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ISSUE 02 - MARCH 10, 2003

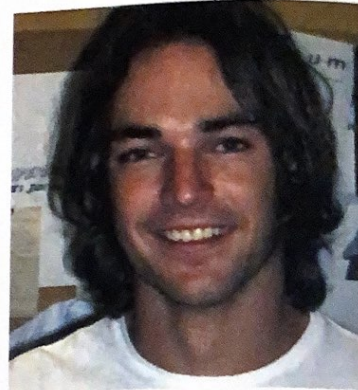
**EVERYTHING
YOU KNOW
IS WRONG**

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
10 MAR 2003
LIBRARY

editorial

Greetings all,

Ah, these are precious times, are they not? Cherish them for soon (much too soon) they will be soggy memories that we reach for over the winter months. Unpredictable bouts of sun and Orientation Week and nagging clubs and crowds and over and done and, I am sure, a few of your heads are in an enveloped daze. Long nights of booze and cigarettes and terrible early morning classes can cause a real clash in the system: complete violent electric shock style. Or maybe not. Who's to say really?



We at Craccum hope you enjoyed Orientation Week. We at Craccum salute AUSA for the tremendous work they put in to organising the events that you may (or may not) have partaken in. If you went to the drinking horn, hehehe. It was funny, wasn't it?

Blessed we are, to have the brightest young minds of the city blurring their senses with the oil slick beer output of the Drinking Horn. Intoxication is a handy little tool- you can use it to become the most colourful clown or sleep like a heavy log. What's more, there is nothing like the embarrassing blotch of an afternoon drinking blanked out with a couple 'too many'. Grateful are those who witnessed the lunacy. Check out the photomontage at the back of the issue. Fine and striking images of alcohol consumed and 'de-consumed' by those brave enough to punish their bodies in front of others. Gladiatorial, one of the young wits called it in the Craccum offices the afternoon of the drinking horn. I am apt to agree. We could hear the roaring of the crowd through the concrete walls of the Craccum bunker as another soldier of inebriation toppled.

Orientation Week is over. What that means, of course, is that the year is truly under-way. Perceptive we are here at Craccum. It is time to get stuck in, to open textbooks and listen to lecturers in massive halls of people. Now is the time to 'read' and 'learn things' and all that jazz. In this issue, we have a feature article entitled 'Everything you know is Wrong'. It discusses popular media and the disservice we do to ourselves by failing to think outside that which is delivered to us on the nightly news flashes. Somewhere along the way we tend to forget the importance of those working on projects outside the immediate (or not so immediate) radar. It is easy to bemoan the lack of an effective media- less so to get involved and do something about it. If stories about abuses uncommenced upon go unpublished, then how can the alternative press thrive, or even exist. Craccum itself has the potential to include some really challenging content but, as I have said before, it takes your input. If the article sparks some thought, pursue it. If you are feeling particularly devious or subversive, write about it.

In this issue, we have the Craccum travel correspondent Claire Hertz writing on Melbourne- the city of random. We have Paul Joannides tackling a particularly disturbing sexual phenomenon and another dose of 'Class and Ass'. We have taken on-board a books editor, Scott Wilson. Scott will guide us through the better reading and horrible pitfalls of literature over the course of the year. These people are all good. Fortunately, we can always curse the sun.

A grim question should be a starting point, rather than the end.
Enjoy the issue.

Merçi, beaucoup, beaucoup!

Christopher Garland- Editor

credits

craccum

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Thanks To: Mark Eastwood
ing me on my first time and
Burke for the pizza. Extra to
boas News Editor. Not for of
book. Karen Francis & Co

Big ups to Karen Francis &
who without her support we'd
tornly would not have a Craccum
out this week, thank you
Campus if we see you

To Contribute to Craccum

Or alternatively, roll up to the
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Chalmers. We are not

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AUSA Report

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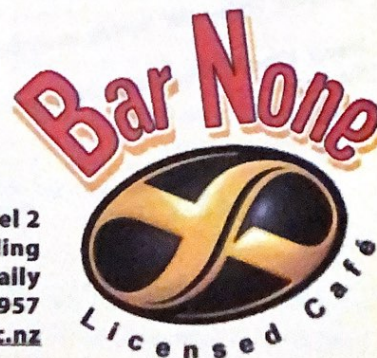
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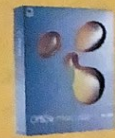
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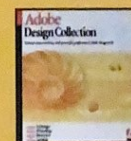


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University attempts takeover of student buildings

The University of Auckland has been trying to take over ownership and control of student services and property from the student union.

