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OnDit



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The ethics of animal engineering

Bob Phelps, Campaign Officer for the Australian Conservation Foundation, argues that uniform Federal legislation is needed to monitor genetic experiments on animals that may adversely affect the environment rather than benefitting the population. Phelps claims that these problems are being ignored by the Hawke government.

Australian Conservation Foundation concerns about genetic engineering are much broader than the unauthorised release of transgenic pigs, reported in the last issue of *On Dit*. The public is asking if Metrotec was the only organisation to flout the GMAC's voluntary guidelines, which were designed for contained laboratory work and cannot adequately control commercial biotechnology.

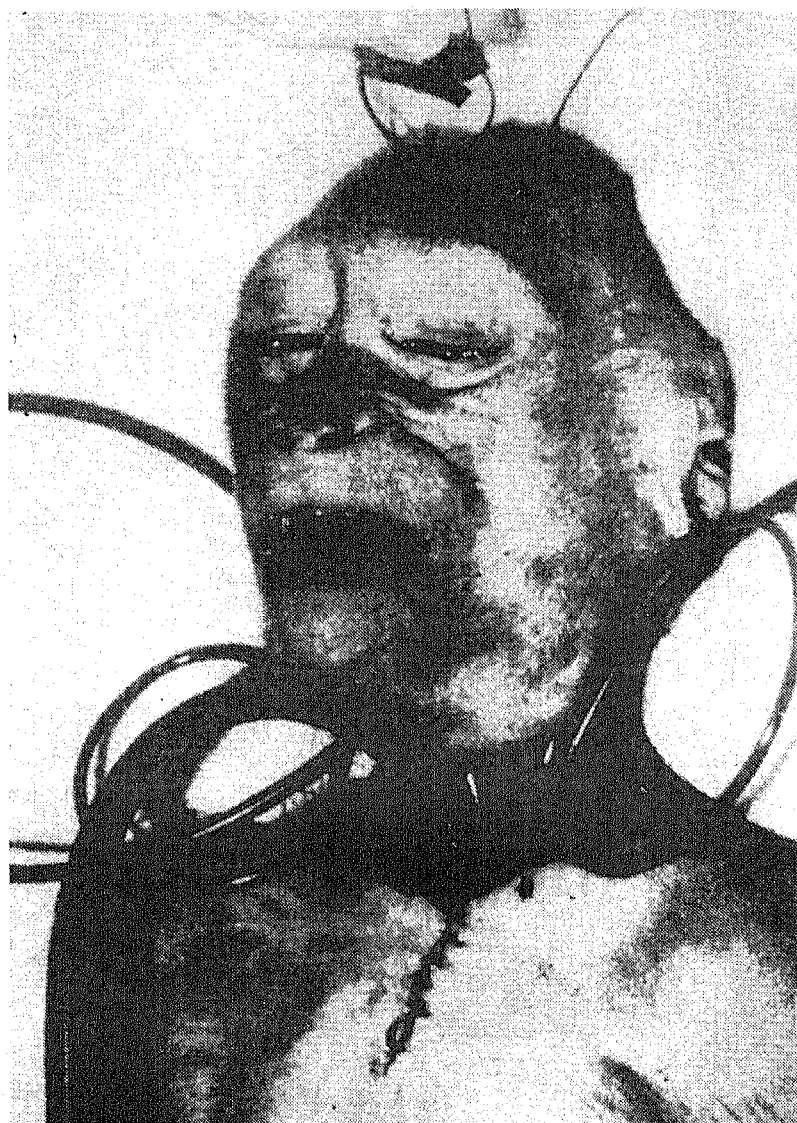
A national uniform system of new laws, as recommended by the Victorian Law Reform Commission and the Australian Environment Council is urgently needed. It should include mandatory notification, environmental and social impact

assessment, monitoring, and notice to the public of all live release proposals. Existing laws, to monitor inanimate materials such as chemicals, are unsuited to regulating live organisms that proliferate and spread in the environment and do not respect political boundaries.

The Federal Government must take the lead and establish an independent public inquiry, with public, NGO, and government representation to review biotechnology developments. ACF rejects plans for the Parliamentary Industry, Science and Technology Committee to control the hearings, as the primary focus would be on the com-

mercial potential of genetic engineering. Until the Inquiry's findings and recommendations have been widely discussed and a publicly acceptable regime is established, and release of genetically engineered organisms should be prohibited.

