations of the above, then chances are, you are a perfectionist.

One should not fret if he or she falls into this category. Being inculcated with proverbs such as 'practice makes perfect' throughout our lives, it is no wonder that many are prone to this addiction. Such misleading advice would have caused one to spend years attempting to achieve unrealistic goals, only to discover that perfection is merely a subjective concept. It is time for us to correct this obsolete proverb because 'Practice doesn't

make perfect. Practice makes perfectionists.'

Over the years, I have known a few people who live a pedantic existence. One of them is an avowed perfectionist, while the other is in denial. The latter insists that without a tenable amount of organization in life, nothing would function accordingly. It should be mentioned that this acquaintance of mine has a tendency to date everything upon its initial use, and its day of discard. I assure you, this is not a ridiculous hyperbole. I'm talking about the day, the month and the year. On stationary, toilet paper...use your imagination. Perhaps this brings about another type of obsession? The desire to understand the origins of domestic requirements

perhaps?

My other friend admits that his life of excess routine is at times a nuisance. 'It means that a task that should take me thirty minutes will take me nearly an hour to complete,' he admits. By setting realistic goals, time that was previously wasted can be used more productively. Lets say half an hour is saved, how can that be spent? Many television programs last for thirty minutes, so glue yourself to the box. Go for a walk. Take the dog for a walk. Feed yourself. Feed your dog. Don't waste valuable time rewording your practical report for the fifth time.

Perfectionists, do not feel discouraged! An

abundance of practical solutions exist and reading this article is the first step in the right direction. It is as simple as not ruling margins and scribbling out your mistakes instead of using white out. Stop setting your watch 20 minutes early. When choosing clothes for the next day, sleep on them to ensure generous creases the next morning. The list is endless!

A lifestyle devoid of flaws and flexibility is repetitive and unworkable. Setting unrealistic goals and failing to attain them will lead to disappointment. The perfectionist needs to realise that order and disorder must coexist so that reality can be reflected.



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RECOVER FROM FARM WEEK
DOWN THE NOTT.

Recipes of the edition: Rumballs

lot's wife monash university student newspaper | oh four cuisine

Based loosely on a recipe in "Scrambled Brains" by Robin Konstabis and Pierre LeBlanc

This is perfect birthday gift for alcoholics. Seriously, because I couldn't make these for a friend's birthday party, she almost had a second party planned just so she could eat them.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 Cup Butter
- 1 1/2 cups icing sugar-but have more on hand
- 1 cup cocoa
- 4 cups dried-out cake crumbs
- 1/2 cup dark rum, but I used Bacardi.
- 1 cup almonds
- 1/2 cup raisins

The recipe says 8 ounces quality chocolate, but I have no idea what an ounce is, and I used a whole block of chocolate and kinda ran out-so buy as much as you can afford.

Extras for decoration

Method:

1. Get a dried out cake. This is probably the hardest bit. I got a jam roll and stuck it in a food processor, making a kind of jam dough, which probably explained what happened later. Better idea is get a day old fruit cake and stick it in the sun for a few hours. Then zap it in the microwave, and then stick it in the food processor.
2. Beat butter in a bowl with an electric mixer. You can do it manually, but you'll end up with a really sore arm, which is embarrassing.
3. Add 1/2 cup icing sugar, mix well.
4. Mix the icing sugar, cocoa and cake crumbs (now a pink dough) and start putting the mix into the butter mix in scoops of 1/2 cups. Also add rum in 1/4 cups, trying to make a nice thick mixture.
5. Then add nuts and raisins and mix manually, keeping that thickness.
6. It's not thick, is it? I didn't think so. It wasn't for me, so I put in a variety of other items in the mix until it was thick enough. These items were: nuts, butter cookies, icing sugar, flour, and more butter cookies.
7. Roll the mix into a ball with your hands. Unfortunately, it's still very wet, and it's more likely to resemble Don King's

- hairstyle. Don't worry yet-tha'll work itself out. In the mean time, get someone to scrape the left over dough off your hands-you've got another six balls there at least. Refrigerate the balls
8. After refrigerating you should be able to turn the lumps into clear balls. Do it.
9. Melt the chocolate. Cover the balls completely in chocolate, and then cover them in a decoration. I chose chocolate vermicelli, but you can also use icing sugar or coconut.
10. You'll run out of chocolate, so with the ones left, just cover the balls in icing sugar. Refrigerate for at least 12 hours.

Response and Suggestions:

Care of Citizens of Roberts Hall:

Only a few things were suggested, mainly the use of coconut as either a decoration or a filling, a reduction in the amount of rum, and the use of more almonds.

-The response was far more interesting. Responses ranged from:

- *"Goes down well" to
- *"That be a plank walking offence" which was nice to know, to
- *"Very Addictive" to
- *"It's a possum aphrodisiac" which is again, useful information.

But on the whole these were enjoyed as a tasty, very rummy treat. Or, as free food.

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The Age Cheap Eats 2004 is available from March 22nd 2004, for the recommended retail price of \$19.95 incl. GST available at The Bookshop on campus.



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Beer review



In honor of our 'addiction' theme I thought I would review the 'Beer I Can't Do With Out'. But first, as is going to be my habit, I'm going to give some education about what I'm reviewing. What is the different between Ale and Lager? The difference is in the type of yeast used. Lagers use yeast that sinks to the bottom and Ale is made with a yeast that floats to the top. Lagers are usually filtered and have a clear appearance. And ale is often cloudy in appearance and may have had chunky bits in it, which is what is left of the yeast that ate the sugar that made the beer.

Coopers Pale Ale:

What does one say about the beer one came of age with? I hail from Adelaide and the first beer most Adelaidians get plastered on is Coopers Pale Ale. This wonderful beer is just starting to make its way into the larger States: if you ask for a Coopers in most pubs in Melbourne, you'll be given a red label stubby, which is called Sparking Ale. This seems to be the most popular of the Coopers beers interstate, but in Adelaide the beer to drink is the green labelled Pale Ale.

It is a darker golden colour and is quite opaque. When you pour it out you may notice some chunky bits: don't worry, just let them sink to the bottom. It has a rich, wheaty flavor that is refreshing and mildly bitter. It is not a mild beer, but give it a go! One million Adelaidians can't be wrong!!

Happy Drinking!
Goldele Rayment

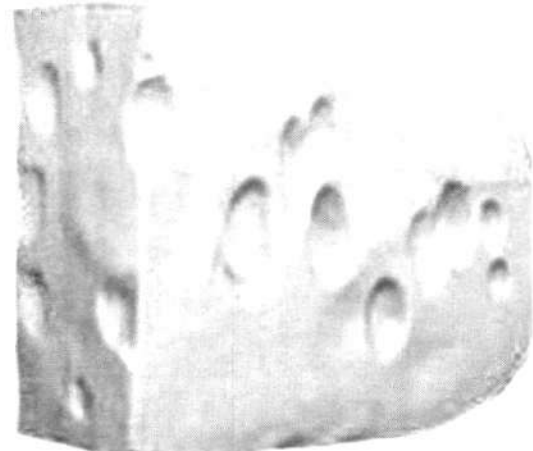
Even though I know this is a beer review I love wine.

Addicted to cheese

I have to confess that if I could live on cheese I properly would! Be it ripe brie, smooth Edam or a knock you socks off blue (I'm there!) I've been known to eat whole blocks in one sitting. It is my comfort food and if I'm pissed I will have no hesitation in rudely polishing off the cheese platter the hosts have kindly provided. I regularly stand at the tasting table each Thursday night at the deli, at the local shopping center where I work, sampling triple brie and smoked cheese with cracked pepper (hey, it's free).

Unfortunately for my boyfriend he has to share a room with me and it ain't pretty. See I'm a bit lactose intolerant, and after a cheese binge I will lay in bed for much of the night holding my gut and praying for the next fart, that will bring relief for a few moments. I never learn and I fear my hips have suffered as well as my boyfriend, but it is too late. I'm already addicted.

Goldele Rayment



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Some background on Borsch:

Borsch is the kind of place where students can comfortably co-exist at a table surrounded by famous Warsaw violinists, bikies, third cousins of Mafia men, high couture designers, artists, out-of-work actors, you get the picture... classy, but not pretentious.

The extensive booze and food menu makes Borsch very different to many of the usual Chapel Street haunts, and is versatile enough to drop in for brekkie, lunch, snacks, dinner, pre-dinner drinks, or as a post-dinner stumbling spot. As the name suggests, Borsch prides itself on its Polish and Russian cuisine, and an enormous vodka bar, which must be the most extensive of its kind in Melbourne. It's an intimate venue, the candles providing much ambience. The background eastern-European gypsy/ folk music is particularly conducive to audible conversation, unlike the standard pitch of many Chapel Street bars. (Although there was no live entertainment on the evening of this review, I am assured by a prominent member of the Melbourne Polish community that this was an anomaly, and that it is usual to be serenaded whilst dining.) Then again, you could always retreat outside to the undercover dining area, to smoke or escape, depending on what takes your fancy.

What we consumed:

Not surprisingly, my fellow diners and I opted for the more student-oriented prices from the 'Tapas' menu, where no single item appeared to exceed the \$13.00 mark. However, it's probably advisable that you order from the mains if you have a large appetite and a slightly larger budget.

Drinks sampled included: the Flu Shot (wild bee honey vodka with fresh lemon juice), the Apple Pie cocktail (apple juice, cinnamon, and some pretty tasty Polish vodka), the Simonce in Tokyo cocktail (involving wild bee honey and vodka once again), and the La Boheme cocktail. Someone also tried a Plum Vodka too, the name of which escapes me. All were given the thumbs up. And thankfully, there were no tears.

Tapas items sampled included: Polish style chicken meatballs, Zakuski (a selection of meats, Russian salad, roasted beetroot, Polish pickles), potato blintzes with creamy porcini mushrooms, and the Koputka (pan-fried Polish gnocchii in tomato sauce).

Desserts eaten: the Russian honey cake, and the Cheese and Cherry strudel. Both would be great if you were sitting in the depths of an eastern European winter or similar. (Melbourne definitely qualified on the night of this dining

experience).

Thumbs up were especially given to the potato blintzes despite an overpowering sauce, and the recommendation of raw veggies to accompany it in the future, and the Koputka.

For future dining experiences my tip would be on the Golombski, (cabbage roll) - it sounds mighty fine.

What to expect at Borsch:

Service was patchy at times, perhaps due to the number of diners there on the night I was a patron. But don't be put off by this, as it has much to offer that you won't see anywhere else on this side of town. There was also a notable lack of forks provided, but this was countered by the attractive serving dishes on which our food arrived. Never underestimate the power of a dish to change your mind about the overall service. It's recommended that you ask the staff to recommend some popular vodkas to start off with, as the menu may be somewhat daunting if embarking on a Borsch experience for the first time.

As the cooler months set in, drop by and give Borsch a go. But beware: if the memory of steaming beetroot soup doesn't pull you back in again, that first shot should do the trick.

My rating: *** (3 stars)

Edwina Scott



a naked shopper: Supermarket Review



Although Coles is actually 170 metres closer to my front door I make a point of always shopping at Bi-Lo. I'm not giving those CORPORATIONS my money. Somebody recently told me that Coles owns Bi-Lo anyway, which would weaken a lesser man's resolve, but not me.

The Bi-Lo in Clayton is an exercise in thriftiness. Why bother putting stock away in shelves when you can just stack cardboard boxes up and rip one side off them all? It seems to provide a halfway house for food on its way from Coles to NQR.

The fruit and vegies are fairly good quality, as you expect in Clayton. Mostly firm and ripe, there are the odd dodgy ones, but often this is necessary - it is all part of the process. The meat lacks somewhat in variety, but there are always genuinely good bulk buying deals available. Just about every package of meat has a 'Managers Special' sticker on it though, which makes you wonder just how special they really are...

As with all offshoot stores, Bi-Lo does have the odd stock problem. I got excited when I saw a sign saying canned diced tomatoes on sale for 77c, only for my hopes to be dashed when I saw the shelf was EMPTY. News travels fast in Clayton.

I was disappointed with a lack of quality salads in the deli. However my main gripe with Bi-Lo Clayton would be that they don't have a free nut bar. When you go shopping at a supermarket free nuts are a right, not a privilege. Bi-Lo put their nuts in plastic bags, the sneaky gits.

The staff are always very helpful. And friendly. Which is a great combination. There is often a dearth of checkout dudes though. Generally I like shopping at Bi-Lo Clayton because I feel welcome there. The food is cheap and good, and if it's not good, it becomes even cheaper. Yay.

Ben Sutton



HOW ABOUT HAVING BABIES EARLIER?

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO GETTING UP THE DUFF

Don't have a partner to support you financially and emotionally? Just look around you, suggest OHBB - there are hundreds of university males just ready to settle down with you and help you raise your little tyke. Head down the Nott on a Thursday evening and look past the beer swilling/orgy like atmosphere and you are bound to find a suitable male passed out on a table. Commitment is the word that these young lads like best! And if this doesn't work you can always tell a little porky about being 'on the pill' and then you've got the young lad snagged for life.

Worried about child care costs and what to do with your child during lectures? - don't give it a second thought - the university child care centre provides excellent care. It may cost you the price of a kidney on the black market and twice your hex debt to have access to this great facility - but hey, what student needs to worry about money anyway?! OHBB has even proposed baby boxes outside lecture halls - just pop your child in this sound proof compartment for the duration of the lecture and it will be smiles all round.

Lack of sleep won't be a problem either - just don't sleep at all. In this modern day and age there are many

Pamela Boon has begun a call out to all students in her article 'How about having babies earlier' (The Age 27/02/04). Procreate now!!! - your biological clocks are ticking and your country's birth rate needs your support! Boon, as a 'older feminist' feels that she should spread the word that 'careers can wait but biology can't.'

So the new trend is to be this - have a baby now whilst studying so that you already have your little nuclear family before you start a career. Sounds all a bit difficult? Not to worry, the practical logistics of the plan have been kindly worked out by a new government task force named 'Operation HEX Baby Boom'(OHBB).

caffeine infused products to keep you awake and OHBB has suggested that the government add speed to the pharmaceutical benefits scheme to keep you bright eyed and bushy tailed day and night.

Perhaps you'll go into labour during the exam period? That's an easy fix also as OHBB will have representatives on call to transcribe your exams, in between screams, in the hospital whilst you push away. Special consideration may also be available, commented a Monash staff member, but only for the most lengthy and painful of labours.

So really, what is there to argue against? Men and women of Monash - cast aside contraception and get bonking - your country needs you!

by Megan King

Please help me Betty Ford

It's the place where all addictions flourish... Hollywood. Be it cocaine or wheat grass - there's a five star clinic available to suit every B-grade actor's habit. The scary thing is half the time we're all too willing to copy the latest compulsion craze. So before we become celebrity mini me's, lets take a stroll down silly celeb addiction lane...

ADDICTION TO FLESH BARING

Oh the heady, swirling flesh-toned world of celebrities! The motto of the millennium is less is more, much, much less that is. If we look at the evolution of clothing on Miss Spears, it's a case in point.

- 1) 1998 - Schoolgirl outfit ('Baby One More Time'), some belly exposure as the white shirt was thoughtfully twisted to give the abs a breath of fresh air.
- 2) 2001 Its hard work being a slave ('I'm a Slave 4 U'), oppressive working agreements force Miss Spears into grain-blood-flow-defying leather pants and non-hipster G-strings.
- 3) And noted on other non-memorable occasions, separately but also combined - heaving cleavage (post-op), abs down to the pubic bone region, ass (actual crack sited as well) and underwear as outer wear. Other celeb's who've shed clothes like skin cells...Beyonce Booty Knowles, Christina Wif-Happened Aguilera, and Peter Whats-He-

Still-Doing-Here Andre

PLASTIC SURGERY AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

It's not a matter of who's had plastic surgery, it's really of who hasn't. It's not fair to attack Michael J all the time, lets take a look at the jobs that actually were successful instead. Did anybody see JLo's nose in Congo? Well take a good look, you won't find it on her anymore. Our own beloved Kylie has succumbed! - I should be so lucky for collagen. It's either some bizarre match in genetic background or do Liz, Kylie and Lara F Boyle all have the same lips thanks to bovine protein? With the advent of shows like 'Extreme Make Over' finding acceptance in mainstream media, and the glorification of youth and beauty, look out for your own DIY cosmetic surgery kit in your local supermarket - coming soon! In the mean time, for an instant face-lift just tie the most painfully high, pull-back pony-tail ever attempted by human kind, and pin prick your lips at 3mm intervals, then rub with chili oil. Voila! - bee-stung cherry-stained lips that could only rival a red leather sofa.

ADDICTION TO SEX

Some would say that this isn't an addiction, but more a perversion. Whatever the classification, the celeb's line up at the doors of sex addiction clinics begging for the orgasmic pleasure to stop. Charlie Sheen got addicted to the horizontal shuffle, Richard Gere got busted for some weird hamster antics and Rob Lowe couldn't get enough lovin' to satisfy him.

ADDICTION TO WEIRD RELIGIONS

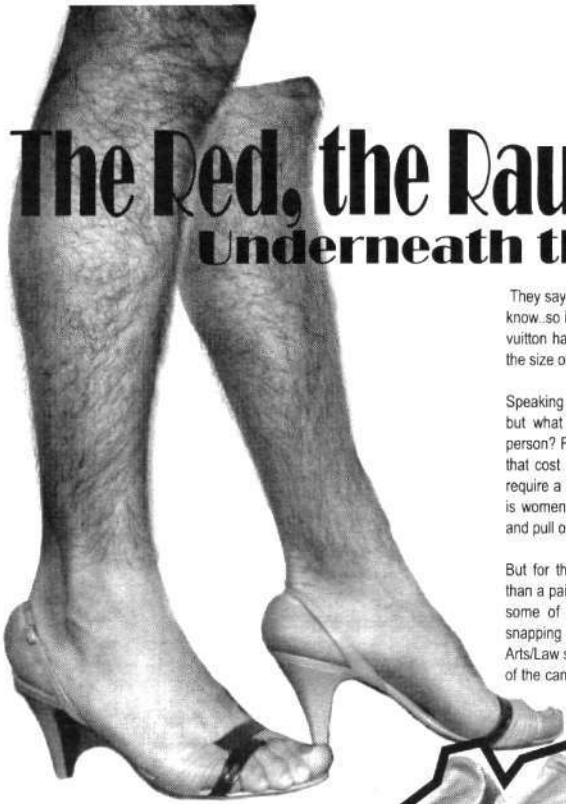
These days anything that is obscure, involves a guru with a ten foot beard and naked fire dancing is up there on the to do list of any celebrity worth their cotton socks. Sonny & Cher, Tom & Nicole and Jenna Elfman all subscribe to the scientology 'Supreme Being' philosophy. And although a little of this strange worship has filtered through to the mainstream I doubt cleansing rituals, such as drinking salt water every morning till you vomit, will ever be the next pilates.

Angeline Lim & Megan King

Cheap Essays, \$299 for 10 essays, that's only \$29.90 each! It's a hell of a lot better than repaying the HECS for a failed subject! To ensure the highest quality essays, I will be upgrading to Microsoft Office 2003 on receipt of your payment. Find me working in the campus bookshop. Discretion is requested; please use code name "bargain" to identify me.

The Red, the Raucy and the Ridiculous...

Underneath the shoe and handbag addiction.



They say a red flashy sports car is the extension of a man's...well you know...so is there a female equivalent? Could a woman touting a Louis Vuitton handbag be subconsciously making a social statement about the size of her vulva?

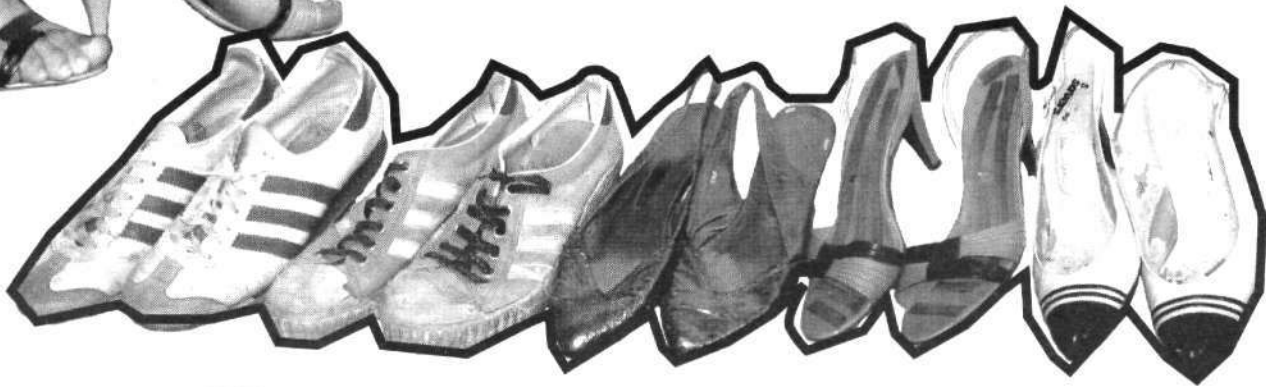
Speaking from a female perspective, I've got to say I highly doubt this, but what is it about handbags and shoes that can so enthrall a person? Flick through any fashion magazine and you'll see handbags that cost the budget of a small African nation and shoes that would require a body guard if you wore them out anywhere. The funny thing is women actually buy these things - in fact they go on waiting lists and pull out tufts of each other's hair to ensure the latest this or that.

But for the average student it's unlikely that we'll get much further than a pair of Havaianas and a nanna sized hessian carry all. Although some of us still harbour the need for masses of pairs of ankle snapping heels - take Megan Fitzgerald for example - a fourth year Arts/Law student who cleans out the op shops within a ten mile radius of the campus of any quirky shoes. 'This is just my current rotation of

shoes' she smiles as she proudly shows me her collection, 'I have fifteen more boxes in the garage.'

Then there's Amanda, a third year Science student, who's progressed in her addiction so far that she actually works at a handbag store and uses a colourful beach bag as a pillow. When asked what is it about the bag that does it for her, she looks whimsical and states 'It's not so much the bag itself, it's more the...the...actually I'm not sure.'

