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a comment

The first Tuesday in November is the day the Nation stops – and now I know why – everyone is at the Flemington Race Course (well at least it seemed that way).

I was extremely fortunate to be invited by Dr. Paul (a man I can not thank enough for giving me the opportunity) to join him at this year's race – which was also my first time to both Flemington and the Melbourne Cup.

My personal gratitude to Kerrie Stanley who made my hat for the day (see pics) which matched perfectly with my Versace tie and the yellow corsage Paul bought for the two of us to wear.

Special thanks also to Lisa, Howard and the team from Crown Casino who graciously allowed us to spend most of the afternoon in their marquee (and thank goodness they did – given the fact the rest of the place was a sea of water). The people at Crown certainly know how to entertain. Free flowing hot and cold libation, superb food, a bookie, and a great atmosphere (in addition to the wonderful company I was keeping) made it a very pleasant afternoon indeed.

The Doc and I did venture around the rest of the sprawling Flemington grounds – which did nothing for my Versace shoes – but we finally decided that it was getting a tad too cold and went home before the last race. But wow!!!! What an experience – especially seeing those magnificent animals racing around the track so closely.

Finally, congratulations to all the winners at this year's Rainbow's – everyone had a great night – and I am sure everyone is looking forward to an even bigger and better event in 2005.

From all of us at Q Magazine – please have a happy and safe Festive Season.











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We have another 5 packs this month to giveaway - so email getfree@qmagazine.com.au with "condoms" in the subject line for your chance to road test one.







Just in time for Christmas, Geoff Grainger and the team at Shock Records have given us a copy of Stonebridge's "Can't Get Enough" album, their "Put 'em High" single AND the 3CD pack of Hed Kandi World Series 3. Email getfree@gmagazine.com.au with Shock in the subject line to enter for this fabulous prize.



Just perfect for Christmas break reading, S.E.Hinton Qmagazine has 5 copies of S.E. Hinton's Hawkes Harbor to give a way kindly donated by the good folk at Pan Macmillan. Email Hawkes getfree@qmagazine.com.au with "novel" in the subject line for your chance to win.

*Conditions: All Qmagazine competitions are open to everyone, except those that specifically state you must be over 18 to enter. Competitions close on the final day of each calendar month with all prizes being drawn at 5pm the following day at Apartment 3, 15 - 17 Charnwood Road, St. Kilda 3182. Names and addresses of people winning prizes valued at or over \$250 ONLY will be published in the following issue of Qmagazine. All monthly winners are notified by email.

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[Ultimate Trance - Mixed by Matt Darey & Rank 1]

Out in all good record stores from Central Station Records is the *ULTIMATE Trance* 4 CD set.

Featuring Paul Van Dyk, Tiesto, Marco V, Agnelli + Nelson, Ferry Corsten and Darude, this set is a must for the library – particularly with the Christmas party circuit almost upon us. 57 Tracks on 4 cds – now that's one hellofa party!!

Here's one for the "blokes" in our community. VB – Slab of Rock is a 2 CD set jammed packed with the best selection of Beer Songs this Christmas. Cold Chisel, Icehouse, Hoodoo Gurus, Goanna, The Divinyls, The Choirboys – just to name a few – an endless array of classic songs to listen to while sharing a stubby or two over the Christmas break. Out now in all good stores from Festival Mushroom Records.



[Tina Arena Greatest Hits 1994 - 2004]

Greatest Hits albums rarely come as wonderfully as this one. Tina Arena's career has been one success story after the other, and the 27 tracks on this 2 cd set are pure Gold.

"This album is for the public", Tina says. "It's for the audience who have been so incredibly brave to have followed my musical journeys over the last decade"

In stores now from Sony Music – *Tina Arena Greatest Hits 1994 – 2004* is not only a great Christmas present, but a welcomed addition to any lover of Australian Music's CD collection.





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The Store

International retail group villa & hut located at the rear of the Jam Factory specializes in unique home accessories, solid timber furniture & soft furnishing individually sourced from the four corners of the globe

With a strong influence inspired by exotic destinations – the emphasis on island living & the orient – villa & hut products create a timeless look in the home that blend with a contemporary, minimal or antique style of living.

Add to the range exquisite linens, bath robes and towels, candles from Africa as well as the only 100% natural candles made from soy bean with cotton wicks, stunning books on feng shui, tribal countries and CD; s which transport you to a tropical island, handmade soaps in aromas such as red rice and vanilla - the list is endless and the choice ever changing and diverse.



The Environment

Most products are individually handcrafted by the village communities therefore providing a direct working relationship that contributes to the wellbeing of the families who need it most

Villa & Hut support eco friendly timber recycling - while most companies are still talking about it - we are doing it! No illegal wood is used in any of our products. The owners of Villa & Hut personally travel to all corners of the globe in search of beautiful, genuine timber.

Our timber products come from only two sources; most is reclaimed or recycled, the remainder comes from purpose grown timber plantations developed specifically for the wholesale timber market.

