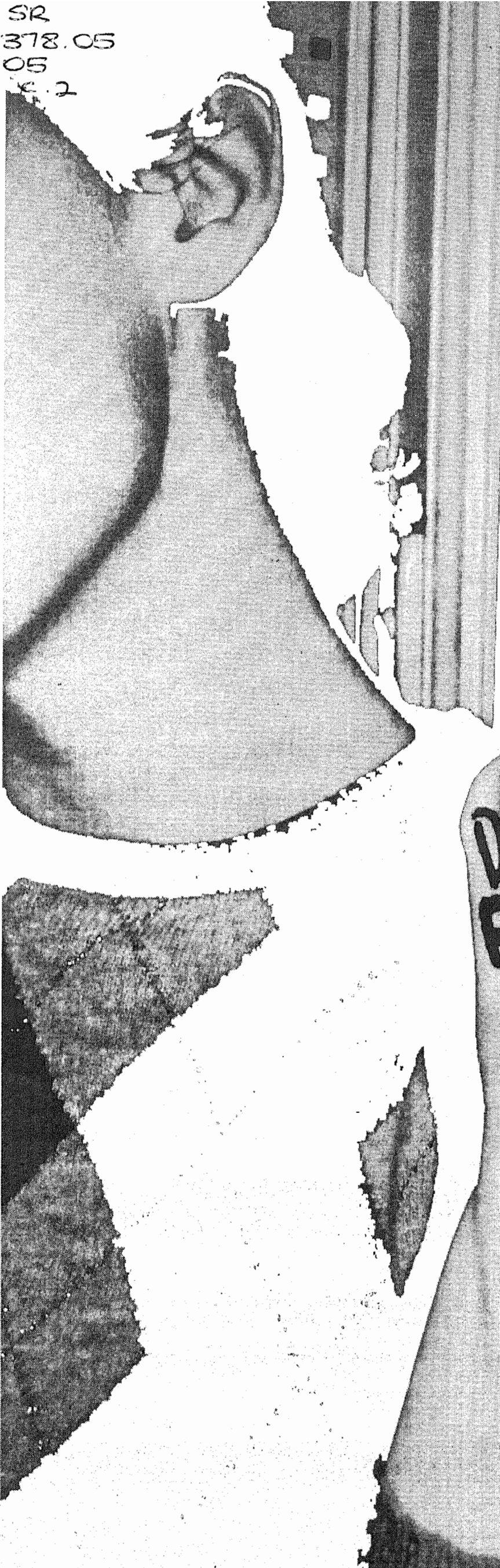


SR
378.05
05
x.2

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
20 AUG 2002
LIBRARY

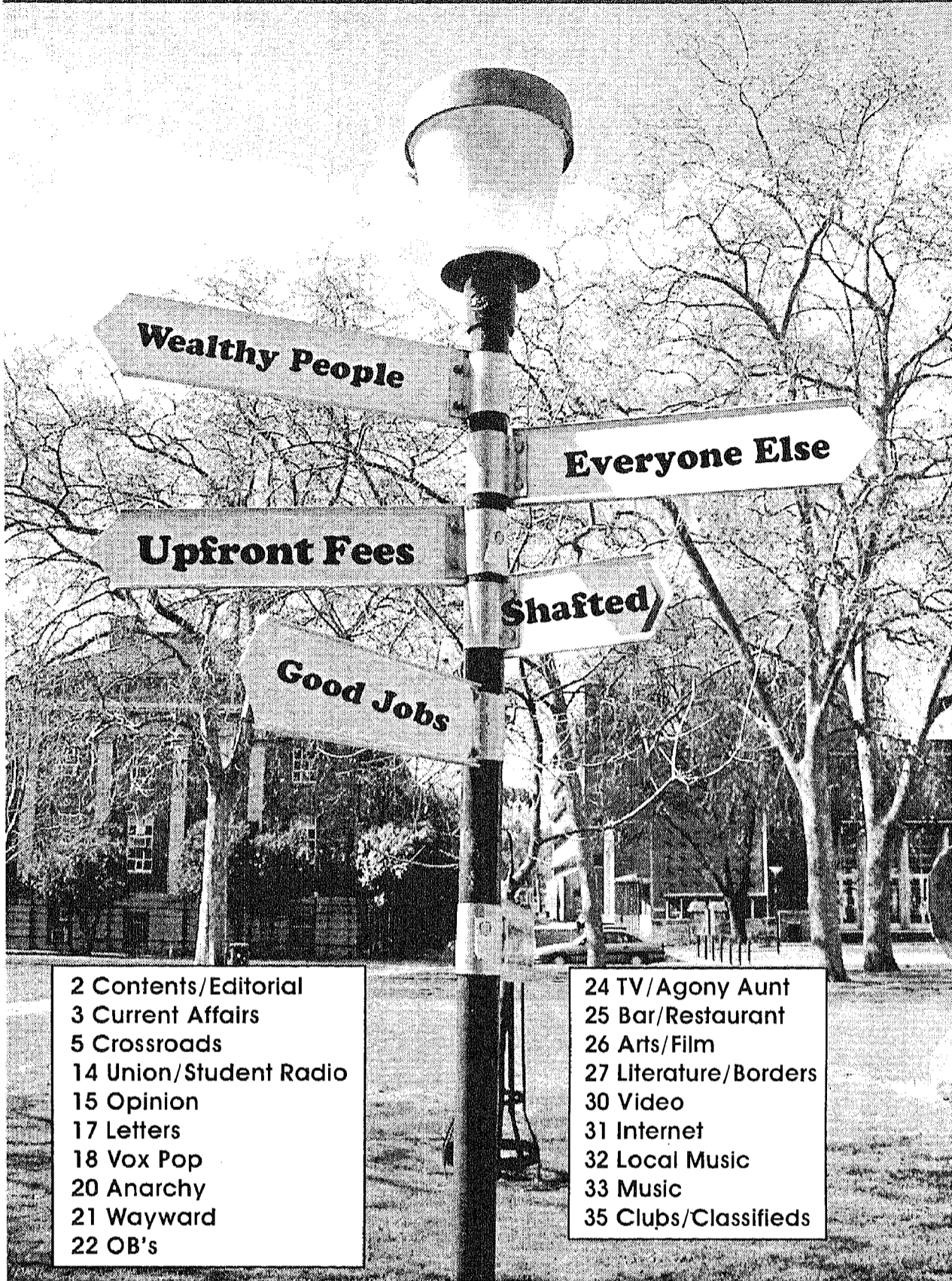


DON'T
FUCK WITH
OUR
EDUCATION



Volume 70
Edition 15
19.08.02





On Dit

Volume 70 Edition 15 19.08.02

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

Editors

Linda Rust, Jennifer Kalionis & Michael Fyfe

Advertising

Bonnie Cruickshank

Printing

Cadillac

Distribution

Jennifer and Mikey

Sub-Editors

Opinion: Gemma Clark, Tristan Mahoney

Current Affairs: Laura Anderson, Tim Williams

Wayward: Yak Rozitis, **Music:** Sara King, Matthew Osborn

Local Music: Michael Bourlotos

Film: Daniel Varricchio, **Arts:** Emily Heidrich

Literature: Melissa Vine

Video/DVD: James Trevelyan

Internet/Computers: Karen Roberts

Agony Aunts: Victoria Hammond, Sam Franzway

Vox Pop: Joseph Hynes, Paul Huebl, **Bar/Restaurant:** Clementine Ford

About the Cover: It's crude, rude and utterly deserved.

Wanna Write?

Then why not come down to our office, located in the basement of the George Murray Building (near the charmed environs of two sets of men's toilets. Note to users of the men's toilets: spelling and grammar aren't just flights of fancy to be used in essays, they are applicable in all areas of our lives, including graffiti). The office is accessible from the Barr Smith Lawns. For a more pleasant aroma, use the email address at the bottom of this page.

Next Edition:

Deadline: August 21

Published: September 2

Thanks go to: Fiona, Elvis, Mikey B, the Barr Smith Lawns, Selwyn for his fantastic tunes that keep us going on many a long layout night, Mattyo, Stan, Gemma, Bonnie, Tor Hundloe, Yak, the Almighty (you know who you are), Mikey's Grandma and the person who invented the microwave.

2 Contents/Editorial
3 Current Affairs
5 Crossroads
14 Union/Student Radio
15 Opinion
17 Letters
18 Vox Pop
20 Anarchy
21 Wayward
22 OB's

24 TV/Agony Aunt
25 Bar/Restaurant
26 Arts/Film
27 Literature/Borders
30 Video
31 Internet
32 Local Music
33 Music
35 Clubs/Classifieds



EVP Editorial

Welcome to the Crossroads edition of *On Dit*. If you haven't heard much yet about *Crossroads*, you're soon to be an expert! *Crossroads* is much more than just a bad Britney Spears movie. It is a regressive attack that has long-term implications for higher education in Australia. It threatens to take Australia back to the 1950s in the way we look at fairness and equity, access to education and the value we place in the buying power of an individual.

It has long been said that education is one of the key instruments in the promotion of equality. Education should be accessible to every member of society, not just those who can afford to pay for it.

The *Crossroads* review of higher education suggests that a person's wealth, rather than their individual academic merit should dictate whether or not they have access to education. If the suggestions in *Crossroads* come to fruition, many students, myself included, will no longer be able to study at a university level. The effect of the review is that students will bear the cost of their education, often in excess of \$50,000. This means that unless your parents can afford to

pay the thousands of dollars you need, or are willing to sell their spleens for the cause, you will not be able to get a degree.

In their third term, the Liberal/National coalition cannot be expected to hold back on their regressive moves. They will push this review through parliament, and the effects of the review will be known within the next 18 months. If you have a younger brother or sister, want to do a second degree or plan to be a professional student, I suggest you start saving now.

The proposals in the review are terrifying to say the least. We need to take action now to combat the effects before it is too late. Reading the articles in this edition should give you the background knowledge - then there are many things you can do.

This week the SAUA is holding information sessions on Tuesday at midday, or Thursday at 11am in the Union Cinema. We are also holding a general student meeting on Thursday August 29 at 1pm on the Barr Smith Lawns which coincides with the South Australian meeting of the review panel. There will be a free BBQ and entertainment on the lawns.

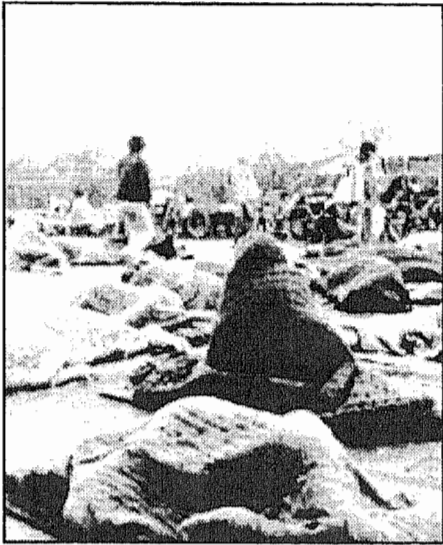
We also have t-shirts and bags available in the SAUA (\$4 for a t-shirt, \$2 for the bag) which look fantastic and are an easy way of showing your opposition to the review.

If you would like more information regarding the *Crossroads Review of Higher Education*, please contact me on 8303 5406 or email georgia.heath@adelaide.edu.au

Students can't afford this Howard Government.

Universities at a Crossroad

The *Crossroads Review into Higher Education* has proposed various models of higher education that could be implemented in the future. Some of these models involve replacing HECS with a full loans scheme, similar to the current postgraduate loans scheme, that will allow universities to charge undergraduates with full fees. The notion of a 'super-HECS' has also been introduced to add on top of normal HECS fees for degrees that are in high demand. Also proposed was the eradication of the 25% limit on the number of full fee



Students everywhere thank the Howard government for improving their living standards.

paying domestic undergraduate students that can be enrolled, charging a commercial rate of interest on HECS debts and also putting a limit on the completion time of degrees. Student opposition to these proposals is fierce.

According to the National Union of Students (NUS), Australian students contribute a greater monetary amount to the running of their universities than most other developed countries. For example, students in America contribute 19% of the running costs of their public universities, with Australian students contributing around 36%. The NUS believes the proposals initiated in the review will lead to higher student fees, making education for the elite and deterring potential students through the large debt they will encounter. They also believe the proposals will lead to a focus on short, accelerated degrees that will offer students less flexibility in their studies, and that will replace traditional face-to-face learning with online education. This is not necessarily a negative move, however there are fundamental elements of teaching, such as seminars, that are unable to be recreated over the internet. They also point to a worsening trend towards placing academic staff on casual or contract employment terms, giving them increased pressures and less time to develop research abilities. In terms of the financial situation for students, increased debts and financial pressures will see an increase in the part-time employment workload for students, with 10% of students already missing lectures frequently due to work commitments.

They also argue it will undoubtedly decrease the levels of working class and indigenous students, creating less diversity in education, and worsening the rich-poor gap. For students who can afford an education, there is also the issue of student living standards. Do we really want to create a sub-class of financially stricken students just so that they can gain an education?

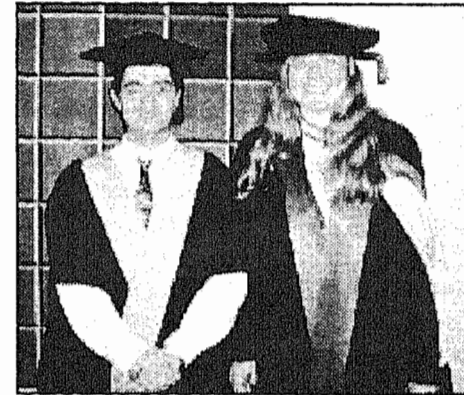
Well-funded public universities are vital to prosperity in higher education, and Australia must keep up to date with other developed countries. Australian universities must have an increase in knowledge investment, so that education remains for students with all talents, and not just for the rich. The skills of all students must be nurtured to ensure a well educated society, with high standards of living. As the AVCC stated in their discussion paper *Our Universities: Our Future*, "no nation can long afford to waste even a small fraction of its most able youth."

Jenny Macklin, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Education, believes the latest Government release on higher education is paving the way for "deterioration in the quality of university education and the conditions for academic staff." She highlighted the increase in the student to staff ratio by 30% since 1995, as well as the growth in casual and contract employment for academic staff. Macklin believes the Government discussion paper shows the preference towards casual and contract employment, with no provisions to safeguard the quality of education. The NUS agree, and believe that increasing pressures on academic staff will ultimately lead to a decrease in the diversity of

research that is undertaken, and less opportunities for postgraduate study.

Macklin believes the notion of charging students over \$100 000 for their degree will place tertiary education "out of the reach of many Australians". However she believes the higher fee will not represent a greater quality of teaching, saying the proposals will create a situation where education is "sub-standard". Macklin states that universities are a key national asset that must not be viewed as a burden in regards to government funding. Her aim for the future of higher education is a "system that can match it with the rest of the world, generating the ideas and jobs that will secure the nation's future."

There are currently 38 public universities in Australia according to the NUS, and they say that the Government proposals for higher education could create disparity in quality between universities. This difference would be based on the financial capability of its students, however, rather than its provision of academic degrees. Having students pay full student fees will obviously affect who attends university,



Fork out a few hundred thousand and this could be you!

and as a result, who becomes employed in high skilled professions. Already the average graduate will be paying back their HECS debts until their late thirties, with the Government proposals likely to increase this financial burden. NUS believe that the 'user-pays'

theory 'fails to recognise the fact that education benefits all people, not just the recipients.' The AVCC agree on this point that society 'should not take for granted the enormous public benefit that we all share in an educated workforce.'

Dr Brendan Nelson, the Federal Minister for Education, argues that universities are inefficient through providing a wide variety of courses, and alternatively should focus on specialisation. The argument for

specialisation is one that will be familiar to economists, yet there are always benefits with a multi-tasking approach, a role that most Australian public universities have adopted. The NUS believes specialisation will represent the elimination of courses with smaller enrolment levels, and ultimately will lead to less choice for students in small and regional universities. As mentioned by Jenny Macklin, the staff to student ratio is on the increase in public universities, a situation that is a reality for many University of Adelaide students. The organisational disaster of BDA last year presented a situation where students were forced to either sit on the floor of lecture rooms or miss out. Tutorial sizes across

faculties have increased, causing student interaction, not to mention comfort levels, to be at a minimal level. NUS state that international studies show that the class sizes of public universities in Australia are larger than our European and North American counterparts.

One of the major themes mentioned in the *Crossroads review* is that of flexible provision of services. What does flexibility mean in terms of higher education, and how can it be facilitated? Many universities defined flexibility in terms of offering a variety of choices to students, with others talking about flexibility in regards to access and the use of new technologies to assist with teaching. Then there were the universities that recognised flexibility as accommodating a diverse scope of learning needs and preferences. All universities were able to acknowledge that flexibility was vital to the success of public universities in the nation; however how far the government proposals acknowledge this need is still to be discovered. When governments begin to bring discussions of the constraints on resources such as staff time, the opportunities for economies of scale and the need for commercial pooling of resources, students should start to get involved and see how this will affect them. 700 000 students across Australia can have a massive political influence.

Laura Anderson

is that a smile in your pocket **notjak**

Bad Monkey, No Education

Are you down in the dumps over the Federal Government's latest batch of deregulation proposals? Well, no wonder, when newly released figures on student welfare suggest you're probably already living in one.

According to the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS), students are expected to survive on welfare payments up to 40% below the Henderson poverty line. The government's inexplicable penchant for student-bashing is highlighted by the \$40 discrepancy between the Newstart payment for the unemployed and a student Youth Allowance payment, not to mention the \$82 drop for a mature-aged person who moves from Newstart to Austudy. This is not to have a go at the unemployed: a single unemployed adult receives a payment 23% below the poverty line as it is. But as National Union of Students Welfare Officer Jillian Ferguson put it, "If we make the conscious choice to further our education, this government should be rewarding that choice. Instead, the income support system actively discourages people from getting an education."

Those worst off are mature aged students on Austudy who, for no good reason, are denied Rent Assistance. The ACOSS research backs up the NUS's own finding that Austudy is the poorest of all social security payments. Recipients are expected to get by on payment 39% below the poverty line. Moreover, that is a figure that does not account for the cost of any dependent children. At the very least, the NUS is demanding a raise of the pitiful Austudy payment and Youth Allowance to Newstart levels.

The bottom line for many students is the necessity to work long hours to get by to the detriment of their studies. The average student is now working around 15 hours a week, an increase of ten hours from 1984. The first full day's pay for anyone reliant on student welfare only sees them claw their way up to the poverty line and, rather than providing incentives to work, the government likes to be on the take in the workplace as well, cutting assistance by 50c per pre-tax dollar earned beyond that first day (depending on pay rate).

In addition, the government has seen fit to further sink the boot in over welfare breaches. Over the last financial year, students and the unemployed were deprived \$200 million in benefits for such heinous crimes as missing an interview or failing to respond to a letter. While the average backbencher's base salary just received another boost toward that magic six figure mark, some of the penalties dished out to students, let alone the homeless and mentally ill, have reached \$1600 and come at an average of \$800. This can put 'recipients' dangerously below the poverty line in one hit. According to ACOSS, "an equivalent penalty for the Prime Minister, if he were to miss an interview, would be a 'fine' of \$40,000 from his salary!" Obtained under Freedom of Information Law, the figures show the government is in breach of its own commitment only to penalise welfare recipients as a last resort. There's no sign of relief either, as penalties rose by 50% in the first quarter of 2002 compared to last year.

All of this comes on the back of the AVCC's *Paying*

Their Way report released last year. Detailing a wide range of financial concerns faced by students, it found a significant portion of students (nearly one in ten) were 'frequently' missing classes due to the necessity of paid work and more than 20% 'sometimes'. So, your tute group was probably only a decent size today because of those who couldn't afford to be there.

Think all these figures are meaningless? It's true that it's hard to know what a given percentage below the poverty line really amounts to. The following account from a former graphic design student helps to illuminate the long-term effects of inadequate social security payments on students struggling to afford what should be the basic right to education:

"I would like to congratulate the Howard Government in my failure to obtain a degree in Commercial Art (graphic design) due to their screwed up priorities with aiding the youth with skills. Although I am not criticising the unemployment welfare payment, I am fully attacking the difference of this amount with the 'Austudy' payment. I was actually topping the class with 90%+ marks on all my assessments, but alas I still managed to fail. The university has a marking policy where you must attend a particular amount of classes per semester, and failure to do so resulted in a heavily reduced mark. Well I failed! And why was my attendance less than the required amount? Because I couldn't AFFORD to catch the two buses to university every day. Although the people I lived with who had no intention of finding work and got the dole were getting more than double the amount in payments than myself who was trying to carve out a career. I had to survive on \$150 a

fortnight!!!! I did take on a casual job, but that only added an extra \$50 per week at the absolute most. \$100 was my rent alone, so that left a whopping \$50 per fortnight for my food, bills, art equipment etc. Lucky me. So basically every second week I had no money for a quite expensive bus ticket, nor much food either. So after a year of hard work - just for a 'fail' result - I gave up my dream and took up a basic job that to this day I do. If I had finished my course, with the assessment marks I received, I am sure I would have obtained a high paying graphic design position within the workforce. Five years later, I am still working a full-time admin job as well as a hospitality job to make ends meet. That is 60 hours a week all up for a little over \$600 a week. So thank you Mr Howard and Co... you have basically fucked my life. Why is someone willing to obtain some skills in life (not pulling up weeds mind you, real skills) penalised rather than people clearly not interested in working and who would rather work on their Playstation skills. I am not criticising people on the dole, as I understand the circumstances for

most. The entire system needs a total shakeup.
Regards, MC"
(as posted on the dolearmy.org website)

Tim Williams
Our correspondent in the trenches



No educated women for Howard - they are much more useful at home churning out babies to bulk up our armed forces.



From jock to unemployed alcoholic in less than five years - Howard will show you how it's done.



Students these days must be willing to do anything to get a job.

Pride Guide

Activities

As advertised, (see Pride column on Clubs page) we are having a fortnightly movie and pizza night. These will be on Thursdays (Aug 22, Sep 5, Sep 19) at 6pm in the Rainbow Room, Level 5 of the Union Building (opposite the Gallery). The Sexuality Officers are also holding a Karaoke night at some stage, and the Pride Club are waiting to hold a barbecue too (as soon as we get some nice weather)!

Nightlife

Well, as most of you know, there is the Mars Bar at 120 Gouger Street. It's 50% queer, 50% straight or thereabouts, with lots of bright lights, disco music, et cetera. Another place is the Edinburgh Pub at 233 Currie Street, affectionately known as 'The Ed'. This is about 100% bent, yay! It is usually quite busy on a Friday night and has a good pub atmosphere. There are also moonlighting queer pubs such as the Grace Emily. Thursday nights are generally 'grrl nights' and the place has pool, beer and a queer friendly atmosphere.

Magazine

The official gay magazine is *Blaze* and can be found free generally wherever other street press is distributed, like at the bookstores along Rundle Street. *Blaze* tells you about all the activities that are happening in the queer world.

Radio

UniSA's Student Radio runs *The Queer Hour* fortnightly on Friday nights from 10pm (August 30 will be the next time you can catch it). This show is a trifle wicked at times but lots of fun. This station also broadcasts *Aqueerium* on Saturday mornings at 10am. It is an informative program, and a slightly more civilised and grown-up version of *The Queer Hour*. Student Radio can be found at 101.5 on the FM band.

Books

For this week:

Jeanette Winterson's *Oranges are not the Only Fruit* is still a favourite with the girls, entailing quirky aspects of a 'life-and-loves' story she writes beautifully (although a friend of mine described her as a little too cerebral).

Other recently read queer-related stories in the Pride group include Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*: boy meets boy and falls in love, then meets boy's sister and dumps boy in favour of girl who looks like him. Felice Picano's *The Book of Lies* is a disturbing expose of academia and the greatest queer literary circle, and a postmodern statement on the fluidity and complexity of modern sexuality.

Television

Queer as Folk screens at 10pm on Monday nights on SBS. It is more boy-oriented than anything else, and the British version is better. A few commercial shows also sport a 'gay character' (beggars can't be choosers).

Film

Where do I start? After coming back from QC (Queer Collaborations conference), I have a long list of films I hadn't heard of before. To start with, *But I'm a Cheerleader* is a lot of fun and one for everybody. It actually deals with a fictional camp to straighten out queer youth (this actually happens in some parts of America!).

A quick list of other queer films runs as follows: *Get Real*, *Fox Fire*, *Desert Hearts*, *High Art*, *When Night is Falling*, *Like It Is*, *Better Than Chocolate*, *Everything Relative*, *Love and Other Catastrophes*, *Something in the Water*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Serving in Silence*, *Orlando*, *A Beautiful Thing*, *Mulholland Drive*, *Gia*.

Club

The Adelaide University Pride Club holds meetings every Wednesday & Friday at 1pm in the Rainbow Room. Our meetings are for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and intersexed students as well as those questioning their sexuality. In addition, the Rainbow Room is open every day between 8am and 7pm.

Pride's email address is AU_Pride@hotmail.com

Stay tuned for On Dit's overtly heterosexual guide to being str8 next edition - Eds



Crossroads

What is Crossroads? We know that Crossroads is a review of the higher education system, but what does it all mean?



Research vs. Training

There is an overwhelming push within the Crossroads review to take the focus of universities away from the academic freedom of knowledge and research, and place the focus on training-based industry inspired courses. This would mean that a student's education would no longer give them the broad skills needed to gain employment in a variety of areas, but would instead train them to work in a particular area, with the relevant skills needed to deal with problems in the particular area that they would be employed in only. This push takes away the long-existing concept of academic and intellectual diversity, and instead pressures universities to succumb to the interests of corporate ideals.

Fees-Funding for private providers

A large proportion of the Crossroads review deals with funding models for institutions. Most of the suggestions involve increasing student fees either through new systems or changes to HECS. The review also suggests that federal government funding should be available to private education providers. There is no mention in any part of the review of a commitment by the federal government to spend more on education, so this means that any subsidy to a private education provider, such as Bond University in Queensland, would be taking funding away from the public system. This again would limit the opportunity for people from low socio-economic backgrounds to access higher education.

What Can We Do To Stop The Review?

The Students' Association is running an information session this Tuesday at midday in the Union Cinema (Level 5 of the Union Building). A repeat session will be held at 11am on Thursday, also in the Union Cinema. There is also a cross-campus review action group which meets every Thursday at 5pm in the WVP Rogers Room. These forums and meetings are instrumental in setting the collaborative focus of student representatives across the state and are open to all students.

The minister and review panel will be in Adelaide on Wednesday August 28 and Thursday August 29. To coincide with this visit, the Students' Association is holding a General Student Meeting on Thursday August 29 at 1pm on the Barr Smith Lawns. The motion will be, "The Students of Adelaide University condemn the regressive Crossroads review and its attack on accessible higher education." There will be a free BBQ and entertainment on the day, followed by a march to the building where the panel is meeting.

You could also write to the Federal Minister for Education Brendan Nelson, or to your local member of parliament.



The Process

Higher Education at the Crossroads is the first in six discussion papers released by the Federal Education Minister Brendan Nelson. Submissions on each of the papers are being collected from relevant bodies (such as students' associations, academic unions et cetera) and a review panel has been established to make a submission to the government. This panel is composed of industry experts, vice-chancellors and a number of other individuals, however there is no representation from students or general academics. In each state, a forum is being held with the panel members, however participation is by invitation only and to date few students have been invited to attend.

The proposals in Crossroads are expected to be in place for the 2003/2004 Federal Budget, however some changes do not require legislative change and may be in place as soon as first semester next year.

The process has been designed to give students and academics few chances to protest about the implications of the review. Most of the consultation has already taken place whilst students were off campus for July holidays, leaving us with few chances to motivate and inform students before it is too late.

The Voucher System

Funding for education is currently distributed to institutions based upon the number of places they have to offer, and students must compete to gain a place at the institution of their choice based upon their individual academic merit. The voucher system, proposed as a possible alternative to HECS, would fund tertiary education based upon student demand. Under this proposal, funding would be given to each student, who would then be free to choose which institution and course they wanted to study. The voucher would be for a certain amount (ie \$25,000) and would cover the governments contribution to the students education for the length of their degree. This would have a number of implications: firstly, under a deregulated system, the student would then have to pay the difference between the government contribution and the amount charged by the institution for the course. If a course went for a longer length of time than normal, ie medicine, the student would then be expected to pay the difference. This again prevents students who are not able to pay for their fees from accessing education. The other implication of the voucher system is that as the funding is taken away from the institution and is placed on the student, universities will be forced to compete to get students to come to their particular institution. Large amounts of money would be taken out of academic pursuits to be put into marketing and other administrative portfolios, with institutions having to promise "a free set of steak knives with every degree" to lure students to enrol.

Staff

In the United States, academics are employed on a nine-month basis and are expected to gain employment either with industry or at another institution for the remaining three months of the year. Crossroads proposes that we adopt a similar structure in Australia. This would mean that academics would have to find other work over Christmas, a time when employment is difficult to gain and when universities are not in operation for teaching. This is the time that is usually used for research and development. Without this time for advancement, academics will be unable to develop skills and knowledge and ultimately the quality of our education will suffer.

Other suggestions in the Crossroads review include taking away the power of academic unions and employing academics on a short term contract basis. This takes away job security for academic staff, obviously resulting in unfair and undue pressure on academics to perform.

Deregulation and Market Driven Costs

Under the current system of tertiary funding, each university receives funding based upon their EFTSU- the Equivalent Full-Time Student Unit. This is the figure with which the university must act within to ensure that they do not over or under enrol students and they fund courses according to the relevant EFTSU and student numbers. This is a highly regulated scheme in which institutions have little flexibility in setting their budgets, and the numbers of students they have each year is administered at a national level. In return, students are expected to pay a contribution to the cost of their education through HECS, however this cost is the same regardless of which course or institution the student is studying at. The proposals in Crossroads would allow for each institution to decide how much they will charge each student. This could mean that a student studying a BA at Adelaide Uni will pay \$20000 for their degree, whilst a student studying the same degree at a different institution will pay over \$50000. Similarly, universities will be free to decide how much they wish to charge for different courses- ie, science will cost \$35000, but law will cost \$100000. The implications of this would mean that a student who cannot afford to pay the higher price will be forced to study at a different institution, or a different course than they desire. Further implications would mean that the institutions which charged a higher amount of money for their degrees would be able to put the money back into the programs they offered, resulting in a system where the only the most expensive and elite universities were able to offer the highest quality degrees, further increasing the divide between those who can afford to pay high amounts for their education and those who cannot. It is likely that students from working class or other disadvantaged backgrounds would need to choose a 'no frills' degree from a lower quality institution under this proposal and would be prevented from accessing the highest quality of education in Australia, regardless of academic merit.

