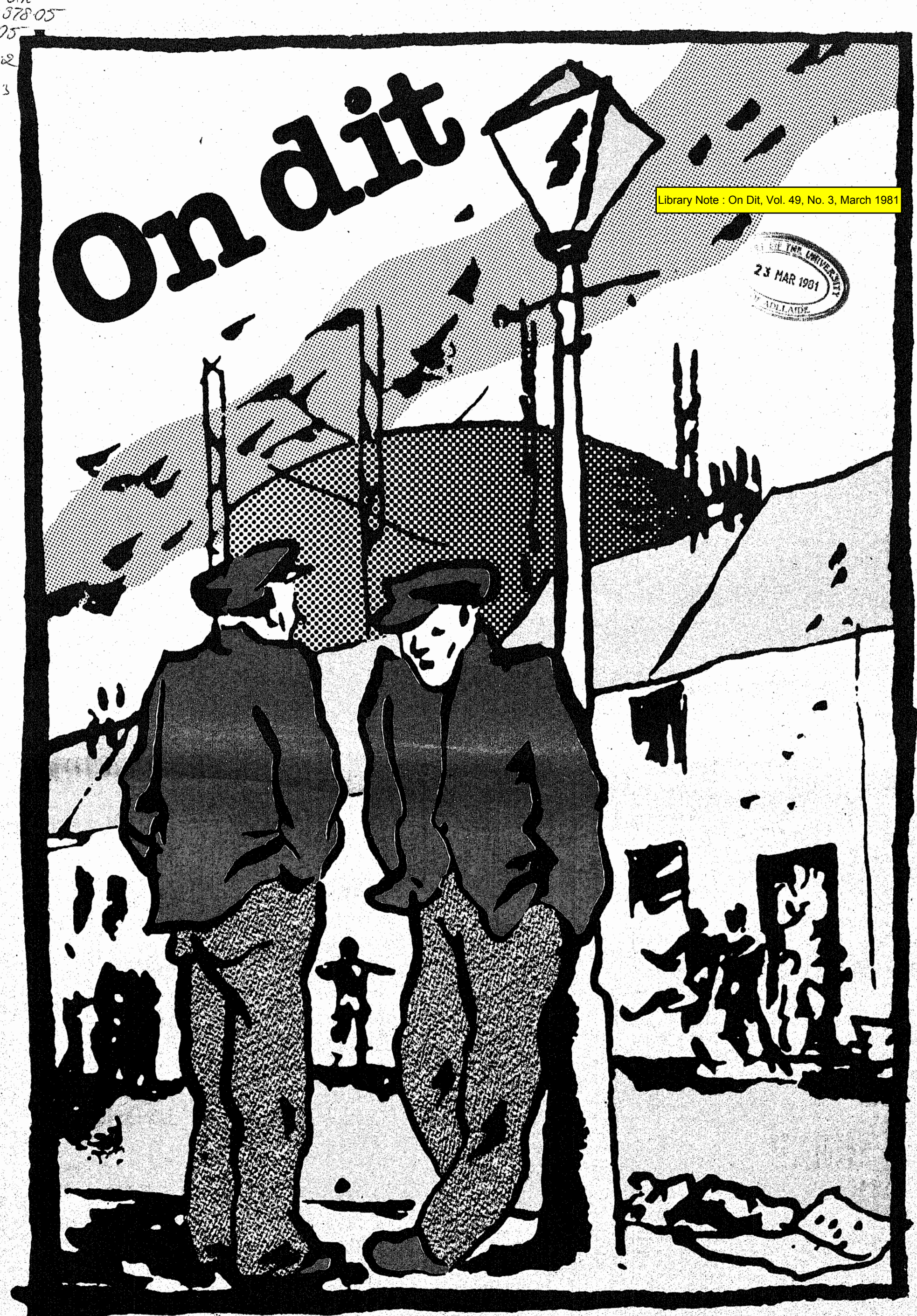




FROM GRADUATION TO

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THE DOLE starvation by degrees

Library Note : On Dit, Vol. 49, No. 3, March 1981

THE UNIVERSITY
23 MAR 1981
MILLADE

EDITORIAL

This week the Student's Association would like us all to think about unemployment. *On dit* would also like you to think about it - carefully. Surely, unemployment is probably the biggest problem facing Australia today and for the future, and if we are to have any acceptable quality of life for everyone, solutions will have to be found. Such solutions will be complicated in the extreme and it is doubtful whether there is any wonder cure. Simplistic ideas may be attractive, but may also be misleading.

Two particular problems spurred this issue on - the threat of a cut of unemployment benefits to 16 and 17 year olds and the state of graduate unemployment. The former is particularly urgent - at the moment the government is kite flying for public opinion. Decide your opinions and make them public.

Enough ideas - let's get back to earth. This week we were very pleased with the amount of help we were receiving in all areas from the students. Thanks to all concerned. However there are still opportunities for you to get into the media. If you've ever wanted to work on a news paper start coming to our regular meetings every Monday at 1 pm. Here we will give you the week's assignments. At the moment we are particularly looking for photographers, artists, advertising sellers (10% commission) and people to help with new review areas we hope to open up next week. Perhaps a general food section comprising food buying, recipes, eating out - even food growing and new product column. Next week's entries are a tourniquet for nocturnal heroin addicts and *On dit* badges. If you've got anything new and exciting to report on, be in next week. This week you might notice a new eating out column, written by one of our good selves - an occurrence we hope will not be repeated. But we need your help. This week included an off campus and on campus eatery. Students can't directly affect the standard of food off campus, but through the catering management board we can do something about the standard of our own. The cellar is only one of many campus catering concerns that aren't as good as they could be. In two weeks time, we'll be running a food edition. In this it would be good to see some imaginative and hopefully practical catering ideas. Think it through and we'll print it as a challenge to perpetrators of boring food.

Finally next week's issue will be on South East Asia. If you are interested in any aspects of Asia, or are Asian yourself have a say in *On dit*. *On dit* also challenges anyone of racist persuasion to defend their views in print next Monday - articles of up to a page may be printed if they are interesting enough. If toilet walls are any indication there must be some closet sufferers of xenophobia about. If you've the conviction and guts to get out of the toilet and onto the newsprint, have your signed articles in by Thursday 9 am.

James Williamson
Paul Hunt

Letters Service Gripes

Dear James and Paul,

We are writing to complain about the poor standard of service in the Students Association Office this year.

While we realize that the staff have been under unusual pressure during the first few weeks, we don't think that this is an excuse for rude and careless treatment. We have been kept waiting while staff chatted and giggled.

When one of our student cards was lost by the office, instead of apologizing for the inconvenience, the staff treated the matter as a joke.

The job boards are badly run. Many of the notices on the boards are out of date. The staff seem to know that the jobs are taken (they are marked 'cancelled' on the file) but the cards are not removed. This causes needless waste of time, and disappointment for job-seeking students. I was told that my own card,

advertising myself as a babysitter, could not be inserted due to lack of space. However, many of the cards already up were out of date and useless. One card on the board was not even attached to a real job. "Oh yes," the staff said. "That one is a mistake card." That card still hasn't been removed!

I was told by staff that students are no longer allowed to use the SAUA phones when job-seeking. Is this so? If so, why? On nearly every occasion when we have used the SAUA Office, service has been surly, off-hand or non-existent. We had hoped that students could receive considerate treatment from their own Association at least. When we pay a \$140 Union Fee, this is simply not good enough.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret Simons
Anna Angelakis

NCC leaflet 'inaccurate' - AUS

Some people may have seen a leaflet circulated on the refectory tables last week which made a series of allegations about the National Union, the Australian Union of Students (AUS).

It is interesting to speculate where Anthony Cronin and Robert Chrzaszcz got their information. It is clear from the number of inaccuracies that the information is not first-hand; neither Mr Cronin nor Mr Chrzaszcz were present at the Annual Council which their leaflet purports to refer to.

The leaflet begins by stating that AUS used to fund the Malaysian Communist Party and "various overseas national 'liberation' organisations". (A few years ago they would probably have been claiming that AUS funded the PLO - or perhaps that is what they mean.) The simple fact is that AUS has never given funds to any overseas 'liberation' movement, communist or otherwise.

The leaflet goes on to list a number, but not all of the overseas trips which AUS has sent elected representatives on in the past few years. It is important that Australian students have representation in and contact with the international student community if we are going to gain from the experiences of students in other countries.

Unfortunately, due to the fact that AUS's membership fee of \$2.50 per student has not risen since 1976, it is no longer possible to fund any representatives for these trips. However we are lucky in that some student organisations, such as that of Rumania, are able to pay the costs of sending Australian delegates to international conferences held in their countries. (It is unfortunate that AUS was unable to extend this courtesy to any of the students from poorer countries that attended the Asian Students' Association Conference in Melbourne in January.)

It is thanks to the generosity of these other student organisations that AUS is

able to maintain an effective international presence.

Most of the rest of the leaflet refers to the supposed domination of AUS by the Communist Party of Australia. It is difficult to see how the authors could draw this conclusion from the 1981 Annual Council at which almost every political persuasion amongst Australian students was represented in the form of democratically elected delegates, who in turn elected the 1981 officers and Executive of AUS.

There are members of several political parties on the Executive, including the Liberal Party, the ALP, the National Civic Council (once known as the DLP), the Australian Democrats, and the Communist Party. There are also people who are members of no political party. Thus no political party can be seen, in any sense, to have 'control' of AUS.

The authors of the leaflet claim that AUS has adopted the education policy of the Communist Party. This is surprising in view of the fact that 95% of the education policy adopted by Annual Council was drafted by a long-time member of the ALP.

They also claim that "A motion supporting free speech lost" when in fact no motion relating to free speech, either supporting or opposing it, was even moved.

I would suggest that if Misters Cronin and Chrzaszcz do produce any more such leaflets, as they promise to do in this one, they at least bother to find out what they are talking about so that they can try discussing facts rather than unsubstantiated and inaccurate assertions.

Linda Gale
Julia Gillard
Mandy Cornwall
Ken McA Alpine
Andrew Frost
Simon Maddocks
Adelaide Uni. Delegates to AUS Annual Council 1981.

Grott Again!

Dear Sirs,

Apparently you have taken little, if any notice of my previous letter (*On dit* Number 2). Not only has my column been refused YET AGAIN, but to my horror and dismay, you have continued to indulge in your favouritism of relatives of the editors to allow a certain Celia Williamson to write a rock review for *On dit* (page 10, lower right hand corner).

I consider this grossly unfair and typical of the attitudes which I find prevalent in the world today.

This is your last chance to let a badly needed reporter show his journalism to a University starved of the truth (or I'll go talk to Uncle Rupert).

Ernest Grott

Not fair

Dear Sirs,

May I congratulate the Union on their organization of the O Ball last Friday night. However I did have two reservations about the evening.

Firstly, why should a person who illegally tried to gain entry to the O Ball get a bottle of beer free of charge from a bouncer, while those who bought a ticket have to pay an extra 50c? Admittedly the bottle thrown by the bouncer was only half full after it had smashed on the intruder's face, but nevertheless, he did have to spend the evening in the casualty section of the Royal Adelaide Hospital rather than listening to the excitement of the *Mentals* and the *Oils*.

Secondly, the bouncers showed a clear bias against the Gay Society by allowing a young lady to crash the O Ball after having previously refused admittance to several males. My only excuse for the behaviour of the bouncers was that they may have been attempting to promote the Women's Movement who were holding a march the next day. I only hope that if there had been a Gay Parade the next day that the men would have also been allowed in free, by the bouncers.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Brown

On it goes

Dear Sirs,

If you allow someone like "Ernest Grott" to write in *On dit* then I am afraid all you will get is verbose trivia. If, however, you allow me to write, then you will get a high standard of literature, one that was set by the Ancient Greeks 2000 years ago, and has been maintained ever since. To allow me to do this, all I ask for is a column in *On dit*.

Signed
The Parthenon

JUNIOR SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP

We propose to hold a Junior (Under 19) Snooker Championship for staff and students from both Universities. Ten nominations are required. Interested players please phone Keith Ossenton, 223-4333, extension 2790.

SKY FY

The AU Science Fiction Association will hold its AGM on the 25th March at 8.00 p.m. in the North Dining Room. Free wine and cheese etc. New members welcome.

4 Sale

TRIUMPH HERALD DELUXE COUPE
Owner must sell for Uni. fees.
Comes complete with 4 wheels.
Running motor independent suspension on all four wheels.
Attractive blue exterior with contrasting beige upholstery.
Excellent fuel economy.
Spitfire motor.
Able to be converted into sports car.
Flow thro' air conditioning (open windows)
Unreg.
Bargain priced \$280
Phone Anna 315853.

Sign it please

On dit also received a letter from a "concerned 4th year Med." student re Skullduggery. Sorry but *On dit* always has and always will (while we have anything to do with it) had a policy of only printing signed letters. If you submit your name to us, we'll run the article next week. Well, we've heard of alcoholics anonymous, but ...

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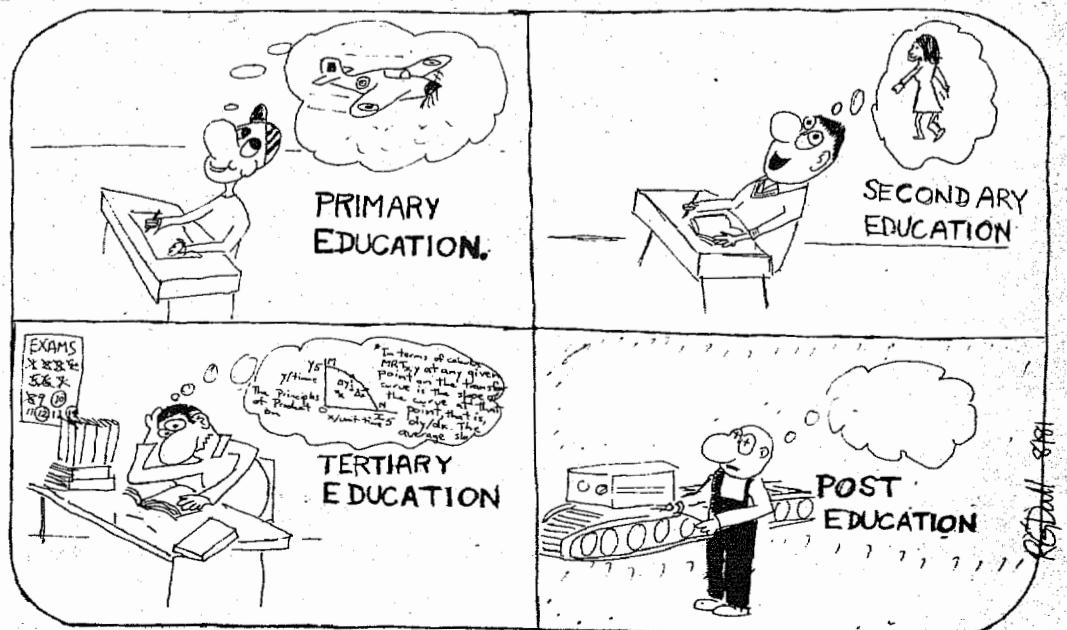
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Ancillary staff agreement hits trouble

AN APPEAL BY the University Ancillary Staff Association (ASA) to disallow an award granted to thirty University clerical staff will be decided today (Monday) in the Industrial Court.

The appeal was launched by the ASA on the grounds of public interest after a group of Federated Clerks Union (FCU) Members applied to the Industrial Commission for a consent award with the University last year.

ASA President Paul Hubert says it's obviously not in the public interest for the University to have to deal with the sixteen unions he says may claim members on campus.

The Ancillary Staff Association covers all non-professional workers on campus, performing roles as diverse as clerical work and grounds maintenance.

Hubert says multi-union representation would result in needless demarcation disputes and possible loss of industrial strength on campus. He's angry at the University's handling of the clerical staff award application so far, and accuses the Vice Chancellor, Professor D.R. Stranks, of misleading University Council over the issue. Hubert claims that a document circulated to staff outlining the new award shows that the VC "is either talking through his hat or doesn't know what he's talking about". It appears that Hubert objects to Stranks' referring to an "application on behalf of the Federated Clerks' Union".

The "application" was actually made by thirty members who were represented by an FCU organizer. Legally, the application was not made by the FCU, but as Stranks points out earlier in the document, the application was *de facto* on behalf of the Union. Stranks says that Hubert's statements are incorrect and adds that he has no wish to engage in "personal abuse".

"The document was released only after personal discussion with the ASA Executive including Mr Hubert," says Stranks.

The FCU camp are keeping quiet. Members told *On dit* that comment would not be appropriate until the appeal had been heard.

APS equals FCU

The rise of the FCU is related to the protracted industrial problems caused by the University's decision to introduce an Australian Public Service salary and promotions structure for all

non academic staff. Last year professional staff were angered by the University's attempts to bulldoze reclassifications through the Industrial Commission (see *On dit* Volume 48 Number 24).

Continuing delays by the University over implementation of Ancillary Staff reclassification and an associated 4% to 5.8% work value increase have resulted in a serious deterioration of relations, as well as the FCU's appearance on the scene. *On dit* believes members of the FCU have deep reservations about the effects of reclassification while the ASA is agreed in principle to the changes.