The Style

Continents & colour abound, with villa & hut produce in every palette imaginable: green Thai silk lamps, blue Moroccan ceramics, red Chinese cabinets, purple Japanese kimono cushions, tan African drums & orange Indian trinket boxes ...



As with all villa & hut product, timber quality is of the utmost. Mahogany, Chinese elm, sheesham & teak contribute to a vast range of personally select pieces that display character & history, reflected in their grain & originality.

The Textures And Materials

To create variation, depth and character while maintaining the organic-village theme, select natural or raw fibres and materials, from linen, cotton and silk for soft furnishings to rattan, teak timber and clay as well as bamboo and banana leaves for furniture and homewares.

Work woven rattan placemats or baskets and buffed or hand beaten silver against sleek polished teak and rough clay or terracotta ornaments. Soft furnishings and napery can provide the finishing touch and colour contrasts and, when combined with beading or sequins, instantly evoke a sense of opulence.

The Guarantee

At villa & hut, we hand pick what we sell - therefore we can guarantee what we sell. Most of our items can a 10 year warrantee. If for any reason any of our products fail to meet your expectations then we will replace or repair free of charge - how many other stores will do that!



The store also guarantees immaculate service with staff that are well trained in all the products and their care as well as suggesting what goes with what.

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YAY! It's the holiday season and whether you've taken your holidays or not, you will have at least a few public holidays to keep your spirits high. Undoubtedly, given the cheer of Christmas and New Years, a few dusty days of couch recovery will be in order. So stock up now on Mars Bars, Gatorade, Berocca and if your head isn't pounding too hard, a good book to keep you company.

To get you in the mode, I've reviewed just the book for you! It's more a Halloween theme than Christmas cheer, but it has a feel good factor to it too, so it just slipped into the "I'm glad to be alive" category that befits this season. And you know hat, if it doesn't have that effect on you, certain parts of this novel will make you feel relieved that at least you're only suffering from a hangover!

Incidentally, Q Mag is also handing out a few copies of this gem, ... so read on and find out why it's well worth the effort of trying to grab one.

HAWKES HARBOR - S.E. Hinton

From the internationally acclaimed author of The Outsiders, comes this haunting tale of Jamie Sommers and his journey from vagrancy, through to suffering, retribution and finally self worth.

Having lost his mother in childhood after being born out of wedlock in the Bronx in 1950, then suffering the betrayal of the one remaining adult who had vowed to take care of him; Jamie Sommers acquired a sense of his own expediency at a very early age.

This carried through to his vacuous relationships, his reckless abandon and lack of respect for not only his life, but the lives of others as well.

Jamie was not only one a one lane highway to a young death, but he had also placed himself in the invidious position of being completely forgettable. Only a few would remember him, and only Kell, his partner in crime (quite literally) would hold onto that memory for any reasonable length of time.

It was ironic then that it took a life sapping rendering of his neck by Grenville Hawkes, a blood sucking Vampire (are there are any other sorts?) to lead him onto an unpredictable, wince worthy, but a perversely reassuring path ...

I won't say anymore, just because I want you to get into this gradually unravelling tale of horror and pain that escapes the Stephen King horror archetype through its insights into the dynamics of guilt, dependency, obligation, love and the symbiotic relationships that can form between slave and master.

After ploughing through the blood, sex, terror and devastation (that had me super glued to the book), I was surprised to close the back page feeling empowered for Jamie in a conclusion that would be a tragedy for any other character but R.L. Stines.

So there you go...get your rear into gear and get hold of this gripping tale.

To Celebrate Christmas 2004 and your support of Qmagazine, we have put together a fantastic "hamper" of goodies for one lucky Q Reader to win.



From Tessa Furniture we have a fabulous swivel Chair – visit www.tessafurniture.com.au for stockists and a list of their full range of furniture.

From Kusco Murphy we have a fabulous basket of body care products – the full range of products and stockists are listed at www.kuscomurphy.com.au



From OUT Video we have the full Queer as Folk Series 1, 2, and 3 Disc sets (Series 4 showing on SBS from November 1st) – visit www.out.com.au for the latest releases, competitions and more.





From Peri Homeworks Collection we have Bed Linen from their quality range. The sheets set is called Peri "Fine Linen" and consists of 100% Pure Cotton Flat Sheet, Fitted Sheet and 2 x Pillowcases (white) – go to www.peri.com.au to view their full range of amazingly wonderful products.

Simply email competitions@qmagazine.com.au with "Q Christmas" in the subject line to go into the draw. Q Christmas is drawn this month, so don't miss out on your chance to win – see conditions for details.

Conditions: The Q Christmas competition is open to everyone. Competition closes on the 21st of December 2004 with prize being drawn at 5pm on the following day at Apartment 3, 15 – 17 Charnwood Road, St. Kilda 3182. The winner's Christian name and suburb will be published in the January issue of Qmagazine. Winner will be notified by email.





DJ Steve Z appears at D.T.'s every Sunday from 4pm. He gives us an insight into what **Z** music makes him tick and "turns him on".