Specialisation/Rationalisation

Crossroads changes the university system to a user-pays style of institutional learning. In the proposals, it is argued that courses that do not attract many students should be disbanded, making way for more offerings in those subjects that attract a large number of students. Subjects that would be affected would predominantly be those from faculties such as Humanities and Social Sciences, taking away the ability of universities to offer truly liberal (with a small 'L') education.

GENERAL STUDENT MEETING

THURSDAY AUGUST 29, 1PM
BARR SMITH LAWNS

“The students of the University
Of Adelaide condemn the
regressive Crossroads review
and its attack on accessible
higher education”

FREE BBQ AND BEER!

For more info contact the Education Vice-President
Georgia Heath on 8303 5406 or at
education@saua.asn.au

The Crossroads Review: Why Should We Care??

It is a great concern of mine that there are not enough students at this university who understand what this review is. Or, perhaps even worse, they do not understand the possible implications this review will have on them, as Australian students. If the suggestions that Dr Brendan Nelson, the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, mentions in his review are to be instigated, then our education would be changed greatly.

Increases and time limits to HECS, deregulation of fees, the introduction of a voucher system, more public funding for private universities and the removal of smaller courses from the curriculum are just some of the catastrophic effects that this review will have on our education.

We have the privilege of being given the opportunity to have access to higher education. The introduction of up-front fees (which could be anywhere between \$20,000 and \$18,000 – the cost of studying Vet Science at Sydney Uni) will take that privilege away from us - I know that I would not be able to attend uni if this system was in place. I would enter the workforce after finishing high school, with the intention of going back to uni. But how many people do you know who defer their course for a year, but end up staying in the workforce? I certainly know quite a number of people.

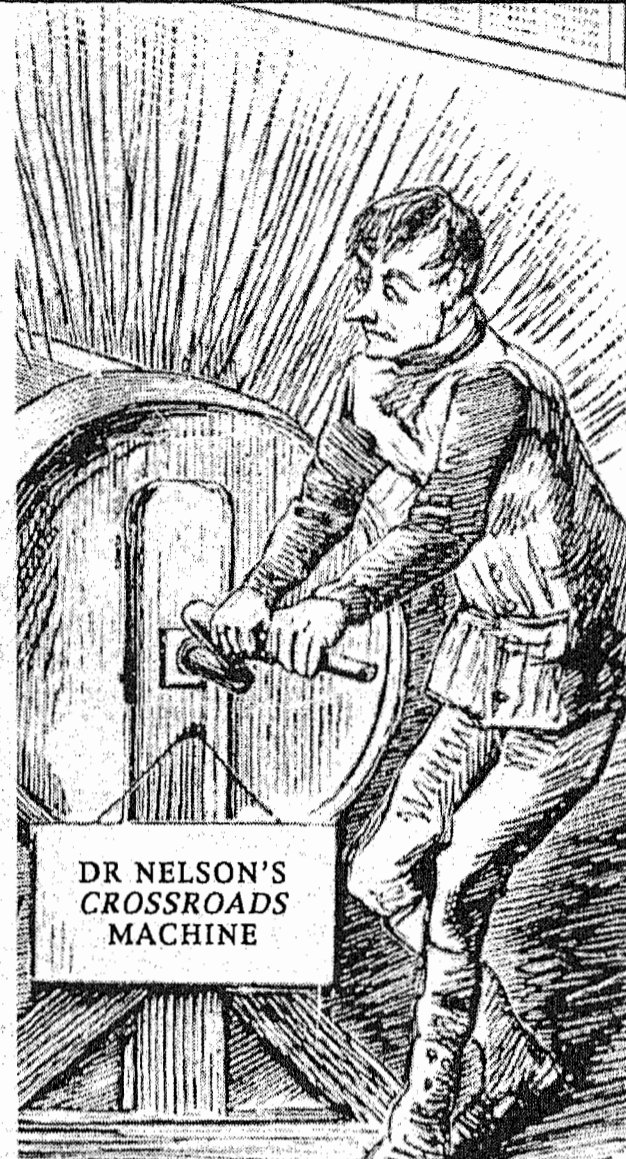
Another suggestion made by this review is that our academics will be placed on contracts, instead of tenure. What this means is that our lecturers will only be employed on a nine-month contract every year – they will not be employed over the end-of-year break. This will then increase the workloads of the academics, and decrease any research

ability over this break. What it will mean to us, as students, is that we will come back to uni in March, and our lecturers will not have had time to plan the courses for the year, meaning that (in theory) we will not actually start any formal coursework until about April, so that the years work is planned sufficiently. This will mean that we could be set back in completing a degree (except that another proposal is to place time limits on HECS... I don't get it either – we will not be as educated as those before us). It could even mean that our degrees, if we are to complete the same amount of coursework, could take even longer to finish.

In order to fund our education we will have to work longer hours in our part-time jobs. I know people who struggle to pay for their rent/board, food, cars etc. What would it be like if we had to pay for our education upfront as well? This would also mean that a higher education would only be available to the wealthy – what about the rest of the population. Don't they deserve the same opportunities?

These are just some of the ways that this review will affect students. But I know some of you are thinking "I've nearly finished my degree, so these changes won't affect me...". As students who have been offered the privilege of a higher education, we owe it to those who will attend university in the years after us to fight to oppose the implementation of this review. This review presents anti-student, anti-staff views that will have some disastrous effects on our higher education system.

**Georgia Phillips
is mad as hell**



HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESSIBILITY AT THE S-BEND

Setting Firm Foundations is the discussion paper released by Brendan Nelson that deals with financing higher education, in his review of Australian university education, *Higher Education at the Crossroads*. The paper presents four models for financing higher education, because the current HECS system is supposedly unsustainable. However, each of the proposed models, as they stand, make it harder for students to get a university education if they aren't from a rich family.

Despite these flaws, the models can each be fine-tuned to make things fairer for students. However, the government does not believe this is necessary - they do not see anything unfair in their proposals. Nevertheless, they have omitted, perhaps selectively and deliberately, obvious measures that could be taken to make university more affordable. This article looks at the two "voucher" models proposed. The issues are complex, but we give a brief summary.

Currently, the HECS system means students pay about 25 to 35% of the real cost of their university education, by way of a deferred, interest-free loan. (The remainder of the cost is paid for by the government.) Nelson says that under each of the proposed new models, a similar HECS-like loans scheme would still be available to all students. Market interest rates however, have not been ruled out. HECS debt is also likely to affect students when applying for home or car loans, so clearly the size of the debt does matter, even if it is income-contingent. Indeed, there are many arguments against HECS-like schemes. For space, they are not repeated here.

What are vouchers?

A voucher is an entitlement given to every student entering university for the first time. It would be worth a certain value, and students would use it to contribute towards the cost of their education at any course and university of their choice.

Nelson's vouchers

Under Nelson's first proposed voucher model, there would be a limited number of equal-valued vouchers, distributed according to "academic merit". However, universities would be allowed to set the course price at whatever level they choose. Clearly, students from a middle- or low-income background are likely to be disadvantaged, because any "gap" arising from the voucher value and course

price would have to be paid for by the student. So too would students who scored lower TERs for reasons beyond their control (for example, poorer school resources).

Traditionally more expensive courses would become less accessible to students from lower-income backgrounds, because the full cost would not be covered. The same applies for traditionally longer courses such as honours or double-degree programs.

The second voucher model proposed is similar, except that the value of the voucher would vary according to the course chosen. However, it still would never cover 100% of course cost.

Both these proposed voucher models are economically regressive, penalising students from lower-income backgrounds. However, this effect can easily be reduced.

As a generalisation, students who go to expensive private schools have better chances of getting high TERs. This is because these schools can provide better resources to support them, because they are stuffed with cash. Contrast this with the disadvantaged public schools who are poorly funded. Students who go to these schools have fewer and lower-end resources and underpaid staff. There is a greater chance that these students will get lower TERs, not because they are less smart, but because they simply have poorer support. Plenty of anecdotal evidence suggests this. However, under Nelson's proposal of distributing vouchers according to academic merit, cashed-up private school kids would get a voucher to pay for university, but poorer, disadvantaged students would get nothing. Public school students and less well-off students are likely to once again lose out.

However, this can be clearly resolved by means-testing any voucher system. Cashed-up students who could afford to pay more for university would not receive a voucher, but students less financially well off would get a voucher to cover

the entire cost of their university course. Similarly, for those students 'in between', their voucher would be a varying percentage of their chosen course cost, according to their capacity to pay. You don't have to be an economist to work out that this would make university much more accessible to lower-income students. Means-testing is not a new concept, and is already widely used in the welfare system. However, this idea to means-test vouchers is not a Nelson one - it was suggested by others.

Currently, from the student perspective, the status quo is as if every student has a 75% voucher. Under this means-tested proposal, however, low-income students would receive a 100% voucher - meaning that they will have no debt once they graduate. This is clearly an incentive for low-income students to enter university. In many cases, means-tested vouchers would also make it quite possible for "middle-class"

students to have a lower debt upon graduation than what they may accumulate under the current system. Furthermore, means-testing does not mean that there would not have to be a significant increase in public spending on universities - surely a selling point to this government. Means-testing can work to improve equity without more public spending, even though, of course, more is clearly needed.

Even though vouchers are far from ideal (there are many arguments that can't all be reproduced in under 1000 words!), they could be significantly improved by this simple means-testing idea. It's surprising that this was not suggested in the Nelson discussion papers. Then again, the hidden agenda behind the Crossroads review suggests that perhaps accessibility of higher education is not in fact a priority of this government at all.

For more information, email
min.guo@student.adelaide.edu.au

Min Guo
is sure there are alternatives to this madness

ondit@adelaide.edu.au

The Rising Cost of Education

When Gough Whitlam was elected in 1972 a major change to the way our government perceived education was introduced. Before 1972 education was restricted to the rich elite: unless you could afford to pay large sums for your education, you were prohibited from gaining tertiary qualifications. The Vice-Chancellor of The University of Queensland during the 1960's was in fact rumoured to have said to the commencing first year class each year that unless a student was wealthy, they had no right to access education. This sentiment of keeping the uneducated and unwealthy in their 'place' by preventing them from accessing education was reflected in the government and university policies of the time.

In an ALP policy speech of 1972 Whitlam said,

"Education is the key to equality of opportunity. Sure, we can have education on the cheap, but our children will be paying for it the rest of their lives... We believe that a student's merit rather than a parent's wealth should decide who should benefit... Education should be the great instrument for the promotion of equality." This concept of equality and accessibility of education was a legacy of the Whitlam government and his free education system lasted until 1987.

Since the 1980's onward there has been a trend within governments and universities to move back to the user-pays system of education, where access to university is not based on an individual's academic merit, but on their ability to buy themselves a place. This change in ideology was introduced by the Hawke Labor government. The education minister of the time, John Dawkins, was central in this reversal of ideology regarding education. Under Dawkins the first "Higher Education Administrative Charge" was introduced as an up-front fee of \$250 in 1987.

It was in 1988 that the Higher Education Funding Act, which is the legislative framework for HECS, managed to make its way through both houses of parliament. At the time it was a fee of \$1800 per annum that all students, regardless of course were expected to pay. Since then, the Coalition Government have changed the system to charge students differential HECS. This means that you will be charged a different amount of HECS depending upon which course you are studying. The rationale for this is that a student who will eventually earn more money due to the course that they are studying than a student studying a different course should be expected to pay more. There is little statistical data however that supports the notion that those paying the highest amount of HECS will actually have higher earnings than their counterparts in courses that have a lower amount of HECS.

In 2002 a student studying a band 1 course such as Humanities and Social Sciences, can expect to pay \$3598 each year under HECS, whilst students studying Medicine or Law are paying \$5999. This means that a student studying Arts/Law for instance will have a HECS debt of around \$31,790 by the time they graduate. In addition, this amount

is indexed with the CPI, this year by 3.6%.

In 1996 the federal government introduced a legislative change which meant that Universities were free to charge up-front fees for their courses, provided that the fee paying places did not amount to more than 25% of all undergraduate places. In 1998 Adelaide University decided to take up this option, despite protests from students and the community in general. This move allowed students who could afford to pay for their education but were slightly under-qualified

Table 1: Expenditure on tertiary education as a proportion of GDP for selected OECD countries in 1998.

Country	Public	Private Sources	Total
Iceland	1.74	0.04	1.78
Finland	1.68	n/a	1.67
Canada	1.53	0.32	1.85
Sweden	1.49	0.17	1.67
Denmark	1.49	0.04	1.53
Austria	1.44	0.02	1.46
Norway	1.42	0.09	1.51
Netherlands	1.15	0.03	1.18
Switzerland	1.11	n/a	1.11
Australia	1.09	0.51	1.59
Ireland	1.08	0.30	1.38
USA	1.07	1.22	2.29
NZ	1.06	n/a	n/a
Greece	1.04	0.17	1.21
France	1.01	0.12	1.13
Germany	0.97	0.08	1.04
Portugal	0.96	0.08	1.04
Spain	0.84	0.27	1.11
UK	0.83	0.83	1.11
Italy	0.68	0.16	0.84
Korea	0.44	2.07	2.51
Japan	0.43	0.60	1.02

academically to enrol in a course on an up-front fee paying basis.

The move to up-front fees raised many concerns for students. Not only were they introduced as a measure to combat the ever diminishing resources provided by the Federal Government, but the move raised concerns about equity and the academic credibility of Adelaide University on a whole. There is no doubt that by allowing a less academic student circumvent the entrance procedures for the university by paying a fee, the academic rigour of the institution will be diminished. By allowing a wealthy student to take the place of a gifted student the university (and government) forget their moral and social responsibilities and lower the academic standards that any university should pride itself on.

Last year we saw the introduction of PELS- the Postgraduate Education Loans Scheme. This scheme is heavily

opposed by Student Associations around the country as it yet again fosters marginalisation and inequity. Under PELS a student is expected to pay the government for the entire cost of their education, unlike the subsidised amount we pay under HECS. Many of the funding recommendations proposed in the Crossroads review of higher education are similar in nature to PELS, asking for students to pay for a large portion of the degree, however it is unclear whether or not the Federal Government is prepared to offer interest free loans, or if students will be required to take out a loan with market interest rates, similar in nature to a mortgage. The architect of HECS, Bruce Chapman, argued at the time that HECS was introduced that,

"If you charge up-front fees, poor students will not get in. They will not be able to borrow without a guarantor or without assets, and the reason they will not be able to borrow is that banks will not give them loans where essentially there is no saleable collateral."

With the proposals in the Crossroads review suggestion a higher contribution rate from students, it can be expected that if these changes come into place participation within the education system by working-class, indigenous, women and other marginalised groups of students will largely diminish.

In addition to the rising course fees, the costs of ancillary fees such as books and readings have also been increasing with changing government policies. Whilst technically illegal (all materials required for a course should be covered under HECS) the cost for students for these types of essential materials are continually rising. Combine this with a feeble attempt from the government to assist with these costs in the form of Youth Allowance and more and more students are finding it impossible to study.

Whilst there is division amongst educational activists as to the benefits of free education, no-one disagrees with the sentiments expressed in 1972. Education benefits society so it makes sense for society to invest into our education system. After all, it is education that creates doctors, teachers, engineers and architects- all professions with which society benefits from those people having a quality education. Education is the key to equality, to overcoming poverty and to ensuring that we as a society are competitive on a global scale, are talented and are proud.

Georgia Heath
is Education Vice-President

1. Hastings, G. 'Expansion Without Equity', National Union of Students, 2002.
2. Harrison, P. 'A short anthology of HECS and Fees', Students' Association of the University of Adelaide, 2000.

Labor disappointing, but Liberal plan disastrous

Neither of the major parties has a tertiary education policy friendly to students. However, while the Labor policy is simply weak and inadequate, this Liberal proposal by the new Education Minister Brendan Nelson would actually work against students' interests and damage the education system.

The **Labor Party** wants to phase out up-front fees for Australian undergraduates and review the unfair structure of HECS. This would be a welcome change because up-front fees severely disadvantage poor and financially independent students. It also wants to reverse the funding cuts to tertiary education and opposes the deregulation of student fees. These policies, at least, would favour all those students who cannot afford to pay yet higher fees. Furthermore, the Labor Party has justly criticised the Liberal government for increasing fees and reducing university places.

But the Labor Party does not oppose the growing role of universities as "commercial suppliers of education and training". This policy favours business sooner than students because courses are planned to meet the needs of their corporate clients and sponsors. The focus on "global

competitiveness" at a few universities rather than on high standards at all universities also favours business interests above students. From a party that claims to support fair and equal access to the education system these policies are disappointing. Then again, from the party that introduced HECS they are not unexpected.

Yet this latest **Liberal Party** plan, the Crossroads review, is worse than disappointing. Each of its funding models would spell disaster for poor and financially independent students and could damage the standard of education for all students. Increasing student fees or allowing each institution to charge higher fees of its own would devastate struggling students. Likewise any voucher system would force institutions into mutually destructive competition. The plan would also oblige universities to form "industry partnerships" that would substitute the influence of corporations for public control of courses.

The Liberal Party has a very poor record on tertiary education. Ongoing funding cuts, active opposition to student unionism, and emphasis on unfair user-pays funding models

have all worked against student interests. Brendan Nelson is continuing the program of his predecessor, who tried to replace HECS with an even worse system of loans based on market rates.

Tertiary education benefits society at large as well as the student. Whereas the federal government once met 90% of the cost of our tertiary education it now meets only 45%. We are expected to carry this burden alone. Why not once again acquire the same funding more fairly in the form of tax and redistribute it to benefit all members of society? Now instead the market-driven "reforms" of John Howard and Brendan Nelson threaten to prevent many students from attending courses at all and to transform our universities into a marketplace where only the rich, or their parents, can easily afford courses.

The Labor plan may be inadequate, but this Liberal government wants to abandon us to the marketplace. What happened to fair and equal access?

Rowan Nicholson

A Transnational Look at the Cost of Education

Global public spending on education now exceeds one trillion US dollars. Fifty million teaching staff and a billion students are engaged each year in academic pursuits throughout the world.

Education is seen globally as one of the most important factors in overcoming poverty, of ensuring national security and of producing economic growth. However, each nation however chooses to support education in a variety of different ways and on a sliding scale of national importance. In some countries education is seen as being a crucial element of the nation's advancement, therefore the state injects enormous amounts of funding into this area. In others the burden of cost of education is perceived to be the responsibility of the student, so little government support is provided.

How do Australian universities shape up in the global perspective? In a world where oceans are no longer restrictions to 'communities' and where it is as simple to engage in enterprise with someone in Japan as it is with someone in the next street, what are the values of our degrees and how much are we paying for the privilege?

In 2002 Australian students are making amongst the highest levels of contribution in the OECD. To study Arts/Law at an Australian university you can expect to pay around \$31,790. Australian student subsidies equate to

approximately 30% of total university revenue. This is broken down into 18% HECS payments, 2% postgraduate fees, and 10% contribution from international students. This equates to a far greater share than our overseas counterparts.

Whilst the United States is perceived to have one of the most expensive systems of education and students are expected to have saved for their college education almost from their moment of birth, students only contribute 19% in public universities, and 27% in private, non-profit institutions. The United Kingdom and Canada, each with a contribution rate of 17%, again reflect a much lower rate of student contribution. In many European countries there is still a system of free education.

In fact, the only countries where the student contribution rate exceeds Australian statistics are South Korea and Japan, along with the United States private for profit system of higher education.

Whilst we make a higher contribution than students in many other countries, this may not necessarily reflect the importance with which our government perceives education. Australia spends only 1.59% of its GDP on higher education. Comparatively, the United States spend 2.29% and Korea spends 2.51% on education.

An Australian university degree is generally acknowledged and accepted throughout the world, however the quality of

our educational institutions fall far short of the international standards. There is not one Australian university listed in the global top 100 universities, and University of Adelaide is ranked much lower than that.

Comparatively, the Australian University system falls far short of the standards required globally, and we are paying more than our international counterparts. Whilst the Federal Government has attempted to solve a few of these issues in the Crossroads review, they have managed to miss the mark in most instances. The development of one or two "world class" universities will not raise our general standards of education and research, and in fact has the potential to decrease the level of expertise that students receive. The student funding proposals would further increase our contribution to the OECD putting us at even further lengths than our international counterparts in terms of student contribution.

Whilst we may be thinking that we live in the "lucky" country, if our education standards continue to decrease we may as well get our degrees from the Oceania Online University. The Federal Government is doing every university student an injustice by continually slashing funding to education. In the end, every Australian will lose out.

**Georgia Heath
smells like teen education**

Honey, can you pick up a degree on the way home?

Realising that politics, anthropology and classics departments are just breeding grounds for drug-addled hippies to overindulge in 'isms' rather than contribute to the wider community/economy, The Education Minister has decided that it's time for reform in Australia's higher education system. Inside the Howard government's trophy cabinet, they are pushing aside the 14 carat beacons of other economic rationalist successes such as our deregulated dairy industry to make room for their latest scheme: standardised, user-pays, marketable tertiary institutions.

Education as an Export

This will enable us to position our education products and services internationally in a way that is attractive to students and differentiates us from our major competitors; the USA and UK. Work is underway for the launch of a new international brand for Australian education and training later this year.

In 2001 education became Australia's second most profitable export, with enrolment figures experiencing a 36% increase on the previous year. The rapid growth of the international fee paying market is great for cashing up our under-funded departments, but has also played a role in disguising the stagnation in subsidised places for the domestic students. In 1998 there were 20,000 fewer subsidised full-time places than had been projected in 1996. There is already a trend towards providing places for those who can afford up-front fees, and this is likely to increase under the Nelson review and further exacerbate the gap between our socio-economic classes and their ability to access (former) merit goods.

Nelson is more than happy to sing the praises of our highly internationalised system, but fails to acknowledge how this will impact on the accessibility of tertiary education. "Education now contributes more than \$4 billion per annum to our economy. It is one of Australia's fastest growing exports, generating more earnings than wool, and almost as much as wheat". As much as wheat, eh? Perhaps we have found a way to overcome the loss of revenue caused by those pesky Iraq wheat reversals.

The cost of knowledge in a deregulated market

Allowing institutions to vary their prices may give universities increased flexibility, promote greater responsiveness and encourage innovation and diversification.

Okay, so everyone bitches about HECS and the depressing bi-annual reminder of your debt, looming until that special day when you live above the poverty line and have to start paying it back. But things have the potential to be far worse under the proposed reforms, with the replacement of HECS with a student loan scheme, changes in the amount of public subsidy on degrees and restrictions on paths of study. For example, the review raises the option of restricting access to subsidised places to an initial degree and/or a limited time period (say three years for a three year bachelor degree).

As it currently stands, HECS is based on a fixed level of student contribution determined by the government, and is differentiated into bands according to the area of study. The average student contribution under differential HECS is around 34% of course cost. Under PELS (the proposed loan system) there is no fixed level of student contribution. PELS-style loans schemes are designed to cover the gap between the level of public subsidy provided and the market rate charged by university. It does not guarantee how much of the bill the government will foot (if any). In the case of universities setting suitable market prices, it is thought that natural market forces (or the 'invisible hand') created by demand and supply will regulate prices and ensure that they do not become inflated, but there are several factors that make the reliability of this concept questionable. One of the fundamental problems with this is that under the proposed changes universities would specialise in specific fields, which is basically allowing universities to have a monopoly over certain disciplines. This is hardly conducive to maintaining fair and competitive rates.

Degrees as a standardised product

Workplace flexibility is increasingly necessary to enable universities to compete in the education marketplace. Student demands change, as do the realms of knowledge. Doing something new means eliminating.

The Federal Government is arguing that it is inefficient for universities to run the wide range of courses currently on offer. What this means is that courses and subjects which

already have strong numbers, and hence are financially viable to maintain, will remain unscathed, but those with lower levels of enrolment will be eliminated. This is all part of the marketing focus that accompanies the deregulation of service industries, not only axing areas which are faltering financially, but also introducing basic marketing concepts like segmentation. Market segmentation is a premise that would see universities matching their abilities with students of a particular demographic, rather than offering degrees to cater for a wider section of society. One leading education commentator has applied this concept by making a division of Australian universities into four categories; The Sandstones (which includes The University of Adelaide), Universities of Technology (which includes University of SA), Wannabe Sandstones (which includes Flinders University and other new universities). Although this is not specifically covered in the Nelson's paper, it would be safe to assume that the market prices of tertiary education will be dramatically affected by each universities' positioning within the market.

The Nelson Review is premised on the market university "as a self-interested corporation whose only purpose is its own prestige and wealth". It places value only on standardised profit-bearing fields. It creates uncertainty in the amount of public subsidy that is available to students. It opens even more doors for those who are privileged enough to afford up-front fees, but fails to assist those that aren't. It imposes time restrictions on study. It devalues arts, languages and the humanities by failing to account for the social capital that these disciplines generate. It further increases the liabilities of students with the abolishment of HECS. It depends on the notion that the financial windfalls universities can make from their commercial activities will more than offset the stagnation and decline of public funding.

The Nelson review is another initiative that means that the Burnside children won't have to share their play equipment with them Norven suburbs brats anymore.

**Bonnie Cruickshank
is jaded by this whole Crossroads business**

The Effects of Funding Cuts

Universities are in crisis- that is what last years senate inquiry into higher education found. To students, this comes as no surprise. We have long been struggling with the burden of the funding cuts that have been continually made to higher education under the Liberal/National coalition.

How many times have you turned up to a tutorial or lecture that is so overcrowded that you can't even get a chair? In the early '90's a tutorial consisted of approximately 8-12 people, who were able to have an intimate and detailed discussion about a given topic. Today however, many faculties are no longer able to offer tutorials due to a lack of administrative resources, pressure from the government to meet unrealistic research goals and an increase in academic staff being employed on a part-time or casual basis. Increasingly, faculties are holding 'Seminars' as an alternative to tutorials. These involve around 30 students participating in a type of 'mini-lecture' with limited discussion. Even more increasingly we are seeing the introduction of on-line tutorials, with little to no face-to face interaction. Some faculties have gone one step further and are no longer offering any tutorials at all.

"Facing the Music" is a documentary about the effects of funding cuts on the Sydney University Music School. In this documentary overworked academic staff are forced to try and find ways to raise the money that is being taken out of

At Adelaide Uni, one former Dean is reported to have said that the only reason their faculty is able to function is because of the voluntary efforts of high-school aged work experience students.

their budget due to a lack of federal government funding. They must, on top of their regular teaching and research responsibilities attempt to get corporate funding just purely to stay afloat. This documentary shows the realities of funding cuts on faculties, staff and students. The disturbing thing is that this documentary could have been made in any faculty, at any university in the country.

At Adelaide Uni, one former Dean is reported to have said that the only reason their faculty is able to function is because of the voluntary efforts of high-school aged work experience students. Another has said that if it wasn't for international students paying full up-front fees, the Australian Education system would be so completely underfunded that it would just topple and fold. Our buildings are sub-standard, resources scarce.

In fact, it appears that the only faculties that enjoy any increased funding are those which have the ability to appeal to large-scale corporations which have reason to invest in the tertiary sector. Unfortunately, these corporations very rarely choose to invest in faculties such as the humanities, which leaves engineering to get the majority of these funds.

Last year Adelaide University overspent their budget by phenomenal amounts, reaching into the millions. To combat this, the University cut around 18% of the staff in the faculty of science, and a similar amount in Humanities and social Sciences, with more targeted and voluntary redundancies

across the rest of the university. This has had a large effect on students, many now unable to enrol in their desired courses as the faculties are unable to offer them with such a shoe-string staff. This has had a particular effect on mature age and external students as many of the courses that have been slashed are those that are offered as external subjects. In one particularly disturbing case, a student who had been held back from progressing to third year because they had not passed a particular subject is now unable to repeat the subject as the lecturer has taken a voluntary redundancy. This means that they are unable to progress to third year until they have passed the subject, however they are unable to take the subject as the university no longer offers it.

In one particularly disturbing case, a student who had been held back from progressing to third year because they had not passed a particular subject is now unable to repeat the subject as the lecturer has taken a voluntary redundancy.

No-where in Brendan Nelson's Crossroads review does it mention increased funding for Universities. Without increased funding, it is likely that our education system will continue to plummet, before long making the only method of gaining a quality degree to be going offshore, and studying in another country. If the Federal Government is serious about laying the foundations for

Australia's future, of ensuring our ability to compete on a global level, then they must put a greater amount of funding into higher education. Our Universities truly are in crisis.

Georgia Heath
wants the Government to stop it...now

Redesigning Higher Education - the PGSA's view

As most of you will be aware, the Federal Government is conducting a review of the Higher Education Sector - the largest since the infamous Dawkins reforms of the mid-1980s. It promises to change dramatically the nature of higher education sector in Australia, and, in the opinion of the Postgraduate Students' Association (PGSA), potentially for the worse.

Since the initial discussion paper was released in April of this year, hundreds of individuals and groups across the country have been compiling submissions for the review, including the PGSA. Previous studies have indicated areas of concern, particularly for postgraduate degrees, that have yet to be addressed adequately. Indeed, recent changes to the nature of higher degrees by research (PhD, MA) have threatened further the quality of research and the ability for already overwhelmed postgraduate students to complete successfully their research. Former Minister for Education, David Kemp released a White Paper in 1999 on Research and Research Training, *Knowledge and Innovation*, that identified several shortcomings in research education, which included.

- Poor supervision
- High attrition rates and slow completion rates for research students
- Inadequate levels of departmental support and limited access to quality infrastructure
- A need to improve the employment related skills of research degree graduates

Rather than understanding the issues that are inherent to postgraduate research degrees, recent changes have only exacerbated the outlined problems. The length of candidature has been slashed, funding cutbacks have impacted negatively on the number of academic, thereby reducing 'departmental support', and so on. The current reform process threatens higher education further.

Rather than understanding the issues that are inherent to postgraduate research degrees, recent changes have only exacerbated the outlined problems.

The PGSA sees dangers in a number of areas. One of these areas is the idea of revenue diversification. Touted is the suggestion that universities need to look beyond the Federal Government for funding. Industry and wealthy private benefactors are the suggested money cows. However, nothing is said about the danger of losing academic independence and creativity by following such a path. There exists considerable danger that corporate sponsors shall set the agenda for university research and teaching. A clear example of this has been provided by the University of Waterloo in Canada, who on August 14, 2002, signed a contract with Microsoft to create the *Microsoft Canada Academic Innovation Alliance*. One consequence of this is that all computer and electrical engineering students at the University will have to study courses

on a Microsoft proprietary programming language. It does not take much of an imagination to guess how such a contract will affect the teaching of rival programming languages. Furthermore, the corporatisation of universities threatens to stifle academic freedom and exchange of knowledge: if one company funds a department, said company will not appreciate its 'donation' being used to fund research that may benefit its competitors.