ACF concerns are not misplaced. Hundreds of projects throughout Australia are engineering animals, plants and micro-organisms which may have a variety of impacts. Some examples include, the potential for havoc in the natural environment of fish designed to grow faster and bigger than their undomesticated relatives. Patent ownership of engineered animals and plants which would allow biotech companies to commandeer the work of traditional breeders (by the addition or deletion of only one gene) leading to greater monopoly control of the food supply. The engineering of herbicide tolerance into crop plants (> 27 crops to date) which would encourage the increased and less discriminate use of these harmful chemicals. Professor Kerr of the WAITE Agricultural Institute is among the critics of herbicide resistance.



ACF hopes that researchers, institutions and the public will come to understand the wisdom of a new approach and get behind these initiatives to properly regu-

late commercial biotechnology before it begins, not after problems arise.

Is Health Care in Australian Teaching Hospitals Inadequate?

As a South Australian medical student I must draw your attention to the numerous problems in the current intern year. Medical graduates from Australian universities are currently subjected to an unproductive year as glorified clerks.

A recent survey of South Australian teaching hospitals found that less than 5 percent of an intern's time is spent in formal education. Interns are ranked on the basis of academic results, and as a result those with a higher academic standing get placements in well supervised teaching hospitals, and the rest spend a year in remote country hospitals, often as the only doctor on duty for the weekend. In country or suburban teaching hospitals exhausted interns working up to 36 hour shifts cannot provide adequate health care for the community.

Some of the central problems outlined in the review of education and training for general practice in South Australia include:

1. Interns do not get sufficient clinical responsibility (under supervision) to prepare them for *unsupervised* general practice.

2. The teaching hospital is the province of the medical specialist and patient care is often fragmented into parts of the human body. The fundamental principle of general practice, that of "whole patient care", often doesn't apply to hospital settings.

3. Who is responsible for organisational structure of the intern year? The universities have no official involvement, despite the fact that it is the second and last period of basic medical education. The medical board has overall change of the intern period but has little capacity to implement changes. The day to day supervision of interns is supposedly organised by the teaching hospitals.

Flinders Medical Centre must be congratulated for moves this year by the hospital administration to interview interns confidentially on several occasions during their intern year about their concerns, with

a view to improving the intern year. However, to my knowledge no such steps have been taken at other South Australian teaching hospitals. As a *band-aid solution* to this problem the introduction of a second pre-registration year for interns has been proposed in South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland. The Australian Medical Students' Association is opposed to two year pre-registration for the following reasons:

1. **Lack of flexibility.** AMSA believes that the second pre-registration year will impose unjustified restrictions on second year doctors. We believe that doctors, after one year of practice, should have the freedom to:

- change hospitals
- move interstate
- work overseas
- defer their careers for family or other personal reasons
- to start streaming into specialities.

2. **Implications for women.** 50% of graduates are currently women. We believe that the length of the course, the peripheral and country rotations and the irregular hours if internship, on top of the

HECS burden will particularly discourage women from entering the profession in the future.

3. **Length of time.** We believe that a second pre-registration year is unnecessary because seven years should be a sufficient period to train a professional to a point of some independence. If this is not presently the case in the medical profession, then the way to resolve this is by change within the course and current intern year, not by extension.

4. **The possibility of exploitation.** We fear that the implementation of this proposal will not lead to improved health care but will be used by the hospitals as a source of cheap labour to solve current staff shortages. This is of particular concern given current intern working conditions. It should be recognised that around 98% of interns remain within the hospital system voluntarily. It is but a handful that plunge directly into independent practice. We believe this could be prevented by supervision procedures.

Following extensive student lobbying in 1989 the current governments in NSW and Victoria assured medical students that the second pre-registration year will not be implemented in those states. Why is it that now the refuted NSW proposal has been presented to students in SA, Tasmania and Queensland? Surely a single well supervised, structured intern year followed by continuing medical education can be achieved without an extension of the pre-registration

period.

The Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA) is the representative voice for all medical students in Australia and is involved in the political as well as educational and social aspects of medical student life. This year Flinders Medical School is host to the AMSA National Executive. It consists of Lesley McGregor (Secretary), Kylie Austin (Treasurer), Andrew Pearce (Liaison Officer), and myself as President. With an increase in funding from the AMA this year we have been able to employ a third year deferring medical student from Adelaide University, Michelle Chew, as the AMSA National Coordinator. This position will be available again for 9 months next year for a deferring medical student prepared to live in the Executive state.