1. ACCROSS THE SEA -francesco Diaz featuring Benjamin Boyce.

This is a beautiful little track that just seemed to flow right into my heart the first time I heard it. It's been there ever since with it's flowing relaxed vocals complementing its energetic rhythm in perfect harmony. It pacifies and relaxes while at the same time gives a boppy warm and fuzzy kind of energy.

2. DADDY - Butch La Butch.

I will never forget the first time I heard the one they call Daddy. It was Saturday night, Butch in the blue room with his vinyl and I do mean "his" vinyl as I found out 6 months later that he was the one who had put it together. It bounces and flows in all the right ways and when the baseline kicks in....well talk about a wet spot.

3. ARE U JEALOUS - Dope and Dusted.

This one never fails to get a reaction. It's in my heart for it's cheeky vocals and my favourite scratching phrase ever "it is so big".

4. LOVE DON'T LIVE - Michael Procter.

Ahh, the funky baselines. The gospel piano and that sexy male vocal that just makes me want to call my man, confess all my sins and then beg for mercy.

5. SKINJAM - Hard Soul.

One of the more obscure tracks in my collection. I often see its interesting manner and lack of vocals go over some people's heads. But it never fails to pick me up when I'm feeling low on energy. It helps me focus through that brain strain they call mixing. P.S. The coffee at DT's is "really" good.

6. DON'T YOU GO AWAY - Africanism.

It makes me laugh, it makes me smile. What more can I say, it's in my heart.

7. YOU GIVE ME EVERYTHING - Mark John featuring Simon Grey.

Well let's just say that it reminds me of things. You know, memories and stuff. Dreams to, dreams of the future.

8. HEART OF AFRICA - Martin Solveig.

Heart of Africa tells a story about something that is very dear to me and helps to explain how I feel. I would think that the people who know the track would understand what I mean.

9. FEEL THE VIBE - Izzy B feat. Kayley.

I just love music with a lot of feeling and emotion to it. This track reminds me to stop for a moment and take notice of all the good vibes and positive energy that surround us but are so often drowned out by the more negative side of life. Take a moment, sometimes happiness matters more.

10. LOVE WILL SAVE THE DAY - Marlon D featuring Jaqu'e.

A song of hope. It stirs the emotions. They say that art in any form is made to create or provoke an emotional response. Therefore, this song is art.

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A PEAK INTO 2005 – MESOTHERAPY

Well I hope you all took a plunge on my Melbourne Cup MAGAZII tips in the last issue and now have heaps of cash to spend on your looks. At the last Cosmetic Medicine and Surgery Conference in Canberra some 2 months ago there was a great presentation on a new T treatment modality hitting the streets, call Mesotherapy.



Mesotherapy is the micro-injection of dozens of different types of pharmaceutical compounds into the skin (and I mean just "pricking" the skin, so don't worry you needle-phobes) which can correct a wide range of skin problems.

This therapy is huge in Eastern Europe, and gaining momentum worldwide. The compounds placed just into the skin increase blood flow and cellular renewal and can "heal" many defects. It's the "hard-basket" issues which make us so excited like Stretch Marks, Vitiligo (pale patches), Scars and the Tightening of fine skin like the skin just under the eyes, yes guys and gals, those baggy eyes that have been so hard to treat in the past.

The treatment in painless really (trust me I'm a Dr) and apart from a few tiny pin-prick marks which are gone in a day or two is side-effect free.

Experience is growing here in Oz, so don't rush in just yet, but place a note in your diary for about April next year and have a consultation. Several treatment will be required and prices vary enormously on how large the treatment area is and what compounds are used (approx. \$200-400 per treatment) but results are permanent.

This is just a "teaser" of an article, but have a look on the www if you like and press the pause button while we get our act together.

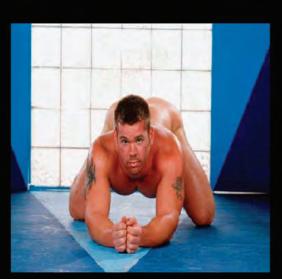
Cheers, Dr Lookgood.

Show the state of the state of

"Have to read my Q magazine before I get dressed or even have sex as there's always something to learn from it"

Congratulations to Michael from Port Melbourne who has won our December "Show Your Q" competition and is the recipient of our \$100 prize. Michael will also go into the draw for the \$1000 prize being drawn at the end of 2005.

Enter "Show Your Q" by sending a picture of you and your Q – with an appropriate caption - to competitions@qmagazine.com.au.



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ALL GAY ALL WELCOME OPEN 7 DAYS



This issue I share with you a fashion dilemma that I trust has been experienced by you all - Faults. The inconvenience and displeasure of a purchase that in its practical purpose fails. Whether it be a loose stitch, button or poor quality in general, the effects can be catastrophic to the performance of the product.