A further area of concern is the idea of institutional specialisation. Currently there is what the Government terms 'duplication' of courses across the country. A proposal is to encourage institutions to specialise. The dangers in this approach are manifold. There is a danger that newer and regional universities will suffer greatly under the creation of designated research strengths at larger institutions. Such smaller universities risk losing academics, students and research places they currently have under the RTS, thereby

lowering the quality of their output further. Whilst the suggestion is made that universities that are not engaged intensively in research as are other institutions could be 'reorientated' to specializing in areas such as undergraduate education or professional development, this proposal is flawed. There exists the danger that the academic capabilities of such institutions will be jeopardized further. Those areas of research that are unable to attract large-scale commercial or short-term funding because of the nature of their research are also under threat. Areas such as Humanities, the Social Sciences, the Pure Sciences and the Fine Arts are most at risk, as they are unable to attract external funding to the level necessary to establish a research specialisation of world-class standards. However, having highlighted areas of concern, the PGSA does acknowledge that there exists a limited scope for institutional specialization in a few specific areas of

Areas such as Humanities, the Social Sciences, the Pure Sciences and the Fine Arts are most at risk, as they are unable to attract external funding to the level necessary to establish a research specialisation of world-class standards.

academic excellence. However, such specialization should not be at the expense of diversity and at the expense of those areas and institutions not included in such programs. A third area of concern is the reduction of course offerings at particular universities: by specializing, course offerings will be slashed, and students wishing to study in a particular field may be forced

to travel across the country to achieve this.

These are only a few areas of concern that the PGSA has about any review of the Higher Education Sector. Whilst we do acknowledge that there exists a need to change certain aspects of the sector, we are yet to be convinced that the Federal Government is following the correct approach to modernize and strengthen the sector.

Anthony Long
is the PGSA Research Officer

SAUA speaks: "No sir, I don't like it".

From a students' perspective, (the potential graduates of the future), the best way governments can ensure that higher education institutions make positive contributions to Australian society is to encourage Australia's unique social diversity. This means not factoring in deterrents to higher education policy which would otherwise hinder tertiary access for *all Australians*. However, this approach is undermined when the brunt of the costs of higher education is levelled at students, denying them the access to university and hence to making that diverse contribution to the Australian community.

The end result of any competition is that there are winners and losers. In terms of Australia's public university system it would be a grave loss to the education ideal that is held in high regard by the people that ultimately pay for it. Survey after survey in Australia demonstrates that

the public of Australia values education and believe it should be accessible to all and don't mind paying taxes so that possibly their children might one day be able to gain a tertiary education. If they only knew the whole story, their views would be somewhat different. This is why this exercise (higher education review) needs to re-focus the debate on the public university system back to the major stakeholders, the students and the taxpaying Australian.

The principle of student choice is a misnomer in the context of marketisation of education. You only get a choice by being able to enter the market. Those unable to enter due to the deregulatory nature of the fee structure will have to limit their choices due to the cost of entering the market. This phenomenon of stratification will occur on an individual level as well as on an institutional level. There is a good reason for maintaining a regulated system apart from the fact that education is not a commodity to be sold in a deregulated market. In Australia successive governments have had the sense to regulate student numbers and participation opportunities. The levers that the government pulls on enrolments and institutional profiles relates directly to nation-

building and not global dreaming. Transcendental linkages about the country's capacity to utilise and absorb into the labour market the appropriate amount of skilled labour required for the industries and professions that support our economy are at play here. The University of Adelaide would be only too happy to support any fee proposal that it thinks would allow it to throw off its perceived shackles of

constraint. However, there will be no emancipation or magic pudding appearing for the University of Adelaide, it will just be the same old school with just one difference, students who can only afford to be here.

The notion of a world-class university (look where it got Mary O'Kane!) for Australia is a 'pie in the sky' approach to the fundamental problems faced running universities that are predominantly engaged in the teaching and learning activities of Australian undergraduates. Coupled with the research

responsibilities of finding solutions to challenges faced by Australian society, business and industry. It is a system under extreme pressure combined with the continual decline of funding and lack of government commitment to supporting a knowledge-based economy. A government more concerned with defence spending and the racial vilification of minority groups.

The levers that the government pulls on enrolments and institutional profiles relates directly to nation-building and not global dreaming.

places, a voucher system, attacks on student and staff representation (not surprising given there is none on the reference group) at all levels of institutional governance and attacks on staff wages and conditions.

The overall reduction of students with an equity group background not participating in higher education as a percentage of the total student population is directly related to:

- * Increases in costs and fees associated with gaining a tertiary education

- * Decreased eligibility for income support provisions due to policy shifts

Indeed a review into the structural barriers that restrict access by disadvantaged groups to higher education is warranted. This could

include selection processes and criteria for entry, but it would be hard to discover a greater deterrent for equity group participation such as incurrence of debt combined with lack of financial support. These are not perceived costs and intangible privations. These factors are actual and real disincentives for those who are without financial means but with academic ability. \$50,000 may not seem like a lot of money to some people but to others it is. When the house your parents now own was only worth \$50,000 a few years ago, then \$50,000 does seem like an incredible amount and in a sense it represents the value of your world - your family home!

Mean-spirited budgetary measures based on no logical or educational reasoning, like abolishing the HECS scholarship scheme, is evidence enough for the SAUA of this governments' level of commitment to beneficial and tangible equity initiatives. Perhaps the new Minister could re-instate the HECS scholarship scheme for 2003 academic year. I bet the kids whose parents' house is now worth \$100,000 due to the Adelaide property boom would sure like to access those scholarships! However, lets move from the domestic stuff and onto the international side of the

equation.

The prevarication of Australian universities being able to compete on a global capacity and in a global market, when none of its institutions are positioned in the worlds top 100 table is a misguided obsession peddled by university management and a government who knows it is not possible to achieve (The Mary O'Kane bell rings again) It is even more disheartening when this diversion from the real purpose of the higher education sector comes at the cost of educating our own students who want to access a university education.

Our university system cannot and should not compete on a global scale. It is struggling to fulfil its domestic function at this moment in time. This review should be focussing on the ability to educate and foster opportunities for our domestic student intake and treating the international/global market as a hobby, not as the panacea of the funding and policy ills that confront the higher education system. Apart from development and aid roles, of which Australian universities should commit heavily to through programs like

AusAid, the increasing reliance and funding upon the international student market should be approached with caution (Note for new Vice-Chancellor, Professor McWha)

The funding of higher education research should not happen in such a way that it encourages the death of the unified national system, or that advantages 'sandstone' universities over the 'post-Dawkins universities' or the regional universities. As stated earlier, publicly

All we see is a vehicle for the deregulation of fees, a HECS premium, abolition of the 25% enrolment cap on domestic fee-paying places, a voucher system, attacks on student and staff representation (not surprising given there is none on the reference group) at all levels of institutional governance and attacks on staff wages and conditions.

funded research is an investment and not a burden on the public purse because of the potential industrial and global competitive edge it can foster, increased export markets and hence job creation.

The current situation whereby education policies are being driven solely by fiscal concerns has the potential to stifle the ability of schools, colleges and universities to facilitate creative change in society. Education serves its purposes best when it is free to prepare students along all the dimensions relevant to an uncertain future - human, social, environmental, as well as economic.

Policy-makers need to develop an education policy approach that is perennially equitable and utilises all the resources of future undergraduates and maximises their potential into further academic pursuits or for the pursuit of excellence in their professional and personal lives. The future prosperity of Australia lies in its ability to pursue equally the social and the economic in every venture. Economic orthodoxies are not going to advance a civil and tolerant society alone. It is the generation of thinking; creative and humanistic endeavour that will advance humanity, and the opportunity to do so must include all of the population without the hindrances incurred through market failure and inequality of opportunity.

**Bek Cornish is SAUA President and
Phil Harrison is her Project Research Officer**

im nOt cOming Out til im in fashiOn. notjak

You won't catch us taking it easy

What does an academic do all day? A beleaguered member of the species offers Education Minister Brendan Nelson some lessons.

Dear Brendan,

Apologies for taking so long to write. I've had to wait for a break from teaching. I've been teaching five subjects each week this semester, spread over two campuses, and what with my research and public duties, I've had to neglect not only helping you sort out higher education in Australia but family and friends.

I have managed to squeeze this letter in between marking assignments.

I realise you (and your hard-headed mates running the Treasury) have difficulty spreading the taxpayers' dollars across all the things a good society wants and deserves, and hence you want advice from me as well as others who might have some ideas, such as the vice-chancellors and the Productivity Commission.

You might not remember that I spent many years as a commissioner with what was then called the Industry Commission. Improving productivity is a bit like increasing taxes - you can only go so far before you hit a brick wall.

On productivity gains in the universities I do think you, and the education ministers before you, have pushed as far as you can go. One of the laws of economics is diminishing returns.

There is only so much a professor can do before each additional hour in the classroom, lab or field results in less and less worthwhile output, and eventually in a productivity decline; the professor is more productive working 70 hours a week than working 80 hours a week.

Academics are like those medical doctors (your field) who are driven by professional commitment to the extent that the 80-hour week becomes the norm. However, eventually tiredness sets in and even the most dedicated and careful start to make mistakes. Just as we don't want botched operations, we don't want poor quality university engineers, economists or ecologists.

I suppose I owe it to you to produce some facts and figures to justify my claims. I'm going to use my situation as an example; however, I know it is replicated throughout Australia's universities.

You may think that your department has enormous amounts of data - it must have, we fill in so many forms for it these days - and you don't need a lone academic to tell you how it really is at the coalface. My hypothesis is that the type of aggregated data you have misses out on showing the enormous gains that have been made in productivity in the universities and the fact that these are being eroded by a push into diminishing returns.

OK, what do I do each week to justify my claim that we have reached the limit?

I told you I'm in charge of five subjects and I do most of the teaching in all of them. Two are postgraduate coursework masters and most students are fee-paying (admittedly most of the fees represent nothing more than a transfer of Australian taxpayers' money from one basket to another). This is precisely the type of student you and your predecessors said the universities had to attract.

These people are a delight to teach. Not only do we analyse the environmental and economic problems in their home countries (from Nepal to New Guinea) but we have fun (yes) analyzing how different cultures, religions and ethnic groups build strong or weak social capital.

When I think of my overseas students I am reminded of the warning by Paul Kelly (*The Weekend Australian*, June

8-9). He was at Harvard recently and has expounded on the views of that university's Joseph Nye. Nye says that what with international terrorism and religious fundamentalism, we are not just in a military battle but a battle of ideas.

Now, the latter is something the universities are good at. In Nye's words, universities generate soft power - that is, the art of persuasion. Nye informs us that countries with which we like to compare ourselves, such as Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, have much greater influence on the world than their size would suggest because of their soft power. This comes from their healthy investment in human resources, among other things.

Kelly reminds us of when Australia had considerable soft power (in our region at least) and that was through the Colombo Plan. I went to university with people brought here under that scheme. They came to our country and learnt not only how to dissect frogs, but, indirectly, how to build democratic, secular societies back home. Some succeeded at this on their return and the world became a marginally better and safer place.

But in 2002, Kelly tells us that the decline in university quality means that the top-level foreign students never come here. (He is partly wrong - a few still do - but he is correct about the trend.) I reckon your colleague, Defence Minister Robert Hill ought to kick in some of his defence budget to help the universities address this matter.

Let's get back to illustrating why our productivity is declining. I no longer have qualified tutors. You probably recall tutors and demonstrators from when you were at university. I started my academic career as a tutor. Now I have to find students who are desperate enough for money to give up study and research time to tutor.

Being an academic at a multi-campus university means that I forgo hours of teaching and research time in travel. This is not to argue against the amalgamations, but to point out that for the gains in spreading some costs across campuses there are corresponding losses.

Now, if all I had to do was teach, I could ensure no productivity losses and even quality, year in, year out. However, my teaching is based on my research. That's what differentiates

an academic from a schoolteacher. Research ends up in journals and books. Somehow I managed to have two books released in the semester just gone.

My research, like that of many of my colleagues, requires substantial time in the field. That is extremely hard to come by when you teach four days a week. Once my research starts to be curtailed, my teaching will suffer. The time for that is rapidly approaching.

And, Brendan, that's not all I have to do. I have to supervise 14 PhD and research students. Furthermore, your colleagues like to get academics to do work for governments. Sure, that is an honour. And we tend to do it for no pay. That hurts a bit, given our salaries have decreased in relative terms rather significantly. Professors' salaries used to be linked with those of lower court judges, similar to my salary when I was a commissioner. I took a one-third cut in salary to join my

university six years ago.

My small government-allocated task is to look after one of this country's World Heritage areas, Australia's tropical rainforests. I have some fellow board members and a small staff of 30. But this is for a business (to think of it in economic terms) that generates about \$750 million a year in direct and indirect tourism expenditure.

This job takes up close to one day of my time every week, and it involves difficult little things such as resolving community conflicts, working with indigenous people on joint management and encouraging partnerships with ecotourism operators. If I were looking after a private sector or corporatised government body of the same economic importance, I would be handsomely rewarded financially.

Just jotting down these jobs I do is making me feel tired. Yet there is another important one. Not only do governments ask academics to lend their expertise to important tasks, so does the private sector.

From its inception in 1986 I have been chairman of this country's accreditation scheme for ecotourism. It is worth noting that Australia is considered the world leader in ecotourism and that this is important for our future. Tourism is the largest employer in the country. Nature-based tourism accounts for about half our overseas arrivals.

I treat this as an important, fun, unpaid job. More important, as an expert in that area, it is something I believe I should do. Academics are like that, Brendan.

Now I reckon I've accounted for seven days a week, and long days at that, before tackling the array of university administration professors have to do.

Please don't mention the next matter to my vice-chancellor or senior administrator but, as someone who believes that numbers matter (shades of my Industry Commission days), I would like to know how the savings universities have made in getting rid of tutors, increasing class sizes, reducing conference funding and so on have been spent more wisely.

When I was an industry commissioner, we would investigate the structure of public-sector institutions and the ratio of administrative costs to service-delivery costs to ascertain if the resources were being allocated where

they had the greatest effect. We took that to be providing the services the public wanted, such as water, electricity, hospital beds. In universities, the services are teaching and research.

OK, you'll respond that this isn't the only option. Why not increase universities' income through a user-beneficiary pays system - full-fee paying students?

I understand where you are coming from. However as a well-trained economist I know that it is not that simple.

As a liberal you would have read the works of John Stuart Mill and thought about the public-good benefits of education. The benefits spread much wider than those obtained by the student.

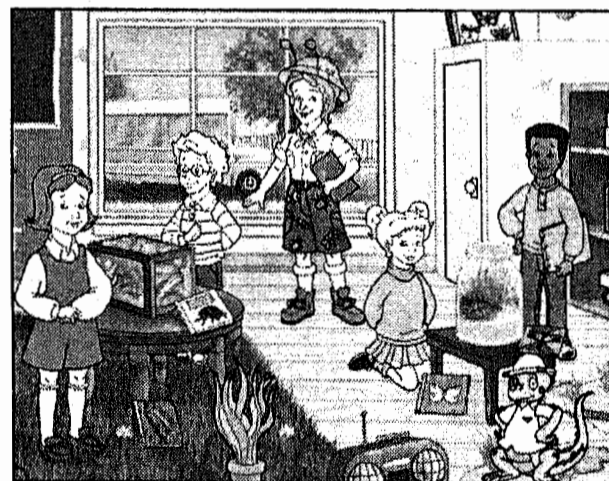
Australia would not rank in the mid teens in terms of economic size or in the top five in the world on the scale of human development had we not made significant investments in higher education in the past.

Yours sincerely,
Tor Hundloe

Tor Hundloe is Professor of Environmental Management at the University of Queensland.

Article reprinted with permission from Tor Hundloe, from *the Australian*, Wednesday, August 14 2002

Academics are like those medical doctors (your field) who are driven by professional commitment to the extent that the 80-hour week becomes the norm. However, eventually tiredness sets in and even the most dedicated and careful start to make mistakes. Just as we don't want botched operations, we don't want poor quality university engineers, economists or ecologists.



Professors not only cope with a hefty workload - they also have to wear some rather embarrassing shorts.



WOULD YOU LIKE FRIES WITH THAT?

The cultural devaluing of arts and humanities

In preparing this article, I thought I would gauge the kind of concepts associated with your garden-variety liberal arts degree within an easily accessible and expansive sample, so I performed a simple search through the popular Google site. I entered the combination <"Would you like fries with that?" arts degree>, wondering just how tightly this hackneyed joke was bound to the study of arts, humanities and social science subjects. For those who somehow have missed this rib-tickler, it goes something like this:

The graduate with a Science degree asks, "Why does it work?"

The graduate with an Engineering degree asks, "How does it work?"

The graduate with an Economics degree asks, "How much will it cost?"

The graduate with a Liberal Arts degree asks, "Would you like fries with that?"

Depressingly, my search retrieved some 290 matches, from sources spanning three continents. Goodness knows how many more results I could have pulled up by taking into account some subtleties of gag telling. Most disturbingly, the bulk of the results were from

official university websites, with the remainder coming from joke anthology pages!

This superficially irritating but also offensive witticism was something I had in mind upon finishing school in 1999. I submitted only two preferences to SATAC, which I am sure were echoed on many other school leavers' forms: number one was to study Law at Adelaide, and number two was to take Arts at Adelaide. My desire to do law was driven pretty much by parents, teachers and friends who declared it was what I *had* to do, given that I had chosen all those pesky humanities subjects and had a knack for PES Legal Studies, which everyone knows is the vital prerequisite to any serious law degree. Arts was what I would have to put up with in order to fulfil the double degree requirement of the Adelaide LLB. The embarrassingly low entrance score (65) coupled with the comparatively low tuition fees (\$11,500 per year) reinforced their contempt for studying arts.

After missing out on Law by all of 0.3, I took it as a sign, and dedicated myself to getting the most out of my Bachelor of Arts, ignoring warnings that this was a "waste of a brain". Although I admit to having transferred to a Bachelor of Social Sciences, a) because my subjects were concentrated in the social sciences rather than the humanities, and b) because it sounds a bit different to the thousands of B.A.s earned every year, I have never looked back.

However, I suspect that thousands of

students bumble through their arts degrees in fear of what comes after graduation, and don't take seriously the great knowledge and resources made available to them. There are probably thousands more stranded in degrees they hate because their own concerns or peer pressure have made them choose anything other than an arts degree. These views are primarily informed by a pervasive cultural devaluing of the arts, humanities and social sciences, the components of a Bachelor of Arts.

The average Australian doesn't have much time for the arts, if media coverage is anything to go by. Sport is what Middle Australia can't get enough of: switching on the television any time between about 11am and 7pm on a Saturday or Sunday will reveal nothing but sports coverage. 'News' programmes devote about one-third of their total air time to a whole lot of ball kicking, sweating and grunting. It is hard to imagine an artist, author or social analyst - particularly a female one - achieving quite the iconic status of a Lleyton Hewitt or a Don Bradman (although Adelaide engineering graduate Andy Thomas has gained a small following). The arts and humanities are reserved for 'fringe' media, or a few pages towards the back of *The Advertiser*, perhaps citing the results of some kooky social study into why women shop and men... watch sport.

A meeting of the new Executive Dean of our Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Mike Innes, and the faculty's

undergraduate representatives two weeks ago raised some of these concerns. In particular, representatives from the Classics, Philosophy and Music departments joked in a bittersweet tone about their degrees' lack of marketability and degraded status, reflected in budget cuts and resource limitations, a feeling that was no doubt familiar to others in the room. Many felt that the very low entrance score was a slight on their intelligence and capability. It was encouraging then to hear from the new Dean that he too was deeply concerned about this degradation of the arts and humanities, and wanted to somehow once again raise the status of these marginalised disciplines. These disciplines were not always considered 'useless'; in fact, it was once a perfectly honourable pursuit to read Ancient Greek or Philosophy, he said.

However, it is not immediately clear how such an elevation of status and value can be achieved. It is evident that a monumental cultural shift is needed. In our Western capitalist society, the cultural drive is to make money, money, money. Consequences of devaluing the arts can already be seen in an inhumane government bent on making money and ignorant of vital social issues. It is no surprise that the era of most social gains for South Australia coincided with the arts-loving reign of Don Dunstan - the 'other' Don.

Gemma Clark
will be proudly placing her Bachelor of Social Sciences on the mantelpiece at the end of this year

MESSAGE to PARENTS IMPORTANT

Dear Children,

Here is a note for your parents to read. It is extraordinary to have a note sent home to your parents' now that you are at University but this is a very important note that has to do with your future and the future of many others. Feel free to read it yourself, as you did when you were at school, just to make sure you are not in any trouble, but then again you are, not with your teacher but with the Government!

Thirty years ago Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam said "Education is the key to equality of opportunity. Sure, we can have education on the cheap, but our children will be paying for it for the rest of their lives... a student's merit rather than a parent's wealth should decide who should benefit... Education should be the great instrument for the promotion of equality."

As a result of hard won battles over education thirty years ago, today most Australian parents take it for granted that their academically minded children can openly compete for a place at university. Admission to university is based on the quality of a student's academic performance measured against that of their peers. This fundamental

principle may no longer hold, if the Federal Government's plans to deregulate the university system proceed.

Simply put, deregulation means that wealthy families will be able to purchase limited university places for their children, rather than university entrance being funded by government, with a regulated and controlled entrance based on academic merit. The wealthy will ensure their children access university by driving up the price they are prepared to pay for a place, not because their child has the academic merit to succeed or contribute, but because they can afford to create opportunities for their children at the expense of others.

Whenever a commodity is of limited supply in the open market, we see higher prices. Government should not treat education like the property market, instead they have a social responsibility to intervene in the market to ensure that all young people have an opportunity to access the key to equality of opportunity.

What is concerning is the lack of community awareness or media attention to the issue, probably due to the fact that it will not directly impact on the hip-pockets of tax paying middle Australians today. However,

unchecked it ensures the children of middle Australia will carry with them a millstone of unnecessary proportions for many years to come.

We must remember that a university education is not necessarily a ticket in itself to lucrative and elite employment opportunities, but an entry pass for occupations such as nursing, teaching, social work and accountancy.

Young Australians already carry an enormous financial burden for higher education, with most university students graduating with debts upwards of \$25,000. Just how much more debt will parents allow their children to incur for an education before they say enough?

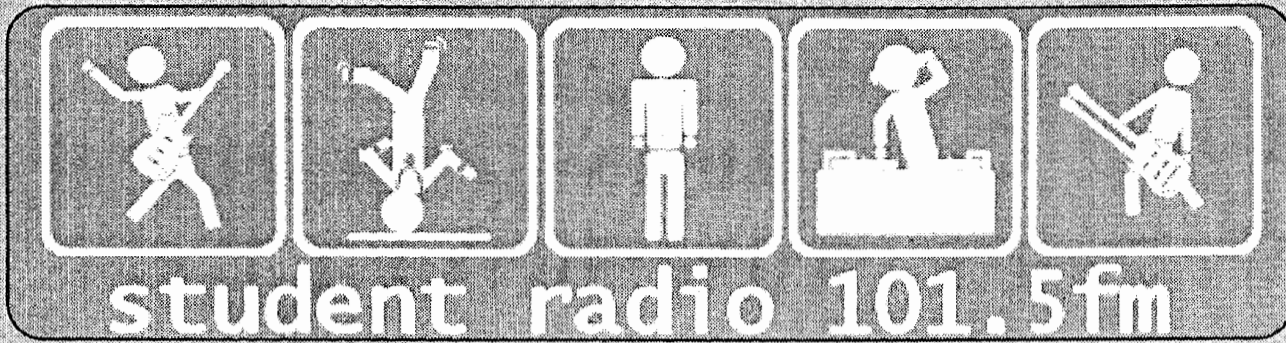
Campaigns for equal access to education cannot be confined to student activists around the country, as the Government just does not seem to be listening. The fight against deregulated university education must become a battleground for all parents who want their children to have a fair go. (Kids: ask your parents about the principle of a Fair Go! Australians need to look to the present governance of this country - where is the old 'fair go' we were once proud of?) Prime Minister John Howard and his Minister

Brendan Nelson will have to be forced to rule out deregulation and a market based system for our public universities. Ask your parents to direct any correspondence emanating from this article to either:

John Howard, PM
Postal Address:
GPO Box 59 Sydney NSW 2001
Tel: (02) 9251 5711
Fax: (02) 9251 5454
No email for the PM (How typical)

Or Brendan Nelson, MP
Suite 8 12-16 Tryon Road
Lindfield NSW 2070
Tel: (02) 9465 3950
Fax: (02) 9465 3999
B.Nelson.MP@aph.gov.au

Phil Harrison
is a concerned parent, and also the Students' Association's Project/Research Officer



MONDAY

TUESDAY

SATURDAY

9PM None the Wiser
Like alternative music? Think JJJ sucks? 'nuff said.

Local Noise
Something for Kate, the Lapdogs, Hummel & Revolvar have all been on Adelaide's premier live music show. Listen in for live-to-air tunes!

If you think I'm crazy
Stacey and Jakin are two lovely young ladies. Unfortunately they are both insane and listen to indie pop. Join in and help them with their pain.

10PM Three Chords
These two punkers are back for a third year. Will they learn? Rumours abound that between them they have a full arse*.
*Not guaranteed.

Big Arts
Mike Clarkin, famed for his movie reviews on Crud Radio, returns with Big Arts. The hour will feature music, movie and theatre reviews. Get some culture into you!

London loves whipping Piccadilly
Brit pop pure and simple. From Blur to Gorillaz you are guaranteed one Damon Albarn track a night*
*Not guaranteed

11PM Punk Around
Two punk shows in a row! You would have thought that it was planned like that.

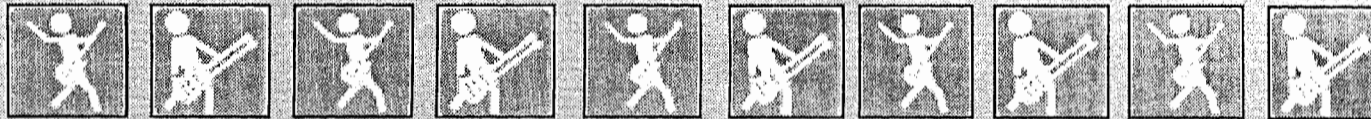
I Took my Prozac:
Leila and her gang of trained monkeys present a show of giveaways, reviews and indie music.

The G-spot
Idle banter, frightfully funky music and prank calls to German tourists, brought to you by a bunch of nice young chaps.

12PM Heavy as
Feeling tired? Lethargic? Short on breath? Perhaps you are not getting enough metal in your diet. Heavy as provides 1/3 of your daily metal intake.

Lost in the Mix
DJ Dave mixes up dance tracks seamlessly from midnight. He does it so well you'd think he was a commercial DJ. Oh hang on, he is!

Paul and DJ Zanda
Two mismatched personalities: one playing funk and the other rock. Join in and find out which will win!



Profile-None the Wiser

Monday 9pm
Sick Of The Everyday? Open Your Mind To The Alternative.

Name of Show: None the Wiser

Next Show: 19th August

Presenter: Ashes

Style of Music: Alternative music

Tune in and hear from: The most extensive variety of alternative music in Adelaide (claim may not be substantiated).

Biggest claim to fame: A two hour Christmas music special from 12-2am.

Describe your show using words that start with the letter I: Inspirational, yet irrelevant (work that one out).

A huge variety of alternative music. Occasionally we have a special on an artist of special alternative renown and sometimes departing from the plot completely for a MOVIES and their MUSIC special (quotes and songs from movies). Every week we have a BLAST FROM THE PAST.

Student Radio

More Fun Than A Weekend On Hindley St.

In the upcoming week we have **Local Noise** at 9pm this Tuesday night featuring **Somersault**. Its followed by Mike's in depth look at the local arts scene in **Big Arts**. Hang around for the variety with a capital V with Leila and Charlie the Phone Boy on **I Took My Prozac**. The night concludes with a dance party for one thanks to the professional DJ skills of **DJ David James** and his lounge style show **Lost In The Mix**.

*If you've ever wanted to become involved in the production of quality music, this is your chance. After a distinguished career as Local Noise Director DJ Denni D has decided the time is right to move on. If the idea of promoting quality local bands while learning interviewing and mixing skills sounds good, contact radioradio@senet.com.au to register your interest.

Carlos D. Sanchez

AUGUST

- 19 FRENCH CLUB PERFORMERS
LITTLE THEATRE
CONTACT CLUBS PH: 8303 3410
- 21 "FACES OF HOPE" BBQ AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
11AM - 1PM OUTSIDE UNIRECORDS
- 24 THE FAUVES
UNIBAR 7PM
- 27 - 28 UAC FOOD & WINE FAIR
GOODMAN CRESCENT
CONTACT UAC PH: 8303 5401
- 30 SPORTS ASSOCIATION QUIZ NIGHT

SEPTEMBER

- 2 - 6 ELECTION WEEK
- 2 LAW REVIEW LITTLE THEATRE 2-14
- 9 MULTI-CULTURAL WEEK CONTACT OSA
8303 5852
- 12 CLUBS AWARDS NIGHT CONTACT
CLUBS 8303 3410
- 13 RUSSIAN PERCUSSION UNIBAR
- 14 SUPERHEIST SNAP TO ZERO & CLONE-B UNIBAR 8PM 18+ ONLY (ID REQUIRED FOR ENTRY) TIX \$12 PLUS BF ON SALE AT VENUETIX & CIB OUTLETS 15

IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WISH TO INCLUDE IN NEXT MONTH'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY UNION ON 8303 5401 OR E-MAIL ME kate.fuss@adelaide.edu.au

UNION CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Want to win the queen size bed in the Wills?

YES!!

Then check out Cloisterphobia for the Union Card fortnightly Lucky Numbers draw for your chance to win!

www.union.adelaide.edu.au/cloisterphobia

The Stanley George Variety Page

THE IDEA OF MENTAL health has been hotly contested for thousands of years. The medical establishment have flitted amongst notions of demonic possession, fluid imbalance, and celestial alignment in order to explain the cause of mental illness. Furthermore, each generation of physicians has convinced itself that their explanation is the most accurate. This culture of arrogance has resulted in a long tradition of gross misdiagnosis and mistreatment of the mentally ill - a tradition that continues to this day.