Tania Morgan
AMSA President 1990/91

Any suggestions or comments should be directed to:

AMSA Secretariat,
C/- Student Undergraduate Office,
Level 5, Flinders Medical Centre,
Bedford Park, S.A. 5042

Ph: (08) 374 1159
Fax: (08) 277 0085

Andrew Lamb new Union President

Andrew Hamilton has resigned as President of Union Board, and Andrew Lamb, from the Labor Club, has been elected to fill the position.



Andrew Lamb

Hamilton notified the Union Secretary Manager, Robert Brice, of his resignation on the morning of Monday May the 7th, before the Union Board meeting held that evening. The left and some Independent board members had moved a sack motion which was to be voted on at the meeting.

Hamilton's presidency was marred by controversy from the outset. Left-wing and Independent Board members had criticised him all year, alleging he was unable to

solve industrial disputes, particularly the no-confidence motion moved in Robert Brice.

They also claimed that Hamilton, a full time 5th year Medical student, did not have enough time to honour his obligations as Union President.

Hamilton insists that the sack motion was politically motivated. In his letter of resignation he cites his "...inability to depoliticize the Board so that it may put student issues at a higher priority than

politics" as the main reason for his resignation.

Andrew Lamb defeated Christian Independent Peter Jackson to become the new President.

Lamb told On Dit that he will "...return the Union to the level of efficiency it had in the last few years", adding that "the confidence of staff and students in Board needs to be restored."

"I will strive to make industrial relations within the Union work properly" he said.

Lamb refuted the allegation that political factionalisation is destroying the Union. Given the \$8.5 million budget the Union has to work with, Lamb claims that political differences are inevitable.

He added that recent disputes

within the Union had more to do with mismanagement than factionalisation.

David Penberthy
Steve Jackson

Liberal Club to hold policy discussions.

The Adelaide University Liberal Club is holding a series of policy discussions in the run up to the SAUA election.

Nick Vincent, an executive member of the Liberal Club, told On Dit that the Club "wants students to be aware of its policies, rather than keeping them to ourselves as an internal thing."

The results of the policy meetings will be prepared and distributed to students, Vincent said.

"At the moment, we're concentrating on issues of childcare and the environment, and over the next few weeks we'll examine broader education issues and student unionism."

The Liberal Club's environmental policy states a commitment to the Environment Officer position. Vin-

cent said that the Environment Officers should consider setting up a campus-based environmental task force, made up of lecturers and students, to operate on a national level.

"It's lecturers and students, particularly from the Environmental Studies Department, who know what's going on, not the politicians. That's the problem- all the politicians are hopping in to have their say when they really don't know what's going on."

"Sure, the Federal Liberal Party didn't have an environmental policy at all, but the ALP has done nothing to stop logging of rain-

forests in Victoria. It's things like this which an environmental task force could look into."

Belinda Lovall, Vice-President of the Liberal Club, told On Dit that the Club is committed to maintaining and expanding childcare.

"The emphasis in childcare should be to not only look after the children but to offer programmes aiming to foster the physical, emotional and mental well being of the children in care."

The question of voluntary or automatic student unionism has not yet been resolved within the Liberal Club. Although most Liberal Clubs on campuses interstate



Belinda Lovall

are committed to voluntary student unionism, the Adelaide University Club seems to be split over the issue. Rumour has it that the Liberals have shelved the idea but will be discussing a long term vol-

untary union scheme which will prevent any destruction of student services.

David Penberthy

In Memory of Tianenmen Square

It is almost a year since the Chinese Government brutally crushed the pro-democracy movement in Beijing. The Chinese Democracy Support Group (SA) has organised an exhibition of photographs from the June massacre as a reminder of a tragic event which the Chinese government is still attempting to cover up.

The Chinese Democracy Support Group says that "the photos will shake, sadden and offend but they must be shown to serve as a reminder of these horrific events."

Most of the photos were secretly taken in a Beijing hospital and were smuggled out of China by Westerners.

The photographs form part of an exhibition dealing with the oppressed which opens in the Union Gallery on the 4th of June.

