

HEALTHY cracuum

Issue 15 - July 30th

**How healthy
is Student Health?**

**The Internet
and Mental Health**

Asbestosis and the General Library
The Real Result of the Library Amalgamation

PLUS: ► OFFICER ELECTIONS 2002 ► MED SCHOOL MONEY WOES



WOMENSFEST EVENTS

Women Out Loud (Local NZ novelists and poets share their work, recital)

FORUMS

NZ Women Politicians
Forum (reps from National,
Act. Alliance, Labour and the
Greens)
Women and Global Issues
Forum
Violence Abuse and
Power Forum
Feminist Forum

**Laila Harre, Minister of
Women's Affairs, talks in
womenspace**



Try on a corsit at SRC

WORKSHOPS

NZ Women's Health Workshop
Moari Women and Decolonisation
Workshop
Nutrition and Gym Workshop
Promoting Body Satisfaction Workshop
Yoga workshop
How to support friends and survivors
of sexual abuse workshop
Self defense workshop
NZ Prostitutes Collective workshop

MOVIES

The Beauty Myth
Crouching tiger hidden dragon
Women of the world videos: Montage
of Global discrimination

PERFORMERS

Hinemoaana & Tyree
Robertson (aka Henrietta
Ford)
DJ Claire Del
Leilani (Band)
The Sound Laydee (Punk female
solo performer)
Wahine Wednesday DJs
Megan, Kirsty &
Amanda

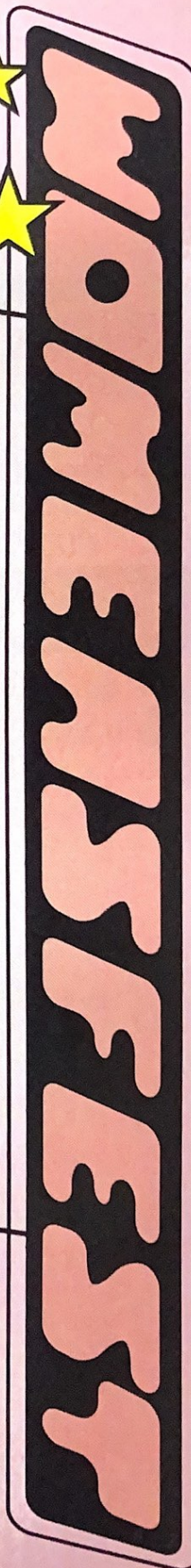
Reclaim the Night Rally and March
After rally gig in shadows



Sculpture in womenspace



AUGUST 6TH TO AUGUST 10TH



Editorial

One of the funniest things about working on a health magazine like *Healthy Craccum* is that people automatically assume that you're some paragon of healthy living. I often get stuff like: "You're the editor of *Healthy Craccum*? Wow! You must be in good shape!"

Now aside from the obvious perils of placing the words "healthy" and "journalist" together in the same sentence, this also assumes that all health magazines are primarily concerned with advertising a certain body shape over another that we must all conform to. This shape is not a square, rhombus or quadrilateral triangle, but rather an empty shape forced on us by advertising and other pressures from society. It is this view of health that seems to me to be a little narrow-minded.

At *Healthy Craccum* we aim to think outside the conformist shape and consider what we believe to be health issues of more social relevance than one shape over another. In this issue for instance, we investigate Student Health - the free health care service for all students on campus. Molly Baildon, the award-winning investigative journalist who wrote the highly controversial article, *The Truth about Budgie Meals*, has returned to conduct a slightly more reserved investigative piece on these campus health workers. You can read her report on page 18.

Following this, a slightly more reliable *Craccum* feature writer, Nick Keesing, has written about his investigation into the general library

and the exposure of students to highly dangerous blue asbestos dust released during the library renovations. This is a very serious issue because ingestion of asbestos dust has been shown to develop into a lung cancer, asbestosis, or mesothelioma one or more decades after inhalation. Nick's research, on page 26, suggests that the University is trying to brush this issue under the library carpet, as it were.



On page 28, you can meet Adam Farrar, an Auckland student who has written an enlightening article on the Internet and its relation to mental health. This is a topical issue since Waiuku teenager Tarryn Pitzer assisted in the reprimand of a 15-year-old American kid who was likely to have been a schoolyard shooter, after talking to him on an online teen counseling web site.

And last but not least, on page 32 there are the election profiles and candidate blurbs. Remember that all students can vote in the elections this year, even though the choices are fairly limited.

So count your blessings and go for a walk. Lighten your spirits and embrace your fitness.

Yours in health,

Dr John

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VOL.1

BOOKSHOP

Craccum

CRACCUM NEWS

Elections This Week

Wednesday and Thursday this week are polling days for the AUSA 2002 Officer Elections. The positions to be voted on are President, Administration Vice President (AVP), Education Vice President (EVP) and Treasurer. A by-election for AVP for the remainder of 2001 will be included in the ballot.

The nominations for Officer Positions this year have been way down on previous years. President and Treasurer both boast a whole two nominations, and EVP and AVP have only one nomination each. This is one of the lowest

turnouts in AUSA history.

See later in this issue for blurbs from the nominees themselves and an overview on the candidates and their chances.

AND DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!



Uni Cleaners Protest Over Job

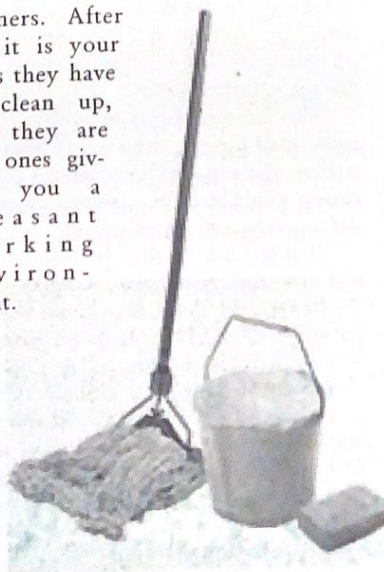
University cleaners staged a picket outside the Rec Centre on Wednesday to protest against proposed job cuts. The University are planning to halve the number of cleaning staff they employ.

The 62 cleaners at the University of Auckland are facing 30 redundancies. Many of these cleaners have worked at the University for around ten years as full-time workers. Their families depend on the money that they earn. According to Union organiser (and former AUSA Exec member) Sarah Helm, "The University subcontracts the cleaning to QSE, a cleaning company. They chose QSE because they were cheaper than other companies. The low level of funding allocated to the cleaning now means that the company say that they have 'too many staff,' that is that they can't afford to pay them all. The University and QSE both share the responsibility for these workers and the cutbacks."

Helm also said, "The cleaners are mostly women, Pacific Island and Maori workers who need your support. The

cleaners are fighting to save their jobs. Please support them."

Keep your eyes and ears open for future protests, and remember to support the cleaners. After all, it is your mess they have to clean up, and they are the ones giving you a pleasant working environment.



opinion

Schmelections

This week you're all going to get out and vote for who will represent you next year. The people who are voted in will control a huge budget and be your voice for negotiating with the University and the Government. They are big jobs.

So why does nobody want to do them?

The election for four Exec Officer positions has attracted a sum total of...drum roll please...seven candidates. And two of them are on the same ticket. So that actually makes one and a half candidates per position - if you don't count Dr No Confidence.

With so few candidates, it seems about as democratic as, well, the US Presidential race. This should really be of concern to students.

But it doesn't look like it is. Apathy seems to have almost won its long battle to beat students into submission. I'm predicting a meagre voter turnout-10% at best. That means 2,700 people will make four decisions on behalf of 27,000 people. Those decisions will be almost binary, a this or that. Bad maths all around if you ask me.

I'm sure the candidates are just as capable as anyone. It would just be nice to see a broader range of people running. Some rigorous debate would also be welcome - issue politics, not personality politics. Student politics this year has become rather bland and vanilla. It isn't too late. In a few weeks comes the portfolio elections. Hopefully some new faces will pop up to run for National Affairs, Clubs Rep, etc.

Who ever gets in, the challenge for them is to make 2002 the year that students start caring again. Don't ask me how this can be done - I'm not a politician. But for AUSA to become an organisation serving students, it has to reach out and attract as many students as possible. Good luck to them.

VCs Getting Bigger Bucks

State Service Commission figures show big growth in the pay packages of the country's university vice-chancellors between 1997 and 1999. One of the highest-paid, Otago's Graeme Fogelberg, saw his total pay package increase by 45% over the three years from the \$200,000-\$210,000 salary band in 1997 to the \$290,000 to \$300,000 salary band in 1999. When Canterbury's Daryl Le Grew was appointed, the Vice-Chancellor's pay package was increased 38% on the \$210,000 to \$220,000 range earned by his predecessor. Over the three year period, Victoria University increased its chief executive's salary by 40% to within the \$280,000 to \$290,000 salary band, while the pay packet of Lincoln's Frank Wood rose 16% in one year when his pay went from the \$180,000 to \$190,000 salary band to the \$210,000 to \$220,000 band.

Given the situation in the country's uni-

versities, the release of the figures has stirred up reaction. AUS noted that the big increases come at a time when academic staff saw their wages increase about 6% over the same period, while New Zealand University Students' Association co-president, Andrew Campbell, says that given the vice-chancellors' high salaries it was too simple for them to blame the government for the deteriorating state of universities. He warned that if fees went up, students would expect to see every cent go into academic departments.

However, Professor Le Grew, University of Canterbury's Vice-Chancellor, cautioned against a literal reading of the State Services Commission figures, saying it represented a total package including superannuation and performance allowances that were not necessarily paid out. He said that from August 1998 his salary had risen 1%, in line with that of academic staff.

Concern Over Foreign Student Pass Rates

Academics are shocked at the low standard of work handed in by foreign students, while others indicate pass rates that are less than half the student average, according to www.varsity.co.nz.

An unnamed university's Education and Research Advisory Unit has compiled data that shows poor levels of performance for foreign students who enter the university with only C passes at bursary level.

According to the report, this shows that foreign students can get into university with C passes in maths, graphics, and Chinese, and little or no English competency. One of the problems for the university in question was that struggling students were not picked up until after they enrolled and had submitted work, which could be well into their first year. This is a problem when International Students pay up to \$17,000 for a course that costs domestic students \$3-\$4000.

There were about 11,500 full fee-paying students enrolled in New Zealand's public tertiary institutions last year, and as many as 28,000 are expected by 2005.

Victoria and T.Col Consider Merge

Victoria University and the Wellington College of Education have been discussing ways that the two institutions can work closer together, and the possibility of a merger hasn't been ignored.

An agreement has even been signed, pledging that the two organisations "explore every avenue." The merger would give trainee teachers greater access to research facilities and the most up-to-date knowledge in their chosen field. Teachers would graduate with a degree, which then allows them to move in and out of the field of teaching as they wish. Staff and community groups would be consulted about the proposals during the next few weeks.