Late last year the University held a meeting to inform AUSA of its plan to effectively take control of the student union buildings and quad area. The plans for the quad include replacing the existing shops, services, and gaming machine area with a juicer, bakery, CD/DVD shop and Asian foodcourt.

AUSA does not necessarily disagree with the proposals for the buildings and the potential benefits they would provide for students, but are concerned there has been a lack of consultation with the student union in regard to how the facilities would be managed.

AUSA President Scott Kelly says the University's proposal could have dire consequences for student life and potentially result in the complete abolition of quad-oriented events like Orientation, bands, general meetings, and drinking horns. "The proposed takeover was met with serious discontent from the Auckland University Students' Association executive,"

says Kelly.

The present student union buildings were built during the mid 1960s after a building levy was set by AUSA who have managed the buildings since then. "Millions and millions of dollars of students' money has gone into these buildings for renovation and maintenance," says Kelly.

The students' association has been fighting for rights to manage and govern common rooms for more than a century. "What we are fighting for now is very similar to what AUSA was fighting for over 100 years ago," says Kelly.

Prior to voluntary membership, AUSA collected rent from retailers operating in the quad area. When compulsory student membership ceased, the University took control by collecting the rent and placing it in a special fund. "The special fund has been very hard to access since voluntary membership," says Kelly.

AUSA report that negotiations are progressing to a stage where all students will be able to benefit from a new and exciting quad managed and operated by students.

Keesing controversy continues

After a series of controversial incidents, Nick Keesing has been encouraged by AUSA to step down from his position as Sports Officer.

Last year Keesing was trespassed by the Student Executive for allegedly dealing drugs in the quad, following an arrest by the police who apprehended him running

towards the gymnasium.

The 2003 Executive has decided to lift the trespass order after Keesing agreed the position that he won in last year's portfolio elections, Sports Officer, had lapsed. This allows Keesing to remain an AUSA member and therefore to run in a by-election for a position on this year's Executive.

NEWS EDITORIAL

I'll be brief this week. The fun and frivolity of O Week has left me with an overpowering desire to go home and get a good night's sleep.

If you picked up last week's edition, you probably saw the article about AUSA's withdrawal from USINZ and how that means no Auckland Uni student can play in Tourney or take part in any sports events with other tertiary institutions in NZ or overseas. I haven't talked to anyone who isn't shocked by that. I'm hardly a sports nut myself but am gutted that I miss out on the chance to go along and have some fun. It is devastating news for students who are serious about sport and it is absolutely unfair that they are excluded when students at every other university in the country have the chance to take part.

There would have been another article about the issue this week, but the University will not inform Craccum of the outcome of a meeting they had on Wednesday about the matter. So instead I'll just bitch about the situation and say that the University of Auckland and AUSA should be ashamed of themselves. Over a hundred years of tradition and a proud win last year, and now we're out in the cold. AUSA aren't exactly thrilled about the situation, but they just can't find the funds to keep up with the other student associations, who all have compulsory membership and more dollars in their pockets. I'll leave the rest of that can of worms for next week. I hope I have good news to report then - the University will hopefully have the sense to serve its students by finding a way to fix this sorry situation.



Clubbers told to be careful

Following last month's nightclub blaze in the U.S., NZ fire safety officials are urging nightclub patrons to use their own discretion in judging venue safety.

Eighties band Great White was playing at The Station in Rhode Island NY, when their pyrotechnic display ignited, spread across the ceiling and soundproofing, and set the entire building ablaze within three minutes. The combination of fire, lack of sprinklers and three unused exits left the death toll at 96, with 200 injured.

Controversy surrounds whether permission was given to use the pyrotechnic display. Regardless, the club did not have a city permit for such use.

Earlier in February a panicked rush down a steep, narrow stairway to the exit of a Chicago nightclub left 21 people dead, after security guards used pepper spray to

break up a fight. An avalanche of bodies blocked the doors, crushing victims underneath who were unable to breathe. The 21 victims, most of them in their 20s and 30s, died from cardiac arrest.

Legal restrictions might be effective in some clubs here, but Wellington fire safety chief Peter Dempsey maintains, "At the end of the day...there's got to be some self responsibility, that's generally where the system falls down."

Fire safety officers making midnight checks have discovered faulty fire alarms, padlocked emergency exits and overcrowding during a snoop on Auckland City nightclubs. Ten of eleven central city nightclubs visited in the past two months were found to have safety faults, but all have remained open after fixing problems within 48 hours.

Two Tribes cancelled

The Two Tribes dance party scheduled for Friday 7 March was cancelled early last week due to insufficient ticket sales.

