

# Rhubarb Rhubarb Rhubarb

## Plot for World Domination Revealed

Issue 17  
August 2008

For months now, readers have been asking the Rhubarb why Liz W appears so infrequently. The editor agreed that this absence was worth looking into and assigned an experienced reporter to the job. To our horror, the reporter (who prefers to remain anonymous) indicated that we may have stumbled onto one of the biggest conspiracies of the 21st century. Naturally, every resource at our disposal was then utilised to expose this secret and the thus the Rhubarb brings you this shocking story.

Our reporter says, "we decided to firstly check Liz's details - date of birth, places of residence and so on. Imagine our surprise when we found that Liz is actually significantly older than she appears and has lived in a variety of locations all over the world. That wouldn't have been enough to arouse our suspicions, but some of the places Liz lived seemed to coincide with a number of key events in history. We began to dig a little deeper and the more we dug, the more we uncovered.

Eventually, we discovered that Liz staged the moon landing in order to take attention away from Area 51 and Roswell, where she was heading a team of physiotherapists working with the aliens rescued from a crash nearby.

And if that weren't enough, we then learnt that

it was Liz who actually shot JFK - to keep him from exposing the truth about the aliens. We also learned that Liz holds the highest position of power in the Free Masons - the popular idea that the Free Masons are all men was a rumour created to hide Liz's identity in the organisation.

It seems that Liz was able to take control of the Free Masons after cracking a code written by DaVinci which proved that she could be a living descendent of Jesus. Once she'd seized this power, Liz used the Masons' resources to construct a spacecraft using plans she'd gained from the aliens. Once constructed, Liz trained the Mason's top secret branch of hit men, the Knights Templar to fly the craft. The Knights were instructed by Liz to make crop circles - actually coded messages to the citizens of Mars (the Mars landing was also staged) and to knock down the Twin Towers and blame terrorists. The use of this spacecraft takes a huge amount of petrol, which is why petrol prices have risen so steeply in the last few years.

Unfortunately, the Rhubarb is helpless to do anything about Liz's activities since she is also the head of the CIA and the New World Government which controls

the world's finances. The Rhubarb can only offer a warning to readers to be alert as it seems that Liz is getting close to reaching her goal of ultimate world domination.

The Rhubarb advises readers to play along with Liz's disguise of mild-mannered chorister and physiotherapist as her influence with powerful people and at least two races of aliens, combined with her background as a former member Charlie's Angels makes her extremely dangerous!



## Sopranos Spotted Sneakily Slipping From Short Stay in Solitary Singing Space

It's widely known that the sopranos are the 'bad girls' of GALS, however until recently, the choir did not suspect the full extent of their sneakiness and duplicity.

At a recent rehearsal, the sopranos were asked to go and practice in another room. The sopranos say that they are so good that it wasn't necessary for them to practice with the other lower members of the choir, however inside intelligence indicates that the sopranos were probably so naughty that conductor Claire had to ask them to leave

the room so that other parts could learn without distraction.

Eventually, Claire went to call the sopranos back but was confronted by an empty room - and an open window. Some time later, the missing sopranos returned but refused to divulge the reason for their daring break-out or where they'd been while absent.

Preliminary investigation reveals that climbing out of a window may be part

of the highly secretive initiation ritual for new sopranos. It could also be that the sopranos decided to go off for coffee or to the pub instead of practicing. There are also some indications that Tenille may have hypnotised the other sopranos and that they were just following her instructions.

There are also rumours that the sopranos (knowing their behaviour warranted serious consequences) feared being locked in the back room indefinitely and broke out in desperation.

The Rhubarb will continue to investigate this mystery but warns readers to be cautious around the sopranos until the truth is revealed, as they pose a potential threat to all well-behaved choir members.



Left: The faces of the window-hopping sops. Absent from the ranks of the 'Dark Side' that evening were the rebellious Fran and the incorrigible Carole.

## Saani's Secret Lover Revealed

For months now, rumours have been growing about Saani's secret lover. Who is this mysterious entity with whom Saani spends so much time? The Rhubarb was able to persuade Saani to give us an exclusive interview revealing the truth about her love affair.

**Rhubarb (R):** So what's your lover's name and how long have you been together?

**Saani (S):** Her name is Quest and we first met in 2006 after I'd left my job in order to save the world from impending doom. When I met Quest, it seemed that she had a potentially great solution, so that was how I got interested in the first place. We entered a serious relationship in 2007.

**R:** How serious exactly?

**S:** Well, we've been living and working together for some time now, so yes, it's pretty serious.

**R:** Wow. I had no idea. Tell us a bit about Quest. What is she like?

**S:** Well, I'd describe her as a pioneer. She's got a big vision for the world and although she can seem quiet at first, she's got lots of radical ideas.