Considering the Government's planned future for tertiary education, it wouldn't be surprising if Colleges of Education become more closely tied to Universities over the next few years, as efforts are made to reduce competition between institutions.



Dirty Tricks As Usual

The usual spate of dirty campaigning fired up last week in the run-up to AUSA Exec elections. Paul Schiska, candidate for AVP, and Nick Keesing, presidential candidate, both had posters defaced.

Keesing alleges that Christiaan Pownceby was responsible for the defacing of his campaign posters, and that Pownceby had been cautioned by AUSA's Returning Officer Brent Thompson.

Some of Christiaan's efforts were reasonably amusing, however.

More Money for Maine Women

Nearly half the women professors at the University of Maine in the U.S. are to get pay rises after a study showed they were being underpaid in comparison to their male counterparts. Of the 451 female professors on the university's seven campuses, 199 are to get rises averaging US\$2,000 a year to bring their pay up to that of male professors at the university. Some will receive as much as US\$6,000 a year more. The pay rise follows a study by a joint committee of administrators and members of the faculty union that looked in to pay relativity taking into account relevant differences such as longevity, rank, discipline and academic degree.

Anti-Election Petition

A petition to declare the elections null and void began circulating last Thursday. Exec members including Jasmine Hardy, Benny Chow and Roshni Sami organised the petition in protest over the low number of nominations and the procedural wranglings that had, in particular, disqualified Sami from running.

While the outcome of the petition was still unclear as Craccum went to print, it doesn't look promising. According to Presidential candidate Nick Keesing, the AUSA constitution would not allow for the petition to be tabled at next week's Special General Meeting. Therefore it could not be voted on before the elections on Wednesday and Thursday.

Stoned Wedges

A student allegedly found stones and dirt in his wedges from the main café last week, and contacted Healthcare Auckland. He was told the matter would be passed on to the Ministry of Health, who would find out whether the wedges were manufactured at the café or by an independent supplier.

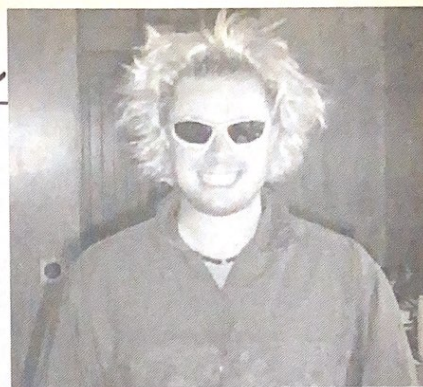
CITIZEN KANE

Hey all,

Hope you enjoyed the dots last week. If you enjoyed them more than my usual column...then...um...ahhh...fuck you.

A change is as good as a break they say. We have just come back from our break, we all seemed to enjoy that so now how about some change. Last semester I tried to call an AUSA Special General meeting to make some major constitutional changes. These changes included making AUSA free to join next year and changing the structure of the

AUSA executive. The first part is simple to explain: everyone can join AUSA for free. The second part is a bit more difficult to explain: Merging some of the positions which are less relevant to students today and including some positions of more relevance. So I have slaved away using my PC skills to give you a graphical representation of my proposals. Check them out...and I don't even study computer science! (I have a girlfriend so I guess you that you knew I didn't do computer science already!) Anyways...these changes will make AUSA a more representative place, more relevant and



generally stronger. A meeting is called for 1pm Wednesday in the quad to discuss these issues. Please come along.

Also it is election week...

You will be able to vote for the Officers of AUSA this week. (portfolio's come later) Voting is Wednesday and Thursday. You will be able to ask candidates questions on Monday (Tamaki Hub) or Tuesday in the quad from 1pm. Come along see who they are and what they can offer you next year.

Drinking Club News

Silly Games this Wednesday from 12pm Drinking horn....10th Oct. (2nd to last week of semester)

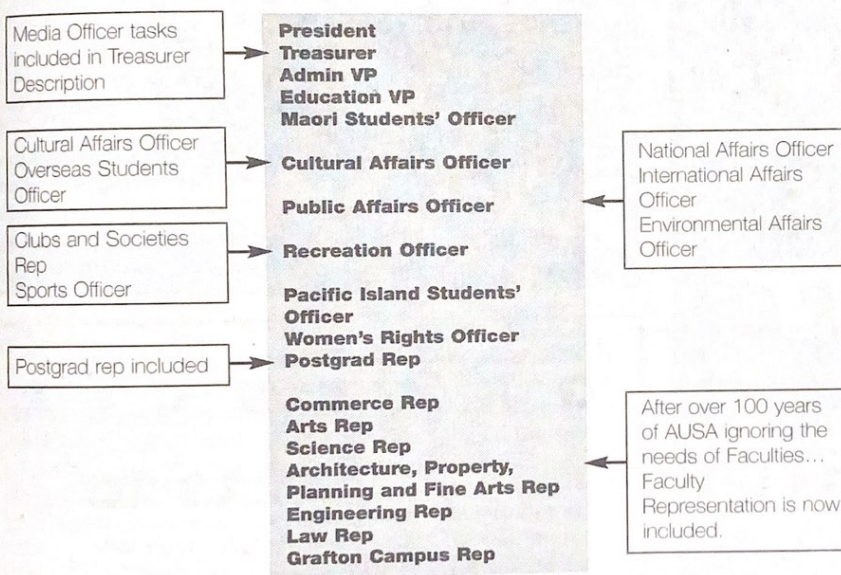
We also have a All you can Eat Ribs Day planned and a Bus Pub Crawl...last year we had 5 people go to hospital on our pub crawl so stay tuned for the next one.

There ya go....

Have Fun
Be Well

Kane Stanford
AUSA President

The Proposed New Executive Structure



MARK MEYER
Optician

Mark Meyer, Dispensing Optician
Ray Wong (BOptom), Optometrist

17 Victoria St East
Auckland City
379 9157

10% student discount on
all eye examinations,
optical frames and lenses

Are you troubled by DEATH?

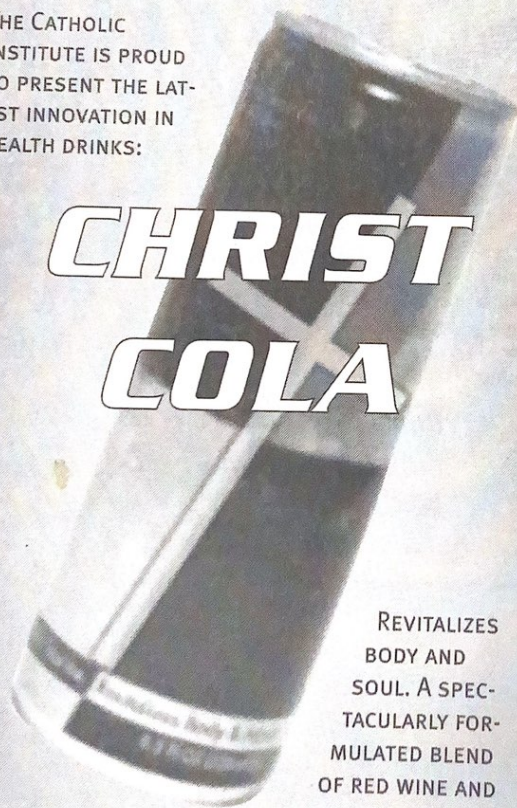
YOU ARE RIGHT TO BE CONCERNED. STATISTICS SHOW THAT DEATH IS STILL THE NUMBER ONE KILLER IN AMERICA AND AROUND THE GLOBE, STRIKING THE OLD AND INFIRM WITH PARTICULAR SEVERITY.

HOWEVER, HELP IS AT HAND. FOR CENTURIES, A SELECT FEW HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE REVITALIZING EFFECTS OF CHRIST™. JESUS SAID, "I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL FIND LIFE ETERNAL."

BUT HOW CAN YOU FIND TIME TO FIT CHRIST™ INTO YOUR LIFE WITH THE HECTIC PACE OF MODERN LIFE?

THE CATHOLIC INSTITUTE IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE LATEST INNOVATION IN HEALTH DRINKS:

CHRIST COLA



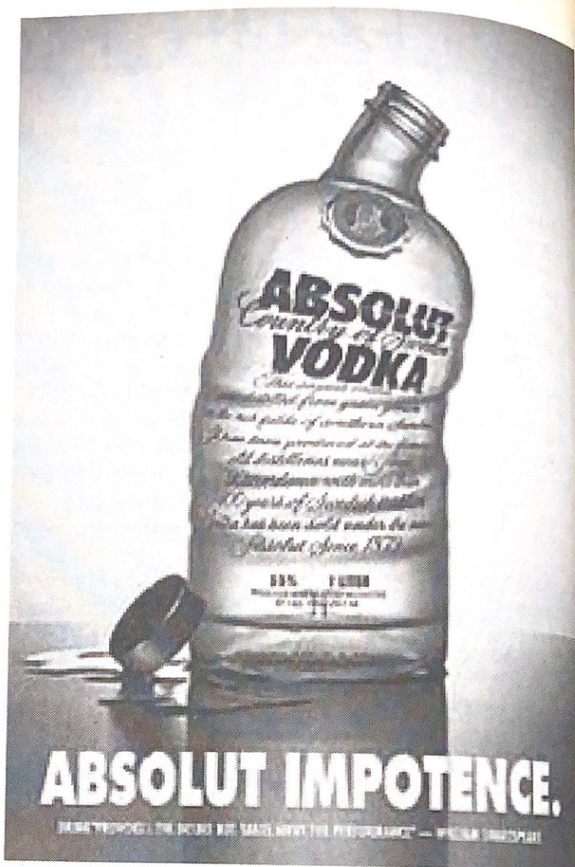
REVITALIZES
BODY AND
SOUL. A SPEC-
TACULARLY FOR-
MULATED BLEND
OF RED WINE AND
FRAGMENTS OF
HIGH-FIBRE WHOLE-

GRAIN COMMUNION WATER, BREWED AND TRANSUB-
STANTIATED BY GENUINE CATHOLIC PRIESTS IN THE
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CLEANSSES BOTH THE SOUL AND THE PALATE.

CHRIST COLA

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Get Hard!



* prolonged use may retard the user's ability to stand up

Q I often experience feelings of nausea, vomiting, light-headedness and head aches after a night of drinking. What should I do?

A The best thing to do is to drink a cup filled with crushed ice and one third cranberry juice to two parts grapefruit juice. Bend forward and drink this from the far side of the glass while having a friend frighten you. Next, eat four slices of dried bread and play *Stone Roses* albums at a low volume. At this stage, most symptoms should have vanished. If not, there is something very seriously wrong with you. Probably cancer or Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

Next, I recommend that you select whatever you were drinking the night before and drink one shot of beer for every glass you drank. For spirits take one teaspoon for every shot you drank, making sure you stick to the same brand. If you are unsure of exactly what you drank, then it is recommended that you crawl around drinking the dregs from the empty bottles that are left over from the party. Do not concern yourself if you ingest cigarette butts or soggy chips. This will merely aid your recovery.