Contention between the two factions centres around a *Grandfather clause* which, while providing for retention of existing salary levels, does not provide a flow on of work value wage increases to those employees whose classification would be downgraded under the new guidelines.

Fair but not generous

The recently appointed Registrar, Frank O'Neill characterised the University's policy as being "fair but not generous". He pointed out that the University had to stay within its resources in setting salary scales. A generous settlement could result in the University having to employ less tutors, according to O'Neill.

Meanwhile a long running dispute with a non union staff member has been solved after the intervention of Vice Chancellor Stranks. The dispute, over the University's use of a direct to bank payroll system, resulted in non-payment of the staff member concerned for five months. The staff member, who declined to be named, wished to be paid in cash. "If there was an ounce of tact exercised by the people I was dealing with, the affair would have been over in a fortnight," he said.

O'Neill's Hope

The appointment of O'Neill may signal a change in the direction of the University's Industrial Relations policy, an area O'Neill prefers to call 'staff relations'. He hopes the completion of the present reclassification process will bring about a "different" industrial climate, but the University will need more than hopes in an industrial relations situation that looks anything but hopeful.

Geoff Hanmer.



Wholefoods Success Sparks Catering Row

IN THE CATERING kitchen, quiche and cottage cheese have been opposing the traditional bangers and mash in a controversy which erupted over the operation of the wholefoods outlet last year.

Wholefoods were an innovation which appeared in the Upper Refectory at the beginning of 1980. They were initially a sideline but in the second term their popularity warranted a move into the main servery area, where they remained for the rest of the year.

However, despite the success of the enterprise, wholefoods cook Ron Kendall was dissatisfied by what he saw as double standards applied by catering management in its dealing with staff. He believed that the staff preparing the refectory's range of traditional foods were given preference over wholefoods people. Furthermore, he believed that staff in other areas were also victims of discrimination.

In response to a request from the Catering Management Board, Kendall wrote a report which was tabled at the Board's meeting on February 12. (The Catering Management Board is the body which oversees student food services. It is composed of refectory management staff and student representatives.)

Kendall's report, once you remove the overlay of dry committee-style rhetoric, amounts to a spirited defence of the wholefoods operation. In the report Kendall maintains that wholefoods proved both that they were popular with students, and that they were produced in an efficient and profitable way.

In a flash of dry humour, Kendall compares the popularity of wholefoods with the hot meals prepared for the Mayo Refectory by the regular chef. "Students find the chef's food undesirable for some peculiar reason," he writes, "perhaps due to cost or some

other factor." The opinion of *On dit* is that the unspecified factor might be "excruciating", which certainly has a peculiar spelling if not a peculiar meaning.

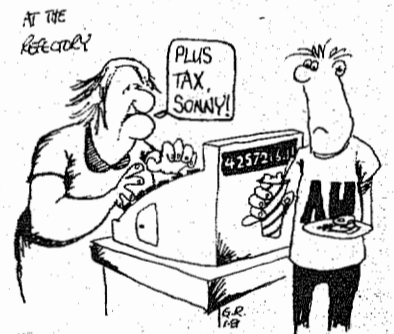
The main grievance presented by the report is that there exists a hierarchical structure in the Catering Department which exposes some staff to indignities such as a Bistro cook endured being forced to 'stand to attention' by his grill while the kitchen was inspected, and yet leaves others untouched.

Quoting the report, "To achieve ... an esteemed position within the Catering Department, it is merely a matter of being placed in the hierarchical structure."

Apparently Kendall did not enjoy a favourable place in this structure. Throughout 1980 he prepared and cooked all of the wholefoods, initially with the help of two student assistants and then only one. In the November swat vac. his assistant was studying which made him particularly busy.

One day during this period, Kendall prepared his food in the Upper Kitchen and was then "commanded" to carry it all downstairs to cook. This was because the regular chef was using ovens in the Upper Kitchen when he might have as easily used cooking facilities elsewhere. This incident sparked a row which eventually led to Kendall walking out. The dispute was finally resolved by Union Secretary, David Muir, who brought about some "reasonable management decisions". Again Kendall says: "The double-handed way in which Management deals with staff on a regular basis is something to be removed if the efficiency and longevity of the Catering Department is to be ensured." However Kendall assured Council that he had no "malicious intent".

He also outlined some changes which, he envisaged, would improve the operation of the wholefoods service in 1981.

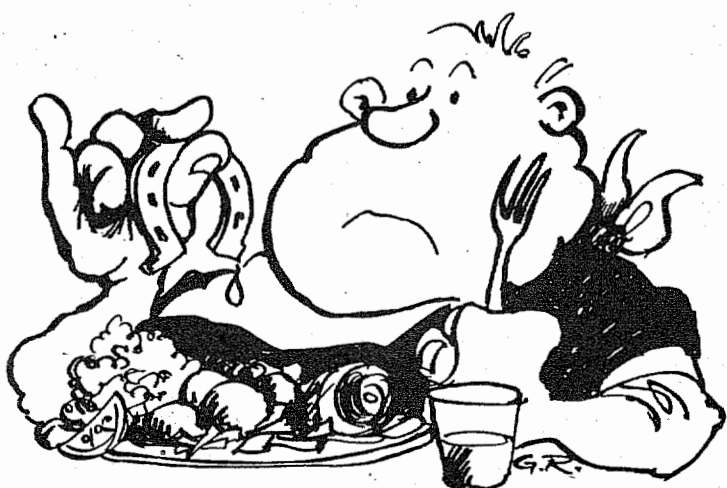


At this time, Kendall is remaining as cook this year.

As a corollary to his written report, Kendall includes some statistics about food sales in the November swat vac. which was the only time when wholefoods, chef's hot meals and fish and chips were selling simultaneously through the one outlet (Mayo Refectory). Nothing managed to oust the ubiquitous fish and chips but wholefoods came in second and chef's food a poor third.

The Catering Manager, Peter Stark, also presented a report on wholefoods to the same meeting of the Catering Management Board. His report recognized that oven facilities were not wholly adequate for the demands being made upon them by the regular chef, the wholefoods cook and the Bistro. Stark's report shows that the wholefoods profit increased steadily through 1980, peaking at 14.8% in third term and averaging over the year to 6.6%. Stark praised Kendall for his efforts in making the wholefoods venture a success.

Ron Kendall declined to comment to *On dit* about his report. *On dit* understands that the conflict has not yet been totally smoothed over though Kendall did indicate that he was now satisfied with his working arrangements. Hopefully students can look forward to Kendall's wholefoods being available in the Upper Refectory throughout 1981. Tim Dodd.



Bilbo

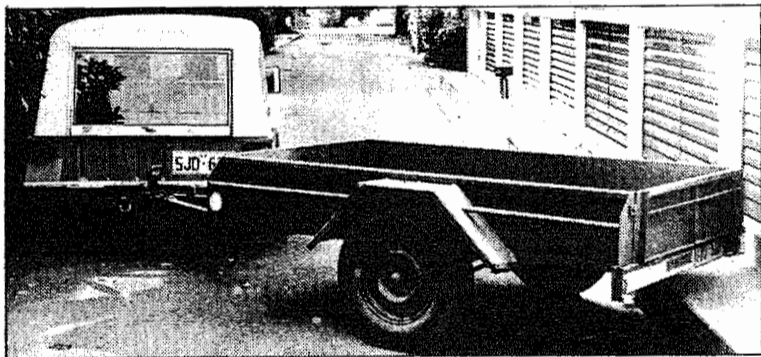


Lord of the Serials

Hobbits have always had a penchant for their ancestors and the noble family of Baggins is no exception. Bilbo's most famous ancestor and namesake passed over the sea at the end of the second age now many thousands of years ago in Shire reckoning. Old Bilbo however, did leave behind reams of notes and a partially written account of his adventures which was later added to by nephew and working class hero Frodo Baggins.

So, in keeping with the hobbit's almost inexhaustible patience for family stories, Bilbo has decided to bring to you a line a week of that venerable ancestor's memoirs. Luckily Bilbo doesn't have to pay royalties, being a member of the family. If it was necessary, Bilbo hates to imagine the bill at the end of the estimated 800 years before this serial will finish with the line "He ... " but that would ruin the effect - you'll just have to wait. Anyway, here it is.

"When Mr Bilbo Baggins of Bag End announced that he would shortly be celebrating his eleventy first birthday with a party of special magnificence, there was much talk and excitement in Hobbiton."



TRUE TO TYPE

There is cousin Frodo with *Empire Times* at Flinders University who tells of editor Kenton Miller (no relation) having difficulty with a typewriter golfball. Usually very simple devices to handle, Kenton nevertheless managed to catch a finger in the clip.

Bilbo wishes Kenton a speedy recovery and hopes the brain surgeons didn't have much trouble.

However the incident has helped Bilbo with a little brain teaser. Your non-technologically minded hobbit had thought that typesetters were especially useful for making both sides of typed columns even, or justified, and didn't understand why the *On dit* editors needed a typesetter when the right side of their columns were 'ragged'. But if a typesetter is safer than a typewriter, then that's justification enough.

Lessons in psyche



Do not take your rat from the labs unless you want the A.S.P.C.A on your back....

TOAST TO THE BALL

Your patient hobbit will refrain from major criticism of the Orientation Ball. There will be no comment on the disorganisation at the gates; the inadequacy of the bar facilities; the unavailability of soft drink after five thousand plus people managed to consume ten (10) crates of drink; the paucity of toilets (although the boys were luckier than the girls, perhaps because boys organised it); or the lack of food.

But Bilbo thought that perhaps some of the problems of the Ball could have been lessened if as usual the Evangelical Union had been able to set up their toasters in the Airport Lounge. However, it seems that they weren't given any encouragement by O-Ball Director, Don Ray. It seems that Don wanted EU to pay \$100 for electricity and cleaning costs.

Bilbo suggests that maybe this pursuit of the maximum profit from every aspect of the O-Ball may make it less popular over the years, especially to those who thirst, hunger, urinate, eat and have memories.

DRIVING - WET OR DRY?

Grand Master Maddocks continues to bring himself to Bilbo's attention. This time it seems obvious that Simon cannot park his Moke and trailer very well. See hand drawn facsimile below. Bilbo doesn't carry a spy camera. Bilbo does recognise that this occurred after the O-Ball so maybe it was better Simon couldn't manoeuvre himself out of his predicament. However Bilbo must warn Simon that if he is trying this just for a publicity stunt then he can forget it. The question is though, did Simon have anything to drink or is he always as bad a driver as that?

SKIP TO MY LOO

Bilbo has heard of positive discrimination, but surely basic necessities should be taken into account. Your wise little hobbit spied something which worried both himself and his moralistic grandma (little dear that she is). It seems that for the purposes of the O-Ball the men's toilets in the George Murray Building were changed to women's. However the sign explaining this rather significant change of events had inadvertently (so Bilbo hopes) been left up after the fact (to put it in legal parlance - your hobbit isn't uneducated you know). It further seems that at least one embarrassed person of the sex appropriate to the sign but inappropriate to the function of the toilets was seen leaving rather hastily from the said area. Bilbo's sympathies lie with the person concerned and also with those men who faced the frustration (and discomfort) of seeking relief further afield.

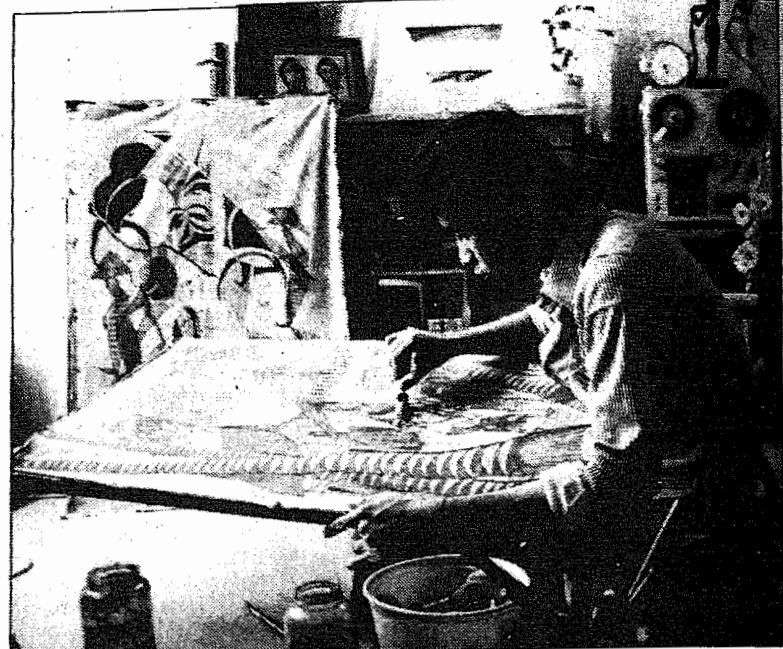
LATE LUNCH

Written notice on "slate" in the Student Activities Office - Mandy (SAUA President) out to lunch. Back at 4 o'clock." Even your modest little hobbit doesn't take that long over Mayo fish and chips. But I did forget about the siesta didn't I?

Bilbo would also like to discuss a certain matter of headlines with the person responsible for "BILBO FINDS SOME FRIENDS" which appeared in last week's *On dit*. Bilbo would like to point out that troglodytes are not on his list of current business associates and so would like a retraction of the offending headline (or better yet, the headliner).

Sorry Bilbo, our apologies. Hope it hasn't affected your social life. The offender is currently incognito (whatever that is) and can't be contacted - eds.

Well, Bilbo's grandma feels that he has been particularly verbose tonight and that it is past his bedtime. And I did want to stay up and watch the first ten parts of the serialisation of *Lord of the Rings* ...



Batik Exhibit

AN EXHIBITION of Batik paintings is coming to the Gallery from Thursday, March 19 until April 3. The artist being featured is Lean Eng Yeow, a man whose work is highly acclaimed all over South East Asia, having exhibited in Penang, Singapore and Indonesia. He was born and educated in Penang, Malaysia, but is self-taught as far as his art form is concerned, a quite considerable feat when one realises the amount of expertise needed to execute such intricate Batik works. He will be

available for you to talk to him if you are interested in Batik, or even art in general; just contact either Maureen Sadler or Barry Salter in the Gallery and they can arrange something for you. This is the first exhibition at the Uni. for 1981, so it is a good opportunity for new students to get acquainted with the various functions put on by the Activities people. However, old or new, get along to see this showing of Batik as it promises to be quite an interesting and enriching experience.

Hello Possums



A.U. Biology Society

Last year, the Biology Society made a revival, and succeeded in having a successful year. Despite its name, not all club activities are biological - such events as a cricket match, a barbecue, "sherry evenings" and a dinner at "La Mensa" were organised.

We also had films at lunchtimes, generally with a biological bias. Each month there was a camp to a patch of natural scrub behind Kuitpo Pine Forest, where possums and native rats and marsupial mice were caught as part of a continuing survey conducted by the Department of Woods and Forests.

The most successful event of the year was a nine day camp

to Kangaroo Island, where animal trapping, bush walking, and chasing bush turkeys were but a few highlights.

This year, we plan to continue and expand these activities. The Club will be having its Annual General Meeting on TUESDAY, 17th MARCH, at 1.00 pm. It will be held in the LITTLE LECTURE THEATRE in the BENHAM BUILDING (the one near the north-east corner of the Barr-Smith Lawns - signs will show you the way). A camp to the Zoology Department's field station at Coobowie, on Yorke Peninsula, in the near future, will be discussed.

Also, we will be having a WINE AND CHEESE EVENING on FRIDAY, 20th MARCH, from about 5 pm, at a venue yet to be arranged. See *Bread and Circuses* and posters around the Uni.

Anyone at all interested is welcome to come - it's interesting, and good fun. Mark Tester

Go In

DO YOU REMEMBER Come Out '75, '77 and '79? Well we now have Come Out '81 on its way.

The "opening" of Come Out '81 (scheduled May 10-23) happened last Friday (the 6th) and was held in the Amphitheatre, Festival Centre, with that mysterious busker, Glen, a dance troupe, fire eaters, *John Rundle and the Malls*, and *Your Very Own Adelaide Uni. Choral Society* participating.

Simon Townsend compered the opening at about 5.00 pm and there was free food, free grog and stickers and posters for anyone who was there.

The idea of "Come Out" is a Youth Festival of theatre, dance, music and there is also a Media Workshop, a Cabaret Club, Come Out on the Dole, Come Outdoors, etc. Nothing will cost more than 70c and most of it will be free. So come out to Come Out! It is aimed at people of age 4-24 so I'm sure that a number of you will qualify.

At least come along to support your (and Flinders') Choral Society (yes we are also involved in Come Out in May) as we are singing such works as *Bohemian Rhapsody* and a lot of *Pink Floyd*!

CFS - Fiery Aims

Religion and politics are not such strange partners. So say AU Christians for Socialism, part of an international Christian movement. Many Christians interpret their faith in such a way that they seek to help others in an individual and privatised way. Christians for Socialism, however, see that they have a commitment to transform society and overcome injustice and inequality which in many cases they see stemming from economic structures. Production in society is controlled by a small number of private citizens and a few large corporations. Thus decisions are made by a relatively small elite satisfying their goal of profit-making. The satisfaction of human needs takes second place to the quest

for profit. Socialism, the group says, would provide a wider based society and a better means for co-operation.