The current wisdom amongst psychologists and neuroscientists is that mental illness is largely the result of chemical imbalances in the brain, which can almost always be corrected by some form of prescription medication. Prozac, Paxil, Celexia, Effexor, Risperdal, Xanax, Zoloft - the list of miracle cures for madness is almost as long as the list of multinational pharmaceutical companies that market them to kick-back friendly doctors all over the western world. The capitalist quick-fix society that surrounds us demands passive conformity. Individuals who don't fit into a soulless and homogenising rat race are quickly diagnosed as crazy, and led to believe that dozens of profit-driven pharmaceutical companies have the solution.

By my reckoning, some of the greatest minds in the history of civilisation were quite mad. In many ways, their 'disorders' gave them the ability to see things differently, to question the status quo, to challenge the dominant ideas and injustices of the time. Nowadays, someone diagnosed with Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder is prescribed Ritalin such that they can behave 'normally'. Someone who suffers from manic depression is led to believe that they need a drugs like Paxil and Zoloft to suppress their fluctuating moods.

I'm not necessarily suggesting that the pharmaceutical industry is in cahoots with the government in a diabolical conspiracy that aims to suppress the will of the masses. Not at all. All that I'm suggesting is that a mental disorder is too often treated like any other disease - something that should be swiftly eradicated at any cost.

**The mad are
all in God's
keeping.**

Rudyard Kipling

I'M NO HIPPIE. Not by a long shot. I for one am sick of spaced-out pagans who think that a combination of dreadlocks, hash cookies and beaded curtains will provide the solution to the ills of the world. Nevertheless, I find it hard to believe that cocktail after cocktail of synthesised neurotransmitters is any kind of answer either. I would like to see prescriptions for long walks, meditation, psychiatry and bashing in the television screen.

Spirit-crushing drugs are not always the solution to a case of mental disorder. In a world that is increasingly devoid of the spiritual, it is easy to forget that the mind is probably the most mysterious thing in existence. Even hard-nosed neuroscientists have to admit that there is something profoundly spiritual about the human condition. We are more than the synapses and neurons. Governments and doctors alike need to realise this if we are to have any chance of understanding mental illness.

**I am stunned.
I feel like I've
uncovered a
dark secret of
modern
society, some
kind of carry-
over from
the days
of insane
asylums and
bloodletting.**

Robert Wipond

**To define true madness,
What is it to be nothing else but mad?**

William Shakespeare

NOTORIOUS FOR HIS CORPORATE style of government, Jeff Kennett was hell-bent on leaving a wide variety of government services in the hands of greed-head private organisations. Sure enough, in 1993, the Kennett Government announced its intention to de-institutionalise the Victorian mental health system. To my mind, this move set a horrible precedent across the country, eventually leading to a mental health crisis harking back to the draconian insane asylums of old.

In 1994 the South Australian Liberal Government followed suit, privatising an already heavily downsized mental health system. The result was a sustained decline in quality of care, along with the practise of prematurely releasing patients into the community - a practise that has persisted to this day.

It is no secret that the number of homeless people in the metropolitan area of Adelaide has skyrocketed in the last few years. Soup kitchens and city missions are finding it increasingly difficult to care for a growing population of cold and hungry street people.

What's more, I remember being able to talk to the homeless without fear of them flying into a rage. Is it just me, or has the homeless population of Adelaide become increasingly antisocial? Is this the result of a deregulated mental health system that is no longer willing or able to care for the mentally ill? The Howard Government's own studies have shown that rates of alcoholism, drug abuse, homelessness and suicide amongst the mentally ill have soared since Jeff Kennett's decision to deregulate. Sadly, a succession of both state and federal Health Ministers has failed to address what is fast becoming an intractable social problem.

**I can now see that the whole
world is the same - crazy - and
I'm just one of the few who can
no longer be their idea of normal.**

John Drescher

SINCE HIS 1999 REMOVAL from office, Jeff Kennett has had a lot of spare time on his hands. No longer able to run the State of Victoria like a profit-driven corporate juggernaut, Kennett has been killing time by writing condescending op-ed pieces for broadsheet newspapers and hosting his very own talk-back radio show. On top of this, he has been 'raising awareness' of the tragedy that is the growing suicide rate amongst sufferers of clinical depression.

To my mind, this is almost too hypocritical to be funny. How can the man credited for paving the way for the premature release of thousands of mental patients have the *gall* to appear as if he cares about the welfare of the mentally ill.

Even after politics, the Jeff Kennetts of this world will never cease to be sanctimonious fuckheads.



THE PROPOSED UNION RESTRUCTURE:

IT'S TIME!

The futures of our student organisations are not certain. With the potential for governmental attack and a long history of financial trouble, there should be a great impetus for change at a rapid pace for our student union.

In the last few weeks we have read articles and letters that have spread misinformation and a very biased, ignorant and self-interested side of the argument about changing our student organisation structures.

For the last nine months we have heard the student union talk about a proposed restructure of our student organisations, and for good reason.

For the last ten years the Adelaide University Union and its affiliated bodies appear to have operated as many businesses did in the 1980s: flashy, big spending, achieving little real gain, and with little regard for the future. Cash reserves were dwindled, senior managers received over-inflated salaries, and commercial activities posted record losses that plunged the union into debt.

Our student organisations now find themselves financially crippled, vulnerable, irrelevant to their members, and ripe for ideological and governmental attack.

The solution that the Union came up with was a wide-ranging restructure of our student organisations (Union, SAUA, Clubs, Sports, Waite, Roseworthy, Postgraduate Students' Association, Overseas Students Association).

Anyone who has seen the inner workings of the AUU affiliates would agree that there is no reason why we should have eight separate student organisations. At present, we have eight separate organisations, and eight governing bodies, with eight separate presidents, who all are paid. This is wasting money, and not allocating resources to achieve the best results. I personally have sat on the governing bodies of three of the eight and have seen first hand the need for changes to be made.

How can our Students' Association defend us against governmental attack when its internal focus is pegging back a \$35,000 O'Ball loss, and a total deficit rumoured to be more than \$65,000? Instead of fighting for us, they are spending all their time on pegging back debt from a concert.

Students should be outraged that both the student union (AUU) and Students' Association both fund activities' departments and have activities officers and committees to perform exactly the same functions. There are endless examples of similar wasteful duplication, that must be changed if there is to be a future for student representation.

The need for one student representative

and service providing organisation, with a common strategic direction, is the only protection against an uncertain future. Such a model has been drafted, with one President instead of eight, and provision for all representative functions of affiliates to be incorporated into one organisation.

The benefits are numerous: the obvious financial savings, protection from Voluntary Student Unionism, a common strategic direction, the ability to run campaigns for all students (undergraduate, postgraduate, overseas students and smaller campuses), new areas of representation and the co-ordination of activities, and events by one organisation.

There does appear to be some small-mindedness and ignorance from pockets of the student representative community. Some have branded this idea of change as part of a 'conservative agenda'. This assertion is ridiculous, when it is being pushed by students from all political persuasions and

incorporates new areas of representation instead of a reduction. If anything it is a more progressive move, opening up and broadening the scope of the advocacy and representation offered.

Many involved in student organisations would consider themselves as reformists (there are not many revolutionaries around anymore - thank goodness). It is ironic that a group of people who claim to want to represent students to the government and community, and who continually campaign for change, refuse to accept the necessity for change in their own backyards.

If a government minister or a vice-chancellor was being so regressive and anti-change, we would call them a conventionalist, a traditionalist, or a die-hard conservative.

The statements made in the last few weeks by the opponents of the restructure indicate that their comments are knee-jerk reactions which are anti-change. I am not prepared to accept the status quo if it is wasteful of my, and other students' money, just because some people can't change their ways.

Many argue that a restructure will remove the 'autonomy' of affiliates, and will restrict the specialist departments in their representative roles. The roles of the affiliates are to represent and/or provide services to specific groups on campus. The restructure actively creates a situation where there is greater emphasis on the representative and service needs of these groups. If it is examined, the new structure actually goes further, creating new areas of representation.

It is true that Affiliates of the AUU are

separate legal entities, and do have autonomy to act as they wish. Some affiliates however don't understand that with autonomy comes responsibility. Autonomy means you run your own affairs. It doesn't mean that you do what you want, even if it is financially risky, and when you stuff up, you run back to your parent organisation and expect them to fix it for you. This is what is happening now.

Why should we accept the current situation, when the affiliates cry 'autonomy' at every opportunity, and then when they have a human resources issue, or a financial problem, or need their accounts audited, or maintenance performed, or have legal issues, or want new computers and IT equipment, they run back to the Union and cry for help? In recent years there has been no responsibility taken.

Perhaps those who oppose the restructure are disappointed that instead of being called the President of a separate organisation, they will be called an officer of a portfolio, for example? I suspect it is all about ego and self-interest and what goes on the resume and business card.

We have seen major opposition from people who can only be described as serial honorarium earners. They get elected to the affiliate presidencies and office bearing positions, time and time again, only to get paid more student money. The current Postgraduate President for example, whom we heard from in last week's letters, is serving her third term as President. At the end of her current reign she will have been paid over \$55,000 of students' money. Perhaps it is blatant self-interest is the reason why some are opposed to the unification of all the organisations.

The postgraduates' stance in last week's edition, announced through their President, Helen Kavanagh, was a narrow-minded, biased and ill-informed piece.

It was claimed that under the new structure there would be no representation for students with a disability. This is incorrect, and is exactly one of the reasons why a Welfare Officer, Department and Committee will be introduced.

There was a claim that under the new structure, students would lose all the vital campaigns that are currently being run. This is a mighty big claim for the Postgraduate Students' Association to make, considering in their last budget (2001) they spent more money on wages, beer and BBQ, alcohol and activities, than they did on educational campaigns. In fact they have campaigned so hard, that postgraduate fees keep rising, and postgraduate students are further penalised by the University and government.

Many oppose the changes for purely political reasons. It is very obvious, that with

only one president, the ability for campus student political factions to deal off positions in one affiliate in return for support for another, would be nullified.

As someone who for five years was at the heart of such factional goings on, I can only say that it is time for people to look outside the square. The potential benefits not only for the organisation and students, but for the electoral fortunes of progressive groups on campus is provided for in the new restructure. The new proposed structure would house those with political allegiances much more comfortably and easily than those who are void of political belief. The future should be about long-term strength instead of short-term gain. If the playground is not upgraded, in the long term there will be no playground for anyone to play in at all.

Those opposing change appear to offer little in argument as to why we shouldn't restructure the organisations. They provide lies, and innuendo. They claim that it is all a conservative agenda to undermine the ability of students to fight government, when their anti-change opinions show them as the real conservatives. Their arguments are based on self-interest, and their fear-mongering and lies only undermine the strength of student unionism.

There is no reason why the union fee is as high as \$327, and any move to reduce the fee and increase the services offered to students by cutting waste and duplication must be supported. Our annual student union fee is higher than that of some trade unions. Many students cannot afford these high fees.

The Union Board, and particularly the President and Vice-President were elected this year on a platform of promoting this change. Indeed I voted for both of them, expecting as they promised that this restructure would occur.

This change must occur. If it doesn't, those who can't see past the present will be kicking themselves in five years' time when we don't have any student organisations, and students are truly marginalised by government and the University, with no representation at all.

present will be kicking themselves in five years' time when we don't have any student organisations, and students are truly marginalised by government and the University, with no representation at all.

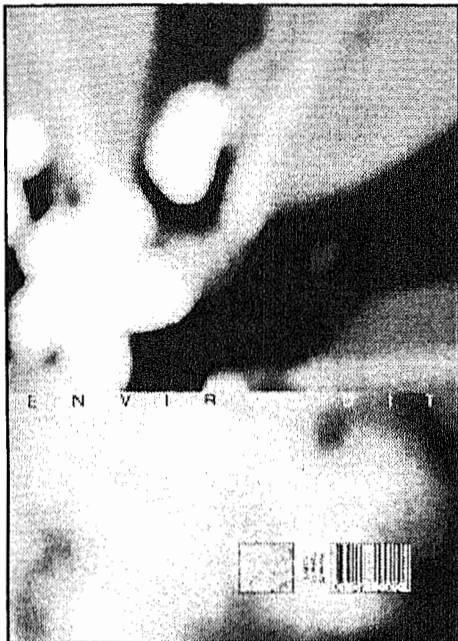
There are no excuses for the wasteful behaviour of our student organisations. Students should be demanding a change.

Brad Kitschke is a former member of the Adelaide University Union Board and was Students' Association Education Vice-President for 2001. He also wants to be Gough Whitlam.

The statements made in the last few weeks by the opponents of the restructure indicate that their comments are knee-jerk reactions which are anti-change. I am not prepared to accept the status quo if it is wasteful of my, and other students' money, just because some people can't change their ways.

This change must occur. If it doesn't, those who can't see past the present will be kicking themselves in five years' time when we don't have any student organisations, and students are truly marginalised by government and the University, with no representation at all.

Letters



Cars are crapola

Dear Eds and *On Dit* Readers,

I have just finished reading *On Dit* 12/8/02, and while I am most impressed with the passion that has obviously gone into this publication, I have noticed a large, gaping hole.

The purpose of *EnvironmentWeek* seems to be to encourage students to make environmentally sound choices. *On Dit* taught me how to make my own soap, grow a worm farm, cook vegetarian meals and take a stand against forestry. I support this stance, and have even been known as a bit of a 'greenie', although my major contribution to a healthier environment was not mentioned in *EnviroDit*. I choose not to use a car.

The emissions from motor vehicles contribute between 40 and 90% of the various pollutants in our air (www.smogbusters.net.au), and are main contributors to the problem of global warming. Juxtaposed with the fact that almost half of all car trips are less than 5 kilometres, we seem an awfully lazy bunch of people.

There are alternatives to driving for most people. Public transport, while it has many inadequacies, services most areas. It's largely a flat place, too, so Adelaide lends itself beautifully to cycling or walking, not just as a recreational activity but as a way of getting about. Incidental exercise!

There are times, though, that even I prefer to drive. At night, the lack of lighting on footpaths and bike paths, and the deserted, infrequently serviced bus stops and train stations mean that I drive the car. But why should I have to? Why should I use the most inefficient and polluting method of transport? Because there is no provision for me to make an alternative choice. It is this inactivity of politicians content to be chauffeured around in government cars that drives the apathy depriving me and everybody else of this choice.

The SAUA Environment department must be serious about encouraging ALL students to choose sustainable transport. It must activate governments, and even institutions like our own University to make provisions and incentives for people to

Welcome once again to the letters section. We love hearing from you about anything at all. Coming up to Elections, now is the perfect time to harass those student politicians to get their act together. No letters from polities though, you hear?! So email them in; the address is at the bottom of this page.

choose alternatives to cars. Environmental activism needs to be less reactive, less about the extreme, 'hippy' lifestyle, and concerned more with simple things ordinary people can do, such as choosing to leave their cars at home.

Yours,
Annalise Gehling
3rd year Social Science

Souped up

Dear Editors,

-Has anyone noticed that the soup in the Mayo this winter has been particularly excellent? I was content with Mayo favourites such as Cream of Broccoli, and Chicken and Vegetable, but come last week I went in and enjoyed a delicious serve of Sweet Potato and Bacon. Yummy. Thinking that such as soup was probably a product of a one-off burst of imagination from the chefs, imagine my surprise when the next day I went in and was treated to a serve of Carrot, Coriander and Cumin soup... and this one was even better than the Sweet Potato concoction! Now I believe that it is a fellow named Jon responsible for this sudden jump in the quality of the Mayo soups. Kudos to you Jon, this soup has changed my lunchtimes.

Yours,
Abigail

GE Madness

Dear *On Dit*,

Last weekend I attended the True Food Festival held at Rymil park in the hope that I might be enlightened on GM food products. At this stage I am standing on the fence over the matter as I do not have adequate information regarding the positives or negatives. I thought I might get some insightful information at this forum however as per usual I heard the usual scare propaganda proclaiming that ALL scientists are "gung ho" and "irresponsible". Being a scientist myself, I find this type of classification rather excessive.

So as per usual the facts were not presented in an unbiased way. So when I saw the Article in *EnviroDit*, 'Genetic Engineering: the Facts' by Kirsty Smith, I was ready to learn. It started out fine, however by the second paragraph we were back to the usual rhetoric "Genetic engineering is based on flawed premise". Is this a fact or an opinion?

I realise that *On Dit* relies on contributions which of course leads to in most cases personal opinion articles. Perhaps a better heading would have been "GM I've read an article or two and I believe the hype".

Thanks,
Stephanie Lambert
"still living in the dark"

I like coffee

Dear Coffee Pilferer,

Yinking my coffee (not to mention four kinds of tea, milk and my favourite teaspoon), from my locker pissed me off.

I hope you enjoy the coffee (the green tea is delicious also), because if I ever catch you, I will personally dismember you and mail the individual body parts to your mother.

Caffeine Deprived

Harry Potter and the curt student

Dear Eds,

I am sick and tired of waiting for the fifth *Harry Potter* book to come out. There are legions of fans waiting to discover all of the secrets of *Harry Potter*'s world, and JK Rowling is doing nothing to sate our enraged

lust.

It irritates me that JK is sitting in her castle in Edinburgh with millions of dollars to squander whilst she galavants around the place with her new husband. It's time she remembered who it was that put her in the place that she is right now, and let me just say that it wasn't Warner Bros. She may think that now she's a famous author, she can neglect her fans. But let's be realistic. She is writing children's books for heaven's sake. I would be the first to say that the *Harry Potter* books are full of intricate twists and turns, that leave you guessing for pages, but I don't believe that they are so complicated that she cannot find the time to pen a couple of chapters a day. If she were to do this, instead of being such a lazy trollop, we would probably be reading book seven right now.

Here is a timely message for you Ms. Rowling - in this technological age, people's attention spans are very short. If you don't provide the proles with what they want, they will soon forget all about you. Then where will your bank balance be?

Clementine

PS. My favourite is *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

Cover Up

Dear *On Dit*,

I really loved the cover of the edition with the Village People on the front of it in Week 2. I would go as far as to say it was my favourite from the year. The colours were gross - it was fantastic!

Looking forward to more like that in the future.

Yours
Casey Steiner

University of South Australia



Postgraduate Research
Scholarships

Institute for Telecommunications Research

Explore the cutting edge of Communications Research

The Institute for Telecommunications Research (ITR) is one of Australia's foremost research organisations specialising in world class research and postgraduate studies in the applications of coding, signal processing and protocol engineering in the areas of satellite communications, mobile radio systems and networks. ITR is a core partner in the CRC for Satellite Systems, and leads the Satellite Communications Research Program in that CRC.

We are currently inviting applications for postgraduate scholarships, leading to the award of MEng or PhD, from bright, highly motivated students who expect to obtain a 1st Class Honours degree in 2002, or persons who have previously completed an honours degree and have some work experience.

Women are encouraged to apply.

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

For further information contact Ms Sonia Watts: Student Support Officer, on telephone: +61 8 8302 3890, facsimile: +61 8 8302 3873, email: sonia.watts@unisa.edu.au

Closing dates:

Applications for International students will be received up to 30th August 2002
Applications for Australian students will be received up to 28th October 2002

VOX POP 101

TUTE: Discuss the Marxist implications of the text, "Trainspotting."



Alana
You'd drink Vitasoy too...

1. I don't learn stupid things. I do an Environmental Science degree.
2. You can stuff my Vitasoy up your arse.
3. I would sell my 5UV radio show, "The Motown Hour" (every second Saturday at 10pm) to commercial radio. It'd be gold.
4. I've had it pretty easy so far.

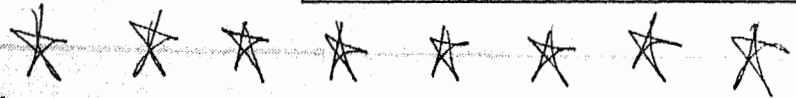
I learn the fine arts
 Brendan Nelson says, "Stop it!"
 My heart says, "Go on."



Daniel and Luke
Biblical names, but beerical intentions

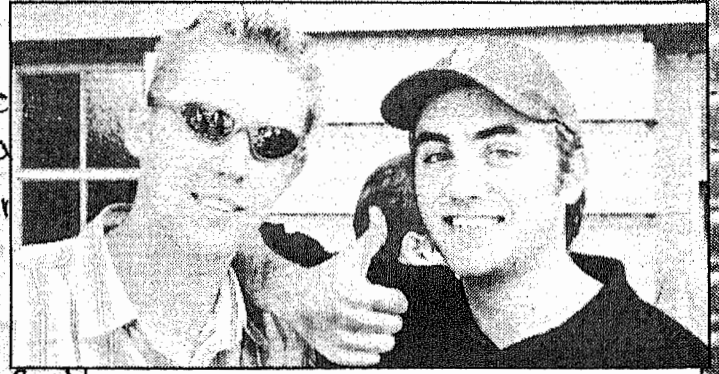
1. L - I couldn't choose.
 D - Nor me.
2. L - Leave the system the way it is, otherwise you're just going to dumb down Australia.
 D - The federal government is fucking us over again. What a surprise.
3. L - I wouldn't go to uni.
 D - I couldn't afford it independently.
4. L - I don't believe in free will.
 D - One time I had some of this dope cake, and I entered this mystical world of perception. I saw people as battery packs working for themselves. Charge yourself up and make it happen.

I ♥
 Christian Bale...
 CB → [stick figure] ♥♥♥ [stick figure] ← me



John and Chris
Love's young dream...

1. C - There's been so many.
 J - I agree.
2. C - I'd slap the bastard.
 J - It's fucked up our country (America), why would you want to fuck up yours?
3. C - I wouldn't be able to go. I'd work in a cinema for the rest of my life.
 J - Rob a bank. I've only done that once.
4. C - We're getting married now, so that's a pretty big change!



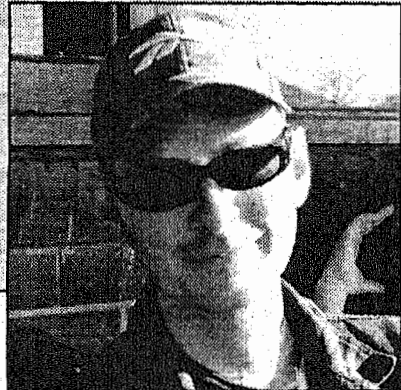
what did
 say a
 told her

She
 tha
 at

Rob and DJ Niko
Doin' it for the Engies. Again.

1. R - To be a good communicator you need to be able to talk.
 N - Engineering computing 1. We learnt what a keyboard, a mouse and a monitor was, and we needed a TER of 90 to do it.
2. R - Student finances are at an all time low.
 N - Rich kids get everything.
3. N - Sell my body and do more illicit DJ work.
 R - Sell Nick's body and manage his DJ business. I probably still wouldn't get to go to university...
4. N - To be a DJ with my head up my arse or to go to uni.
 R - I'm on a track. The track is straight. I see my goals.

Sept. 6th -
 EMC quintet @
 the exeter.
 Call Katie



John
With an angel on his shoulder...

1. Argument and Critical Thinking.
2. Education should be free so fuck you Brendan Nelson!
3. Sell my body to old women.
4. I was in a really shitty job, then I went to uni, and now I am poor.

D.B.
 / A
 E.M

- QUESTIONS:**
1. What's the stupidest thing you've ever learnt at University?
 2. What would you say to Brendan Nelson if you saw him?
 3. How would you fund your university education under the proposed scheme.
 4. What is a turbulent crossroad you've come to in your life?

Shopping
bread
milk



Alex, Julia, Amy, Peter
Random posse of righteous people

1. A - The middle section of union hall is the best place for sleeping
J - A lecture a day is always stupid.
Am - I had to learn the hard way that to fund my social life I'd have to work in retail.
P - At George Washington University I learnt that the guys toilet in the Gender Studies Department is the best spot to find sex.
2. A - I wouldn't recognize him.
J - Did you even go to uni, fuck-head?
Am - You can't put a price on education.
P - How old are his kids? Do they want a higher education?
3. A - I'd come to terms with it.
J - I would live with my parents for the rest of my life.
Am - Yeah, Julia and I would spend the next twenty five years working for Witchery.
P - I've got two kidneys - who needs them both?
4. A - "Are you right to drive, Alex?"
J - I remember standing in the airport at Bangkok trying to decide whether or not I would come home or remain a poor destitute backpacker for another year. I was crying.
Am - I am a big believer in human rights and women's issues and that's kind of my crossroads right now - trying to figure out what to do about it.
P - Do I stay here or go to the US to be with my girlfriend.

Top 5 childhood vids

1. The Princess Bride
2. The Labyrinth
3. The Croonies
4. The Neverending Story
5. Flight of the Navigator



Emelia and Mira
I like drinking...

1. M - To go on drinking binges in O'Week before uni even starts.
E - I haven't found any yet.
2. M - Private school kids maybe can afford it but Australia will become very uneducated.
E - I agree.
3. M - Anything and everything I could do to pay people. I would go crazy!
E - More strippers!
4. M - We're both at one now.

Roger
Loves
Clara

11010

2111

322

54%

Tobey Maguire is a total hottie!!

Suzannah and Chelsea
Juggling all of the hard decisions...

1. S - Get back to your car on time or you get a ticket. I have had many.
2. S - Talk to the students before you do anything. And to their parents.
But I couldn't be rude to him about it. I'm not like that!
C - He doesn't really bother me. I guess it's unfair for those who may not be able to come to uni, but personally it doesn't affect me so I don't really care.
3. S - I'd have to work longer hours, and enter the lottery!
C - Yeah, I wouldn't have to worry.
4. S - I was working full time last year, and I had to decide whether or not to defer my course for six months or a year.
C - Hmm. That's a tough one. Probably when I had to decide whether or not to be a television presenter or a physio. (Looks at the media books in front of her.) Either that or when I had to decide if I wanted to stay in Adelaide to study, or go to Sydney or maybe even overseas!



George - 0438 224 9350
sallypoo - 0411 474 5931



A.R.
A
C.D.
A
eva!
B

THE A-Z OF ANARCHY



Petr Kropotkin (1842-1921):

Kropotkin, like many Russian anarchists, was originally born into an aristocratic family. As a young man he was an attendant to the court of Alexander II. However, the Tsar's vicious repression of the Polish Rebellion of 1863 turned the young man against court politics and governments in general. Having been transferred to a Cossack regiment in Siberia, Kropotkin had ample opportunity to study the workings of nature and to pursue his passion of geography. It is in the field of geography that Kropotkin is most famously known, with his discoveries in Siberia being his most notable contribution. Later it is said that Kropotkin was offered the chair in geography at Cambridge, which he declined for political reasons.

After a short sojourn into western Europe, where Kropotkin met his fellow Russian anarchist Bakunin, he quickly immersed himself into Russian radical politics. Such activities inevitably lead to his arrest by the repressive and paranoid tsarist regime. For his efforts Kropotkin did the mandatory tour of duty in the Peter and Paul fortress. Although only spending three years in the fortress, Kropotkin, just like Bakunin before him (who spent eight years in the hell hole), managed to catch scurvy; however, with a bit of fortitude, Kropotkin kept his teeth.

As one would expect, the Hôtel de Peter and Paul did nothing to amend Kropotkin's view on the nature of government and its fiendish methods of compulsion. Prisons do not reform, they galvanise (– especially anarchists!) In exile Kropotkin was expelled from Switzerland, then heaved into a French prison, before eventually finding his way to the citadel of revolutionary émigrés: London. In London Kropotkin stayed until the Russian Revolution, where, in vain, he attempted to affect the direction revolution partook.

Philosophically Kropotkin's greatest contribution to anarchist theory was his conception that not everything in this world, including human society, was based upon competition. Darwin's concept of the survival of the fittest did not only apply the way Darwin's populist epigones envisaged. Cooperation was the quintessence of survival.

If humanity had proceeded up to this point just by competition, there would only eventually be one person standing. However, it can be clearly seen from observations in nature that individual humans, and individual animals, cooperate to achieve collective ends. There is no doubt that competition between species and species, and between species and environment, exists. This is Kropotkin's point. For the good of a species mutual aid is both more efficient and advantageous; and in history mutual aids benefits are manifest. Evolutionary theory does not always apply intra-species, but inter-species; i.e., humanity is in perpetual competition with other animals for scarce global resources. (Although, it must be added, that this does not necessarily have to be the case – but we digress.)

It is the fallacy of greedy capitalists, xenophobic simpletons, imperialistic 'statesmen', etc., that humanity has to compete with itself to survive. It is vested interests of hegemonic elites that propound such views to justify (whether that be in a secular or theological manner) their own raping of society, history, and this precious planet we occupy. Competition demands expansion. There is no need to emphasise some of the main currents of nineteenth and twentieth century history that manifestly illustrates this. If the social-Darwinist concept – *alone* – were eliminated from discourse, and not treated as a tablet handed down from upon high, humanity may actually be able to direct the resources at its disposal in more fruitful directions.

Neo-Liberalism (n: a highly contagious viral infection, mainly afflicting the intellectually challenged petty bourgeoisie):

Since it advocates both minimal government and maximal individual autonomy, neo-liberalism has been confused with anarchism. This is a mistake. Recent research indicates that libertarianism is, in fact, a severe viral infection, probably related to Mad Cow's disease. While its precise origins are unknown, neo-liberalism developed in the early 1970s, possibly as the result of substance abuse in the sixties.

After its first recorded outbreak, when it saved the UK's working class from the drudgery of work by making them redundant, neo-liberalism infected a number of prominent individuals, including the original mad cow herself, Margaret Thatcher, and the first single-celled organism to be elected president, George W. Bush. John Howard is believed to be an end-stage sufferer.

Tragically, neo-liberalism can strike anyone; intellectually challenged economics students, however, are most at risk, followed closely by anyone sharing the same shallow gene pool. While symptoms can vary, sufferers experience a common delusion: a belief in the existence of free markets. In rare cases, the afflicted also develop an unhealthy attraction to John Howard and Margaret Thatcher. Complete insanity follows almost immediately.

In the absence of an effective vaccine, our only hope is to practice safe economics. Remember: neo-liberalism is invariably fatal.

This has been a public health message from the AUAU.



Mondragon: The cooperative alternative to Market Capitalism:

In the Basque region of northern Spain, an incredible experiment in alternative production and social organisation has been underway since the mid 1940s. A large-scale federation of co-operatives, known as Mondragon, is providing work for a vast number of people, and is producing the majority of the local communities consumer needs. One of the major factors that make the Mondragon federation exceptional in the world of capitalism is that it is owned by its workers. Worker control is absolute: they even hire and fire their managers!

The products created by the federation are diverse and impressive, including all forms of light and heavy industrial goods (toasters to ships and buses, etc.), electrical, agricultural and technological goods.

The co-ops also provide many social roles and functions, which are 'traditionally thought to be the preserve of the state'. These include education, from reception level to university, with an emphasis on business administration and engineering. Other community-orientated co-ops include housing and retail, as well as a comprehensive social security program. The federation even has its own bank, the Caja Laboral Popular, which ranked 97th in the top 100 'most solvent banking institutions in the world' in 2000.