Finally take a craft knife and split open your stomach, use a hose pipe to siphon the remaining liquid from your stomach as if you were stealing petrol. Once it is empty, use fishing wire to stitch the gapping wound back together. Alternatively, just don't fucking drink.

Q Whenever I tap my testicles with medium strength, I feel intense pain spreading through



my stomach. Is there anything I can do to stop this horrible pain?

A Don't flick your fucking balls!

Q My boyfriend's penis is very large and after sex, my vagina aches and I bleed. Can this increase my risk of cancer or affect my ability to get pregnant?

A First, get checked by a doctor. "Bleeding and aching really aren't normal," reproductive health expert Felicia Stewart cautions. "It could be a cervical infection, or an infection of the uterus or the fallopian tubes, known as PID. If it's an infection, it could affect fertility and be associated with increased cancer risk"

Q My skin has copped a battering from many years at sea and I was wondering if any of these anti-ageing products really work for your skin. Also, does shaving each day affect the skin at all or are most ageing problems caused by the sun?

Shaving won't damage or age your skin, according to dermatologist Dr. Steven Lee. As for the effectiveness of anti-ageing creams, that depends on the individual. "Basically, it depends on how damaged your skin is," reveals Lee. "If, for example you've got fair skin with only fine wrinkled, over months of daily use an anti-ageing cream may help to prevent and sometimes even reverse ageing." If however, you have deep wrinkles (around the mouth, for instance) these creams won't do much for you. "The only option there is plastic surgery," says Lee.

Q Why is it that women can have multiple orgasms but men can't?

A That's because nature decided that a man needs only one or two orgasms while a woman needs a few more. See, the original purpose of a male orgasm wasn't to pass the time before *Sports Tonight*, it was to populate the world. Since one ejaculation releases approximately 300 million sperm, that was more than enough to do the job. The purpose of a woman's orgasm was to help shuttle sperm through the cervix, according to Dr.

Helen Fisher, an anthropologist. The more orgasms a woman had, the better her chance of becoming pregnant.

Q When I climax, fluid spurts out of my vagina. I'm embarrassed as it feels like urine. Do women ejaculate?

A Some women have orgasms accompanied by emissions of fluid- similar to semen but without the sperm- from the urethra. Gynecologist A. George Thomas says this emission is comparable to prostatic fluid in the male, although he stops short of calling it ejaculate. Beverly Whipple PhD, a pioneer researcher into the phenomenon, disagrees: "Of course you can call it female ejaculation!" Regardless, there's certainly nothing abnormal about it.

Q I wear earplugs every night to block out my boyfriend's snoring. Will they damage my ears?

A They won't damage your hearing, but people prone to ear canal infections (or swimmer's ear) may get them more often when they use earplugs because the ear canal stays warm and moist- the perfect environment for germs. Pop in two drops of "Aquaear" every morning to help dry out the ear. If your boyfriend wants to do something about his snoring, he should avoid alcohol at night and sleep on his side rather than this back, or try using "Breathe Right" nasal dilator strips. If he's overweight, losing a few kilograms may help. If these strategies fail, he should see his doctor - he may need nasal treatment or surgery.

This Week: The Wellness Web

The Internet has been a huge boon for "alternative" medicine advocates. As with any non-mainstream activity, whether it be in sports, music or health, connecting the disparate individuals who follow the discipline and allowing them to promote it more widely are the main challenges. The web allows for both of these obstacles to be overcome in many ways. Certainly in the area of health we can see much evidence of alternative viewpoints on how to treat illness and promote wellness being touted through the Internet.

As with any source of information on line, those on health are to be regarded with a degree of skepticism. It is obviously less effort to seek information through traditional sources that have moved onto the web (www.cnn.com/health) but in doing so you are finding nothing more than you will find in brochures at your neighborhood chemist (www.chemist.co.nz). Taking a careful look at less mainstream sources on the other hand can be very rewarding.

A good site to take note of when surfing for information on complementary medicine is Health Online (www.hon.ch) which has been around since 1994. Whilst targeting traditional medicine for the most part they do a good job of guiding the public to reliable on line medical and health information. Seeing their badge on a health site is some indication that they follow HON's ethical guidelines in providing more balanced information that is worth noting.

Another of the long-term web residents

when it comes to health is Dr Andrew Weil (www.drweil.com). Originally starting at Hotwired (www.hotwired.com), Wired Magazine's ground breaking site (thank them for the invention of banner adverts), he now resides in his own corner of the web, dispensing advice on medical issues from both a traditional and complementary medical standpoint. Of special note is the vitamin recommender, which tailors a vitamin regime to your particular medical history and metabolic needs and the healthy eating program, the on line version of an excellent healthy eating "diet" he publishes. Both are outstanding examples of combining styles of medicine rather than opting for one or the other out right.

Elsewhere, you will encounter dozens of health portals offering advice, which in the end are just fronts for selling health products that you'd either find on late night TV or at your supermarket anyway (www.alternative-dr.com). These do have the advantage of being accessible (www.onebody.com) and completely lacking the "dirty hippie" (www.hir.com) image alternative medicine conjures to some, but good web design doesn't equal great content in this case or any other.

So surf around and see what works for you, the Wellness Web (www.wellnessweb.com) has a wide range of topics while Whole Health MD (www.wholehealthmd.com) has "the healing kitchen" for those interested in cooking up a

cure. When you have a specific health question, researching the answer can be time consuming so on line direct-to-doctor question sites such as Yahoo! Health (health.yahoo.com/health/expert) which provide access to traditional, family and natural health advisers can be worth a look.

Back at home in New Zealand, health offerings are fairly limited. PharmacyNet (www.pharmacynet.co.nz) sells what your local chemist does for a slight discount and even fulfils prescriptions if you are really that shy and not at all in a hurry to get your pills. Nature's Paradise (www.naturesparadise.com) retails vitamins and herbs on line in a slightly more useful fashion.

Cheaper than a trip to the GP is FamilyDoctor (www.familydoctor.co.nz) but the fact sheets on various ailments are just designed to sell you a pharmaceutical to solve every minor problem. Something which Health Action (www.healthactiononline.com) will tell you is a conspiracy and driving you to an early grave. Place a grain of salt in between your tongue and cheek when viewing the scare stories on that dubious site.

So somewhere on the web between the poles of established medical disciplines and the fruity fringe lies an integrative vision of health which will keep you fit, healthy and living to get a telegram from the Queen. Finding it is up to you!

AURAC

This Week: Auckland University Rock and Alpine Club

The Auckland University Rock and Alpine Club is devoted to climbing. We are not talking about stereos and sound systems here. In saying that we are a climbing club, we are not just limited to rocks and mountains. The extent of our climbing creativity has already spread beyond ice, trees, buildings and even the infamous D sculpture in Albert Park.

Generally in our club we do as little work and as much climbing as possible. However, when we do manage to get off our lazy bums, we organize trips as often as possible. The objective is always the same: to get the hell out of Auckland so we can unashamedly drink, climb, party and do whatever else we please.

Before you start telling me that climbing is for strong buff guys with absurd upper body strength and really bad dress sense, think again! We have almost an equal amount of girls and boys in our club, with skills (or lack thereof) ranging from beginner to hardcore mountaineering freaks. Though some of us dress better, everyone is just out for a good time - to meet new people, explore new places, see the best view

others pay to see, and really appreciate life for all its worth, from the highest vantage point we can climb to! The club owns an extensive range of gear, which we provide to our members free on club outings, and can otherwise be hired out to anyone for a small price.

We train all our members ourselves, and don't worry - we know exactly what we are doing nearly the majority of the time. All you really need is yourself, a good spirit, and a reasonable sense of humour. We meet twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday nights 6 till late, at the wall in the rec center. Especially booked for AURAC members, this is an obligation free club night where everyone gets together, catches up with each other, and climbs. Private trips are happening all the time, with different people going different places. Details are all posted on our notice board by the climbing wall. There's really no excuse not to come and have a go. If you don't like it, at least you can say you've done it. If you do like it, there's a lot more where that came from. Come and see us on any club night, introduce yourself and have a climb, we always like new faces!



If you're interested in joining any AUSA club, contact Simon Coffey - the AUSA clubs and events co-ordinator in Cluspace, phone 309 0789 x254 or e-mail s.coffey@auckland.ac.nz



MON 30/7

Shadows - Monday Night Club. Happy Hour Prices and a chance to win a \$50 bar tab

Maidment Theatre - Auckland Theatre Company's 'Take a Chance on me' 6:30pm \$18-45

The Temple - open mic night. All performers welcome.

The Classic - Raw Comedy with Bob Callaghan & 8 new faces 8pm

The Dog's Bollix - pub quiz

Ibiza - DJ Mariano, DJ Apollo

Margaritas - DJ Raj

TUE 31/7

Shadows - Tui Pub Quiz, 7pm

Maidment Theatre - Auckland Theatre Company's 'Take a Chance on me' 6:30pm \$18-45

King's Arms - quiz night 7:30pm \$2

The Classic - Pluto

The Temple - open mic night. All performers welcome.

Fu Bar - FU-sion with Chaye D & Silverbeat

Margaritas - DJ Ian

WED 1/8

Shadows - Jester, DJ Unleashed from 7pm free

Maidment Theatre - Auckland Theatre Company's 'Take a Chance on me' 8pm \$18-45

King's Arms - Don't Die Wishing, thirty-cleum, Asteroid Andy. No cover, Mega jugs \$7

Fu Bar - Chunky Beats with Mister King & Radley

The Classic - Big Wednesday with Michelle A'Court 8pm

Bacio (upstairs, 309 K'Rd) - Shhh with

Philippa & Andy Hayes

The Supper Club - Science. Weekly D&B.

The Temple - Sydney, Anji, James 9pm

Safari Lounge - Escapism, with 3 Beck's for \$10

The Box / Cause Celebre - Retrorama with Bambi's erotic Showgirls

Exchange - DJ Ned. Enter the Cuervo Challenge \$2 drinks, tap beer spirits

Komodo - DJ Juliette

Margaritas - DJ Raj \$2 drinks

Grand Circle - Retro from 10pm at the St James

THU 2/8

Craccum - Production night party - Proof-reading, editing and feature writing with Dr John and guests. From 8pm (note time change - now opens 1hr earlier), \$14 cover charge (come on, you know you can afford it!)

