

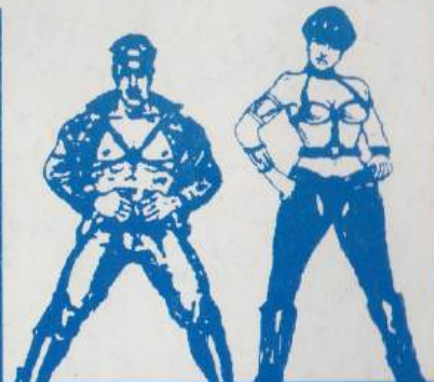
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## Sydney Fetish Times

Issue 2  
March / April  
1998

Your Guide to  
the Sydney  
Scene

SM Culture Cringe  
Australia & the  
World Scene

Mardi Gras  
Photos

Pull-Out  
Whats-On  
Guide

Play Party  
Etiquette

Competition:  
Get your Body  
Painted by  
World Champion  
Tim Gratton

Goth Scene

X Dressing  
Make-up Tips

Free





## BDSM Around the World

Australia's cultural cringe is part of our mythology, and like most myths its existence has a grain of truth to it. In the world of fetish and BDSM many participants assume that Europe and America are the centres for the most skilful and intense play, activities which fulfil the participants fantasies. Ms K., Ms M. and Fister would beg to differ. Ms K. is an Australian Mistress, who is fairly well known in the American scene, visiting every year to participate in parties and conferences. Ms M. is an American Mistress now living here whose whips are considered among the best on both continents. Fister our roving pervy reporter who visited Europe last year for a five week fetish tour.

Ms K. and Ms M. say that in the USA there is a lot more organisations, conferences, parties and other events, not surprising since there are around 15 times as many people there as here. The level of play is similar however, that is the quality is similar even though the quantity is much greater. They both say that to become a member of most organisations you have to have participate introductory courses to ensure you have certain levels of skill, although you can gain entry by having some members give you references. They suggest that, as a result, you see more dedicated public players, while we achieve similar levels of excellence and creativity on a smaller scale.

Fister was flattered by the respect and admiration he found Europeans had for his stories about our scene, yet was surprised by a culture (on the continent) which had not incorporated the safety practices we take to be second nature. America, by contrast, the culture of hygiene is very strong almost to the point of obsession.

We have a continuous exchange of skills and culture with both Europe and America. Most of our explicitly expressed ethical traditions (safe, sane and consensual) come from the response of the American gay leather scene to AIDS in the eighties. Both places seem to supply equal amounts of entertaining materials, such as magazines and videos; but how-to manuals and books on psychology, philosophy and ethics mostly come from America. We seem to produce very little material, entertaining or educational, locally; so its little wonder we think everything worth doing is happening overseas.

We seem to be between the very libertine Europeans and the relatively structured and moralistic culture of the Americans. In America smoking, alcohol or any other intoxicants



Fister & Skin Two Publisher, Tim Woodward (photo by Medusa)

In this episode we look at the Mardi Gras and the international BDSM scene. For the biggest event on alternative sexuality calender, the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, it's pictures, pictures, pictures. Our feature article is a comparison of the European, American and our own fetish and BDSM scenes. Ms K. gives an introduction to the etiquette of a play party and Stav continues his introduction to the Goth scene. And of course we have our usual report from the diva of cross-dressers, Geena G-Spot. We hope you had a Happy Mardi Gras, everyone.

Editor

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Tim Gratton, Stevie, Sue Moont.

Cover Photo Tim Gratton.

### Believe It or Not

Below is an extract from a fax that was handed to me, I'll let you decide is it true or just another urban myth.

Actual article from the LA Times:

"In retrospect, lighting the match was my big mistake. But I was only trying to retrieve the gerbil" Eric Tomaszewski told bemused doctors in the Severe Burns Unit of Salt Lake City Hospital. Tomaszewski, and his homosexual partner Andrew 'Kiki' Farrum, had been admitted for emergency treatment after a felching session had gone seriously wrong. "I pushed a cardboard tube up his rectum and slipped Raggot our gerbil, in" he explained. "As usual, Kiki shouted out 'Armageddon.'" My cue that he'd had enough. I tried to retrieve Raggot but he wouldn't come out again so I peered into the tube and struck a match, thinking the light might attract him."