It's a side of fashion that is rarely discussed and one that a consumer should rarely have to endure. It is one thing to be an avid supporter of fashion... A creator, a buyer and general lover of all things beautiful, but what happens when our fashion fails us in its quality and service and we do nothing?

I write of quality for being the reason of its fault in the first place. I then mention service for the way in which a company handles the complaint. Nine times out of ten this could be the main influence of giving up the fight, for belief that we are at a dead end and insignificant. Now this is only a relaxed statement and is not meant as an offence to anyone in the service industry, but I recently had an experience where a faulty product left me spending tireless hours circling around staff members to no fast avail or resolution.

One day I randomly saw a pair of tan shoes in a window display that were the perfect match for a suit I already owned. Knowing the rarity of the situation, I pondered it as fate and as I had already fallen in love with them, I purchased the pair.

For the next few weeks they fast became my favourite pair as I travelled, partied and worked with them and not surprisingly, received many compliments on them. Wear by wear I felt the underside of my right foot become more sensitive to the elements of the weather. Come winter when stepping into the rain became more frequent, I flipped over the shoe to find the soul completely disintegrated at its centre.

As I wiped my tears and apologised to the neighbours for my cursive language, I calmly tied the laces together and sat them on a stand to be returned to the store of purchase. As life should have it, I was then flown interstate for work and it had been months upon my return to take the shoes back. At this point I had moved on with another fad, but felt if there was a chance of getting the pair I loved so dearly repaired, I should.

I went to the store only to find an empty shell of what it once was. In the time I was away, the store had closed. Thankfully there was another outlet close by, so in I walk to explain the situation. The staff viewed the shoe and agreed that a claim should be lodged. I left the store feeling content that if consumer affairs had seen the evidence, I would have a fair case.

My frustrations began all of three weeks later as throughout this period I had heard nothing from the company. No one called to let me know that my claim had been received, that my patronage was appreciated and the matter was being dealt with as fast as company policy would allow. Instead I found myself following up the staff members that had dealt with my claim.

Ordinarily this process would have already become too much of a hassle and the shoes would have quickly made their way to a charity bin for salvage. But given that I represent the fashion industry as a journalist and promote the industry as a fashion stylist, I had motivation to continue the complaint in order to make a professional statement. In my mind, If I was finding it difficult to resolve a fairly simple situation, than surely the same frustration is experienced by consumers who may never act on their right and as a result, companies would unfairly be making profits at the consumers expense.

So, I continued to persist through altercations at many levels of management with one thought in my mind. It is factual that the product was faulty for it is abnormal for one half of a pair to disintegrate and not the other. I finally spoke with the head honcho [I had to contact him], who explained to me that I needed my claim number for him to enter the system. [I then had to recontact the store and once again, contact his office.] Respectfully, once it had reached this level, the claim was approved the same day and I received a credit in my name. I am sure that the decision was more to do with the fact that I had caused a fuss, rather that it being worthy of its own right.

If anything, I could have used my position to let you all know the company I was dealing with and its location, but I am not sharing my experience with you for revenge. Merely to give you all a little bit of faith. To remind you that we have rights as consumers and that in doing nothing we are rewarding that which should not be rewarded. It may not be significant to one individual, but to a whole by not exercising this right, the failure may be our own.

A copy of this article will be sent to the parties involved, in hope that for the future, similar situations will be dealt with attentively in favour of the client. Next time they may not be as lucky to serve a journalist that believes in karma and may have their name tainted as is rightly deserved. It will also be sent to them for you, the readers, in the hope that your dealings of a similar nature are somewhat more successful.

Faults do happen. Fabric wears and mistakes are made. But, as a legally blonde sister once famously quoted... 'Stand up! For if you do nothing you can only blame yourself, for you let it happen!'

X Michael

Carp

capers

Do we need hairnets, or do we need hairnets! November was THE month of the year for both us girls doing the run-a-round. First off to trot was my good self along at Oaks day in the Birdcage at Flemington. Now you may think that being a slightly larger woman with red hair would be a negative thing at the track, but let me tell you, there were several trainers that spent the whole day eying me up and giving me a good slap on the rump....

Meanwhile, my dearest sister Tiffany, decided to go and road test the latest pills, health tonics from Columbia. Unfortunately, (well, I suppose it depends on your opinion really), we haven't heard from her since. Apparently she was last seen water skiing up the Amazon without skies, and doing it head first with her hands tied behind her back – if she would only learn to speak the language properly, she wouldn't get herself in so much trouble with the 'health' Lords - . Anyhoo... Tiffany's brother Dale, (the D in DT's), was quite grateful that Tiffany was tied up, as it allowed him and his team to go on the campaign trail for the local elections.



Now, for those of you who weren't there. Visualise this if you can. Old man in hat, holding balloons in park. Old man offers balloons to little children. Children get happy and walk away with mummy. Five minutes later – the paparazzi turn up. "Can we 'ave a picture of the candidate with some supporters and balloons please?" Now we've all heard of taking candy from babies, but really, running after kids in the park demanding your '*@-ing balloons back 'cause the press has turned up?! Well, all I can say is, DO WE NEED someone like that in council.....?