St James announced on Monday that the show would be cancelled because too few tickets had been sold, but full refunds would be available at the place of purchase.

All other orientation week events went ahead as planned, with swarms of students packing the quad and Shadows throughout the week.



Auckland judged fifth best-city in whole wide world

Auckland has been ranked the fifth best city in the world by an international survey evaluating 215 cities on their "quality of life".

Moving up from sixth place in last year's study, Auckland now rates alongside Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Sydney, and the Swiss capital Berne. The results, however, reveal another ass-kicking for New Zealand by the Swiss, with Zurich being voted top city, as well as Swiss city Geneva coming second equal with Vancouver and Vienna.

The cities were judged on 39 criteria, including political, social and economic factors, and the quality of health, education, and transport services.

The City of Sails scored well on recreational activities, housing, and public services, but insufficient public transport and high levels of traffic congestion prevented a higher ranking.

Other rankings included Amsterdam at 10, Tokyo: 26, London: 39, Los Angeles: 53, Rome: 66, and Baghdad: 213.

EVERY KNOW

feature

POPULAR MEDIA

It is difficult to comprehend the spectrum of the mainstream media without first looking at the broader society in which this 'popular' media is most widely accepted. **Who are the people reading and accepting the terms and conditions set in the mainstream media- and what is it that makes them do so? Businessmen and women, politicians and people of power who are in the position to become catalysts of change or the raising of awareness- but don't? Is it that, as Noam Chomsky says, the mass media (of which such types support/work within/engage in) is really in the business of diverting people?** And why are we being diverted- as it were- to maintain our current status as passive participants or uninvolved observers of both the cultural, political and media landscape- as it certainly seems? Does our own inactivity relegate us to such a position? This article deals with some of the misconceptions, 'happy whitewashes and cultural myths' that abound in print, TV and radio.

Craccum has a long history of publishing writing that comes from far outside the mainstream. Whether in the form of last year's 'coprophilia' inspired madness or the Albert Park smoke driven anti-Vietnam War rants of a young Tim Shadbolt, Craccum has always pushed to do something a little different from that which is occurring in the mainstream media. If Craccum is providing an alternative view, then what is the mainstream media? How and why is their audience in the state that it is? In the case of Craccum, the audience is students, those who have been (traditionally) most tolerable towards the ranting of those outside the mainstream. This article is inspired by a book called 'You Are Being Lied To' which contains writing from Noam Chomsky, Sydney Schanberg and Michael Parenti, amongst others. What follows is an analysis of samples from the book, and how one can look actively outside the everyday presentation of 'issues' and 'reality' to see the 'Media Distortion'.

"THE PRESS IS OWNED
BY WEALTHY MEN WHO
ONLY WANT CERTAIN THINGS
TO REACH THE PUBLIC."

-Chomsky

ING YOU WRONG

There was a time when I believed what I saw on TV, read in the newspaper, and heard on the radio. My belief was centred about one very trust laden (and highly susceptible to the perils of barely distinguishable misinformation) 'fact': the western news media had an innate respect for and allegiance to the truth. As time developed, I realised this was just not true. This realisation was not complete straightaway, nor a quick process. **It was borne out of the fact that I started to understand the power that the free-market wield in and around, and sometimes (but not necessarily) over media production.**

There are undeniable links between big business and the popular news media organisations that affect the way in which overall media production is shaped. General Electric, Westinghouse and so on either outright own or have major links to many of today's largest news producing companies. The 'morselisation'

(the shortening of news pieces into easily digestible segments) of news shows us that

shirking the responsibility of conveying political knowledge is not a passing trend. Human-interest stories and increased sport coverage have advertisers frothing in a way staid debates on the 'state of the nation' by old politicians never could have. The 'state of the nation' now is that TV (and other media forms) is largely funded through advertising. Advertising, despite its associated concern of building the appeal of a brand and a community of feeling towards that brand, is a means in which something is delivered (and subsequently) sold to consumers.

Supposed social hierarchies are reflected in the consumption of media. The elite print media of the western world, such as *The Washington Post*, is read by the 'privileged' or 'political' class. Many of these readers are able to participate in the upper end decision-making and social control exercised within a non-participatory democracy. Alternatively, the tabloid papers of Britain draw their readership from lower socioeconomic areas. These papers deal in the business of the paparazzi and the associated 'pulp' press-pandering towards low political, high entertainment based content. This content is angled on an assumption of the intelligence of the readers, made by the newspaper. The formula is successful. Why change it? A huge segment of the reading public remains uninformed and surrounded by 'pulp' derived media.