So really, the answer to my question is that there really is no answer. It's one of those strange human habits that keeps the middle aged man in his convertible and Megan's closet at near bursting capacity.



the monash files

Playing with water.

by J. L. Moretti

Monash uni has a huge tradition of spending big on aesthetically pleasing sculptures and decorative features just to make living here all that more appealing. The old time favorite though, is the water feature. Whether it's a fountain or a pond Monash loves em. But with all the water restrictions that have been plaguing our sunny Melbourne for these last few years have restricted Monash's water fun. Unfortunately the first thing to go when stages are introduced is the filling of those ponds and the running of the fountains, eventually causing our wonderful fountains to dry up. Exhibit a) the Matheson fountain outside the library. Ponds water levels eventually get low and turn to mud, exhibit b) halis of residency ponds. the university is left with a huge dilemma,

whether to play with water or spend money on academic resources. So of course they do the sensible thing and remove a few water features. That one in front of the Robert Blackwood hall was just a toddler pool without toddlers anyway, so off it went. A very sensible move. Then they go and replace it with a fountain. WTF! What happened there? They were going so well until the desire to play in water was too great. However, lets look at the fountain. It's not your ordinary Florentine water feature. It contains about 5 long hollow cylinders pointing up at various angles. Then water is vaporized and shot out of the top, spraying water everywhere. A little odd, but acceptable. But is it really water? Why would a clever university knowing perfectly well that we were under

water restrictions and would probably remain so for at least a few more years replace an old water feature with a new one? Well if anyone asks them, they can safely say it's not technically a water feature. They are actually the exhaust pipes of an underground power plant. Why does Monash need an underground power plant? They are pumping water from other sources illegally to keep their precious water features full of water. Then why haven't we seen this water in the fountains yet? The reason is that Monash are currently pumping water from the ocean and are having difficulties taking the salt out of it. So, when those ponds and fountains eventually fill up again, just have a bit of a taste of the water. If it's a little salty, don't be surprised.

Handwritten notes:
5/18
Dell
Bandy
12/18/00

AMPHETAMINE

Alternative Names:
MDMA (Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine),
Yeah, that's what my dealer calls it...
Hug Drug... Sounds like a Care Bear
Adam... Adam Sandler?
E, Eccos / Eccc

Appearance:
Tablets, Capsules, Liquid
Frequent guest appearances at raves.

Taken - Orally

Short Term Effects:
Effects begin within 1 hour and last around six hours. Peaceful and tranquil feelings, increased confidence in communication with others. Again, the Care Bear thing. However, the clenching of the jaw and neck muscles, increased heartbeat, dry mouth and throat. Dilated pupils, but if you don't teach anyone, you won't get this. Sorry.

Long Term Effects
Little research done as yet. Long term effects uncertain. However, have a look at where the Teletubbies are in ten years time and there's your answer.

Withdrawal
Uncertain. It is possible that this is because all users have mysteriously died following withdrawal.

Interaction with Other Drugs
Unconfirmed reports suggest MDMA may react badly with antidepressants. Unconfirmed reports suggest life on Mars. This one doesn't really help much. Write hate mail to us.

Lethality
Some may experience psychosis or may severely injure themselves while affected. A lethal dose for humans would be very much larger than that normally taken.
Overdose: Check breathing and pulse. Begin resuscitation if necessary. Call ambulance and accompany to hospital.

COCAINE

Alternative Names
Heroin (Smack, Scag, H, King of Drugs), Methadone, Codeine, Morphine... My housemate's dog is called Morphine... and Opium

Appearance
Heroin: White, brownish or pink granules of powder, bitter taste. Think sherbet.
Opium: Dark brown powder / chunks.
Others: Capsules, tablets, syrups, elixirs, solutions (for injection), suppositories (goes in the back door), baby food.

Taken - Heroin: Dissolved in water and injected. Fumes can be inhaled - 'Chasing the Dragon' - and can be sniffed. A dry white wine helps bring out the aroma of drugs smuggled into a country wrapped in plastic and lost in somebody's intestinal tract.
Opium: Smoked or Eaten. Goes well in a sauce for red meats.

Short term effects
Effects may last 3 - 4 hours. Morphine and heroin provide pain relief and euphoria, as well as nausea, vomiting, constriction of pupils, restlessness, dry mouth, drowsiness and cold moist bluish skin, like a smurf. Codeine produces less severe mood changes than heroin and morphine, and should thus be administered only to juveniles or the elderly.

Long term effects
In its pure form, heroin, like crayons, is non-toxic to body tissue. May cause constipation, can effect the heart lining, cause liver disease, tetanus, a loss of menstruation, or the big one: brain damage. If this doesn't do it for you, the pneumonia, bronchitis, weight loss and lethargy might.

Withdrawal
Heroin withdrawal begins a few hours after the last dose, peaking between 48 - 72 hours and lasting up to two weeks. Craving for the drug, uneasiness, diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, vomiting are all easily recognised side effects. However, yawning, a runny nose and goose bumps also make the list. Despite this, heroin withdrawal is less dangerous than withdrawal from alcohol or barbiturates.

Interaction with Other Drugs
The depressing effects of opioids are increased by alcohol and tranquillisers. Even still, I dare you! I double dare you!

Lethality
Heroin causes breathing to slow to levels where it is unable to sustain human life. Don't inject a gold fish, as it won't survive either, as it is large doses of heroin that cause this. If someone does overdose, don't laugh, check to see if they have breathing or a pulse, begin resuscitation if necessary and call an ambulance. Baywatch won't help... they don't really exist.

OPIATES

Alternative Names:
Marijuana, Mary Jane, Dope, Mull, Weed
Plenty of others

Appearance:
Marijuana: Dried leaves, green to brown.
Hashish: Dried resin, black to brown.

Taken - Smoked or eaten. Smoke suppositories (goes in the back door), baby food.

Short Term Effects
Starting minutes after use and lasting two longer if eaten, feeling of euphoria, tend to laugh more than usual. Increased pulse, eyes, increased appetite. Must eat. Eventually, reflective and sleepy. Large D of time, sound and colour. Impairs short term memory.

Long Term Effects
No permanent health damage, other than / respiratory related illnesses. Loss of motivation; feeling of paranoia. Psychosis may occur in rare cases. You may find yourself in Adelaide.

Withdrawal
Sudden withdrawal can make users anxious with disturbed sleep. Just like exam study.

Interactions with other drugs
Cannabis combined with amphetamines, or alcohol produces an unpredictable interference with the actions of major tranquilisers. No evidence that cannabis can lead to withdrawal from other drugs.

Lethality
No human death has ever been reported from cannabis overdose, nor from the use of cannabis with Cypress Hill CD's. It impairs muscular reaction time and is therefore dangerous in situations as driving, where alertness is required and pre-requisite for that shift at Coles...

CANNABIS





Lot's Wife

monash university student newspaper | oh four



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT THIS WEEK?
The Monash Student Protest and Occupation: Week Four 2004

THE EVOLUTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR IN AUSTRALIA



AMANDA FITZGERALD & ANGIE WONG

Free Education Is Possible

It is hard to imagine that free Higher Education in Australia is possible today, but it is. It would cost \$2.7 billion. This is the amount proposed for the \$4 "milkshake and burger" tax cut.

This can be compared with other things our government is spending on:

Detention centres \$130 million
Pacific 'solution' \$50 million

Free Higher Education once existed in Australia. It was introduced in 1974 and the vast majority of today's politicians paid nothing for their degrees.

Since then, HECS was introduced in 1989. HECS charges increased by 70% over 1995-2001. They are set to increase by another 25% in 2005.

Full-fees were introduced in 1996-1997, and may constitute up to 35% of the domestic undergraduate intake in 2005.

Compared with other OECD countries, the Australia invests very little in higher education. These are just some of the countries that offer free university education, or only have a small amenities fee.

Ireland
Germany
France
Argentina
Norway

Denmark
Brazil
Vietnam
Sweden
Finland
Poland
Cuba

Contrary to popular belief, University students already pay more than their fair share for their education. An undergraduate degree will cost you:

Money you could have earned working full-time if you didn't become a University student

HECS or full-fees

A plethora of ancillary costs (amenities, transport, internet, photocopy, printing)

The taxes you would incur if your degree actually lands you a higher-income job

MAKING EDUCATION FREE IS NOT ABOUT A LACK OF MONEY, IT'S ABOUT PRIORITIES. BUT WHAT IS OUR GOVERNMENT AND UNIVERSITY DOING?

Brendan Nelson's Higher Education package was passed by Federal Parliament in December 2003.

The package includes allowing universities to:

- Increase HECS by 25%
- Increase domestic full-fee paying places from 25% to 35%

Introducing up to 10% domestic full-fee paying places for medicine

This means the cost for degrees at Monash will be:

HECS
Arts \$14,130
Commerce, Science, IT \$20,127
Law \$31,416
Engineering \$26,836

Full-Fee
Engineering/Law \$120,250
Arts/Law \$98,560
Commerce/Arts \$62,400
Arts/Science \$65,800

Loans for full-fee students who can't afford to pay upfront are capped at \$50,000 and will be subject to a 20% administration fee. This hardly helps when a Monash full-fee Arts/Law degree will set you back \$98,560.

These reforms have will supposedly alleviate Australian universities' funding crisis. This was the rationale used for HECS increase and the introduction of domestic undergraduate full-fee places in 1996-1997. But instead of seeing improvements, students have borne the brunt of further cost-saving measures, including deteriorating staff numbers and course cuts.

This legislation will make Monash University further exacerbate and mirror the social inequality within the secondary system. Financial capacity is now more important than

academic merit when it comes to accessing Higher Education.

This is the most serious attack on students and public education since the introduction of HECS in 1988. What are you going to do about it?

Student Action is NOT Pointless. The MSA's last big action was a 2-day boycott of Monash's sub standard service food at sports services for which they receive 70% of students' amenities fees to run, which resulted in 3 new food outlets and the reinstatement of sports club's funding indefinitely.

Monday March 22nd saw 400 students prepared to go to great lengths to defend higher education. Students concerns over Council's transparency and poor governance was given impetus by appalling procedural irregularities of the meeting. The decision to increase fees was rammed through without discussion; resulting in the resignation of one of it's members, Rhonda Gabally.

1000 students returned on Thursday March 25th and stormed the Vice-Chancellor's residence (centre of Monash Uni's Marketing) where 200 students occupied for 5 hours. The Vice-Chancellor was forced to come and negotiate with us while we were occupying.

This just one example of how effective of Monash Students can be when we put in a collective effort. Rock on!

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

A PHOTO TIMELINE OF WEEK FOUR

MONDAY



students stage protest outside the administration building



blockade of the front entrance begins



students extend blockade to all entrances of the administration building



victorian police squads arrive at the request of monash administration



the wombat is not impressed



students discover access to administration via the robert blackwood hall



and administration building 3B



mainstream media networks broadcast live updates of the protest



protesters cheer students attempting to enter the administration building



the security grille of the administration building is successfully breached



police form human barrier in an attempt to prevent students from gaining entrance



physical force is used by police after an attempted forced entry by students



students continue to occupy the corridor in protest



temperatures soar within the confined space



as mounted police arrive at the conclusion of the protest, students vow to return en masse

THURSDAY



and they did



close to 1000 students march towards vc house, now the site of monash marketing



students outside vc house



police, standing ground, are powerless to stop students from gaining entrance



the students, in a growing tide, break through police and security guards



we're in



students locate themselves in the south wing of the building, occupying 3 offices



police units follow students into the south wing



despite two attempts of extraction, police are unable to successfully remove students



outside vc house, students continue to support the occupiers



under increasing pressure, vice-chancellor, Richard Larkins, begins communication



post-talks, Richard Larkins enters vc house to talk to the occupying students



Larkins departs, giving a 30 minute ultimatum for students to leave or face police extraction and expulsion from university



students leave peacefully, facing a media entourage upon their exit



students celebrate their achievement, once again with a promise of further action unless monash university reverses its decision

WHAT

MONDAY

BY LIZ THOMPSON

As someone who was in the front line when the police started in with their batons, I figure my perspective on Monday's action at admin might be a useful one. I have been involved at Monash since my first year, in 1998, and I have never seen such a fierce reaction to student protest as that which occurred on Monday 22nd March.

We started off the day in fine form, as students streamed out of the Menzies building in response to a fire alarm, at about 5 minutes to 3. At 3pm, we started off the rally with about 400 students, who marched down to the administration building to the dulcet tones of "Scotland, the Brave" on the bagpipes. We gathered around the main entrance to the administration building, and listened to speeches from the Monash Student Association and Carol Williams, a history lecturer here at Monash who is also an official with the National Tertiary Education Union. Monash Student Association representatives talked about the irony of Richard Larkins' apparent concern over student poverty, as reported in "The Age" on the same day, with his desire to increase HECS fees by 25% across the board.

After a few speeches, we broke up into different groups to start blockading the building. Using the stack of wheelie bins around the building as bongos, students formed an all-singing, all-dancing human barrier around the several

different entrances to the admin building. The building, it should be noted, was designed during the sixties, when Monash was alive with student opposition to the Vietnam War, and draconian discipline statutes proposed by the university - its design features, including dozens of entrances, security grilles on each door, and underground tunnels (I shit you not), exist precisely to prevent student access to the building in which decisions affecting the financial and educational opportunities of every student at this university, are invariably made.

So, of course, we wanted in. I had been banging bongo bins and singing with 80 or so other students at one of the service entrances, for about an hour, when the police arrived. That's right - Vice Chancellor Richard Larkins, self-proclaimed "friend of the students", called the cops on us because we object to being saddled with ever-increasing debt by men in suits who earn \$400,000 a year. How thoroughly unreasonable of us.

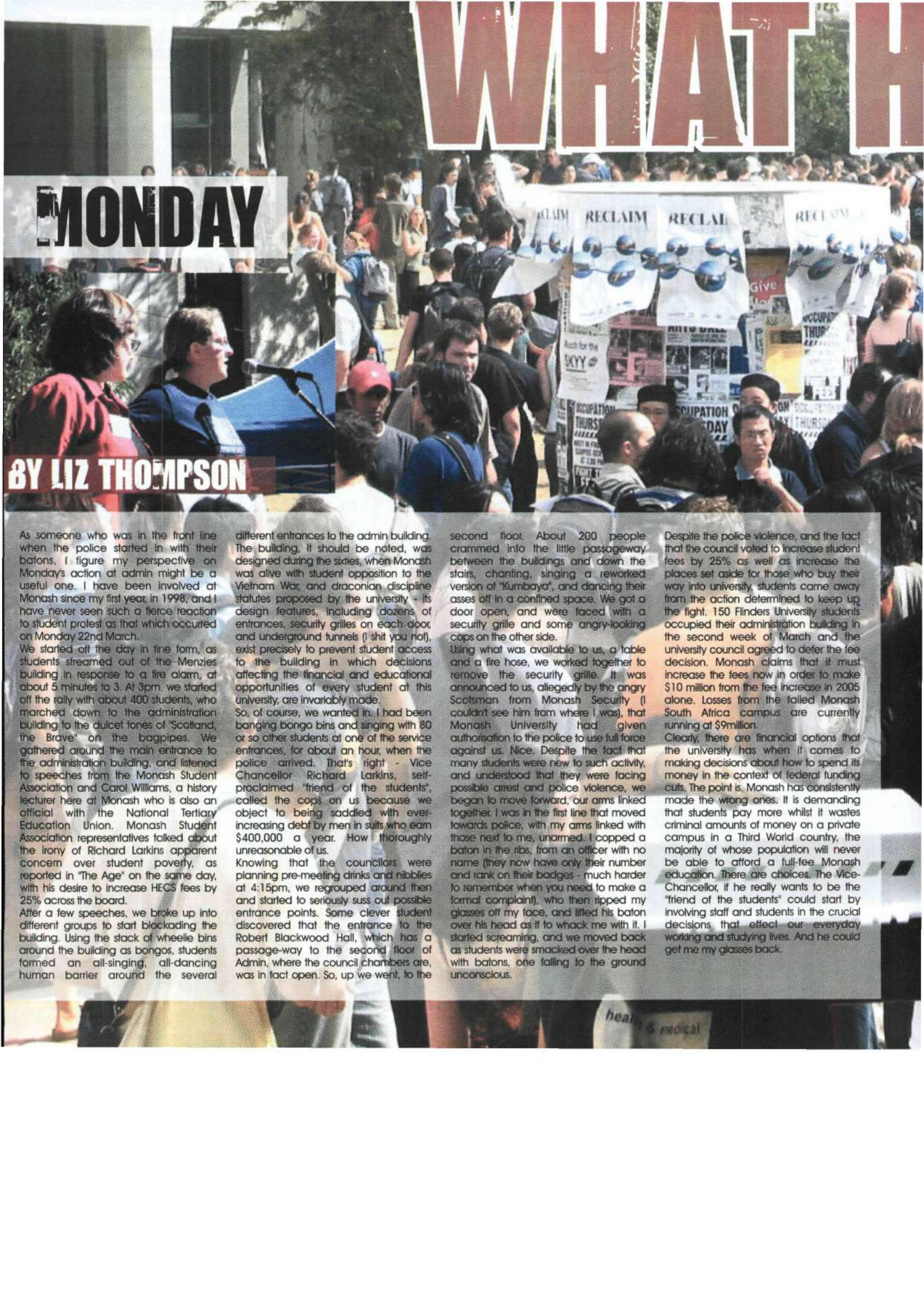
Knowing that the councilors were planning pre-meeting drinks and nibbles at 4:15pm, we regrouped around then and started to seriously suss out possible entrance points. Some clever student discovered that the entrance to the Robert Blackwood Hall, which has a passage-way to the second floor of Admin, where the council chambers are, was in fact open. So, up we went, to the

second floor. About 200 people crammed into the little passageway between the buildings and down the stairs, chanting, singing a reworked version of "Kumbaya", and dancing their asses off in a confined space. We got a door open, and were faced with a security grille and some angry-looking cops on the other side.

Using what was available to us, a table and a fire hose, we worked together to remove the security grille. It was announced to us, allegedly by the angry Scotsman from Monash Security (I couldn't see him from where I was), that Monash University had given authorisation to the police to use full force against us. Nice. Despite the fact that many students were new to such activity, and understood that they were facing possible arrest and police violence, we began to move forward, our arms linked together. I was in the first line that moved towards police, with my arms linked with those next to me, unarmed. I copped a baton in the ribs, from an officer with no name (they now have only their number and rank on their badges - much harder to remember when you need to make a formal complaint), who then ripped my glasses off my face, and lifted his baton over his head as if to whack me with it. I started screaming, and we moved back as students were smacked over the head with batons, one falling to the ground unconscious.

Despite the police violence, and the fact that the council voted to increase student fees by 25% as well as increase the places set aside for those who buy their way into university, students came away from the action determined to keep up the fight. 150 Flinders University students occupied their administration building in the second week of March and the university council agreed to defer the fee decision. Monash claims that it must increase the fees now in order to make \$10 million from the fee increase in 2005 alone. Losses from the failed Monash South Africa campus are currently running at \$9million.

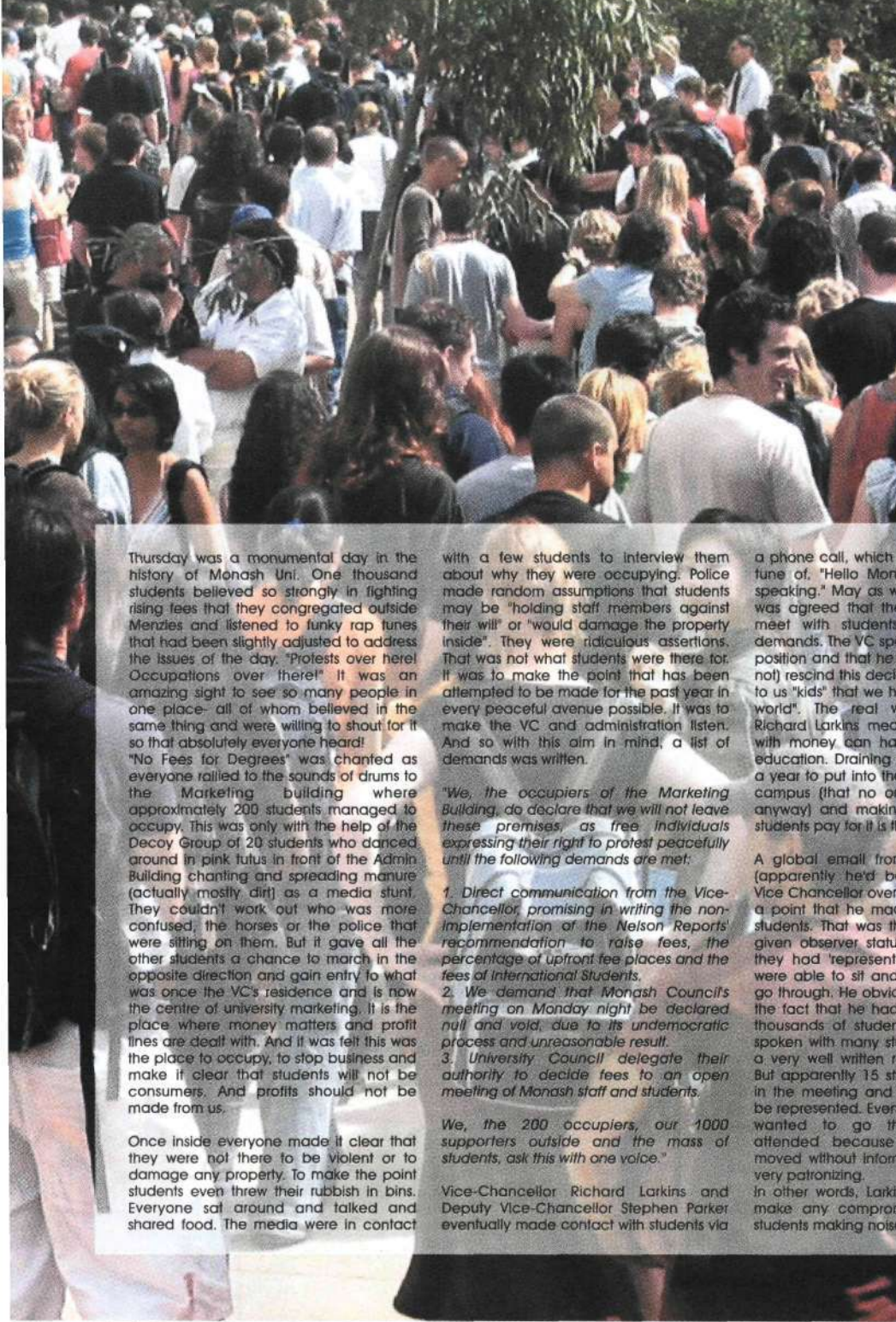
Clearly, there are financial options that the university has when it comes to making decisions about how to spend its money in the context of federal funding cuts. The point is, Monash has consistently made the wrong ones. It is demanding that students pay more whilst it wastes criminal amounts of money on a private campus in a Third World country, the majority of whose population will never be able to afford a full-fee Monash education. There are choices. The Vice-Chancellor, if he really wants to be the "friend of the students" could start by involving staff and students in the crucial decisions that effect our everyday working and studying lives. And he could get me my glasses back.



APPENED

THURSDAY

BY DIANA COSTARA



Thursday was a monumental day in the history of Monash Uni. One thousand students believed so strongly in fighting rising fees that they congregated outside Menzies and listened to funky rap tunes that had been slightly adjusted to address the issues of the day. "Protests over here! Occupations over there!" It was an amazing sight to see so many people in one place- all of whom believed in the same thing and were willing to shout for it so that absolutely everyone heard!