The group doesn't equate the Christian faith with any political or economic programme or expect socialism immediately to solve the world's problems, but they do believe that socialism is the best way to fight today's injustices and inequalities. Many AUCFS members are involved in other Christian and/or political groups on campus. They will be meeting to raise some questions (and perhaps give some answers) on CFS at 1 pm Thursday March 19 in the Portus Room. Regular meetings will be held at the same time every week, normally in the North Dining Room.

Unemployment Benefits - you may be eligible

MANY STUDENTS who are not full-timers (or may not be at some time in the future) should keep in mind that they may be eligible for unemployment benefit. Any student who is doing less than 75% of a full load and who has less than eight 'contact' hours between 9am and 5pm can claim unemployment benefits. The only proviso is that you must be willing to declare that you are prepared to take a job if one is offered. However if you "knock-back" a job offer by the CES you can only be "terminated" - they can't make you pay any money back.

If you are on the dole, you must lodge a form at the CES once a fortnight and on that form you must write down

about four jobs you have applied for.

Although *On dit* doesn't recommend this, some (very naughty) students, simply pick four jobs out of the paper and say that they applied for them. The Department of Social Security has no staff or facilities to check up on what jobs people say they have applied for.

Although the dole is not very much (\$53 per week) it is better than what most students get and can be a good way to finance your studies. If you think you might be eligible for unemployment benefit, come into the Student Office any time and someone can probably give you details on how to go about applying.



Aspiring Pythons - Join this Club!

WHAT DO Monty Python and Adelaide University have in common? (Well, really!) But the future prospects of our campus being the spawning ground for tomorrow's John Cleeses increased last week when the first meeting of people interested in forming a new club called 'Video Film Makers' Corporation'.

Maureen Sadler, Activities Assistant, told me that the above reference to the Python gang in this term's activities' guide is because of the fact that the famous people in question had their small but humble beginnings at Cambridge University in England, and according to Maureen, we have the same potential - as yet untapped.

Her idea was to form a club that could use the recently purchased colour video equipment to produce short sketches, documentaries etc. to give students the opportunity to use the equipment to gain the skills required in writing,

directing, producing, and camera work. In fact to be able to plan from start to finish the production of a video show.

The idea got off the ground last week with a preliminary meeting for people interested in such a concept in the Gallery on Thursday. In attendance were thirteen people to whom the thought of being next term's bar show TV stars had been appealing. The club still has to go through the bureaucratic tape of the CSC before it can actually come into existence, but if the last meeting was any indication of the enthusiasm of the participants, this shouldn't take very long. —

It is planned to have the Inaugural General Meeting on Monday 23rd March (watch *On dit* and *Bread & Circuses* for more details) where the constitution will be accepted and officers of the club elected. From then on it's anybody's guess as to how it will go.
Dennis Medlow



Ex-Russian Dissident Stirs Lunch Crowd

MARXIST PHILOSOPHY views religion as pure superstition and "the opium of the people". Accordingly, the *Atheist's Pocket Dictionary*, a bestseller in the USSR, defines 'God' as an idea "used to justify and protect the social order of exploiters". 'Heaven' is a distraction from "the real tasks of the Communist rearrangement of life on earth", and 'Hell' dampens "the rage of the working people against their oppressors by planting a hope that the latter will be punished after death". Conversely, the *Atheist's Dictionary* defines 'Atheism' as expressing the interests and aspirations of the working class and "serves the cause of spiritual liberation of the working masses from the burden of prejudices and delusions of the past".

Not all Soviet citizens choose to conform to this official Party line on religion. One such "dissident" visited the University last Tuesday lunchtime. Pastor Georgi Vins, Leader of the Independent Russian Baptist Church gave, with the aid of an interpreter, a twenty minute talk on freedom of religious worship in the Soviet Union.

The Pastor was certainly qualified to speak on this topic,

as he had spent eight years in Soviet prison camps because of his Christian convictions. In 1979 he and four other prisoners were exchanged for three Russian spies being held in the USA. Vins now lives in that country with his family.

Vins and many others like him, continue to suffer repression, despite Article 52 of the Soviet Constitution, which assures citizens of the "right to profess or not to profess any religion and to conduct religious worship".

At the Tuesday meeting, Pastor Vins recalled a significant prison experience. When arrested, he was placed in a cell full of hardened murderers. The first thing they asked him was: "How many people have you killed?" To this Vins replied, "I am a Christian. I have not killed anybody."

As proof of his claim, Georgi Vins passed around the cell a tiny copy of the gospel of Mark, which he had smuggled into the prison. The murderers were apparently delighted by this rare opportunity to discover God firsthand. The Christian spirit thus triumphed under oppressive circumstances.

The Tuesday meeting concluded with Pastor Vins

asking all gathered to think about spiritual values, as one day they may be lost completely. There seems to be little real chance of that ever happening however, since, even in the Soviet Union after sixty-three years of official Atheism, many young people are, in the words of Vins, "experiencing a spiritual awakening".

Pastor Georgi Vins' talk was an inspiration to all who admire courage in the face of mindless aggression, and to all practicing Christians on Campus.

Tony Butcher

MAKE YOUR MARK!
Nomination for the SAUA/Union By-elections.
Nominations close Wednesday 18th March 5 p.m.
Positions Vacant
- SAUA Executive Committee
- SAUA Public Affairs Committee
- SAUA Social Activities Committee
- Union Council (five positions)
Nomination forms and further information available in the Student Activities Office. DO IT NOW!

COMPUTING COMMITTEE

The position of Students' Association representative on the Computing Committee has fallen vacant. If there is a student interested in nominating for the position see Mandy Cornwall, President of the Students' Association in the Student Office. We are not necessarily looking for a computing whiz, but someone interested in technology and its potential impact.

Policy for Student Radio

STUDENT RADIO isn't accessible to the majority of Adelaide University students. This summarises the response to the past music policy that this year's co-director have already heard. The obvious questions that arise out of such a reaction were discussed at last week's meeting of those involved with Student Radio.

As one of the major media outlets of student opinion in Adelaide, it seems reasonable that the programmes should appeal to as wide an audience as possible. Don't get the wrong idea though! No one is suggesting that you won't hear Student Radio playing today's innovative music. Also, they

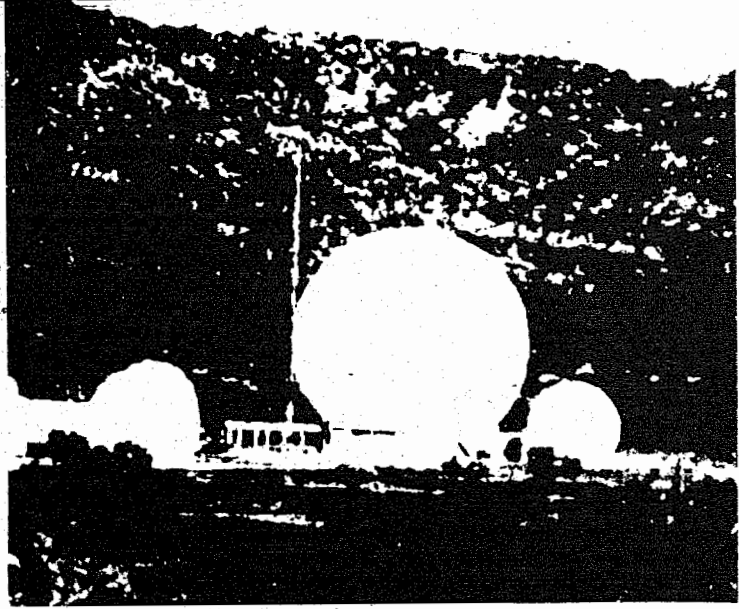
aren't suggesting that you'll hear slabs of commercial or "wallpaper" music. The policy that Student Radio is striving to implement will allow for a more balanced view of the art. ("I like it, but is it art?") Some may suggest that they're risking falling between a Double SA-FM and a Triple M-FM sound. Whilst recognising this possibility, the meeting felt confident that there is still a sufficient amount of music that isn't receiving air-play which will continue to give Student Radio its own identity.

One of the musical features on Student Radio this week is the return of the Top 12 on Thursday night. As well as

providing some great music, the Top 12 is aimed at sending up the commercial station's hype. Other features are Nick X's film review, also on Thursday; Vincent Wong's social commentary on Wednesday, plus a sprinkling of humour and local recordings made in recent years.

Your reactions to all Student Radio programmes are welcomed. Please ring after hours (223 3699) and speak with the announcer or leave a message for the Co-directors at 5UV or the Student Activities Office. Good listening!

Trevor John, Nonee Walsh
S/R Co-directors 1981



Gaps in Defence

OVER THE PAST few months the United States-Australia alliance, has been strengthened - Malcolm Fraser's battle of words with the Soviet ambassador, the consent given for B-52s to land in Australia, and the expansion of two United States military bases in Australia. This reinforcement of our ties with America has caused considerable concern, largely because of Mr Killen's (Minister of Defence) remark that Australia is now a nuclear target. As a result of this, and other developments, Mr Hayden and his deputy, Mr Bowen, are to inspect four US bases in Australia.

One of the reasons for their visit to Pine Gap (NT) is to obtain more information on their purpose and operations. Presently the only information concerning these bases comes from leaked documents and investigative journalists. These bases, on Australian soil, are strictly controlled by the US without Australia having much knowledge, let alone influence, of their operation.

There is more information on public record in the US than is available in Australia. Much of what Australians have heard concerning the bases has been obtained through the Freedom of Information Act where a reason must be given for access to be denied to government documents. This gives rise to the question that if the Americans don't mind, why should the Australian government. "Coming clean" might be more advantageous as it would show the general public that Australian governments (past and present) have nothing more to hide than the US government.

When the building of Pine Gap started in the 1960s, the first the residents of Alice Springs knew about it was that a road was being built towards an area called Pine Gap. When the question as to its purpose was raised, the residents were told it was to give access to the water bores in that area. Great! But later, to their amazement, they found that the road went up to the bores, past them, and for all they knew, out into the desert! By this time the discussions had already been held and a formalised agreement already signed. Surely the Australian public had more right to know and debate should have occurred.

The Smithfield Transit station has been in the news lately with controversy possibly beyond its importance. But try telling the local residents that! One woman who has lived next to the station for a number of years and didn't know what its purpose was, is very worried.

On dit spoke to the local member Terry Hemmings who said of the attitude of the residents - "They were fearful". Some people who had just built a new house nearby were considerably upset as they felt the value of their house had decreased dramatically and selling now was out of the question. Possibly the KGB would be interested? Hemmings said that his office had been receiving four or five calls a week concerning the site. Munno Para Council also has received calls. Whether the fear of the residents is justified or not is a moot point, but the psychological and emotional effects of the bases' existence, and even the decrease in house values, show that the existence of the bases goes beyond their strategic significance. Possibly President Reagan can allocate some of his massive increase in defence spending towards compensating Smithfield residents?

From the limited information available it is possible to piece together some of the activities carried out on these bases.

Pine Gap in central Australia has a dual function. It is a link in the United States' early-warning system which gives America notice of trans-continental missile attacks. Hence it is of great significance in US security. It also functions as a CIA spy system by monitoring the airways and recording other countries, most likely even our own, 'private' communications.

Smithfield is the only base close to an Australian capital city and was established in the sixties to upgrade submarine navigational data. The much publicized new 'temporary' equipment is to assist in the field testing of the new US Navstar global positioning system.

Navstar is a collection of twenty-four satellites controlled by ground stations which will provide highly accurate position fixing information. The significance of this system is

that it will allow submarines to fix their position accurately enough to give them the capacity to destroy fixed Soviet missile silos. Thus a United States submarine will be transformed from retaliatory weapons to offensive war machines. This will enhance America's first strike ability and threaten the Soviet Union. As a United States congressional report stated, "The Soviets could see it [Navstar] as facilitating a US pre-emptive attack."

Therefore with Smithfield helping Navstar's introduction, North West Cape being involved in submarine command communications, and Pine Gap, a link in Uncle Sam's armour Australia is of significant strategic value to the United States of America.

However this importance may be to our detriment given America's change of defence strategy in the past year. Instead of M.A.D. (Mutually Assured Destruction) blowing each other out of existence, it is likely any nuclear conflict between the two super-powers will be in the form of a tactical nuclear war. Each side will destroy the other's strategic positions without bombs being dropped on the other's homeland to a great degree. If such an engagement were to occur Australia would be a likely pawn, having little strategic value other than these bases and our mineral deposits.

However if we choose to mould our defence forces around the USA's and expect or hope the United States to help us if we are threatened, these bases, with their necessary secrecy and inherent danger, are a price we must pay. The other alternatives are to build our own independent self-contained defence force or make neutrality our defence. Both options depend on your personal and political views obviously, with costs and benefits associated with each.

If you feel our present course is the preferable one, silence will voice your approval, but if you feel our United States' military bases are unnecessary, then the essence of democracy means you should voice your disapproval.

A National Seminar is being held in Alice Springs (April 18th-19th) by the Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament entitled "Pine Gap - 1966-81. Which Way for Australia and The Alice?" For further details contact them (Melbourne address) or Action Against Foreign Military Bases (AAFMB).

Further reading: *A Suitable Piece of Real Estate*, Dr Des Ball. We leave you with a word from our Prime Minister: "It is the practice of the Government as ... of successive governments of Australia, neither to confirm or deny speculations or assertions about the Joint Defence Space Research Facility at Pine Gap." **Alan Rushbrook and Paul Hunt**



Roger McGough

Out of bounds

THERE IS a feeling, handed down through generations, that as far as entertainment goes, poetry is boring and comedy is funny. The two are supposedly unrelated, each having their own rigid format, with the poet not daring to be humorous, and the comedian not getting bogged down in poetry (well, perhaps the odd limerick?).

If anybody has helped to blow this myth away, it is Roger McGough. At his reading at Adelaide University during O Week, McGough showed the 150 listeners that poetry can be comical, melancholy, meaningful or meaningless. That the only bounds in poetry lie not in the rhythm or meter, but in the poet's imagination. His poems are seldom long-winded. They are short, bold, succinct comments, never over-descriptive and never dull. McGough's work had always seemed lively to me on paper, and yet it became even more so read by its creator. McGough calls things like they are; he is, a "bloody good" poet, as a science student told me, or as an English lecturer put it, "an intrinsically fascinating embodiment of contemporary poetry".

McGough is a quiet man in his mid 40's. He doesn't like talking about his poetry, believing that it should speak, not him. While very popular and well-known in England, he found most people's lack of recognition of him in Australia a pleasant surprise. "I get nervous when people come up to me and ask me to sign autographs and that sort of stuff," he told me. "It was particularly bad in the days of the *Scaffold* [the band that had a hit with *Lily the Pink*]. I'm still not used to it now."

If anything, McGough will find it hard to keep a low profile once back in England. In the past two years he has put on shows in London's West End which have broken box office records. It is this public acceptance from which Roger derives satisfaction. He rarely gives notice to critics. "Some nights, if you know a certain

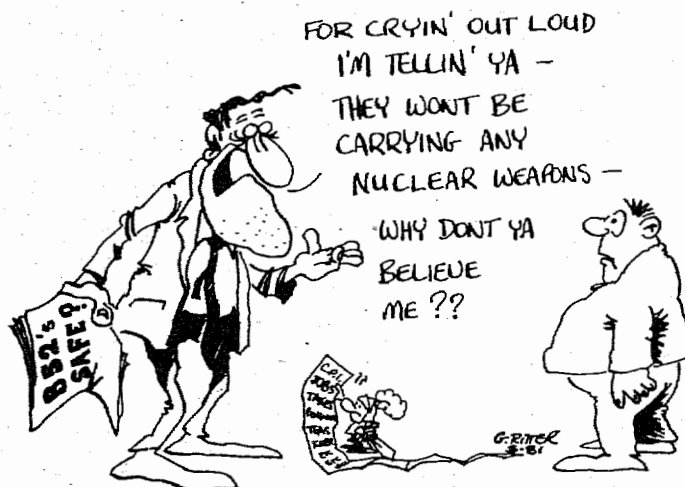
critic is in the audience, you know you'll get a bad review the next day. It doesn't bother me, really. Most of them are emotional cripples, anyway."

Roger McGough is good friends with Eric Idle of Monty Python fame, having known him for years and worked on Idle's *Beatles* spoof, *The Rutles*. Parts of that film were shot in McGough's home in Liverpool, including a scene in which Idle and Bianca Jagger were featuring. McGough recalls, "I remember that Eric rang me up and asked if he could use my house for filming. When he arrived with Bianca, I couldn't believe it, so I rang up my old school mates, you know, who were now electricians, carpenters and pork butchers, who all came over. When Bianca finished filming, I introduced them to her as business magnates, film producers and tycoons. They all began chatting her up and promising her parts in their next film, while trying to kiss her and put their hand up her dress. The funny thing is, she's still waiting for them to put her in their film."