WHO DO YOU READ?

DECLINING NZ NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION

1989- 991,000 (circ.) **2000-** 733,000(circ.)

The New Zealand Herald, in a statement that contradicts worldwide trends of national newspapers, is claiming an increase in their readership. In fact, they claim (Source: STATISTICS NZ) a readership of well over 500,000. This figure is astounding, if not unbelievable, when analysis takes into account the fact that this is more than the audience of TV One News and TV3 News combined is. One must remember that when reading these numbers, The New Zealand Herald commissioned Statistics NZ to compile these readership 'facts'. When reading any statistics, particularly in regards to the media, it is important to ask the question "In whose interest do these statistical records serve?" The New Zealand Herald has come to their readership figure after concluding that for every newspaper bought/delivered/given-away, three people read the individual paper. How they have decided this is not discussed. It seems a largely confident and extravagant assumption, designed to attract advertisers and confirm to The New Zealand Herald faithful that what they are buying (and subsequently reading) is 'right'. Sales, circulation figures and readership are the indicators of the commercial success of any newspaper. The importance of which, for a mass-market focused newspaper, cannot be understated... **Customer 'satisfaction' and advertiser orientation has now become the media focus- social and political concerns are wry and secondary...**

AVERAGE PRICE OF NEWSPAPER

1989- 41 CENTS
2000- 96 CENTS

PRINT MEDIA IS ESSENTIAL

Independent, uncensored print media is essential to a healthy, thought provoking media environment. Print is one medium in which in-depth knowledge can be provided, unravelled and put in to an open forum of varying sophistication for discussion and further development. Whilst TV often delivers its messages to a highly distracted, 'quick-fix' seeking audience, the strength of print lies in its ability to linger and ponder upon subject matter that does not have to be visually arresting. Television converts 'topical issues' and historical analyses into a form that is conducive to general interest- lessening the emphasis upon pertinent detail and information and increasing the 'entertainment' value.

MEDIA AGENDA-SETTERS (ELITE MEDIA eg. CBS and TIMES) MOVE US AWAY FROM THE ARENA OF THE SERIOUS AND SIT US IN THE IN THE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT- PROFESSIONAL SPORTS, CELEBRITY ROMANCES, THE CULT OF THE 'STAR'

I am sure you have seen *Fight Club*. Amongst left-leaning students (not to mention a whole larger audience) it was a big hit. The freedom from the trappings of commercialisation, no matter how it is presented, holds an immeasurable appeal to those who are cynical and disillusioned with the capitalist cycle. As an example, ***Fight Club*, (I suggest could be viewed) through its Hollywood**

origin and commercial drive, an entertainment dressed as a life-changing manifesto. Like Oprah Winfrey, infomercials and self-help books *Fight Club* is an entertaining distraction from real life, political issue interpretation. As a social document, its value is open to debate. **Likewise, the popular media of the day operate on a similar level (and priority listing) of entertainment first, issue second. Example: TV One's new look studio designed to project the 'feel' of working journalists and a 'vibrant' news environment. Has this affected the way in which the news items are directed- towards more in-depth, informative approach? No.**

UNIVERSITIES (LIKE POPULAR MEDIA) ARE NOT INDEPENDENT, NOR ARE THEY BASTIONS OF FREE THOUGHT

A single university, as much as any other large corporation providing a service to client for a fee, is subject to the whims of the economy. Such is the nature of capitalist business- that which sells well. Just as in the greater media environment. Universities are not independent. There are individuals within the university system who are, generally, a set pattern is followed. **"I respect faith, but doubt will get you an education".** Thus, what university teaches is that some thoughts and thought patterns are rewarded (commercially and financially), whilst others are not. University, as much as any other schooling institution, is a tool of socialisation.

Universities rely on outside sources of support, particularly financially. Universities require rich benefactors- in the form of the fore-mentioned 'big business', private donations and the government (who at times seem inexplicably corporate like).

These are the same sources of wealth, which dictate much of the direction of popular media organisations. Similar conditions are set. Safety nets, in regards to issues and interests pursued, are 'encouraged'. Sensible 'limits' are talked of and 'sensitive' issues are shied away from.

Journalists fail to become investigators or reporters; they become recorders of the current system of power.