"No Fees for Degrees" was chanted as everyone rallied to the sounds of drums to the Marketing building where approximately 200 students managed to occupy. This was only with the help of the Decay Group of 20 students who danced around in pink tutus in front of the Admin Building chanting and spreading manure (actually mostly dirt) as a media stunt. They couldn't work out who was more confused, the horses or the police that were sitting on them. But it gave all the other students a chance to march in the opposite direction and gain entry to what was once the VC's residence and is now the centre of university marketing. It is the place where money matters and profit lines are dealt with. And it was felt this was the place to occupy, to stop business and make it clear that students will not be consumers. And profits should not be made from us.

Once inside everyone made it clear that they were not there to be violent or to damage any property. To make the point students even threw their rubbish in bins. Everyone sat around and talked and shared food. The media were in contact

with a few students to interview them about why they were occupying. Police made random assumptions that students may be "holding staff members against their will" or "would damage the property inside". They were ridiculous assertions. That was not what students were there for. It was to make the point that has been attempted to be made for the past year in every peaceful avenue possible. It was to make the VC and administration listen. And so with this aim in mind, a list of demands was written.

"We, the occupiers of the Marketing Building, do declare that we will not leave these premises, as free individuals expressing their right to protest peacefully until the following demands are met:

1. Direct communication from the Vice-Chancellor, promising in writing the non-implementation of the Nelson Reports' recommendation to raise fees, the percentage of upfront fee places and the fees of International Students.
2. We demand that Monash Council's meeting on Monday night be declared null and void, due to its undemocratic process and unreasonable result.
3. University Council delegate their authority to decide fees to an open meeting of Monash staff and students.

We, the 200 occupiers, our 1000 supporters outside and the mass of students, ask this with one voice."

Vice-Chancellor Richard Larkins and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Stephen Parker eventually made contact with students via

a phone call, which was answered to the tune of, "Hello Monash Occupation, Liz speaking." May as well make it official. It was agreed that they would come and meet with students and discuss their demands. The VC spoke first explaining his position and that he "could not" (or would not) rescind this decision. It was explained to us "kids" that we had to live in the "real world". The real world according to Richard Larkins means that only people with money can have access to higher education. Draining Monash of \$9 million a year to put into the private South Africa campus (that no one there can afford anyway) and making Australian Monash students pay for it is the real world.

A global email from "President" Larkins (apparently he'd been promoted from Vice Chancellor over night) also reiterated a point that he made to the occupying students. That was that 15 students were given observer status, which meant that they had 'representation' because they were able to sit and watch the changes go through. He obviously did not consider the fact that he had already heard from thousands of students through petitions, spoken with many student reps and read a very well written report by Ed officers. But apparently 15 students needed to sit in the meeting and watch him speak to be represented. Even if these students had wanted to go they couldn't have attended because the meeting was moved without informing them. It was all very patronizing.

In other words, Larkins was not going to make any compromises and all these students making noise in opposition to him

were just a bother really. In student question and comment time-- in which obviously there was a lot to say-- it was made clear that students would not back down. That they would keep coming back again and again and again. To go from having a protest of 400 people on Monday, to a protest of 1000 people on Thursday shows how many people support this issue. Who knows what could happen next. Basically it was made clear that the student body is not a force to be reckoned with. And it was with this in mind that Larkins left. He once again gave the police authority to use their own 'discretion' to get us out. Discretion is a very dangerous word. For students, it means batons and capisicum spray and being dragged around. Students were given an ultimatum- leave in half an hour or get arrested, with charges laid, disciplinary action by the university and having violence used to get them out of there. Legal observers would also have to leave.

It was a difficult decision to make. But after quite a bit of debate it was decided to leave peacefully. Students were not there to get hurt. They were there to protest peacefully to get their message across. Many people there were at their first protest and it was with their help that the message was sent out loud and clear. With the very festive and united spirit that this group had, students left chanting, "We'll be back! We'll be back!" That's all that needs to be said really.

AN MSA RESPONSE TO THE VICE CHANCELLOR'S GLOBAL E-MAIL

Dear Monash student,

Why didn't the VC write to tell you about these changes BEFORE they were rammed through University Council. Apparently only now are students of interest to this University.

I am writing to you to explain the reasons why the university needs to raise HECS contributions for most of its courses in 2005, and to ask for your support in preventing any more of the destructive activity that took place during a protest rally at Clayton campus on Monday.

Funny, he never asked for anyone's support before. Even Uni Council had doubts supporting him. With no debate allegedly only 8 Councillors of 18 voted in favor of the increases. Students protested BECAUSE they were never asked for their support. In meetings with the VC the MSA was never given the option to canvass other options. We were effectively told to smile and nod as they rammed through the most regressive changes in decades.

In deciding to implement new government policy that allows universities to raise the student contribution by 25 per cent in all areas except nursing and health sciences, the University has made the only decision it could.

To the contrary, University Council has choices. In the words of resigned University Council member Rhonda Galbally, they took the "easy option". Raising fees would increase Monash's revenue by \$10 million in 2005.

To put this into perspective, Monash:
- loses \$9 million each year on its South African Campus
- spends \$8.5 million per year on marketing
- reportedly gave disgraced VC David Robinson a \$1.15 million payout.

Thanks guys, I'm sure all future students will enjoy knowing what their extra hard earned cash is paying for.

Although it is unfortunate that the student contribution has to rise, we feel that the increase in the level of income from

\$24,000 to \$35,000 before any repayment is required goes a long way to offsetting this.

Yes, faith in the Federal Government to support students by keeping that policy the same indefinitely. The same Government that has:

- Pushed fees up on students TWICE in 8 years.
 - Slashed Youth Allowance to the point where students live in poverty.
 - Forced 70% into work to support their study, resulting in missed classes.
 - Cut the repayment threshold from \$27,000 to \$21,000 in the first place.
- Sure, I trust the Government to treat us well. There's nothing stopping them from lowering it again.

The benefits from this increased revenue will provide students with better study facilities, better student-staff ratios and increased opportunities to study at Monash.

"Improve facilities and opportunities." SAYS WHO? Monash has had years to divert money back from its commercial operations into actual teaching and learning and has not done so. There was no detail given on how the money will be spent and when MSA pressed for information we were told there wasn't any. When asked to delay the decision until assurances could be made, and documentation produced, the VC refused.

We are allocating 20 per cent of the new income to new equity programs to assist those who are economically or educationally at a disadvantage to access the sort of education you are receiving at Monash.

The University cannot absolve itself of the social inequality created by higher fees by offering a few piddling scholarships. This would be far less offensive if the decision hadn't been rammed through without debate, preventing discussions about the social implications of increased fees and full-fee places raised by the MSA submission made to Uni Council.

From every point of view, the Council

meeting on Monday night was too short. But that could not, in the circumstances, be avoided, as the police instructed the Chancellor to end the meeting because of concerns for the safety of security staff and of the integrity of the administration building. Nevertheless, the recommendations had been foreshadowed at previous Council meetings and precirculated.

Actually, agenda for Monday's meeting only began to be circulated on Thursday night. The entire proposal to increase fees for the University's was contained on a single A4 page. On such an important decision, it would have been much more appropriate to postpone the decision instead of pushing it through Council. Due process and transparency is clearly not of concern to the VC.

There was no question of deliberate or planned truncation of discussion. Fifteen students had been granted observer status at the meeting so they could participate in the debate over the recommendations to Council. Two had been given speaking rights - over and above those enjoyed by student members. Unfortunately, the protest prevented their participation and so the student body was denied a role in the discussions.

University management denied students who had observer passes knowledge of the meeting's location, even upon request. The single-page proposal to increase fees was not included into the agenda that was distributed to students before the meeting and one observer was denied papers altogether. Speaking rights mean nothing when no debate was allowed anyway. The University clearly had no intention of allowing students to be involved in the decision to raise fees.

I am sure all reasonable students deplore the acts of destruction that took place at Clayton campus - the wanton destruction of doors, security screens, fire alarms, office facilities and even pot plants - and the threatening way in which the more extreme protesters behaved. Many people have asked me whether those who caused

that destruction should be held accountable. The answer is, of course, yes. At this stage, the university is willing to consider that things got out of hand on Monday and that no further damage will be caused in future. If however there is further vandalism and destruction, and the perpetrators are identified, appropriate action will be taken.

It's disappointing that Monday's protest resulted in property damage and the MSA does not condone any property damage that occurred. However, when students are given no voice in their own University it can be understood why some students feel passionate enough to act in that way. Rather than treat the symptoms with more anger by sending in Police, maybe the VC should think about curing the problem and dealing with the issues he created. Of course we wouldn't want him to damage his precious pride, but maybe it's time to do that.

Every student at Monash has the right to protest peacefully over decisions they don't like. None has the right to intimidate, destroy or unlawfully trespass. I hope you will do what you can to spread that message among your fellow students.

Students' rights also extend to consultation before regressive and vile decisions are made to shift the costs of financial mismanagement onto students. Spread the message Dick.

Sincerely,

Is that as sincere as when you told students you wanted them to be part of the process and then left them with nothing more than being "informed" about the Uni's decision? Thanks Dick, but we won't be taking your sincerity at face value this time.

Professor Richard Larkins
Vice-Chancellor



WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT THIS WEEK?

AN INTERVIEW WITH VICE-CHANCELLOR: RICHARD LARKINS

TRANSCRIPT FROM 'HACK' CURRENT AFFAIRS HOUR ON TRIPLE J FM. PRESENTER STEVE CANNANE

SC: Time now to talk to vice chancellor, Richard Larkins, from Monash University. Hi Richard

RL: Hello Steve

SC: Why was there no debate over the increase in HECS at last night's council meeting?

RL: Unfortunately we'd been told by the police that the meeting had to end because they were unsure about their ability to continue to maintain the security of the administration building

SC: So you put it ...

RL: ... [unclear] concerned for their own safety

SC: So you put it to a vote

RL: Yes

SC: Because you were concerned about what would happen to the students outside?

RL: No what was going to happen to the building and any people that might have been inside including the security men and the police themselves.

SC: So why didn't you just delay the vote

RL: Because the students would have achieved what they wanted to through their violent and unreasonable action. They would have repeated it and been encouraged by it the next time we attempted to have a vote.

SC: But isn't it important to debate these kind of issues before they get to a vote?

RL: Indeed there has been individually with student groups and also council had been indicated that this was the intention so there have been reasonable opportunity for students that have the opportunity to speak to each of the Council members

SC: But it's important to council members, I understand there was dissent on the floor last night in the council meeting, that there was no debate.

RL: The proceedings of council have to remain confidential there will be plenty of opportunity, indeed I've spoken to council members today in relation to [unclear] the changes

SC: But council members have let me know that there was dissent about the lack of debate and that they wanted to have a debate before it actually went to a vote even if that meant delaying the meeting, even if it meant making a meeting on an independent place away from the campus

RL: Indeed the issue was voted upon in relation to whether there should be a delay or an adjournment to the meeting and it was a majority felt that it should have gone ahead at the at time.

SC: Monash has a reputation doesn't it, though, for being a uni that debates these kind of big issues and this is a big issue for the university

RL: There will be ample opportunity for all the council members to be involved in discussion as this rolls out - the detail about it - it was basically an in principle decision.

SC: I understand at least one council member has sent in a resignation letter based on the fact that there was no debate in the meeting last night. Have you received that letter?

RL: The letter wasn't to me it was to the Chancellor I've spoken to that member who made it absolutely clear that her protest was about the university policy, she was upset at the shortness of the meeting but her resignation was related to the government policy with respect to charging students increased HECS.

SC: But that person also seems upset about the lack of debate and consultation during the meeting. I've seen a copy of that letter and it says "the rushed decision to increase HECS fees by 25% without any council discussion to canvas alternative options is personally abhorrent and, to me, morally and educationally reprehensible and against good governance." They're pretty strong words.

RL: Well I think you should be speaking to the students who led the violent protest that led the police to tell us that the meeting had to be ended.

SC: Since when has a university taken instructions from police about whether to have debate or not to have debate in a council meeting?

RL: We'd always take instructions about the safety and integrity of our staff and the preservation of records and the safety of the buildings

SC: Even at the expense of debate over a really important decision for the future of the university?

RL: There was opportunity for people to vote on the issue and there will be further opportunity to discuss it.

SC: Does that mean you could change your policy at the next meeting in May?

RL: Absolutely, it's always possible for people to put forward motions that can change policy.

SC: Will there be room for debate at the next meeting?

RL: Absolutely, there's always room for debate. I've made it absolutely clear that I'm available to everyone for discussion and indeed people have the opportunity and I've spoken to a number of the council members today who had problems with the issue.

SC: Richard, thanks a lot for talking to Triple J this afternoon.

RL: Thanks, Steve. Bye.

SC: See you later. Richard Larkins the Vice Chancellor of Monash University.

SC: And we can confirm that the council member who has resigned is Rhonda Galbally. She was unavailable for interview this afternoon but hack has got their hands on a letter she has sent to the Chancellor today. I've quoted a bit of it in that interview there with the Vice Chancellor of Monash. She goes on to say that "... this was an important and highly topical issue to come before the university council and one that has enormous lifelong impact on all present and future Monash students yet it was rammed through with no discussion that could have led to important additions, considerations and more creative ways of addressing these issues. I feel I cannot contribute to a council that does not see the worth or wider responsibility of effectively addressing these issues. My only other comment would be that its always an easy business decision to simply increase a fee particularly when others are doing it but I thought Monash University could have taken a leadership role and demonstrated some of the innovation that we so encourage in our student and teaching bodies".

SC: They are the Words of Rhonda Galbally, who has resigned from the Monash Student [University] Council after they basically pushed through a vote last night on the Council meeting without debate. You are listening to hack on Triple J

"Adopt as your fundamental creed that you will equip yourself for life, not solely for your own benefit but for the benefit of the whole community." | Sir John Monash



Alternative Names:
Speed, Cocaine, Pep Pills, Meth

Appearance:
Tablets, Capsules, Liquids, The 80's

Taken - Orally, Sniffed, sometimes mixed with water and injected

Short Term Effects

Effects may last 4 - 12 hours. Increased alertness, energy, euphoria, exhilaration, excitement, incarceration. If injected, tremors, delirium and convulsions. User may feel a sense of power and superiority and personality changes with larger doses, and may believe he is 'The Hulk'.

Long Term Effects

May develop amphetamine psychosis, similar to paranoid schizophrenia, but will most likely just get severe depression, paranoia and the feeling that insects are crawling around underneath the skin, which is okay, because then the spiders will have something to eat.

Withdrawal

Fatigue, long but disturbed sleep, strong hunger, irritability and depression. Maybe you're pregnant...

Interaction with Other Drugs

Stop Press! Amphetamines greatly increase tolerance to alcohol!

Cocaine + Morphine / Heroin = Speedball: No depression! Woo hoo!

Cocaine + Amphetamines = Crank: Delusions that Weapons of Mass Destruction exist, resulting in the bombing of Middle East countries and an inability to read above the level of a four year old.

Lethality

few deaths reported, most just swept under the carpet. most deaths are results of strokes heart failure cardiac arrest, burst blood vessels in the brain, very high fever or suicide during withdrawal. or fatal allergic reaction.

Alternative Names:
Alcohol, Jesus Juice

Appearance:
Various Liquids, Attractive, At Farrer Hall

Taken - Oral. Only Oral... No intravenous. Sorry, that ruined my day too.

Short Term Effects:

Low Dose: 1 -3 Drinks per Hour: Increase or decrease heart rate. Lowers body temperature. Dilation of small blood vessels and evacuation of the bladder. Misplaced feeling of power and heightened confidence, belief in own sexuality, sensuality and ability to dance.

High Dose: Disorientation, confusion slurred speech, blurred vision, leads sleep, unconsciousness and coma. Just like a Uni lecture.

Long Term Effects

Brain Damage, heart disorders, High blood pressures, anaemia and internally bleeding ulcers, vitamin deficiency, appetite loss, stomach inflammation, gout, sexual impotence, blackouts, memory loss, and liver damage. Basically the same as a McBurger.

Withdrawal

Moderate to High Doses: Nausea, fatigue, dry throat, headache, aches and pains, anxiety, depression, loss of appetite, irritability, confusion, sweating, and convulsions.

Severe withdrawal: Life-threatening convulsions. The moral of the story: Plan ahead!

Interactions with other drugs

Alcohol intensifies effects of tranquilisers, barbiturates and hypnotics. May cause headache, nausea and flushing.

Lethality

Death is usually caused from diseases of the heart and liver. Cancers of lung, throat, mouth and is therefore especially bad for those born between 22 June and 23 July. Can also cause pneumonia and / or acute alcohol poisoning

Alternative Names
Psychedelics (LSD), Acid, Trips, Tabs, MDMA (Ecstasy), Angel Dust
Magic Mushrooms (Psilocybin)

Appearance:

In pure form, synthetic hallucinogens appear as white powders or crystals.

Magic mushrooms: Whole fresh or dried gold or brown mushrooms.

Tablets, Capsules, Liquids, LSD may be contained in blotting paper. Ask about it at Officeworks.

Taken - Usually swallowed, sometimes sniffed, injected, smoked.

Short Term Effects

Effects may last from 1 - 24 hours, with unpredictable results. Try your luck! You never know what you might come out with! Low doses usually produce alterations in mood and perceptions. High doses can produce hallucinations, high blood pressure, dilated pupils, trembling, chills, nausea and are often blamed for the Gallagher brothers. Magic mushrooms can cause numbness of the tongue, lips or mouth. My Grandma suffers from these and is a crap kisser.

Long Term Effects

Magic Mushrooms: Grandma hasn't picked up in ages.

LSD: 'Flashbacks' - spontaneous recurrence of sensations from a prior drug experience, which can come about days, weeks, even years after use. Effects can be pleasant to severe and are usually perceptual, most commonly visual, including intensification of colours and other hallucinations. So is that really a green light? Is that really a police car you've just driven into? Is that really blood splattered across your windscreen?

Withdrawal

No withdrawal symptoms, even after long periods of use.

Interactions with Other Drugs

Hallucinogens will intensify or multiply the effects of each other and aggravate the effects of alcohol and methamphetamines like speed. Don't inhale helium when on hallucinogens, because the high pitched voice may leave you convinced that you're Justin Timberlake.

Lethality

Overdose: Reassure the patient in a supportive and familiar environment where possible... Such as a screening of 2001: A space Odyssey. Don't leave the person alone. Get a large fanged Doberman to guard them. That'll help. Overdose can result in an increase in disorientation, often leading to panic or aggressive behaviour, then the Victorian Police Force. Get help and find out as much as possible about the substances involved. If the patient is unconscious, check for breathing and pulse, and begin resuscitation if necessary. Call an ambulance and accompany to hospital.

AMPHETAMINES

ALCOHOL

HALLUCINOGENS

POISONS
HOTLINE
131126

ALL
MEDICAL
INFORMATION IS
TAKEN FROM THE
VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.
ALL OTHER STUFF WE
MADE UP. YOU SHOULD
BE ABLE TO FIGURE
OUT WHATS
WHAT.



Lot's Wife
monash university student newspaper | oh four

The Miss World competition was established in 1951 by Eric Morely with the purpose of discovering the most beautiful woman in the world. Since then, controversy has surrounded the competition, at times with right-wing fundamentalists and feminists protesting against the contest's representations of womanhood. In the Australian context it is claimed that the competition's purpose is to capture the modern Australian woman, who is 'a much broader person' than simply a professional beauty. Is the Miss World competition 'congruent with what really is going on for a young woman,' a celebration of beauty, intelligence and womanhood, or simply an affirmation of stifling gender norms, nationalism and sadistic beauty myths?

MWA (Miss World Australia)

According to the publicity information Miss World Australia is 'more than just a beauty pageant,' it is an opportunity to discover 'Australia's most outstanding young woman,' and also to provide her with 'a platform of local achievement and international recognition,' and an opportunity to be a spokesperson on fundamental issues that our world is facing. Many contestants have reported that the competition was 'not as much about beauty anymore,' but was about recognition of a 'combination of all-achievements,' a 'recognition of academic status' rather than a contest based 'purely on looks.' The Miss World winners over the past thirty years have been spokeswomen for issues such as AIDS, domestic violence, racism, poverty, and have had a broad range of academic achievements prior to the competition.

The competition itself on some levels appears to be an opportunity for a woman to showcase her talents and intellect. The contention criteria suggests that the Miss World Competition still remains traditional in its attitudes toward physical appearance and ideal feminine behaviour. The criteria set down by the international body requires that applicants must:

- a) be born female and be between 18-24 years of age on 30 December 2003
- f) never have been married
- g) never have given birth to a child or not be pregnant

There is also a class-based assumption implicit in the publicity material that suggests that Miss World Australia would be middle to upper-middle class, by claiming that Miss World Australia would be able to 'make a difference,' by 'supporting young women who come from lower socio-economic backgrounds and other difficult situations.' As Banet-Weiser, author of *The Most Beautiful Girl in the World*, suggested,

the competition attempts to maintain the squeaky clean girl next door image, while upholding a fantasy of sexual inexperience and chastity. Although commendable changes have been made to structure of the Miss World Australia competition, such as the elimination of the bikini competition where women have to strut around in a bikini and stilettoes, the traditional rules set down by the international body are still strictly adhered to. Kate Hardiman (competition organiser) claims that this criteria is 'set down by the international body,' and although debatable, are the 'rules by which people must play.'

The Miss World and Miss Universe pageant have been criticised on numerous occasions for reinforcing and encouraging sadistic and racist beauty norms. Banet-Weiser claims that the competition is based on a wish to 'define universal beauty norms,' and has been based on a 'history of celebrating universal whiteness,' and western ideas of femininity and womanhood. She claims that the 'non-white body functions as a spectre- the marked other- against which the ideal female citizen is defined.' (2) Controversy has surrounded the use of sadistic beauty rituals such as plastic surgery, particularly in cases in South America, most poignantly Venezuela, where the likes of Orsnel Sousa sculpt, butcher, carve and implant Venezuelan contestants (3). Although the competition organisers may not openly make such requests, the pressure to meet the 'universal beauty norm,' is enormous, and women often do undertake surgery, rigorous and strenuous exercise routine in order to fulfil the aesthetic demands of the competition. Measurements, eye-colour, weight, dress size, and hair colour, continue to be of fundamental importance and still remain listed on the application form.

Dissent and protest surrounding the competition has been contentious and even fatal, as exemplified earlier this year in Nigeria. It is alleged that 200 people were killed in right-wing Christian/Muslim riots, that were sparked off by a newspaper article that suggested that the prophet Mohammed would have possibly married one of the contestants. Bomb threats also forced the competition organizers to relocate the venue, causing a great deal of disruption to bookmakers, and bets placed on participants of the competition. (4) In 1996 the competition was staged and held in the city of Bangalore in India. Thousands of protesters surrounded the location, and more than 10,000 state troops were there to 'enforce order.'