In Australia for three weeks, including a week at the Perth Festival of Arts, Roger McGough sees this country as one with an inferiority complex. "I think your films are bloody good, but I don't think you support them enough. You wait until they're acclaimed overseas and then rush to your cinema. People here have got to realize that Australian doesn't mean second class." Coming from a first class poet, it sounds like good advice.

At 43, Roger McGough is a very wealthy man, now living in Chelsea, as opposed to Liverpool. Amazingly enough, he only began writing poetry at the age of 18, and encourages Uni. students to write if they feel the need. "I was a late beginner, not a child star or anything like that." After hearing his poetry and meeting him I would concede that a child star he was not, but an adult star, definitely.

Paul Klaric



Fairly interesting Union Council meeting

Kerry Hinton, recently enthroned as Chair of Union Council, replacing Andrew Frost who recently abdicated to Telecom, will be writing "notes" on each Council meeting, giving the official view of what happened.



Alan Kennington, junior reporter

The Real Story

Alan Kennington will also report on the Union Council meetings except that, free from the burden of office, direct political self-interest and the foggiest notion of how to report, he will attempt to reveal the true significance of what goes on. Hopefully he'll improve with experience.

Report on Union Council Meeting

MOST STUDENTS groan with displeasure each year when they find out how much their compulsory Union fee is going to set them back by. But last year voter turn-out for the Annual Union Council elections didn't reach 12%, although relative to the average turn-out, this was quite high. As the central and ultimate decision-maker on the spending of the Union fee and administration of accumulated Union assets, one might have expected that a disgruntled student population would be even more interested. Perhaps not very many people know what it's all about. Perhaps those 12% are the only ones who know what they're voting for and are therefore the best qualified to do so. But just as likely, it is the fanatics and power-mad persons who take the most interest.

Five vacancies on Union Council need filling, nominations for which close on Wednesday 18th March. If you don't know anything about what the Union Council does, the following account of their last meeting (23.2.81) might give you some clues.

The meeting started at 6 pm and lasted five hours. The first business was to discuss an industrial matter. In my opinion industrial relations is a subject even more boring than regional development (reputed by many to be the most boring subject). So I'll say no more than that as a small employer of a diverse workforce, the Union naturally would wish to simplify industrial matters by including all employees in a single agreement or award. It was agreed to do this, but what is interesting is the mode of discussion. Two interested parties attended the meeting as visitors to put their points of view. But following their statements, Council went in camera - i.e. they asked visitors to wait outside while a confidential discussion was held by Councillors. Afterwards, the motion decided in camera was reput, presumably so that it

would appear in the minutes, which exclude all proceedings in camera.

Next, some fairly routine matters like amending and confirming previous minutes, accepting Council resignations, electing replacement chairs of the Council's various committees and giving the Secretary \$2,175 to make an overseas trip were disposed of. Reports from such Union areas as the Catering Department and the Union Bookshop were taken note of. In particular, an expected Catering Dept loss of \$20,000 for 1980 was reported. But these reports are sent to Councillors beforehand so that they are read outside the meeting and require little time to discuss, unless something controversial comes up.

In camera, cleaners' and stewards' wages were decided, after which reports were received, loan requests were decided, appointments were ratified, and the position of Film Group Co-ordinator were discussed.

Finally, Council went in camera to discuss the controversial Wholefoods Report. But I'll leave that subject to somebody else, as it's far too controversial for a reckless junior reporter like myself to write about (see article, this issue). Presumably the Councillors then went home and got some sleep.

**Alan Kennington
Junior Reporter, Grade D.**



Kerry Hinton tells all

UNION COUNCIL NOTES

Once a month, Union Council, the elected body of nineteen members which manages the Union, meets to deal with running the Union. Between Council meetings, various Committees of the Union meet to discuss matters upon which these Committees advise the Council.

Thus, using this advice, Union Council deals with a significant amount of business at its monthly meetings.

This article, and others to follow, is aimed at informing you of what is going on at Union Council. There are two basic reasons for this. (1) You're footing the bill with the (compulsory) Statutory Fee you must pay, and (2) so that if you don't like what you read in this column you can do something about it, i.e. Union Council would like some feedback from you.

The way you make your opinions heard is pretty simple. You can come and see me (Kerry Hinton, Union Council Chair, c/o Union Office, 1st Floor, Lady Symon Building or c/o Maths Physics Dept, or c/o Student Activities Office). Otherwise you can chat to the Union Secretary (David Muir, c/o Union Office, etc.) or chat to any Union Councillor (their faces are displayed in the south-eastern corner of the Cloisters) or write a letter to *On dit* or ...

(a) Film Group Director

New students may notice that about twice a week quite recent films are screened in the Union Hall for a cheap admission fee. To get these films shown requires quite an amount of work. In the past this was done by voluntary labour drawn from a Club called the AU Film Group.

However, the losses per year were about \$3,000. Last year, a student, Neale Yardley, worked full-time on the task and, with a small change in approach, netted a profit of about \$3,500. Hence, it was suggested that there be a full-time paid person, to be called the Film Director, to present films. Unfortunately, this would cost about \$10,000 (including payroll tax, etc.); thus we would be worse off than before.

After some extensive debate and haggling, the final solution has been almost found in that the Film Group will fund the position entirely out of its profit which will, hopefully, be boosted sufficiently by a marginal admission price rise. (Even with the price rise, it's still the best value in town.) Since the film showings are popular, it is considered that they must continue, but the extra costs must be covered by

the Film Group since otherwise they would force the Statutory Fee up. Although the final details of the relationship between the Film Director and the Union have not been sorted out, it seems that, apart from costs of administrative back up, the Film Director position will pay for itself.

(b) Union Financial Statment 1980

Final details are not available yet, but it seems the Union finished 1980 \$120,000 ahead. This may sound as though you have been ripped off in your fee, but we must remember that this is *not* profit. It is a reserve out of which the whole Union must, eventually, replace over \$1 million worth of capital equipment (e.g. beer fridges, sound equipment, etc.).

Thus, although the Union is certainly financially healthy, it most certainly has not got money to burn. The Union Secretary (David Muir) and Union staff, must be congratulated for the good financial result of 1980.

(c) Catering Department Loss

Now the not so good news; during 1980 the Catering Department came out \$21,000 in the red. Compared to the above this may not sound too pleasing, but in fact, it's not that bad. This is the first year such a large loss has been recorded and comparing it to the up to \$300,000 losses experienced in Universities in NSW and Queensland, we're fairly well off.

Fortunately, due to the introduction of vending machines, the loss wasn't as bad as it could have been, especially when you realise that the whole catering and alcohol business in South Australia has been on a real downer over the last year. (The main reason being the harsher drink-driving laws compounded with the fact that the Union cannot have a "Drive-in" Shop).

Anyway, moves are afoot to remedy the problem so read on ...

(d) Catering Department Survey

Last year Union Council, foreseeing the financial problems of the Catering Department, decided to secure professional help to find solutions to the Department's falling profits.

Two proposals were aired; one was to have the consultant company Touche Ross Services undertake an in-depth survey and the other was to have a quasi-internal survey done by a qualified person who had experience in the Union; however, did not have the professional experience or back-up of Touche Ross Services.

Obviously, TRS costs more, so there was much debate as to which was more value for money. The problem was solved when the quasi-internal person got another job. The result is that Touche Ross will be conducting a survey of the Catering Department and how it fulfills your requirements; this task being only a portion of the initial TRS proposal.

After the survey, Union Council and the Catering Management Board will decide what to do with the results.

(e) Industrial Negotiations

At present Union Council is undertaking negotiations with several employee unions regarding coverage of Union

staff. The negotiations are still fairly preliminary. However, even at this stage several unions and groups of unions have exhibited strong interest in covering the staff of the Adelaide University Union.

At present, Union Council has decided that it would prefer a single Award (as compared to an Agreement) to cover all staff not in the Catering Department (which is already covered by an Agreement with the LATU).

Further, the Council has decided, as a matter of policy, to move toward Australian Public Service conditions (i.e. to model the staff wages, classifications and conditions on those used by the APS).

(f) Legal Case

At present the Union is involved in a civil action taken by a previous employee who claims to have been underpaid whilst employed by the Union. The total amount being sought is \$12,000. Obviously, little more can be said since the case has not yet been settled. It has been listed to be heard in October this year.

(g) Work Action and Accommodation

Recently, the Union has funded the production of two adverts being shown on TV. One is to publicise Work Action which is a casual employment service run by the Union and which you have free access to. The other is to publicise an Accommodation Service also run by the Union through which you can find accommodation in Adelaide. The response has been very good, so I suggest that if you want a casual job or a place to stay, drop into the Student Activities Office which is in the north-eastern corner of the Cloisters.

(h) Centralisation of Union Administration

Union Council last year decided to pool together various parts of the Union Administration. In doing so it is hoped that staff savings will result and further, the Administration will function more efficiently. The Administration is to be centralised in the 1st floor of the Lady Symon Building (north-west of the Cloisters).

The building must have some minor interior renovations carried out first, and once complete (in about) the following Union services will be run from that building:

- room bookings, squash court bookings, financial records and accounts, Union records, conference and convention enquiries, equipment bookings, payment of accounts, Activities Director, Education Research, General Union Enquiries.

(i) Union Restructuring

Recently two proposals for a Union restructuring were presented ("Union Restructuring" refers to the committee system and administration rather than to the actual buildings). The debate and discussion of these papers will be proceeding soon and therefore you can expect to see a few articles in *On dit* about this topic. It would be nice if you read them and made (constructive) comment on the proposals. Remember, you're footing the bill for all this.

**Kerry Hinton
Chair
Union Council**

UNEMPLOYMENT benefits for whom?

"The CES is not a welfare agency; it is a manpower delivery service for EMPLOYERS"

OUR NEW POLICY ELIMINATES THE CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT - THE UNEMPLOYED

Why do we employ people to keep us unemployed?

DURING 1976 AND 1977 I worked as an Employment Officer with the Commonwealth Employment Service, although I can't be too specific about where as I don't want to identify myself in case I have to go on the dole again.

Working for the CES or the Department of Social Security certainly does not conform to the stereotyped view many people have of Public Servants - it was bloody hard work!

During the period 1973-1977, unemployment increased four-fold, yet the staff in most CES Offices had risen only 50%. If, after you finish at University, you think that the service you get from the CES is not good, spare a thought for the staff who often have to interview 25 or more people a day, do the bureaucratic paperwork and answer the phone all day, as well as trying to find jobs for people.

Many times, desperate people would come into the office and demand a job. Usually they would not believe me and get very angry when I told them we had 2,000 unemployed people on the books and only four jobs - none of which they were qualified for.

The CES acts only as a

collection agency for dole forms - all the processing of people's money happens at the Department of Social Security. Most people on the dole at some stage get hassled by late cheques, forms which go missing or are mysteriously "terminated". Of course, people come into the CES to find out what's going on and a lot of time is taken up by trying to sort out the incredible red tape.

Helping people in this way was often frowned on from above. As my group of trainee Employment Officers were told by a senior departmental official, "The CES is not a welfare agency; it is a manpower delivery service for employers."

The Fraser Government's cynical attitude to "solving" unemployment was nowhere more obvious than in its "training schemes". The Special Youth Employment Training Programme (called "sweet-pea" for short) was a scheme where the government gave an employer \$65 per week for six months for taking on a young employee. Employment Officers were expected to remind prospective employers that they could sack these young workers after the six month subsidy ran out and get

someone else and another subsidy.

Although this scheme costs upwards of \$50 million each year, it creates very few extra jobs. Essentially it is a system of handing out money to business to cover the wage costs of people who would have been employed anyway.

Although the working conditions in the CES tend to make the staff less sympathetic to the unemployed, a minority of CES staff went out of their way to make life difficult for the unemployed. The sexual, ethnic and class prejudices of some CES officers came through very clearly in the reports they wrote on some people's record cards.

Some of the more horrifying were:

"Typical Greek" (whatever that means).

"No good - wearing 'Save the Whale' badge."

"Nice girl, but a bit of a radical."

"Wouldn't be a bad fuck - but not much use for anything else."

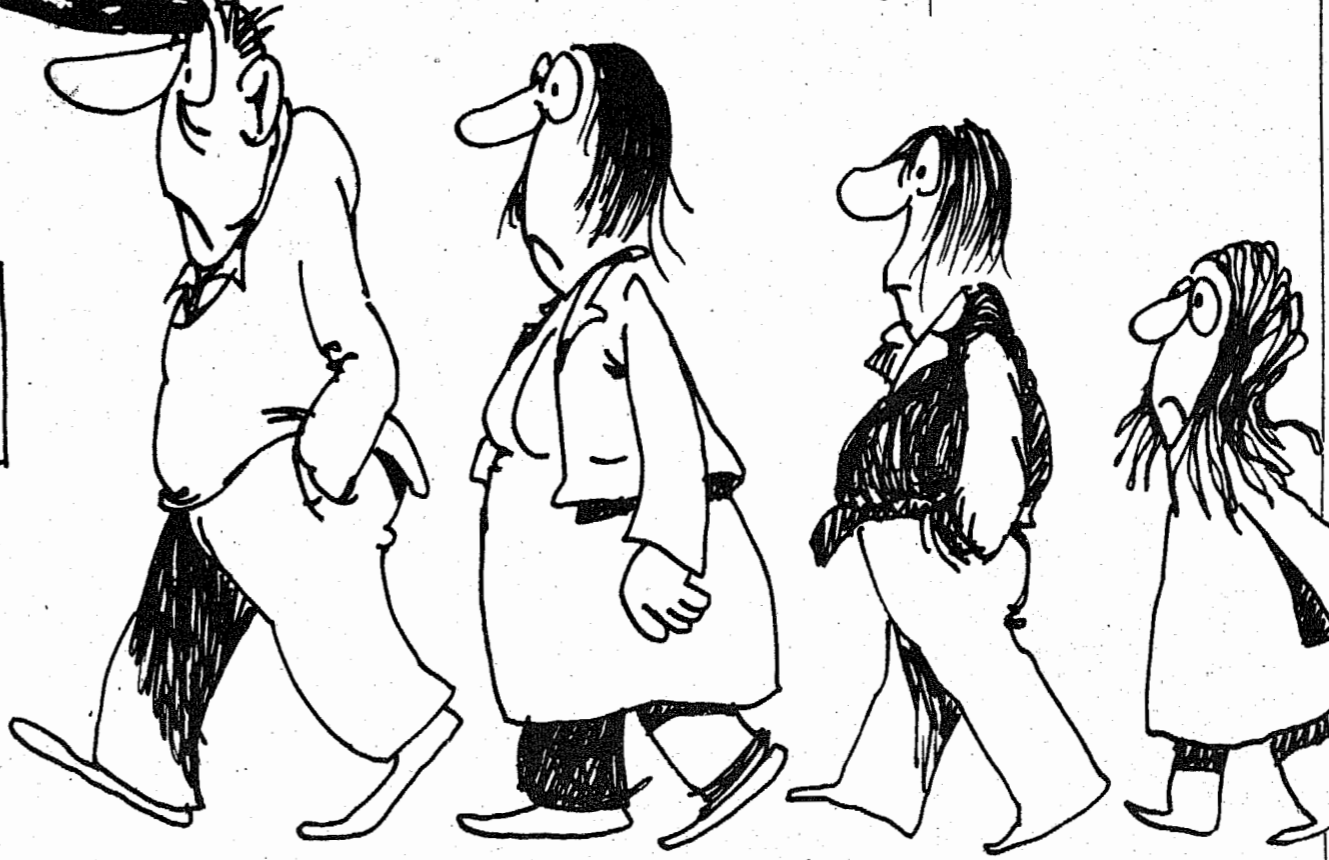
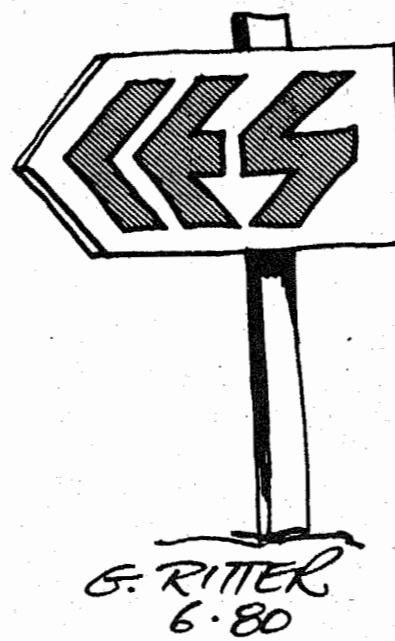
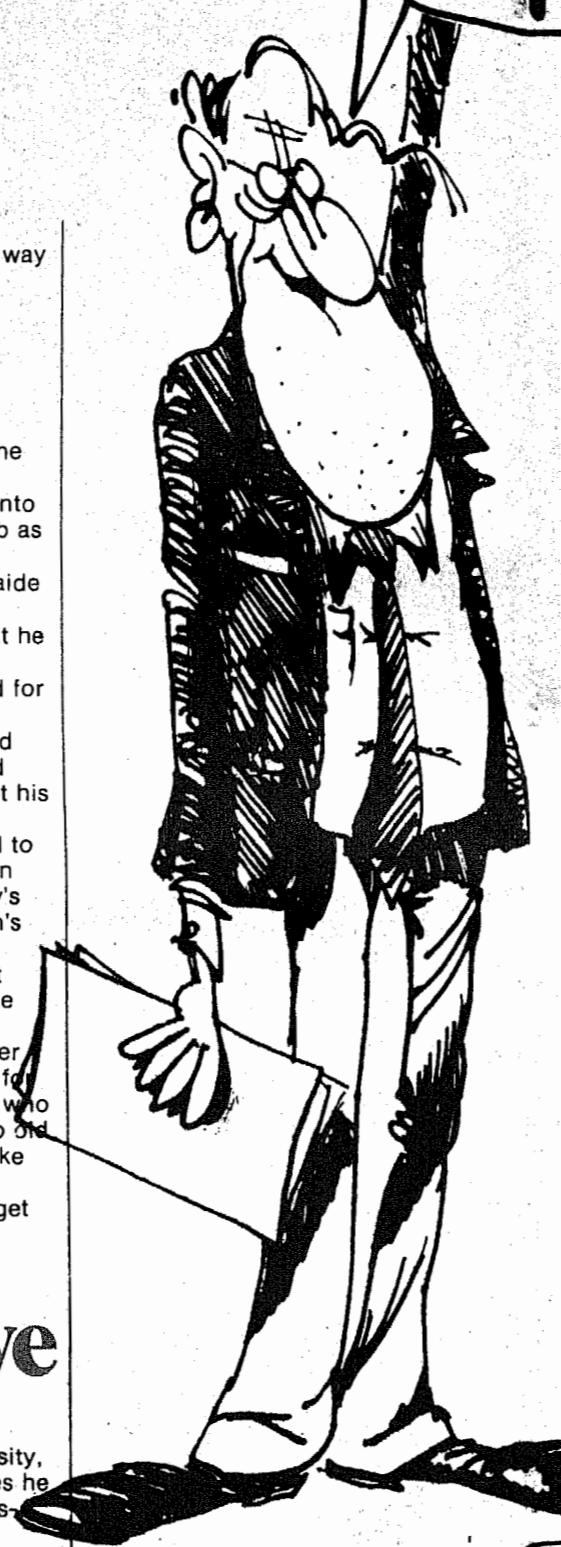
"NWAPORGM." (Not worth a pint of rancid goat's milk.)