Shadows - Retro, The worst of the 80s (and a bit of 70s + 90s) with DJ Stroke, 7pm free

Maidment Theatre - Auckland Theatre Company's 'Take a Chance on me' 8pm \$18-45

Galatos - Fur Patrol & Pluto. \$21.85 from Ticketek

St James Theatre - Gatecrasher feat. John Kelly, Ashley Casselle

The Classic - Comedy Showcase with Michelle A'Court, Jeremy Elwood & guests 8pm

Bacio - Black Vinyl with Bevan Keys & Claire Del

King's Arms - Battle of the Bands 9pm \$6

The Temple - The GE Showcase

London Bar - Wood, Winch & Fieldes

Jones (350 K'Rd) - T & A with Jason Jones & Siren

Kiss - Kiss Me Thursday with Andy Day, CJ, Sam Hill & L8N

Java Jive - Jam Night, from 9:30pm

Bed (324 K'Rd) - Phat & Funky with Claire Del & Big Pun

The Box / Cause Celebre - Chocolate City Sound System. Funk & Soul with bFM's Main Ingredient's Selectah Sam & guests

Empire Tavern (cnr Victoria & Nelson St) - Opus

Exchange - DJ Juliette. Cruiser Crab Races. Cruisers \$3

Komodo - Back to Mine free entry

Cal Neva - DJ Tom \$2 drinks - beers, spir-its, RTDs, free pool

Margaritas - DJ Andrew happy hour 10-12pm with student IDD

FRI 3/8

Shadows - DJ Unleashed from 7pm

Bed - DJ Pierre (aka The Don) with Angel & Tim Phin

Maidment Theatre - Auckland Theatre Company's 'Take a Chance on me' 8pm \$18-45

The Classic - Comedy Showcase with Andrew Clay & host Jan Maree & guests 8pm. Late Show with host Pfunk Chainsaw & guests, from 10:30pm

Bacio - Scott Crook, Andy Vann, Karn Hall

King's Arms - Golden Horse, Handsome Geoffrey 9pm, cover applies

The Temple - 9pm No Strings Attached, Redeeming Lights, 11:30 Ransom

Crook & Flail - Tadpole, Mamma Said, Wash

London Bar - Geoff Culverwell

Jones - Siren, Donald Bennet & Paul Jones

Kiss - Andy Day, Donald Bennet, Nick Collings, Freak

Empire Tavern - Liquid

Cal Neva - \$5 Cruisers nachos all day with student ID

Margaritas - DJ Ian 10-12pm happy hour with student ID

Waterfront Bar - DJ Andrew

SAT 4/8

Shadows - Expose yourself with us - Bands, Duos, Solos, Comedians or Whatever wanted for Wednesday night shows. Contact Brett

Rugby - be a good patriotic New Zealander whilst simultaneously proving your heterosexual masculinity

Fu - FLOOD D&B party with Nick D, Motion, Riddle & Pots

King's Arms - Sticky Filth, Somerset 9pm \$10

Maidment Theatre - Auckland Theatre Company's 'Take a Chance on me' 8pm \$18-45

The Temple - Karen q Temple's b'day. Feat. Jester, Soda, Stan Malcolm, Tyree Robertson, Hinemoana Baker, Gaille Tinihau, thirtycyclehum, poet Michael Rudd & more

The Classic - Comedy Showcase with Andrew Clay & host Jan Maree & guests 8pm. Late & Loose improv comedy, from 10:30pm

London Bar - Queen's Mum Birthday Music Hall

Bed - Pumpin presents: residents Leighton & Joylon with guest Jason Jones

The Supper Club - bFM funk with Dunk & Itchy Terry

Jones - Jason Jones, Paul Jones & guest

Staircase - DJ Jason Jones, DJ Sample Gee, DJ Baxter

Margaritas - DJ Clive, happy hour 10-12pm with student ID

Kiss - Big Pun, Nick Collings, Andy Day, Freak

Waterfront Bar - DJ Ian

SUN 5/8

The Temple - open for breakfast 9am - 3pm. 8pm Outspoken. Multi-genre spoken-word show with Andrea Olsen, ellie lim, Maria Fiosetti, Kate Benton, Neil Torbeit, Gareth McGinness & more

Maidment Theatre - Auckland Theatre Company's 'Take a Chance on me' 8pm \$18-45

King's Arms - The Ramblers

Fu Bar - Sunday Stroll with Chaye D and Silverbeat

Jones - Hers & His with Andy Day & Siren

COMING UP

MON 6/8 - Workshop - The Music Industry & How it Works, with Matt Headland from Warner Music @ The Temple, \$30, bookings essential

WED 8/8 - Incubus @ the Powerstation \$47.90

THU 9/8 - SAT 11/8 - Safe In Sound. From the collaborators and combinator of 'Feast'. A tightly woven journey of dance, theatre, sound and vision. Assemble @ the Maidment, 9pm. \$20 or \$15 for students, b card holders or unwaged. \$10 student rush Friday night.

THU 9/8 - Megadeth @ the Powerstation. \$47.90

FRI 10/8 - Super Saiyaan @ The Box/Cause Celebre

SAT 11/8 - Super Saiyaan @ The Box/Cause Celebre

SAT 11/8 - Body Grooves with Jerome, Karn, Byron, Roger Pery & Paul Dean @ Calibre (St Kevin's Arcade, Basement Level)

SUN 12/8 - Coldplay @ St James Theatre, tickets thru Ticketek + Sounds stores

WED 15/8 - SAT 1/9 - Gary Eck (15-25/8) & Akmal Saleh, Sydney's funniest Egyptian (22/8-1/9) @ The Classic

FRI 17/8 - El Ritmo (live 6 pce funk) @ The Box/Cause Celebre

SAT 18/8 - El Ritmo (live 6 pce funk) @ The Box/Cause Celebre

FRI 24/8 - Dimmer, SJD, Sola Rosa @ the Powerstation

SAT 8/9 - World Blues Revue from the Southern Delta Belt of New Orleans, feat. Charlie Musselwhite, Danny Caran, Brenda Boykin @ Auckland Town Hall. \$57.25

TUE 18/9 - International Music Festival's Celestial Cello @ Concert Chamber, Akl Town Hall. Students \$29

TUE 16/10 - guitar virtuoso John Williams @ ASB Theatre. \$49 with student ID

SUN 18/11 - Robbie Williams @ Ericcson Stadium

Blaze It Up 2001 Tour feat. Method Man, Redman, Krayzie Bone, Short Khop with guests Wishbone @ Ericcson Supertop \$77.95

Top 10 ways to stay healthy year round

1 Most doctors strictly advise their patients not to smoke; try brownie or cookies for a healthier means of ingestion and don't forget to put some bran into them.

2 Variety of food groups: Next time you are at Wendy's, try a different combo to cover more food groups. Kebabs are great for this.

3 Exercise regularly. If this sounds daunting, start off small by raising your jug from the table to your mouth several times a night at least twice a week at Shadows. Remember to switch arms.

4 Get enough sleep. If your weekend prevented you from getting enough, lectures and tutorials are often a good place to catch up.

5 Take multivitamins and minerals. These are most commonly purchased from health stores and supermarkets, although several varieties can be purchased at dance venues for convenience.

6 Dress warmly on colder occasions. To all those white pant wearers, take a jacket to put over your boob tube when walking from the Loaded Hog to Leftfield at night.

7 Avoid stress. A good way to start is by tearing up your bank statements and student loan statements that come in the mail before you even open them.

8 Avoid contact with sick people. Crowded lecture theatres are generally a good place for germs to spread, so it's best to avoid lectures as much as possible.

9 Less caffeine and more water: Start by switching that bourbon and cola to vodka, lime and water.

10 Prioritize social events at the top of your list and work your study regime around this. It is important not to get burnt out by too much work and not enough play.

Risking Mind Online

BY ADAM FARRAR

Act 1:

In 1999, 17 year old Kaycee Nicole Swenson set up home on the World Wide Web. Carving out her own little patch of virtual turf she began to share pieces of her life with the world - increasingly larger pieces as it happens. This is a natural progression for any on-line journaler as they grow more confident in opening themselves to their readers, many of them anonymous, through this new medium. But in Kaycee's case she had more than angst-ridden stories of school days gone bad to share; Kaycee had leukemia. As her network of on-line friends grew, in many parts because of the honest and fearless way she dealt with this disease, she touched the lives of many Internet users all over the planet.

Kaycee Nicole was a hoax, a fictional character created through on-line writing and pseudonymous chats by the imagination of a woman twice her supposed age

The story of Kaycee's life as it was portrayed to thousands over two years via her various web sites was certainly soap-operatic. That is the essence of the charm and addictive nature of on line journals. The right spin (a knack we all seem to develop to some degree being brought up on American TV) on any daily life story can make it compelling enough for people you are entirely unacquainted with to follow your daily dramas. Kaycee and her struggle with leukemia was an especially interesting case and developed a

large group of followers; many of whom began to interact with her on a one-to-one basis and share more than a passing empathy for her and her condition.

Sadly, on May 14, 2001 Kaycee Nicole died from complications surrounding her leukemia. On that day in her on-line journal her friends, who had supported her for months with e-mails, phone calls and even gifts, found a simple note posted by her mother:

"Thank you for the love, the joy, the laughter and the tears. We shall love you always and forever."

Thousands, even those who had only watched her story one-sided, never commu-

truly *alive* to be able to die in the first place.

Kaycee Nicole was a hoax, a fictional character created through on-line writing and pseudonymous chats by the imagination of a woman twice her supposed age. The days after the virtual demise of the character caused a massive investigation into the growing inconsistencies in Kaycee's soap opera life.



This eventually culminated only a few days later into the definite case that there was no Kaycee Nicole, just a Debbie Swenson, housewife, aged 40 from Kansas, USA, who, under weight of evidence, confessed most everything about the fraud she had created on May 20. She was, it appeared, embarrassed rather than sorry or guilty and professed to being unaware as to exactly how many people had invested emotionally in the life of Kaycee Nicole.

The massive effort by ardent web journaling fans to discover the true story to Kaycee's non-life is impressive evidence of what on-line communities can do together. Small clues pointing to her life being a fraud were honed in on and examined at length. Descriptions Kaycee wrote of her condition sounded pulled straight from medical textbooks and yet those with knowledge in oncology found her lack of hospitalisation for some complications prior to her death odd. When offered a paid position moderating chat at CollegeClub.com where she housed her first web site, Kaycee turned down the money saying she preferred to work for free. Similar language and spelling

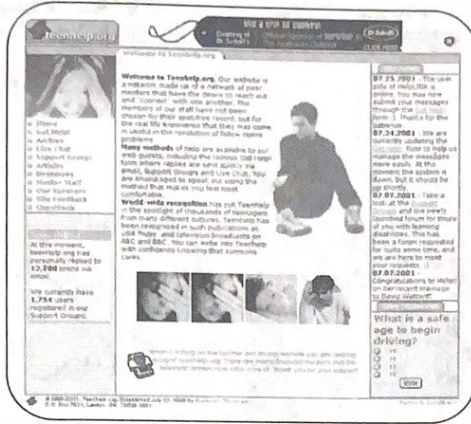
mistakes between Debbie Swenson's own on-line journal and Kaycee's struck discords; as did the fact that Kaycee was more likely to quote music from the 60s and 70s than those decades in which she had been "alive".