Amongst the protesters were members from the right-wing extremist Hindu Bharata Janata Party, who organized a two hour strike, and a 'suicide squad was formed of women ready to immolate themselves if the pageant proceeded.' On the opposing side were women's rights activists and feminists protesting against the objectification of women. (5)

Prior to this during the 1970 Miss World contest twenty-five women bought tickets to the event, waited for a signal, charged and threw stink bombs, flour bombs, and shot Bob Hope (the host) with water pistols. Jenny Fortune, a woman involved in the protest claimed 'we wanted to get across the idea that there was more to women than their vital statistics,' and that 'they had to stand up in the face of male authority, and speak out.' According to supporters of the competition, the Miss World competition was driven off their screens by 'harpies in their boilers and spiky hair.' This protest was not focussed on the event itself but the wider exploitation of women in society. One of the protesters outside the event held a placard reading 'Mis-fortune demands equal pay for women. Mis-conception demands free abortion for all women. Mis-placed demands a place outside the home,' and threw high-heeled shoes and other 'instruments of torture,' into the 'Freedom Trash Can,' during the second wave of feminism that focused on issues including beauty, abortion, and the 'body politic.'

Beauty pageants, beauty 'myths' and traditional ideas of femininity have been explored by many feminists. Germaine Greer in her book, *The Whole Woman*, claims that 'The Miss World contest reinforces Anglo-capitalist values and imposes Anglo-capitalist norms by recognizing only one physical type as having any pretensions whatsoever to beauty.' (6) In her analysis of the Miss America pageant, and the Miss World pageant, Banet-Weiser claims that women are considered both guardians of national morality and the largest threat to its moral foundation, and a field on which gender and ethnicity are constructed and enacted. From a Foucaultian perspective, raced and gendered bodies, in cultural rituals such as the 'Miss World' competition, are of interest because of the ways in which they shape, 'discipline, and regulate' the subject and the subjects' desires, by 'complicated and circulating discourses of power.' Banet-Weiser claimed that there is a level of 'excess,' that the competition exudes, and anticipates 'particular connotations of desire,' and is perhaps evidence of a World Wide 'gender crisis.' (7)

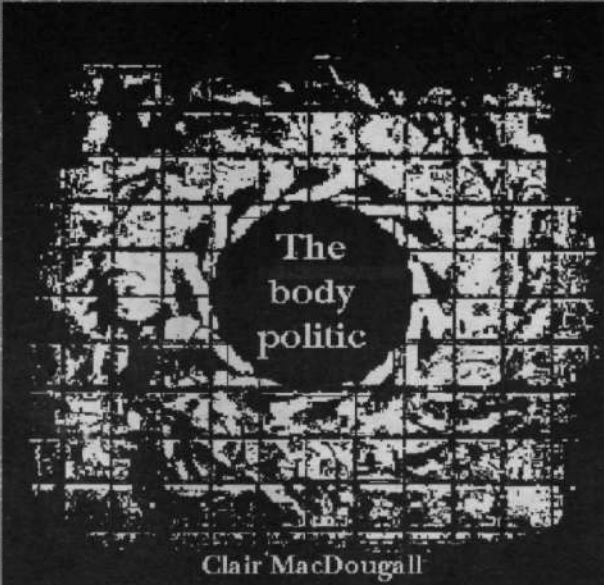
UNAPOLIGETIC OPINION

It is a sad but true reality, that in the twenty-first century two and a half billion people in this world still watch and engage, in this competition which still heralds the swimsuit competition, evening gown, talent, and assesses women on rigidity and poise. The competition, in my precised opinion, is objectifying, preserves elitist and sadistic norms of beauty and femininity, along with the subject that in turn reinforces these ideas. As Greer wrote aside from beauty contests, but which the competition asserts, despite its efforts to modernize, that 'regardless of all her other achievements, she (a woman) is a failure if she is not beautiful.' Although we as women are surrounded by inexorable images of ageless, contorted, controlled, masked faces and bodies we must not walk the plank, the runway, and stitch ourselves into body bags that will never fit. As Judith Butler claimed 'gender is performative'; we as women must stop performing compliance, doolity, playing the clown, stop jumping through flaming hoops, and end the freakshow.

(1) Banet-Weiser, Sarah. *The Most Beautiful Girl in the World: Beauty Pageants and National Identity*. Berkley: University of California Press: 1999.
 (2) Ibid.
 (3) Lester, Time. *Venezuela Beauty*; Foreign Correspondent, (Dated aired) 12/6/2002.
 (4) Cawthome, Andrew. 'Miss World to emerge from the shadow of deaths.' (website) <http://www.tiscali.co.uk>. Date published: 5/12/2002 18:44
 (5) Nothing to Protest about anymore (website) <http://www.expressindia.com>. Date published: Saturday, April 11, 1998.
 (6) Banet-Weiser, Sarah. *The Most Beautiful Girl in the World: Beauty Pageants and National Identity*. Berkley: University of California Press: 1999.
 (7) Ibid.

lots wife monash university student newspaper | on four wom*xns

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I must admit I've never been much of a feminist. I've never been in the womyns room, never written inspirational messages about loving your body as it is on the back of toilet doors and I've certainly never had the urge to fuck the patriarchy (I suspect they wouldn't be able to satisfy me, anyway), but after reading Peter's inspiring editorial about getting passionate I thought I better keep up my tirade as Monash's one and only "disgruntled women." So here it is, a few things that make me a cranky girl*:

Sexist Advertising.

Is it just me or does the idea of a naked woman bathing in ice cream seem very strange. For one thing, I'm not going to eat anything that's had someone's bare arse in it but more than anything else, can someone tell those guys in advertising* that no one could have a bath in something as cold as ice and not turn blue and get serious goosebumps. I have no objection to nudity in advertising, but I have serious objections to lack of creativity. If you are that desperate to use naked chicks to get attention for your product, then at least find a good excuse. Bathing in ice cream is not Heaven - now if it were hot chocolate...

Clothing.

To the man in the shop who told me that "women don't wear Spiderman T-shirts," I have a question. Were you suggesting that I'm, in fact, a very pretty boy or that I wasn't actually wearing a T-shirt? And, to the Human Resources people at a particular Department Store who came up with the clothing policy of "block black," for women - no colour, no patterns, no individuality - and a tasteful suit, shirt and tie of your choice, for men, what were you thinking? Aside from the strange assumption that men are more capable of choosing appropriate clothes than women, what happened to equal opportunity policies? The next person who tells me how to dress, how not to dress, or why my clothing is inappropriate for a "lady" will want to watch their back.

Body Hair.

With a monkey-like addiction to personal grooming, I actually quite enjoy the odd bout of waxing, plucking, shaving and tweezing*. However, I was always under the impression that I did it for myself and that hair wasn't a huge concern for guys. That was until a friend showed me a men's magazine that had "creative" ways of getting "your woman" to do what you want in it and one of the "wants" was a hairless bikini line. So boys, here's a word of warning: If any boy ever assumed that I was stupid enough to fall for ridiculously simple reverse psychology techniques that wouldn't trick a five year old child they could expect to see me coming at them with a very hot pot of wax and no intention to hold the skin taut.

Rapist Footballers.

When I hear about groups of spoilt sportsmen being accused of sexual assault and rape I have to admit I tend to lean in favour of believing the women. Women don't "ask for it" and men (especially in group situations) need to learn that even if a woman wants "it" from a particular man, it doesn't mean she wants it from any or all of his friends. People need to stop clouding the issue with comments about how footballers have women throwing themselves at them and don't know how to deal with the situation. If a woman says no, indicates no or is unable to say no through fear of the entire team of oversized footballers surrounding and pressuring her, then it is rape. Footballers who claim not to know this and their management should be ashamed of themselves. While I don't doubt the limited intelligence of your average footballer, I do believe that they are capable of telling the difference between consensual and non-consensual* sex.

* I choose to use the term girl to refer to myself as it avoids the entire women/womyn/wom'n issue.

* Don't try to tell me a woman was stupid enough to make a billboard of a woman bathing in icecream.

* I suspect that the myth that there is a difference between plucking and tweezing is just a creation of Cosmo magazine.

* For any footballers who might be reading this article consensual means that both the woman and the man want to have sex and non-consensual means the woman doesn't want to have sex with the entire team.

Confessions of a Softcore Feminist

Women don't wear
spiderman tshirts

Megan Fitzgerald

CONSULT THE CAPTAIN BEFORE APPROACHING THIS MAN

I want your forms!



lot's wife monash university student newspaper | on four
careers

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A final year student asks: *I am applying for graduate positions and a lot of employers require me to fill out an application form on-line with a variety of questions on it. Got any tips on how to do it well?*

Captain Careers replies: Increasingly employers are using on-line applications as part of the recruitment process for graduates. You may be asked to submit an application form only, or it may be accompanied by your resume and cover letter. It is essential that you read employer instructions and do some research before you send the application. This means reading information provided by the employer on their website or brochures, gathering information about the job role including job descriptions and taking advantage of employer presentations and jobseeker workshops arranged through Monash University Careers and Employment. Check full details on www.monseacs.com

Application forms enable employers to compare candidates on a like to like basis to select for further assessment. It enables them to check that fundamental criteria have been met and to gather information about your qualifications, skills and experience in a format that they like.

By completing the application form well you send out positive messages about your organizational skills, your ability to communicate effectively in writing and demonstrate how you meet the employer requirements.

Application forms generally have some standard questions so expect to provide details on educational attainment, qualifications, previous employment experience as well as name, address and contact details. Other questions about your background may be asked; for example, questions regarding disabilities, gender or whether you are from a non-English speaking background. Most forms will explain why this information is collected (usually it is statistical purposes and to reflect the organisations' policies of equal opportunity). If it is not clear you might want to clarify it with the human resources department. It is a good idea to fill in these sections, or leave them blank if you prefer not to respond. It is not a good idea to bend the truth as dishonesty may undermine the rest of your application. Usually organizations are just information gathering on labour market indicators.

Depending on their priorities and needs organizations may also ask you to respond to questions about your reason for applying, your previous experiences and what skills you can bring to the organization.

Open questions such as "Why do you want to work for us?" are seeking your perspective and provide you with the opportunity to show interest and enthusiasm for the organization. Employers like to know that applicants research the job role and industry and match themselves to the organizations key requirements. They may also ask questions about previous achievements - awards and scholarships provide evidence of formal recognition of achievement, but you may also respond with details of goals you set and the commitment you made to achieve it, reflecting motivation and self-management.

You might also encounter behavioral questions. These are designed to reveal how you deal with people and situations. Behavioral questions are based on the premise that the way you have behaved in the past is a good indicator of how you will behave in the future. Questions like "Describe a situation where you had to work in a team to achieve a particular outcome" or "Tell me about a time when you had to use your initiative to resolve a problem" are behavioral questions. The employer wants to know your role in the situation so make sure you personalize the information you provide.

One useful way of responding to these questions uses a structure that helps set the scene as well as enabling you to discuss your input and the results.

- Briefly state the situation, provide the background
- Briefly state what needed to be done, or identify a problem that needed to be resolved or the duties required of you
- Discuss the strategies you considered, what issues confronted you and what you actually did. Describe how you did it and back up your judgment by stating why you took that action
- Summarise the outcome - what were the results in quantitative or qualitative terms and what did you learn from the experience

Employers in all industry sectors use behavioural questions and the type of questions asked will reflect the behaviours most appropriate to their organisation.

Just some final tips for completing applications

- Always follow the employers instructions
- Research the position and the employer before you begin
- Pay attention to grammar and spelling
- Don't underestimate the time it takes to complete applications - if it is on-line see if you can complete it in stages
- Keep to word limits by using bullet points; if there are no word limits but you cannot fit everything into the space provided attach a page
- Always write in the first person
- Keep a copy for yourself - your responses may form part of the interview
- Use the "other information" section to your advantage - you could use it to highlight a qualifications or skill you haven't had an opportunity to mention in other parts of the application, or use it to summarise all the attributes that make you suitable for the position - show your enthusiasm

Good luck and remember Careers Counsellors are able to provide you with further advice on completing application forms.

A student asks: *Should I send a cover letter with my application for a job?*

Captain careers replies: Send a cover letter with your application or resume unless the employer specifies that a cover letter is not required. This includes instances where you e-mail your resume. Sometimes an employers' process involves an on-line application where the cover letter is not requested. Check the employer instructions as to what they want you to submit as an application for the job.

Jobseekers often underestimate the value of a good cover letter and don't recognize the importance it can have in your application. A well-written letter indicates a number of things to an employer:

- You have good written business communication skills
- You are well organized and strategic in your job searching
- You have been able to comprehend selection criteria and responded accordingly
- You are interested and enthusiastic about the job role

Cover letters should be no more than 1 page in length, formatted in business style and produced on good quality paper. Ensure that there is no spelling or grammatical errors and your contact details are current. Use appropriate forms of address to the employer and make sure the recipients' details are right, using their name and job title, the name of the organisation and the address. Sometimes people will attach things such as leaflets or chocolate bars to their letter, or use brightly coloured paper as a way of getting the employers attention. It might get attention but not for the right reasons. Don't be gimmicky with presentation and remember to sign and date the letter.

If e-mailing your cover letter some of the protocols are different. Whilst you should still include the name of the person to whom you are addressing the letter, and their job title and the name of the organisation, you do not need to put the address. Also, you do not need to include your own residential address on the cover letter (it should still appear on your resume and application), as the process has been electronic. By sending it to the employer it is considered you have signed the letter.

Structure your letter in a clear and direct way. The employer wants information that relates to their job vacancy and organisation so you will need to tailor a letter for each application you send in, addressing specific selection criteria. A good letter will state your interest and explain what makes you suitable. For example, be specific about educational attainment and the knowledge you have gained in your course of study. Mention course related and general employment experience and summarise skills you developed and link them to the employer requirements. Extra curricular activities may be evidence of self-motivation, energy, enthusiasm or a diverse set of skill so provide some information on interests outside of work and study.

Cover letters are used to apply for fulltime, part time or casual jobs so it is well worthwhile building your cover letter writing skills. Not sure where to start? Have a look at our Jobseeker Guide on-line found by visiting www.monseacs.com, attend any of our offices to get a sample and some guidelines, or ask a career counsellor to review your letter and offer feedback.

Captain Careers is one of the counselors at Monash University Careers and Employment. We have a presence of every campus. Find out more about how we can help you by visiting our website

diy radio report

hear it online NOW diyradio.msa.monash.edu.au

Thankyou to everyone who came and showed his or her support for DIY Radio on the 16th of March. It was a great night and the turnout proved to all that student radio at Monash is once again on the rise.

It was only possible through the generous donations of time and facilities that the night was possible, so if you get a chance please return the favour - FredEx & MC Hugo, DJ's Ascence & Seb, MC's Pisces & Kinetic and Daniel Peterson all kindly donated their time to perform at the benefit. But most of all a huge thankyou to First Floor for donating their venue for the evening, please go

and check it out sometime @ 393 Brunswick Street in Fitzroy - very funky, laid back atmosphere. Almost everyone who made it to the benefit has or will be going back.

Also, it's already time to start thinking about the second grid for the year. So far the first cycle has gone well, almost everyone has come in for his or her shows - those who haven't will be dropped from the next grid and will have to re-apply. This means that your demos (for people who missed out) or revised time preference sheets (for people who already have shows & wish to

continue) must be submitted before Easter break, Henry will be picking them up on the 7th of April so be sure to get them to Emily before then.

Everyone have a fun break.

Sean Williams.

the grid

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
9:00 - 10:00	STORMIN NORMAN'S WAR ON	MOONSHINE SESSIONS	THE NATIONAL DISGRACE
10:00 - 11:00	COMMERCIAL CRAP	SHOOT & SPIT ??	WORD UP (KAREN C)
11:00 - 12:00	WHO LISTENS TO THE RADIO?	NICKEL&G OF FUNK	INTERNATIONAL HIT LIST
12:00 - 13:00	REED	I'M SO PUNK	THE UNPREDICTABLE SHOW
13:00 - 14:00	BECKY & BECKI SHOW	ANYTHING & EVERYTHING	CHILLUM OUT
14:00 - 15:00	JOHNNY & PUMPERS	MOJO	
15:00 - 16:00	MAX R (COMEDY)	MY WAY	PAST, PRESENT + FUTURES
16:00 - 17:00	BYO RADIO	REALITY HOUR	
17:00 - 18:00			

WAITING LIST: Janelle Woo (Asian Parlour) - Tuesday or Thursday 10-11am MOJO - Wednesday 1-2pm

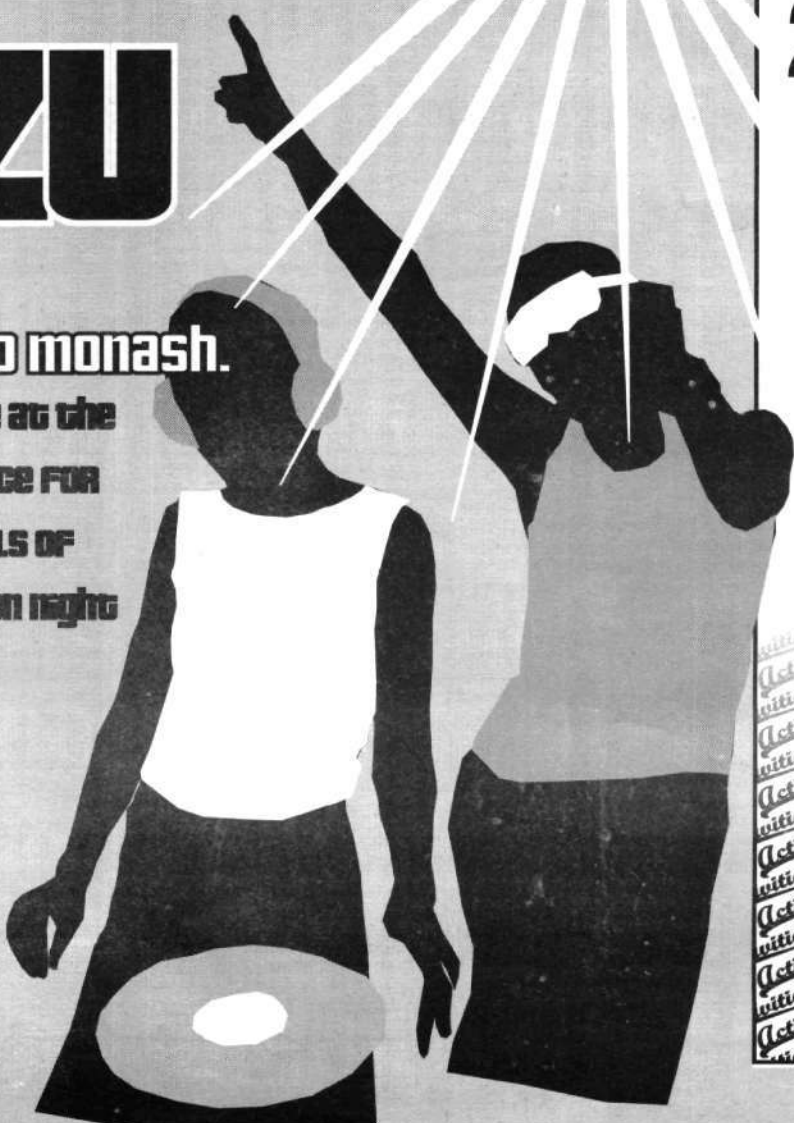
NB: We at DIY are very reasonable people.

Should the allocated time become inconvenient at any stage, feel free to curse till your heart's content.

TZU

coming soon to monash.

see FERG OR ANNE at the
ACTIVITIES OFFICE FOR
further details of
the next union night
ph:990550



29
activities



Totally addicted to bass

I wish I was
Jud Arthur...

arts and theatre
lot's wife monash university student newspaper | oh four

Jud Arthur is a Bass-Baritone opera singer who has gone from playing professional rugby for New Zealand to singing productions throughout Australia and New Zealand. Unlike most opera singers, Jud only started having professional vocal training at the age of 27. He did not study music and did not have any particular aspirations as a youngster to sing. He was more interested in rugby and riding horses. But after attaining a serious knee injury playing rugby in Italy, he had to give up the sport, and decided to give singing a go.

He went from training on the field every day, to training his voice- a big lifestyle change. But he still needs to keep up a healthy way of life to ensure that his voice is maintained because his body is his instrument. Jud is lucky because he's still able to go out and drink a few beers without causing damage to his vocal cords. Even though some opera singers avoid dairy to stop sluggishness, Jud is pretty laid back and gets along fine eating and drinking normally! The story is different for a soprano who has to avoid smoky environments and alcohol to maintain her voice. Now a very experienced and sought after opera singer, Jud has sung all over Australia and NZ. He says that he is seeing a growing audience of young people visiting the opera, even though there are many students who can't afford the high prices of theatre tickets. Jud says that production costs for the opera are huge and there is really no other way to make tickets more affordable unless the government offers more funding.

A day in the life of Jud is quite demanding with two to three rehearsals a day (and often for different operas). Even though it is a busy life in his new home in Sydney, Jud feels pretty privileged to be doing what he loves and performing. He says he loves to visit Melbourne and will be visiting again soon when he performs the role of Nourabad in Bizet's The Pearlfishers. It is a story of forbidden love, a topic that never gets boring. Jud has played this role before in NZ and is a bit of an old hand at it now, so his experience and his natural talent as a singer is sure to shine through.

Jud Arthur will be performing in The Pearlfishers from April 16 at the Arts Centre. His next role will be as the Mikado in The Mikado starting in Melbourne on May 13.

by Sandra Dee



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A Way Abstraction

BY DANIEL LINCOLN

The Three Way Abstraction exhibition, which ran till the 13th of March at the Monash University Museum of Art, was an interesting and stimulating experience. The artists Geoffrey Nees and Stephen Bram also gave talks explaining their works in the exhibition and their attitudes towards art.

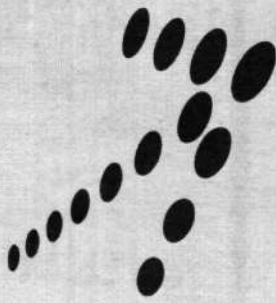
The exhibition was full of works of disciplined and graceful abstraction that had obviously been made with purpose and meticulous care. There were none of the sloppy abstract works that you sometimes come across in galleries, that look as though they were dashed off in 15 minutes with the aid of a bit of house-paint and a bottle of tequila. Some of the works had intriguing titles like 'Perspectives for conscious alteration in everyday life' and 'I keep falling over I keep passing out when I see a face like you now that I don't think of you.' It was interesting to try to see the connection between the title 'Dirk Diggler' (the porn-star protagonist of Boogie Nights) and the actual painting, a large brooding work in red with a sizeable dribble of thicker paint trickling down near the middle, distinctly lacking in anything risqué, though its purpose may have been a post-modern abstraction of sexual tension.