Such comments would seriously jeopardise people's chances of being referred to any vacancies that occurred.

Working for the CES also gave me an insight into the way many employers treat the unemployed. Very few employers ever reply to applicants to tell them they haven't got the job.

Of all the many stories of abuse of the unemployed, the following is the worst:

A 52 year old man came into the CES after leaving his job as a tradesperson for a large American company in Adelaide - a job he had held for 16 years. He was confident that he could get another job. Six months later he had applied for over 100 jobs of all types without success and seemed very depressed. I suggested that he go back to try to get his old job again. Although reluctant at first he decided to give it a try so I arranged an interview with the company's Personnel Officer. The man's wife rang me up the next morning to say he wouldn't need the dole any more - he had suicided. I rang the company's Personnel Officer who was annoyed with me for sending the man back and who said, "I told him he was too old (52) and that 'old horses' like him belonged on the 'scrapheap' until they can get the pension."



With the threat of total cuts in the dole for 16 and 17 year olds being flown like a kite over our heads by the government, now is the time for all Australians to ask themselves what would the effect be of such cuts on society and in fact how likely they actually are to happen.

The cuts have been suggested as a possible policy to combat unemployment by the Fraser government. The idea behind it is that as there will be more jobs for skilled workers in the budding computer years, causing people to stay at schools now will aid them to find jobs in the future. Perhaps there is also an element in the policy that says 'kids aren't going to get jobs anyway so at least we can educate them'. This altruism might be overwhelmed by the destruction of freedom and the welfare problems involved in a dole cut to force kids back to school. Children are always in a position of being told what is best for them but to force them to stay at school will be affecting their whole future lives - and what of the traditional parental role in these decisions.

In both cases we see government acting in what it perhaps thinks is a paternal position at the expense of personal freedom. It would take a very wise and perfect governmental system to be able to dictate social reforms in such a manner. In this case, it is not even sure that keeping kids at school will help them get jobs. Supporting a technological change in Australia some say will mean less jobs overall. It is fine to be educated especially for a job

but that alone doesn't mean you will get it. The unemployment situation might be the same as it is now except that the unskilled workers reaching for unskilled jobs might be replaced by skilled workers waiting for skilled work.

There are also those who suggest Fraser's government doesn't really care about the young unemployed and are moving only to cut an estimated 140,000 people off the CES figures and save themselves a lot of money.

Sources from the S.A. Institute of Teachers (SAIT) suggested that the dole cut would not keep people at school. In fact *On dit* was told that many of the people who leave school at a pre-matriculation level are the higher academic achievers who in such hard times see little point in getting uni and college degrees and go for apprenticeships, incidentally pushing the lower achievers out of their traditional employments. These unemployed aren't suited to higher education. Thus the Fraser plan, if the SAIT assertion is correct will have no effect other than to make some people miserable in schools.

If the SAIT's assertions are false then it seems that Australia as a country will lose any decent education system it has. The government it seems would refuse to raise the education budget - hence no more teachers for already overloaded schools. With class sizes rising to unforeseen levels which of the already put-out students would want to stay around? What irony there is in a situation where the people who want to get out of schools can't and the people who want to get

in the hundreds of unemployed teachers, are also thwarted.

Not only would a dole cut in this case make schools unbearable, but it would also totally destroy all those kids forced out on the streets when they not only reject schools, but also parents. Problems are already bad enough with the 15 year olds. Even more kids without any financial support out on the streets can only lead to rises in crime - petty theft, drug offences and prostitution. And whereas now kids only have to survive for a year on a bank balance of zero, a dole cut would mean three years of crime. Chances are after this time none of them would be about to go back on the straight and narrow.

So what is the likelihood of the implementation of this idea. It seems the government's kite flying has met a lot of strong wind coming in the opposite direction. The chances of a go ahead are low - it would be political suicide. It has been hinted however that the Liberals never meant to go ahead with the plan that in fact all they were doing was creating a threat of very hard economic solutions to Australia's problems. In the near future it is suggested they will be saying "Well, we managed to keep 16 and 17 year olds on the dole but the price you have to pay is..." Suggested inserts here are "a heavy budget" "Cuts in family allowances" and, most important to students a total cutoff of TEAS. It is vital therefore that students address themselves to the dole cut question not only for the sake of Australia's youth, but also for themselves.

On dit Staff

Unemployment is the most serious social, political and economic problem currently facing Australia. Nearly one million people are directly suffering as a result of being unemployed. But unemployment has subtle effects on every Australian.

The primary cause of unemployment in Australia is the lack of economic growth - not wages, not unions, not dole bludgers, not the level of unemployment benefits, but a historically low level of economic growth over the last 6 years. The main cause for the lack of economic growth has been the Fraser's government simplistic and destructive approach to the current economic problem of inflation. Despite evidence from numerous Western capitalist countries that both unemployment and inflation can be kept down to acceptable levels, the Fraser government continues to use unemployment as a weapon against inflation.

With such a large pool of unemployed in the economy, every worker suffers as a result. Trade Unions find it difficult to increase or even maintain wage levels because of the threat of unemployment to their members. The Arbitration Commission is pressured into not giving full wage indexation because of the mentality that high wages are causing unemployment.

The social consequences of prolonged unemployment are easy to see in various statistics. Some of these consequences include increased crime, prostitution, drug addiction, poverty and suicide. It has been recently shown that nearly 2 million Australians are living below the commonly accepted poverty line. In addition Australia has the highest level of youth suicide in the World. Even if the logic of using unemployment against inflation was accepted, the attitude of the Fraser government towards the people who have to bear

brunt of these policies, is humane by any standard. For example, during the last federal election, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Anthony suggested that anyone who tried hard enough could find a job. The implication of course is that all those who claim to be unemployed are either lazy dole bludgers who don't want to work or physical and mental incompetents. The facts of course show this type of statement to be a vicious untruth. In South Australia in December 1980 there were nearly 49,000 people registered with the CES as unemployed. Job vacancies at that time totalled 1,400 or one job for every 35 unemployed people. If all these vacancies were filled there would still be around 47,000 people registered as unemployed in South Australia.

At the moment the unemployment benefits scheme is under review. One suggestion has been that the dole for 16 and 17 year olds should be axed. For the government, this would be an easy way to disguise the true level of unemployed and would also save money. The misery caused to the people affected apparently isn't one of their considerations. The government argues that 16 and 17 year olds should remain in educational institutions. However with continued cutbacks in education funding, schools are in no position to cater for those youths in the traditional classroom situation or by creating more suitable courses for them.

Another argument used by the government is that there is some degree of parental responsibility for these youths. However, many families are not in a position to support young adults of this age. Without their paltry \$36 a week 16 and 17 year old unemployed would be forced into the situation of the 15 year old interviewed.

Julia Gillard

Happy Birthday...if you're still alive

"I often have to resort to petty crimes like stealing just to live." This may sound incredible, but that is exactly what Paul, a 15 year old ex-student has to do, if he wants to survive.

Paul is unemployed, and is living the sort of life that for many of us, is beyond our imaginative capacities. His father is a prominent member of the public service and because he might jeopardise his father's position, Paul asked us if he could remain anonymous for this interview. I asked him why he left home. It was for the usual reasons - inability to remain on pleasant terms with his parents, unnecessary restrictions, but also because his father disagreed with Paul's choice of career as a mechanic.

In case many of you do not realise, unemployment benefits cannot be obtained when one is under 16 years of age. Thus it is tough going for those kids who leave secondary school because they are not suited to its requirements and want to try

something else. Employment opportunities, however, are non-existent as Paul realises, and he has only been unemployed for about eight months. Concerning apprenticeships - they are practically unobtainable, despite Mr Meldrum's mumbblings.

I asked Paul about the idea of compulsory schooling of students to hopefully cut down on unemployment. His remark was apt. "You will only get better educated unemployed,"

So how does Paul live while waiting for the magical age of sixteen when he will be able to live barely above the poverty line? He grosses four to five dollars a week. My jaw dropped. That little? How on earth does he survive without starving? "I earn my money through the occasional odd-job, but usually it's through begging."

Yes, he said begging. We all have a picture in our minds of old drunks and real delinquents begging - not young people just out of school. Particularly not Paul who is remarkably well-turned out and very

articulate - a college product who might have graced a lawyer's firm rather than begged on street corners.

He told me he sleeps on benches, in cars or the Salvation Army Missions Centre, but apparently it is so bad there that this is a last resort. It is difficult for people like us, who have a good bed to sleep in every night, to understand Paul's situation. But it is happening.

It is not as though Paul does not try. He often applies for more than three jobs a week, and countless interviews where there are hundreds of hopefuls who are often in a better position than Paul. Failure after failure can be very daunting.

As for entertainment, well is there such a word? It seems not - at least not in Paul's vocabulary. "I sometimes go to the Mall and watch the different people there. It's ... you know, it's fun." Wow! Move over *Star Wars*.

Often also, petty crime is resorted to, to relieve the boredom of simply living, but more often than otherwise this

occurs due to sheer necessity, and nothing else. How does he get around? For Paul, transport is 'Foot Power' or the occasional bus.

So, life for Paul is definitely not a bowl of cherries. If it is, he got the pits. It is more like sore feet, humiliation, and daunting future prospects. I myself, do not like having good friends in the same position as Paul, who live off Salvation Army food parcels or what they pick up off the Central Market floor. I do not like feeling compelled to offer them dinner at two o'clock in the afternoon simply because they are starving.

Paul is one of these people. He barely survives; in fact, he is probably far worse off than some of the cossetted family pets. So remember, don't knock them; they've got it pretty hard. When you go past somebody who asks you for some bus fare, it's probably Paul. Give it to him, direct him to the nearest park bench, jangle the keys to your Volvo and forget him. One more won't make any difference.

Jenni Lans

March against Unemployment

To protest at the callous treatment of the unemployed and particularly the 16 and 17 year old dole cut, the Unemployed Workers Union is having a rally on Saturday, March 21st.

A march starting at 10.30 am at Light Square will proceed down Hindley Street to the fountain in the Mall. Here the crowd will listen to speakers. After this the march will proceed down Rundle Street proper to Rymill Park. Here after 12 noon the marchers will

be entertained by the *Bash Street Band* and Dennis Aubrey and Glen Nichols, buskers of mall fame. After 2 pm the entertainment will go electric with the *Earthlings* and *Friar Tuck* until 4 pm.

The march should be big and fun with entertainment at the end. It is also supporting a very important cause the young unemployed. Everyone who cares about the welfare of people in general is urged to attend.

TEAS Review-Banks push for student loans

It has been rumoured that TEAS is soon to be reviewed by the Federal Government, along with other welfare payments such as unemployment benefits and family allowances. The government's recent attempt to cut the dole to 16 and 17 year olds met with strong resistance, as was the attempt to reintroduce fees for tertiary education.

On dit has covered various aspects of the situation and has obtained an interview with a 15 year old who is not eligible for the dole. His story is a striking and dramatic picture of what the situation would be for those 16 and 17 year olds who would not stay at school and not all of whom would be supported by their parents if unemployment benefits were cut.

However, there is more to these issues so it seems. In the area of tertiary allowances and introduction of fees the government hinted at a loans scheme to allow students to pay for their fees. These low interest loans would be repayable after graduation on the assumption of course that you can repay and can get a job. So it is with interest that one can view the recent push by the Commonwealth Bank in the area of student finance, surely a relatively high risk, less secure investment of their funds available for loan?

Their new multi-colour brochure reads "Package Deals for Tertiary Students", and includes all student banking "necessities" such as Savings and Cheque Accounts, Term Investments, Travel and of course, Bankcard. However they go on - "Are financial pressures hindering your studies?" and outline a "Campus Loan" Package available "which takes account of your future earning potential". It allows access to a loan of up to \$3,000, "available for any worthwhile purpose". It also includes Bankcard, Cheque and/or Savings account and Christmas Club.

The issue is not the validity of the loan but the number of questions that arise concerning the conditions of the loan. Firstly the brochure explains that repayments of the principal amount may be deferred until graduation and in "many instances interest payments may be similarly deferred". In practicalities however it would not concern the average student whether he/she was repaying the interest or the principal; deferral of one till graduation would make little difference as the repayments are really the determining factor.

Other questions concern the problems of non-graduation or unemployment.

On dit decided to check the validity of these loans and sent out two reporters, one dressed in a suit, the other in "normal" student garb. To apply for loans. Both it seems were treated equally well, a compliment possibly to non-discrimination by banking staff. Further investigation by *On dit* to both the Commonwealth head office and in talks with the ANZ bank on campus showed one basic, not surprising point. Students who really need the money can't get it - they are too high a security risk. Basic requirements are that you are in a high income-potential degree e.g. Medicine,

Dentistry, Law or Engineering.

You have to have a stable background, preferably living at home, with a parent or close friend or relative to go guarantor. If you look unwell, aren't stable in personality etc., all these things will work against you. Your best chance of getting a loan however is to have money in the bank or some form of security. If you come from a single parent family you have less chance too.

Everybody is very sympathetic, but their motives are obviously to tap your future

Bank package deals - printed on chuck bags.

high income as a graduate. Repayments aren't low - \$100 per month for 2 years or higher. They also expect you to indulge in other forms of credit - Bankcard, cheque account, etc.

The Savings Bank of South Australia is apparently also considering students' loans. It looks like the student rush before shows at the Festival theatre. An official from the TEAS office in Red Cross House when asked about the TEAS review replied, seemingly

irritated. "But it's always under review". He wouldn't elaborate. It is interesting to note that both government banks are pushing in the student loans area, possibly they have inside information and are trying to establish an early market lead. It is easy to be too cynical but remember the banks aren't in it for love of you, so be on your guard.

The story from our "loans" reporter follows.

From the time that the bank opened, sharp at 10.02, I wasn't left waiting for a moment. Having been hussled into a small office, I was ordered to sit, and then vigorously shoot the hand of Mr. Lange. No comment was made about my suit - cheek!

The 'so called' deferred payments loan is a new system which is supposed to relieve the financial pressures from the minds of hard working Uni students.

The bank only has your interest at heart, and doesn't want to see finance "hindering your studies".

However all is not "sweet and rosy". A few things must be taken into consideration. Some questions were raised by Mr. Lange such as "Have you been involved in at least two years of full-time study at Uni? Are you taking a course with numerous job prospects? - My question - Is there such a course?"

It seems that the bank is extremely willing to loan the figure of \$3,000 or more. However, interest rates! Interest accumulates from the day the loan is taken out at the rate of 12.35%. The rate has recently gone up to accommodate the new scheme.

As far as deferred payments go the bank expects some kind of repayment after 2 years. If you don't graduate or you graduate and then join the unemployment queues you are faced with many problems. On presenting this problem to Mr. Lange, he replied that some sort of payment from TEAS or UE benefits is expected.