The Caja is the driving force behind Mondragon, providing it with the independence and flexibility required protecting its members and community, and financing new co-operative ventures. Mondragon is huge, with over 60,200 members and federated co-ops in over 11 countries.

The profits generated by the co-ops, which are more than considerable, (a trading profit of over 300 million euros in 2001), are utilised in three principle ways. Firstly, a percentage is kept for the workers in a form of a retirement fund; secondly, for reinvestment in new cooperatives; and, thirdly, returned into the community in the forms of educational, social and cultural investment. Such reckless socialism must give mainstream economist ulcers! Indeed, it was precisely this sensible and logical use of capital, that enabled the federation to endure the recessions of the 1970s and 1980s, with virtually no negative impact on the employment of its members. In fact, during the later 1980s, the federation actually added jobs, while the 'unemployment in surrounding capitalist industries was over 20%'.

However, even anarchists admit that Mondragon is neither exclusively anarchist, nor anarcho-syndicalist in its form or function. Indeed, Mondragon's pioneer, Jose Maria Arizmendiarieta, was a Roman Catholic Priest, albeit a very radical one. However, the considerable tradition of anarchism in Spain, and in the Basque region in particular, must be recognized as an instrumental factor in Mondragon's inception and success.

Mondragon illustrates that commercial success doesn't rely on a financially top heavy corporate structure, consisting of management inhumanely treating labour as a commodity for its own and absent shareholders benefit. Indeed, Mondragon's relative immunity during recession might even suggest that its structure is superior to that of market capitalism, (unless, of course, one aspires to become one of the managerial or shareholder leeches).

In short, Mondragon represents a working alternative to market capitalism and authoritarian socialism. Indeed, by capitalism's standards, Mondragon is not merely 'working'.



Nihilism:

The antithesis, the thesis, the cure, saviour, and death, of anything, and everything (of nothing?), which the libertarian fascists and economic departments can conjure up. What more can one ask for? Nihilism is the be all and end all curative for everything that is wrong with the current world. Best implemented by a cocktail named after one of Stalin's foreign ministers.

The AUAU takes no responsibility for the effects of this medicine. Which is why we have added it in; anarchism has nothing to do with nihilism. It is a common misconception that it is the case. But it is not!

WANT A DEGREE? THE GOVERNMENT WANTS YOUR SOUL..

With the imminent threat of more degradation to the higher education sector by a rapine government, the question begs itself: where am I going to find the money to go to uni in the coming years? If upfront fees are introduced, you really should start thinking now about where you will get the money from. You could sell your soul to hospitality, become a busker or telemarketer. The problem is that you'd need to labour for a period many numbers of time longer than the degree you're after to save the exorbitant sums required. Read on about how to fast track your path to the good life!

Method 1. Ransom

The idea behind ransom is that you threaten something which is valued by someone with buckets of cash. I'd suggest taking a leaf out of the movies (a bit of a mixed up metaphor - possibly 'taking a still frame out of the movies' would be better) and hijack some surplus nuclear material from a former Soviet country with degrading military infrastructure and services. Once you've escaped to the asylum of the Middle East, use these materials to build yourself a cache of warheads. Then, ransom the entire Free World for law degrees for you and all of your friends. If you intend to implement this on a smaller scale and threaten Adelaide University with acts explosive destruction, don't make the mistake of threatening to blow up the Napier because you really aren't providing the uni with any incentive to deal. They'd consider it a favour, although they may capitulate if you also threaten to get rid of the Department of Social Inquiry, Philosophy, Classics and all those other pesky non-marketable departments that won't attract corporate sponsorship in the same way that engineering does. They've been trying for years to achieve with bureaucracy what you can do in a few hours with some well-placed RDX charges.

Method 2. Mugging Pensioners

This is relatively easy to achieve. All that you have to do is to loiter outside a retirement village with a hooded jumper and accost Doris and May on their way home from their morning constitutional. With the government's policy on aged care and pensions, you'd probably have to mug 60,000 pensioners to just to study Arts. That means that there are probably only enough pensioners in Australia to finance about 13 degrees so get in quick!

Method 3. Starting a Cult

Given the increasingly vapid society of today, more and more people don't know where to turn to to sate the searing pit of emptiness in their souls. Why not take advantage of this? Start off small by preying on the bewildered and confused. An ideal place to start would be at O'Camp. Find out where it's being held and then infiltrate its ranks to disseminate your doctrine. Once you have a respectable base of followers, give yourself some cred by thinking of a catchy name for your belief system and for yourself. Something like the Arch Vizier of Clarity combines the comfort of the heirarchical conservatism that they'd be used to with whatever mainstream religion they most identify with, and the assurance of intrinsic wisdom, understanding and oneness with the universe. Take your show on the road and in no time you will have a thriving community of fervent followers to obey your slightest whim. If you still have any inclination to attend university (and why would you? You've got it made!) then instruct your Enlightened Clan of the Transcendent Wheel followers to sell all of their earthly goods and join you on the Final Step to Nirvana. After having them commit suicide, fake your own grisly death along with them and clean up! After cult running overheads are factored in (which is going to be a fair bit), given that the mean assets of your average cultists are likely to be worth about \$10,000, you only need to convince 80 people of the justice of your cause to study Medicine.

Method 4. Centrelink

Despite commonly held beliefs, it is actually possible to live purely on Youth Allowance. Trust me, I know. A committee of latest-model-Commodore-driving, expensive-tailored-suit-wearing, \$80,000-a-year-earning fuckwits told me so. Keep a look out for an upcoming article about exactly how to do so, coming soon to a Wayward column near you! However, to save up the \$100,000+ you'll need to study, you should've started putting away a few dollars in the Cretaceous Era.

Method 5. The Organ Trade

Given that the average kidney will fetch you about \$30,000 on the black market, there's some promise here to finance your study needs. Consider the average human body; two kidneys, one liver, heart, corneas, two lungs and random parts that scientific research will be happy to take off your hands. That's about 90% of an engineering degree right there if the Crossroads recommendations are applied. Thus you only need to plunder one fresh cadaver to start with and possibly throw in one of your own lungs to cover the difference. You may be better off with two bodies for good measure; then you'll also be able to buy texts and maybe a pair of nice imported Italian leather loafers to kick beggars with. Better than the disturbing the rest of the recently deceased, you may be better off creating your own supply. The trick is to buy a cheap bottle of scotch to lure homeless vagrants into dark alleys. Make sure you have a half brick in a sock with you as well as a Lister knife and BAM! Get all Jack-the-Ripper on their arse! Not only are you funding your tertiary education, you are also getting vital training for a career in federal politics. Way to cull the unproductive moochers from society!

Method 6. Sperm donation

I don't know much about this, despite looking into it extremely energetically in '99. It seemed too good to be true; being paid for what I did up to three times a day anyway (not consistently, I'm not a machine you know). Sadly, the most I ever found out about it was an article I was reading in a laundromat magazine (a magazine in a laundromat, not about laundromats, I'd've thought that was obvious) about a student in Sydney who was making \$13,000 p.a. from it tax free. Things are a little different here evidently. A dodgy source reliably tells me that you schedule something like five visits over three months and that after that three month period they pay you about \$500. Seems like a lot of fucking around to me, but if you time it right you may be able to use it to cover your Union fee and half a textbook.

Method 7. Selling drugs

Given the government's wanton neglect of students, there are those who try their hand at more illegal activities, considering the need outweighing the risk. You can either produce your own or you could just be a reseller. The problem, aside from the obvious illegality, is that in each case you need a substantial outlay for both options. The market for amphetamines in Adelaide is very strong, but they're a logistical headfuck to make so usually that's left to the bikies. I hear that making GHB is entirely straightforward but I think that it's too easy to hurt someone very badly with something that's been manufactured. Growing marijuana is pretty easy and after about two grows you are established financially and have learnt some techniques for a robust crop. Then it should take 50 very good grows more to send you off to uni, depending on the size of your enterprise.

As a reseller, hospitality is the industry of choice to be in. Keep an ear to the ground and after a few months start to figure out what's what and know when there are large batches of various things to get rid of. Then it's a simple matter of approaching the right people with a few hundred dollars, buying a few ounces, grams, mL or pills (depending on the market) and redistributing them for a substantial mark up, usually more than doubling your money, depending on where along the line you managed to get the stuff. If you're so inclined, occasionally you might go on a sld trip with a

few ounces. For obvious reasons, dope is really hard to come by in the snow fields so you can make a killing selling good quality South Australian bud. Another option is to sell it in Sydney, buy up spades of cheap 'e's and sell them back in Adelaide. To be able to afford to study as a reseller, you'll probably have to expand to Cuba, Mexico or Colombia.

Method 8. CLINICAL TRIALS

Becoming a whore to various causes of science is a great way to earn a crust AND to lose all coherence and perception of reality! You don't necessarily need to do drug trials. Any scientific study which involves examining, prodding, probing and answering personal questions which offers a monetary reward will do. The best money for those who know is made from CMAX, who regularly run trials of developing drugs and need willing cretins lining up to take a few days off at a time to be shot up for hundreds of dollars. Sign up, and the hair/involuntary spasms that you lose/gain will pale in comparison to your filthy great wad of cash. You need to be careful, though. There's a reason why the money's so good, and that's because of the potential for something you try to really fuck you up semi permanently (unlikely, but a possibility nonetheless). I'd suggest that you be discerning about which studies you accept but the way things are going, you can't afford to be too picky. In the Drug Studies economy, it will take you a little over a hundred visits to pay for a tertiary education.

Method 9. Find a sugar parent

I've been trying this one for years and it's never worked. Despite having more than my share of dirty thirties and naughty forties trying to get into my (very, very tight) pants when I was still working at Timewarp, I figured if they were out on a Wednesday night, obviously they weren't planning on earning any money on Thursdays to support me in the manner I'd like to become accustomed to. Hang around cocktail bars in expensive hotels and try to seduce businessmen passing through to Hong Kong. Milk them for all they're worth, making it clear that there'll be no more hanky panky in the banky unless you receive a constant stream of trinkets, toys and tertiary education.

Method 10. Sex trade

There's always demand for sex work so go nuts! Think of all of those QC's, police commissioners, senior bank managers and high powered executives who need something warm that they can pay to cuddle up to after a hard day of maintaining the status quo. If any of the following apply to you: you're male, clinically ugly, don't like the taste of strangers' pink bits and are finding it difficult to break into the field, never fear! There are many other ways that you can get involved in this exciting field. There's good money in phone sex if you're good and can handle moderately little inconvenience. I believe that the way it works is that when you sign up, you give a central switchboard your number so that when people call up, they're transferred to you at home and you talk to them until they get off and then get paid for your time at the end of the week/month. I'll have to check that. Alternatively you could rent out your room to comely lasses of 'virtue true' who give you a cut of what they earn servicing patrons out of your room.

If all else fails, you could at least set up a smutty web-site and charge for it. I guess that this presupposes access to the necessary resources so it might not work.

by Yak

Space does not permit me to mention the plethora of other methods available to the hard up student. I would like to go into depth about pyramid schemes, other confidence schemes and setting up a forging press in your basement. The bottom line is, if you want a tertiary education, you've no right to be born into a family that cannot afford to pay your way. Crawl back to your dank hole and prepare yourself mentally for the imminent career in licking the upper crust's boots that you deserve.

Office Bearers

President:
Bek Cornish



University of Adelaide Information Day
Hope that you managed to come along to the open day last weekend and have a wander through all the info the SAUA put out at our stall. It was great chatting to students during the day, and I hope you all enjoyed the other aspects of academic life that the University of Adelaide offers.

University of Adelaide Act
As you know from my previous columns, the University Council has proposed a number of changes to the University of Adelaide Act which would seriously impact on the AUU and its affiliates' ability to service the students of Adelaide University.

I, along with the Project Research Officer of the SAUA, attended a meeting with the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education to raise our concerns regarding some of the proposed changes. The Minister said she had/was withdrawing certain items from the proposed changes, particularly those detrimental to the satisfactory governance of Adelaide Uni, and that our concerns were being taken seriously. We will update as we receive more information.

SAUA e groups
Last week I asked for external or part-time students to get more involved with the Students' Association through the e-group we are setting up. I have received a few requests to be put on the group, but we would love to make this a more active group by signing on more people. All you have to do is send an email to my email address (at the bottom of this column) and I'll add you onto the group. The group will be an info posting only group, so if you have any questions, email me on my personal email, or give the SAUA office a call.

Environment Department Week went off last week, congrats to Saarahh (sic) and her standing committee who made the week eventful, active and informative. Look out for other SAUA events and campaigns coming up such as our General Student Meeting where we will discuss and debate topics around the Nelson review, the SAUA Ball and the second installment of UniFest.

bek.cornish@adelaide.edu.au, phone on 83035406

Wicked Womyn of the Week: Tank Girl
Misogynist Arsehole of the Week:

Brendan Nelson

Fairwear Campaign

The Fairwear Campaign is being launched this week. There will be pancakes on the lawns on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mid mornings, with an information stall about the campaign on the Barr Smith Lawns. On Wednesday at 12:30 in the Union Cinema we will be holding an information session about the campaign. A documentary video, *20 Pieces*, will also be shown. In a few weeks we will be holding a candle vigil in Rundle Mall, so check my column next week for details.

Childcare Collective

A survey is currently being conducted about the childcare needs of Adelaide University students. If you would like more information about the survey, visit the Postgraduate Students' Association website: www.adelaide.edu.au/PGSA or the next edition of *Cloisterphobia*.

In other news, keep those Women's Room surveys happening. The tips you give me will help make the space better for YOU.

Feminist solidarity for eva.
Elise.

P.S. Sometimes I get lonely being a feminist activist, so if you would like to join in the fun, come and see me in the SAUA office or contact me on 8303 6481 or elise.duffield@student.adelaide.edu.au

And don't forget to join the women's collective e-group - auwomenscollective-subscribe@yahoo.com.



Women's
Officer: Elise
Duffield

Safe Sex Awareness Week 2002

It's that time of year again, our Safe Sex Week will be held the week following Elections, so instead of tickets being shoved in your face, you'll have condoms or dams, as well as information on common STI's and safe sex practices. Please take advantage of this, especially the information that will be distributed.

Anti-Homophobia Campaign

The Sexuality Standing Committee decided last Thursday that we will be holding the aforementioned campaign hopefully in the last weeks of university this term. There are some great ideas currently being refined for posters that will be on display throughout the week, but the Sexuality Department welcomes any suggestions to this campaign, so don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Karaoke Night

The Karaoke Night will hopefully be held in the same week of the Anti-Homophobia Campaign, AU PRIDE are helping organise this, and there will be prizes available for the different categories on the night, eg. Best Vocal Performance, Worst Vocal Performance, Most Entertaining Performance, etc. The finalised date for this will be available in the next edition of *On Dit*.

If you would like to get involved with the Department, the Sexuality Officers welcome you to get in touch, we are available by e-mail or by phone:

8303 3833
Asta: asta.cox@student.adelaide.edu.au
Adrian: adrian.dj_paolo@student.adelaide.edu.au

SexO's: Adrian
DiPaolo & Asta Cox



Education Vice-President: Georgia Heath

If you have been motivated by this edition of *On Dit*, there are many ways that you can get involved with the campaign against the Crossroads review.

This week the Students' Association is running two information sessions about the review. They are this Tuesday at midday, and at 11am on Thursday in the Union Cinema (Level 5 Union Building). If you want to find out more about the details of the review, come along to one of these sessions.

The review panel is meeting in Adelaide on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 August. To coincide, the Students' Association is holding a General Student Meeting at 1pm on the Barr Smith Lawns on the Thursday. There will be a

free BBQ and the motion to be discussed is "The Students of Adelaide University condemn the regressive Crossroads review and its attack on accessible higher education". Come along and show your support.

Every Thursday the Review Action Group meets at 5pm in the Union Building. These meetings are cross-campus (Adelaide, Uni SA and Flinders Uni) and are open to all students to get involved.

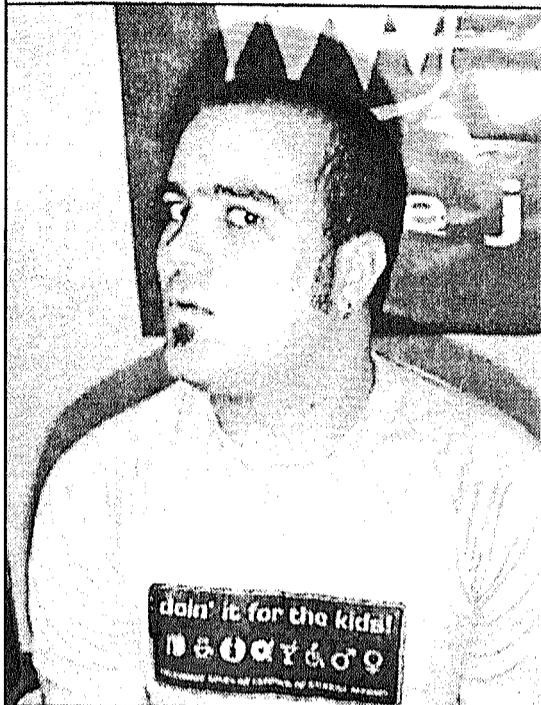
Write to your local member of parliament or the Federal Education Minister and tell them where to shove it.

If you would like any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 8303 5406 or email georgia.heath@adelaide.edu.au



Office Bearers

A/CVP: Paul Huebl



Greetings, salutations and well wishes to you all. Last Thursday night saw the UniFest, the SAUA's welcome back dance party in the Equinox. This event was well attended, and all who were there partied real hard, and danced like it was 1999... or something. Response was very positive for the event, and it looks like there will be more of the same coming soon.

Which brings around the topic of the moment, our planning session for the rest of the term and semester. The Activities Standing Committee will be meeting at 12 noon on Wednesday in the Gallery Loft (Level 6 in the Union Building) so if you have any ideas or aspirations to inject into our creative process, then feel free to come along - all are welcome!

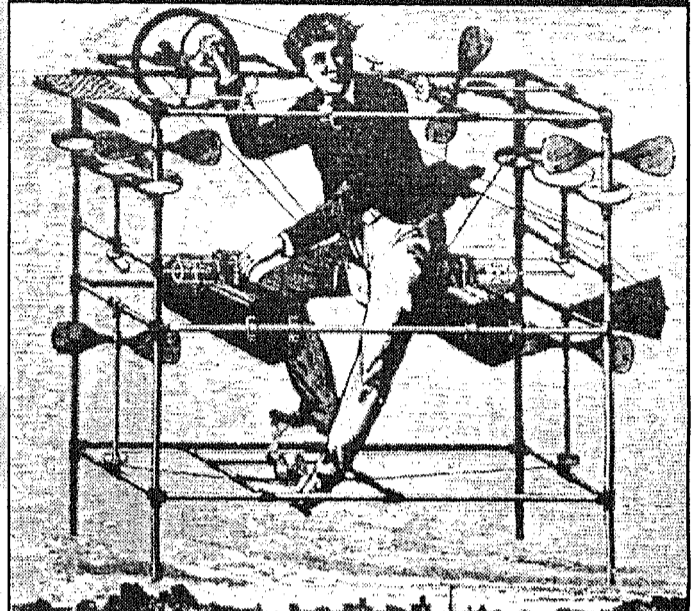
One feels compelled to eat one's foot from time to time, and I had the great humility to suffer such an act after picking up last week's *On Dit*, and noticing that I had inadvertently promoted the Education Department's Crossroads campaign as occurring last week. This, however, is not the case, as it will be occurring on the 29th. Sorry.

Environment Week was last week, and it was great to see the strong turnout. Friday's Band Night in the UniBar was a success, which is great for the promotion of the Environment Department.

If passion is the fuel of mankind, then hunger is the fuel of animals.

Till next week, goodbye!

Ridiculous Idea No. 23



The Crossroads Review of Higher Education

8UV
Radio
Adelaide
101.5fm

Do you like

LOCAL MUSIC?

Student Radio is looking for
people to help out with Local Noise

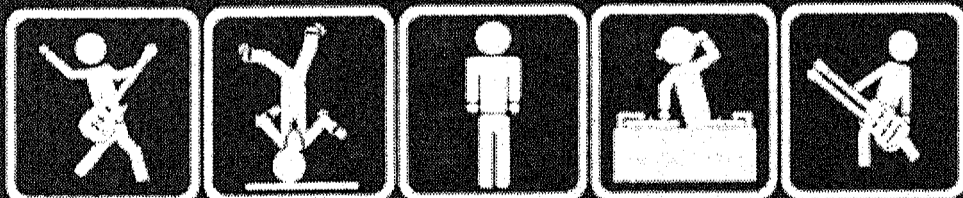
Something For Kate

Muzzy Pep

Digit Pornland

have all performed sets

E-mail radiatorradio@senet.com.au for
more information



student radio 101.5fm

<http://student.radio.adelaide.edu.au/>



countercalendar

THE ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT GUIDE OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

2002 SURVEY

Have you noticed the coloured boxes around campus? Well, these are for you to put your submissions in for Counter Calendar. Since we haven't actually seen the Counter Calendar published for a few years, you probably have some questions about what it is and how it works. So, here goes...

What is Counter Calendar?

The Counter Calendar is the alternative subject guide for students at the University of Adelaide produced annually by your Students' Association in an effort to better inform you of your options for your next year of study. Whereas the University Calendar is produced to tell you the academic aims of each subject, the Counter Calendar is here to tell you what it's really like to study each subject from the perspective of students who have already studied it.

Why contribute to the Counter Calendar?

To make the Counter Calendar a reality, we need your contributions. If you don't respond, your experience will graduate with you and those who follow in your footsteps will be just as uninformed as you were at first!

How do I contribute to the Counter Calendar?

We have strategically placed a number of coloured boxes around the uni, in order to catch your eye and encourage your contribution to the Counter Calendar. You'll find them in the Wills refectory, Mayo refectory, outside the Gallery coffee shop, in the Law School foyer, Med School office, in the library and in the Students' Association. You should find the surveys to be completed next to the boxes. There is also the opportunity to send the completed surveys electronically - through Cloisterphobia.

If you have any questions regarding the Counter Calendar, please do not hesitate to pop into the SAUA or contact us on 8303 5406 or email: countercalendar@saua.asn.au

Your friendly Counter Calendar editors,
Georgia Phillips and Sara Eisner



TV - We Don't Need No Education

When I think of education on television, my mind is inevitably drawn to images from any number of teen shows, like *Roswell* or *Dawson's Creek*. The schools on these shows are populated by gorgeous twenty-somethings playing teenagers with no zits or body flaws whatsoever. Despite the fact that at no point have I ever had anything in common with these airbrushed soap stars, I have in the past suffered from the addiction known as teensoapitis. Yes, like many other freaks out there, I was once addicted to *Dawson's Creek* and *Roswell*. My lame excuse is that my ex-boyfriend placed a bet that I wouldn't be able to watch two episodes of *Dawson's* without becoming hooked. It's a wonder that I haven't ever taken up heroin because it's obvious that I have an addictive personality. I have no excuse for the *Roswell* obsession, apart from the fact that (as I learnt

on the net) *Buffy* fans are also *Roswell* fans. And since I just started watching *Buffy* last year and I have already watched every episode at least three times (and I also purchased an autographed picture of Spike for \$100), it illustrates just how much I love teen school dramas.

Is it because school looks like so much fun when it's



filmed on a carefully constructed set and populated by tanned, aerobized and designer-clad teens who appear to do nothing all day apart from attend pep rallies and homecoming games? I know that this is somewhat accurate as far as depictions of American school life go, because I spent my senior year at a high school in Kentucky. Or is it because they never seem to worry about their future because they are too busy falling in and out of love with the regularity of a plate full of prunes?

Of course, it is not all sunshine and roses on school

TV. There are also shows like *Freaks and Geeks* that seem to get to the psyche of high school life, in all its glorious misery and rebellion. Unlike shows like *Dawson's*, where the worst thing that anyone does is steal somebody else's girlfriend (or even if they do take drugs, they always end up in hospital as a reminder that drugs are BAD), shows like *Freaks and Geeks* are about the underbelly of school life, where people are not always popular and divorce is not the worse thing that can happen at home.

Unlike *Dawson's Creek*, however, *Freaks and Geeks* is no longer playing. It seems that no one wants to see accurate depictions of school on television - perhaps it reminds people too much of the hell that they went through only too recently. I have managed to steer clear of the latest series of *Dawson's Creek*, and I can only hope that it will get easier with time.



Poptart

Sex And The Single Student

It must be summer on the way. The first rays of warming sun are touching the lawns in ways almost as inappropriate as the students of Adelaide Uni touching each other, if your pile of letters this week are anything to go by. As usual I've had trouble narrowing it down to the lucky three, but I feel that I can kill a great many birds with one stone by saying to the majority of people who wrote in: they probably don't love you, but nail them anyway. I'd also like to add that the three top letters for next week will receive the exclusive Fantastic Sam Franzway bumper sticker "Lubricate, Fornicate, Hibernate" in a choice of two colours, Mushroomhead Purple or Morningafter Glow (glows in UV light).

Dear Agony Aunt,

I am a 21-year-old engineering student. Two years ago my parents divorced and now my mother has started dating this guy who is the same age as me, they say they're in love. I desperately want my mum to be happy, but the situation is driving me crazy. Should I bite my tongue or can I let her know what I really think?

Suspicious Steve

Stevo (can I call you Stevo?), it is the firm opinion of the On Dit office that this is a weeny bit weird all over. I mean- what's the deal with this Captain Oedipus anyway? Why can't he find some chick his own age to fall in love with? There are better, sneakier, more devious and underhanded ways to deal with this than opening your big fat mouth and as usual they are the ones I am about to advocate. First one - hit the gym, bulk up, become more manly than your nearly step-dad. Hang around the couple in muscle shirts and tear the odd phone book in half for your mother - the discrepancy between son and lover will become apparent and she'll send the pencil-neck packing. Or for something less taxing, go to a sex shop and buy as many hardcore sex toys as you can, ones with spikes and/or motors if possible, and send them to the home wrecker at work, care of your mother, along with a suggestive note. However, if he rocks up at your house with a smile on his face, get the hell out and don't go back.

Dear On Dit,

I'm a mature-age student in my first year of uni. I have immensely enjoyed my first semester and the bright, youthful atmosphere that uni fosters. My problem is that everywhere I look, I see people ten years my junior engaging in all sorts of exciting romantic flirtations and canoodling and I would



Fantastic Sam Franzway regretted his graduation photos more than most.

dearly like to join in the fun! I feel I have a lot to offer, but I am a little shy about my age - can you give some dating tips?

Bashful Bob

Just think, a year earlier for most of those kids and you'd be labelled a paedophile. But don't let that put you off! Here are some tips for the older gent looking for some first year flesh.

1. You're not older, just better (or any other supportive coffee mug gem).

2. You must learn to think like your prey - watch some TV shows aimed at 18-year-olds like *Big Brother*, *Buffy* and *Hi-Five*.

3. Shave off any facial hair, you'll look younger, unless it's there to hide scar tissue. This case, remember the invaluable words of Capt. Lance Murdoch, "Chicks dig scars".

4. Wear a cape. It won't help, but it won't hurt.

5. Bring a dog to uni. Chicks love dogs.

6. If all else fails, one golden rule: stalk, stalk and keep on stalking. Nothing wins the babes like persistence.

Dear On Dit,

This is my first year at Adelaide Uni having emerged from 12 years of Catholic school. Two months ago, I began my first long-term sexual relationship. I really love David, but every so often he comes knocking at my "back door". The thought of losing him makes me seize up with anxiety, but I can't handle the pressure. Help!

Virginal Vanessa

You have two distinct and viable options on this one. A) You give him a taste of his own medicine with The Smelly Finger (of course this can backfire in all sorts of unprintable ways) or B) You can just get some Vaseline, relax, take deep breaths and think of a spoonful of sugar sinking through the foam on top of a cappuccino. I would like to apologise to everyone who likes cappuccinos for that mental image.

Well, that settles it for another week, I am off to puff on a post-agony aunt ciggie. Don't forget about the bumper sticker and send those entries in! (All written entries are to be clean and dry. PS: 'dry' does not mean 'dried'- you filthy creatures from last week know who you are...)

Fantastic Sam Franzway





Coopers



The Bar on Gouger Gouger St.

As the name suggests, Bar on Gouger is in fact a bar, and it's on Gouger Street. Let me set the tone for this review by mentioning that if you like to go out to crowded clubs that play generic pop and whose concession to class is the fact that they stock Corona, then this place isn't for you. I'd rather that you didn't pollute my drinking hole. Bar on Gouger is all about relaxing, away from the plebian drunken masses of Rundle Street, the Exchange and the West End. This is not a place to hold a raucous piss-fest. This is a place to get slowly, happily and above all comparatively quietly sauced off the best beers from around the world which invariably seem to be ridiculously alcoholic. Consider two of my favourites, Trois Pistoles and La Fin du Monde, both brewed by the same French Canadian brewery. These bad boys are aptly named. If you're foolish enough to belt these down as recklessly as you may be accustomed to, you will either feel like you've been shot with three pistols or that it's the end of the world. With an alcohol content about the same as the price (a little over 10%v/v and \$10 in both cases) and drinking more like a rich port than a beer, they'll set you back a fair whack of your money clip but it's well worth it.

See, the way I figure is that, rather than pissing all my money recklessly against a wall and having hazy memories of making shabby passes at post boxes and rubbish bins, I'd rather spend the night chilling with fine ale and presence of mind. I end up spending a little less (no drunken splurging of rent money) and remembering how enjoyable the experience was.

The venue itself is tasteful and very understated. It's not a place to go for jaw dropping decor but it suits the venue ideally seeing as the focus is very much on quality international beers. It's a fairly large, open plan room with between 10-20 couches arranged around tables spread through the room. There is a small concessional dance floor but it's more of a token effort than anything. In fact, as the place gets fuller, one of the staff comes out periodically to set more tables and chairs to accommodate for as many people's posteriors as possible. It's not a venue to burn up the dance-floor nor shake your groovy thang at. It's a venue to relax at with close friends and to enjoy a long, slow, quality beer.

I do have two problems with the venue, one being that on Friday nights the music is too loud. This seems quite an oversight, given how comfortable it is to sink into the deep couches. The effect of the couches is entirely lost since you have to crane forwards uncomfortably to carry any conversation.

The second problem is with people who go there and drink VB. Honestly, I don't even know why it's stocked. It defeats the purpose of going there so thoroughly that it beggars belief.