The first artist to speak was Geoffrey Nees. He gave a fascinating account of the artistic process behind his pieces 'Untitled (White)' and 'Untitled (Black)'. They were a pair of powerful works made up of large pieces of white and black paper with radial triangular cuts giving a sundial effect from the interplay between light and shadow on their surface. Geoffrey gave an informative account of the pieces' inception in draughtsmanship and sculpture and went on to give an insight into his working methods. He discussed the way that audiences responded to the symmetrical craftsmanship of the works and the way that the use of shadows allowed the works to change visually according to the kind of light that shone on them. He talked about the use of colour and the difference between the white and black pieces, the way that the white reflected light and appeared to shine while the black absorbed light giving the effect of a dark sun at the centre of a black hole, consuming radiance. He also spoke of his work as a DJ and producer and his interest in minimalism in art and music.

Stephen Bram was similarly interesting and informative. He discussed the conceptual process behind his silkscreen piece 'Untitled', a work made up of black and white rectangular forms radiating from two points, giving the effect of glass shattering in a wind tunnel. He explained his interest in perspective and the use of vanishing points and the way these concepts contributed to the construction of his work. He also talked about his projects in the fields of sculpture, architecture and installation and his interest in the interaction between art works and the space in which they are exhibited.

Overall the Three Way Abstraction exhibition and the artists' talks were a fascinating and rewarding experience that expanded your understanding of abstract art and how and why it is made.





Rod Quantock: Howard on Ice - The Musical

by Ben Sutton

Rod Quantock is preparing to perform his first ever musical extravaganza on ice (without the ice and the music) at this year's international comedy festival. Ben Sutton caught up with him for a quick chat.

BEN: How's things?
 ROD: Fine fine fine.
 BEN: Is this year an exciting year for you, with the Federal election coming up?
 ROD: Ummm, no, because I'm worried John Howard will get voted out. That would be terrible for me.
 BEN: Because all your material will be gone?
 ROD: Yeah, and all my future material. I'm just being selfish now. Probably the country would be better off without him.
 BEN: Do you intend to thank John Howard at any stage for his contributions to your comedy?
 ROD: Oh, I do every night on stage. I'm very grateful to him, I suppose I should write him a letter, shouldn't I? But then I'd have to write to Reith and Ruddock and the whole lot of them. All my favourites.
 BEN: Are you intending to take it easy on the new kid then? Mark Latham?
 ROD: Oh no. Oh no, goodness me, no no no no no no no no. Apart from the forests, and giving children books to chew on, he doesn't have many really bright ideas. I think as time goes on his feet will get smaller and his mouth will get bigger, and one day they'll intersect and I'll have him.
 BEN: Is it an issue for you, trying to bend your material so it suits everybody?
 ROD: You can't do that. No, you can only appeal to the intelligent, compassionate caring people. And you've got to leave the pricks behind. You wouldn't want their money anyway would you... well, yes I would, now I think of it.
 BEN: Are you as excited as we Uni students are about the increases in HECS fees?
 ROD: Well, if I was getting a slice of the action I probably would be. But it's one of those things that doesn't touch me. That's the problem for you uni students, there's not enough of you. You need to start breeding I think. I've been going around talking about the Nelson report at universities, and even at universities it's hard to get people to come out and talk about it. Or listen to it. I did one where 4 people

turned up, and I don't think it was me. It was just they're not interested. They're just busy working two jobs and doing a double degree.
 BEN: Look, today I've told a few mates how I was going to interview Rod Quantock this afternoon. And they all said 'who's Rod Quantock'. To which I replied 'he's Captain Snooze, you remember Captain Snooze with the silly hat...'
 ROD: And they all went yeah, yeah.
 BEN: Exactly. Are you ever going to live Captain Snooze down?
 ROD: Ohhh, look er, if everybody else dies before I do, yes I probably will. No, it's not so much a matter of living it down I suppose, as getting people to realise it wasn't entirely everything I did. I certainly don't wear it to bed at night.
 BEN: Did you get to keep the costume then?
 ROD: Oh no no, it was ceremonially stripped from my flesh, and I think they burned it.
 BEN: Oh. Bummer. It could be worth a fair bit in a few years.
 ROD: Well you'd think people with a little bit more foresight and some sense of history might have preserved it for the nation.
 BEN: Yeah, our new flag maybe.
 ROD: That's a good idea. We could hang it off a lamppost.
 BEN: Ok Rod, you have 10 words or less to explain to Monash students why they should come and see your show.
 ROD: 2 words or less?
 BEN: 10. 10 words.
 ROD: Oh 10. Oh I thought you said two, and that only leaves one word doesn't it? 10 words or less. Hmm, because. That's the answer. Because. (Rod proceeds to use only one word anyway???)
 BEN: Now in the interests of bipartisan journalism, you have 10 words or less to explain to Monash students why they shouldn't go and watch your show.
 ROD: Because they can't afford it. Get a third job and they might be able to.

For those with a 3rd job and who like top-class comedy Rod is performing nightly at the Banquet Room, Victoria Hotel, 215 Little Collins St from Thu 25th March all the way through to Sunday the 18th of April (No shows on Mondays and Good Friday).



Wil Anderson by Wil Watson

Despite the fact that it is 10 a.m and popular Melbourne comedian Wil Anderson has been awake for 5 hours, he introduces himself to me over the phone with all the energy, exuberance and sharp timing to which his fans Australia-wide have grown accustomed.

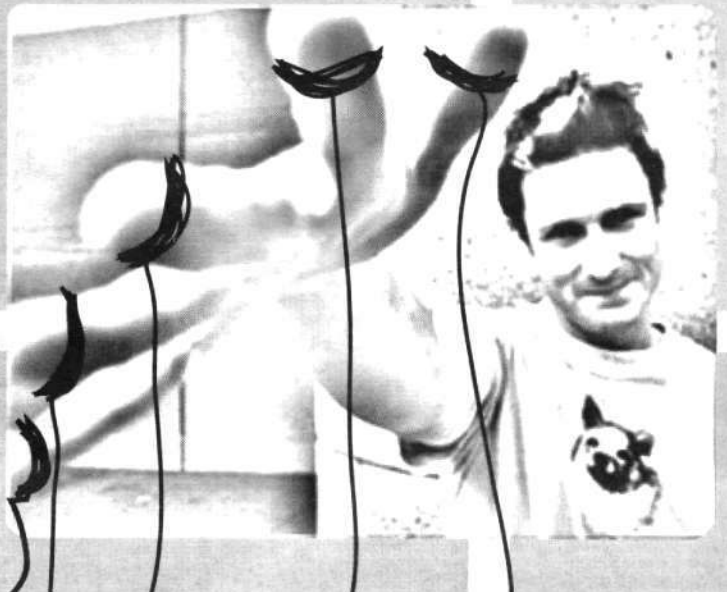
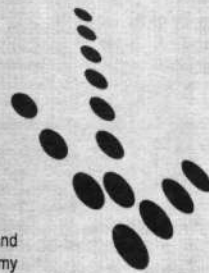
April is shaping up to be another hectic month for Wil. He is co presenting for his fifth and final year on *The Triple J Breakfast Show*, presenting the fourth year of the ABC's *The Glasshouse* (along with Corinne Grant and Dave Hughes) and performing his one man stand up show 'License To Wil', at the upcoming Melbourne Comedy Festival. "I am a busy guy but this is my work and I love it, and luckily enough it is successful". Wil could not be any closer to the truth, he has ridden a wave of success since his first Comedy Festival Performance and has not looked back since "There is one problem however (regarding popularity of *The Glasshouse*), we have been nominated for a Logie, and I'm not interested, no way would I fucking go and give Eddie McGuire and Danni Minogue the chance to get even with me after all the shit I have given them."

Even though Wil is well known for his radio and TV exploits, stand up is his first love. He has never missed performing at the Melbourne Comedy Festival, and this year will be no different. His performances are known by many to be the highlights of the festival, each year selling out to devoted fans who arrive to

see a densely packed show full of energy and comedic genius. "Some people know me for my political views and think that I am a political comic, but all I talk about is the things that interest me and make me laugh." "You can expect to see anything from Paris Hilton to George Bush to supermarket etiquette, but believe me, it is my best ever show."

Despite my efforts to try and get more out of Wil concerning the contents of his new show, his interest in current events, and manic personality overtook the both of us, inevitably leading to discussions about Monash University's recent fee hikes. "Why are you guys blaming Brendan Nelson, he wasn't to realise the uni would actually raise fees, he was like Daryl Somers at the Logies, he had no idea what was going to happen." "But seriously, good on you guys at Monash, don't fucking give in".

As the interview draws closer to an end and my sides ache from constant laughing and heavy breathing, my mind races, due to the constant discussion about anything from growing up in Gippsland, to Delta's strangle hold upon society, Wil's constant banter and eagerness to share ideas on any topic leaves me with the feeling that anyone who misses out on 'License to Wil' this year at the Melbourne Comedy Festival has every right to feel disappointed at missing a genius present one of his proudest pieces of work.



SLOW FALLING BIRD

MONASH PLAYWRIGHT COMPETITION WINNER

There were tears, there was laughter and there was cringing, but finally after the laborious reading and re-reading of over 120 plays the winner of the Playwright competition has been announced! The search for the next up and coming playwright was conducted last year and received both astounding and shocking entries from all over Australia, including a number from the talented bunch here at Monash. There was no limit to the genre or style of the plays, except that they must run for a minimum of 80 minutes and cater for a cast of at least 6 characters. The judges Yvonne Virsick, Phil Norton, Julie Waddington, Christian Leavesley and Andrew Dunston were impressed with the general standard of the entries as well as the level of experimentation.

Whilst the decision was a hard one to make, the winning entry *Slow Falling Bird* by Christine Evans was stood out like a beacon. The play is set in the Woomera Immigration Detention Centre and explores the issue of asylum seekers, a topic frequently dealt with in the Melbourne theatre scene. However, *Slow Falling Bird* shines a new and unusual light on the controversial issue by telling the character's stories through a combination of naturalism and poetic song, rather than attempting to take a stance and present an argument. The auditions for the winning entry, to be performed early May at Student Theatre were held during March, and with the marvellous combination of a truly outstanding play and a talented cast of Monash students, *Slow Falling Bird* is sure to be a masterpiece.



lots wife monash university student newspaper | oh four
arts and theatre

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Fashion and Art by Kenneth Yu



There is an inherent tension between the world of fashion and art. How can the capitalistic nature of fashion even interact with the anti-commercial leanings of art? These are two different ideals that will tussle to the extent of sartorial unraveling and canvas mutilating.

As with the nature of commercialism, fashion often appropriates art, plagiarizing it and calling it its own. There are mixed results. Often we see monstrosities on the catwalk, unwearable fallacies that are vacuous in its theft of soul and imagination. After all, who can forget the swan dress (complete with head) that Bjork wore in the Oscars just a few years ago?

However, when art actually is created from the bowels of fashion itself, the effects are much more impressive. When fashion is stripped of its profiteering sheen, its very essence is tapped into to create great works of art.

Fashion's essence is desire. All the cutting, silhouette and fabric are meaningless without the imposition of covetousness. What is important is not the item in question, but the desire for that item.

When art creates desire, it becomes fashion's buddy, and a swift symbiotic relationship is formed. This connection is acknowledged by the mainstream, as the Melbourne Fashion Festival organizes its arts program. The main attraction is a retrospective exhibition of French photographer Guy Bourdin held at the National Gallery of Victoria, held from 16 March to 6 June 2004.

The exhibition focuses on the 1970's to the mid 1980's, Bourdin's most successful years in a long career shooting for French Vogue (1955-87), and as the exclusive advertising photographer for Roland Jourdan (of Charles Jourdan and later, Roland Pierre Shoes).

"Beauty will be convulsive, or it will not be at all", concludes Andre Breton's *Nadja*. Indeed, what constitutes beauty in Bourdin's fashion photography is a beauty that is in epileptic flux. Bourdin is not content in portraying his models in pretty poses, relegating them as human clotheslines for the advertised couture. Instead, he shifts the focus from the products to the very desire of the products themselves. Models are shown in positions of death and decay, and there is an intertwining of the horror movie and haute couture. Beauty does not exist in a vacuum, but is supplemented by the decadent, the obscene and the morbid.

For example, one of the Bourdin photos highlighting Charles Jourdan products shows a chalk outline of a female figure. In the background there is an ominous blue Cadillac, while the pavement is seemingly splattered in blood, with pink wedge shoes and sunglasses scattered at the scene of the accident. He develops a dynamic narrative around fashion and took the products to the realm of the fantastical, showing desire to be aspirational, fetishistic and powerful.

The works of Guy Bourdin highlight the resolution of the conflict between fashion and art, to find a middle ground, namely that of desire. Art seeks to make it manifest in the throes of creative ecstasy, fashion seeks to exploit it for commercial gain. There is a link between these two worlds, and Bourdin serves as its tenuous bridge.



Same-Sex Marriage

"The tunnel may be dark, but that's because you can't see around the corner."

There has been a lot of discussion about same-sex marriage recently. In fact, in *The Age* (Thurs 4th March) there was a double page spread on the topic. In this article, the writer Helen Razer, decided to explore more of what people inside the queer community thought about all this. I got the feeling she was trying to inform the public that the queer community isn't very interested in the topic, and while the article seemed reasonably sympathetic towards same-sex relationships, I couldn't help but notice the strong opinions she received from her subjects were pressing the reader against the idea of legalising same-sex marriage. She found a lesbian couple willing to give their thoughts on how they felt about the institution of marriage. Cassie and Claire said they don't need marriage to validate their relationship; "I don't wish to be recognised in those conventions. Conventions that are not my own". However, Cassie Serpell said she would "defend to the hilt anyone's right to marry if that was their wish".

I think if you take a look around, you would find a lot of people who think this way. The debate in the queer community over recent years has been about whether or not we should seek to find recognition by yet another hetero-normative ideal; but at this stage, with the world media making such a fuss; this shouldn't be the issue at hand. More importantly, we should be exploring how the recognition of same-sex marriage would be likely to affect the way we as queers are viewed by society in the future.

Often when a queer comes out to his/her parents, he/she gets confronted with a bucket load of questions and concerns. Common worries of parents are that their child won't be able to live a 'normal' life, or that they will be discriminated against. Later down the track, the parents will worry about children, superannuation agreements, loans for houses etc. The fact is that recognising same-sex relationships under the institution of marriage will help bridge the gap to adoption, and bury other legal concerns almost immediately. Social discrimination, however, is another matter.

A sociology lecturer from Monash University, Dr Kirsten McLean was quoted as saying; "I personally think it won't change much in the short term, the homophobes won't start checking the left hand of their potential victim to see if there's a wedding ring before hurling their abuse, or worse. Those in the community that continue to see homosexuality as a sin are not going to immediately decide they love us just because we're married, or are able to marry". This is an interesting and somewhat valid point. People who are afraid of diversity will always be afraid. It may not cause immediate changes, but in the long run it will inevitably have a positive effect. It's just takes a few glances at history to see how these kinds of changes in the past have effected the way we treat groups of people today.

At the turn of the 20th Century, the suffragette movement won the right for women to vote. In the last hundred years, women have started to make their mark in the workforce and are slowly but surely moving into influential positions in politics, science, and even the defence forces not to mention the number of mothers and career women in any variety of other jobs. This may not have anything to do with the way women vote, but it is to do with the way society's views towards women have changed since they were allowed this basic right. You can look at the emancipation of black America in the American civil war and draw similar conclusions. This time however, it is harder to see our difference, unless we appear 'obvious'. Queer discrimination comes in different forms and it is more likely to be from the people who know us and therefore our needs are different and we can and should fight for them in different ways. But for this particular battle, it wouldn't hurt to learn from those who have fought before us and won.

The unfortunate truth is, fear of difference may always exist, but when we look at the way society can change en-mass according to what the law tells them is and isn't right, we can in fact gauge that when the law changes, society soon will follow. The fact that these discussions about same-sex marriages are taking place at all, especially in world news; not just the Australian media, or indeed private queer discussion groups; means that society is already half way down this path to change. Whether you would choose marriage or not, it is foolish to think that, when the world starts recognising same-sex relationships in the law; a positive social change will occur.

This is the year for some really important change. Most of us can feel it. We should let it happen and not be afraid. It's just like a chess game. We sometimes need to make sacrifices and no single move wins the game, but the outcome can hinge on one tiny pawn. Also, we should look ahead into the future and try to predict what moves we should be making next. Let's make this move in order to put us ahead in the game. So lets no longer question whether we should have same-sex marriages be recognised by law - of course we should! Let's instead ask ourselves, what king are we trying to capture? Maybe this debate isn't just about queer relationships; maybe it's more than that. Maybe it's about equality for all!

Janine Meadley
Performing Arts Graduate

ASK A GAY FRIEND

The lads on *Queer Eye For The Straight Guy* seem to be able to claim some superiority over us "normal" types, but then straight friends are always asking me for sex tips, or dating help, so hell, why not make it professional?

"Where should I look for a good man, and when I find one, how should I approach him? - Lonely Lennie"

Well Lennie, if you've come to the conclusion that you dislike your own company so much that you just have to inflict it upon someone else, I could direct you to the recent edition of *Cosmo*. It suggests trying the Internet, your local speed dating network, or the apparently untapped resource of Inner city Thai takeaway shops. Falling having a taste for spicy food, or having the self decency to seek some measures of quality control, might I suggest you do a quick scan of your lecture theatre, or workplace. Yes, those awkward trysts that make our otherwise purely professional relationships "personal" are back in vogue, and more often than not, you'll have at least something in common. As we all know, however, a decent man is a hard thing to find. This is because men in general suck (and not always in the good way), but also because people in general suck. So when you find him, approach with extreme caution so as not to scare him off. I suggest falling into his lap, limbs falling alluringly on that packed train, tram or bus, or perhaps casually "forgetting" that the chair was taken? Might be embarrassing, but it sure as hell beats explaining to your friends and family that you met at www.gay.com.

Email your own relationship or sex advice needs to askgayfriend@hotmail.com

Special thanks to Jess Varey for the layout of this page



lot's wife monash university student newspaper | oh four queer

six degrees of separation

The sliding scale of sexuality

What is sexuality? Who do we love or why we love them? Why is it we are forced to define ourselves and are judged on that definition? Why define ourselves at all? Bisexuality is not a phase or transition stage to homosexuality, nor are bisexuals fence-sitters. These myths stem from the fundamental assumption that bisexuality does not exist, and this in turn has resulted from the fear people have of ambiguity and a need to place people in neat categories with black and white lines that do not exist. But the term bisexual is still a limiting label that cannot encompass all that our sexuality is.

Sexologist Alfred Kinsey hypothesized a 7 point scale (0-6), where 0 indicates exclusive heterosexuality and 6 exclusive homosexuality. So it's easy: 0 is straight, 6 is gay and 3 is bi, right? If only. How do we decide? Should it be 0-1 straight, 5-6 gay and everything else bisexual? The answer is: there is no answer.

Bisexuality is generally defined as an emotional and/or physical attraction to both sexes. If all the points from 1-5 are considered bisexual, then there are likely to be more bisexuals than homosexuals, and indeed heterosexuals. However, there is hardly a visible bisexual community. Is this because bisexuals choose to define themselves as gay or straight, or is it due to the fact that bisexuals can often be viewed with suspicion by even the gay communities, perhaps owing to resentment that bisexuals can move more easily within the heterosexual community?

Why is it that, as a society, we feel the need to categorize every gamut of the human psyche? Can we not be 'undefined'? I remember filling in sex surveys and leaving the 'sexuality' space with a question mark. It's not as simple as ticking a box. We are who we are, nothing more or less. I don't want to be heterosexual, or homosexual, or bisexual. I'm sexual, that's for sure, why isn't that enough? It's not about whether someone has a cock or not, well it's not for me. It's personality and chemistry and spirit.

Thus it comes to queer. I love the word queer - it's a heroic term. Originally used by homophobes as an insult, it has been reclaimed and reformed as a positive label. In general the term queer, on a more abstract level, attempts to shake up preconceived notions of gender and sexuality and there is more than a little irony in the expression. Queer has been adopted to unite sexual minorities politically, culturally and socially, and has become a rallying cry for a new breed of social activism and consciousness bored with the middle class values of gay.

So that's me. Sexually undefined and proud of it. Stop trying to label and classify, we are who we are and we love who we love. And that's it.

Delta J Wilde

33



Film Reviews

lot's wife monash university student newspaper | oh four
film and television

Capturing the Freidmans

Director Andrew Jareki has created a universal piece in 'Capturing the Friedmans'- there's someone in this movie for everyone to hate. Abusive paedophiles, hysteria mongering media, corrupt police, home-wrecking women- feel free to interpret this doco according to the beliefs of your particular bandwagon. Through interviews and the Friedmans' home movies, Jareki presents- and questions- the process of investigation that saw Arnold and Jesse Friedman jailed for mass paedophilic abuse. The truth is twisted and hard to identify, and trusted systems are drawn under suspicion. What I probably found most shocking was not the sheer magnitude of the allegations, not the dubious methods of investigation. Rather, it was the desperate need, in a community where keeping up with the Jones' is everyday practice, to be viewed as the ultimate victim. One critic comments on Jareki's even-handedness- well if Jareki is even-handed, then I'm Hugh Hefner. What is brilliant about this film is the subtlety with which Jareki steers your interpretation of the case. His bias is present in the way he offers both sides, yet undermines the authorities, in the way he shocks the audience with the portrayal of a monster, then challenges that initial disgust through deliberate humanisation of the Friedman family. And to think that Jareki innocently started out making a documentary about clowns. I challenge anyone to try and come out of this film with a definitive idea of the truth.

Naomi More

Movie of the edition



34



The Hebrew Hammer

Intended to fill the thus far empty void for spoof Jewish action hero movies, The Hebrew Hammer illustrates why there was that void in the first place. Adam Goldberg stars as a Jewish private eye ('certified circumcised dick') who is sent on a mission to save Hanukkah from the evil Santa Claus (Andy Dick), who is trying to end it forever. Goldberg is excellent, but the 'wacky' plot and sub par jokes leave him hung out to dry. The Hebrew Hammer begins promisingly, Goldberg roaming the suburbs in a fur-lined Mercedes, dealing out tough justice in his long leather coat and fedora. 'Shabat shalom, mother...' But the initial wry cleverness gives way to over an hour of mediocre slap-stick and over the top Jewish stereotyping which slowly dehydrates the laughing gland - you are often on the verge of a laugh but it rarely comes. The Hebrew Hammer is probably funnier if you are actually Jewish and you get the Jewish stereotypes and Hebrew word jokes. But I'm not, and I didn't. This was a good honest try by first-time writer/director Jonathan Kesselman, but ultimately if you're going to make a fair dinkum comedy you've got to have enough laugh-out-loud moments to justify people spending their hard earned \$13.