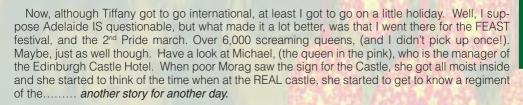








An alternative look at a lads, girls night out with Tiffany & Morag



The highlight of November though, HAD to be the BOY auction at the Greyhound hotel. Although my dear sister Kerrie LaGore has had many boys on stage over her very, very, long career, even SHE managed to get her knickers in a twist over the amount of pure, gorgeousness that was on the stage. The fact that it happened in the Greyhound just shows that cute people DO exist outside Commercial Rd. Apparently, Laurie the owner, was way too busy 'interviewing' next years Boys in his office to take part in our official photo shoot.











Well, as we go to print, the electioneers are still tallying the votes in the elections, and Laurie is STILL interviewing the boys at the Greyhound. Apart from all of that, I sincerely DO wish all of our readers, and particularly the boys and staff at the Peel, a very merry Christmas, and I hope 2005, will be good to ALL of us.

Love Morag.

PS A telex from Tiffany, informs me that we'll "....be alright for Christmas boys!...", but just in case she doesn't get herself out of this little mess, she wishes all of you a happy and joyful season – especially the boys & girls at DT's.

PPS – I promised my brother Tom, that I would give THROB a plug for New Years Eve at the Peel. EVERYBODY! THERE'S A THROB AT THE PEEL ON NEW YEARS EVE!

That'll be \$100, thank you Thomas dear!



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one Night Stand

We revisited some places on the North side for this issue – and did it on a Thursday night (some more comments about this later). In the new year, we will conducting One Night Stand in a whole different range of places throughout Melbourne and surrounds, so if you want to be involved, send in your details.



[7.00pm]

Rendezvous – Vibe on Smith. The boys have already found each other by the time I arrive, so I leave them to it – finding Jimi (the owner) and catching up with him.

Martin's first impressions: "Nice looking. Someone I will have a fun night with". Kevyn adds: "Cute. Nice shirt – where did he get it?".

When talking about Vibe, the boys were very complimentary.

Martin: "Great Food and Staff!" Kevyn: "Friendly and welcoming staff. Comfortable and relaxed atmosphere – funky décor too. They have a great choice of food too – my meal was tasty and well presented".

[10.00pm]

The Peel – here we come. Thursday nights are always a gamble with nite clubs, but the boys sat happily in the corner chatting. Both Martin and Kevyn commented that it was quiet – but concede it was a week night. They were however complimentary about the venue, the staff and the music.

Anything of a "romantic nature" happening?

Martin: "We got along really well - on a friendly basis". Kevyn: "Really nice guy - good friend potential". Ed: oh well, you win some you lose some <giggles>





Meet Martin: 27, 67 kgs, a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative. Described by friends and his ex as caring, energetic, fun and always busy. He enjoys gym, rowing, hanging out with friends and family. Martin's turn-ons include guys with a great smile, who are fun loving and outdoors types. Listed among his bad habits is "too energetic" (from the time he gets out of bed).



[11.30pm]

A quick stroll down the street and we enter Wet on Wellington.

Martin says: "Certainly not the way I would normally end a date, but the place was great and the staff were fantastic".

Kevyn adds: "Wet on Wellington was very classy – clean and well lit so it didn't seem sleazy".

In conclusion:

Martin: "Would definitely see him again socially. The venues were great".

Kevyn: "He's a good guy and I had a fun evening with him. Would go back to the venues".

* Both guys added that a Thursday night was not the best night to be going out on the town Ed: jots down for future reference <wink>

Rating Each Other:

Martin on Kevyn / Kevyn on Martin

Eyes 6/8, Sense of Humour 8/8, Intelligence 7/10, Smile 7/10, Butt 6/9, Sex Appeal 5/8, Overall Click Factor 6/6

Rating The Venues:

Martin / Kevyn

Vibe – Smith Street, Fitzroy. 7/9
The Peel Dancebar – Cnr. Peel and Wellington
Streets, Collingwood. 7/6





If you would like to go on a Qmagazine One Night Stand, simply email your Full Name, Age, and mobile and/or home phone number to ons@qmagazine.com.au – please include a current photograph. All One Night Stand participants must be over 18.



Meet Kevyn: 28, 73kgs, an Administration Manager. He enjoys volley ball, swimming, clubbing, road trips, dinner parties and more. Good hair, nice body, good style and "a nice bulge in a pair of jeans" are among his turn ons. Kevyn admits to one bad habit – leaving his socks on the lounge room floor but says his friends would say if asked to describe him "Darling – You're Fabulous".



"(What you seek, is seeking you!)" Favourite quote.

At the tender age of 23, Ben Angel is a young entrepreneur who is an established life/small business coach who has succeeded in advancing personal and professional lifestyles for over 2 years. With big plans for the future, Ben's current focus is introducing speed dating to the gay community with "Blusuga Speed Dating" and developing a means for businesses to connect via networks with "Business Speed Networking".