These facts all existed well before the hoax was truly uncovered, yet none were enough to make anyone suspect Kaycee was not a "real girl". It was the days immediately after her death when a distraught Debbie Swenson played the role of grieving mother, to not quite perfection, that it all unraveled for her. Debbie refused to give out an address for well wishers to send cards and flowers to and she told friends the cremation and memorial service had already been held before they could prepare to attend. At this point, ironically, it was in joining together in their sorrow at Kaycee's loss that all of those who had known her began to swap stories, and the combined inconsistencies multiplied into an unmistakable conclusion. One was especially too large to ignore; no one had ever met Kaycee Nicole in person! Sorrow turned to suspicion, and when upon further investigation it appeared that no death notice had appeared in any newspaper in the area in which Kaycee should have lived, it was all over anger on the discussion boards.

These were, for the part, not Internet "newbies" who will often take what they see on-line at face value and be taken in by anything from small e-mail scams to larger misinformations. Most had been on the net long enough to have put their hands up virtual-skirts and find very real penises. They knew the old adage that "on the Internet nobody knows you're a dog" well enough to view people they encountered on-line with skepticism until they were sure of them. But Kaycee had seemed real, as real as anyone else they talked with day in and out, but just never met. She had photos (later attributed to an unknowing acquaintance of the Swenson's family) and everything else one could have to seem real, even conducting phone conversations with some. So when it turned out that she was no more real than Santa Claus there were a lot of shocked and even angry individuals.

The FBI, when approached, declined to open

an investigation into Ms. Swenson citing a reason that there was no real loss involved. Certainly beyond a few gifts, the most poignant being a care-package including hats to cover Kaycee's head during chemotherapy-induced baldness, no one lost money in this case. But the loss of trust in their fellow on-line users by those who shared in the saga will live on as long as a real Kaycee's memory might have.



Why did she do it? Ms. Swenson

was either very bored or to be filed mentally ill under any variety of suggested labels. The most interesting of which, "Munchausen by Internet", is a recently postulated mental disorder where sufferers go into chat rooms and other on line communities pretending to be gravely ill. It is analogous to the more widely accepted "Munchausen Syndrome" where a patient exaggerates or fakes illness, or "Munchausen by Proxy", where parents abuse their children in order to get the attention.

What is actually worrying is those with psychological problems who are not just using the Internet for recreation but are attempting to use it to solve their problems

Was it the Internet that caused Ms. Swenson to perpetrate this fraud? It certainly allowed for it to happen. Without the Internet Ms. Swenson would not have been able to live out her fantasy life, but the Internet cannot be fingered as the cause of her illness, if she had one. In fact, despite claims to the contrary, the Internet is not the precursor to many problems at all, though it is increasingly a medium through which problems surface and are acted out. Less a worry and far more predictable, new technology is always adopted by the avant-garde, whether they be artists or the mentally ill.

What is actually worrying is those with psychological problems who are not just using the Internet for recreation but are attempting to use it to solve their problems, whether

this is low-self-esteem or a more dangerous disorder. The first step to recovery from many psychological disorders is coming to the realisation that you are unwell. When going on-line is the first step for many people these days in hiding their problem, in many cases surrounding themselves with people in a similar situation so as to camouflage problems, we can see how the Internet can be a danger to mental wellness; while it may not cause illness, it perpetuates and reinforces it. The growing number of "web rings" and discussion groups dedicated to anorexia are a prime example of this. These do not help sufferers overcome anorexia, but justify it, allowing them to trade "diet" tips while virtually promoting it with tips on how to hide the condition.

What you find when using the web to either hide or try and solve psychological problems can even make the daytime talk-show psychobabble look like good advice. It can make watching them seem like a more proactive attempt to solve your issues than spending your time hanging out with like-(ill)-minded individuals on line. Even attempts to use the Internet to pro-actively address psychological issues by seeking diagnoses and treatment information can be the wrong way to go. This can be seen on sites ranging from the presumably reputable New York University (www.med.edu/Psych/public.html), providing on-line diagnoses; to "The Spark"

(www.thespark.com) whose tests go beyond the scientifically validated in "The Slut Test", "The Pregnancy Test" and any number of dubious personality assessments.

When (mis)diagnosed by any of these sources, unless you are willing to get off-line and seek real help, your options for treatment on-line range from the dicey to the downright dangerous for the most part; which is where Tarryn comes in.

Act 2:

Waiuku teenager Tarryn Pitzer, age 16, in her time as counsellor for US-based on-line

Risking Mind Online

advice agency TeenHelp (www.teenhelp.org) heard all sorts of horror stories, including death and suicide threats. Most of them were flaccid cries for attention but there was something in the messages she saw coming from a particular troubled youth in the United States that caused her to do more than console the youth with words.

The 15-year-old, who used the on-line pseudonym ShyGuy, and admitted to being from Pennsylvania, wrote that he intended to hurt both pupils and teachers at his school and that he had the access to guns to carry it out.

Tarryn was concerned enough after talking with the youth that she asked her mother to ring the New Zealand Police. After viewing transcripts of the conversations the police contacted Interpol, who contacted the FBI, who, in true made-for-TV fashion, "swooped" on ShyGuy.

It turned out ShyGuy was quite that. He was Jason Brown, an anti-social withdrawn school boy, under-achieving and worryingly telling the truth about having access to guns. The FBI said Brown had "all the hallmarks of what is now known as the likely school-yard shooter."

But wait, this is a story we all know well right? Kiwi girl does good and stops another Columbine massacre with wisdom beyond her years? We saw it in the papers, medal from the FBI "commending Tarryn on helping to avert a tragedy" and all?

Perhaps there is something to this on-line counselling? Maybe the teen chat rooms where the sharing of angst (and worse) occurs, are a safe haven for teenagers to talk about what they never could with adults? Maybe well-balanced teenagers like Tarryn giving out advice like adult practitioners give out Prozac is good therapy.

Probably not, however. Investigate Tarryn Pitzer like Debbie Swenson and what turns up? No, nothing so blatant as a 40 year old woman; Tarryn is certainly a very real 16 year old girl with good intentions. In fact what turns up is that Tarryn is very much exactly what she purports to be, a teenage female with issues of her own and no experience or training to deal with real problems.

"In 5 years time people think of what their

careers will be...but I know I'll be dead in 3..." quotes a poem of Tarryn's (on her web site at www.sweetrose.net) who admitted more cheerfully in an interview that she one day hopes to become a psychologist. Until then she'll just keep acting like one. And so will the dozens of other counsellors



at TeenHelp.org where Tarryn recently counseled for several hours a day.

Not anyone can sign up to become a counsellor for TeenHelp of course. No, there is a rigorous 2-screen interview form to fill out first! They do at least ask, "Have you ever taken any courses in psychology, conflict resolution or crisis intervention?" Though

"In 5 years time people think of what their careers will be...but I know I'll be dead in 3..."

this writer suspects that the 13-year old mentors, at least, have yet to complete such courses so it is obviously not a major requirement.

The reigning theory for counselling on line seems to be the "been there" ethos. Another question on their sign-up form, "Depression is the number one topic here at teenhelp.org. Have you experienced depression in your past, or have you known anybody that has?"

Which is something Tarryn will admit to, having been there with regards to trauma and trouble. This makes her personal quote

on the TeenHelp site (which she has now withdrawn from) an even stranger (or perhaps perfectly logical) choice: "A mans version of safe sex is a padded headboard :p". Not quite the attitude to the opposite sex one would hope from a counsellor.

Perhaps we can only be thankful it is Tarryn and not her boyfriend doing the counselling of course, he who challenges us on his web site (www.geocities.com/InSaneKiwi) to go to theSpark.com survey site and, "Do all the tests and try and beat my 91% sluttiness!"

Take the disclaimer on the TeenHelp site, "Teenhelp.org ... never will claim to be professionals ... There is no warranty [sic] of any kind implied or given with the aid that you receive at this site. " Naturally. But with all the disclaimers in the world you can't stop the fact that teenagers may easily be able to chat anonymously on-line and feel comforted enough by the likes of Tarryn to go on, but without real counselling, problems are likely to be exacerbated and possibly end fatally.

TeenHelp and Tarryn Pitzer in particular are not the only "on-line counsellors" nor are they the best or worst of the many there are. But they are part of a growing trend and a growing source of solace for many desperate young and old persons. At least with a self-help book you have some small chance of finding some educated or lucid advice within. With on line counsellors you are more likely to find clichés, virtual shoulders to cry on and no end in sight to your issues. Doctors cannot (and should not) dispense drugs on-line willy-nilly without real-world consultations, so why are untrained teenagers blowing whistles on, and coun-

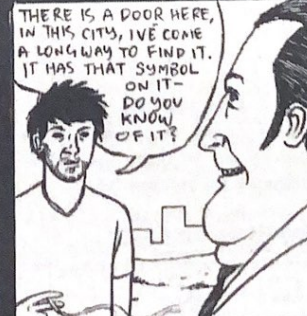
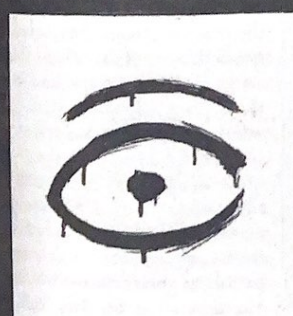
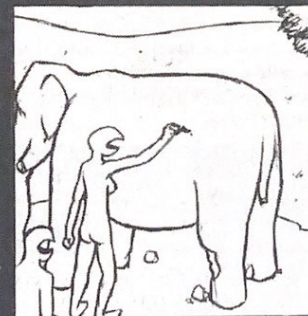
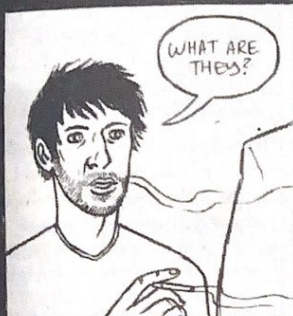
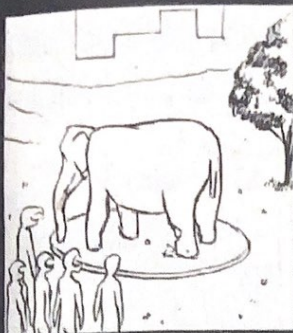
selling our problem children? Because it is a fun hobby for them and no one sees fit to challenge it, it seems!