Ben Sutton



Tais Toi

Tais Toi (French for Shut Up!) is the latest offering from French director Francis Veber (Le Diner De Cons and Les Fugitifs). A comedy that depicts two diametrically opposed convicts who escape from prison and seek revenge in order to retrieve a huge sum of money. Jean Reno plays Ruby, a hardened professional whose affair with his ex-bosses' fiance ends with her dead and him under arrest after seeking vengeance. Gerard Depardieu plays Quentin, a happy go lucky idiot who manages to be so annoying that he is moved from every cell in the prison before being placed with Ruby. In true Veber style this movie administers classic dry French humor with a clever script with the humour flowing throughout. The dynamic between Reno and Depardieu is similar to the odd couple, that is if the odd couple ever had to escape from the police, organised crime and had a tendency to illegally acquire police vehicles. A worthy choice next time you want something with subtitles

Daniel Wilson



Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London

Agent Cody Banks 2 is the coolest movie! It is so COOL! I wish I was as cool as Cody Banks. He is so cool, in fact he is TOTALLY SWEET!! Frankie Muniz plays Cody Banks and he is cool and hot. He has the funniest facial expression! It's so funny, he does it for the entire movie! Cool. And, I've heard he does all his own stunts! Frankie Muniz is so cool. There is also a girl from S Club 7 in the movie. ALRIGHT!! Cool. And the plot is so cool, because in the end they beat the bad guys. Wicked! I wish all movies were as cool and sweet as this...

Ben Sutton



EXOTICA

VHS is the new vinyl - there's already nothing like going down to the video store and picking up 10 videos for \$7. One which should be included in your stack if possible is Atom Egoyan's 1994 gem Exotica. I've always felt that the tacky cover misrepresents the film - this could be a good or bad thing. Your girlfriend will think you've hired an earlier incarnation of Striptease, or some other soft porn. Your flatmates may raise their eyebrows and suggest you get out more. The truth is, this is a fantastically atmospheric and dark film with a superb soundtrack. The plush tropical climate of strip club Exotica is the setting for this surprising thriller about a group of mysteriously connected people. Their story is revealed seductively through Egoyan's delicately crafted and memorable images. Mia Kirshner plays Christina, a dancer at the club who enacts nightly for the patrons her school-girl routine. The triple-distilled poetry of Leonard Cohen's 'Everybody Knows' works painfully well as her theme song. Christina is at the centre of growing tensions between the strangers which will bring to light a painful truth. The film is slick looking with strange characters who deserve more than the video's blurb suggests. Dim the lights, turn up the sound. In place of the regular ice-cream or Sara Lee video dessert, I suggest an old-fashioned of sweet, thick strong liqueur - on ice. "In a world of temptation, obsession is the deadliest desire." Tia Maria?

Alexia "Can Can" Kannas

cult movie of the edition

ADDICTED ON FILM

BY BEN SUTTON



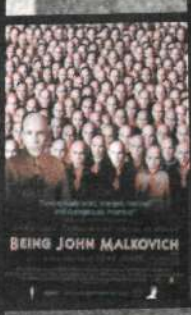
THE GAMBLER

Gambling is featured in many films, and also the consequences of a big loss, but no film portrays the absolute life devouring blackness of an unstoppable gambling addiction. What makes it all the more disturbing is that James Caan's gambler has every reason not to gamble (fulfilling profession, good family) and he seems acutely aware of what he is doing to himself, yet he is unable to stop the slide. Quite bleak and starkly real, *The Gambler* will make you wonder just what the people facing you at the roulette table might be going through.



LEAVING LAS VEGAS

In this grim movie Nick Cage plays a man who uses alcohol to hide from the world around him, but in the end it's not enough. He loses his grip on life and heads to LA with the explicit intention of drinking himself to death. After drinking as much in one weekend as most teams would in a whole Greenweek, he achieves his goal.



BEING JOHN MALKOVITCH

An addiction to being someone else is what this movie is about, as puppeteer John Cusack finds a pathway into little-known actor John Malkovich's head, and sells tickets for the experience, with great rewards.



THE DRILLER KILLER

The real problem with an addiction is when someone's behaviour becomes harmful to society around them. Well, in this movie Reno becomes addicted to drilling homeless dudes through the forehead with an electric drill, making the link from an addiction to how it harms other people fairly obvious. Now what's wrong with a nice harmless weed habit then? After watching this cult Abel Ferrara movie you'll think twice about passing out in the gutter outside Inflation.

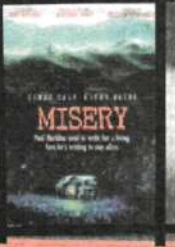
BEAVIS AND BUTTHEAD DO AMERICA

Beavis and Butthead are addicted to TV. huh huh huh, he said dick. Huh huh, huh huh. A-dick-ted, get it, get it? Huh huh huh. Anyway someone steals their TV set and being unable to cope with life without their daily fix of TV our intrepid duo are forced to trek all the way around the United States to get it back. Powerful.



CLUELESS

"Let's...do...a makeover!" Wonderful late 90's film based on Jane Austen's *Emma* which brings into the story what the novel lacked - an addiction to makeovers! Who could forget that wonderful sequence when Brittany Murphy's character Tai Frasier is transformed from dumpy new girl into Botticelli-esque bombshell. High on hair-dye chemicals and her latest designer fashion grab, Cher (Alicia Silverstone) kittens around compulsively spouting fashion, dating and general life advice to anyone she can get to listen.



MISERY

Kathy Bates is addicted to the trashy melodrama of James Caan's novels. When he starts writing more serious work, she does what any self respect fan would do-lock him in her room upstairs and tell him to write more trash or he'll die. Quite natural really.



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Inquiry into Pre-Service Teacher Training Courses

Submissions Invited

The Victorian Parliament's Education and Training Committee is conducting an inquiry into the suitability of current pre-service teacher training courses. The Committee aims to determine the skills and knowledge required of teachers, and therefore of pre-service teacher training courses in the 21st century. Another key focus will be attracting people from other professions to become qualified teachers and addressing their particular training needs.

The Committee invites written submissions or comment from individuals and organisations addressing the terms of reference (available at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/etc or by telephoning 9651 8304). Submissions, including a disk or emailed copy where possible, should be sent to the address below by 28 April 2004 (please note that arrangements can be made for late submissions to be accepted). All submissions will be treated as public documents unless confidentiality is requested.

The Committee would also like to hear from those currently delivering or undertaking teacher training courses in a series of discussions taking place in March-June this year. Please contact the Research Officer, Nick Fischer, to register your expression of interest.

Mr Steve Herbert, MP
Chair
Education and Training Committee
Level 3, 157 Spring Street
MELBOURNE 3000
Or email etc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Steve Herbert MP
Chair

experimental Medicine

The bio-medical faculty will pay you \$299 to take dangerous amounts of various growth hormones. You may grow ovaries or suffer chronic twitching but it'll be worth it because you'll be able to afford Microsoft Office 2003! It comes with three licences, one for each of the heads you may grow as a result of this experiment. But hey, the more the merrier, eh? Come and get your injection in the software section of the campus bookshop.



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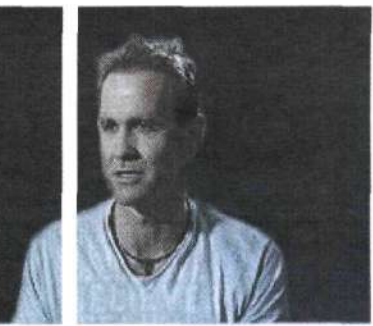
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SMOOTHIE BAR FOR ALL THE HEALTH CONSCIOUS AND
BUBBLE TEA FOR THOSE WANTING SOMETHING A BIT
DIFFERENT



GBH RUINS A PERFECT DAY

AN INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR PAUL CURRIE



On Sunday March 7th, 2004, Future Entertainment and Hardware Corporation held the annual Two Tribes Dance Festival at Melbourne Park. Nothing too news worthy about that. However as the sun was rising on Monday morning and most of the revelers were struggling to step back into reality, 10 unfortunate patrons had already been rushed off to hospital after overdosing on the new designer drug, GBH. Nicknamed Gaevious Bodily Harm, because, according to one paramedic, "That is exactly what it does", this 'new' drug is embraced by younger teenagers because of its low cost, \$5 - 10 a gram, and also because it can be made relatively easily by using everyday household products. Yet what makes this story even more interesting is the fact that the rave was organized in conjunction with the release of the new Australian film, One Perfect Day, a film that has the lead character dealing with the death of his sister from a drug overdose after she was at rave in Melbourne. In response to the obvious similarities between the Two Tribes incident and OPD's plot, Lot's Wife spoke to the film's director Paul Currie, about GBH, the dance culture and the Australian film industry.

Future Entertainment and Hardware Corporation received the bulk of criticism for their decision not to allow Ravesafe to attend Two Tribes, a free service that sends first aid people to dance related events. According to Paul this was not a negligent act. "They (Two Tribes) already had a lot of anti drug counselors there and they had a whole system and structure of protecting the ravers as much as they felt was fit. Obviously there are all sorts of entities and people that are there to support the responsible taking of drugs and everything else. From what I could gather the organizers had done all they thought was possible to do... It is interesting how life imitates art, in that the two tribes incident is one that sparked up a whole controversy and debate about how did it happen, why did it happen, how wide spread is (the use of) GBH. GBH... is a horrendous drug that these dealers are pushing it out to young kids because that is all they can afford to take. Those guys should be locked away and the key thrown away, you know, it is such a dangerous drug and yet they are just pushing it onto these young kids who are really there for a good time and being exploited by this whole need to have this amazing cheap ecstasy rush. I guess what I think is interesting is that it indicates our need to educate with people in regards to what is going on out there. To slam the rave culture just because of an isolated incident isn't really going to address the deeper issues that are out there."

But slamming the rave culture people has always been a knee jerk reaction to any drug overdose case that occurs at a dance party and this one is no different. In the end the debate always comes down to the question: Can a venue be overdose proof? "I don't think it can be", says Currie, "I mean I think it is just impossible. I know when we ran the film (One Perfect Day), we promoted three (dance) events, that was Lightstream films, and to put them together, we couldn't control crowds and whether the crowds was totally drug proof, it was just impossible."

In OPD, Currie presents to the audience a dance culture that is embraced by the young generation because of the music rather than the drugs. The drugs are present and shown to be a part of this world, but rather than glorifying them as films such as Human Traffic and Groove choose to do, instead Currie focused more on the negative effects. Therefore the viewer is left at the end of OPD with the message that you should be searching for something in the music rather than in the drugs. Warm fuzzy feelings aside, the film and the controversy surrounding the Two Tribes incident does raise a question that is faced by organizers of dance parties around the world, could the rave scene realistically exist without drugs?

According to Currie, "I think it can. I think would be different. That is like saying could rock and roll exist without drugs. The power of these DJs and the power of the music, it is what it is, ecstasy is a part of that whole experience, but it is not the core being of that experience. That is what we were trying to showcase with the film, to illustrate to audiences (that) yes there is a dark side to this but look beyond it and (focus on) the music and the DJ and the tribal experience and spectacle (which) is something that goes all the way back to Woodstock and all those other events that are as timeless as we are as people and our need to celebrate."

Although the need to celebrate may be as human as losing one's keys but due to the way that many of today's generation are choosing to celebrate, it may become as human as losing ones mind. With the rise in illicit drug taking between the ages 17 - 24, especially the rise in ecstasy consumption, many are running the risk of suffering from a multitude of mental illnesses later in life, or as Two Tribes showed, something even more serious.

"The choices they (young people) make can impact (not only) their lives but also the lives of others around them. (We must) try to affirm and not slam or ban raves because the more we try and ban them the more it is going to sensationalize people to take drugs and push them underground and make them rebellious. So for me it is about better understanding the scene and not just looking at raves, I mean you go out to any club, any weekend, you go out to the Mardi Gras, you go to Summer Daze you go to any of the huge events, and you will see many people are taking drugs at these events, it is just pass and parcel of modern youth and what people do."

Should we be worried about the longevity of a society where the youth need to escape from reality as much as possible? My answer is yes.


By PEter VArley





DONE IN SIXTY SECONDS: A QUICK GLIMPSE AT SKYDIVING

BY AARON J. E. ROMERO



Okay folks, pop quiz. What's the only sport in the world where you travel at a rate of 200 kilometres per hour unassisted by any artificial machinery? Answer: Skydiving. It is the sport that captures the curiosity of every person for a wide range of reasons. To the adrenalin junkie it is the epitome of the ultimate rush on earth. The faint-hearted either revere the courage of those who participate or frown upon entering into a seemingly unnecessary risk. Either way merely mentioning the sport attracts the attention of any bystander. This is both the allure of skydiving and its curse. It is because of this that skydiving has long been a misunderstood sport and often misrepresented by the media. The misfortunes that occur in this sport, which the media predominantly focuses on, is but a small aspect of it and fails to portray an accurate image of the skydiving scene.

My first experience of the skydiving scene happened two years ago when a friend of mine invited me to go skydiving with him for his birthday. Being the adrenaline junkie that I am I could not pass up this opportunity. So we got in touch with the Monash Skydiving Club and signed up for one of their upcoming jump weekends. The club provides a great opportunity to meet other experienced skydivers as well as those who are doing their first jump just like us. It fosters an excellent social environment through organised jump weekends, which in turn gives students a chance to meet other students within the campus who share this passion for a rush.

After a night drinking with other skydivers and with traces of alcohol still in our system, we struggled to wake up at an ungodly hour of 6 AM. Then after a quick breakfast we were introduced to two instructors who would be training us for the whole day. The training was extensive and involved learning basic theories of flight as well as perfecting our body position for the jump the next day. This was followed by a course on the various malfunctions that we might be encounter and ways to both prevent and deal with it if such a situation did arise. At the end of the day we sat a written exam on all the material we covered in our full day course as well as an individual discussion of our exam with an instructor. We had to satisfy them that we have absorbed all the information from the course and could deal with the various scenarios that could happen in the air. Safety is always paramount in this sport.

Finally following a relatively restless night's sleep, jump day arrived! After a final refresher course early that morning we were each allocated two jump masters who would our final briefing and accompany us through our dive. Then after an anxious hour waiting, it was finally my turn.

All suited up and carrying an extra 8 kilograms worth of equipment on me, we went through the dive again before boarding the plane. From here it was yet another 15 minute wait as the plane climbed to an altitude of 14,000 feet. I run through what I had to do in my head as I watched

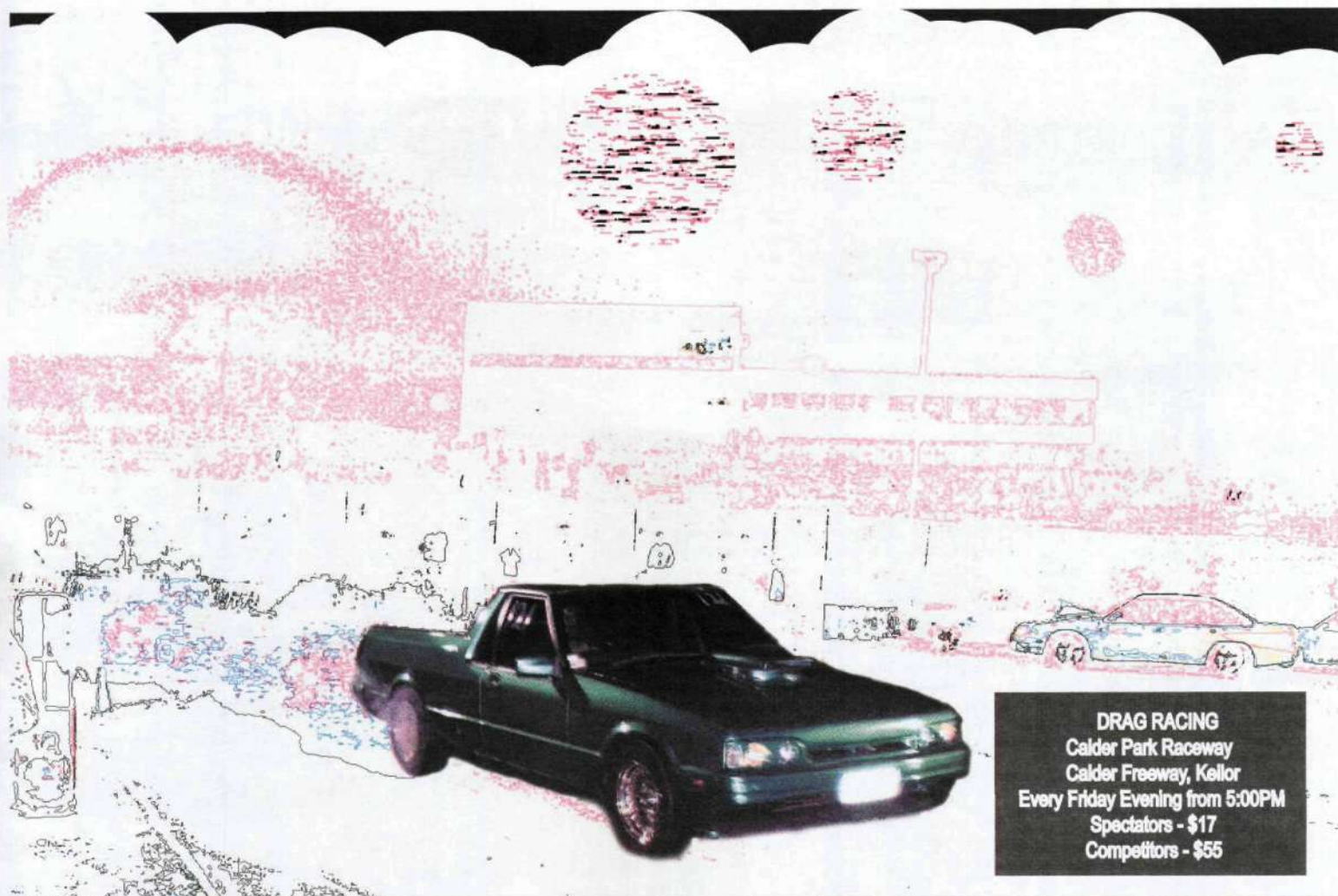
the altimeter on my chest creep higher and higher. Then finally, just above 11,000 feet other skydivers in the plane got up and checked each other's gear. It was show time!

The cold fresh air rushed through the cabin as they rolled open the door at the side of the plane. The first group set themselves up on the door and then jumped out. It was an awesome sight seeing a group of four people exiting the plane linked together. Finally after everyone else had exited, it was my turn.

I made my way towards the opened door nestled between my two jump masters at either side of me. Then shouting at the top of my lungs, adrenalin pumping to my brain, I counted down and made that two feet leap of faith into the open sky. It was an amazing feeling leaping into this void where all you feel is air gushing around your body as you accelerate to around 200 kilometres per hour. I looked around and enjoyed this spectacular view, where the clouds are at eye level and you have an unobstructed view of the ground below. Then about a minute later, at 4,000 feet, I pulled my ripcord as planned. The loud sound of wind gushing through my equipment was suddenly replaced by near total silence as I gently flew down to the ground. It took about fifteen minutes to fly down under the canopy. It was the perfect opportunity to soak in the view and reflect on the most exhilarating minute of my life.

Even though every person I share this experience with was captivated, only a few dare to take the ultimate plunge. The vast majority of them refuse to try skydiving due to the risks involved. The truth is that skydiving does have risks... but so does everything else we engage in. Now let me put these risks into perspective. First of all, most people are deterred by the fear that their parachute will not open. The fact is that most fatalities associated with the sport were not due to their parachute not opening nor is it due to their equipment malfunctioning. Most of them can be attributed to human error, overconfidence or just plain bad judgement. It is a sport well regulated by the Australian Parachute Federation (APF) who ensures that its regulations are being adhered to by visiting affiliated drop zones. They ensure that the equipment used is up to scratch and the training facilities and methods are of a high standard.

The allure of skydiving is different for everyone. Other people are seduced by the rush they get, the challenge of creating intricate formations whilst travelling at high speeds and the intimate sense of community associated by the sport. For me, the allure of skydiving is all this coupled with the sense of freedom that I experience when I'm out there in the clear blue skies above Nagambie. It is the sense of having all your cares in the world vanish into thin air or left behind in the aircraft that you have just jumped out of. For around one minute, your mind is purged of all your burdens and you experience a great sense of freedom as you cruise through the skies carefree.



DRAG RACING
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FEEL THE NEED... THE NEED FOR SPEED

CALDER PARK DRAG RACES

BY VAUGHN BAYLEY

For whatever reason, Drag Racing seems to have a bad name. My local rag had an 'exposé' about how the local cops were going to do a crack-down on people doing burnouts and drags. Insurance companies hate insuring cars with modifications or engines sufficient to power anything greater than a light globe. The media has traditionally painted drag racing as a 'hoon sport' - unlike football, which only results in rapes - and has jumped upon any opportunity to represent it in a bad light, despite relating the wonderful glories of the Formula One Grand Prix, who have more lucrative sponsorship deals. Despite all the propaganda, dropping by the Calder Park Drag Races is an excellent way to embrace safety and have a brilliant night enjoying the opportunities provided by an ultra-cool road machine - or even a shitty one.

First of all, we'll set the record straight. It was the late 1970's. Drag Racing was considered a problem, due to exposure and fears of pedestrians being killed, drivers being killed, parked cars being killed, lampposts being killed. There was always a road machine around some corner, the driver salivating lasciviously, revving his oversized engine awaiting either an innocent little child, or a feeble old lady with a walking frame, to cross in front of him. It was a part of everyday phobia with nothing whatsoever to do with drag racing.

Then Bob Jane decided to encourage drag racing off the street and the Calder Park Drag Races began. On the opening night, 30 000 people came to enjoy the spectacle. It was endorsed by the police and the media forgot to slag off the mixture of cars, speed and, sometimes, youth. Today, the popularity of the drag races have changed the frequency of the meetings from monthly to weekly - with an average of 1700 spectators and 100 cars spinning their wheels at each meeting.

Concerns about the safety of drag racing are well founded. Movies have shown that even the slightest collision involving a vehicle will result in an explosion equivalent to that of Hiroshima. In an *A Current Affair* styled admission of not quite guilt, Peter Bridge, organiser of the Calder Park Drags, says that in the twenty-five years or so that the drags have been run, injuries have been known to happen. The most severe he could remember was a broken arm. When we visited, it seemed like another driver may have been coming down with a cold - possibly even bird-flu, although I don't know that this satisfies the qualification of it being a dangerous sport.

In actual fact, safety is a primary concern at the drags. There is always a full safety team, including an ambulance, on standby. All drivers must wear helmets and seat belts or safety harnesses. Burnouts are only permitted at specific times, in specific places, and even then, only under instruction from staff. All vehicles need to be checked over prior to being permitted to compete. Spectators are kept separate from the track area with concrete barriers, cyclone fencing, security and, most prominently, a well-inbued display of

common sense. The barricades around the track are designed specifically to stop drivers and spectators being hurt.

As for burnouts, these are embraced and promoted. Peter Bridge says intelligently that it is much better for drivers to attempt burnouts and drags in a controlled environment, where the only thing they'll hurt is their vehicle. He even runs a burnout competition, and the crowds love them. Nothing is quite the same as watching an old Torana spinning about a kilo of tyre rubber into smoke behind it. Contrary to popular belief, there is a skill to doing burnouts, and of course, a need. Drivers spin the wheels prior to dragging so as to heat the wheels and get a better grip on the tarmac, meaning a better take off. It all seems worth it when a '53 Pick-Up Hot Rod can get so good a grip as to get the front end of the vehicle a good 40cm off the ground.