VARIOUS MEDIA DICTATE TO ONE ANOTHER

Noam Chomsky tells the story of how, over a period of years, he monitored the Associated Press. The Associated Press provide an endless stream of news stories, both US domestic and International, around the clock. Every afternoon, around three, Chomsky said there was a break in the news and the following announcement, "Notice to Editors: Tomorrow's New York Times is going to have the following stories on the front page." What is particularly ominous about this press release is not just

the fact that *The New York Times*, a newspaper held up to be one of the finest in America, consistently sourced its front pages from a single company but the fact that if you are running a newspaper in any small town, and you don't have the resources, nous or desire to understand what the news is, Associated Press will tell you.

**"IT IS POSSIBLE TO FOOL ALL THE
PEOPLE ALL THE TIME- WHEN
GOVERNMENT AND PRESS
COOPERATE."**

-George Seldes

Journalism was once fenced by one true rule: get as close to the truth as possible. Admittedly, print media is filtered through individuals, notably newspaper editors. This happens before the story is set in stone. But if there are named sources, supporting documentation and earnest and discerning reporting, an editor with any integrity will let

Gary Webb summed up a true journalistic standard when he said about lesser known journalists at lesser known publications "who toil in relative obscurity, for little money and even less appreciation, (yet) their work contributes more to our lives than the million-dollar celebrity-correspondents that we see on the nightly news".



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TUESDAY

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WEDNESDAY

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w/ Cesar, Dunc tha Func and Uncle Bernie

Femme Fatale at Temple

THURSDAY

DJ Sam-E at Galatos Lounge

Brunettes and Golden Horse at Borders Book Store, Queen St
from 7pm

w/ Greg Churchill, Rob Warner, Cuffy, Mata, Mark Emerson and Darryl Milne / tix from
Tiketek

Karen Hunter at Temple

SATURDAY

Sleazy Listening at Wyndham Bowling Club
w/ HMX, Roger Perry, Bad Larry Shafta, Automatic, Big Jason Lonsdale, Dunc Tha Funk
and Uncle Bernie

Xanadu at Kings Arms w/ the Shrugs & Rawer

Irish Music Festival at Aotea Square Markets 12:00 PM

Mission Gizzard, Prolepsis, Nimbus and 5th Threat at Temple

In the Future...

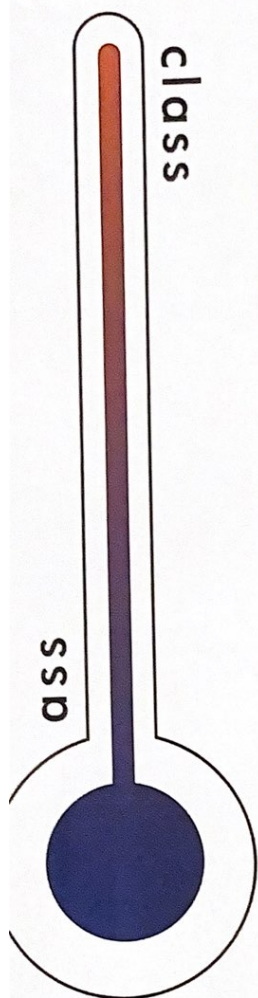
Monday, 17 March: Moby at St James, tix from Ticketek

Friday, 21 March: Lampchop at Kings Arms

Friday, 28 March: Deep Hard n Funky at St James w/ Deep Swing, Hayden Keys, Bevan Keys, Tim Phin, Eddie Amador, Dick Johnson, Greg Churchill, Soane, House of Downtown, Cuffy, Leon, Angel, Claire Del and more / tix from Real Groovy, Sounds and Texas Radio

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class

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Smart Radio Shows

The guy from Bar None that cooks the food. Excellent service.

Contemporary American Poetry 323

Inspector Gadget

Paul Wilkuntson for throwing a full large cup of coca-cola at the guys we saw at Burger King who were giving the manager grief about a mix-up with the order, being rude and generally interrupting Matt's peaceful attempts at eating his Onion Rings.

Amicable arguments

Sources of information

Chicken Pad Thai from the Ruak Thai Kitchen in the Eat Asian Food Court, mid-Queen Street

Whangarei Heads

Manic Street Preachers

Springfield (playing Dog's Bollix Friday, The Brownzy Saturday)

The Office - TV One 10:00pm, Monday Nights

Nokia 3315 (I don't care if they've been out for ages)

A good novella

ass

The guys we saw at Burger King who were giving the manager grief about a mix-up with the order, being rude and generally interrupting Matt's peaceful attempts at eating his Onion Rings.

Oscars

Bruce Springsteen

Donald Rumsfeld

P

Buses from Mt. Wellington

Flipside

50 Cent

Getting 'flashy' and 'showing off'!
(hehehe!)