At a hushed press conference, a hospital spokesperson described what happened next. "The match ignited a pocket of intestinal gas and a flame shot out of the tubing, igniting Mr. Tomaszewski's hair and severely burning his face. It also set fire to the gerbil's fur and whiskers which in turn ignited a larger pocket of gas further up the intestine, propelling the rodent out like a cannonball." Tomaszewski suffered second degree burns and a broken nose from the impact of the gerbil while Farrum suffered first and second degree burns to his anus and lower intestinal tract.



are generally not allowed at play parties, private or public. While most of the public parties Fister went to in Europe, specifically in Amsterdam and Berlin, were on licensed premises so drinking was naturally part of the proceedings. Amsterdam was even more liberal as you would expect. In Australia, apart from shows like Hell Fire which aren't participatory play parties, BYO is the rule, although over indulgence is looked down upon. In America parties held in many states have to contend with draconian laws on prostitution and personal sexual practices which make Tasmania look positively liberal. In most states penetrative genital play is usually out, while, ironically, genital torture is often acceptable. In some of the more conservative states even nudity at private gatherings is too public and a problem.

Another difference is the times when parties are held. The parties in Europe are late night affairs as they are here, often finishing at breakfast time. While in America parties start in the early evening, sometimes as early as five or six in the evening with doors closing a couple of hours later. The parties in US usually finish by one or two in the morning. Also there is tendency for people to jump into heavier play much sooner after the beginning of the party. Whereas here more intense play might not start until two or three hours after the party starts, in the States its not unusual for really heavy play to start within a half an hour after the opening of the doors.

The Europeans also seemed to have less of an understanding of the type etiquette Ms K. refers to in her article in this issue. The Europeans seem to have less respect of personal space than we do here, with people crowding your play and being more pushy. London is full of night club-type venues (similar to Hell Fire) with low level play. These places provided opportunities to meet people and find your way into the private scene where most of the more intense action is. Even then the Spanner court case has cast a shadow which reaches around the world. This case went up to the highest British Court, the Privy Counsel, and resulted in a group of men who were involved in Sadoomasochistic play being found guilty of criminal assault and confirming that such practices are considered illegal under the common law there. The case was appealed to the highest court of the European Community who decided the decision stood and therefore applied to all countries in the Community. This case has been given some credence here as a possible precedent but has not been tested yet.

The legendary Rubber Ball, in London, wasn't a play party. It was 3000 people gathered to enjoy their fetish for rubber and leather, although that weekend there were more than a dozen other events in clubs all over the city.

The biggest event in America is a 4-5 day national conference called Living In Leather, run by the National Leather Association (NLA). This is an international organisation with chapters in several countries, although mostly focussed in the USA and Canada. The conference has a vendor hall for buying all kinds of fetish gear and toys. There are workshops and lectures, play parties, and forums discussing important issues to the leather community. This organisation was originally for Gay leather men but is now open to all genders. Each year it is run by a different chapter in a different city throughout the States. Local chapters of the organisation run smaller events, courses and parties throughout the year.

There are many other individuals and groups who put on events throughout the year. It is possible for crafts-people and artists to make a living by travelling the country selling their goods at these events. These events also provide something of a lecture circuit for skilled people and writers, though because many of these organisations are like the NLA and are community based groups, teachers and lecturer are often only given entry and accommodation in return for their participation.

One such smaller local event later this year is 'Dungeon 301' (because its the third conference after Dungeon 101 and 201) in Florida. Ms K. and Ms M. will be faculty members again this year.

They said they like this conference because only a few hundred people attend and so the workshops and the parties are smaller more personal with more chance for learning and participation.

Most of the largest cities have support groups and put on events. For Ms K. and Ms M. the best cities in the USA are: New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Seattle, Washington DC, Atlanta, Omaha, Houston and Los Angeles. There are surprises like the Fantasy weekend in Omaha, Nebraska, in the infamously conservative mid-West. This gathering lasts for five days and is an exciting, well organised event with a great merchant hall. Attendees are so far from the known centres for play, education and toys that people really let their hair down. In San Francisco there is the Links Party space and in Los Angeles there is Threshold, this latter is a social club. Both are highly recommended. Leather Fest in San Diego is also well known.