Anyone is able to compete in the drags. The predictable volley of Commodores and Falcons were there, as well as about a dozen Toranas (good for modifications due to an engine bay large enough for a V8 and a turbo) as well as Skylines, Monaros, a (shithouse) Mercedes, Valiants and motorbikes, ranging through a dirt bike, to, surprisingly, a few Harleys, R1s and a postie bike. Don't feel that you need to drag a super-modified ultra-expensive macho-car. One guy was dragging in a Camry station-wagon. The P plates were still up, but the baby seat had been taken out. There was only one car we saw with fluffy dice hanging from the mirror. Almost every car we saw there was street-legal.

Some of the drivers we spoke to had spent enormous amounts on their cars. That is \$20 000 just on modifications. Other vehicles had slightly less cash applied to them. For instance, a 1974 Valiant that was found in a field and bought for \$400, was still able to match the speeds of the cars that didn't look like they'd come from wreckers. One driver said that he didn't consider the amount to be too great, as it was the only form of entertainment he gave himself. Most people would spend over \$5000 a year on videos, movies, the opera or perhaps more, just on porn; he spent his spare cash on his car. Others said it was worth it. A white Torana had been a saving grace in bringing one family together. The vehicle, coming from scratch, with every modification being carefully seen to, had been a family project that Dad, Mum and the two brothers had all been able to see to and share.

The drag races are open to anyone, to compete or watch. The sounds of revving engines, squealing wheels and molten tyre rubber sticking to a vehicle's wheels, the experience of huge grey wreaths of burnt-out tyre rubber, complete with smell, the pride of exhibiting pride and joy in a vehicle, and to show its potential and ability in a controlled, safe racing environment is something that no one should feel ashamed to enjoy, even if it means being labelled a 'hoon' by some moron from the media.

EXTREME SPORT OF THE EDITION



POLE SITTING

lot's wife monash university student newspaper | oh four sport

The sport of Pole-Sitting has its origins from two diverse points in history. Initially, it gained its popularity in the fifth century, when a lack of reality television drove people to the extreme of religion. Wandering along outside of Aleppo, Syria, a devout priest, named Simeon, happened across one of several priests named St. John, who was perched atop a wooden pole.

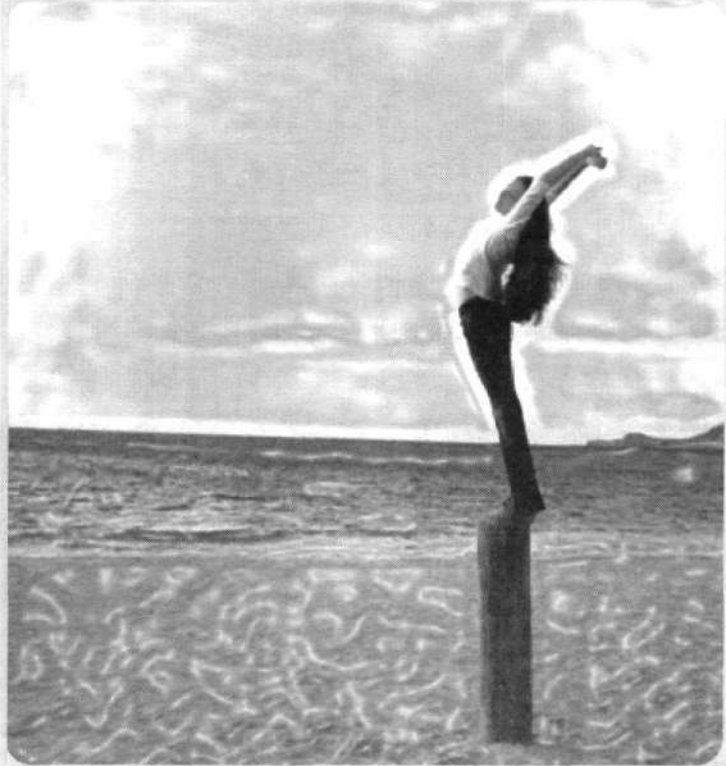
Needless to say, Simeon equated this past time with a manner of coming closer in his relationship with God. He spent, on various poles, some as much as eighteen metres tall, a total of thirty-six years being close to God, as well as becoming a tourist attraction, with people coming from as far as France and Germany to see him. He was, at the time, the most famous person in the world. Thus, we now have reality television.

It was in fact another non-related St. Simeon that copied the trend, eventually instigating a religious order, the Stylites or 'pole-hermits'. He kept the religious side going, having a small platform atop his pole, from which he gave sermons, entertained guests and occasionally cooked cheesecake. He died too.

Fifteen hundred years later, in 1952, several villages in Holland were flooded. The people, being Dutch, got high... on their poles, where they sat, awaiting rescue. Somehow, the idea of sitting on the poles and not having religion involved, turned pole-sitting into an international sport. The Dutch are still considered the purists of the sport.

Rules at the World Pole Sitting Championships, held at Soltan, near Hamburg in Germany, are very specific. Poles need be 2.5m tall and allow a small platform, no more than 60cm x 40cm, about the size of a newspaper, to function as a seat atop the pole. Contestants are limited to a maximum of ten minutes toilet break once every two hours, but at other times, sensors measure to ensure that adequate backside pressure is being placed upon the platforms. Cameras are also used as a back up, and to allow for slow motion replays on for those who are watching it on the television at home. Several contestants have been caught out by these mechanisms, as they adjusted their sitting positions. They were either disqualified or shot.

Even still, a person sitting on a pole is enough to draw a crowd. It is in fact the crowds that keep contestants going, provide interest and mental stimulation. Otherwise, they only have reality television. Typically, the World Pole Sitting Championships entice up to a dozen contestants each year. Half of these are usually gone within two to three weeks of the competition's commencement. It is only the truly committed who are able to sit on their poles, through rain, hail, snow, sub-zero temperatures and despite the threat of terrorist attacks, pins and needles and geographically astray woodpeckers. The world record holder is an unemployed man, Daniel Baraniuk, who sat on his perch for a total of 196 days, the closest attempts since have been a mere 184 days. And Daniel's nationality? He's a Pole.

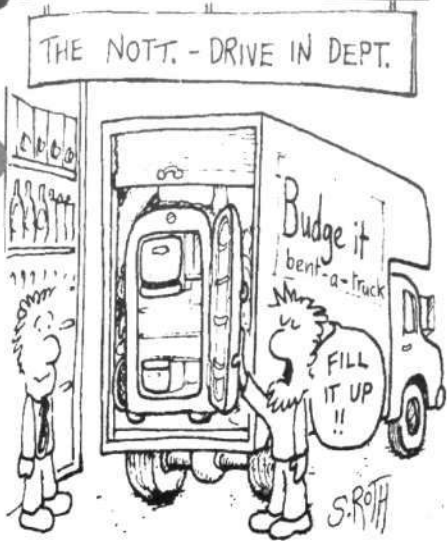


BY VAUGHAN BAYLEY

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WHY STUDY WHEN YOU CAN WIN BIG!
TAKE A PHOTO OF A SPORTING CELEBRITY HOLDING A COPY OF LOT'S WIFE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A SPORTING CELEBRITY OF YOUR OWN!



LOTS WIFE FOOTY TIPPING

Submit your tips to June's desk, 1s floor campus centre, by 5pm on due date. Tip all 8 in a round and win a slab of Carlton Draught. Overall winner gets 5 slabs! Term and conditions apply.

CUT OUT

CUT OUT

ROUND 5
DUE THURSDAY 22ND APRIL

Name _____
 Student/Staff ID: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

circle winner

Richmond v Adelaide
 Carlton v Eagles
 St. Kilda v Kangaroos
 Lions v Hawthorn
 Swans v Melbourne
 Collingwood v Essendon
 R. Adelaide v Bulldogs
 Fremantle v Geelong

ROUND 6
DUE THURSDAY

Name _____
 Student/Staff ID: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

circle winner

Hawthorn v Richmond
 Kangaroos v Bulldogs
 Essendon v Sydney
 St. Kilda v Brisbane
 Eagles v Fremantle
 Geelong v Adelaide
 Carlton v Melbourne
 Port A. v Collingwood

ROUND 7
DUE THURSDAY 6TH MAY

Name _____
 Student/Staff ID: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

circle winner

Western Bulldogs v Essendon
 Carlton v Collingwood
 Fremantle v St. Kilda
 Kangaroos v Brisbane Lions
 Port Adelaide v Adelaide
 Sydney Swans v Richmond
 Melbourne v West Coast Eagles
 Hawthorn v Geelong

ROUND 8
DUE THURSDAY 13TH MAY

Name _____
 Student/Staff ID: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

circle winner

Adelaide vs Essendon
 Richmond vs Western Bulldogs
 West Coast Eagles vs Sydney Swans
 Brisbane Lions vs Carlton
 St. Kilda vs Collingwood
 Hawthorn vs Fremantle
 Geelong vs Melbourne
 Kangaroos vs Port Adelaide

MOVING HOUSE? THEN SHIFT YOURSELF... DOWN THE NOTT.

MUSIC REVIEWS

album of the edition



No hints, no clues, no lies. Ruck Rover

No Hints, No Clues, No Lies is the third album for Melbourne-based group Ruck Rover, and it's packed full of indie-pop goodness. This album makes me wonder why pop fans turn to foreign, commercial "artists" who don't even write their own songs, are predictable and ultimately boring. Ruck Rover offer a catchy, quirky brand of pop that is entertaining and unusual. Most songs' foundations consist of electric guitars and percussion, with additional depth of some really funky synthesising. Most notable for cool disco-synth is "Chat Room", which can't help but make you dance. One of Ruck Rover's chief strengths are some wonderful vocal melodies and harmonies, which often hide the irony and humour of the band's lyrics. Along side the chirpy melodies of some of the upbeat songs ("Chat Room", "Married Sensibilities", "[It's] Untitled"), are some lovely ballads that manage to be sincere instead of what otherwise might've been corny. Being a Melbourne band, I suspect that the title track "Please Respect Our Neighbours (and leave me quietly)" may have been written with music venues such as The Empress and Good Morning Captain in mind...in case you don't know, they've been struggling with their neighbours about noise, to which I'd like to quote from the title track "If you never find what you want then you better want what you find". Long live Melbourne music!

Jono Chee



Fragile Daydreams Mandy Kane

The pun writes itself, the name of this album could have simply been tragic; the only thing dream like about the whole package is the suggestion that Kane is "an artist with a rare depth of talent". Badly written and severely over produced the record feels childish, as though recorded by a high school music class with production assistance from an ambitious young music school graduate.

The majority of the album is essentially bubblegum pop re-packaged. While Kane's influences are clear, the talent of the artists he attempts to emulate has not rubbed off on this young songwriter and instead he has given us a collection of silly pop songs. The one true musical moment on the album is the rather pretty track "Stupid Friday", so far removed from the rest of the record musically it seems as though this track was either added later or the reason why the album was recorded in the first place, the rest of the collection being filler.

The production - Kane is credited as the producer - on the record is too sanitised, lacks character or distinctive style, creating a generic soulless sound. Mixer Tony Escribano however has done a phenomenal job; each element of the sound scape is in its proper place, clear and the balance never becomes too high or muddy. Overall the record relies too much on studio production to compensate for the shortcomings of the songs themselves.

If nothing else this record successfully proves that the sounds of 1990's studio pop have disappeared for a reason. While the album may find itself enjoying the fifteen minutes of chart fame shared by Australian kid winners and Popstars runners-up, a search for depth in this album will leave you with nothing but an empty feeling and a splitting headache

Sean Williams



Zilties Kashmir

On the first impression of Kashmir's Zilties many would support the generalist view that it's Denmark's answer to Coldplay. Yet this passionately composed work doesn't deserve to be pigeon-holed so simply. Yes, it can be said Kashmir are part of the 'mellow alternative rock' genre, but Zilties holds much more within its softly sang lyrics and intensely beautiful, sincere sound. This is the fourth album for the four piece, who formed in Copenhagen 1994, and follows the award winning *The Good Life* released 1999. Already it has received acclaim winning four Danish Music Awards, including best cover and best Danish Rock album and was mixed by John Cornfield who has worked with Muse, Supergrass, The Stone Roses and The Verve. The band is comprised of the standard format vocals, guitar, bass and drums but incorporates interesting instruments increasing the richness of its texture, including the yamskin bell og woerbar harper, a traditional Danish instrument. This emphasises the folksy sound of the single "Rocket Brothers", which continues to emerge throughout Zilties. The frequent use of pulsating beats drives the music and inspiring lyrics. Although mellow, Zilties is not a lullaby but a passionate and energetic album.

Hayley Maher



Nightbreak and the Sons of Becker The Coral

Well what a little gem I have in my hot little hands. Now I was quite disappointed when I saw that this CD was only 28 minutes long, until I found out that this beauty is actually a mini album to tide everyone over till their next album. And guess what? It was recorded spontaneously and live over 7 days. It also explains the strange quotes/samples and interestingly disturbing artwork. They have a dip at just about everything, the stripped back "Lover's Paradise" to the upbeat "Venom Cable" to the dark "Song of the Corn". With a psychedelico/country sound with an undaring folk theme to it The Coral come out with a very laid back sound which seems to work so well, so easily. Asking the deep questions such as "should I follow the sorrow or the song?" nothing seems to really make sense. With rarely a foot put wrong (although they do stumble once or twice) The Coral do what is sadly missing in today's commercial music scene, that is play whatever they feel like, how they want to. Whilst not overly produced, *Nightbreak and the Sons of Becker* (a crafty allusion to being Boris Becker's illegitimate sons) comes across as a very slick piece of music which should be in the record collection of everyone. Sadly it's a limited pressing so this not going to happen. If you can get your hands on it give it a go for something a little different.

Stephen Dougherty



Ocean Avenue Yellowcard

I was pleasantly surprised - after a full run through of Yellowcard's new album *Ocean Avenue*, not only did it fly past expectations, but it performed well beyond any other album from the alternative genre 'kicking around' presently. *Ocean Avenue* is the fourth full album from an unconventional, diverse Canadian group that features guitars, drums, singers, and a violin! The most appealing trait of this album was that it's not dogged by the all too typical rebellion (where every track sounds the same) that features in so many albums in this genre.

However, Yellowcard doesn't just step away from the pack in one respect. The entire 13 track CD is free from any songs shorter than three minutes, and basically the whole album is worth listening to, not just the first few tracks (see Jet's new album). Don't go thinking it's all sunshine though - at times the violin and guitars slide together beautifully, yet others

("Believe" especially) the combination figures like a heavy weight bout between Angus Young and a blind Beethoven (evidently one-sided). Yellowcard are on a winner and shouldn't suffer from public ignorance, so if you've got the money you won't be disappointed.

Hugh Forrest



lot's wife monash university student newspaper | oh four
music

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single giveaway

- LMC vs U2 (MRA)
- 28 Days (FMR)
- Eskimo Joe (FMR)
- Betchadupa (WAR)
- Ultrabeat (MRA)
- Lasgo (MRA)
- Walkerman (MRA)
- Gyroscope (FMR)

To win one of these singles be one of the first to come up and tell us the capitol of Chad.



Spiderbaby? Oops, already taken by a band in the US. Spidersauce? Hmm, not very biting. How about... Spiderbait? "We had to choose (our name) that night!", so Janet tells me, the bass player and vocalist for the fine Aussie band we now inadvertently know as Spiderbait. The band has just let loose their first single from their latest album, *Tonight, Alright, Black Betty*, a late 1970's Ram Jam cover, has already been pounced on by radio stations and is being played all over the nation. Why this particular number? Apparently Janet, Kram (drummer and vocalist) and Whit (guitarist and vocalist) were all "kind of fans of it" as kids growing up in the 80's, and eventually began playing it at soundchecks. "We really dug playing it! It's just that mesh of ridiculous rock and guitar and cock-rock - it's hilarious, I think!" Good choice, too, it seems. The song makes itself at home astonishingly well with the rest of the 3 piece, back-to-basics rock 'n' roll album - it wouldn't be too tricky to mistake it as being a Spiderbait original.

As for the rest of the album - well, plop down on your beanbag, turn up the stereo, and put your remote control away 'cos it's all worth a good listen. "Singles for other bands seem so much more obvious and it's obvious that they've put so much more time into some songs and not others", Not Spiderbait. For them, "there's always this pain of trying to single out a song to represent a whole record, which is never easy", says Janet. The band prides itself on focusing wholeheartedly on each song as a potential single, and clearly don't believe in churning out a bunch of washout space-fillers with a mere couple of winners poking out. They've got the right attitude for producing a quality album. And did it work for them? Surely did. Check it out for yourselves.

Now, Spiderbait are preparing for their next tour. The plan is to "tour really hard on this record", "have a full year of travelling... and then we might need another break!" Ah, the joys and misfortunes of being a popular Aussie band. Spiderbait seem to have a love-hate relationship with the idea of touring. Janet sighs, "You're missing out on seeing your family and friends... you're paying rent and kind of going 'uh, but I wasn't here for 3 months and I had to pay rent the whole time!'. Nevertheless, she doesn't hesitate to add that "it's a small price to pay, really!" Fair enough. Amidst all this, as I found out, the band still finds



SPIDERBAIT

BY SHARON WATSFIELD

time to whack on the backpack, load up the camera and transform into fully-fledged, self-confessed "nerdy" tourists, just like the rest of us. "We went to New York and we all had to get up really early to climb the Empire State Building," Janet laughs. An array of soccer balls and footballs are also apparently a tour necessity - "stuff to kick, for when we're in the car and need to get out at service stations."

When it comes to festivals like Meredith, The Big Day Out, and Push Over, Spiderbait are in their element. "This particular one is fantastic", says Janet, referring to Push Over, where they played most recently to a crowd at Luna Park (to

my absolute dismay, Janet informs me that they "didn't even get a chance" to go on the rides, and that in any case, it was "way too scary!"). They played amongst an array of other Australian bands, including Sunk Loto and Antiskeptic. "It's brilliant. It just shows that a healthy scene has and this whole area, it's amazing."

Thinking back to *Buy Me a Pony* which won them first place in *Triple J's Hottest 100* in 1996, Janet describes the experience as, "pretty amazing, I guess! I didn't realize it at the time, though... we were like, 'oh that's nice, a radio station did that for us!' You don't realize at the time how significant it is."



THE PICTURES

Rock is indisputably back and thriving around the world. But, in a time where every second band is being labeled a "savior of rock" it's hard for a band to stand out from the rest. However, this notion doesn't seem to trouble Davey Lane, frontman of The Pictures (and lead guitarist for You Am I). You could draw similarities to certain bands - "we just do what we do because we love it. We've loved music since we were kids... it's a grasshopper so it seemed like the most natural kind of evolution really."

The Pictures are a rock band however their sound does vary tremendously. When we play live we tend to play more our rock songs. But we have a lot of different styles. There're probably sides of the band that people haven't really seen yet. I'd like to think we're a bit more ambitious than that [rock]. At times their sound resembles bands like The Ramones or The Rolling Stones whereas at others it's reminiscent of The Beatles or The Beach Boys. "They were all big influences, I guess they're the main ones when you're a kid growing up and you get into music. You start with bands like The Beatles and The Who."

Being a Sydney native I had to ask Davey for his thoughts on my hometown. "I don't live anywhere else, I'm fairly entrenched in Melbourne. Sydney is good, but maybe in a bit of a way it's a bit too dumb for Sydney. It's not going to be a good idea to relax. There's definitely a healthier music scene here."

What about my Melbourne fashion theory? On the back of their new (and fantastic) EP, *Somebody Don't*, now they're all looking resplendent in formal. Was it an intentional fashion statement? "We don't mind out the clothing memo to each other... we say so we all turned up in the same bloody shirt" he laughs. I'm quickly told that I'm a loser and that fashion is irrelevant, "fashion isn't an important part because, you know it's "all about the music man!" If I dress up for a gig, its not because I'm trying to be a ponce or an "everybody look at me" kinda. If I mess up and if I feel like I stand out a more it helps me to play a bit better for some reason."

The Pictures are about to finish their national tour

back home in Melbourne with Jet, playing to larger crowds at larger venues. But being a support band can't be easy. I guess it just makes me want to fucking go out there and play. When we play support shows we've got something to prove so we go out there and try and let people know that we're just as good as the band that we're supporting."

It's curious to wonder why a band that's been around for playing with a band also just makes their mind the same status. Oh no. Certainly not. I think it has been tried that kind of rock band. We're certainly not aiming for the same thing as them. What's happened to them has been kind of tremendous and I don't think it can be repeated willie nille."

As one of Melbourne's finest rock bands, I thoroughly urge you all to go and check them out because, as Davey Lane cheekily says, "We're generally kind of brilliant!" Before reassuring me that he was only joking. He convinced me though.

By Anthea Cohen



ELBOW

It's not often you see rock-stars out of their beds before sunset. But Manchester outfit Elbow aren't your typical performers. Currently supporting Placebo on the Australian leg of their tour, Elbow's lead singer, Guy Garvey, and lead guitarist, Mark Potter, make an early morning trip down to breakfast in their hotel lounge to talk about all things rock. Fresh from their very well-received solo show at the Hi Fi Bar the night before, Elbow are clearly delighted to be in their new favourite city - Melbourne. They begin the interview by inquiring about the vibrant local scene, which they dub "the new Manchester". Reflecting upon the Manchester music scene, Potter feels that the reason so many artists thrive in his UK home-town is due to the enormous sense of community and lack of rivalry amongst peers. "There's no one-upmanship. We drink at the same bars; we do gigs together...it's a nice sort of gang feeling really."

Elbow's Mercury Prize nominated first album, *Asleep in the Back* took ten years to create, whilst their second record, *Cast of Thousands*, was pieced together relatively swiftly. Their debut album was the best of material compiled whilst they had no real fan-base and were working a variety of mundane jobs to make ends meet. In contrast, when the second album was created, the band found themselves in a comfort zone, riding the wave of success from their first

album and satisfied that they could now be full-time, signed musicians. Thus, the desire to produce music left them for a while: "The first album was very insular. We were writing for ourselves really...With the second album we were thinking 'oh, people will be listening to this.' That shapes how you go about things. Suddenly it was upon us and we wondered why we had stopped writing." But Elbow was also feeling the pressure which came from a successful debut. The quick production of the second album served as an important lesson for the band, the boys not wanting to have to work so quickly again. Now, Elbow is more vigilant than ever about their creative process, setting up portable studios, writing in journals every night and absorbing their surroundings for inspiration. "We're trying to write a song a day...We have a guitar and piano set up and when [we] come off tour [we] can listen to all these different-sounding dressing-rooms. You have the influences of everything around you."