The Internet isn't the cause of psychological distress or illness for the most part, but as we can see, it certainly doesn't help in most cases when people turn to it. Perhaps we can leave the last word to a warning from Tarryn, who put it so eloquently in a poem:

"...So that I can build my inner strength up. Not letting this cyber world corrupt my mind more than it already has."
-From 'My Cyber World' by Tarryn Pitzer

IN THE CITY OF THE EVER OPEN EYE

by TIM MOLLOY © 2001





ELECTIONS

Officer Blurbs 2001

president

Nick Keesing



Hi folks,

My name is Nicholas Keesing and I would like to be your student president for 2002. I'm an arts student in my final year of study. As AUSA's BFM news reporter and feature writer for *Cracum* I have learnt how our association works.

Unfortunately, the 'scene' here is in its death throes. I believe that people and not money are the real strength behind AUSA. University should be a cultural immersion, exposing students to a bewildering range of activities and experiences. We need to diversify our operations to take advantage of the 1 million people who surround us.

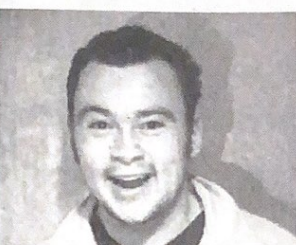
If elected, I will re-establish the Uni-Club as real competition for Shadows and consider the possibility of a jazz/reggae bar in the Jakarta Lounge. I will also double the clubs budget and increase S.R.C. funding, bring back \$2.00 budgie meals for all students, and put free phones in the quad.

I'm not happy with taking \$23,000 dollars of student money as a wage - this is a job that you do for love, not money and so half of it will go to the top 20 clubs/societies and the other half is for a second semester party and for lobbying Government for a decent fees deal. I will continue to try and save our historic buildings.

Please consider the issues and vote carefully. More people, more politics and definitely more parties.

Please vote Nicholas Keesing for President 2002.

Ross Burns

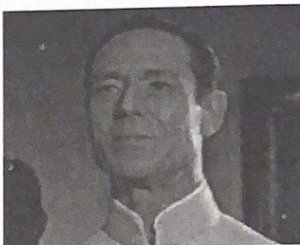


Hey I'm Rosco Burns. I am running for president in 2002. I think AUSA has worked itself into quite a stable position. But I am not happy with stable. AUSA needs to grow and to become something more than what it is. AUSA needs to bring the students back. As president I will actively work to bring in as many students as possible back into the decision making and planning process for AUSA. The executive need to act as leaders for AUSA but AUSA needs to look to the students more for its direction, and listen to what all the students want and get them to set AUSA's goals.

As president I plan to foster better relations with outside organisations internal students association and students to deliver what you want, to the best of our association's abilities. Through my total involvement within AUSA I believe I am the best person to deliver AUSA to the best of its abilities and to make the biggest difference for you next year.

Vote Rosco. Cheers.

Dr No



Pleasantries,

My name is Dr No Confidence and I am running for the position of AUSA president because I believe that as a candidate who has been in all elections since the inception of AUSA in the early 1920s, I have a wealth of experience within this organisation. A vote for me is a vote you can make with confidence - no confidence.

Should I receive more votes than any of the other candidates running for president, then I promise to forfeit my position and declare that no one shall be declared elected, in accordance with the AUSA constitution. But don't you worry, nominations and elections will be held again.

You should vote for me if you have no confidence in any of the candidates running for this position and believe that, if nominations were to be taken again, then there would be someone closer to your interests to chose from.

Thank you.

Dr No

Pleasantries,

My name is Dr No and I am running for the Administrative Vice-President of AUSA in 2002. As an experienced runner who has spent several years training and competing in both local and national athletic events, I am very excited at the opportunity to now be running for the Administrative Vice-President of such a prestigious association.

Running for the AVP will be a demanding job involving a multitude of tasks, such as running in and out of executive meetings

whilst simultaneously fulfilling external extracurricular activities such as running, athletics, aerobics and campaigning against higher fee rises.

When running, I believe it is always important to warm-up and not run too much on hard or uneven surfaces especially whilst wearing worn-out or poorly constructed running shoes because it is estimated that nearly 70% of runners will sustain some type of running-related injury at some point in their life.

I would say more, but I have to run.

administrative vice president

Paul Schischka



Hi, I'm Paul Schischka and I want to be Administrative Vice-President of your students' association.

I have served two terms on exec, as Environmental Affairs Officer ('99) and Media Officer (2000). The job of Media Officer is very similar to that of AVP; both primarily deal with staff matters, management and, most importantly, the bottom line. As Media Officer and chair of the *Cracum* Administration Board, I oversaw the first under budget *Cracum* year in AUSA history. I also initiated the publication of AUSA's first summer school magazine - IBC.

Since Voluntary Student Membership, AUSA has undergone some long-overdue belt-tightening but some money has been cut from the wrong areas. Executive still spend thousands of dollars each year on perks like air travel and conferences for a select few, while social activity on campus languishes.

In the last two years, faculty organisations have been reduced to the status of clubs for funding purposes. I will set up a dedicated fund for faculty associations to access for providing social events, which they can do much better than AUSA.

The association has not moved with the times. Drinking horns and pubcrawls are still important events, but AUSA needs to offer a broader range of entertainment, such as dance parties during orientation.

A lower AUSA fee is not only possible, it is necessary in order to make the association relevant to students again. The resulting increase in membership numbers would recoup any losses suffered, and increase our position of strength with the University.

But most importantly AUSA must start serving students again.

Now that all students can vote in the AUSA elections, we are faced with the dilemma that half of the positions are uncontested. Luckily Dr No has stepped in to the equation. To have your say, vote in the Quad and the polling booths around campus on Tuesday and Wednesday this week.

Stephanie Thompson



A students' association that doesn't work on representation isn't a students' association - it's just a big club that sells pies.

The role of EVP is one of representation, and this year I have been working on rebuilding student representation at AUSA after VSM. The association has begun talking again to the university, government and most importantly students about education - which is why we are all here after all.

However the current state of student representation at this university still needs a lot of work, so I am back to finish the job. Class reps are the backbone of student representation at any university, I believe that our backbone needs to be strengthened by increasing the numbers of class reps through AUSA taking a more active role in electing reps.

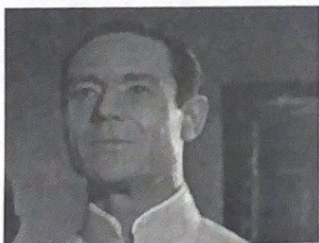
Being a student rep on a central university committee can be a lonely experience, but it shouldn't have to be. That's why I would like to set up a student council made up of student representatives from around the university to provide support and more importantly, accountability for representatives on committees back to the student body.

To enhance representation from within the association, AUSA needs to be communicating better with its members. That's why I want to start a fortnightly email newsletter of what the association is getting up to as new form of communication between AUSA and its members.

Lets keep our association talking, vote Stephanie Thompson Education Vice-President 2002.

education vice president

Dr No



Pleasantries,

I'm Dr No and I want to be Education Vice-President of your students' association. As a candidate who is independent of all age, race, sex and culture, I believe that I can unite and represent the interests of all students better than any other candidate.

I am a supporter of the education process. I believe that children are our future; teach them well and let them lead the way; show them all the beauty they feel inside; give them a sense of pride and make it easier; let the children's laughter remind us how it used to be.

I decided long ago never to walk in anyone's shadow; if I fail, if I succeed, at least I live as I believe; no matter what they take from me, they can't take away my dignity. Thank you.

Nik Goodley & Karl Ellwood



Hi all,

We are good.

We have experience - Karl is President of CSA, works for Deloitte's and is majoring in Accounting in BCom/LLB. Nik has been Treasurer for three associations, has worked as a manager and is doing honours in Accounting in a BCom(Hons)/BSc(Hons). We have organised pub crawls, balls, heaps of parties and other stuff. Good stuff. Honest.

Come talk to us if you don't believe us.

We can't think of anything worth writing about so we're going to Shads to try and dredge up something interesting.

Later,

Nik and Karl

P.S. Nik is cool. Ha ha... sorry Karl.

Dr No

Pleasantries,

I am Dr No and I am running for treasurer because I feel that the organisation that AUSA is becoming is one that has a growing financial responsibility to its members and the student body as a whole.

I think that we should never say never and that the person elected to this position should have a golden eye (and finger) for the needs of the students. They should show some willingness to get involved because the position is no Casino Royale; however, we do not want a power-crazed lunatic who thinks the world is not enough. They must also display some empathy for others because the position of treasurer is not a license to kill.

If you want thunder balls eight pussies next year, then vote for Dr No, Treasurer 2002.

Thank you.

treasurer

Stuart Wilson



Hi, my name is Stuart Wilson. I'm running for Treasurer because I think students should see a better return on their investment in AUSA? I have just completed my BCom and am now studying for a BProp.

Both of AUSA's senior accounting staff have recently resigned, and so next year's Treasurer will need not only financial nous, but knowledge of AUSA as well. I have been an executive member for the past two years (as Environmental Affairs Officer and, currently, National Affairs Officer), and was a founding member of the Commerce Students' Association executive in 1999.

AUSA accounts show that restructuring of the administrative and finance departments - bureaucracies from which students see no direct benefit - could save up to \$120,000 per year. That would free up \$50 per member, to be spent on tangible benefits like Orientation, clubs funding, etc.

Kane Stanford and Mark Van Zon have left the fundamentals of AUSA in good shape; it's now a matter of paying attention to details, and making sure that the money we save gets to the right places.

AUSA is funded through its trading exercises - catering, Shadows, bFM and the property trust. As Treasurer I will provide direction on these boards and ensure that the revenue is reinvested into student activities, and not outside empire building.

Over the last two years AUSA has faced several legal hurdles. To provide stability for future years these matters need to be resolved. As Treasurer I will set aside funding to ensure that this occurs.

The Treasurer is a position for one person with experience and vision - I am that person.