Harassment by 'Student' groups during
O' Week

Amateur Poetry



spliff REPORT

Craccum presents the James Kingi Spliff Report

The Column where our resident Cannabis Sativa "expert at large" James Kingi talks about the best green he's had over the week... We here at Craccum like to think of the drug problem as such; it's not that bad people do too many drugs, it's that too many people are doing bad drugs!

This Week: Browns Bay Hydro

Hello, James Kingi here again: presenting the delicious delights of marijuana. My tastes have been dragging me back to my favourite part of the whole North Shore recently- my taste for the beach, my taste for spa pool boozin' and the bakery next to Pizza Haven. All these things and nothing else, is why I love Browns Bay. Anyway, this column is not a forum for expressing my love for the other side of the bridge. It is, amongst other things, to talk about the bud I have smoked over the last week and the conditions under which the weed was smoked. Anyway, my love of getting stoned in Browns Bay is tied up with a number of things. It is far from home, so it feels like slightly exotic. Hahaha, just kidding... Anyway, I looked up my friend Stephen this

week, who had told me about some fabulous Browns Bay hydro that has been going down (and up) around Browns Bay lately. As you know, and that which has been fore-mentioned, I am a man of many tastes- I like a bit of variety in my life. Another mission over the bridge for a spot of the good earth's greatest was just what I needed. So here goes.

Unlike the trouble and travesty of last week, this week was going to be simple. Arrive at Stephen's house. Get blazed to fuck. Try and remember if it was good or not. Mission accomplished, I believe. The hydro was really strong smoke- it knocked me on my

arse. There was no way I was going to drive after smoking a couple of good, solid cones. There was a really harsh after taste as well. Truth be told, I am not sure if it was the bong we are smoking from or the fact that we'd smoked quickly could be attributed to the fact that I felt so wasted.

MONEY SPENT: =

1x \$50 Bag (of which we smoked a selective amount)

1x \$10 Petrol (Browns Bay is a long way from home!)

1x \$3.95 Chicken Roll (From the Bakery down the road- very filling!)

Total = \$63.95

TIME SPENT: HOURS=18 (It turned into an overnight mission!)



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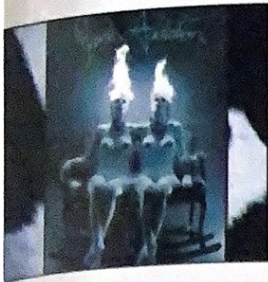
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JANES ADDICTION NOTHING SHOCKING

As reviewed by Tim Shadbolt

I like this album. It's great. It kind of reminds me of Invercargill mate. Music ed note Hahaha, good one. My son travelled up to the Big Day Out this year to see these guys. He said they were amazing. I really like the first track "Up The Beach" and that acoustic song, I haven't got the c.d near my computer. Music ed note That would be

"Jane Says"

The album cover's interesting. Two Siamese twin ladies, naked and made of Plasicene. They look realistic. Well. I don't have much more to say mate. But, thanks for the free c.d.

NIGHTMARES ON WAX

Have you heard of Nightmares on Wax? If you have then good, if you haven't then great. Why great? Great because you're about discover no less than 4 albums of chill-out, downbeat, melodic gold, gold I tell you!

A Word of Science: The First and Final Chapter (1991), Smokers Delight (1995), Carboot Soul (1998) and finally the album I will

eventually get around to reviewing Mind Elevation (2002).

Of all George Evelyn's records, it is in Mind Elevation that we find the most soulful sound. Having intently explored many-a noise over his musical career he now has decided to base an album around the strength of his beats and the melody of his vocalists.

Mind Elevation is littered with what has become the trademark sound of N.O.W. which is those intricately interesting rhythm's, but also breaks the mould with three eclectic raw vocal tracks, these being 'Date with Destiny', '70s 80s', and 'Know my Name'.

All in all an instant classic and even more so if you manage to capture one of the limited edition mix versions.

will

ROCK CITY (VERSION 2.0)

M ROYCE DA 5'9"

Reading the press release for this album had me expecting big things, I mean it made Royce 5'9" sound like the hottest thing since ice cream, citing all sorts of big names who are keen to give him praise. Sadly, I once again learned to not believe the hype. Royce 5'9" (he's five feet, nine inches tall you see) or Royce Nickel Nine made his big debut on the track "Bad Meets Evil" with Eminem on The Slim Shady LP - a track which is dark and nasty and has real bite which is sadly

lacking on this album, even in the title track "Rock City" which also features Eminem.