**R:** And what about work? You mentioned working together?

**S:** Yes, that's right. When we discovered that we both had the same passion and vision for education, it seemed natural to work together. Quest started a not-for-profit organisation and I do 3 days per week of voluntary work with that, and work 2 days a week to support myself and Quest.

**R:** What do you do on those two days?

**S:** I work with around 120 five to fifteen year-old homeschoolers and run classes in areas like creative and critical thinking, problem-solving, team work, communication skills, learning to learn, thinking skills, leadership, self-expression, social & emotional intelligence, enquiry, conspiracy detection, advanced exaggeration, outrageous lying (also known as journalism) and much more. All my classes are 'Saani-style' - creative, quirky, full of interesting activities and heaps of fun, not to mention that kids in my class graduate with a full Poetic Licence. Oh, and I also run a homeschool choir of fourteen 8 - 13 year-olds which is a blast!

**R:** And what about Quest's not-for-profit organization - Quest Lifelearning, I believe it's called?

**S:** Well, there's rumours that our organization is a subversive group of closet-anarchists who are plotting the overthrow of the conventional education system but those rumours aren't entirely true. We're actually just a humble group of brilliant, innovative and diverse free-thinkers with a mission: we aim to create evolutionary education on the planet - education which actively contributes to humanity living in more responsible, car-

ing and respectful ways. We reckon that impacting education is one of the most effective ways we can make a difference.

**R:** Wow, that's pretty full-on. So what do you actually do?

**S:** We've got 3 major areas we're operating at the moment - resources, training and the Learnery. If you want to know anything about education, we can either help you or point you in the right direction! We're also just starting to offer a number of workshops designed to provide parents and educators with practical tools and resources to enhance their children's learning journeys.

The most exciting thing we do though, is operate a Learnery. A Learnery is a cooperative group of families who enlist the partnership of a learning facilitator to enrich and extend the education they already provide their children. Learneries offer the opportunity for children to learn as part of a close team and parents the chance to be part of a supportive community. Learneries are ideal for kids who aren't don't fit conventional schooling - maybe they're too smart, or have learning eccentricities, don't cope in large groups or any number of other reasons why kids struggle in schools. We're thrilled to be able to pioneer this form of education and excited because we're currently training several people to start their own Learneries and plan in the long term, to empower people to establish Learneries world-wide!

If you want to find out more about what we do, I helped Quest create a website: [www.questlife.com.au](http://www.questlife.com.au)

**R:** It sounds like hard work!

**S:** It is, but it's work I'm passionate about. I feel incredibly privileged to be able to bring my vision to life and I'm profoundly grateful to have so many supportive people, such as my GALS pals, in my life.

**R:** I'm curious about your relationship with Quest though. How's that going for you?

**S:** Hmm, we've been through an incredible journey together and I think that we'll always be close friends and will keep working together, but I have to admit that it's just not working out for us romantically.

**R:** Well, thank you for your time and good luck with it all.



## Rhubarb Reader Satisfaction Survey

The Rhubarb enjoys its reputation as a world-class publication and as such, we value feedback from our readers very highly. Please help us continue to improve by completing the survey below.

### 1. Which word best describes the Rhubarb's editor?

- Wonderful, marvellous and great
- Talented and fabulous
- Extraordinary yet so humble

### 2. How would you best describe the Rhubarb's articles?

- Always provides accurate info
- A true work of genius
- Sensational without exaggeration

### 3. Which of these improvements would you most like to see?

- More articles about Cherie
- More articles about Tenille
- Nothing, it's perfect the way it is

### 4. Please complete this statement: "I find reading the Rhubarb..."

- is the highlight of my life
- riveting - I just can't put it down
- indescribably thrilling!!

### 5. Overall, how satisfied are you with the Rhubarb?

- Very satisfied
- Totally and absolutely satisfied
- Extraordinarily satisfied

### 6. Is there any other comments you'd like to add?

- No. I'm completely satisfied
- Yes - I'd like to add how much I adore the Rhubarb. Thank you!!

## Colourful Claire-isms

Rhubarb's roving reporters have determined that GALS love Claire's style of conducting. Here's a few phrases Claire has used to help GALS bring energy and expression to their singing:

"Make it sunshine pie here." "Sing it like smooth, runny chocolate." "Imagine a light-bulb turning on here." "Sell it, girls, sell it." "This should sound like chiffon on the wind." "Think black - you're all sounding too white bread."



# GALS Infected by Rare, Contagious Virus

The Gay and Lesbian Singers were recently infected with a rare virus which swept the suburb of North Perth causing widespread infection. The highly contagious virus, generally known as Seussitis results in severe bouts of uncontrollable rhyming but is fortunately short-lived, lasting only around 30 minutes. The virus happened to infect the whole choir as they were discussing costumes for an upcoming concert.