Finally, there is one more place worth mentioning in Europe. It is the Other World Kingdom in Czechoslovakia. Its a medieval castle in a beautiful setting. Bought and founded by a German businessman, it is set up as a women dominated queendom. According to Fister it has everything a submissive could possibly dream of as far as toys and play space is concerned but lacked any really skilled mistresses.

So before you go head off overseas looking for the fetish hot spot spend sometime getting to know the local scene. If, however, you will be travelling this year and would like more information about places and people overseas try searching the world wide web first, if you're on-line. If you don't have any luck or you're not on-line contact us and we will try to help you.

Christopher



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# ***1998 Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras***

## **20 Years of (R)Evolution**

Previous Page: Parade (Photos by Greg)

Below: Alternative Party at One World (Photos by Fister)





## Body Paint

Looks Great, but can get a little chilly

10 years ago body painter Tim Gratton was becoming reasonably well known as a painter in Amsterdam, where he was attending university, when a friend asked him to do some body-painting at a party. Since then he has worked to get body-painting accepted as legitimate art form. His sponsored art and participation in contests worldwide has supported his passion for turning bodies into works of art. He believes his artistic approach, using the body as a canvas, gives him the advantage which allowed him to win the world championships twice. According to Tim, most body-painters are make-up artists and get too caught up in the detail which means they take too long and don't pay enough attention to the overall design.

If you want a chance to get your body painted up by Tim and be seen in the next issue of SFT just tell us your idea of what you want to be painted up as and the most interesting idea will win a free painting session worth around \$300. To enter just call Tim on 0412 167 757 or email [sydney\\_fetish@hotmail.com](mailto:sydney_fetish@hotmail.com)

Tim is also available to do paintings for parties & other events.

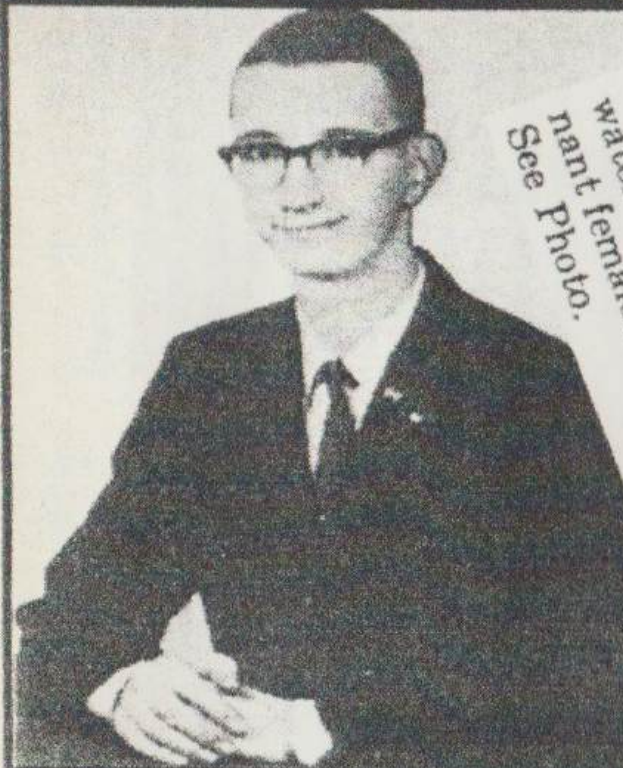


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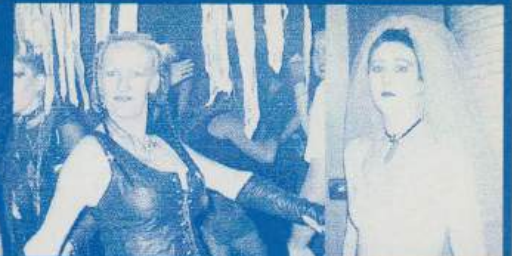
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On the Other Side