My overall impression was that I'd heard it all before. This is a gangsta rap album with the gist of the tracks being battle type lyrics where Royce proclaims he and his crew are the best MCs and all other MCs are shit so they better beware, basically 'I'm great, you're not' blah blah blah! There is no soul, no funk to make you want to move to the beat. Nor are there many clever lines that bring a little smile to your lips.

But I'm making this album sound like an absolute waste of time, that's not completely true because there are a couple of good tracks. The stand out track: "Boom" is in fact much better than good and it does have soul (probably because DJ Premier produced it)! "My Friend", "Take His Life" and "Life" are also good, "Life" being a nice dedication to his son. If you pop this album into your computer you also get the bonus of having the "Rock City" video clip on the CD, which is worth at least one viewing - the quality is pretty good.

The thing is Royce 5'9" is a talented MC but this album doesn't show much of what he can do in my opinion which, to quote a line is "tragic like the havoc of a nuclear bomb!" My advice is to get "Boom" if it's brought out as a single and save your pennies on this album.

By: Sherif Ibrahim

m2 is Shutting Down

First, I just wanna say Fuck you TVNZ. Other than "The Sopranos" m2 is the best thing that's happened on television in years. It promotes kiwi music (one in three music videos played are kiwi), it doesn't play eat arse pop music and it caters for various genres of music.

Once again T.V.N.Z. fucked up. They bought "Max T.V", then they sold it, that was replaced by M.T.V, which didn't last long either.

T.V.N.Z spokesman Glen Solwry said M2 was getting cut due to a "significant cost". That's ironic, considering two days after they announced m2's demise the government gave T.V.N.Z a \$12 million dollar funding increase. Well, T.V.N.Z. why don't you guys, whoever you are that makes the big decisions (probably some big fat old cunt who listens to 91zm and watches pepsi chart) sort your shit out and stop spending all your government funding on reality T.V shows and spend some of that \$12 million on keeping M2 alive.

If you watched M2 and liked it like me and all my friend did write in a letter to T.V.N.Z and complain.

Steve

FILM

Gangs of New York

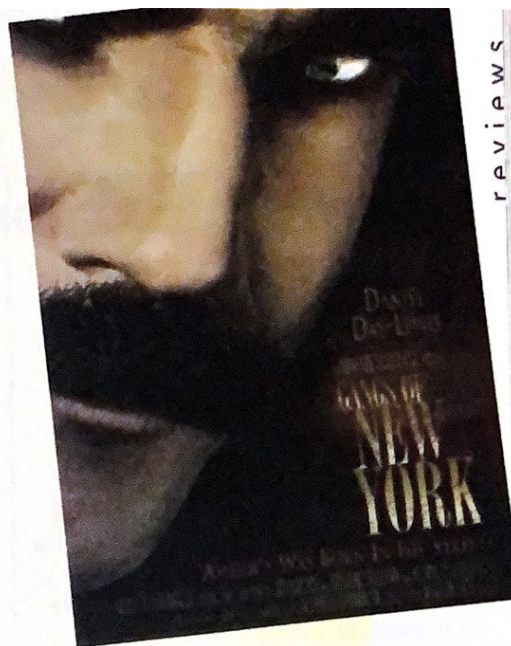
I was in two minds about going to see this movie. On one hand, it had movie icon Martin Scorsese (*Taxi driver*, *Goodfellas*) directing, returning to his favourite themes of violence, crime and religion. On the other, Leonardo DiCaprio stars. It also has 10 Oscar nominations, whether that's a good or bad thing I'll let you decide.

The story is basically about Amsterdam/DiCaprio's quest for revenge on 'The Butcher', an American gang leader who killed his immigrant Irish father in a gang war, an act he witnessed while just a young boy. Set in 19th century New York, the sets and locations do an excellent job of visually reproducing the period, which combined with Scorsese's touches make for some spectacular imagery on the big screen. While this is all very commendable, it's at an obvious expense to the actual story itself, and when a movie is over two and a half hours

long, you begin to notice. The plot's main focus seems to be stringing together epic fight scenes and brutal, bloody deaths at the hands of various sharp instruments, not the worst flaw in the world really, especially when it's some of the best on screen violence to come along in awhile.

Leonardo DiCaprio is average in the role of Amsterdam, most notably his unforgivably crap Irish accent. The same could be said for Cameron Diaz as mandatory love interest Jen, although her role is more limited in the male dominated events that unfold. Daniel Day-Lewis as The Butcher however is the complete opposite, fanfuckintastic. He'd be a dead cert for an Oscar if the award wasn't more to do with behind the scenes politics than actual performance.

It's not as good as the hype may suggest, but considering what else is currently showing, its worth a look.