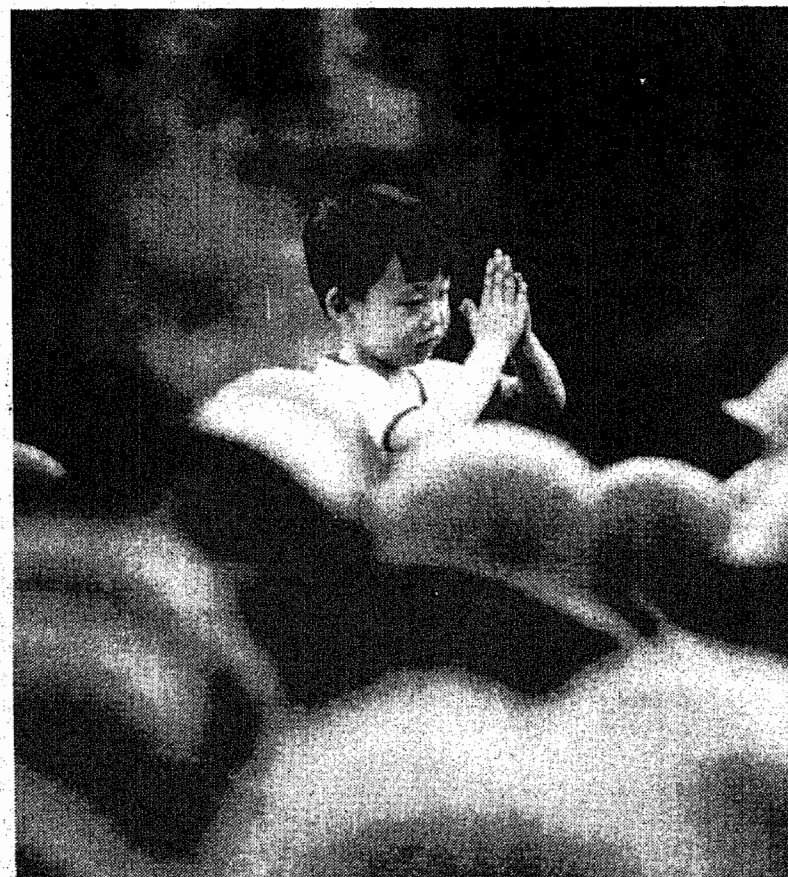
CISCAC (The Committee in Solidarity with Central America and

'the photos will shake, sadden and offend but they must be shown as a reminder of these horrific events.'

the Caribbean) is presenting a display of handicrafts from war-torn El Salvador.

In addition, the Broad Left Law Group is presenting an historical documentation and poetry exhibition depicting the life and death of an Italian anarchist during World War II in an Australian internment camp.

If you would like more information regarding the exhibitions, contact Jenny Jones in the Union Gallery.



Shortage of Australian Engineering graduates 'threat to technological future'

Australia needed to increase its number of engineers and tertiary funding if it was to have any technological future, according to the president of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Dr Mike Sargent recently completed a tour of South-East Asia. He said that most South-East Asian countries saw themselves as future providers of intellectual capacity. Several countries had national strategies to boost their numbers of engineers.

Singapore produced 1,200 graduate engineers a year, out of a population of 2.6 million, whereas Australia produces only about 3,500 graduates a year out of a population of 17 million.

"It seems to me in Australia we need to recognise that the trend is towards a more highly educated

and more highly skilled workforce," said Dr Sargent.

"Perhaps they need to start thinking about better salaries for engineering and scientific academics," he said.

The Dean of the Engineering Faculty, Professor Agnew, agreed that Australia was producing too few engineering graduates and that there was not enough financial incentive for students to become engineers.

He told On Dit that, "We're not having a great problem here at the university, but ... problems are showing up more in other states where the number of students

wanting to do engineering now is starting to drop off." He said that "they're (tertiary institutions) having trouble getting enough students in who have good enough passes in maths, physics and chemistry in order to be able to cope with the course".

Professor Agnew thought that students with good passes in these subjects were probably being attracted to economics, commerce and possibly into computer science and law. "I think students have looked at opportunities in the business arena as being perhaps more rewarding than careers in engineering."

He said that "the pay for engineers is not as good as it should be ... to attract them in" and that "they can see people in business perhaps making bigger dollars than engineers".

"In fact, I would say that our graduates from the University of Adelaide are on a par ... Starting salaries for engineering graduates this year would have been around about \$27,000 to \$30,000/\$31,000."

The Minister for Employment, Education and Training, John Dawkins, had said recently that he believed that Australia had to pay its engineers, scientists and teachers a lot more than it had been if Australia was going to attract the best people, said Professor Agnew.

Dr Sargent has also claimed that tertiary institutions lacked funds to buy modern training equipment and were starved of teaching staff.

Professor Agnew said that Adelaide University was being squeezed all of the time. "As each year goes by, our funding is getting less and less per student. We have very little money to buy new equipment. We would have ... about ten million dollars worth of equipment in the faculty, most of which is getting to be obsolete, if it's not obsolete already. And we just don't get the sort of money to help us replace that equipment."