You think you know beer because you've heard of Miller's, Heineken and Corona? Oh you sad, deluded fool. There is a whole new world of quality beer to experience if you venture past your standard seedy club. I spoke to a visitor from Argentina the other week and he said that everyone in Latin America drank Corona because it was so cheap. It is the West End Draught of the Latino countries. It always makes me laugh to see try-hards wanting to impress shelling out \$6 for a really shit beer. It doesn't make it any better just because it's come from half-way around the world, you know. Try a Leffe or a Samuel Adams. For something closer to home, give a Little Creatures a go. If you want something a little different, share a bottle of Timmerman's Kriek with several friends over a sweet dish.

Step out of your tiny comfort zone, narrow your horizons and try Bar on Gouger for a night to actually appreciate beer. Go on and live a little.

Yak

Stanley's Fish Café Gouger St.

I really had no intention of stumbling into Stanley's Fish Café. In fact, I had been trying to buy some food at the Central Markets to satiate my incredible hunger, but unfortunately all of the people were packing up and shuffling off. While I was annoyed at the time, it turned out to be a nice little eye-opener, as it led me to some fantastic house wine and a lovely plate of calamari.

When my friend and I had left the markets, we were beckoned by the enticing smell of Stanley's and its crumbed fish as we headed towards the Talbot for some beverages. Taking only a moment to peruse the menu, we hightailed it into there to order our fish. I have to say right now that I cannot report on the whole menu, as we really only sampled one of the dishes. However, I can comment on the appearance of the menu, the satisfaction of the one dish, and the efficiency of the staff who saw to our needs.

We chose to order the main size serving of calamari. It was delicious, and came with the added surprise of lovely crunchy french fries. For an entrée serving of the calamari, you'll be paying \$7.90, but for only \$3 more you can enjoy the much more satisfying main course. Make sure you ask for bread too – a lot of places won't bring it when they are asked to, and it can help to fill the spare hole in a full tummy.

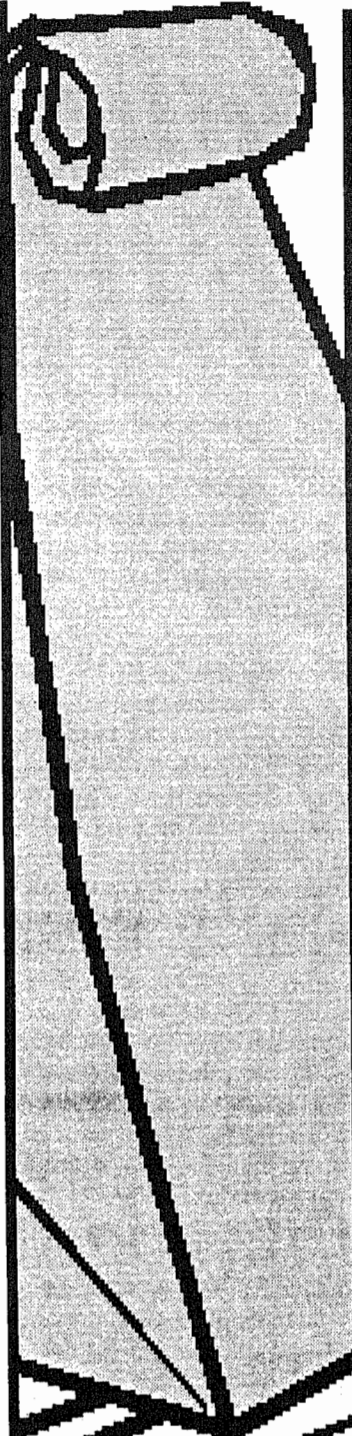
As far as beverages go, Stanley's doesn't serve beer on tap, but it does have an extensive range of bottled beer. It is perhaps a little pricey though, and at \$4.90 for a bottle of pale, we opted for the cask wine option. By the glass, house wine is only \$2.70, but for a half carafe (which we had and found supremely satisfying) you'll only pay \$6.90. It was really good to drink with the meal.

Yak also likes this restaurant.

The waiters were very friendly and accommodating of the fact we wanted to sit outside. They traipsed in and out of the warm restaurant into the cold with no visible animosity whatsoever. They were really nice.

If you are looking for a nice seafood restaurant to go to get value for money, look no further than Stanley's Fish Café. You won't be disappointed, in fact you'll be satisfied.

Penny



Tubby tip #24

Never underestimate the power of a good pair of eating pants. This means stretch.

Australian Made, Australian Owned.

Love, Deceit & 81 Questions

The co-choreographer of the new Leigh Warren and Dancers piece, Michael Whaites, talked to Cindy Paterson about his work on *Love, Deceit and 81 Questions*.

OD: Can you tell me a bit about your own creative process in choreographing?

MW: I think the dancers have found it incredibly challenging, to say the least. It's not your normal way of working. There's a certain degree of artistry in performing someone else's steps, but what I've asked them to do with this work is to make their own steps. The 81 questions part comes from me - I asked something like 125 questions actually throughout the process, and it's a simple question and answer response. It's a formula that I use; I sit out the front and say 'Love is...' and they have to respond physically or verbally.

OD: How difficult has the process been in creating *Love, Deceit and 81 Questions*?

MW: Every time I get to this point, I think, "Why do I do it?" Because I'm passionate about it, it's what moves me. When I see an audience member being moved, I think "That's what good theatre is." and so that's what I try and do. The beautiful thing about live performing arts is that it's never repeatable.

OD: What was your inspiration for *Love, Deceit and 81 Questions*?

MW: It started when Leigh (Warren) asked me to make a work for the company about a year and a half ago. He approached me and asked me to come back and make a work with his company. I had worked with him over a four year period when he was director of the ADT, as a dancer, and then I left, got a grant and went overseas. The idea was about going away to learn, to come back and enrich the dance scene and the arts

community in Australia, and in Adelaide as well. This is because I was from here originally. When Leigh asked me to come back and make a work for the company, his idea was to get people that he'd worked with before to come back and enrich his company.

OD: Tell me a little bit about *Love, Deceit and 81 Questions*.

MW: The idea of the piece, well, I started thinking about the time when you first meet someone, and that crush of love, there's kind of that excitement. Or the regular kind of love, understanding and connection that everyday lovers have. This kind of feeling was important because I think that's the essence of it. I started thinking about the refugee crisis, and about how we are more insecure as human beings because we have more choice, therefore it's harder to make those choices. So I wanted to make it a work that had a positive aspect to it. The question was "why can't we show that love in every aspect of our life?" Which begs the question, how do you put that on stage?

OD: Has the piece utilised any mixed media?

MW: It has, I'm working with my lighting designer, we've come up with some specific images, I've been giving him specific moods and ideas of how the various sections feel to me. He's gone away and sourced some different images. We are using video projector technology to give the work another aspect, another angle.

OD: Is it difficult to establish yourself as an independent choreographer?

MW: In Australia it is. We've got a smaller population here, and that's something that you've got to remind yourself about all the time. To be a freelance choreographer and teacher that's what you have to do, you have to be able to travel, you can't just do it in one place.

Love, Deceit and 81 Questions opens August 22 at the Adelaide Festival Centre. Tickets from BASS.

Blacky is unwillingly promoted to the position. The events that follow the surprise win of the final are a mixture of celebration and disappointment, the two causing a series of highly fuelled events, which have serious consequences in the morning.

This film raises some very interesting issues about adolescence, racism, and the nature of small towns. It presents the audience with a particular perception of Australia. Director Paul Goldman writes: "I wanted to make a film that talked back to this big, secret country that we live in." And indeed he has. Although this film received some criticism during its screening at the Adelaide Festival, I believe that you have to allow the director some creative licence - this isn't a documentary and it's not trying to be.

The film has some brilliant acting. Nathan Phillips is just fantastic as Blacky. Kevin Harrington is brilliant as 'Arks' the footy coach, opening the film with a very amusing speech to his team. The rest of the characters are also very well developed, some more stereotyped than others, but all fulfilling their role, however significant, within the film.

Although challenging and provocative, this film is also enjoyable, and it contains a good heart in the character of Blacky. Unlike some other Australian films it doesn't go over the top with the script, action or the need to be 'Australian.' It's content to sit as a quality film and has a fitting conclusion. It was great to enjoy a film made in Australia, which also had some intellectual interest in it as well.

Rosie

The Merchant of Venice The Dunstan Playhouse August 19 - 31

I have realised that I did not get a programme when I went to the opening night of *The Merchant of Venice* - this is going to make writing a review very difficult.

Firstly, it means that I can't brush up on plot points. This is what I remember - Bassanio borrows money from his friend Antonio so he can court Portia, a beautiful Venetian. Antonio's money is invested in merchant ships, so he borrows it from Shylock, a Jewish moneylender. Bassanio wins Portia, but then Antonio's ships are lost at sea. Shylock takes Antonio to court, seeking the merchant's 'pound of flesh' he was offered as insurance. There are more characters and sub-plots, but the details are hazy (and possibly boring for you).

Secondly, I can't cross-check names of actors with their characters. I remember Colleen Cross plays Portia - with striking red hair and a strong stage presence, she's unforgettable. And I also remember Shylock is played by Phillip Spruce, because he took over the role from Rosalba Clemente.

But the worst part means I can't read the 'Director's Note' to see if I interpreted the play the way Chris Drummond intended. *The Merchant of Venice* deftly fuses comedy and tragedy, and rather than focussing too heavily on one of these modes at the expense of the other, this performance balances these elements very well. I also thought what Shakespeare says about racism, explored through the play's exploration of Christian/Jewish relations, was quite poignant in light of Australia's current immigration debate.

While a program would have helped this review considerably, I don't need one to say this: *The Merchant of Venice* is well-acted and always entertaining. Go and see it.

Vincent Bakehouse Theatre

Vincent, the simple signature found on all of Van Gogh's works only partially reflects the subject of this play, a representation of the enmeshed lives of the artist and his devoted brother, Theo. Thus the title reflects the nature of their relationship: the steady, dependable Theo willing to support and promote his brilliant sibling but frustrated by his instability and self-deprecation.

The life experiences of Van Gogh are shared with us through a single actor representing Theo. His narration of events and emotions is supported by continuously quoting from the weekly correspondence shared by the brothers and re-enactments of conversation between Theo and his parents. As the play progresses, the voices become increasingly hard to differentiate, necessitating plenty of double takes. Verbal descriptions of places and events are supported by projections of Vincent's work.

Theo works to bring us to a better understanding of his brother's genius, finally delivering the eulogy denied by Vincent's suicide. He portrays Vincent as a lover in all he did, one who didn't work at anything but attacked it with zeal and passion. He also fights for recognition that Vincent was not a dangerous psychopath or a threat but a manic-depressive who paid for his passion and intensity with his life.

A lectern, chaise-longue and small desk constituted the few props on the bleak, black stage as if all the colour had been absorbed into the vibrant artwork, seemingly echoing the bareness of Vincent's life, except for his art. This visual sparseness contrasts strongly with the richness of Leonard Nimoy's script. Pride, frustration and love are the enduring qualities of this intensely bittersweet play.

Olive



Australian Rules Opening August 29th Palace Nova Cinemas

Australian Rules is based on the book *Deadly, Unna?* by Phillip Gwynne. It's about Gary Black, aka "Blacky", a white boy in his mid-teens, growing up in the small fishing village of Prospect Bay in SA. It follows Blacky through a turbulent time in his life. The local footy team gets in the final, and he falls in love with an Aboriginal girl, Clarence, from the Mission located near town. He has problems at home with his father Bob, and is generally in a rather complex emotional state. The audience can't help but feel sympathetic for this protagonist, as he works on expanding his vocabulary, becomes friends with the Aboriginal star of the footy team Dumby Red, and stands up to his dominating father. The film climaxes towards the football grand final, which drives the whole town, black and white alike, into frenzy. Due to the large percentage of skilled Aboriginal boys on the team they actually have a chance to win. When the 'ruck' of the team is arrested,

The Tracker Now Showing Palace Nova Cinemas



Screened at the Adelaide Festival of Arts this year, *The Tracker* is a compelling film questioning common assumptions about Aboriginal culture and Australia's colonial history. Directed by Rolf de Heer (*Bad Boy Bubby*) and set in the Australian outback in 1922, the film follows the progress of a party sent to hunt down an Aboriginal fugitive accused of murdering a white woman. None of the characters are given names, only titles, furthering the film's universalist representation.

In charge of the party is the Fanatic (Gary Sweet), cold, ruthless, calculating and complex. The second of the three whites is the Follower (Damon Gameau), new to the outback, and who some might recognise as the lead in the 2000 State Theatre production of *Equus*. There is the Veteran (Grant Page)

who is a thinker rather than a doer, and finally the Tracker himself (David Gulpilil), a mysterious figure who clearly isn't who he seems.

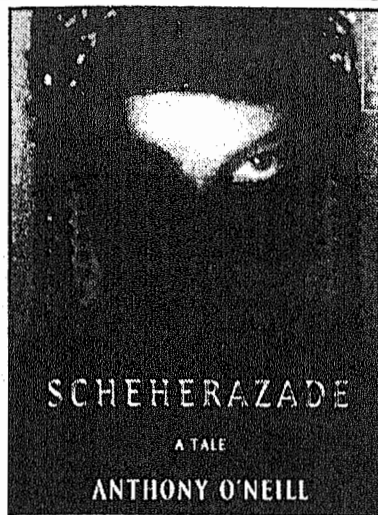
The expedition goes from relative order into disarray as the group pursues the fugitive through the outback and are forced to make difficult moral choices. As the film stresses, every man chooses his own path. By the end the audience are faced with the choice of how they will see history, and come to realise that the choices we make today can help atone for the wrongs of the past.

The performances in this locally shot production are impeccable. It does take a few moments to get over Gary Sweet's transition from the lovable larrikin role he has filled so adequately in the past, but this is easily done considering the venom and conviction he feeds into the performance. The complex mental transformation some characters experience is expertly represented in the expressions and performances of the actors. Damon Gameau's talent shines through especially in this, and it's clear he has a bright future ahead of him. The often intense storyline and acting are moved along by a haunting soundtrack that more often than not shifts the audience focus introspectively.

The Tracker is a film that all Australians should see, not just for its poignant simplicity, but for the message we may all take from it. Without challenging our mindset and assumptions from the past, we can never hope to adequately move on as a society.

Esky Jes

Literature



Scheherazade
Anthony O'Neill
 Flamingo
 \$21.95

Now I know what you're thinking, with the title being so hard to read, why would you bother with the contents of this book, right? Wrong! You would probably also bet that you don't know of Scheherazade or any of her tales. But guess what?! If you know Aladdin (and I don't mean the Hollywoodised Disney version), Ali Baba or Sinbad the Sailor, then you will definitely enjoy this tale of the storyteller behind these stories, Scheherazade. She created these stories, among many others, each night, to save her life from the threat of being beheaded by the tyrant king. If this scenario still doesn't ring a bell, you're in luck because there is no need for previous knowledge of *Tales of A Thousand and One Nights* to understand this fantastic tale. Anthony O'Neill has followed the tradition of *The Tales of A Thousand and One Nights* and has told a story filled with all the elements of a children's story, such as villains, heroes, prophecies and sheiks, but for a grown-up audience.

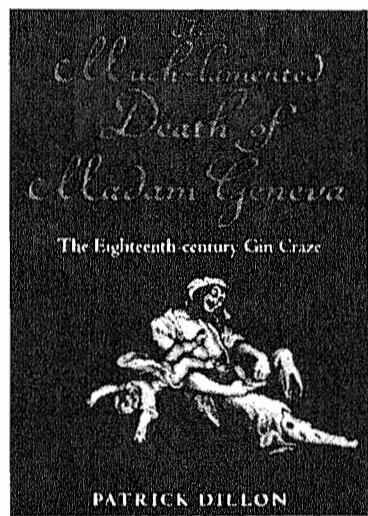
Scheherazade is quite slow to start, but once you get through the initial scenario settling chapters, the real action begins! You see, during a visit to a neighbouring city with her husband, Scheherazade is mysteriously abducted from a bathhouse during a great storm. In another part of town, seven seamen are being held captive in a cell for getting up to mischief the previous night (the same night the Queen of Storytellers disappeared). By some odd coincidence, a monk on his way to see the king of the city, gets also put in the same cell as the other seven, for acting like a lunatic. He later identifies the seven sailors as 'The Chosen' who are to set out on a mission to rescue Scheherazade, as the prophecy of Allah suggests. After much deliberation, they set off with a ransom into the heat of the desert, knowing that if the prophecy is true, then only one of them will

return alive with the queen.

It has a lot of twists and is written from many points of view, which got me lost at some points of the book, especially with all the difficult but exotic names like Yusuf, Shahriyar and Al-Djallab. Although the rich descriptions transform you to the sun-drenched deserts, so effectively that you can almost smell the dry spiced meat that the travellers consume while riding on their sweaty camels, it fails to really introduce the reader to the person who Scheherazade is. She remains an enigma and we never know anything about her beyond the opinion of other characters and the conversations she has with her captor.

I found this book to be the perfect companion during these cold winter nights, as it really does make you forget about the howling winds and pouring rains and transports you to the spice filled streets of ancient Baghdad. All I can say is that if you loved Aladdin when you were younger, then you will adore this much more gruesome, realistic, adventurous and imaginative tale.

Agnieszka



The Much Lamented Death
of Madame Geneva
Patrick Dillon
 Hodder Headline
 \$44.95

Never having bought into the old 'never judge a book by its cover' recommendation, I chose to review this book due to its commanding purple cover with gold typeface. As it turns out this wasn't such a bad choice, as the story that Dillon had to tell was quite interesting and very informative.

Madame Geneva was the colloquial term given to an alcoholic spirit in the early 18th century, and this book relates how this most basic of concoctions was central to the population of Britain and even dictated

foreign policy. In fact, Dillon develops the idea throughout the book that Madame Geneva was much more than simply a drink, it took on a personality and was indicative of the class structure of 18th century Britain.

Introduced from Holland, the juniper flavoured spirit was hailed as the potential saviour of the British economy as it opened up a new market for the surplus corn that was being produced. Subsidised and encouraged by the government, Gin quickly developed into a phenomenon, and to the population accustomed to a much weaker beer, gin became the first addictive drug of the lower class.

Gin was cheap to produce and easy to distill and the poor drank it to forget the hellish conditions that they had to face on a day to day basis. This panacea quickly grew out of hand, and within a year thousands of people were addicted to gin. Moral reformers campaigned against the associated problems of crime, prostitution and the degradation of family values, but while the government was making money from it it was difficult to curtail.

The story of gin is an amazing one, and Dillon does his best to recreate early 18th century Britain through his exemplary research and amalgam of quotes. In fact if you ever get an assignment back saying you rely too much on quotes, then give this book to your lecturer, as it is 60% quotes and 40% filling the gaps between them. And while the frequent use of brackets within the quotes took a while to get accustomed to, it was worth the effort, as Dillon successfully recounts how gin was central to period.

Reggie



The Girl From Purple
Mountain
May-lee & Winberg Chai
 Sceptre
 \$20.95

This is the captivating story Ruth Mei-en Tsao Chai, the girl from Purple Mountain. Together May-lee and Winberg Chai, Ruth's son and his daughter, have written this biography, a story that covers three generations and spans the most of twentieth century China and its social and political upheavals. The Boxer Rebellion to the Sino-Japanese War to the Chinese Civil War through Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution and then the changes under Deng Xiaoping, all these things impacted and shaped Ruth's life in some way.

Through anecdotal flashbacks, alternating from the father/daughter perspective, the life of Ruth Mei-en unfolds. Ruth is a fascinating character. She was one of the first eight Chinese women to attend a Chinese university in an era where most Chinese women were illiterate and foot binding was still common practise. She excels academically and is offered a scholarship to study in America, which she accepts. Ruth Mei-en constantly contends the traditional ways. She defies an arranged marriage and instead chooses her own husband. We see her determination to succeed, however these achievements are only minor battles compared to what she would later endure.

Back in China again, Ruth, her infant sons and her husband Charles find themselves in the middle of a war. It is a battle to stay alive. The family become refugees in their own country and must try to avoid death from Japanese bombing or starvation. Once a wealthy woman, Ruth must endure extreme poverty and hardship. Later the family must flee the mainland to Taiwan to avoid persecution by the Communist party, Ruth's brothers remaining never to be heard from again.

Ruth Mei-en Tsao Chai is demanding, condescending, stubborn and cruel to her husband. Although these qualities mean that she is not the most likeable character, they were no doubt useful in her success and survival. In telling her story, aspects of Ruth's mother's and the authors' own lives are told and these characters are interesting in their own right.

The life of Ruth Mei-en is beautifully reconstructed in this book. It is well written, although sometimes more anecdotal than factual. Whether it is for knowledge on Chinese culture and history, or just for a well-told story, this book is great for many reasons and I highly recommend it.

Emily

BORDERS
 books · music · video · cafe

97 BUNDLE MALL
 ADELAIDE SA 5000
 TEL 8223 3333

OPEN LATE 7 DAYS
 MON - SAT 9AM - 9PM
 SUN 11AM - 7PM

On Dit 70.15

MUSIC IN CAFE

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28 1PM

CATE BURKE & HILLARY O'NEILL - HARPISIT

FRIDAY AUGUST 30 6PM - 8PM

MINUS THREE - JAZZ

SATURDAY AUGUST 31 4PM

GAZEBO WINDS - CLASSIC WOODWIND

ondit@adelaide.edu.au

27

Borders Literature Competition

BORDERS
books · music · video · cafe

BORDERS
books · music · video · cafe

BORDERS
books · music · video · cafe

BORDERS
books · music · video · cafe

BORDERS
books · music · video · cafe

BORDERS
books · music · video · cafe

Borders Literature Competition

Luckily for all you lazy people out there, the submissions date for the Literature Competition has been extended until Wednesday August 28. Submissions can be as either prose or poetry, but must be under 3,500 words. Email or hand us your entries for the chance to win:

1st Prize - \$250 Voucher
2nd Prize - \$150 Voucher
3rd Prize - \$75 Voucher

Damn, you know you look hot tonight.

In your full-length mirror you scope yourself, and you're impressed. You've just lit your scented candle so the shade of your bedroom is similar to the club to which you're about to head off, although in the previous hour and a half you have subjected yourself to the heat light in the bathroom, to check for every minute imperfection – pimple, blackhead, bruise, blotchy skin or dandruff flake – you can quickly conceal or remove. After all, the lighting may be gentler in the basement where the music pounds, the dancers grind and the watered-down scotches and Coke are overpriced, but you're thinking longer-term. You're thinking of the next morning, when you'll be waking up next to somebody and a rich ray of sunlight lovingly bathes you and all your tiny *faux pas*. And when he sees you for the first time, sober and straight, he will be a harsher judge. That stubborn follicle of hair that you just could not get to lie down with the others is standing triumphantly on the top of your crown, having defied the hundreds of dollars worth of product you have invested exactly for such a dilemma. That hair may just be the very first thing he sees, and may motivate him to want to turn his back on you and never call you again, only to see you at the club where you met so that you can make eye contact, then pretend you didn't. Whatever happens, you live by your maxim: Every night, prepare yourself as though you were about to be examined up close and personal by the Clinique woman at David Jones. No such problems, however. Not only is your hair behaving, but it's a good body night tonight, as your ripped stomach forms an ideal washboard beneath the appetising curves of your pectorals. The new gym has been kind to you, not least in its offering of buffed Adonises, especially the one you caught checking you out while you were straining your biceps at the chin-up machine, leading to the post-workout drink and...further toning exercises. Sometimes, life is like an American porn film, for which you are eternally grateful.

You add the mandatory silver accessories, all strategically placed to draw attention to all the right places and divert from less appealing curves and shapes, not that there are many left since the new gym. Your designer fragrance has the right tone of citrus without making you smell like a tangerine, and an undertone of pheromones that only a cultured nose like your own has come to appreciate. God has been kind to you this evening, and you will justify His kindness by using the good hair night and extra muscular façade with which he has graced you, to land yourself the sexiest guy you can find on the

dance floor. Or perhaps he'll be playing pool by the bar, or he might be in the DJ box distracting the poor DJ from his job, but that's cool because you know the DJ too so he can always introduce. Wherever he is, whatever he is doing, you'll find him, and he'll compliment you on the jewellery and the hair and the pants and the flawless complexion, and it won't be too long before he's asking you to dance. That's how it usually works. At least, that's how it's worked for the past...well, you've lost count although you can make a conservative estimate about how many boys feature in your past, some of whom were flickering and brilliant, just like your candle, many of whom unfortunately looked so much better in the *noir* haven of the club than the ruthless light of day. But all that will change. Tonight will be the night to meet HIM. Not Mister Right, that's too cliché. Not "The One", there's no such thing. Just Him. You feel something special tonight. Astrologically, you know that Venus is in Libra, which means for you, the Virgo, there will be

the metallic staircase before you encounter ex number one. Usually you can get to the bar, buy your drink and swing around to scope the dance floor before you run into an ex; well, of course there was that one time with the barman out in the car park – the one who said nice things about your eye lashes – but then ex is really a qualitative term rather than quantitative. You shared something far more profound with this boy on the steps, the student actor, than you ever did with the barman. After all, you were together with this aspiring Olivier for nearly three weeks! He is with his new man now, the waiter with whom you had the brief indiscretion that was the catalyst for your break-up with the actor. Now, almost incestuously it seems, Actor and Waiter are holding hands on their way up, and you hug them both at the same time so that Actor cannot see the blushing tone on Waiter's face as, for the first time, all three of you are together. Thankfully, the awkwardness is broken up by the gruff bouncer – the 90 kilogram ex-cop who "broke you in" when

peculiarity in the days after your first encounter, compounded by the fact that Pisces liked you a lot more than Model and even hinted to you that he might leave him for you, but despite this you went for an encore performance which was hotter, and seeing them now, even Model is cordial. He tells you, without motivation, about his upcoming photo shoot and how great it would be for all three of you to catch up for coffee – the world's tackiest fuck euphemism – when he gets back. That's great, but it's not for tonight. Tonight is not mindless fun-sex with friends; tonight is the quest for love. For Him. For eternity. Still, you note to yourself how unusual it is, even for you, now to have encountered seven exes – again, you use the term very liberally to include casual flings – one after the other in such a short space of time. There has to be someone new here...

Ugh, that voice. From behind, you know he is coming. Hairdresser. The wrist-flapping, emaciated queen with whom you shared your futon – when? – purely to confirm rumours that he gave the city's best head and was "hung like a baby's arm". The legends were true, but it still hadn't been worth it. You close your eyes and take a deep breath, before switching on Happy Face as you turn to greet Hairdresser and let his bony arms embrace your neck. This time, his euphoria has a new motivation. Furtively standing beside Hairdresser is a buxom brunette who...Happy Face dies. Oh Shit. It's her. The first woman you have seen in the place, therefore what should be a guarantee that this is a person you haven't fucked, and it's Basketball Vice-Captain from your old high school, the sister of your former best friend who insisted you sleep with her because he was worried that *she* may be a dyke! It certainly wasn't your worst sexual experience – by closing your eyes and imagining yourself inside Mark Wahlberg, you still managed to achieve ejaculation – but she was one of the half dozen or so women in your life you needed to sleep with to confirm your sexuality with absolute certainty. And now, she is here? With him?! She is mute as Hairdresser pours out how they work together, how he insisted he take her out here to help her find a nice lipstick lesbian – her brother was prescient, after all – and how he just *died* when she mentioned in passing about the only boy in high school who didn't make her feel like a cunt. Hairdresser needed only a brief description before he joined the dots. The voice locks into fresh inanities and cattiness but you are not listening. You look at this girl, now a woman, blessed also with a toned, well-proportioned figure, long legs, high cheekbones, full lips, an enviable shock of burgundy curls – very lipstick! – and yet beyond all the superficial beauty, you see an

Nadir

by Sam Butler

a greater freedom of expression and warmth of feeling, making it easier for you to meet people and for relationships to be sustained. Okay, now is the time to go find love. Not just sex, love. Armed with your cash, lip balm, chewing gum, ID, ATM card and pseudoephedrine drugs, you lock up your place and leave the key in its hiding spot. Hopefully, he will whisk you away to his place, a single bedroom apartment nicer than yours, with views, hardwood floors and an expensive home entertainment package. You can but hope. The taxi arrives, heralded by a blaring horn, and you're away.

You are not even inside when you realise the place is jumping. Familiar faces are entering steadily, more so than usual for this time of the night, and from the top of the stairs you can already see people filling up all the different locations – the bar, the dance floor, the pool room and the stools. With a crowd like this, there's no way you can't meet Him! The numbers are in your favour. You have a bigger than average scoop from which to choose and lots of people always means new faces, new personalities and new men who have no idea about your past and do not know anybody who likes to whisper disease about you. With unprecedented determination you take your first step. You are only halfway down

you were sixteen – demanding to keep the entrance clear. You're pretty sure he's forgotten you amidst the sea of lost, virginal teenagers this man has sailed into the New World, so you don't even bother greeting him. Instead, you pay your door charge to the Frenchman, the first guy you ever slept with who came in a foreign language. He winks at you, mouthing *mon ange*, his pet name for you. You're smiling sentimentally as you head for the bar and see Barman and...New barman. He seems somehow familiar...Hell, what is he doing working here? He was 'Confused22', the gorgeous bisexual footballer you picked up over the Internet one night and fucked at his team's oval because his girlfriend was at home. But that was a while ago, and you realise you haven't seen that nickname in the chat room for quite a few months now. You wonder what happened to the girlfriend. Does she know he's working here? He is heading in your direction but stops halfway as he recognises you, and pretends instead he is working the other section of the bar so that he can avoid you. Wanker, you think to yourself. Obviously, there is no more confusion. You hear two voices greeting you simultaneously as you turn to face Model and Pisces, the couple with whom you had an intense *ménage-a-trois* only a couple of months ago. There was the inevitable post-coital

BORDERS
books · music · video · cafe

BORDERS
books · music · video · cafe

BORDERS
books · music · video · cafe

BORDERS
books · music · video · cafe

BORDERS
books · music · video · cafe

BORDERS
books · music · video · cafe

immense sadness, big brown eyes full of conflict, rejection and emptiness. As that voice finally ends, you say nothing to her, but the two of you embrace, holding on so strongly it is as though each one of you were the other's oxygen in a pressurised vacuum. Both of you do not say a word, but there is an understanding in the silence that a million words could not articulate...then the voice moves into next gear and you feel the bony arms prying you both apart as the voice excuses himself and the Captain so that they can go find Ms. Right for the new recruit. Your eyes continue to lock until finally the distance breaks this connection, and you are furious at yourself that for some stupid reason you can feel salt water welling beneath your eyelids. You take another deep breath as you move towards the dance floor, now more determined than ever to find Him, the knight to take you away from all this shit.