CULT FILM

Avalon

Directed by Mamoru Oshii
(2001)

Fans of Manga will be familiar with Mamoru Oshii's "Ghost in a Shell", widely held along with "Akira" as being at the top of the Genre. Avalon, however, is a mix of live action and cutting edge CGI, related only to manga in directing style and the ability to show the seeming impossible.

Set in a dystopian future where the disenchanting youth have become addicted to a virtual reality computer game it would be easy to write off Avalon as horribly derivative of such films as the Matrix and the cyberspace books of William Gibson. However Avalon clearly rises above this presenting a tale with an almost Philip K. Dickian feel to the question of what is reality?

While the story line and writing is generally impressive enough, it is the special effects

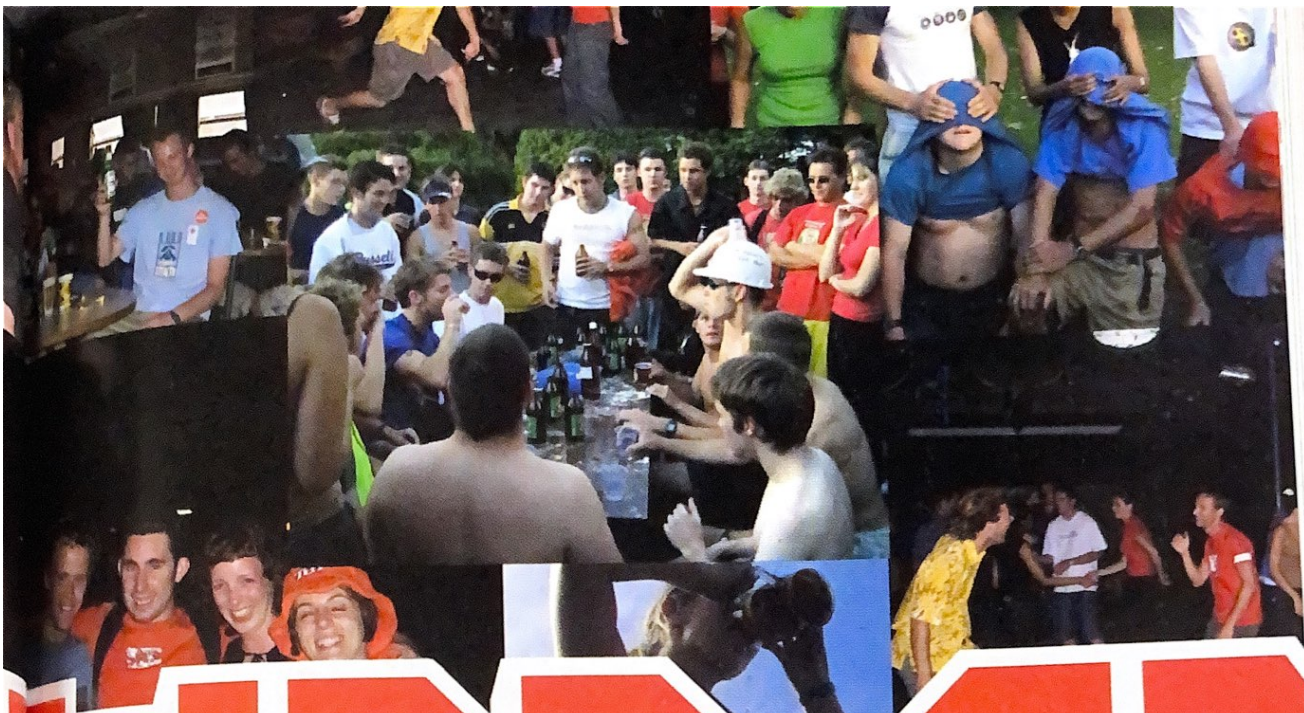
that shine through amazingly. While the "real world" is presented in subdued, almost black and white tones, the game world is filmed in rich sepia. The motion of the game players and their resulting deaths (seen as two dimensional images exploding or unwrapping) will leave anyone amazed.

Avalon is a Japanese production, filmed in Poland with Polish actors and Polish dialogue. Avalon is subtitled well on the few occasions when dialogue does occur. Thankfully the dialogue is generally sparse, enabling one to take it the full and amazing grandeur of this brilliant work.

*Avalon is available from
www.ddhouse.com in Hong Kong. Get it
while the exchange rates are cheap.*







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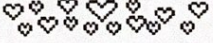



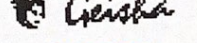


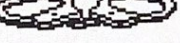
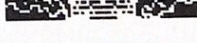
















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