Vote for competence and experience
Vote Stuart Wilson, Treasurer 2002.



eTERNAL FeEDBACK

MUSIC with JAKE POLLOCK

News

In the ultimate 'will they/won't they?' flirtation between George Harrison and the Grim Reaper, former Beatle Ringo Starr has said that George, who angrily rejected claims that he's at death's door, is fine, proving, as the saying goes, that denial isn't just a river in Egypt. Harrison, who has been treated for cancer three times, might well be the second Beatle to shuffle off this mortal coil, leaving Paul "sugar and sunshine" McCartney and Ringo "the tank-engine" Starr to reap the rewards of a follow up to best of album One, tentatively titled Two. Two will be released next year, and will be just as saccharine as the last one, according to Ringo... Pop sensation Robbie Williams has been spotted at Vulcan Lane's Occidental Tavern by Craccum's own Craig Omundsen. After a full day's drinking, Omundsen spotted Williams, and asked The Occidental's bouncer if it was him. The bouncer replied that when he told the man that he

looked like Robbie Williams, the mysterious stranger (who had an English accent) just smiled and walked away. This follows news that tabloid publications busted Robbie in Sydney two weeks ago... Former Smashing Pumpkin Billy Corgan has begun work on solo material. Corgan, who made a small fortune being more angsty than a stage 3 philosophy student, has been working on his own material, as well as a duet with Marianne Faithfull, covering 'I'm Into Something Good,' by Herman's Hermits... The US Congress has been debating the controversy surrounding Eminem (by all means, read the review on the facing page), the rapper who 'doesn't give a fuck.' Those filthy Republicans demanded greater marketing constraints, including more dramatic 'warning' stickers, and blasted Recording Industry Association of America president, Hilary Rosen. House member Barbara Cubin asked Rosen to read from the lyrics of Eminem's

'Kill You,' (reprinted in part in this week's Urban Duck) to magnify her point, but Rosen declined. Cubin then insisted that 'the right to free speech is undermined by such obscene material.' Craccum would point out that the right to free speech is undermined by attempts to undermine it, and that since the US is going down the toilet anyway, Cubin may as well scarf back a couple of pills and enjoy the ride... Crap-Hop group Gorillaz have rejected a Mercury Music prize on the grounds that it's 'sorta like carrying a dead albatross round your neck for eternity.' The group, who were nominated in the same category as Radiohead, Elbow, and Super Furry Animals, released mainstream trash single 'Clint Eastwood' earlier this year, and were hailed by people who should know better as "innovative." Apparently they've "gone back to their website to play Connect 4 and Mastermind," Solitaire and Mine Sweeper apparently being too complicated...

Both of studio-rock band Garbage's fans will be pleased to hear that, with the legal wrangles over, the band will release their new album in a few months. While the rest of the world cringes, Shirley Manson has been cleared of breach of contract suits from her previous label, Radioactive. Apparently Manson's contribution to Version 2.0 was performed without the record company's consent, because they owned all of her recording and performance rights, or some bullshit. Frankly, no one cares, and if you want to save money on buying their new album, just listen to their old ones, cause they all sound the same... Hip-Hop duo Redman and Methodman are to tour New Zealand in August. Arguably the highest calibre rappers to ever visit these shores, they will play the Supertop on August 17th. Save those pennies though, cause tickets will cost between \$75 and \$80. The tragedy is that it's probably worth every cent...

Pennywise - Land of the Free?

Pennywise epitomise West Coast California punk, but then they should, they helped develop it and were largely responsible for bringing it into the 'mainstream.' However, with success comes imitations, and plenty of them. Countless numbers of Blink182 style bands have flooded the commercial airwaves in recent years, saturating the genre with a bunch of dicks who think they're pretty hardcore. But no matter how much they imitate Pennywise's style, the dominance of personality in music will allow their whack humour, lame lyrics and predictable, simplistic chord structures to shine on through.

The venting of frustration is to portray the influential nature of Pennywise. However, despite their huge success (especially downunder), they have remained true to their roots, staying with the Epitaph label since the release of the self titled album in 1991. The sound also remains the same, heavy, flowing basslines, solid riffs, busy, fast drumming, all thrown together into very tight, well structured songs. Despite this being the band's eighth album, they

have once again managed to find catchy chord structures that accentuate Jim Lindberg's catchy lyrics. Experience has told the band to stay with same formula.

Jim's lyrical content is more of the same, perhaps just a little more relevant. The challenge of the status quo and the search for a modern skater/surfer/punk/rocker's place in this muddled mess we call a world are typical Pennywise topics. Song titles reveal such angst. No prize for guessing what 'F**k Authority,' 'Something Wrong With Me' and 'It's Up To You' are about. Land of the Free? Seems to be the most overt challenge of the U.S. system so far, but despite the band's coming of age, adolescent insecurity remains an issue. Apparently, Jim's folks aren't too proud of him. Don't worry Jimbo, I'm sure there's a few drunk and confused 14 year olds out there who can relate, to keep the dollars rolling. As for the failure to accept the dominance of an exploitative, Capitalist system hell bent on world domination, well...

;; Paul Davies

*Bitch I'ma kill you! Like a murder weapon,
I'ma conceal you*

*In a closet with mildew, sheets, pillows and
film you*

*Buck with me, I been through hell, shut the
hell up!*

*I'm tryin to develop these pictures of the
Devil to sell 'em*

*I ain't "acid rap," but I rap on acid
Got a new blow-up doll and just had a strap-
on added*

*WHOOOPS! Is that a sublimi-
nal hint?*

*NO! Just criminal
intent to sodom-
ize women again*



Craccum

D-12 Devil's Night

The D-12 are six rappers out of Detroit, the city that spawned Motown, and some of the world's sweetest soul. One of those rappers just happens to be one Marshall Mathers, aka Slim Shady, aka Eminem. There are theses to be written about Eminem. In the wake of High School shootings and the escalation of the War on Drugs, Eminem has, through his own personal crusade of hatred and addiction, exposed the hypocrisy of the most powerful and idealistic nation on Earth.

Reactionaries instantly condemn him, and rightly so. His lyrics are misogynistic and homophobic in the extreme, promote reckless drug use and violence, and, as if to add insult to a whole lot of insults, he's white.

Racism is an issue with Eminem. The hip-hop industry is dominated, almost exclusively, by African-Americans; Vanilla Ice and the odious Beastie Boys were, until Slim Shady hit the scene, the almost exclusive face of white rap. Black rappers spend much of their time giving props to their niggas, talking about shoot-outs and themselves in creative ways. It was easy, then, for the moral majority to ignorantly dismiss hip-hop as, to put it in the crassest possible terms, nigger music. Then Eminem came along. Not only is his music more offensive than most other rap, which refers to experiences so far outside of Middle American experience that they are virtually meaningless, it is immensely popular among white, male teens. Eminem was recently allowed into Australia on the grounds that he recognises its 'multicultural society.' The irony, and Eminem virtually embodies post-modern irony, is that the country, in days gone by, that hunted its indigenous peoples for sport, then proceeded to strip those peoples of their children and allowed the rise to power of Pauline Hanson's One Nation party, whose principle policies were purely racial, asked a man whose mentor is black, whose crew is black, and whose songs are everything but racist, to appreciate multiculturalism.

When it comes to Eminem, people just miss the point. If he's famous for homophobia and misogyny, which he is, then it's because his audience shares those sentiments. Like the Columbine massacre and the Oklahoma bombing, Eminem is a symptom of the sickness at the heart of the American dream. He is a direct reaction against the rose-tinted morality of Oprah Winfrey and Full House. At best, he is the angry voice of America's dispossessed youth. At worst, he is the abject failure of the Peace and Love generation.

Why talk about Eminem so much on an album that features five other MCs? Firstly, and most obviously, this album would never have been made were Eminem not behind it. Not that it's bad, but

the other rappers are unknown and, let's face it, rap very much in the Eminem stylee. It all feels more than a little like cashing in, a filler before the next Eminem L.P.

It has its merits. For a start it's the ultimate in male fantasy. The tracks are peppered with gunshots, and the whole album is permeated with a directionless anger. Beatwise, much of Devil's Night is produced by Eminem himself, with a few tracks produced by rap don dada, Dr. Dre. While lacking the subtlety of, say, East Coast production, and the sleazy soul of West Coast G-funk, the kicks are deep and the melodies catchy. Despite its producers, Devil's Night doesn't sound quite like Dre's 2001 or The Marshall Mathers L.P. Thrown in for good measure are a couple of white bread guitar riffs, all distortion tinged, G'n'R angst, just in case the target audience isn't quite clear enough.



Trackwise, Ain't Nuttin' But Music is D-12 at their best, where the whole crew makes fun of the music industry which made them famous by cynically promoting their music. While Eminem has been charged with irresponsibility, no one seems to criticise the massive machine of the record company and the media that has taken him to the people. Fight Music, referring to a track off The Marshall Mathers L.P., delivers Eminem's message most powerfully, where he tells us that he's here 'to save these new generations of babies for their parents who failed to raise 'em 'cause they're lazy,' and then levels the battlefield of accusations by 'spitting it back in the face of these hypocrites and racists who think shit but don't say shit.' This complex message is tempered by songs such as Pimp Like Me, which suggests that next time these guys are arrested, they should be tried as juveniles.

Overall, Devil's Night is an album for kids to trash their rooms to, or maybe just drink some beers and play some pool. It's easy to be judgemental, but it's a genuinely funny, dare I say witty, album which revels in its obnoxious stupidity.

:: Jake Pollock



ARTSHOLE

Theatre and Visual Arts, Theatre with Anne Onymous



TAKING FLIGHT

Taking Flight, produced in the UnitecTheatre, was an attempt to bring three works in progress to the stage in the hope of gaining some audience feedback before they are finished and taken individually to the stage next year. Two are plays to look out for, one was less appealing.

A Little Hero, developed and performed by Rajiv Varma, is the tale of a twelve-year-old first generation New Zealander, Amit, struggling with his mother's death, father's distance, and his assimilation into New Zealand. Humorous and poignant, the play is an interesting blend of Indian and New Zealand culture. It's really interesting to watch immigrant and minority groups produce theatre that articulates their experiences outside of the mainstream. *Hero* does this really rather well, and has the makings of an insightful and interesting production so long as it doesn't become earnestly saccharine, which it currently verges on. At the same time, a longer production (the plays were only 20-30 minutes long), will see deeper character construction and interaction.

Angel Feet, performed by Kate Parker and Phil Brown, directed by Julie Nolan, is a vibrant examination of a fictitious community somewhere in East Europe when the gypsies and an angel come to town. Presented by Bigpop Productions (who brought *Moahunting* to the stage) the play uses Parker and Nolan's characteristic combination of physical theatre, comedy and puppets to create a highly visual and textural performance that amuses and delights.

Troy Forgotten, wasn't up to the standard set by the other two, and felt wooden in comparison. However, its central premise is sound – putting four figures from Greek Mythology who have forgotten their identities on a raft in the ocean. As they fight and bicker, their characters are slowly revealed – except to themselves of course.

:: Simon Farrell-Green



'TAKE A CHANCE ON ME'

Directed by: Janice Finn.

Starring: Stuart Devenie, Peter Elliott, Jennifer Ludlam, Rima Te Wiata, Liddy Holloway, Greg Johnson, Bruce Phillips & Fiona Samuel.

There are two great things about Roger Hall: he is witty, and he is current. *Take a Chance on Me*, Hall's latest offering, is, as expected, a polished, witty and well-staged piece of theatre that attempts to combine current issues with personal stories, so that stereotypes become archetypes. Unfortunately, the play doesn't quite achieve that: instead we are left with a handful of broadly brushed characters whose stories are thoroughly familiar, whose jokes we have heard many times, and whose narrative conclusions become unbearably obvious.

