

THORPIE PACKS HIS BAG

Background

It's the week before the 2006 Commonwealth Games held in Melbourne. Ian Thorpe had withdrawn from all swimming events and naturally, this attracted huge media coverage. Journalists claimed he had some "mystery illness." The public were left to make sense of his withdrawal prompting many theories.

I grew tired of all the conjecture and rationales. Maybe he just wanted to get on with his life and enjoy success with international models and fashion designers. The public couldn't accept that such a prodigious talent would ever tire of the gruelling training regimes and constant media scrutiny.

My story is a fictitious satirical account that offers an absurd and outlandish theory that Ian had been struck down by Crohn's disease. After a brief discussion on disease naming conventions, I return to parody the implications of swimming with a colostomy bag.

The Players --> Based on actual people and events.

Nicole Livinginsin: Swimmer and media commentator

Don Tellit: Head swimming coach

Ronnie Wallpaper: Chairman Major Events

Kojak of the Pool: Michael Clim and his air guitar routine at 2000 Sydney Olympics

Anus Young: Lead Guitarist of rock band AC/DC

Georgio Amonytree: Fashion Designer

Robert Sphincter: Lawyer

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NEWS FLASH

THORPIE GOT CROHN'S.

Theories abound over swimming sensation Ian Thorpe's decision to withdraw from the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. Some suggest chronic Bronchitis, Whooping cough and a raft of other ailments. Listen up if you want the truth behind the rumours.

My reliable sources have confirmed that Thorpie has the ghastly ailment that is Crohn's disease. Poor bugger. Spare a thought, however, for the Crohn family. Like all pioneers, the first to conquer, discover or suffer shall bear the naming rights. It was a perverse honour bestowed upon this family but they will be remembered by future generations for the legacy that was left behind. What the bubonic plague did for skin care, Crohn's did for colon irrigation. Why not call this nasty affliction, "Stools Legacy"... for Crohn's sake.

A shameful precedent has been set. Any illness or disease not seen before is remembered by its victim's family name. Parkinson's disease is unpleasant and thankfully he has retired from television but who can tell for how long. Perhaps the cruellest of all diseases is Alzheimer's. This is the grand daddy of cruel and thanks to the naming conventions of

the medical maestros; the Alzheimer family are forever linked to this insidious disease. They lobbied the Medical Board in the hope of bringing about a name change by proposing an alternative. Instead of Alzheimer's, they argued that OldTimers was a better fit. The review board didn't agree. But seriously, it's a curious thing that arguably, the biggest contributor to medicine was the inventor of Penicillin. And the family name, you guessed it, wasn't Penicillin.

Back to more important items in this special edition news flash.

Ian and his management have put out to tender the design and fit out of a suitable bag to accompany him in the water should he return at a later stage. FINA Officials have reminded the media and public that swimming events were never intended to be obstacle courses and it would stay this way. Don Tellit, head swim coach issued a warning to members of the swim team that under no circumstances are any of them to play the air guitar should Ian make the team. Nicole Livinginsin was poolside with Don earlier today and this is what he had to say, "I mean, gee whiz we can't have Thorpie doing his best impression of AC/DC's Anus Young. Geez, it'd be carnage out there."

Nicole Livinginsin thanked Don for his comments and was about to sign off when Don anxiously made a grab for her arm. Don said, "I think I left a *G* out somewhere in the just gone to air comment. What a terrible embarrassment!!" After an anxious few moments the sound technician having rolled the tape back re-assured him that there was no need for concern. He hadn't omitted any "*Gee*." Don breathed easier and said, "What a relief, I hate it when I make those... whaddaya call em again, oh yeah...*Malaplo*pisms."

Behind the scenes Ronnie Wallpaper was becoming agitated. These were his games. If Kojak of the pool wants to play air guitar, fine, but not here. No Flim Flam, Clim Clam was going to jeopardise his Games. He stood firmly behind Tellit and agreed that this air guitar business had to stop because if Thorpe begun strumming who knew where it'd end up.

Ronnie took centre stage. High above the media scrum and onlookers stood royalty. In terms of Major events, he was royalty. Afterall, he'd built Crown. But he had many other crowning achievements and wasn't the Grand Prick many thought he was. However, his public profile suffered a major setback after he scaled the 36 foot diving platform at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic centre. He promised to make a big splash. He knew that a bomb would do just that and announced his intention to the crowd below. Police were called to diffuse the situation but found themselves drenched. Ronnie was dragged from the pool and into police custody but not before stating, "Well may we say that George's guitar gently weeps but nothing will save Thorpie's hide should his guitar weep."

The media had a field day after the waves created by Ron and the Bomb squad. They lampooned the swim centre calling it, "The Melbourne Sports and Lunatic centre" The police took the debacle very seriously and Ronnie was charged with conduct endangering life relating to the aforementioned bomb threat and subsequent action thereof.

Ronnie had good legal representation and engaged the best. Robert Sphincter, QC. The defense exploited a loophole arguing that there was no signage around the centre prohibiting bombs. Mr Sphincter went on to say that the signage present was ambiguous and misleading as his client was on top of a purpose built diving platform below which were signs forbidding diving. The Courts agreed that no crime had been committed and Mr Ronnie Wallpaper walked free.

Thorpie and his management team have garnered support from the international community. Mr Georgio Amoneytree offered this, “While he's packing his bag of goodies, he and me are finished.” Naomi Campbell lent her support urging, “Keep it together”

And finally Willy Wonka got his Oompa Loompa brigade to build a Poodium. Wonka rejected claims that his purpose built dais was irreverent and inappropriate. The eccentric Wonka couldn't see what all the fuss was about. He said, “The public constipation is absurd!”....and then corrected himself apologising sarcastically, “The public consternation is absurd. Thorpie's got the golden tickets in the bag.”

Take your marks.....and they're off.

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