Underworld



## Sydney March/April Fetish Calendar

### Events

Fri 13-3-98

Unlucky World 2 Agincourt Hotel Harris St  
Octapussy Banta Room, Oxford St

Sat 14-3-98

Threshold: Men Only Play Party

Sat 21-3-98

Ritual Taylor's on Central, Mary St

Fri 27-3-98

WASTELAND Fetish Club: Agincourt Hotel

Sat 28-3-98

Threshold: Pansexual Play Party

Sat 4-4-98

Ritual Taylor's on Central, Mary St

Threshold: Members & Guests Party

Club Chateau Info 9699 0086

Fri 10-4-98

UnderWorld Easter Party Agincourt Hotel

Sat 11-4-98

SUBCULTURE: at Threshold (men only)

Sat 18-4-98

Threshold Men Only Play Party

Ritual Taylor's on Central, Mary St

Fri 24-4-98

Salon Kittys Play party. info 9318 2477

Sat 25-4-98

Threshold: Pansexual Uniform Party

Sat 2-5-98

Ritual Taylor's on Central

### Bars & Clubs

The Hellfire  
Club:

Fridays 10pm - dawn,  
Blackmarket 111 Regent St Chippendale

On The  
Other Side

Sundays 8pm-3am  
XSite, Victoria St. Potts Point.

The Barracks Daily, Taylor Square Hotel,

### Educational

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## *Geena's Say*

Welcome once again to the wonderful world of cross-dressing.

I hope some of you less confident girls out there were able to dress up and go out on the town over the Mardi Gras period. This is a time when you do not have to look quite so convincing and can do it as a fun thing.

This issue I would like to give those who need them, some helpful hints on how to create your facial masterpiece.

Now girls, the first step is to moisturise the skin. This will smooth the face after shaving and promote the foundation gliding on more easily. Go for a matt foundation, the less the shine the better. For all you girls who suffer a thick beard problem, opt for a foundation with a thick grease base. Do not forget to cover over the eyes and then powder down to set.

If you are just staring out and are experimenting at home you do not need a whole lot of eye shadow. To start with you only need two colours to decorate your eyes. Use a dark colour to contour and a light colour to highlight.

Try to find a blusher that best suits your colouring. When applying your blusher try to remember the adage "Less is sometimes more". Just use enough. It is quite easy to end up looking like Bozo the Clown and we certainly do not want that.

For those who are just starting out, a cheap mascara is fine to experiment with as you gain confidence with your application technique. Step up to a good quality mascara and brush your own lashes out to give that full luscious look.

Always use a lipliner to get the perfect shaped lips. You only need to buy cheap pencils until you find a shape and a size for your lips that suits your face. Once you have the outline drawn use a lip brush to fill in your lipstick.

Keep remembering that practice makes perfect.

Until next issue, frock up for fun.

Love,  
Geena G-Spot.

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## Etiquette for Attending your First Play Party

You've managed to get an invitation to a play party and you want to be able to fit in with the crowd. Here are Ms K's helpful hints:

1. Don't crowd. You might see things that you've never seen before and you might be really interested so you want to get a good look, but please keep your distance. If I'm swinging a flogger and you come too close, if I don't notice - you're likely to get hit on the back swing.
2. Keep quiet. You might have brought your best friend and you may want to share what you are seeing and feeling with her but loud noise or comments about what is going on are not necessarily appreciated. If somebody is submitting to something that is hard for them, you'll make it much more difficult if you comment loudly along the lines of "gee, do you think that really hurts?". As for commenting on the latest fashion trends, sports scores, music hit or whatever - not in the play area please.
3. It's okay to ask questions but do so politely and at an appropriate time. Asking a bottom or a sub who is in the middle of a scene "what do you get out of this" is not appropriate. Asking a Top or Dom(me) who is in the middle of a scene "what happens if you miss" is also not a good idea. In my experience most of us are happy to answer questions provided they

are asked when we are able to answer them.

4. You don't have to play with everybody or anybody who asks you. Lots of people recommend that you not play at your first party - just watch and see what you like and what you don't. See what the players are doing - there should be a number of different scenes so you can work out the type of play you think you'd most like to do.