We start with a "Dinner for Six", where the four divorcees, one widow and one widower gather together in a last ditch effort to find lifetime partners, over-seen by two omniscient narrators / match-makers. 'How did they get here?' one of them asks, and so we are told their stories that led to the dinner – divorces and death followed by frenzied searches for new partners. The six characters' stories are outlined separately, bound together by chapter headings beamed on a giant love heart above the stage.

The problem with the play lies in the characters – Hall establishes stereotypes very early on – the insensitive plumber from Avondale (played by Johnson), the bitchy Remuera career woman (Te Wiata), the nerdy pharmacist (Elliott). These characters go through the traumas that you would expect of them – the plumber is sexually frustrated, the career woman finds her social life lacking, the abandoned primary-school teacher cries a lot – which means that while the potential for depth is there, the characters tend to fit into preconceived notions about Aucklanders, professions, suburbs and gender. While these are potentially useful stock characters, Hall has failed to write beyond the stereotypes, creating decidedly limited characters. This is partly due to the fact that he crams six story-lines into 140 minutes.

The narrators, as well as doubling as match-makers, play the myriad of characters that interact with the main six. Unfortunately, an emphasis on costume (every character has a different one) forces them to gabble through lines in a rush to get to the next costume change, indeed, the play is incredibly busy, as the characters rush on and off and back on again for their next line.

Having said that, the play has some wonderful strengths, mainly thanks to the fact that Hall is nothing if not a master of the single throwaway line – some are simply fantastic, most are somewhere between quite and very funny.

The set is truly amazing, an all-white stage with gigantic letters to represent each character and a central area where the action is played out in various restaurants and living rooms – another example of the Auckland Theatre Company's set design. Indeed, the impressiveness of the set is one of the saviours of the play, managing, through its overwhelming size and colour, to carry the play along.

However, in the end the play simply lacks cohesion. While one-liners and short gags are funny in the short term, they do not carry a play. There are some genuinely funny parts to the play, but the humour is mostly reduced to highly scripted one-liners, staged actions, and quirky, self-conscious facial gestures – although Te Wiata's puckered cheeks are wonderful to behold. I guess a play about middle-aged people trying to get laid is always going to be a bit, well, gross, but *Take a Chance on Me* actually manages to be puerile. I got the distinct impression I was watching a bunch of teenagers clown around on stage for their final seventh form assembly. At one point Devenie (who plays one of the Narrators), without any explanation, puts his female counterpart over a table and ravishes her. The buffoonery is continued as, cartoon-style, her legs stick up in the air. Indeed, the stereotypes themselves become almost revolting – the presentation of the plumber's mail-order Thai wife is, quite frankly, degrading. The comedy is basically lacking in pathos – everything is sacrificed for the quip, the aside, the one-liner, so that the play surfs from one slight funny to the next without ever addressing the very potent subject matter at hand.

:: Harriet Kent.

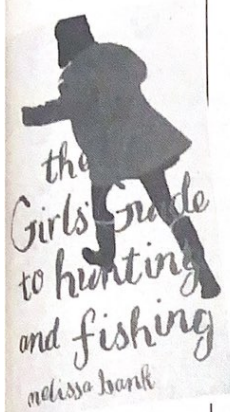
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THE GIRLS' GUIDE TO HUNTING AND FISHING

Melissa Bank

The only part of this book I would recommend you don't bother to read is the back cover. Quoting from such infinitely reliable sources as Cosmopolitan and She magazines, the blurb would have you believe that this is "no Bridget Jones- ... fesiter, wittier and utterly lovable," and a "champagne tingle of a read." Although it is debatable what the latter actually is, I found (thankfully having already read the book) that these bore very, if any, resemblance to the novel's contents.

Despite being a simple plot set essentially simply around one woman's relationship with relationships, the style sets it well above what the cover would lead you to believe to be its competition. By using separate incidents in Jane's life, the first when she, at 14, encounters her brother's very glamorous older girlfriend, her character is constructed for the reader in an intricacy that could not be achieved by any other means. The glimpse of her relationship with a much

older man provides a scenario that addresses the question of the changing female roles far more efficiently than any book which sets out explicitly to do so.

The only flaw that I could name in the book is the introduction of a family who live underneath Jane in her apartment block. These characters are introduced with such detail that a reader is drawn into their story, which is unfortunately never picked up again. I am unsure whether they were intended to provide further insight into Jane's existence or whether they were a brief, inconsequential inclusion to add interest to the storyline.

An entertaining as well as intelligently written novel, the last quarter of the book will strike a chord with anyone who has a vehement dislike of self-help books. Overall, *The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing* is highly recommended.

A CHARGE TO KEEP

THE JOURNEY TO THE WHITE HOUSE



George W. Bush

A CHARGE TO KEEP George W. Bush, \$34.95.

Yes, Bush the Younger has produced his book, *A Charge To Keep*, the title being sourced from one of his favourite poems. Although Bush's administration has seemed like a headlong charge into international isolation and annoying liberals at home, this book is an attempt to show the personal side of Bush.

It begins with an introduction penned by a key staffer, telling about how supportive an employer Bush was and how good it is to work for him. Then Bush jumps in and tells in typically disjointed fashion about aspects of his life and politics. The book leaps around from one moment and topic to another, rather than a chronological journey through his life. Yet the infamous Bush grammar is replaced by a conversational tone which paints Bush in the best possible light, sure signs of severe editing and spin doctoring. Bush reveals that marrying his wife was the "best decision I ever made", and includes just a small section on how one day he gave up drinking, with much less detail than the newspaper reports and biographies on how his wife made him choose between "Jim Bean or me".

Those looking for the gems in the ranks of Bush gaffes will not find them here. What they will find instead is what is essentially a promotional tool for Bush reprinted in paperback format.

Most presidential candidates write a book like this in their campaign and release it on the campaign trail. Bush is no exception, and it seems either he or the pub-

lishers saw money in doing a reprint now that he's in the White House.

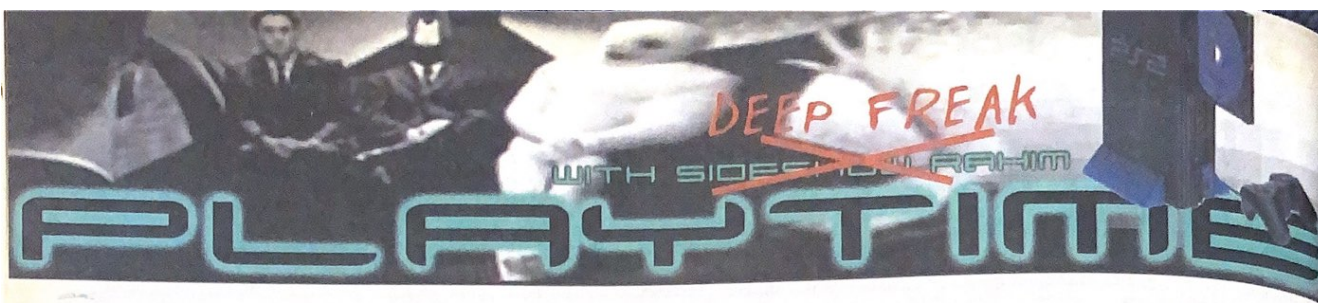
:: Ross Dennis

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G A M I N G N E W S

Microsoft Xbox will be hitting our shores next year. Technically the Xbox boasts better specifications than the Sony Playstation 2, but it will be all up to the game developers to fully utilise that capacity. Although the Xbox will have a DVD drive, it won't be able to play DVD movies until the user purchases the DVD movie playback kit. I was watching some streamed video over the net of various Xbox software and it looked pretty eye-catching. Games to look forward to are *Halo*, *Madden 2002* and *Tony Hawk 2K*.

Gran Turismo 3 is believed to have sold around 100,000 copies in the UK after

just its first two days in retail. In the US, retailers are stating that it has become the most successful game launch ever. Jack Tretton, senior vice president of Sony Computer Entertainment America said, "With an initial product shipment of over one million units, *Gran Turismo 3 A-spec* broke all internal production records out of the gate exceeding even our high expectations for the product."

Coming to a theatre near you, is Angelina Jolie star-

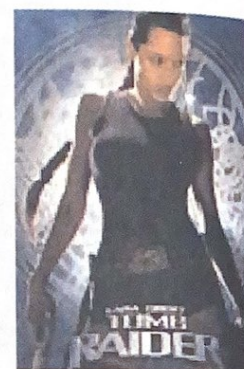
ring as Lara Croft in *Tomb Raider*. Despite average success



overseas this movie is a must see for all you Lara Croft fans out there. The fate of mankind apparently rests on her hands with her needing to find two halves of an ancient artifact buried in space and time. To possess it, Lara needs to take on a powerful and dangerous society.....

No need to worry about watching only zone 4 movies on your Playstation 2 anymore - in the

next few weeks there will be several ways in which you can de-zone your Playstation 2. A remote control will enable you to switch between zones on your Playstation 2 and by loading a special region decoding CD, users can also watch multizone movies.



:: Pradeepa de Silva



FORMULA ONE 2001 REVIEW (Playstation 2)

The *Formula One* gaming attempts have been some what of a waste-tip area for quite some time now, with lifeless game after lifeless game being released and failing to capture any essence of the motor sport whatsoever. This plague has been happening ever since *Formula 1 '97*, and no console F1 simulation has really managed to impress. With EA Sport's second-rate *F1 Championship Season 2000*, it looked like this trend would continue on PlayStation2. However, that's before Sony Studio Liverpool's announcement that (Hail) a cure has been found, the antidote is named: *Formula One 2001*.

Visually *Formula One 2001* is a first-rate looking game. The crowds roar with cheering and even national flags of drivers are flourished in the sky. The tracks themselves are luxurious and vast. Nice visual touches include the build up of dust on your tyres when you go off the tarmac, and the gradual darkening of the tyres as the race progresses.

There are a number of difficulty-related options, which allow the game to be as easy or as challenging as you want. Putting the damage on is a stimulating affair. Although it ruins any chance of you winning

the race, there really is nothing quite as satisfying as seeing one of your wheels bouncing along down the track. But don't expect any 'computer controlled' drivers to be sliding off the track. One of the great things about F1 racing is the sheer unpredictability of the race - 22 cars start and rarely do half of them finish. It is disappointing then, to report that there was never one crash or failure by the computer drivers - realism gets a good knock on the head.

All the sound effects are spot on with track changes and sound near enough to real-life. The only downside of the sound is there is no music and a lack of commentary during the game, even with the voices of commentators Murray Walker and Martin Brundle at the ready. Some race updates and driver standings really would have made a difference.

Overall the game is extremely pleasing on the eye and not too harsh on the fingers either. Controls are simple, graphics are great and the replay value is huge. The only tip I can offer is to have a stack of CDs nearby, unless you find it fun to drive in a high pitch whine for two-and-a-half hours.

:: Nick Lapwood