However don't forget that the Commonwealth Bank er Bank, "would like to help" - pthhhhhhhh
Tom Schmid



Union gains New Activities assistant

Maureen Sadler, the newly appointed Activities Assistant, will be a great addition due to her ten years' experience in the Arts Industry. Her talents cover a wide range, from promoting people such as Ella Fitzgerald and Japanese traditional theatre, to working closely with Art organizations; along with stints in catering, air-hostessing, printing and teaching.

She is currently doing a post graduate course at SAIT which she considers essential as a rounding off to a ten year apprenticeship in the Arts Industry. Prior to this she was a full time student but missed work involvement, as well as a weekly pay cheque!

When asked about her aims for the year, Maureen's flow of enthusiasm is overwhelming as she launches into what seems to be a pet theme - "student participation". She feels that this is the key to the success of her work and of the various functions put on during the

year. One of the many areas which she hopes to cover includes the Footlights Theatre Group: an area in which she feels there is a marked lack of enthusiasm. She is also interested in organising workshops in modern dance, publicity and advertising, catering, and festival organising: in fact, any wild and wacky ideas which the students can come up with. Maureen is emphatic that students feel free to be as outspoken as far as their ideas are concerned; she regards students as

her employer and so wants them to feel OK about approaching her.

So, if you want to do absolutely anything on campus (well, nearly anything) go up and see Maureen as she is most approachable, energetic and has a comprehensive background in the arts. There is really no excuse for not getting involved, so ... "see you at the Gallery".
Leonie Noland and Wendy Lagoon

PEB - Scaling the heights of obscurity

THE P.E.B. scaling system is something which has affected us all at some stage. Now and then this system is criticized by some brave soul, who, having been granted a meagre 10 line column in the local rag, is then plummeted back into mediocrity and his plea to improve this confusing system, forgotten.

There are always promises of improvement but these always miraculously appear too late to help the group of students who have just completed their final year and are then consequently forgotten over the Xmas period, allowing another flock of lambs to go to the slaughter.

Mr. Peter Moss from the Dept. of Education, is one person who does not agree with the present matric exam system and in a report with *On dit*, Mr. Moss explained why.

One of his major objections was to the present system of presenting results. He described it as "confusing and misleading". The fact that the scaled scores bear no relation

to actual performance means that the student does not get a realistic view of his/her actual potential and so students could make wrong career decisions. He also pointed out that only a small percentage of people actually understood the scaling system and there is evidence that some teachers are not really sure what it's all about.

The long term effects of this will obviously be that at the higher levels of education confusion will run riot as students are continually misled as to their abilities. The problems that may face students because of this is frustration at not being able to cope with university, even though a high matric pass was gained. This in turn could lead to bitterness and despair as the Student finds he/she cannot cope.

The P.E.B. seems determined that as little information as possible is released to the public as the Chief Examiners

are prevented by P.E.B. rules from accurately reporting about the standards reached. The following is an excerpt from a notice to Chief Examiners recommendations:

"Contents must refer directly to candidates' performance at the examination and must not include conclusions drawn on matters such as the standard of teaching, strengths or weaknesses in the setting of the questions, the syllabus, the scaling and grading of marks in the subject, and so on."

The examiners so it seems are expected to be non-committal and totally uninformative. Unwillingly there becomes a tendency to mislead the students and public by not being able to report the facts completely.

This "hoodwinking" by the P.E.B. has become a kind of "technical bureaucracy" in which they seem to care more about the validity of their techniques than the larger cultural implications of their

education procedures.

Mr. Moss believes there are several changes which could be made. Chief Examiners could have more freedom to control the exam and the uni could offer its own entrance examination. A more imaginative and flexible system needs to be developed where assessment is carried on throughout the year, with less emphasis on the 3 or 4 weeks in November.

Adelaide Uni has been trying to change the P.E.B. system and an official presentation to the Keeves Committee (which has been set up to decide what form secondary education should take in the decade ahead) has been made. It seem possible that these changes may get into the recommendations put forward by this committee in a document likely to be put out next month.

Obviously this system has to be altered sooner or later. We can only hope that it's sooner.
Sharee Simpson

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the Mitchell Building, On dit investigations bring you the fruits of many hours' research. We call them the VC letters. Who could believe bureaucracy could be so bureacratc?... You'd better because it's what you're going to be up against all this year.

Anonymous

Letters

RESTRICTED

A.S.I.O.
(not a spy organization)
Secret Headquarters,
Behind The Drinpipes,
Victoria Sq. Fountain.

On Dit Editor,
Dear Suspects,

In the past few months in our investigations, (not spying), into Tertiary Institutions, we have uncovered a series of letters from two of your University's departments. Since it reveals gross mismanagement of public funds we have decided to turn it over to organizations who can use this information in subversive, anti-sectar, useful ways, viz. your good selves.

We therefore enclose a series of documents which you may care to include in your newspaper in order to make ~~lots of money from~~ ~~the public eye.~~ ~~University departments.~~ ~~bring this outrage.~~

Yours IN CONFIDENCE,
A. J. B. L. Barr-Smith Wesley
Brig. K. G. Burton (Ret.)
(not a spy at all, honest !!)

P.S. Please send the cheque as per the usual arrangements.

KGB:cia

MEMO

To : All Departments.
From : Internal Mail Service
Department of Empty Pigeon-holes.
In reply please quote : 01613980

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to our attention that an anonymous letter writer is currently circulating material of dubious nature via the student mailboxes. Since it is the policy of this department to keep student mailboxes as empty as possible, we are naturally concerned about this gross misuse of University property. Should any information regarding this sordid matter be known by you it would be appreciated if you could pass it on to this department.

Yours Sincerely,
A. J. B. L. Barr-Smith Wesley
A. J. B. L. Barr-Smith Wesley

MEMO
"Dep" 01613980"

To : Department Of Empty Pigeon-holes
From : Department Of Anonymous Letter Writers
In Reply Please Quote : FLG - 67039121

Dear Sir,

We wish to inform you that the anonymous letter writer (yes, it is spelled A-N-O-N-Y-M-O-U-S!) currently filling student mailboxes is one of the most promising members of our department. We would appreciate your co-operation in allowing this person to expand his/her abilities to the fullest extent. Naturally, his/her identity should remain hidden so as to preserve the mystique associated with this profession.

Yours Faithfully,
U. P. O. Horrace-Larb
U. P. O. Horrace-Larb

To : Department Of Anonymous Letter Writers
From : Internal Mail Service
Department Of Empty Pigeon-holes
In reply please quote : ISW 0829/A

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to attention that you exist. Although it is current University policy to have no conflicting departments in the same room, we have not noticed you until now because of your subversive sulkings in our waste paper basket. We would like to bring to your attention the circular posted to your department three years ago (file ref: 097-775A). We presume you can indeed read.

It is our attention to recommend to the V.C. - a very dear and personal friend - that your useless department be closed and funding be transferred to less silly departments (viz. us).

In closing, it has also come to our attention that you are encouraging a subversive student group calling themselves the ridiculous name of Soap. We suggest you stop (or else!).

Yours Ominously,
A. J. B. L. Barr-Smith Wesley
A. J. B. L. Barr-Smith Wesley CBE

"Regarding the newly formed Internal Mail Service the administration would like to point out that we would not like anyone to use it, thus keeping at least one service on campus which is a complete utter waste of public money."

To : Department Of Anonymous Letter Writers
From : Department Of Empty Pigeon-holes
In Reply Please Quote : 075912-07

Dear Sirs,

Since you haven't replied to our last letter we will write to you to remind you of the pressing situation that is at hand with the budget for the forthcoming year. The keeper of the University's money, viz. the Bursar (who is the only person with the key to the money box, as well as being the only person who has informed our honourable department that Federal funding has been cut this year so that the amount that is allotted to both our departments by the University is of the magnitude of \$ 7.98. Even you should be able to realize that both of our departments cannot live on this amount, and since the Dept. of Empty Pigeon-holes is the more important one we should naturally get all of the allotted amount.

In order to supplement this amount we have decided to dispose of your departments' assets and donate the proceeds to us. We would therefore like to inform you that you ~~must~~ vacate your desk by 17 April 1961 since it has been sold to another department for the princely sum of \$ 6.00.

Yours Very Nicely,
A. J. B. L. Barr-Smith Wesley
A. J. B. L. Barr-Smith Wesley CBE, FR, MR

P.S. We have also sold the VC's desk lamp to augment our income and we have not as yet told him about it so we would appreciate it if you would not mention the matter at the forthcoming committee meeting.

P.P.S. We are also considering selling the VC, can you suggest to us a prospective Charlie buyer?

To : Department Of Empty Pigeon-holes
From : Department Of Anonymous Letter Writers
In reply please quote : NUT 001

Dear Twits,

We were most distressed to read your nasty comments about the very help, SOAP (Stamp Out Underfed Pigeon-holes). We suggest you stop harassing them or we will ask our dear friend the Vice Chancellor (who also owes us a great deal of money) to close down your department. We suggest you vacate your room within 30 days or it will be repossessed.

In closing, we would like to give you some friendly advice :
STOP HARASSING US ... OR ELSE !!!

Yours In Friendliness,
U. P. O. Horrace-Larb
U. P. O. Horrace-Larb

P.S. The circular you mentioned was superseded by one sent to all departments two years ago. (Ref : C.C.O.K. 041/23 453). Have your secretary read it to you if you are still having trouble with your alphabet.

To : Department Of Anonymous Letter Writers
From : Department Of Empty Pigeon-holes
Enquiries To : Internal Mail Service

Dear Finks,

After having read (yes we can read you know) your reply to our nice letter and carefully filling it in our waste paper basket, we have come to the decision that some action must be taken on the deplorable situation that has developed within the University infrastructure (sorry to use such long words, we know you have difficulty with reading anything over three letters long), so we propose to take the following course of action :

- (1) Submit to the next Uni Council meeting a list of recommendations as to why and how your department should be closed down.
- (2) Take the V.C. out to dinner for the next four (4) weeks.
- (3) Disclose naughty-type financial statements that will severely embarrass your position in the University.

You do, however have the chance to prevent us from performing any of the above. This can be done by vacating our office immediately (if not sooner) and removing your blooded bodies from the University forever, thus leaving us in peace to do our vital work within the administration.

We eagerly await your reply.

Yours Nicely And Friendly,
A. J. B. L. Barr-Smith Wesley
A. J. B. L. Barr-Smith Wesley CBE & FR

P.S. Oh yes, nearly forgot. In reply please quote : "IT" 1/29/61
In reply to your previous philistine-like piece of literature ...

Reference: 01613980

To : Department Of Empty Pigeon-holes
From : Department Of Anonymous Letter Writers
In reply please quote : 107 9934

Dear Sirs,

If you must insist on sending us letters (which as the number "letters" in our waste paper basket), you should really send it to the correct department. The Department of Anonymous Letter Writers (forwarded your first letter to us only recently and that is why we have been so slow in replying to it. Perhaps you should dictate to your secretary if you are still having trouble with your spelling.

We appreciate your efforts to save the university funds and therefore, you would have no objections to our proposal to close your department and allocate the money saved to more worthwhile causes (such as us!) The V.C. our dear friend has agreed with this suggestion, so we would advise you to vacate your office forthwith.

Yours Sincerely,
J. P. O. Horrace-Larb
J. P. O. Horrace-Larb

P.S. To understand the intricacies of Anonymous Letter Writers has had its desk sold. Would you know anything about it in any chance?

To : Department Of Anonymous Letter Writers
From : Office Of The Vice-Chancellor
In reply please quote : Macbeth

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that your departments do not get along at all well and numerous requests have been filed for the closure of both departments and/or shifting the offices to my waste-paper basket. I am writing to inform you that the gross inefficiency and wastage, although bureaucratically desirable, is publicly embarrassing.

I have therefore, after long and meaningful discussions with my paper-weight, come to a decision, which should leave both of you in a compromising situation, i.e. a compromise. Both of the departments will be amalgamated into a new department in an effort to resolve the bureaucratic slime into which you both have fallen. This new department will be given the grandiose label of "The Amalgamated Department of Internal Mail Service Efficiency", thus giving you a boost in the status race of the university (the department with the longest name has the greatest status). You are now second in line, being defeated by the "Department Assisting The Department For Making Little Things Into Big Things And Emptying Garbage Bins".

Your offices will be situated on level 10 of the Hughes Building and out of the goodness of my heart I shall provide a waste-paper basket, free!

Yours Royally,
the VC

BIRTHDAY PARTY: *Ahead of it's Time*

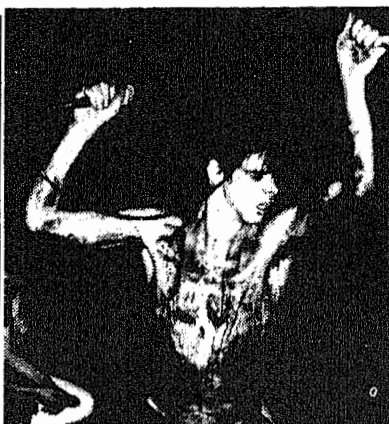
IN A BATH of sweat that drowns the war paint on his chest, Nick Cave gyrates on the floor of the Tivoli Hotel. He clammers over three of the audience, sprawled on the floor, to make his way over to a table. The crowd spreads as he dances on the table, bending and twisting in between screams and howls of desperation. Meanwhile, the rest of the *BirthDay Party* provide the hypnotic beat and frenzied sounds to complement Nick's acrobatics.

The *BirthDay Party* are the only Australian band that has ever been ahead of its time, in terms of world musical trends. Their music is new. Not *Adam and the Ants* new, but like nothing you have heard or seen before.

The sound is built around the rhythm section which gives each beat the power of an explosion. On top of this are two guitars playing riffs rather than chord progressions which deaden nerve endings, and a voice that hounds and disturbs the confused listener, who is now banging his head on a wall, screaming, "My life is a box full of dirt".

About five years ago the group was formed as a four piece, *The Boys Next Door*, when Nick Cave (vocals), Mick Harvey (guitar), Tracy Pew (bass) and Phil Calvert (drums) were students at Caulfield Tech. Originally a punk band, *The Boys Next Door* were signed to the ill-fated Suicide label, on which they cut tracks like the infamous *Masturbation Generation* and the first tracks of the *Door Door* album.

When Rowland Howard joined on guitar in late 1978, the band broke out of the punk



syndrome to explore new areas. The new music was too much for the average Australian audience, even to the point of meeting hostile reaction and *The Boys Next Door* realised they would have to go overseas to achieve due recognition.

"Yeah, we played the Blue Light Disco in Essendon," recalled Nick Cave, "we did the first set and it wasn't too bad, but after they'd been dancing to the disco for an hour and we got up again, there was immediate hatred. We had this great feeling of anticipation when there was silence at the end of each song, and the kids would be yelling at us to get off. We played really great that night."

On March 1st, 1980, the band arrived in London under the name of the *BirthDay Party*. The idea behind the name isn't clear, but Nick commented,

"We had just written a song called *Happy Birthday* and were very excited about it. That and the fact there are so many bands around with names like *The Boys Next Door* were reasons for changing."

In England the band gained the respect of the English underground and music press

(very hard to do) and were asked by the legendary John Peel to record for his show on BBC radio. Whilst over there, the single *Friend Catcher*, reached number three in the NME alternative chart.

"I remember reading NME to see how *Friend Catcher* was going. I looked in the alternative charts at Nos 9 and 10, found we weren't there and was rather disappointed. Later, I looked again and saw it was at No. 3. We were quite surprised," said Rowland.

For the Record...

(*BirthDay Party*: Untitled)

The two previous *BirthDay Party* albums, *Door Door* and *The BirthDay Party*, portrayed a band developing a great original talent. However, both these albums were released when most of the material was a year or more old and not indicative of the band at that time.

The new album captures the band as it is now, even including some new songs that haven't been previewed at live shows. Nick Cave's lyrics have matured to the point where he can express his twisted visions of life and himself so they relay the complexity and energy of his mind.

"My body is a monster burning inside. My heart is a fist, tortured in flames.

My life is a box full of dirt. If there is one thing I desire in this world, that is to make love to my zoo music girl."

Side one opens with *Zoo*

During the John Peel sessions, *The BirthDay Party* recorded five new songs, *Zoo Music Girls*, *King Ink*, *Cry*, *Yard* and *Nick the Stripper*. Whilst in Australia this last summer, they mixed these tapes for a new album and previewed them in their live performances.

The new *BirthDay Party* album, as yet untitled, is to be released some time next month, but *On dit* has managed to get its hands on a tape of the new album, giving it the opportunity to do a world exclusive review.

Music Grills, an electrical jungle chant. It would be foolish to try and psychoanalyze Nick Cave and Rowland Howard's lyrics whether they are drug induced or not, because it is the overall effect that is mesmerising, not just the words.

Two other stand out tracks are the new single, *Nick the Stripper* and *King Ink*. These songs sound like what would have happened to the early stooges if *Funhouse* was recorded in 1980 rather than 1970. Perhaps the sound could be described as psychedelic energy.

Even the slower songs like *Yard* retain the power, as the *Stooges* did with *Dirt* and *The Doors*, *The End*.

On first listening, the new *BirthDay Party* album may alienate some people, but like any respected piece of artwork or literature, once it is appreciated, its importance, brilliance and originality becomes very evident.