"I understand the feeling of being single and the dating scene in the gay community it can be very much a mind field at times. At pubs, clubs or social groups the typical scene is that you'll see someone in the distance but don't have the courage to approach them or anyone else for that matter.

Speed dating is working well for the straight community, I believe now it's our turn. Blusuga speed dating gives single and eligible gay men the opportunity to meet other single men with shared interests. The night removes common doubts, which run through every single guys mind; does he like me? Will he reject me? How embarrassing, if he does! If you don't receive a mutual connection then no one is none the wiser of your feelings. What we've created is a sure fire fun, flirty and fantastic night out for all involved."

Guys get to date up to 20 dates in the course of one night, spending a total of up to 8 minutes with each. After each speed date, guys then get to score their interest in their "wish lists". At the end of the night, match ups occur and all mutual connections are presented in a personalised "Little Black/Blu Book".

"Hosting the events is fascinating to see all our guests interact, very unlike the usual gay scene."

Having coached numerous business owners over the years that have excellent products and services without the know how to promote and network correctly I realised the potential and the necessity for the same speed concept in the business world.

As is speed dating to the dating world, speed networking will revolutionise how businesses work together to create mutual opportunities. All business must pre qualify to eliminate any time wasters. The main aim is for businesses to set up possible strategic alliances, host beneficiaries, promote their products, expand networks, create contra deals, give and ask for referrals. Business Speed Networking requests that all business owners are clear about their purpose upon application.

At the end of the day, Speed Dating and Speed Networking are available to make your life a whole lot easier.

For more information on either of these services you can contact Melben Enterprises on 03 9832 0619 or visit www.blusuga.com for more information on Speed Dating.

Q Magazine – supporting our community.



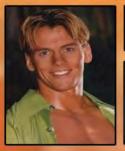
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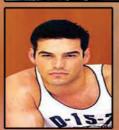


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The Immigration Museum will be presenting an exhibition of costumes and accessories from China's many ethnic nationalities from 1 December 2004 to 14 March 2005, in an exclusive showing direct from the Chinese National Museum of Ethnology in Beijing.

Chinese Costumes. Garments and accessories of China's nationalities is being presented for the first and only time in Australia at the Immigration Museum.

An exhibition representing China's rich and varied cultural traditions, Chinese Costumes presents clothing and accessories from 14 of China's ethnic nationalities, including the northern Kirgiz, Mongolian and Uygur, and the southern Zhuang, Yao, Lisu, Miao and Jino. All the clothing on display is still worn today: for purposes from work and family life, to ritual and celebration.

The costumes and accessories feature a variety of impressive techniques, such as fine embroidery and appliqué, delicate wax painting, weaving, jewellery, beading, dying and batik. Finely decorated headdresses and hats are also presented as a vital part of costuming traditions.

Some of the 58 objects to be shown in Chinese Costumes include: a finely-wrought silver headdress from the Miao ethnic nationality; highly decorated cloth baby-carrying braces; an historic brocaded quilt from the Li ethnic nationality and colourful ornamented Mongolian headdresses and

embroidered boots. Items are mostly hand-made and impressively embellished.

"We are delighted to host this fascinating selection of objects, which is testimony to the skills and artistry of Chinese culture," comments Immigration Museum Manager, Padmini Sebastian. "The costumes and accessories on show display both the cultural depth and breadth, as well as the practical simplicity and elegance of the many national costumes of China. This exhibition presents a rare opportunity, and will have broad appeal – for everyone interested in Chinese culture and society, in costume and design, and in craft and textiles."

Although Han Chinese constitute around 90% of China's 1.3 billion population, another 55 ethnic nationalities also live within the nation's borders, each with their own distinctive heritage.

Chinese Costumes is a Dragon Trails event, celebrating Melbourne's China connections – for more information visit www.thatsmelbourne.com.au The Immigration Museum is located at 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Open Daily, 10am-5pm. General enquiries: (03) 9927 2700. Admission: \$6 adult; FREE child/conc



QMagazine - Proud to support the Immigration Museum.



CJ, as he's known to his friends and colleagues, is 35, and a man with a tenyear plan, and his fingers in many different pies, so to speak. Moving down from Sydney, he opened The Shaft Store in Izett Street, Prahran twelve months ago and hasn't really looked back.

For those who don't know The Shaft Store, it's an adult entertainment shop. Nothing new in that, perhaps, but the difference here is that it is a gay-specific store. It sells, obviously, adult magazines, videos and DVDs, as well as toys, sex aids and everything in between. He'd run an adult bookstore in Sydney for five years, and when he moved to Melbourne, saw an opportunity for his venture. "The amount of people that came into Sydney with suitcases full of porn to exchange was incredible; boys bitching about the price of gay porn down here," says CJ. "I came down with my partner, walked into a few shops in the gay areas, and was appalled at the price and the attitude that I got when I walked in the door. Gay boys pay a lot more for a DVD, therefore they deserve a better service and a better environment to buy it in. Adult bookstores have been dragged out of the Dark Ages, and people need to realise that it's just another product."

