

The internet's best shit-stirrer

David Thorne is a menace to modems everywhere

EVERYONE gets sent funny shit on email. But it's pretty rare that they're as funny as Aussie bloke David Thorne, who came to worldwide attention when an email in which he repeatedly tried to pay a medical bill with a crap drawing of a seven-legged spider went viral. David has now released a book of his best online lunacy, which will make you snort beer through your nose if you read it while drinking.

FIRST up, this isn't part of a prank is it? We're not going to end up looking like internet fools?

I would never attempt to prank a respected magazine such as **RALPH**. I am in fact only doing this interview on the proviso I receive a year's free subscription. For the articles. Not to masturbate to, as that would be wrong.

What's your background?

I currently live with my girlfriend and young offspring in the small country village of Adelaide which is commonly referred to as the murder capital of Australia.

How did you actually start being an internet shit-stirrer?

The first time I realised I could send emails under other people's names. It was weeks before the secretary realised orders to purchase lunch and alcohol from petty cash were not from the boss. Using the same technique, I sent an email to a co-worker

stating that it was him from the future and under no circumstances should he look in his top drawer. Watching him stare at his drawer before opening it very slowly, I realised that this was much more entertaining than actually working.

When did you realise there was a career in the sport of viral emails?

The first time I received an email asking me if I had T-shirts available featuring the badly drawn picture of seven-legged spider, I realised there may be beer money involved. I used to worry a lot about paying the bills, having food in the fridge and clothing my offspring. Now that I can afford decent drugs, these things no longer concern me at all.

Is it weird to think about something you did as a joke like the spider gag getting mentioned on something like *The Ellen Degeneres Show*?

I prefer reading emails from people stating that they were having a bad day and my writing cheered them up rather than hearing Ellen Degeneres has seen the articles. I was forced to watch *The Ellen Degeneres Show* once and she danced for the first 49 minutes then talked about her chair for the remaining 11. I was also recently forced into watching *The Notebook* which was about geese. I don't recall a lot of it as I was too busy being cross about watching it. I'd rather watch *The Notebook* on loop for three weeks than ever see Ellen Degeneres dance again.

Do you ever leave the house? If so, how do you explain what you do to people you meet?

I learned early that sarcasm is best kept to a minimum when in



When they search through it, they will find only bad '90s MP3s and fan emails to Winona Ryder.

Have you ever had a real-life prank played on you?

I once wore a bear costume to a formal party after being told it was fancy dress.

Were you into knock-and-run and stuff like that when you were a kid?

My energies, when I was about nine, were firmly focused on my elderly next-door neighbour, Mr Anderson. This included gluing aluminium foil to his cat to make it look like a robot cat, tying his lawnmower to the back of his car so he drove off with it, and putting several packets of raspberry jelly crystals in his fish pond. The day I dipped tennis balls in paint and threw them at his house broke him and he came out screaming and waving a rifle.

Do you ever LOL? Have you ever seen anyone in real-life ROTFL?

I have on many occasions LOLd but have never actually seen anyone ROTFL. I have rolled on the floor before but instead of laughing I was probably asking Jesus to make the room stop spinning and swearing to never drink again.

Does a cyber-celebrity such as yourself get cyber-groupies?

I'd like to say that cyber-groupies have sent me thousands of emails of themselves in compromising positions but that would be a lie. I do receive a lot of pictures of poorly drawn spiders however.

Luke Anisimoff

The Internet Is A Playground is available through Fontaine Press for \$24.95, which is cheaper than a slab



SON OF A SMARTARSE Dave's tacker Seb is as funny as his old man

Seb on money

"If I had a million dollars I would buy a house with big robot legs"

Seb on supermarkets

"If they made the aisles wider we could drive our car in and grab things

through the window and pay on the way out like at McDonald's"

Seb on relationships

I am going to have seven girlfriends when I get older so that I can be with a different one

every day and then start again on Mondays"

Seb on swimming

"If you swim in the sea then you should always go swimming with a fat girl because sharks will go for them first"

Seb on girls

"You can't trust girls. When I get a girlfriend I am not going to tell her where I live or work"

Seb on school

I don't understand why I have to go to school at all.

The internet knows more than all the teachers there put together"

Seb on marriage

"When you get married, do you have to let your wife look at your penis?"



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