Kym Tonkes

Deeper than depression

Joy Division
Closer
Factory EMI

Closer, Joy Division's second album, has just been released locally to coincide with the release of the single *Love Will Tear us Apart*, though the album has been out in England for over a year.

Most critics describe Joy Division music as depressing in form but after only a few listenings you realize the quality of Ian Curtis' lyrics and the whole involvement of the three-piece. The lyrics are brilliant throughout with emphasized music to capture each phrase.

The album opens with *Atrocity Exhibition* - This is the way, step inside - a drum roll throughout your entrance and excited bursts of screeching guitar and sound effects. Followed by *Isolation*, *Passover*, *Colony*, *A Means to an End*, *Heart and Soul*, *Twenty Four Hours*, *The Eternal* and ending with *Decades*. All one can say is that it is sheer brilliance on their behalf.

Exquisite Experience

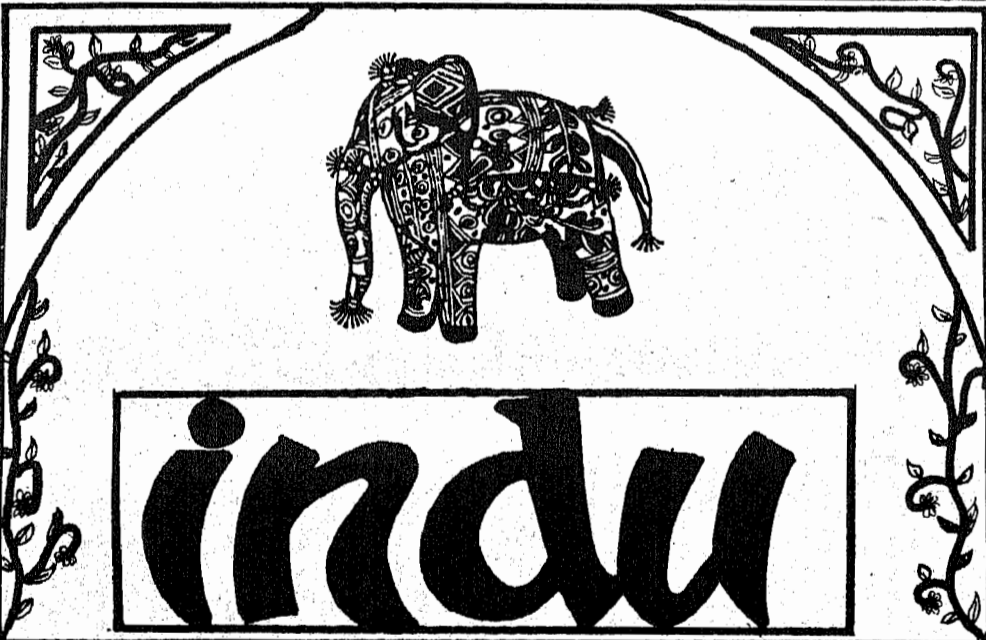
Joy Division
Love Will Tear us Apart b.w. These days
Single (Factory) EMI

Love Will Tear us Apart is no sloppy lovey dovey crap. It's a real song about the real thing the way it happens, not like in the movies. *Love will tear us apart* - again! If you're into humanism, buy yourself this single.

No one could explain the meaningfulness of each piece; you just have to experience its exquisiteness.

Ian Curtis hung himself in his room shortly after their last single was recorded.

Orietta Foxton



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Jumped up Jerk enters New Phase

Trust
Elvis Costello and the Attractions
F Beat

Elvis Costello once expressed his fear of 'repeating himself in diminishing echoes'. This, thankfully, with the release of *Trust*, is becoming a very unlikely fate.

The album opens with *Clubland* which has been released as a single and which is also probably the song that comes closest to the Elvis Costello of *My Aim is True* and *This Year's Model*. It has that punchy bite that pervades both the music and lyrics of songs like *Watching the Detectives* though perhaps not quite of the same standard.

Then comes Costello's statement of change. The second track - *Lover's Walk* - has a driving jungle beat, a jangling piano, and a throbbing bass. The vocals are round and full with the repetitive lyrics being delivered in an unrelenting chant. One verse, in fact, is backed only by the drum beat. The only familiar aspect of this song is the theme - distrust of love. The song is clearly an experiment and, I would suggest, not an entirely successful one. More importantly though, and this is perhaps why it was included on the album, it is a strong proclamation



of Costello's desire to 'move on' musically.

This need to progress is not without warning. Those who have his *Oliver's Army* single, for instance, will be aware of his version (on the 'B' side) of the jazz

standard *My Funny Valentine*. It is clear to me that Costello has always endeavoured to extend the boundaries of his vocal ability. For *Shot With His Own Gun* (*Trust*) Costello uses only voice and piano throughout - a combination that

greatly tips the emphasis or focal point of the composition toward the lyrical content and the vocal performance.

Another direction or mode is found in *Different Finger*. Many, no doubt, have wondered at Costello's avowed admiration of country singer George Jones since Costello's songs have always seemed so far removed from the country idiom. Well, suffice it to say that George Jones would be very much at home singing *Different Finger*.

The absence of a lyric sheet seems to indicate that Elvis C. is still somewhat coy about his stature as a powerful lyricist. Perhaps the message is that we should be more persistent listeners! Whatever the case may be, *Trust* is certainly far from disappointing in the imagery department.

The salty lips of your social life sisters

With their continental fingers that've never seen work and blisters

Oh I know they've got their problems

I wish I was one of them.

In this verse taken from *New Lace* *Sleeves* Costello's genius can be seen at work. The social life 'this

year's model' type of woman has always been the target for his most vitriolic attacks, but at the same time the ambiguous sexuality inherent in the images is indicative of Costello's recognition that he too is an integral and operative part of the whole system. Other songs that deserve a close listen include *Clubland* and *Shot With His Own Gun*.

The most musically striking differences in *Trust* are: the apparent absence of Costello's hyper-active guitar playing (remember *Pump it up* and *Chelsea?*); the domination of the piano in many of the arrangements; and Costello's heightened awareness of his role as a singer. Altogether the songs on the album are slower and more mellow than previous recordings by *E.C. and the Attractions*. It is not an album that will get the 5KA *Billy Joel* - *Glasshouses* treatment, but then we all know what kind of a recommendation that is! *Trust* is in a new phase. Elvis Costello album and as such seems to find him slightly at a loss for a unified direction. It is, however, a fine album and well worth a more detailed investigation. Listen before you buy!

Tim Brown



New book for the new music

The New Music
Glen A. Baker and Stuart Coupe
Bay Books

On dit uses this book for much of its research into the new wave/new music bands that it writes on. This can be done with confidence because the integrity of the authors, Glen A. Baker and Stuart Coupe is almost beyond question. These two have had more than a look in almost every major rock paper and both have set up fine reputations for themselves in rock journalism over the "New Music" years.

The format of the book doesn't lend itself to research. Different bands are set out under categories and nationalities rather than alphabetically. The book isn't even indexed. This means that until you know your way around *The New Music* its wide range of information is very hard to utilise. However, getting to know the book is not hard. If you are the least interested in any post-1977 rock you should find it fairly easy to read simply on its own merit.

The coverage of bands is fairly comprehensive and sometimes surprisingly innovative. Few of the important new music bands are overlooked and, as the book is very

recent (published late last year) even the latest trends are looked into. Australian music gets, as one might expect, a particularly good coverage, which considering that it will only really be sold in Australia, is quite justified, making the book far more relevant to the average rock fan.

Overall, however, the book is not just a rock encyclopaedia out of alphabetical order. It is trying to prove a point about the rock industry as a whole, that music runs in cycles. The year 1977 was the beginning of a cycle - an outburst of new ideas. We are now in the time where those ideas are being developed out to their parameters. Finally, and the implication is not too far from now, the music will settle back into boredom and schmalz only once again to rent in twain by yet another revolution - 50's rock, the *Beatles* or punk under a different name. This idea seems somewhat pessimistic, but overall it offers hope - no matter what trash we're listening to in a few years, finally rock will have its revenge and the whole beautiful brash cycle will begin again. As Coupe and Baker say, "Hail, hail rock 'n' roll!"

James Williamson

Promising Bertie Cox

It seems this fair city of ours has more to offer than Festerval Kulcha and the southern equivalent of Old Joh. Yes indeed, we can be thankful for the high quality of Adelaide pub bands to keep us sane.

Bertie Cox has emerged within the past year as one of Adelaide's leading and most promising bands. The five members, Andre le Frog (lead vocals and sax), John "Quickdraw" (lead guitar),

Dalek Madison (drums), Daffo (bass guitar and vocals) and Brooce Thomson (keyboards and vocals) have created a unique style of music which has attracted a large following of fans to their regular haunt, The Alma, on Thursday nights. Apart from their Housewife Counselling Service, the *Berties* are passionately dedicated to their music, and this is evident in their tight performance and dynamic stage presence. Their

professionalism has impressed many big names in the music business, and since their formation in early '79, the *Berties* have supported International bands such as *Taj Mahal* and *Dr Feelgood*, and such national heroes as *Cold Chisel*, *Australian Craw*, *Jo Jo Zep*, *Mi Sex* and *Oi '55*.

Bertie Cox play a well balanced selection of originals (listen for *Catch as Catch Can* and *Blinded by Tomorrow*) and punch cover versions (*Tin Soldier* of *Small Faces* fame). However it is the originals which impress most. Andre and John turn out some great lyrics, and their music is indicative of the class and skill each member has gained through their respective musical training. Andre and Brooce, classically trained, join their talent with the art rock training of John, the Redlegs club training of Duffo. Dalek's heavy metal influence adds a bit of punch to the music of these seasoned professionals. As Daffo says, their cover versions have "a lot more balls" than the real thing.

Their musical versatility is a key factor in the *Bertie's* success. Their music is progressive, intelligent, catchy and tasteful, and the confident lead vocals of Andre, the innovative backing harmonies of Brooce and Daffo, the concise, impressive guitar work of Quickdraw and the consistently superb drumming of Dalek are all the needed ingredients for this band to be one of the future top acts in Australia. Their willingness to experiment with new styles, rates them amongst top local acts such as *Vitamin Z* and the *Innocents*, and Andre is confident of future success in the eastern states. The solidarity, communication, understanding and teamwork between members is clearly apparent in their performance on stage, and their enthusiasm and sincerity permeates the whole audience.

Do yourself a favor! Catch the Cox every Thursday night at the Alma, and check the *News Gig Guide* for details.

Marianne Waller

Ant Antics

Adam and the Ants
Kings of the Wild Frontier
CBS

"Antmusic for sexpeople
 Sex music for antpeople."

In the two lines of lyric above from the *Kings of the Wild Frontier* two terms are probably foreign to th, "Antmusic" and "Antpeople". "Antmusic" is the type of noise that *Adam and the Ants* produce and it's different from anything else you've heard. Founder of "Antmusic" Adamant, maintains that it is influenced by anything noble, individual and nostalgic such as Cheyenne Indians, pirates and other types of extinct warriors. Add these influences to eclectic and bass guitar playing a mild type of heavy metal, add two drums to produce an "uptempo" beat that is often very tribal, deliberately leave out synthesizers as they are too sophisticated, add Adamant's wailing voice and lots of Indian shrieks and whoops and you have "Antmusic". Agreeably this seems a trifle weird but the music is fast and neatly arranged. The lyrics are interesting and complement the music well enough to allow

constant listenings to the record without being bored. *Kings of the Wild Frontier* offers twelve prime examples of "Antmusic", the best examples being *Antmusic* itself, *Antsinvasion*, *Dog Eat Dog* and the title track *Kings of the Wild Frontier*. These four songs all project an image of what "Antmusic" is, what it's fighting for and what it's fighting against, and perhaps gives them a little more spirit than the other songs on the album. The only disappointments on the album are *Jolly Roger* and *Making History* which tend to take the influence of pirates, good guys and bad guys slightly too far with the result of the former song sounding too childish and the latter repetitive and meaningless. On the whole this is an excellent album and deserves the number one success it enjoyed in the English charts and should be bought by anyone with a taste for something new and adventurous.

As for the term "Antpeople", they are those who produce "Antmusic" and those who listen to it and identify with its cause.

David Temby

* * * * *

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MIXED MEMORIES

Stardust Memories
Woody Allen

Stardust Memories might be more aptly titled *Mashed Memories*. This time around, Woody Allen toys with too many ideas for any one concept to be really clear. The film continually switches from the past, when Sandy Bates (Woody Allen), a very successful film director, was having an affair with a neurotic actress, Dorey, who is played somewhat unconvincingly by Charlotte Rampling (who was never meant to be an urban paranoid) to the present which mainly consists of a weekend spent (on formal invitation) at a Sandy Bates' film festival. These two supposed realities combine confusingly to form different scenes in one of his films.

The plot is essentially tangled and the whole point of the film seems to be for Allen to criticize his fans by making them seem freakish (I counted only three 'normal'

people among all his fans) and stupid by a variety of tricks such as extreme close-ups, having them exclaim over a small boy doing ridiculous magical tricks, etc.

Memories does of course contain various resemblances to previous WA films, but they are limited to relationships with neurotic women, questions as to the meaning - or meaninglessness - of life, although these were more superficial than honest and of course those tremendous one-liners; saving graces like "Intellectuals are like the Mafia, they only kill their own kind".

Unfortunately some of the film seems to be a case of *deja vu*. There are empty rooms and wide open spaces; scenes such as two people under a tent with an elephant nearby, alone on an enormous beach, all of which seem familiar. One thing that hasn't happened recently in his films is that the 'hero' has a relationship

with a woman who *isn't* neurotic (major breakthrough, throw a party) who is played by Marie-Christine Barrault. The black and white footage does make the film seem more idyllic. However this effect is somewhat spoiled by men from UFOs and people suspended in air.

Stardust Memories does have some (but not many) very funny scenes and the music is excellent, if you like jazz. The photography varies from mediocre to brilliant and there are some fabulous shots which are very twentyish. However, I found it too chaotic to be enjoyable, apart from the fact that I (like most other people) don't like being told that I'm an idiot which the film very obviously tries to do. If you were planning on seeing it as an introduction to Woody Allen's genius, I suggest you wait until the WA Film Festival is on at the Valhalla in June. Alternatively if you want to see it to add to your Allen repertoire, I hope that you don't find it as obscure as I did.

Anne Pye

Wilder - on the wild

The Skin of our Teeth
Court Theatre Company
St Ignatius College, Athelstone

"That's all we do - always beginning again. Over and over again." These are the words spoken in Act Three by Sabrina, in the Court Theatre Company's presentation of their latest play *The Skin of our Teeth* by Thornton Wilder.

This, in essence, is the central message of Wilder's play, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1942, and deservedly so. It is a masterpiece of writing, depicting man's constant struggle against nature, and also against himself. It has been described as "high comedy" and this is absolutely true.

Due to the fact that it is a timeless piece, spanning past, present and future, with its far-reaching implications, it is a very difficult play to present. Full points, however, go to Peter Goers, the Director of the Court Theatre Company, for

managing to put together such an excellent production, and to have such a group of talented young actors and actresses with which to work.

The Antrobus family represents mankind, and are depicted in a series of shattering events including the Ice Age, floods, famines and a nuclear holocaust.

Mr Antrobus is played by Norman Pick and he gave a creditable performance as the "little man" caught up in events beyond his controls. His wife is played by Kym Durban. Her accent was beyond reproach as she portrayed the picture of non-changing domesticity. She resisted the temptation to 'recite' her lines, and became Mrs Antrobus. Sue Ninham gave an excellent performance as Sabina in her first major role in this company.

With three such principals to follow, the rest of the cast could either have been very, very good, or very, very bad.

Fortunately they were good. However, the tendency to cast the minors in dual roles was confusing.

Due to the fact that it was not on a raised platform, and the sets were simplistic in design, allowed the play to be conducted on a more casual level. Indeed, the idea of a "play within a play" is a common feature of Wilder's work and the audience is often there "to actively take part in a game of make-believe". I sometimes found the play overdramatic, but perhaps this is just another facet of Wilder's idea that the security of man is illusory.

Thus, if you like Wilder's work and are prepared to sit through an excellent two and a half hour production, go and see *The Skin of our Teeth*. Presented by the Court Theatre it is showing from Wednesday 18th March, to 21st, at St Ignatius College, Manresa Court, Athelstone at 8.00pm.
Jenni Lans

All that Jazz

The Dave Brubeck Quartet
Adelaide Town Hall
Thurs. March 12.

Jazz for the masses or at worst a catholic selection of original music was delivered by the ageless Dave Brubeck last Thursday night.

In Australia for the ninth time, Brubeck and the other three members of his present quartet held off the Town Hall crowd of senescent groupies with a tantalizing selection of unknowns before succumbing to the inevitable nostalgic applause when going out on the classic *It's a Raggy Waltz*.

Familiarities aside, the crowd revelled in the programme - an intelligent sequence of pieces which never failed to elicit paroxysms of delight with each tasteful change in mood and tempo.