So was there a market for a gay-specific adult store? "There's a huge market. The whole adult industry has been flooded with online stuff, but basically the gay scene boils down to a small shelf in a bizarre section of a heterosexual adult bookshop, and so I've turned the tables. We now have a section, which contains heterosexual, transsexual and lesbian."

CJ prides himself on stocking mid-price products, and the best-selling lines are the sex aids and toys.

"Toys are huge! I've sold more toys in 12 months here than I did in five years in Sydney, because people have never had the choice to buy something at a reasonable price. I only buy stuff I would use myself. I don't do novelty; if you want novelty, you can go somewhere else. Every other bookstore in Australia does it. It's serious toys, but good quality at a fantastic price. The jockstraps have been selling unbelievably because of the ad. I've never advertised I sell jockstraps, but people saw my original ad, and they have been coming in thick and fast."

There's always been a lot of talk about the pink dollar. that so-called disposable income that gay men are famous for. Is that myth or reality? "Reality, most definitely. Certain nationalities have a bigger disposable income than others when it comes to gay products." But for CJ, it's not about the money. "Queens need somewhere to shop. I've opened up to provide a service, and something that's never been done properly in the gay scene in Melbourne. All gay, all welcome is the motto. I love making people happy, and the fact that everybody walks out happy with what they've got, I'm even happier. There's a group of gay men, over 50s, who have now come out, because you can be gay; they now don't fit into the gay scene, and they can come in here in chat to me, and feel a part of gay society, and that makes me happy. The stories I have heard are just wonderful. The interaction over the counter is what I enjoy."

Quite separate from his retail venture, CJ has also recently bought the Australian designed and made men's underwear label, Ombre, something that he is very passionate about. As a label, it's ten years old, and only now are Calvin Klein taking original Ombre designs and using them in their new lines. 2(x)ist is essentially a copy of Ombre designs, says CJ. "It was ahead of its time. The previous owners sold the label to me because I was their favourite customer, and they knew I was passionate about it. I have 27 pairs; once I wore one pair, I got rid of everything else.

"The amount of people I see who show me their underwear because they're wearing Ombre. People buy in 20s because they love it so much. Once they get into it, they don't want to wear anything else. It's high-end price-wise, but I've had some for five years, and only now considering throwing them out. They've never had one person send it back to complain. There's a guy in Queensland who has had 15 pairs of bathers made from Ombre designs; that's how passionate people are about it."

CJ has big plans for Ombre, including sportswear, sleepwear and swimwear, and is in the process of finding factories able to manufacture the underwear. "I've been enquiring around, and they've said to me that the best place to have it made is in Queensland, because of the machinery they have. It's going to be hard, but it's the joys of small business." CJ's hoping to launch the range, with bangs and whistles, sometime in the next month or so. Stay tuned for that one.

As for his ten-year plan, that's going well too. "I've got another shop I'm hoping to open by the end of winter next year, there's a wholesale business coming up. I've got a lot of plans. I love to be busy, I love work."

Interview by Tim Hunter

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HEIDE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART presents Heavenly Creatures 4 December 2004 – 30 January 2005

The angel is one of art history's most intriguing motifs. Often luminously beautiful and mysterious, angels are compelling subjects in Western art. Featuring more than thirty-five extraordinary works from over sixty years, Heavenly Creatures in Heide II presents a broad diversity of Angels created by Australian artists in paintings, earthenware, photographs, works on paper and kinetic sculpture.

Gracing the human imagination for more than 3000 years, angels are as much a product of the mystic imagination as Christian theology. Since they were first represented in ancient Greek mythology, they have been almost endlessly re-imagined throughout art and literature in a bewildering array of forms, stories and roles.

The works in Heavenly Creatures have been selected to appeal to a broad cross-section of religious and secular cultural audiences, and across all age groups. Key works in the exhibition include indigenous artist Mawalan Marika's bark painting Crucifixion from 1968, which is a very rare depiction of the crucifixion of Christ with Christ's soul seen as a winged form, ascending to heaven. There is also Lyndal Walker's Father Time 2003 which plays with the tropes of fashion and cosmetics advertising, presenting a winged, suited



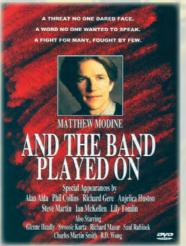
young male, displaying a small watch. Jesse Marlow's Ngukurr Bulldogs coach and players, 2003 is a poignant and ironic image that transfigures its subject, an indigenous football coach, into an "incidental" angel.

The range of works represented in Heavenly Creatures are assembled from key public and private national collections, and include important works by leading Australian modernists such as Arthur Boyd, John Perceval and Mirka Mora.