The usual suspects are all lined up alongside one another on the dance floor, moving as one in a grotesque queer parody of line dancing. Although each boy (you've had them all, of course, the scene queens are up for something different every Saturday night) moves with his unique style of sexy seduction and coordination, there is a sameness that unites them, like pigeons you see on sea cliffs who collectively take off and fly towards the sea, but always return as one and resettle at their point of origin. A couple nod at you, the rest do not even care you are there. They are saving this dynamic mating ritual for new prey, releasing their territorial scents only to new faces and bodies. Good luck! After all, if you're struggling to find somebody new and different here, what chance do any of them have? Somebody crashes into you as he storms past, muttering an obscenity under his breath. You barely have time to become indignant when you realise it is...Name? You are much better at remembering faces, occupations, locations and star signs than names. Sometimes you have not even bothered to swap names. It helps to maintain a comfortable distance, a safe anonymity...Perth. The raven-haired muscle god who had escaped his allegedly abusive boyfriend, a few thousand kilometres west, and was hoping to set up a new life after four years of allegedly serving an existence as a punching bag. But when he was fucking you, you only had to realise, by the way he was pulling your head back by your hair, pounding remorselessly and whispering in your ear to take it like a bitch, that the guy no doubt was talking about himself when referring to the steroid-addicted monster 'back home'. The pain you felt after he turned his back on you once he had finished, pretending you were not there, and you had to leave and walk home during a biting winter dawn, tears streaming down your face as you shivered and struggled to breathe, was far greater than the dozens of agonising thrusts to which he had subjected your rectum only minutes before. He does not look up to see whom he has run into as he marches on, for which you are grateful. Your hatred of him is surpassed only by your fear...it's time to dance.

Your moves are your greatest weapons. You always know exactly the right time to get your arms pumping in the air above your waist, to flash that tantalising sliver of midriff as your top slides upwards with you. On the floor, the combined stench of dry ice, sweat and scented flesh motivates you to take control of the dance floor as the pseudoepherdrine kicks in and your mind and body become slaves to the endorphins. You are right next to one of the booming six-foot speakers, which blares poorly mixed Top Forty tunes into your eardrum. You become at one with the music, subconsciously registering with the lyrics you hear, finding that you can relate so easily to the sung stories and anxieties of manufactured teenage pop stars as though they were profound dilemmas of the human condition rather than banal rhyming phrases churned out by cynical record-label producers. Your eyes dart around the floor, up to the mini disco balls and all



the other multi-coloured lights melding together in a nightmarish rainbow, but the voice in your head keeps reminding you. Control. Always in control. You're sure he's looking at you, somewhere, captivated by your perfection. He's probably right here in the sea of dancers. You look to your right. The queer line dancers have formed a circle and have been joined by a drag queen who has provided, appropriately enough, a fuchsia handbag at the epicentre. You fucked her - him - in his parents' bed while they were away one weekend, and afterwards he told you how terrified he was to come out to them because there were parts of the new gay world even he didn't like, especially drag queens and trannies. The irony doesn't make you chuckle as you assumed it would. Instead, you are becoming distressed. You furiously brush away a bead of sweat that is trickling down your forehead. Your heart is beating faster and the drugs are making your head feel even lighter than usual. You must keep dancing. As you look to your left, you see three stick-thin boys - you've given up on names now, so instead you identify them by the places where you had sex with them, christening them Home, Beach and Toilet Cubicle - giggling at you. Beach frowns as you make direct eye contact with him. You know you have never done anything bad to him - he was the one who

didn't call you! - but you see in his eyes an eerie twinkle, something akin to the hatred you saw in Perth's eyes months ago. All these boys, everywhere, and you cannot believe you have not yet found Him. You have danced for over an hour, you have yelled greetings to so many people you know - fucked - on the dance floor, but none of them seems to want to speak to you or even be near you. You should not be sweating so much. In the past, you have gone for hours, dancing harder and on stronger drugs, on this very floor without having any moisture break out. It is as though your body is telling you that you are or should be nervous about something? You need to get away from there, so you run off the elevated floor, brushing shoulders with men you know even without having to look at them, and stumble into the chill-out room, almost losing your balance. From the sofas to the bar and the pool table, you feel what must be a hundred pair of eyes piercing your

music - has become the site of a surrealist nightmare. Actor. French. Confused22. Perth. Drag Queen. Vice-Captain. Gemini. Your left arm flings up instinctively alongside the threshold to support your weight as you feel yourself losing balance again. Losing control. Your head sinks as your knees buckle. The voices have all blended together to become one distorted chorus of pity, contempt and disgust, spoken only at you and nobody else. You try to raise your head but see only more familiar faces of nameless strangers, laughing at you and bitching with their friends. The noise begins to echo in your skull. The stench mutates into a pungent, almost tangible odour that weakens your body even further.

You have the corrosive feel of bile in the back of your throat and you muster up any remaining energy - by now you operate only on the adrenalin that is generated by your terror - to half-sprint, half-stumble up the metallic staircase, out into the world and... Within seconds you have keeled over onto your knees as you purge into the gutter what little food you have eaten today. Each thought - each face you recall - is accompanied by fresh retching. It is this unimaginable realisation that is making you so ill. There is nobody new.

You have been with every single person in this nightclub.

You do not know what malevolent astrological phenomenon has brought your entire past to the same place, at the same time, on the one night you knew you were destined to meet Him. A pumping nightclub with hundreds of people, and all of them you've fucked or been fucked by. And all of them hate you, you're sure of that now. You'll never meet him, because he no longer exists. He cannot be new and innocent of your past, because every person in that place is your past. Your emotions are peaking, but you do not make a sound other than short, strangled breaths, as you sit on a curb, in designer label clothes, at the lowest point you have ever been in your life. You half raise your head, a small spittle of vomit hanging from your bottom lip, to catch two muscular boys in sleeveless tops frowning with piteous disdain as they walk past you, pretending not to know you, before they begin their descent down the metallic staircase, and you only need to see their backs and recognize their styles of walking, to know you can add them both to the list. Somewhere, sometime.

Possible impact of *Crossroads* on students everywhere



Bright young thing... Suddenly, intervention of Dr Nelson and Crossroads means university attendance is no longer possible.



Lack of stimulation. Social conscience wanes... but Gumby routine still goes down a treat.



"It was this big" stories become less amusing as crack cocaine habit takes lethal hold.



Hideously distorted, a la Mrs Twit. First born sacrificed to Dr Nelson in vain attempt to cancel old HECS debts.

videodvdvideodvdvideodvdvideodvdvideodvdvideodvdvideodvd

Say Nothing

2001 D: Allan Moyle

William Baldwin, Nastassja Kinski, Hart Bochner, Michele Duquet

If you're going to watch this, don't bother. *Say Nothing* is a thriller sans thrills which is derivative of the infinitely superior *Fatal Attraction*. Nastassja Kinski, the comely daughter of screen legend Klaus Kinski, stars as Grace Needham, a woman depressed at her husband's physical and mental decline which is caused by his recent layoff. He spends his days wrapped in the warm, cotton candy embrace of self-pity and is seeking a bit too much single malt solace. So when close friends give Grace and her despondent man Matt (Hart Bochner) the gift of a holiday away from their woes, such a prospect strikes Grace as wonderful. It seems like the chance for a much-needed second honeymoon and an opportunity for Matt to get back in the saddle - oo-er! Unfortunately, Matt greets the idea with cold indifference and so Grace, at the prompting of her friends, takes the trip alone.

While on holiday at a luxurious health spa, she encounters a tall, dark, handsome stranger named Julian Banks (William Baldwin). You really have to hand it to the brothers Baldwin; they single-handedly made Brylcreem cool again! Julian is charming and enigmatic, and Grace spends a night of wild passion with this mystery man.

She returns from her indulgent getaway feeling deeply refreshed and - how to put this? - reinvigorated. Her happiness is increased a hundredfold when she learns that her husband has snagged a high-echelon and well-paid position with a successful firm. Everything is coming up roses, right? Make that *black roses!* Matt's boss is none other than - insert sinister organ blast - Julian Banks! Is there no escape from this babe-alicious Baldwin?!

Apparently not, because pretty soon Grace realizes that Julian is not only filthy rich but also exceedingly well-connected. He has the power to make or break Matt's career, and suddenly Grace finds herself in a most uncomfortable position. Julian is on a mission without permission and will stop at nothing to have things his way. He steadily insinuates himself deeper and deeper into Grace and Matt's semi-charmed life until we reach the inevitable critical mass.

As the unsuspecting Matt, the highly underused Hart Bochner delivers his usual flawless performance. What on earth is he doing in this Thanksgiving dinner of a movie? He was brilliant as the smooth-talking, coke-snorting exec who nearly gets John McClane (Bruce Willis) killed in the action classic *Die Hard*, and superb as a dangerous sociopath in the acclaimed thriller *Apartment Zero*. Like Bonnie Bedelia - who also starred in *Die Hard* - Hart should make more films, preferably good ones. *Say Nothing* is, methinks, a rather ironic title, since the flick does precisely that.

Gimme a D! Gimme an R! Gimme an E! Gimme a C! Gimme a K! Whass that spell?

James Trevelyan

Corky Romano

2001 D: Rob Pritts

Chris Kattan, Peter Berg, Chris Penn, Richard Roundtree

The Romano crime family has a problem. The FBI have accumulated damning evidence of its various iniquities - which include kidnapping and murder - and are about to come down on them like a hammer. What to do? The clan hatches a plan with which to thwart the Feds; they will have the 'black sheep' of the family - Corky - pose as an FBI agent, surreptitiously remove the incriminating evidence from under the noses of the Fibbies, and deliver it into the hands of Corky's ailing father, the criminal 'mastermind' of the family. Corky is the ideal choice for the cunning subterfuge as he is the exact opposite of his sinful siblings, which is to say he is not a vicious thug prone to extreme violence. *Au contraire*; Corky is a happy-go-lucky young fellow with a heart of gold. He is an assistant veterinarian at Poodles and Pussies, and clearly loves his job. He possesses a wonderful affinity with animals of all shapes and sizes, and is an all-round nice guy. Trouble is, he is a little slow on the uptake. But hey, no one's perfect, right?

Corky Romano is your average high concept fish-out-of-water comedy. Like an unsettling amount of contemporary comedy, it is unashamedly mean-spirited, but on the whole, the film delivers a sound moral message which should not be discarded. Corky is assigned to the case of the Night Vulture, a ruthless drug dealer who has been dispatching his competition left, right and centre. In what is possibly the film's funniest scene, the naive Corky attempts to make a heroin buy from a gang of hard-as-nails skinheads and winds up having his nipples repeatedly electrified by the tough dudes. See what I mean about the mean-spiritedness? I was reminded of a similar scene in *Showdown in Little Tokyo*, in which the late Brandon Lee and Dolph Lundgren are being tortured in the same unpleasant fashion. Lee, having just been pumped full of juice by bad guys, coolly informs them, 'Don't you know you're supposed to baste us between cooking cycles?'

Dumb comedy seems to be a burgeoning genre in today's crowded movie marketplace, with flicks like *Dumb and Dumber* and *Billy Madison* scoring big at the box office while being scorned by critics as worthless trash. Someone once made the unnervingly accurate prediction that the future of music would be as follows: there would be a wide Sargasso sea of utter dreck surrounding a small island paradise of high quality, meaningful material. The same can be applied to modern filmmaking.

So is *Corky Romano* sunbathing on the beach and sipping a Tequila Sunrise, or foundering in that seemingly endless sea? Seriously adrift, mate.

James Trevelyan

Special Thanks to Sheenal Kishore

K-PAX

2002 D: Iain Softley

Kevin Spacey, Jeff Bridges
Buena Vista Home

A crime is committed and an enigmatic gentleman named Prot (Kevin Spacey) lingers upon a mugging scene. The police are disbelieving of his humorous responses to their questioning hence his introduction to a private hospital. With its ostentatious but appropriate intro, the viewer will be drawn into the life of a quaint stranger. And the mirth-provoking information that Prot speaks about home includes that K-PAX is a planet 1000 light years away, with Prot travelling from a beam of light (by harnessing the energy of light, at many times the speed of light). Prot, the K-PAXian, a patient who claims to be subhuman - an ET of the new millennium - is amiable, inquisitive, robotic, knowledgeable, assertive, a character who perhaps may be deranged and who claims to be 337 years old.

Prot also claims he has traveled to 64 other planets. He is a man who believes that he is from a planet with seven moons and naturally becomes a 'resurrection' for Dr Mark Powell (Jeff Bridges), whom is beleaguered with his profession and has an un concluded conflict with his estranged son. Powell continues to play the family man with a second wife and child. The sessions begin and Prot, who believes he was independently raised, becomes a helper to the other mental patients. Cunning and an excellent listener, Prot has an ability to make them believe that they must aid themselves before they can progress into the real world. And his transcendent nature provides certain clues which lead to super-Einsteinian formulas which explain outlandish space theories. This indicates that Prot may indeed be the 'inhuman'.

Prot, with his genuine care, his ability to give optimism to others, is delightful to watch. Kevin Spacey delivers yet another multi-layered performance; his character has a gifted presence which dominates Dr Mark. Bridges has quite a strong role in this and the two absolutely learn from each other. This makes you take a glimpse at the world in a manner you might once have considered to be fallacious. And the idea of alien beings is a fascinating creed; to feel that we are the only palpitating life form in our solar system would be an inane theory.

K-PAX is told with humour and pathos. Edward Sheermur's score is hypnotic and without doubt an important fixture. Watching two great actors who both use their style and presence well is always rewarding. This is a heart-warming tale of how valuable, relentless and cruel life can be.

DVD Extras: There are no extras and I demand to know why.

Matthew Herfurth

Special Thanks to Sheenal Kishore

Videos/DVDs: teaching us
all that war is bloody and
yuk

Black Hawk DownJosh Harnett, Ewan McGregor,
Eric Bana
Columbia Tristar

Settling down in front of the telly with some crisps and a soft drink? Why not pop a copy of *Black Hawk Down* into your DVD player and settle down for some graphic violence? Ridley Scott's latest effort is set in war torn Somalia circa 1993. It is a gut-churning, realistic depiction of the ins and outs of modern warfare, told largely from the perspective of the American soldiers. Based on the true story of the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu during the Somalian Civil War, *Black Hawk Down* chronicles approximately 15 hours of pure terror during which a group of American soldiers attempt to locate and seize two top lieutenants of Somalia's bloodiest warlords. The mission, which was only supposed to take a couple of hours, costs 18 American soldiers and over 1000 Somalis their lives.

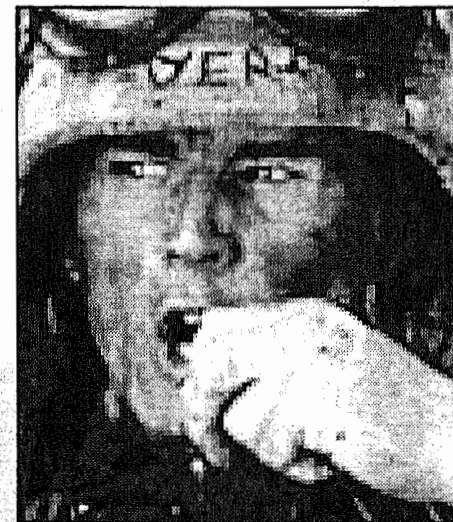
Forget *Saving Private Ryan*, these action scenes are so fast and confusing that they convey the true terror that soldiers must face whilst on the 'front-line'.

There aren't really any standout performances in *Black Hawk Down*. Ewan McGregor's character doesn't really leave an impression, but Josh Harnett is good in one of the leading roles. Unusually, this all-American movie stars Australia's favourite comedian/actor Eric Bana. Given that his character is the stereotypical macho American jock hero, he plays his role well. However, it was hard for this reviewer to see past the 'Poida' typecast. Perhaps American audiences will view his performance (and his horrible American accent) with a more open mind.

Black Hawk Down ends rather quickly, and some major events are summarized in text on screen. As far as the plot goes (as mentioned previously; it's based on a true story) there isn't much to complain about. *Black Hawk Down* is not really my cup of tea, but any downfalls in this film are made up for with the mind-blowing special effects. Be warned: If you're squeamish, don't chow down on anything meaty before watching this movie.

DVD Extras: On the set featurette, production notes, theatrical trailers.

MJK



SPAM OF THE WEEK EDUCATION SUPER SPECIAL

The following sites have some very funny education humour you might like to check out:

Bizarre rules from the 'Other Place'
<http://paul.merton.ox.ac.uk/education/cambridge.html>

This is a list of actual rules and regulations from Cambridge. For example in 1595 it was decreed that "Bachelors of Arts and Inferior Students" were to "give way to their betters"; in 1636 it was ordered that "no scholar or student do wear any long or excessive hair hanging over their foreheads..."; in 1750, no person in *statu pupillari* was allowed to keep a horse "except it be for the sake of his health and with the express consent of his parents."

Visit <http://paul.merton.ox.ac.uk/education/> for more education jokes.

Fun & Humor

http://www.funehumor.com/fun_main/school.shtml

A humour site with an education section. A joke on the main page I know Dianne Schwerdt, my English for Professional Purposes Tutor from last semester will like:

An English professor wrote the words, "Woman without her man is nothing" on the blackboard and directed his students to punctuate it correctly.

The men wrote: "Woman, without her man, is nothing." The women wrote: "Woman: Without her, man is nothing."

An Exam Question on Hell

(This was found @ <http://www.correllan.com/bnb/humour/page0015.html> but can be found in many places online)

Final Exam question for May of 1997:

Dr. Schambaugh is known for asking questions such as "Why do airplanes fly?" on his final exams. His one and only final exam question in May 1997 for his Momentum, Heat and Mass Transfer II class was:

"Is hell exothermic or endothermic? Support your answer with proof."

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law or some variant thereof. One student, however, wrote the following:

"First, we postulate that if souls exist, then they must have some mass. If they do, then a mole of souls also has a mass. So, at what rate are souls moving into hell and at what rate are souls leaving?

I think we can safely assume that once a soul gets to hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for souls entering hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, then you will go to hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and people do not generally belong to more than one religion, we can project that ALL people and souls go to hell.

With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in hell to increase exponentially.

Now, we look at the rate of change in volume in hell. Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in hell to stay the same, the ratio of the mass of souls and volume needs to stay constant. Two options exist:

1. If hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter hell, then the temperature and pressure in hell will increase until all hell breaks loose.

2. If hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until hell freezes over.

So which is it? If we accept the quote given to me by Theresa Manyan during Freshman year, that "It will be a cold night in hell before I sleep with you," and take into account the fact that I still have NOT succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then Option 2 cannot be true.

Thus, hell is exothermic."

This student got the only A.

What the Lecturer really means

By J. Timothy Petersik

from the Chronicle of Higher Education (Found online @ Catalyst: <http://www.sit.wisc.edu/~spkraus/>)

You'll be using one of the leading textbooks in the field.

I used it as a grad student.

If you follow these few simple rules, you'll do fine in the course.

If you don't need any sleep, you'll do fine in the course.

The gist of what the author is saying is what's most important.

I don't understand the details either.

Various authorities agree that...

My hunch is that...

The answer to your question is beyond the scope of this class.

I don't know.

You'll have to see me during my office hours for a thorough answer to your question.

I don't know.

In answer to your question, you must recognize that there are several disparate points of view.

I really don't know.

Today we are going to discuss a most important topic.

Today we are going to discuss my dissertation.

Unfortunately, we haven't the time to consider all of the people who made contributions to this field.

I disagree with what roughly half of the people in this field have said.

We can continue this discussion outside of class.

1. I'm tired of this - let's quit.

2. You're winning the argument - let's quit.

Today we'll let a member of the class lead the discussion. It will be a good educational experience.

I stayed out to late last night and didn't have time to prepare a lecture.

Any questions?

I'm ready to let you go.

The implications of this study are clear.

I don't know what it means either, but there'll be a question about it on the test.

The test will be 50-questions multiple choice.

The test will be 60-questions multiple guess, plus three short-answer questions (1000 words or more) and no one will score above 55 per cent.

The test scores were generally good.

Some of you managed a C+.

The test scores were a little below my expectations.

Where was the party last night?

Some of you could have done better.

Everyone flunked.

Before we begin the lecture for today, are there any questions about previous material?

Has anyone opened the book yet?

According to my sources...

According to the guy who taught this class last year...

It's been very rewarding to teach this class.

I hope they find someone else to teach it next year.

44 Fun Things for Lecturers to Do on the first Day of Class

(From <http://paul.merton.ox.ac.uk/education/lectures.html>) by Alan Meiss, <ameiss@indiana.edu>

1. Wear a hood with one eyehole. **Periodically make strange gurgling noises.**

2. After confirming everyone's names on the roll, thank the class for attending "Advanced Astrodynamics 690" and mention that yesterday was the last day to drop.

3. After turning on the overhead projector, clutch your chest and scream "MY PACEMAKER!"

4. Wear a pointed Kaiser helmet and a monocle and carry a riding crop.

5. Gradually speak softer and softer and then suddenly point to a student and scream "YOU! WHAT DID I JUST SAY?"

6. Deliver your lecture through a hand puppet. If a student asks you a question directly, say in a high-pitched voice, "The Professor can't hear you, you'll have to ask *me*, Winky Willy."

7. If someone asks a question, walk silently over to their seat, hand them your piece of chalk, and ask, "Would YOU like to give the lecture, Mr. Smartypants?"

8. Pick out random students, ask them questions, and time their responses with a stop watch. Record their times in your grade book while muttering "tsk, tsk".

9. Ask students to call you "Tinkerbell" or "Surfin' Bird".

10. Stop in mid-lecture, frown for a moment, and then ask the class whether your butt looks fat.

11. Play "Kumbaya" on the banjo.

12. Show a video on medieval torture implements to your calculus class. Giggle throughout it.

13. Announce "you'll need this", and write the suicide prevention hotline number on the board.

14. Wear mirrored sunglasses and speak only in Turkish. Ignore all questions.

15. Start the lecture by dancing and lip-syncing to James Brown's "Sex Machine."

16. Ask occasional questions, but mutter "as if you gibbering simps would know" and move on before anyone can answer.

17. Ask the class to read Jenkins through Johnson of the local phone book by the next lecture. Vaguely imply that there will be a quiz.

18. Have one of your graduate students sprinkle flower petals ahead of you as you pace back and forth.

19. Address students as "worm".

20. Announce to students that their entire grades will be based on a single-

question oral final exam. Imply that this could happen at any moment.

21. Turn off the lights, play a tape of crickets chirping, and begin singing spirituals.

22. Ask for a volunteer for a demonstration. Ask them to fill out a waiver as you put on a lead apron and light a blowtorch.

23. Point the overhead projector at the class. Demand each student's name, rank, and serial number.

24. Begin class by smashing the neck off a bottle of vodka, and announce that the lecture's over when the bottle's done.

25. Have a band waiting in the corner of the room. When anyone asks a question, have the band start playing and sing an Elvis song.

26. Every so often, freeze in mid sentence and stare off into space for several minutes. After a long, awkward silence, resume your sentence and proceed normally.

27. Wear a "virtual reality" helmet and strange gloves. When someone asks a question, turn in their direction and make throttling motions with your hands.

28. Mention in passing that you're wearing rubber underwear.

29. Growl constantly and address students as "matey".

30. Devote your math lecture to free verse about your favorite numbers and ask students to "sit back and groove".

31. Announce that last year's students have almost finished their class projects.

32. Inform your English class that they need to know Fortran and code all their essays. Deliver a lecture on output format statements.

33. Bring a small dog to class. Tell the class he's named "Boogers McGee" and is your "mascot". Whenever someone asks a question, walk over to the dog and ask it, "What'll be, McGee?"

34. Wear a feather boa and ask students to call you "Snuggles".

35. Tell your math students that they must do all their work in a base 11 number system. Use a complicated symbol you've named after yourself in place of the number 10 and threaten to fail students who don't use it.

36. Claim to be a chicken. Squat, cluck, and produce eggs at irregular intervals.

37. Bring a CPR dummy to class and announce that it will be the teaching assistant for the semester. Assign it an office and office hours.

38. Have a grad student in a black beret pluck a bass while you lecture.

39. Sprint from the room in a panic if you hear sirens outside.

40. Give an opening monologue. Take two minute "commercial breaks" every ten minutes.

41. Tell students that you'll fail them if they cheat on exams or "fake the funk".

42. Announce that the entire 32-volume Encyclopedia Britannica will be required reading for your class. Assign a report on Volume 1, Aardvark through Armenia, for next class ask students to list their favorite showtunes on a signup sheet. Criticize their choices and make notes in your grade book.

43. Sneeze on students in the front row and wipe your nose on your tie.

44. Show up to lecture in a ventilated clean suit. Advise students to keep their distance for their own safety and mutter something about "that bug I picked up in the field".

Local Music - Environment Week Gig

Ungkas No See Dolly Lord Stompy and the Flower Sluts Unibar, August 16

Guess what kids... August 16 was a really good night for local music. If you didn't head up to our very own Unibar to check out No See Dolly and Ungkas and to support our Environment Department, for shame. You missed out on some top-notch musicianship. The event was put on by Sarah Hanson and held as part of the SAUA Environment Week to raise money for the department, hopefully ensuring that future campaigns have a strong and effective foundation upon which to work.

The evening kicked off at about eight with Lord Stompy apparently driving the crowds away, this probably explains why his set was cut short. I have to admit Stompy isn't all that bad, he's just... unique. Anyway it appeared that his unique brand of song wasn't all that endearing to the crowd who seemed to sigh a collective sigh of relief when he had finished playing. Poor Stompy. This left a large music-less vacuum consisting of the time it would have taken Stompy to finish his set plus some added time while No See Dolly waited for Ungkas to rock up because they were using some of their equipment for the evening.

There wasn't much else to do in this period except drink, which the crowd seemed to do with much enthusiasm. A pub crawl arrived, as did an 18th birthday party. No See Dolly couldn't have orchestrated a more receptive crowd if they had tried. As Ungkas began arriving with their gear the crowd was getting well liquored up and the anticipating the next band, No See Dolly.

By this stage in the evening and on a not entirely unrelated subject, I too needed to break the seal in a big way. Moseying into the men's toilets... [excerpt deleted because of too much information]... I was washing and drying my hands (because

I'm not a grot) and this drunken buffoon did something very stupid and very funny. Incidentally this same dude told Nat Enright and myself that he never touched any drugs of any sort. (but Nat and I know better, because you see this was after he had spent a good half an hour searching for a bag he thought had been stolen... but that he later remembered he had left at home). But I digress... the stupid and funny.

As I was drying my hands he noticed one of those big yellow 'Floor Is Wet' cone things shoved in the wastebasket. He went into some rant about people disrespecting the Unibar. "This is my Unibar," he said, "I drink here, I study here, I live here... this is my home." A dude taking a leak at the trough chimed in with, "You live in a toilet?" Anyway, the dumb guy proceeded to extricate the cone type thing from the bin with almost surgical precision mumbling something about, "I wouldn't do anything disrespectful, I mean I do some stupid things sometimes..." oh what a prophetic statement.

As he was mumbling this to us he began attempting to mount the big yellow plastic cone on the light fixture... knocking the fluorescent tube out of the fitting and on to the floor, bouncing twice before shattering on the ground. The dude reacted with a kind of Jerry Lewis-esque whole-body-spasm, punctuated with a look of horror as he turned to me and said "I didn't do that on purpose!" Being quite drunk myself I merely looked at him with a mischievous grin smeared across my face and I said "Um-um-um-um-ummmmmmm, I'm dobbling! I'm telling the Chancellor on you!" and I ran out of the toilets cackling the cackle of a demented, evil schoolgirl. Then he chased me down and tried to explain the situation to me. I was stalwart in my conviction to tell the Chancellor and by this time I was standing next to Nat Enright who added quizzically, "Aren't you the guy who doesn't take any drugs?"

While my stomach muscles ached from the uncompassionate laughter it put me in very high spirits for the rest of the evening. No See Dolly were about to start and I was itching to get up close and have my socks rocked. I was convinced that nothing that evening would be able to

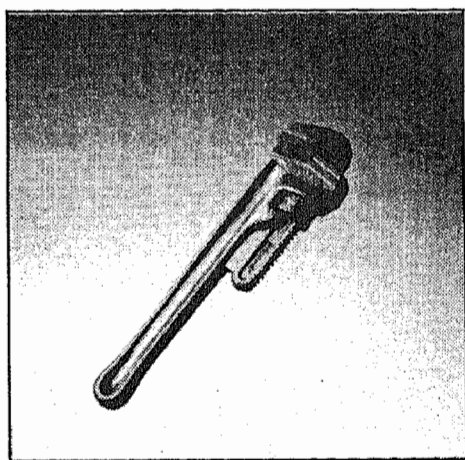
top the drunken-fluoro-light-guy. I was completely mistaken you see, because as soon as No See Dolly started playing I was transfixed. These guys have the sort of musical talent between them that would make '60s supergroup Cream feel threatened. Each member was fantastic at what they do from Leslie going mental behind the kit to the undeniably spunky Juliet fully displaying her vocal dexterity and her wild violin technique.

No See Dolly are vaguely reminiscent of One Hot Minute era Red Hot Chili Peppers, that balanced blend of infectious funk and fuzz laden alterna-rock. While Juliet's vocal style skips back and forth between angsty, girly-punk, Patti Smith sounding 'melodic shouting' (for want of a better phrase) and powerful, dynamic, supermelodic and irresistibly quirky melismas that remind me of charismatic front woman Grace Slick from the San Franciscan acid-rock band Jefferson Airplane.

Despite Juliet's strong stage presence and charisma the rest of the band's talents still shine strong, bassist Marco and drummer Leslie drove the groove all the way through the set with guitarist Robert displaying his control of the fretboard with much aplomb. The guitar work is somewhat reminiscent of Dave Navarro (of Jane's Addiction and Chili Peppers fame) and Tom Morello from Rage Against The Machine. Their set seemed a little short, but understandably they had to make way for the headliners Ungkas.

What is left to say about Ungkas? The darlings of the Adelaide heavy scene, Ungkas have seen a lot of success over the last year or so and have gained much respect. I don't think they're disappointed. The pub-crawlers moved on and the crowd spread a little thin, but the atmosphere was still okay and as usual Ungkas were tight. Their unique brand of groove-metal is very infectious and if you haven't seen them live yet then I suggest you do... if only for the groovy body paint.

supermelodic retro flower boy



Faultline
Your Love Means Everything
Warner

This album struck such a chord with the both of us that we decided to review it together and split the cost of a second album. Unfortunately, horror was our name as we found that few record stores were bothering to stock it. "Foolishness we cried."