Liz B: Our concert's getting pretty near,  
we must decide tonight I fear,  
we must decide on what to wear,  
we really can't go on stage bare.

Jude: I know they're not a work of art,  
but sparkly scarves make us look smart.  
Combined with black it is a fact,  
we do look like a classy act.

Tenille: No, not the sparkly scarves again -  
those scarves they cause me so much pain.  
If I must wear another scarf,  
I'm warning you, I'm gonna barf.

Deb H: Hey, I've had a revelation,  
I think it's cause for celebration.  
This idea's a real go-er -  
let's each wear a feather boa.

Liz B: No, no, if we want to impress,  
it really must be fancy dress.  
By day I wear professional clothes,  
but come a concert, anything goes!

Robin: Sparkly scarves don't bother me,  
but the part I fail to see,  
is why the altos cannot wear  
the purple scarves - it isn't fair.

Tenille: Those bloody scarves, I'm telling you,  
I would not wear them to the loo.  
And I won't wear them on the stage,  
they're just not cool, they're not the rage.  
I wouldn't wear them in a boat,  
I wouldn't wear them with a goat.  
I wouldn't wear them here or there,  
I wouldn't wear them ANYWHERE!

Deb H: I hear you sister, loud and clear,  
and now I've got a new idea -  
let's get our own GALS fabric made,  
the sort that will not crease or fade.  
It will be gorgeous, grand, divine,  
I guarantee we'll look sublime.

Liz B: That doesn't sound so cheap to me,  
we must think of the treasury.

Saani: Let's get creative, let's go nuts,  
our thinking's gotten stuck in ruts.  
How about we all wear zlars?  
I hear they're fashionable on Mars.

Tenille: They aren't that great, the zlars I've seen,  
but we could paint ourselves bright green.

Saani: You can go green if you want to,  
but I think I'd look better blue.  
Blue would match my eyes I think,  
and Robin would look nice dyed pink.

Cherie: You're being very silly, girls,  
I'd like to wear a string of pearls,  
an evening gown, long gloves as well  
Tenille: But not the scarves - they come from hell.

Joanna: I say that it's plain enough,  
we don't need lots of fancy stuff  
Deb H: Oh yes we do, Joanna dear,  
remember we're not straight, but queer.  
You need to glitter, sparkle, shine,  
Joanna: A 60's caftan's more my line.  
Deb H: Joanna, you must have a fever,  
you must release your inner diva.

Liz W: Well I'm not fussy, I don't care,  
exactly what we choose to wear,  
costumes new or costumes old,  
as long as I don't feel the cold!!

Carole: I don't mind either, not a bit,  
as long as I can dance in it.  
It needs to have some room to move  
so I can rock and I can groove.

Fran: Now, now you gals, don't argue so,  
I think the way that we must go,  
is compromise, that would be fair,  
Deb H: Hey, let's wear wigs upon our hair.  
Or even hats, that would be nice,  
Tenille: Let's burn the scarves as a sacrifice.

Jude: Shut up you two, let's not dis Fran,  
I think she's got a brilliant plan.

Fran: Well, if we all dress up as stars,  
Saani: Could we be folk who come from Mars?  
Fran: If it's from a musical show,  
any character will go.

GALS: Three cheers for Fran, hip hip hooray,  
She's solved the problem, saved the day.

Tenille: Now we don't have to wear those scarves,  
on boats or trains or in our baths,  
or wear them with a mouse of fox,  
or in a house or in a box.

GALS: Tenille, just go make muffins please,  
we like the ones with lots of cheese.

Liz B: So now we know what we should wear,  
now let's decide on when and where.

# GALS Incognito

GALS is now becoming so famous that the paparazzi are beginning to be a problem. The GALS members below demonstrate some strategies for avoiding pushy photographers and uninvited publicity.



# Tenille's Top Ten

## Excuses for Skipping Warm-ups

The Rhubarb is pleased to announce a new regular feature - Tenille's Top Ten. Every issue will bring ten handy hints on useful topics such as 'Top Ten Reasons to Paint Your Face Green,' 'Top Ten Things to Do When You're Not Singing in Choir Practice' and 'Top Ten Ways to Draw Attention to Your Feet.' This week, we bring you a list which we hope will prove helpful for tardy choir members:

1. **Conveniently forget to bring milk and then go to the shops to get some during warm-ups.**
2. **Say that you had to wait for the muffins to finish baking.**
3. **Say you couldn't decide on what footwear to choose.**
4. **Blame it on Nikki.**
5. **Say you accidentally sewed yourself to your lounge chair while embroidering rude sayings.**
6. **Say that you got carried away admiring yourself while practicing your solo 'Popular.'**
7. **Say that you couldn't find your favourite lock-picks which you needed in case you felt the urge to climb through a window.**
8. **Tell everyone that you lost track of time while thinking up new ways to insult the altos.**
9. **Say nothing as you enter, just laugh as evilly as possible.**
10. **Tell everyone that sopranos are so superior that they really don't need to do warm-ups anyway.**



### Tales with a Twist

## The Frog Princess

Once upon a time, a beautiful lesbian was walking by a pond when suddenly, a frog jumped out of the pond and spoke to her in a sad and pathetic voice, "my dear, please help me. I am actually a handsome prince who has been turned into a frog by a wicked witch's spell. Only the kiss of a beautiful woman can break the spell."

The lesbian felt sorry for the frog but she told him, "look, I'm sorry. I wish I could help you but I don't swing that way and I really just can't risk being stuck with a prince. They're usually trouble, no offence." The frog said, "none taken," and jumped back into the pond.

The next day, the beautiful lesbian was walking

by the same pond when a frog jumped out and said in a sad and pathetic voice, "my dear, please help me. I am actually a gorgeous princess who has been turned into a frog by a wicked witch's spell. Only the kiss of a beautiful woman can break the spell."

The lesbian was a bit suspicious about this as it sounded just like the frog from the day before, but since she was not an expert in amphibian anatomy, she decided to give the frog the benefit of the doubt.

She picked up the frog carefully and held it to her lips. Ignoring the pond scum clinging to its skin, she closed her eyes and kissed it.

"Ha, ha. Just kidding," yelled the psychotic frog and leapt back into the pond while the princess wiped frog slime from her lips.



## Kokology

Kokology is the study of 'kokoro' which means 'mind' or 'spirit' in Japanese. Kokology presents hypothetical situations which reveal hidden attitudes and personality traits. In our very own Rhubarb kokology, you can discover what your behaviour in choir can tell you about your personal life and what your personal life can tell you about your behaviour in choir...

### 1. The Ideal Choir Rehearsal

Take a few moments to reflect on what your ideal choir rehearsal session would be like. Write down three words which describe your perfect choir practice.

### 2. The Music Folder

Think about the state of your music folder. Write a short statement which describes your music file or folder.

### 3. The Musical Instrument

Imagine you are at a party and someone starts a sing-along. Which instrument would you most like to be able to jam along with?

- A) African Drums
- B) Violin or piano
- C) Tapping Sticks
- D) Electric Guitar

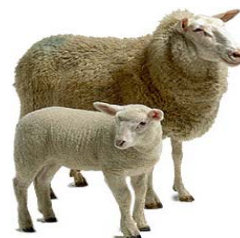
### 4. The Concert Costume

What would your ideal concert costume be?

- A) Something simple but stylish or well-coordinated character costumes
- B) Something sparkly, colourful and glamorous - bring on the glitter and boas
- C) Something funky and unusual
- D) Black
- E) Witch costumes, complete with green face paint. Vampires and other such creatures would also work.

## It's All About Sheep

Our resident Kiwi, Cherie was recently struggling with pronouncing the word 'will' during choir practice. When asked how she'd pronounce 'will,' Cherie replied, "wool, of course." Yes, it really is all about sheep for the Kiwis!



## The Kokology Key

1. Congratulations. You've just described the way you like your love life!

2. It's said that cluttered cupboards equal cluttered minds. What you've written about your music folder also describe your thinking processes and probably the state of your bedroom too.

3. The instrument you chose in this scenario reveals your attitude toward punctuality at choir rehearsals:

A) You're a laid back sort of person who pays little attention to notions like punctuality - time means little to you.

B) These instruments need to be played with precision and you are likely to be a very organised and punctual person.

C) This simple instrument which means that you don't like the limelight. You are mostly on time or tend to slip in to choir quietly if you are a little late.

D) You have been playing too much 'Guitar Hero' and now believe you are a Rock God and everyone should worship you no matter what you do - punctuality is definitely for lesser beings than you!

4. Our clothes reveal a lot about our personality and your choice of concert costume reveals your behaviour in choir rehearsals:

A) You are generally well behaved in choir rehearsals and like others to be behaved in a diva and tend to seek attention in choir rehearsals. What can I say - 'look at me' is your middle name.

C) You like to have fun at rehearsals and you may often indulge in a bit of ramblesing - either overtly or covertly.

D) You are an undercover spy, an evil mastermind or a hermit. Your behaviour seems innocent enough but you're probably plotting something devious.

E) You are Tenille or a member of Tenille's Cult. Please seek psychological help to undo the brainwashing!