Heide Museum of Modern Art 7 Templestowe Rd Bulleen Victoria 3105 Australia Hours: Tues-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat/Sun/Public Holidays 12noon-5pm Admission: All Areas - Adult \$12/ Seniors \$10/ Concession \$8 Heide III / Heide I - Adult \$8/ Seniors \$7/ Concession \$5 (includes entry to Heide II)







I defy anyone with a heart not to shed a tear at times through this emotional roller-coaster which signifies the discovery, naming, and fight for recognition, Government policy and vaccine of what has become arguably the most disastrous epidemic of modern society. I am, of course, referring to what was originally called GRID (Gay Related Immune Deficiency)- and is now known as HIV/AIDS (Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Virus).

A star studded cast - Alan Alda, Phil Collins, Richard Gere, Anjelica Huston, Steve Martin, Ian McKellen, Lily Tomlin and led brilliantly by Matthew Modine - presents an unforgettable tale of scientific struggle, media manipulation, corruption, deceit, tragedy and (some may add) triumph.

The story starts on the Ebola River in 1975 where a whole community is found dead. This virus - fortunately - was contained and eradicated....but it was a sign of what was to come. Originally considered a Gay Plague or Gay Cancer, it soon became evident that it was not - nor is it today either. As a film it is a masterpiece (in my humble opinion) presenting the facts in a human and "easy to understand" fashion. An absolute must for anyone who collects historical, medical or political titles (regardless of sexuality).

One point I must make, is that I found myself angry beyond control with what the American People (in my opinion, loosely) call the Reagan Administration. Their inability to recognise this virus and act accordingly may not have directly caused the deaths of many - but it certainly did not prevent them either. A sad and pathetic indictment on a Government that was elected to protect and serve all of it's constituency - not just those who fitted in with their political agenda. In the case of the Reagan Administration, Government Policy certainly was a contradiction in terms.

And the Band Played On is released by HBO Home Video., and the DVD is both stylishly packaged and full of fabulous extra features.

For the full review of this film and others – visit http://groups.msn.com/outloudandproud

E-mail: enquiries@drpaulspano.com Web Site: www.drpaulspano.com





Col Hahne is the Chief Executive Officer of GAL Home Loan Service, which, as the name suggests, is a home loan service for the gay and lesbian community. Not that it's exclusively just for poofs and dykes everyone's welcome as a customer, and in fact, that's what was behind the service to start with when Hahne established it four years ago.

"Originally it was because of the actual treatment we received from the banks," explains Hahne. "My partner and I applied for a home loan, and the bank manager was fantastic until he found the definition of partner didn't mean business partner, and our whole treatment changed instantly. It still happens today, not as often obviously. The brand has grown into a brand recognised for its non-discrimination. People know they can come to us and be treated equally. That's how it started, and it's grown nationally at a very quick pace."

It's not just home loans that GAL provides now either. They've just launched a worldwide credit card, which is the world's first card for the gay and lesbian community. "It is here for the community, and we hope they will support it as well." The reasoning behind the credit card is essentially that the business that is generated through the GAL credit card will benefit the GLBTI community. "What does your bank's credit card give back to our community? That's the angle we're taking," Hahne says. "On top of that, we have 12 other GAL entities, in services such as insurance, recruitment, financial planning, and superannuation."

Along with all these services, and many others one the way, GAL has made a name for itself as a supporter and sponsor for many community events, including our own Midsumma Festival. "We have four states on 3-year sponsorship tenders or contracts for their festivals in each capital city. We've expanded further than that; we given money back into HIV and medical services too."

Given the discrimination Hahne and his partner experienced when they first applied for a home loan, he believes that the gay and lesbian community needs businesses such as GAL. "I think it's important in any culture or community. I think it's great that people launch it within a particular type of community or

sexual preference." Of course, it's not just within the GLBTI community that GAL is prospering. In 2003, they won 3 AMA (Australian Mortgage Association) awards out of a possible 12 nationally, and this year, they won the Most Prestigious Award with their industry body, MIAA, on both a state and national level. They're obviously doing something right.

And the pink dollar? Does it exist? "It's obviously there. There are gay couples who have a high disposable income, but there are gay couples that have children too. Generally though, as a golden rule, financial planners look at the marketplace, and the pink dollar is there already. It's marketed as if it's there, and it obviously is, or else people wouldn't be looking to tap into that market. Most people's assumption is that gay couples don't have children, and that perception from outer communities looking in is that the pink dollar is there. But how do you determine this? What are the stats that they're showing, and where do they get them from, and how many people do they actually screen?"

Along with the launch of the entities already set up, GAL is going from strength to strength, and looking at adding further strings to their bow. "They will provide a whole range of services and products designed around the gay and lesbian community. The brand is recognised as a place where they can get great service, all our feedback says the same. So we're tapping into different markets and providing the same level of service across the board." They've also just launched GAL IT solutions. "It will be a marketable company that has hardware, software, technicians, a finance software package and all of that. So we are really going from strength to strength."

Apply for your GAL credit card online at www.gal-homeloanservice.com

By Tim Hunter

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