5. Don't be pushy. If you see someone you want to play with ask nicely. If they say no or not tonight, respect that. No matter how much you may want to play with them, or play that night, you can't force a scene. In fact a forced scene is more likely to have something go wrong.

6. Don't arrive drunk or stoned. While there are differences of opinion on the issue of alcohol and drugs and play a newcomer who is obviously affected by chemicals will not be well regarded.

7. Remember that not all play is obvious. There may be intense scenes happening all around you without you being aware of them. Not all BDSM play involves whips and chains and other obvious paraphernalia. Be alert for nuances and quiet play.

8. Obey the rules of the play space. They have been developed for a reason. If you want to be invited back don't dispute the rules even if they seem silly.

9. Have a good time.

Next issue - how to negotiate for your first scene.

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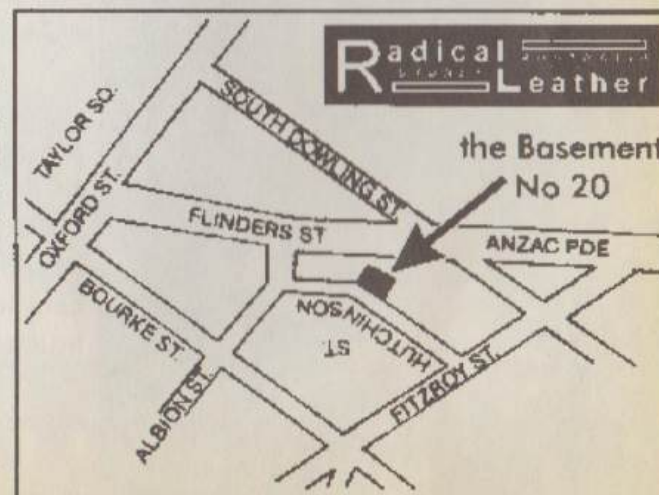
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# Goth

## Part 2

We have already established that the Goth scene is basically an anachronistic one. How does one explain then the large numbers of futurist, PVC clad, cyberpunk, Mad Max-type future warriors? These visual presentations coincide with the musical content, old-world Goth music with avant-garde, futuristic

Why do these two divergent forms of music coexist within the one scene? Nowhere else is Industrial to be found other than where Goth materializes, nor can Goth exist without forming a coalition with futurist Industrial music.

What ties these two movements together, despite their differences, is, artistically, their mood and atmosphere, and, economically, their marketing. This point goes a long way towards explaining why a lot of the music, despite it's accessibility and conventional, commercial nature, does not find its way into the normal dance clubs. The images chosen to market it often define the product/music, not the qualities of the music itself. Hence, a lot of the material played in Goth clubs consists of dance music which is neither Goth nor Industrial but falls into the category simply because of the myth that surrounds it.

Classic examples of the above phenomenon are bands such as 'Thrill Kill Kult', 'Skrew', 'Delirium', 'Marilyn Manson', and 'Ministry', to name just some of the more obvious culprits. For years the author has maintained that 'Thrill Kill Kult' has maintained a Goth following simply because of its name. There is certainly very little in its music to suggest that it should be considered Goth or Industrial.



Industrial/Gothic Fusion

Though 'Skrew' is very rarely heard in the Goth clubs, it is found in the Goth section of most record stores, despite the fact that it is basically straightforward metal (though very good metal). However, 'Skrew's' CDs do not look very metal at all, they look very Gothic/Industrial, and that is where they are to be found.

'Delirium' are basically 'Front Line Assembly' under a different guise, and it is precisely because of this that they are also to be found amongst the Goths, along with 'Marilyn Manson', made famously Goth by their association with one of the pillars of the popular Industrial movement, Trent Reznor. 'Ministry' have steadfastly claimed to be anything but Industrial for years, yet they're just as much a part of the Goth/Industrial environment as 'Bauhaus Sisters', 'Nine Inch Nails' and so forth.

Though most of the music played in Goth clubs has a certain mood and atmosphere, it is not all necessarily Goth music. In fact Goth music needs the support of non-Goth music because it doesn't have a strong enough following to exist on its own if it is too narrowly defined. That's why the typical Goth club contains music which only in the broadest possible terms could be considered Goth or Industrial.

STAV

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