But Elbow also hope to connect with their audiences on more than an emotional level. When the idea of war in Iraq first loomed, Garvey was one of the few musicians actively speaking out against it. Elbow believe that having a social conscience should not be something exclusive to musicians: "It's about everybody...You can't have rights without responsibilities." Garvey states his surprise at Australian audiences taking his onstage comments on-board, revealing that in the UK their political banter is often met with apathetic stares.

The title of their second album, *Cast of Thousands*, also immediately exposes Elbow's very real desire for inclusiveness and communication between stage and audience. Whilst acknowledging a place for performers who take on an exaggerated stage persona, Elbow prefers to forge a tangible sense of intimacy with their listeners through the honesty and sincerity of their lyrics. "We want [the audience / stage] barrier to come down. That's why it's important for people to see us enjoying ourselves onstage and interacting with each other...We sort of [perform] in a semi-circle where we can look at each other all the time."

This sense of inclusiveness is immediately apparent on the cover-sleeve of *Cast of Thousands* - which lists the names of over four thousand fans who sang along to 'Grace Under Pressure' at Elbow's recent Glastonbury

appearance and whose spontaneous chorus was included on the record.

After the touring is over, the band hope to get away to a Scottish island and have boy's own adventures whilst working on their next album. Fishing, hiking and relaxing as they work brings Elbow closer together and provide an atmosphere appropriate to focusing on the music and the sentiment rather than commercial constraints and expectations that might be prevalent in a big city. The band states that the anthemic quality present of the music of *Cast of Thousands* has informed the work currently being created. This, says Elbow, is the kind of music fans can expect from their next album. Elbow's adoration for the vibrant Australian music scene has borne a desire to return soon on a larger scale tour, which is indeed fantastic news for music fans all over our country.

BY CARINA GARLAND AND SARAH NORMAN



lot's wife monash university student newspaper | oh four music

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BRAND NEW



A couple hours before their headlining act at the Hi-Fi Bar, I got the chance to sit down with vocalist Jesse Lacey and drummer Brian Lane, two pieces of the rock quartet Brand New. On tour with pop punk giants Blink 182, the Long Island, New York natives talked about their recent hit album *Deja Entendu*, being thrust into the media spotlight, music piracy, and how to stay true to yourself on the way to rock stardom.

How long have you guys been playing together? What's has been the biggest challenge in getting your music heard?

Jesse: Four years. Recently, I think the biggest challenge is kind of trying to stay ourselves in the face of the media, the fact that our name has gotten out now and a lot more people know who we are. We're in some kind of spotlight so to say. Everyone wants to tell you who you are or what you sound like or what you look like. For us to stay true to ourselves that's the hardest thing.

Brian: It's a big challenge to stay on the road as much as we do too. When we were growing up, the only way to get music out there is to be on tour constantly. Now that we do it so much,

it's so tiring and ruins a lot of relationships that you have at home. You're always not as close to your family. It's a love/hate thing.

Do you guys consider yourselves punk? What do you guys think of all the labels in the scene?

Jesse: We try to stay away from the whole genre thing. I mean our roots and our mindset came from listening to hardcore. The music is definitely not anywhere near punk, I don't think. We're not too punk. We like the Hilton.

How do you feel about the state of the music industry concerning music piracy?

Jesse: I feel like there's certain people who aren't in any possession to get that upset over it. I mean if you have 4 or 5 million dollars, like who cares if some dude is downloading your song. Just be glad that he likes your band. At the same time there's the people who scrape a living off of music and maybe they do need every cent. It's a hard to think about. What we care about is that people listen to us not that people buy us. We like making a living off this and strive to everyday, but the real reason we do it is to get the music out. The internet is just a way that music has been spread. If it weren't for a lot of those websites and free downloading, we wouldn't have gotten out in the first place. It's been a good thing for us. I go to a show and some kid is singing at the top of his lungs to my song and he downloaded it for free, I don't give a crap. Look how much he's excited about it.

Do fans recognize you guys out on the streets?

Brian: The minute we got here there were people at the hotel.

Any weird stalker stories?

Brian: There was one time someone got my cell phone number and kept calling me saying they were from the Make a Wish Foundation. They would put someone on the phone and act like all they wanted was to talk to us. It was so creepy. They would call my house and wake up my parents.

I read your bio from Virgin's website, it said you guys lost the hard disk with the original of your first album *Your Favorite Weapon* on it...what happened?

Jesse: We actually broke it. We ended up paying for the record twice. I think we might have improved on it the second time around.

How long did it take to record *Your Favorite Weapon* compared to *Deja Entendu*?

Jesse: The recording on the first record was so sparse and spread out over different periods of time. It took a good month, 2 hours here, 6 hours there. The second record was recorded at one studio in one chunk. That was the first time we got to work with a producer and really focus on a record without any distractions.

What's your most embarrassing moment on stage?

Brian: There's always a bunch of things where someone swings the wrong way and hits someone in the head. You look over and Garrett's (Brand New's Bassist) head is bleeding everywhere and it's really embarrassing. "Laughs"

Is the lyric writing process collaborative in the band?

Jesse: They help me out by driving me insane to a point where I'm so stressed I write lyrics.



the refuge

She remembered her grandmother's garden. As a child, she spent many hours there after school. There was always the opportunity to sit inside and watch television, but there was something - something outside that seemed to appeal to her. "Was it the fact that in this garden I could create adventures and go anywhere I wished? Or was it that in this garden I was the furthest away from all that was happening inside?" she thought.

There always seemed to be something going on in the kitchen, it was either the slow boiling pressure of the pots on the stove or the uncomfortable stares and silences at the kitchen table.

Baka, as she called her, spent many long hours in the kitchen almost as if to distract her from all that was going on around her. This was the same feeling that emanated from the garden. It was a place of refuge, from anger, from school, from everything.

It was the smell of the tomato plants, sweet, savoury and ripe, even if there were no tomatoes on them. She felt a strange empathy for those tomato plants, climbing slowly up the fence as if they were trying to escape. "Escape," she thought, [That was a great idea.]

Even though her memory may be failing now she does not, no, she cannot forget that house. Every inch of that house seemed to be interwoven into every fibre of her being. She could close her eyes and literally be in any part of that house - remembering the precise location of all the furniture, the layout of the rooms. Yet of all the places in the house, she knew she would never forget the corridor. Looking down at her left index finger, she got a shiver up her spine. It was a scar, a permanent reminder that she was once in that corridor. That sensation of fear and pain all mixed into one came rushing into her mind. The scar, she thought, would not have been there if she hadn't tried to cut open a mandarin in that corridor. To this day she has never attempted rewriting history, she was unconsciously aware that another scar of the same sort would probably trigger other painful associations.

She thought back to the garden, that sweet haven of fruit trees blossoming their honey scented spring flowers, a sign that they were patiently awaiting a special arrival in the summer. Whenever she thought of the garden, she remembered her grandmother. Not so much because she was always out there but because the garden seemed to embrace her warmly and safely, just as Baka had always done. The memory of the interior of that house on the other hand just recreated conflicts in her mind, all of which centred on her grandfather. Realising this she wondered: what was it that was so grand about him anyway? Knowing that this was a crude thought, she thought back to the garden.

Even as an adult, she always went back to that place where she could be anything she wanted.

Opening the garden gate 30 years later, she could still smell the richness of the tomato leaves and half expected them to still be there. Her gaze moved toward the fruit trees - they were gone, everything was gone. "Tatiana," a voice whispered. It sounded as though it came from inside. Her grandparents had long since died. Could it have been her memory of her grandfather playing tricks on her?

Rebeka Vidic

FIVE WORD POETRY COMPETITION WINNER

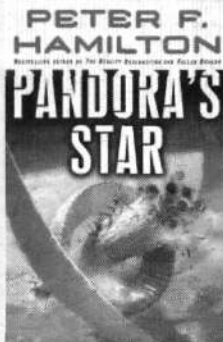
The capsicum was cut with cool indifference
Words forming canyons she isolated me,
Though weak in strength I still tried to capture
Her body there standing in black and white frame,
Yet the blue flood of light and the cool air distracting
I broke the construct within my numb hands,
And shattered amongst the past dreams eclectic
The woman I loved was a girl on the boards,
My need for affection by clear cycles exacerbated
Coincidence and fate in jeopardy there lay,
But then that I saw the blue light was dimming
I turned to the bus though my heart was delayed,
'Listen my love, our minds have departed,
So farewell, best wishes and forget me I pray.'

Chris Stewart

THE WORDS FOR THE NEXT FIVE WORD POETRY COMPETITION ARE OBVIOUS, TAJ MAHAL, CHEESE, SPIDERMAN, AND FORGOTTEN

AGAINST CULTURE

Privileged	Bile, dinner, drool
Part of a crowd	Unconscious pool
Tip back and forth	
	Throw up more
Luscious liquids	Numb thought
Clever colors	On the floor
Absorb	
	Puke
Venomous vats	Pass out
Stupid syrup	Rot
Everyone sips	
	Wake wozy
Everyone stares	Head ache
At my seclusion	Hang over
Shots I miss	
	Sunrise stutter
Peer pressure	Force fed culture
Liquor lies	Fuck that,
Blend	Out of my face.
Toilet flush mix	Jason Jedrusiak



Pandora's Star

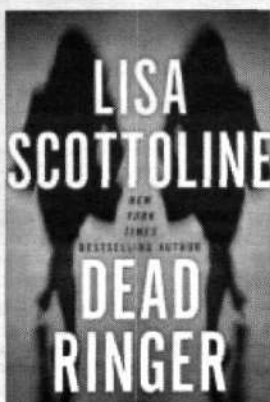
Britain's bestselling science fiction writer (so the front cover of the book informed me), Peter F. Hamilton has returned with yet another epic outer space saga. Pandora's Star is huge in both scope and length - clocking in at over 880 pages. The story is set in 2380, when humans have colonised the galaxy and formed a peaceful, rich and long-lived society, known as the Intersolar Commonwealth. It features a large cast of human and alien characters - including a sentient alien starship. The plot centres on the disappearance of an entire star system and the search to find out how or what was responsible, requiring the building of the first faster-than-light spaceship. Pandora's Star is a very imaginative and engrossing tale, regardless of any derivation from the plethora of outer space adventures.

Its ambitious scale, while not uncommon to science fiction and fantasy novels, may prove to be a little much to come to grips with for the uninitiated. Especially when you consider that this is only the first volume in a two-part series. If you are an avid science fiction reader you will find this a well-written, vividly drawn, scientifically accurate (well, at the very least plausible sounding), and thoroughly absorbing novel. However if you are only a casual sci-fi fan, you may be well served to stick to reruns of Star Trek.

Dylan M. Williams

lot's wife monash university student newspaper | oh four

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Dead Ringer

Well, my hat is off to Lisa Scottoline. Without any trace of self-deprecation or irony, she has happily invoked a bunch of sexual, racial, queer, and goodness-knows-what-else stereotypes, brought them shudderingly to life, pumped them full of lame quips and characteristic que problems, and shovelled the resulting drivell into 340 pages of CRAP. Her protagonist, Bennie Rosato (head of an all-female- and thus giggly, fashion-obsessed, mathematically incompetent- law firm) struggles against the possibility of bankruptcy in an economic downturn which leaves many clients insolvent and unable to pay their legal bills. She takes on an enormous new case with the possibility of a commission in the tens of millions (more than sufficient, of course to save the day, and the company). However, this case isn't resolved as the plot becomes tangled in a clichéd and boring web of (I kid you not) evil twins, mysterious murders, private eye-ing by junior lawyers wiggling their behinds for information, and, of course, a gorgeous and heroic stranger with a past that doesn't quite add up (who immediately and inexplicably falls in love with Benny, saves her life once or twice, and rescues her from the certain doom of spinsterhood). Frustratingly, Scottoline also introduces a plotline in the third chapter which actually sounds like it might go somewhere interesting (if you can ignore the fact that almost the entire Italian population of Philadelphia hopes to sue the U.S. government for civil rights infringements during the second world war, utilising only the resources of one junior lawyer working on the case on her days off...), but is henceforth relegated to the backburner, before Scottoline explains in her self-indulgent thank-yous that it may or may not be continued in a sequel (apparently the book is part of a series, although this is not explained or elaborated upon, leaving you wondering what other plot devices could possibly be left for her to abuse...this was apparently the evil twin's second appearance!) Well Lisa, I'll be holding my breath for the next one... my fire is hungry.

Angeia Allen

BOOK JUNKIES

by Jessica Lamarre



Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

(Drug Addict)

by Hunter S. Thompson

A travelling excursion on the drug superhighway with Raul Duke and Dr. Gonzo on assignment in Las Vegas to cover a mint 400 dirt bike and dune buggy race. In their car is a candy land of drugs from grass, mescaline, acid, cocaine, to a wide array of multicoloured prescription drugs and beer to wash it all down. Hunter uses this story as a symbolic convention for the loss of the sixties and the disgust of a journalist shooting for the American dream.

The Secret Dream World of a Shopaholic

(Shopaholic)

by Sophie Kinsella

This is a book for anyone who has ever held their breath when they opened their credit card bill. Rebecca Bloomwood, a financial journalist, writes articles on how to organize cash yet ironically cannot keep her debts in check because of her shopping addiction. Take a glimpse into the rationalization of a woman's mind when she says, "But it was on sale!" It is best described as a quirky humorous adventure imbued with get rich quick schemes all motivated by her need to pay off a £6,000 debt.



JUNKY

(Drug Addict)

Bill is a man in the 1940's just looking for kicks in all the wrong places as he spends his days just trying to score. This almanac of drug use is an after school special gone bad as it goes into details of buying, peddling, and shooting up every drug imaginable. His extensive detail demonstrates how drugs can take up your entire life as he forgets to mention any details about his wife or otherwise. His curiosity mixed with a crowd of dodgy yet delightful characters becomes a bad cocktail as he must run from New York to Mexico to escape the cop's narcotic crackdown. Need to review your junky lingo? Just check the glossary for terms such as tea head, croaker, or goofball.



WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS

Women

by Charles Bukowski

(Alcoholic and Nymphomaniac)

Meet Henry Chinaski; poet, postman, alcoholic writer, and fifty year old womanizer. Probably the first candidate for Viagra, he scores with women half his age by answering erotic fan mails and attending poetry readings. His crude, perverted language and "victory over death" attitude about his sexual prowess make him a hard character to love. His obsession for women is only outweighed by his love for alcohol, his crutch to writing nightly and puking daily. He throws women out as fast as his bottles of vodka.



Monkey Grip

by Helen Garner

(Love and drug addictions)

"Smack habit, love habit - what's the difference? They both can kill you."

Nora's addiction is romantic love; Javo's is hard drugs, the story of a young woman in a relationship with a heroin addict. Monkey Grip, looks at the drama involved in being close to an addict and the powerlessness of watching someone you love destroy their life.



JESUS' SON

by Dennis Johnson

(Drug Addict)

Rumored to have been read by Chuck Palahniuk over 200 times, this debut book of short stories follows an unnamed narrative as he explores the grim yet at times beautifully poetic world of drugs, violence and poverty. Rather than casting aside these people who live on the fringe of society, Johnson has instead chosen to capture the beauty and tragedy of these lost lives in poetic prose.

"Down the hall came the wife. She was glorious, burning. She didn't know yet that her husband was dead.... What a pair of lungs! She shrieked as I imagined an eagle would shriek. It felt wonderful to be alive to hear it! I've gone looking for that feeling everywhere."



Trainspotting

by Irvine Welsh

Mark and his pals Sickboy, Spud, and company say "no to life" if it involves quiz shows, TV dinners, and house mortgages. Instead they spend day to day scoring drugs and learning valuable philosophical life lessons through bad cravings, violence, AIDS, and rehab. "Junk Dilemmas" are a unique sequel in between stories which are poetic metaphors and secret longings of a junky. The language is a raw spell checker's fiasco. His distinct accent is hard to understand unless you read it out aloud phonetically, just not in front of your mother.



IRVINE WELSH

Choke

by Chuck Palahniuk

(Nymphomaniac)

One of the best openings to any book is Chuck's discouraging "If you're going to read this don't bother." It only serves as a clever psychological device to make the reader more interested. Besides where else can you safely learn about joining the mile high club, using anal beads, or discovering the benefits of being a sex addict sponsor? Victor Mancini, a man with a saviour complex, has many compulsions embedded in a tale of lies from choking in highly expensive restaurants to his job, where he tells children nightmarish stories. Palahniuk's writing shows why he is thought of as being a master at word play by reinventing common clichés to present a satirical view on society.



Chuck Palahniuk

Requiem for a Dream

by Hubert Selby Jr.

(Drug Addict)

From opening a coffee shop, being a successful painter, or starring on a television show four colorful characters are sucked into the tumultuous world of diet pills and dope as they realize too late that all their sacrifices towards their dreams only suffice in destroying themselves. A bleak look into the promise of the American dream that gives only the privileged few the appropriate resources to be able to accomplish it.



marching powder

by Rusty Young

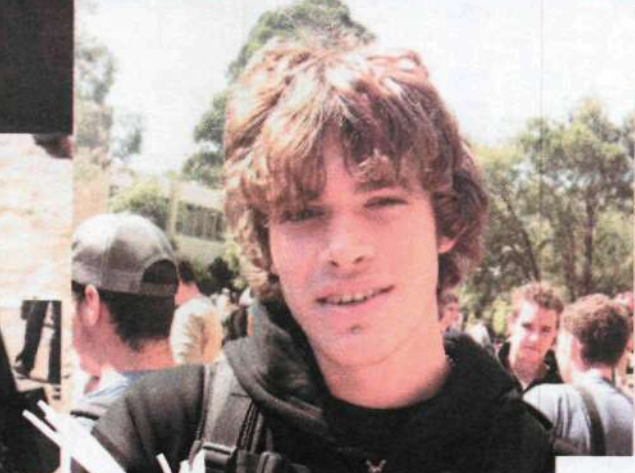
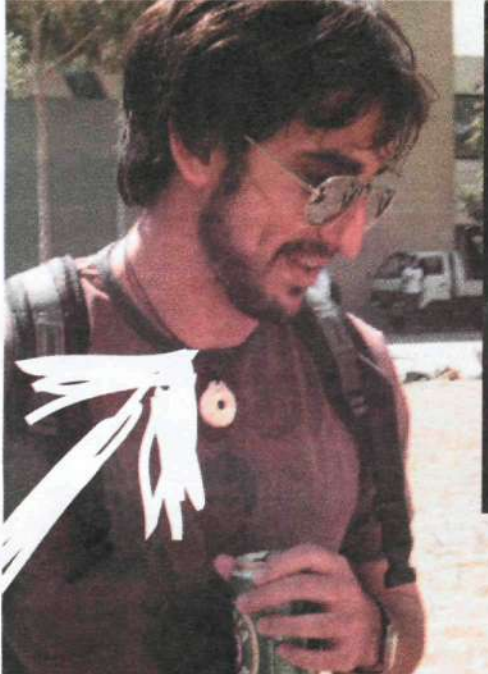
Admittedly not fiction, but unbelievable enough to be. Marching Powder follows the exploits of Thomas McFadden, a drug trafficker who is arrested and jailed in Bolivia's San Pedro prison, where inmates rent their rooms and the world's best coke is produced. Initially McFadden is disdainful about addicts, but like all of San Pedro's inmates, including the prison cat, McFadden falls into the addiction trap.





LOT'S WIFE SOCIAL PAGE OUT AND ABOUT ON MSA DAY

If your face is pointed to, come up to the office and get a 6 pack of vb!



Bus Spotting

01
Mike

I have a late lecture on Thursday, but thanks to the extra services I don't miss out on my bus spotting.

02
Sarah

Even on weekends SmartBus connects with the trains much better. So I like to spot both.

03
Ben

With 51 more buses to spot I don't have to wait for a mate to drive me.

04
Dave

I refuse to pay for parking. This is cheaper. It's easier. So now I bus spot.

05
Sue

It's harder to spot 'em near traffic lights with this new traffic signal priority technology.

- 51 more bus services on route 703.
- There's a bus every 15 minutes during peak hours.
- Additional services on weekends and at night, to better match your lifestyle.



Bus spotters won't be the the only people smiling. SmartBus can get you where you're going more reliably, frequently and simply than ever before.

For starters, we've added 51 services on route 703, including extra weekend and night services. And provided better connections to train services at Blackburn, Syndal and Clayton stations.

We've also introduced innovative computerised technology that helps your bus run on time, by changing traffic lights to green. And electronic timetables at connecting train stations give real time information on the arrival of your next bus.

We're also increasing the number of low-floor buses to provide better access for passengers with prams, wheelchair-users and the elderly.

SmartBus. It'll get you there smartly.

SmartBus is a pilot program running along the 703 Blackburn Road route. It's the first step of a Victorian Government initiative to deliver a better transport system. Your support is vital for its success.

For more information call VicTrip on 131 638 or visit www.victrip.com.au

PATTS/D13022

Monash University Organ Drive

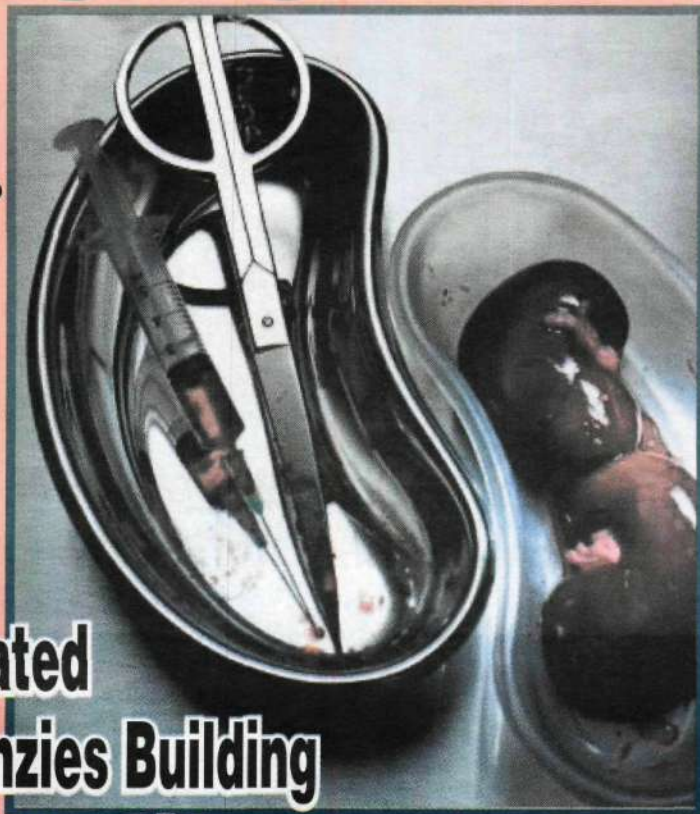
Are you in need of some quick cash because of the rise in tertiary fees?

or

Are you merely eager to be just like David Hookes?

then

Come to our mobile surgery situated on the the lawn between the Menzies Building and the Campus Centre and donate a kidney..... or two



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