Beginning with a hymn, taken from their latest album, *The Mass*, all the venom came from Brubeck. Complete with red back, he crouched over the Town Hall grand like a wizened old spider, eyebrows arched, jawbone dropped and tongue dangling over his chin in concentration. His aggressive style maintained his dominant position in most pieces as his fingers rippled and crashed, dancing in and out of both extremes of the dynamic range with equal prominence.

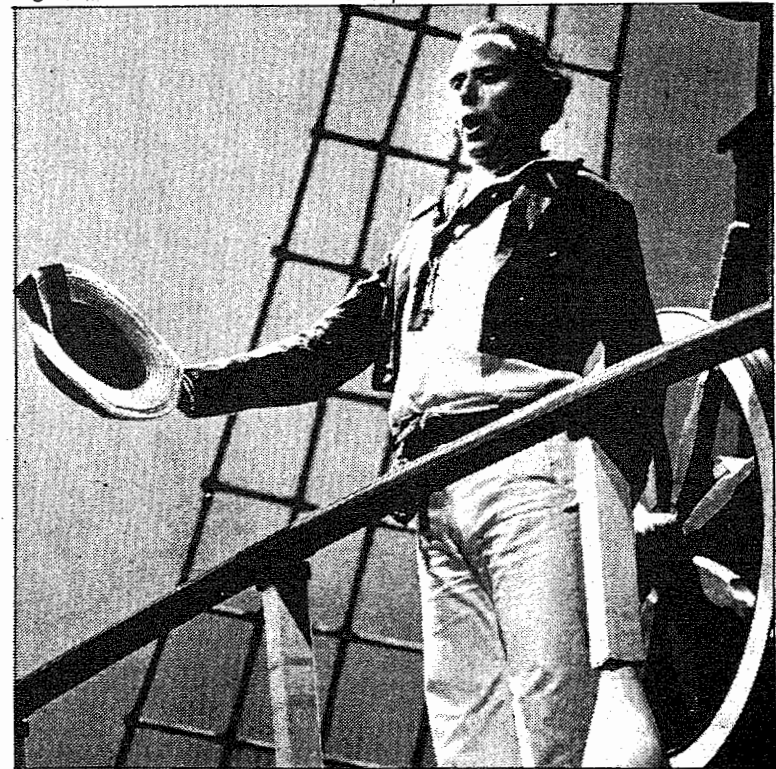
Unfortunately, he completely overshadowed Jerry Bergonzi on tenor sax who compounded his obsolescence in the few solos he was allowed. Twiddling his thumbs behind the piano for most of the night, he vented his frustration by

cramping everything into the little space he was given. Without a doubt he demonstrated his technical brilliance, but the inability to select from his repertoire of scales and runs meant that all this was lost in a conglomeration of sensory overload.

The diminutive Randy Jones, however, excelled behind the drums. Apart from the occasional indulgence, he kept switching the beat tastefully, superimposing rhythm on counter rhythm and making imaginative use of silence. Never overpowering, he provided a tight backing, working in closely controlled tension with the peripatetic Chris Brubeck (son) on electric bass.

Chris Brubeck was a sight to watch, gyrating in the background like a giraffe on a treadmill. Like his father, and Jones, he excelled in variety. I'll never forget his mop of floppy hair down to his cheeks, chin framed by a thin handlebar moustache, rhythmically poking his Neanderthal jaw as far out as he could on each off-beat. Chris took the floor in the middle of the programme with a raunchy bracket of two songs on trombone. Such judicious use of the instrument only enhanced its effect and left the crowd hungry for more. This they received with the second encore, a cheeky boogie eliciting solos from all instruments before Chris blew a contented fart to end the evening, sliding way way down the scale ... the gesture of a base player.

Andrew Fagan



High camp on the high seas

HMS Pinafore
Festival Theatre
March 7-14.

Decidedly nautical was the flavour of the State Opera Company's opening production of the 1981 Season, Gilbert & Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*. First performed in 1878, *Pinafore* displays the usual G & S characteristics of fast and lively music, likewise, libretto and much comedy with an undercurrent of still pertinent social and political satire, in this case directed against the naval version of ambivalent equality and political ineptitude.

Either the new musical director, or the full score, or both, were responsible for a refreshing lightness and precision from the ASO - Do my ears deceive me, or do they sound better in the pit?: Festival Theatre acoustics, strange at the best of times, have risen to new depths. Mr Vaughan, however, seems to have both the orchestra and the chorus well under control.

Dennis Olsen, making his directorial debut with this production (for which congratulations are definitely in order) also provided us with a perfectly timed characterisation of a supposedly pompous admiral by turning him into a Nelson-esque, high camp, figure of fun, in the process demonstrating infinite variations of scene stealing

with a side-splitting sequence of sudden exits and entrances (involving rubber tyres, masts, flippers and supermen).

Isabel Veale was in her usual ram-bunctious form and good voice, while Thomas Edmonds sang the romantic lead with his usual fervour, and Judith Henley's clear soprano was still entirely delightful. The diction of the soloists was, by and large, very clear, which, unfortunately, cannot be said of the chorus, but then there are an awful lot of words in G & S librettos. The choreography of the chorus, however, reached altogether new heights, sometimes literally, and, particularly the men, displayed a precision of timing second only to d'Oyle-Carte.

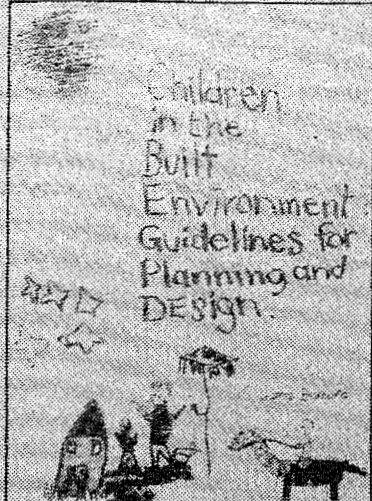
The highly original set consisted of the top deck of a nineteenth century man-of-war, complete with poop deck, topside, masts and cannon (in demonstrably working order), and was very life-like indeed, especially at night.

All in all, a very good evening's entertainment, and well worth the \$2.50 of the student rush (half an hour before the curtain).

Osman Minor

Advance Notice: The heavies are coming! Australia Opera openings March 19 and 20, *La Traviata*, et al.

Building the environment for children as well



Children in the Built Environment: Guidelines for Planning and Design
by James Barnard \$7.95
You know the famous old adage - 'You can't judge a book by its cover', well strangely enough it was

the cover and title of this book that attracted my attention.

The presentation is excellent. Information about the social, intellectual and physical behaviour of children at different ages is given and after each section there is a summary of how their environment needs can best be met.

Barnard gives diverse examples of how the built environment can enhance the total growth of children. It is an exciting book, especially for those who wish to foster in children a taste of how revelational their environment can be. It's a must for all involved in urban planning (such as Local Councils!) and any kind of child welfare. I particularly liked the way in which further reading is given after each chapter and the fact that the chapters are concise and well illustrated. Never does the book get bogged down with trivia or too much detail.

To quote the author, "Learning is a by-product of play and inseparable from it". Thus, without

the necessary requirements of an environment, a child will not reach full maturity mentally, physically or socially. Active play, social play, fantasy and make-believe play and adventure play are discussed briefly before an introduction to Neighbourhood Planning, looking at such things as roads, cycle tracks and traffic and ways in which they can be harnessed for use by children.

Another element taken into consideration is Open Space and the requirements for the young of such an area. A large section of the book is devoted to playgrounds and how to plan them - one theory is to use the children's own ideas.

Cities are built for adults. What are you and I going to do about it? Kids need groups to lobby for their interests; they are reliant on us to help improve their environment. Start by reading this book, it's good stuff. By the way, where in your neighbourhood could you roll down a hill, fly a kite, or go for a quiet walk?

Angel Hunt



WELL AUTUMN has set in well and Winter is on its way. The first touches of cold weather have arrived heralding the end of idyllic days by the Torrens munching on the outdoor picnic or a pie or pastie. No, now is the migration season when the hungry masses seek out the few warm dry windless spots in Uni. in which to consume lunches and meet friends. *On dit* has the first in a series of reviews about food in and around Uni. to help you reserve your wintertime roost before everyone grabs the best spot. Make use of the winter weather for eating - it's the best time.

In Search Of... The great lunch spot

The Sculpture Court Restaurant The SA Art Gallery

In terms of distance from University, this little eatery is the only one in any real competition with the Union catering facilities, being just at the rear of the Art Gallery - a very few minutes' walk from anywhere on our grounds.

For elegance it is unrivalled. One can eat out of doors or in. Both areas are stylish, the outside being studded with rather well considered sculpture and fountain, the inside area being small, well decorated and connected to the Gallery proper. It's clientele range from Gallery patrons to business men and women and a fair number of recognizable faces from Adelaide University. Generally it seems popular and one might have to arrive before 1 o'clock to find a table for lunch. The noise level inside is high but outside quiet conversation is possible.

Catering is set, it would seem, to please all different sections of the clientele and is as diverse as the groups that each there. The basic schism is between sweet and savoury, a product of the Sculpture Court's underlying schizophrenia as a coffee house attempting to cater for lunch guests. Both however are treated well and have been given a certain amount of flair. Savouries range from the roast lamb roll (with or without mint jelly) to assorted types of quiche and filo pastry creations - either spinach filled or stuffed with chicken and bacon. Prices range fairly high here - not everyday eating, but on a semi-special occasion, a light main course bill of \$1.50 isn't really too steep. The food is served piping hot and fresh and take away is available.

On the sweets side a good range of cakes, biscuits and pastries is offered. Too many to categorise. An idea of the items likely to be found there would range between slices of fruit tart to very homely oat biscuits and cake. None is very expensive but you will receive less while paying more than at one of the refectories.

Finally the coffee is a surprisingly low 45 cents a cup which are a fair size. It is far superior to refectory mud. If you aren't financial, the possibility is there to

simply buy a cup and revel in the cultural surrounds and trickling water of the Sculpture court. I suggest you make hay while the sun shines, and be a little adventurous. Have an early autumn repast before weather closes the outdoor area to all.

The Union Cellar Adelaide University

Ah, the cellar... The only place with any real character amongst all the lower priced Union food outlets. The Cellar is the first place in which I ate at Uni. and is still my favourite. Perhaps it is its downstairs location, its slate flagged floor or its small size or its Arthur Boyd original paintings (valued at many thousands) that keeps me coming back. It certainly isn't the food! Boring! Much the same as the refectories but without any specialties, Cellar food manages to be neither wholesome, interesting to the palate, nor original. Rather, it fields general snack bar fare - pies, pasties and hot dogs, a selection of the more commercial side of cakes and buns (i.e. chocolate doughnuts and cream buns) and a wide assortment of chocolate bars. This would be fine except for the fact that there are four functions which are not carried out in the refectories anyway.

However, the Cellar has a good seating arrangement in booths which are comfortable and good to talk to friends in. These do use a lot of space - especially when there are only one or two to a booth, but in a way it pays off in the atmosphere of the place. The Cellar is always crowded at lunch but it seems most times before or after there is hardly anyone there. As the coffee is as good as anywhere at University, however, no one seems to mind - the Cellar is a perfect place to talk to friends privately over a mid afternoon cup of the steaming black beverage.

If you've never been to the Cellar, it's a good place to try - and will get better as the cold weather sets in when one feels more like getting out of the rain and into a small comfortable place for coffee. If you are a tried and tested Cellarmaster, perhaps give some thought to catering suggestions and amendments - *On dit* is always listening...
James Williamson



That was *On dit's* first restaurant review column of the year. Anyone can write, so if you've been eating out, why not write a review for us? At most times you'll have to do it off your own bat (or wallet) but in a few cases *On dit* may be able to come by free meals for the hungrier amongst you. Come down to the *On dit* Office this week and we'll talk it over.

CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA AN OUTLINE HISTORY

SUE FABIAN and MORAG LOH



The harshness of history for little children

Children in Australia: An Outline History by Sue Fabian and Morag Loh Hyland House, Melbourne 1980.

I found this book fascinating; once having picked it up I could not put it down. It historically traces the story of children in Australia from 1788 to the present day. It deals also with Aboriginal children and is thus of immense value.

There are enjoyable glimpses of society at all levels - and shocking pen-pictures too. For instance, one Samuel Peyton, stone mason, was convicted of stealing and was transported in the 1780s to NSW. He was aged 14 years and was his mother's 21st child! About another child: "In 1872 a small stunted youth with a weak intellect was brought before Mr Stuart... for exposing himself at the Botanical Gardens...". His sentence was two months in jail and twenty-five lashes with the cat o' nine tails." (p. 101).

The harshness meted out to children in the early days in Australia is vividly brought to life by many of these actual anecdotes. The general life of each period in our history is well-documented. There are numerous sketches and authentic photographs which add to the reader's interest.

I see the 1940s onwards as particularly nostalgic and historically accurate. I can certainly see my upbringing as a stereotype.

This well-presented hardback has a list of references and sources of illustrations. I recommend it to anyone who has an interest in Australian history and in children's history in particular.
Gillian Burfield

Kids or not?

Why Children? edited by Stephanie Dowrick and Sibyl Grundberg, Penguin Books, 1980 \$6.95

Although this book is beautifully presented, I nevertheless found it disappointing to read. The purpose behind the book is to explore why eighteen women did or did not want to have children. The philosophy behind this is sound, but many of the real-life stories I found depressing. A number of the women in the book are lesbians. Nevertheless, some had children; many, indeed most, of the women here had numerous sexual relationships, and to a number of these pregnancy 'just happened'.

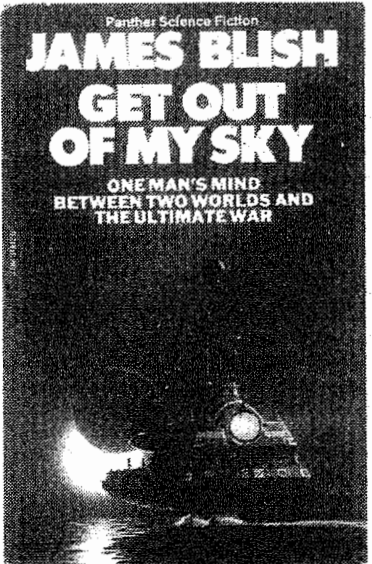
There were some life stories that seemed more like the norm (or is there a norm now?). At any rate, Anna Wileman's story of how she came to have one little girl and then triplets is an engaging one and I felt great warmth towards her.

A few of the women seemed to feel as many girls do now. Melba Wilson writes: "As to my career, well, I think I'll want to be a full-time mother for maybe six months to a year." (p. 112). One could well ask: What happens to the baby after that time?

Most of the women in this book wish to be independent and assert their individuality. Many did not get pregnant until well into their thirties.

As a book of today's world it opens up avenues and ideas that young women today may find inspiring. For me though, it was just plain depressing. I found it hard to relate to many of the women's mores and life-styles.

Try this book though as it will open your eyes to how many of today's women live.
Gillian Burfield



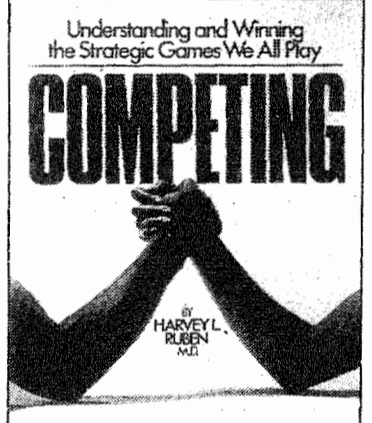
Get Out of My Sky by James Blish

This book contains two stories; one science fiction, the other a horror story. The SF tale is quite interesting but unfortunately, Blish

doesn't develop the plot to its full potential. The concept is good and sets up a theme which could involve good interplanetary politics. However, it falls flat and for some reason Blish cuts the whole thing short. It's nice to read, but a bit disappointing at the end.

The second tale is more of a complete story and keeps you interested even though all the cards are on the table pretty much from the start. The theme is in essence a were wolf hunt in England. Strangely enough, Blish does show that he is a very competent story teller. He demonstrates that he can create interesting characters and new angles for age old plots.

This book, although not dazzling, is enough to entice me to add Blish to my "preferred author list".
Kerry Hinton



Competing by H.L. Ruben

This book is basically about the way we all compete in day to day living. It discusses competition in play, sport, sex, politics and even social interactions.

Unfortunately, it is written in an almost "pleb-like" form. Ruben appears to have overshot the mark in trying to make the book readable. He utilizes nice catchy terms for various types of competitions and gives examples of how they compete and the tactics (or "tools" as Ruben puts it) they use.

He does have quite a bit of informative stuff in the book, but a reasonable slab of it is just common sense.

This book won't make you a "big time winner" so if you are thinking of buying it to make the rest of your life a success, forget it.

However, you can learn a few tactics and also how to decide when not to compete. Further, it does have some interesting things to say about how to avoid a life of endless disheartening failures by giving a few insights of how to be a healthy competitor (not necessarily a successful one).

In short, *Competing* is another of those crash courses in what is really a specialist subject. However this one is a cut above the average. So, if you're into books of the genre of "General Relativity for Thong Brains" or "A Crustacean's Guide to Differential Manifolds as Applied to Operational Theory", *Competing* could be for you.
Kerry Hinton