Being one of the most haunting albums we've heard in some time, this album would stir the heart of even the most jaded critic. However, the style and mood changes so often from track to track that it is listened to much more as a set of sad emotions juxtaposed together than a story. Faultline is obviously an instrumental group that has carefully chosen guest vocalists for several tracks of a 'mood album'. Strings, percussion and keyboards blend well with the likes of Michael Stipe and Chris Martin from Coldplay, as well as the guitarist from the Verve. The standout tracks would have to be the first and last (the first instrumental, repeated at the end with compelling vocals from Martin), and Bitter Kiss with Jacob Golden. Well worth a listen. Everyone says so.

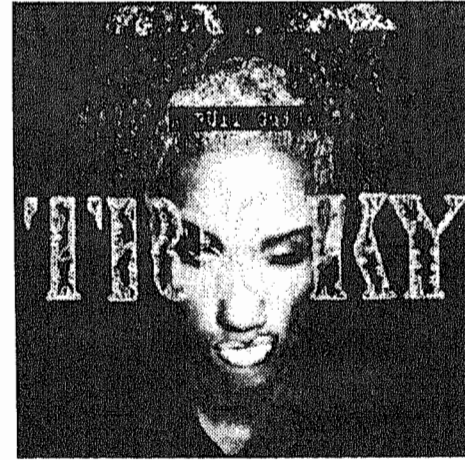


Buddy Guy & Junior Wells
Buddy Guy & Junior Wells Play The Blues
Rhino/Warner

As part of classic albums being released in the Atlantic & Atco Remasters Series, this would be considered a corruption of the classic-blues genre. Rather, this is modern blues; delightfully tainted by the funk of the early seventies, the soul of the sixties and the jam sessions of post-war Chicago clubs. Full of rhythm guitar, warm grooving bass, and foot tapping (graciously provided by Juke Joint Jimmy).

Featuring an impressive ensemble of musicians, including Dr. John, A. C. Reed, and Leroy Stewart amongst many others, the album came together through the effort of Eric Clapton in the early seventies. Eric also quietly contributes to the marvel of Buddy (guitar/vocal) and Junior's (harmonica/vocal) performances, but is thankfully humble in the mix of things.

Whether you're a novice that likes the Ren & Stimpy theme, or a collector, this album just isn't long enough... unlike their lapels.



Tricky
Tricky - A Ruff Guide
Universal Island

Since the release of his debut album *Maxinquaye* in 1995, Tricky's reputation as a cutting edge, sometimes controversial and mostly misunderstood artist has continued to rise. The release of *Blowback* last year was the final straw that captured the attention of many new fans. I think it is within this context that Universal Island have released *Tricky - A Ruff Guide*. You don't have to be a hardcore fan of Tricky to recognise and appreciate many of the tracks on this 'best of' album. A packed selection of 17 tracks from his albums *Maxinquaye* (1995), *Nearly God* (1996), *Pre-millennium Tension* (1996), *Angels with Dirty Faces* (1998) and *Juxtapose* (1999), this blending of alternative, hip-hop, roots, blues, gospel, dub and rock will have something for everyone. This is the perfect album to catch you up with Tricky's efforts so far and better appreciate the innovation that's surely still to come. Standout tracks are hard to choose, but if pushed I would say 'Aftermath', 'For Real', and 'Broken Homes', with maybe a little 'Overcome' thrown in. Judge for yourself, you won't regret it.

Album of the Week



**Various
Platinum 80s**
Warner/Virgin/EMI

I would be the first to admit that most eighties compilations are an utter load of trash, consisting mainly of the mainstream cheese-pop that Heaven plays on Wednesday nights. The eighties is often thought of as the decade that music forgot, with most people forgetting that many new genres of music, in particular electronica, were pioneered in this decade

by groups like Kraftwerk. The theory that all of eighties music is throw-away pop is firmly set on its head by *Platinum 80s*, which slices a perfect cross-section of retro hits that is sure to set your taste buds tingling. It's not only one, but two discs of pure listening pleasure, ranging from Spandau Ballet to Prince.

The pick of the crop are The Smiths' classic 'This Charming Man', goth gods Depeche Mode's 'Personal Jesus' and perennial popster David Bowie's 'Let's Dance'. There are of course a few that are easily skippable, especially The Bee Gees and Falco, but on the whole, this album is pure platinum. Even those who missed the eighties the first time round will find something of value on this album. Those who, like me, remember the decade well (and shudder at the fashions which are returning with a vengeance) will find all their old favourites on here, as this is a collaboration between three record companies. So put on those raa-raa skirts and leg warmers and get down to the sounds of *Platinum 80s*.

Poptart



Millionaire
Outside The Simian Flock
Pias/FMR

Looking for some rock with a difference? Millionaire could be just the thing. Hailing from Belgium, these guys bring art-rock into the 21st century. So young, sexy and creative, there are inevitably going to be comparisons to the likes of The Velvet Underground (however different the sound is). Although, it is also inevitable that a facet of their rocking, distorted, noisy pop will be lumped in with bands like The Vines, The Strokes, The Hives, etc. This band is more than a 'The...' band of the moment. They have a quirky, ever surprising, and unmistakable sound that is so loud and awesome, haunting and spacey, harmonious and backward. I can barely capture the essence of their weird lyrics, rifling guitar, funky bass (think 1980s + Les Claypool, on 'Pretty Thug').

Fellow Belgian creative music types, dAAU contribute by adding strings on a quieter track 'Blindfold'. Lovers of distortion, bass intros, Rolling Stones seduction, and a band as attractive as that in the New Order 'Crystal' film clip, seek your Millionaire soulmate.

Prof. Booty

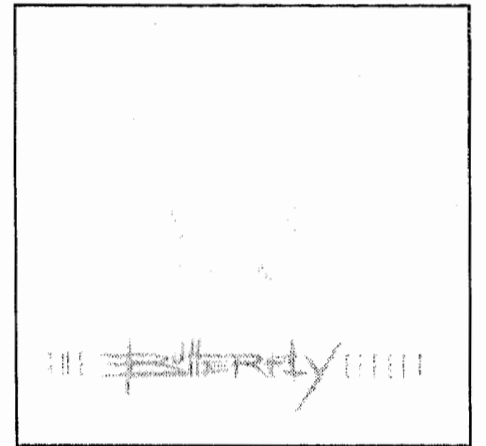


Taxiride
Garage Mahal
Warner

Here's an album that straddles the line

between pop and rock, proving you can have one, or the other. The album is brilliantly produced - too brilliant. It lacks emotion, as if the feeling of the record was dubbed out long ago in favour of perfection. Track two, 'How I Got This Way,' might remind U2 fans of Pop, and to some extent that is what much of the album does - reminds you of other artists (Crowded House? Oasis?). You'll probably find yourself thinking that you've heard that riff, that chord progression, those harmonies before. But, salvation! 'Creepin' Up Slowly' remains faithful to pop's optimism and is truly a great summer hit. The band show what they are capable of in track 10's bubbling, distorted, melodic haze. The other stand out tracks are 'Afterglow,' and 'Saffron.' It is above all a good album, complete with many a perfect party song.

Juella



The Butterfly Effect
The Butterfly Effect
MGM

When I went to the Enigma Bar to watch The Butterfly Effect play, they were nice enough to give me a copy of their CD and it hasn't been taken out of my stereo, except for when I play it down at The Governor Hindmarsh to the appreciative crowd on Mondays. This CD has everything from heavy beats, guitars and vocals to nice quiet interludes. The quality of the recording is superb, with the drums being nice and punchy and the vocals remain clear even with the reverb and delays that are added in. If I had to pick a favourite track (which is hard because they are all so good), it would probably be 'Take it Away' for its extremely catchy chorus and rising power guitars, but 'The Cell' is also really impressive especially with its sorrowful yet spacious interlude which has a Jeff Buckley vibe to it. This CD is an exceptional release for this Brisbane group with one brilliant song after another, containing elements that should be pleasing to listeners of a wide variety of musical genres. Do yourself a favour and go out and get this CD now, the guys from The Butterfly Effect will be very pleased.

Reb ElYell

It's the giveaway surprise of the century!!
If you saunter on down to the *On Dit* office on Wednesday at precisely 2.30pm, you could be in the running for any number of wondrous baked goods. Or you may receive a sparkly new cd. You never know your luck in a newspaper office.

unirecords

Selection of the Week



Beth Orton
Daybreaker
Heavenly/EMI

As anyone who has heard Beth will know, she is truly signed to the most appropriate record label, because her work is heavenly. This album, although not as defined by singles as *Central Reservation*, is striking from the first note.

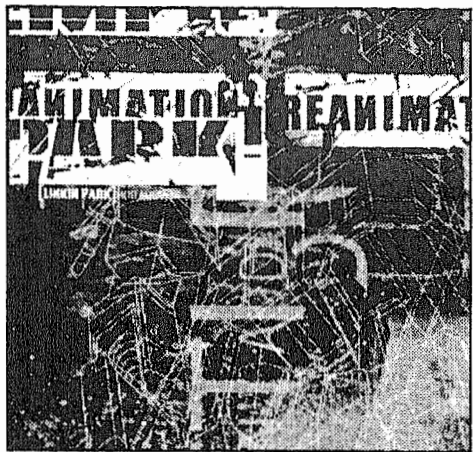
Again, the flow of this album is slightly broken up by her many styles, but flows much more consistently, as would be expected by a third album. This is no doubt helped by the names such as Ben

Watt and Victor Van Vugt, who have produced the album. These men contribute to the subtleness of Beth's song writing by creating beautiful tapestries of sound around her impassioned voice.

The first tracks, including the single 'Concrete Sky' (which was co-written by Johnny Marr), create a moody feel to the album, soon dispersed by the smooth brass and rhythm guitar of 'Anywhere'. Produced by The Chemical Brothers the title track, 'Daybreaker', is the least fitting track on the album, and will probably be remixed to infinity in the same way that the title track of the last album was. The Chem's sound is anything but subtle in this album's mix of stripped-back country ('God Song' featuring Emmylou Harris and Ryan Adams), and Beth's unique brand of husky, soulful...umm...Beth. Not to mention the beautiful Beatlesque pop of tracks like 'This One's Gonna Bruise', written by Ryan Adams.

Daybreaker is the most consistent album Beth has released so far, and even without the initial passionate momentum of her first, she can still tell a story from the heart.

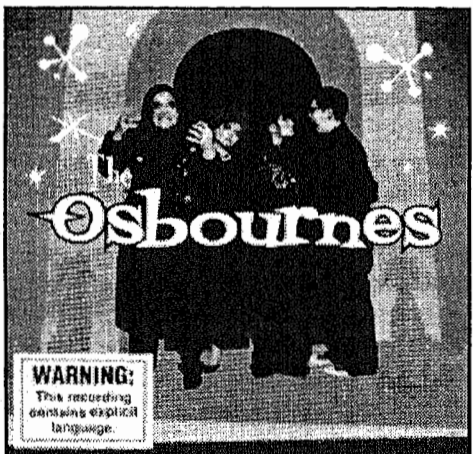
Prof. Booty



Linkin Park
[Reanimation]
Warner

I honestly hoped that my low expectations would be proved wrong, but the generally shabby standard of 're-interpretations' of *Hybrid Theory* did nothing of the sort. The orchestral prologue, a fragment of 'KRWLNG' is a devious inclusion, lulling listeners into thinking that they would go out on a limb and take a musical risk. Those sneaky, sneaky punks. Advertising new lyrics, beats, styles and sounds but delivering a product not significantly different from *HT* was disappointing. Losing patience quickly, I found the track listing frustrating, due to intentionally bad spelling, ripping off Primal Scream's *Xtrmntr*, and the inclusion of answering machine messages hinders the album's flow. [Reanimation] relies too heavily on the wonders of modern technology and the production skills of many name artists (Josh Abraham, Alchemist, Jay Gordon, Evidence and Korn's Jonathan Davis). Objectivity forces me to concede that [Reanimation] is not without some merit, like 'FRGT/10', 'H!VLTG3' and 'MY<DSMBR' but 'ENTH E ND' is pathetic and the album overall leaves much to be desired. The popularity alone of the band and the contributors will shift a swag of units, fulfilling the vision of bulging wallets and denying the genuine potential of the project.

M_TTY:O

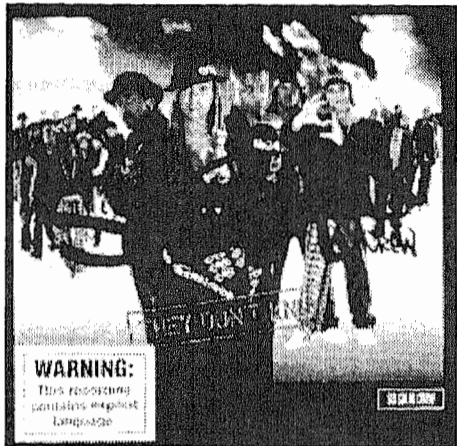


Various
The Osbournes
Epic

You all know them and possibly you all love them and believe it or not riding their wave of success the Osbournes have released a CD. It contains Kelly Osbourne's cover of Madonna's 'Papa Don't Preach' which everybody is getting sick of now but it also contains some other little gems. For the lovers of heavy music Chevelle have a brilliant track titled Family System which has all those good chunky guitars and screams, and System

of a Down do an interesting version of 'Snowblind'. Ozzy of course has a few tracks and commentary from the show is on every odd numbered track which provides a good little laugh in between the songs. Overall these tracks are meant to be ones which have meaning for the members of the Osbourne family so there is a mix of the oldies (The Kinks, John Lennon, Eric Clapton) and a few modern songs. This CD is obviously a way for MTV to make more money, but give it a go you might be surprised at the strength and diversity of the tracks.

Reb El Yell



So Solid Crew
They Don't Know
Epic/ Independiente/
Relentless

They Don't Know is the much hyped debut from the driving force behind the exploding UK Garage/ 2-Step scene. Founded by MC Megaman, So Solid Crew are a collective of over 25 London DJs, producers and MCs with a futuristic blend of R&B, rap, ragga and garage beats. Don't be mistaken, although there is a definite US hip hop influence, this is a new British sound. Stripped back to crisp almost tinny beats, ringtone bleeps, dark basslines and the MCs vocals, the So Solid sound is very raw. Highlights include '21 Seconds' (UK #1 single), 'Haters', 'Oh No' and the darker 'Ride Wid Us' and 'Friend of Mine'. Lisa Mafia and Ms. Dynamite's vocals are a welcome contrast to the male MCs that dominate the record. Now that three members of the So Solid Crew have solo major label deals, *They Don't Know* is just the beginning.

Bam Bam

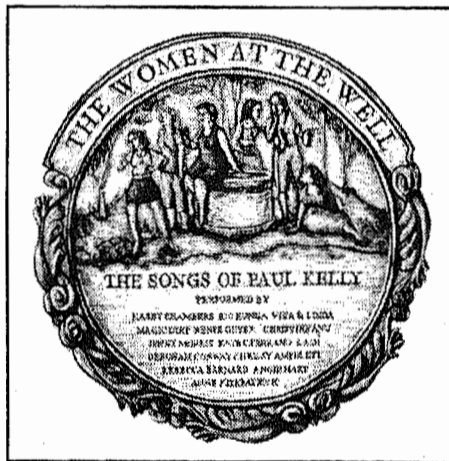


Primal Scream
Evil Heat
Columbia/Sony

Not too long after America got slapped around Taliban-style, Primal Scream uncharacteristically succumbed to public

pressure, withdrawing their single 'Bomb The Pentagon.' Recorded prior to 9-11, the song was resurrected and altered sufficiently (featured here as 'Rise') to appease the kind folk who offer record contracts. Fortunately for all, this controversy has not tainted the release of *Evil Heat*, an album that stands tall against a respectable back catalogue, including the brilliant ecstasy-driven opus of the early nineties *Screamadelica* (whose co-producer, Andrew Weatherall, has mixed two tracks on this record), and the most recent abrasive and apocalyptic *Xtrmntr*. *Evil Heat* conveniently falls between these two extremities, and is similarly difficult to listen to on the first attempt. Powder and pills are again the flavour of the month and the trip is exquisite and filthy. 'Deep Hit of Morning Sun' makes a mess of your head, and is an acid-induced revelation. Synthesizers feature heavily (take the current single 'Miss Lucifer' and the scungy, pro-violence 'Detroit'), yet the electro-blues boogie 'The Lord Is My Shotgun' exposes a previously unseen sonic arsenal. By the same token, rock has not been neglected, with 'City' and 'Skull X' forming a snarly, guitar driven breakout of garage-punk. Even Kate Moss sees some of the action, offering her vocal stylings in a duet with Bobby Gillespie on the techno-sexy 'Some Velvet Morning,' which is among many contenders for the next single. It ain't *Screamadelica* and it certainly ain't *Kid A*, but rather a novel, seething mess of brutal noise that rocks and will undoubtedly keep stoners high as kites.

Matty



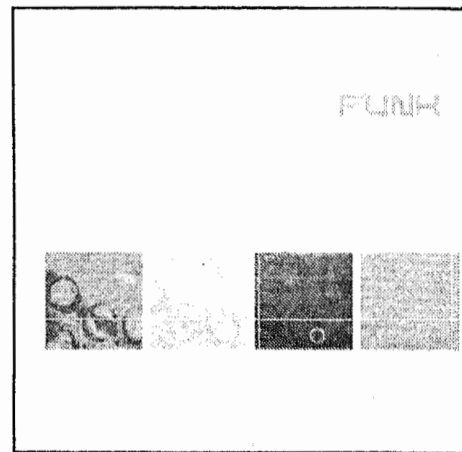
Various
The Women At The Well
Festival Mushroom

Women at the Well is a compilation of all female artists interpreting Paul Kelly songs (although they do cheat by using Magic Dirt). Nearly all of the tracks on this album are fantastic, with the exception of Christine Anu's cheesy dance version of 'Beat of your Heart'. Renee Geyer does a couple of slow jazzy numbers, and Kate Cebrano's take on 'There's Nothing Wrong With Being Wrong Sometimes' is a slow-burning, soulful track.

The standout tracks for me were the covers that I didn't expect to work, like Lash doing my favourite 'Dumb Things' which really picks up the pace of the entire album. Magic Dirt also manages to rework 'Darling It Hurts' and make it entirely their own, with a heavy base line and distorted vocals. However, the best reinvention is 'Everything's Turning To White' sung by Kasey Chambers, who really manages to capture the eerie nature of this soulful ballad about a tragic murder. This album is perfect for putting on while relaxing at home with your parents -

you can guarantee that your mother is going to love it, but there is also something in there for you too.

Poptart



ATJAZZ
Labfunk
Mantis/Collision Records

Said to combine the forces of electronic and jazz musics, atjazz is really just very pleasant ambient music made by some undoubtedly talented and technically adept musicians.

Frequently present on Naked Music compilations, atjazz sits well next to the likes of Stacey Pullen's percussion centricity or Saint Etienne's Blue Note band. Their sound travels from the African undertones of 'Heavy Weather' to the slightly samba beat of 'Casa De Ilusion'. Beautiful layering of sounds enables the combinations of sound cultures and textures from track to track; funky bass along with swirling programming, jangly percussion with a tripping beat, the layered keyboards along with harmonious vocals.

Very mellow, the album isn't eclectic as you might expect, as it is also tied together through the consistent uniform usage of the same software and techniques. So the album is nice and easy to chill-out to, work with or put on in the background without it demanding too much of your attention.

Prof. Booty

On Dit Office Single Of The Week

Selwyn
Rich Girl

He may have lost out on the coveted and much respected title of Popstar, but this boy really knows what it takes to succeed - a truckload of gold jewellery and a cover of a long-forgotten Hall and Oates tune. Selwyn is a self-admitted strikingly handsome young lad who has a bit of a penchant for the laydeez. 'Rich Girl' retains the melodic yet intellectual chorus of the original song, and enriches it with some inspired and socially relevant rap. Not only do you get the single version, you also are lucky enough to receive a bonus two remixes which sound exactly like the original. Thank god for Selwyn!

Singles

Irwin Thomas
Away From You
 BMG

It's great to come across good, unconventional, alternative music these days which hasn't been overproduced. That is why I'm so glad to have come across this Melbourne bands single. The tracks 'Away From You' and 'Get Away' provide the listener with peaceful, spacious electronica, groove bass and classic acoustic guitar. The piano tunes used on this single remind me a lot of Trent Reznor's efforts on NIN *The Fragile*. Irwin Thomas is the perfect band for winding down, in a melancholy yet uplifting way.

Reb El Yell

Sugababes
Freak Like Me
 Island/ Universal

They kept S-Club Juniors off the UK top spot with this one, and deservedly so. Based on a sample of the Gary Numan hit 'Are Friends Electric?', 'Freak Like Me' is a strange yet very addictive track. But even a number one single can't get these girls to smile.

Bam Bam

Alpinestars Feat. Brian Molko
Carbon Kid
 Shock

Being a massive Placebo fan, it's pretty obvious that this single is everything I have been waiting for. On a slightly more objective note, 'Carbon Kid' is an incredibly catchy dance tune that I am sure will be packing them in to the clubs over the country.

Poptart

Audiovent
The Energy
 Atlantic

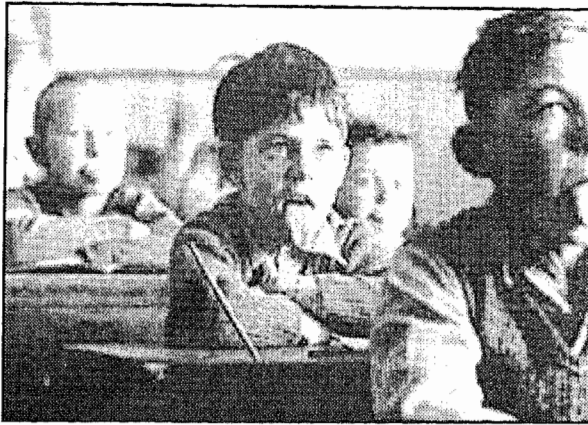
Wow - I love this single!! It's like Triple M gone hardcore... well not quite, but its back to good old-fashioned rock. It's got that pop melody, but with that driving rock beat adopted from the days of punk. The B-sides are excellent too, another rock song and an instrumental lifted from another track. Check out www.audioventmusic.com

Belle

Ryan Adams
Answering Bell
 Lost Highway Records

'Answering Bell' is the second single to be released off Ryan Adams' latest album (his second) *Gold*. It could almost fall into the category of 'alternative country', (whatever that may be). B-sides include a live version of the 'Answering Bell' and a very soulful number called 'Touch, Feel and Lose'.

T-Mo



The Howard government wants only the best arse-lickers to graduate from university.

Film Society

All films are screened in the Union Cinema, Level 5, Union Building, Adelaide University, at 7pm on Thursday evenings, except where otherwise stated.

Film Society membership is \$5 and all films are free for members except where otherwise stated.

www.aufs.org

WEEK 4, Thursday August 22

Wege in Die Nacht (aka *Paths in the Night*) (1999)

Walter is an ex-communist in his mid-fifties who was once powerful but is now redundant and adrift in post-unification Germany, a society that no longer has any use for him. Spurred by his idealistic belief in a better world, but one that can only be obtained through strict controls, he joins forces with two young vigilantes in a nocturnal battle for law and order in Berlin's subways.

With short:

Early to Bed (1928)

Starring: Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy

Oliver inherits a fortune, hires Stan as his butler, and proceeds to torment him.

Silent comedy.

WEEK 5, Thursday 29th August

Forbidden Planet (Cinemascope Print) (1956)

Directed by Fred M. Wilcox

Starring Walter Pidgeon, Anne Francis, Leslie Nielsen
 "Anne Francis stars in *Forbidden Planet*" - *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

When Adams and his crew are sent to investigate the silence from a planet inhabited by scientists, he finds all but two have died. Dr. Morbius and his daughter Altaira have somehow survived a hideous monster which roams the planet. Unknown to Adams, Morbius has made a discovery, and has no intention of sharing it (or his daughter!) with anyone.

With two shorts that share a strange numerical link:
Melbourne Cup, (1896)

What it says, the running of the 1896 Melbourne Cup - one of the oldest surviving pieces of Australian film available.

Black Panthers (1968)

Directed by Agnès Varda

The 30 minute long film looks at a rally to free the party's leader, Huey P. Newton. There's no pretence of objectivity - the Black Panther Party shared in the copyright. Speakers at the rally included Bobby Seale, Stokely Carmichael, and H. Rap Brown, and there's a short interview with Newton, in prison. Other segments include white people at a firing range (some of which are children), and members of the police department explaining the gear they carry in the trunks of their cars. This film documents some of the most important and controversial black leaders of the late 60s, and is a must see for anyone interested in sixties radicalism and the Panthers.

Degree For Sale

Never Used, One Owner
 \$200,000 O.N.O.

Nearly impossible to get, particularly in light of coming legislation.
 ph. 8999 9999

Clubs & Classifieds

Speech Comp

Rostrum Club 26 in association with Adelaide Uni Rostrum Club are proud to present the inaugural Voice of the Future, Public speaking Comp
 Sept 18, 12 - 2pm Barr Smith Lawns, Adelaide University.

Competitors are required to speak to the topic "I feel strongly about....." for four minutes, with warning bell at three minutes.

A panel of four impartial judges from Club 26 will adjudicate according to the speech's impact on the intellect, impact on the emotions, and the speakers observance of the time limit.

Register interest

paul@cpacredit.com.au

Cash prizemoney for participants,

1st Prize \$125.00 2nd prize \$50.00, 3rd prize \$25.00

Paul Phillips Program Director

8231 3242

82988800

Fax 821 17280

Quiz Night

August 31

8.30pm

Quiz Master Matthew Mitchell

\$10 Adults, \$5 SPU

or \$60 for table of 8 people.

St David's Church Hall, 490 Glynburn Road, Burnside

Bookings : Mark Egelstaff 0416 344 636

president@aucs.aicsa.org.au

Andrew Lloyd: 0403 057 607

fundraising@aucs.aicsa.org.au

Wine Festival

August 27 - 28, 11am - 3pm

Goodman Crescent Lawns (near Mitchell Bld North Tce)

Featuring wine TASTING from the McLaren Vale Region

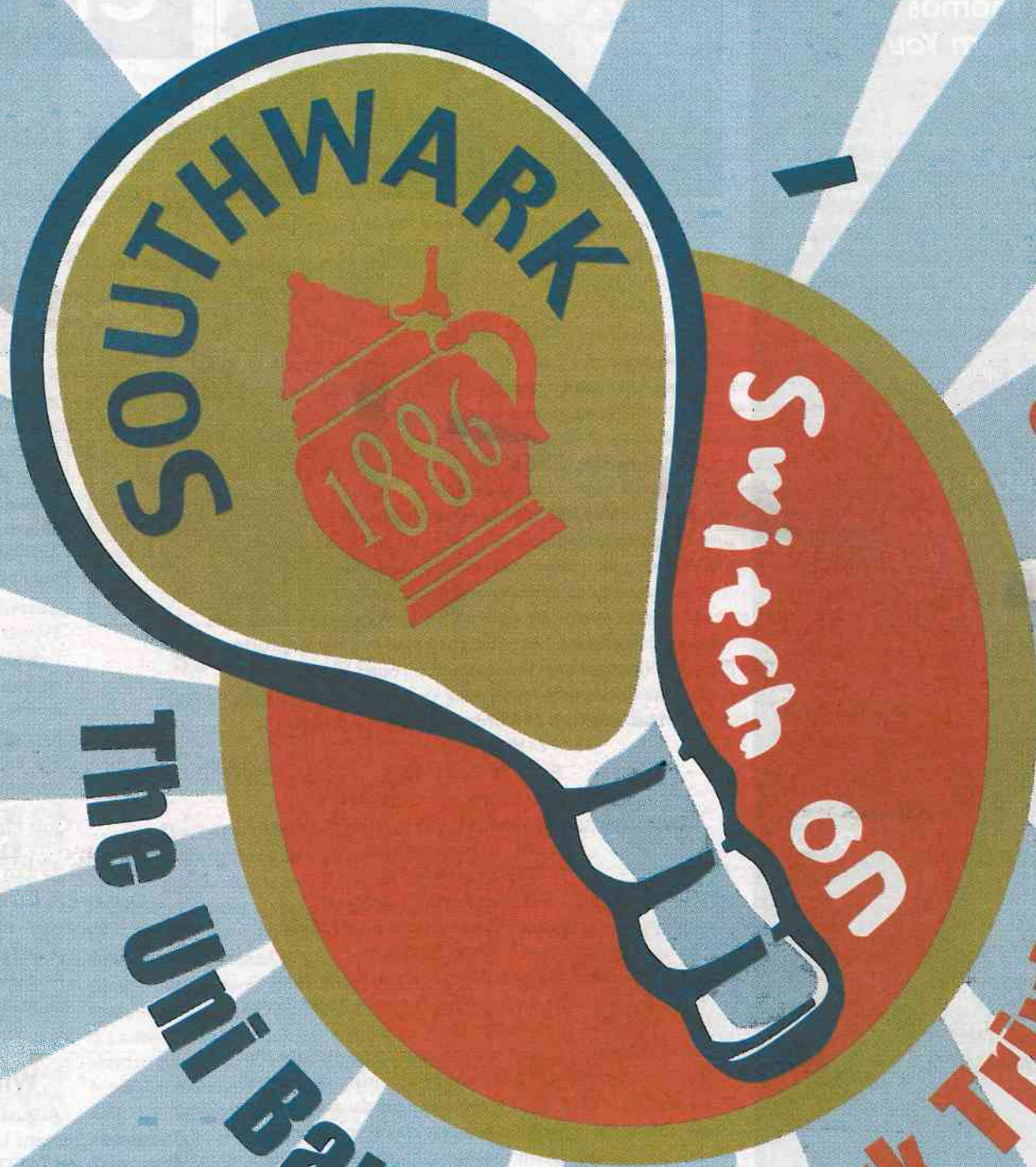
Food and Entertainment - Free Admission

This event will be brought to you by the Adelaide University Union Activities Committee

Further information contact Keith Stephens in the Clubs Association office 8303 3077.

Alas!

There will be no edition of *On Dit* next week due to budget cuts. The deadline for the next edition (Election Edition) will be August 21 and it will be published September 2.

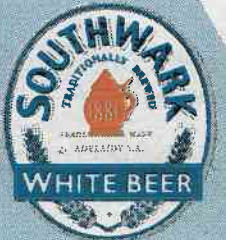


The Uni Bar

Southwark Trivia Challenge

Thursday Nights from 7pm

Buy a Southwark Pale Ale, Bitter or White
for your chance to **Win 100 Schooners**



Pints for Schooners

Uni Bar. **Every Day. All Day.** Southwark Pale Ale Pints at Schooner prices.