Adelaide University had increased its quota from 160 in 1987 to 225 this year. But it could not take in any more students unless it got a new building and extra staff. It would be up to the South Australian Institute of Technology to take in extra students. There was also a

plan for a joint engineering faculty between the Institute and Flinders University.

"The Williams Committee report - that was the review of the discipline of engineering - suggests that we ought to grow to about 950 (engineering students). But with our current resources, we can only grow to 700," said Professor Agnew.

"One thing that is worrying to the profession and should be worrying to the community is that in order to provide the number of engineers the community needs the Government is bringing them in by migration ... the latest figures ... indicate that the number of migrants has grown to be equal to the number of graduates being turned out ... So there's 3,000 graduating and about another 3,000 coming into the country, which we believe is too many."

Professor Agnew said that the United States of America also had a shortage of engineers. He said that they would have to import them from other countries, including Australia. To do this, the United States would have to offer higher salaries. So, if engineers' pay was not high enough in Australia, then a lot of them probably would go overseas.

Cathi Walker

Special Graduation Ceremony for Flinders University Overseas Students

A unique graduation ceremony for Malaysian students graduating from Flinders University took place in Kuala Lumpur on May 20.

It was the first time that an Australian university had held a graduation ceremony in Malaysia, the Further Education Minister, Mr Michael Rann, has said.

He intended the ceremony to "kick off" the campaign to sell Adelaide as a university city and to attract more Asian students to study in Australia.

The Vice-chancellor of Flinders University, Professor John Lovering, told On Dit that "In the past, they (Malaysian students) would have had to have come back to Australia to go through the graduation procedure and ... they certainly wouldn't be able to do it to have their friends and family present."

He said that the response to the plan had been "very, very favourable". Thirty-seven students graduated and three of them were PhDs. There had been a major response from their family and friends.

"We're looking to give the overseas students the same sort of graduation that we give our Australian students."

Professor Lovering said, "We couldn't do it in every country because we don't have very significant numbers from other countries ... But the Malaysian students make up nearly 50% of our total overseas student numbers." This is about 200 out of the 400 overseas students at Flinders University.

Mr Rann left Australia on May 9 for a ten day trip to Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. He gave the graduation address to the Malaysian students.

He has claimed that the trip will lead to an increase in overseas students in South Australian tertiary institutions of over three hundred percent by 1993.

Accompanying him on his trip were representatives of Adelaide University, Flinders University, the South Australian Institute of Technology and the South Australian College of Advanced Education.

Cathi Walker

Left win in Labor Club AGM elections - Steel new President

The Adelaide University Labor Club has elected its executive for 1990/91. For the second year running, the left of the Labor Club has won a majority of positions.



Ian Steel (above) defeated the centre/right candidate Andrew Lamb by 58 votes to 43 to become President, and Kamal Farouque defeated the centre/right candidate Justin Jarvis by 60 votes to 41 to become Vice-President.

In his speech to the Club, Steel said that the Labor Club should strive to promote "traditional Labor ideals and socialist ideals" and "should try to work with other groups on campus." Basing much of his speech on the Labor Club's record over the last year and his work in the Student's Association,

Steel said that under the left the Labor Club had been more active and run more democratically.

He was critical of the right's attempt to steamroll voting for NOLS delegates through at the AGM, claiming that it was this sort of behaviour by the right that had forced the stackout at last year's meeting.

Lamb told the Club that he wanted to fight the idea that "Joining the ALP is regarded as selling out." He claimed that under the control of the left the Labor Club had stagnated and alienated many of its members.

He blamed this alienation on the factions within the Labor Club.

"You don't encourage participation in a party if you behave like troglodytes. People who aren't even twenty have been joining factions....they shouldn't have to join a faction at such an early age."

In outlining his plans for the following year, Steel told On Dit that the club will "promote a progressive outlook and critical discus-

sion of student and broad issues."

"It is important that we in the Club can work together and with other progressive groups. Real gains can be made by students through involvement in the broad left and through participation in student representation on campus."

The rest of the candidates for office bearer positions were elected unopposed.

Jo Dyer (Independent) was elected Secretary, Bill Panagiotopoulos (centre/right) as Assistant Secretary, Kirsty McKenzie (centre/right) as Treasurer, Amy Barret (left) as Women's Officer and Simon Morris (left) and Haroon Hassan (Independent) as Media Officers.

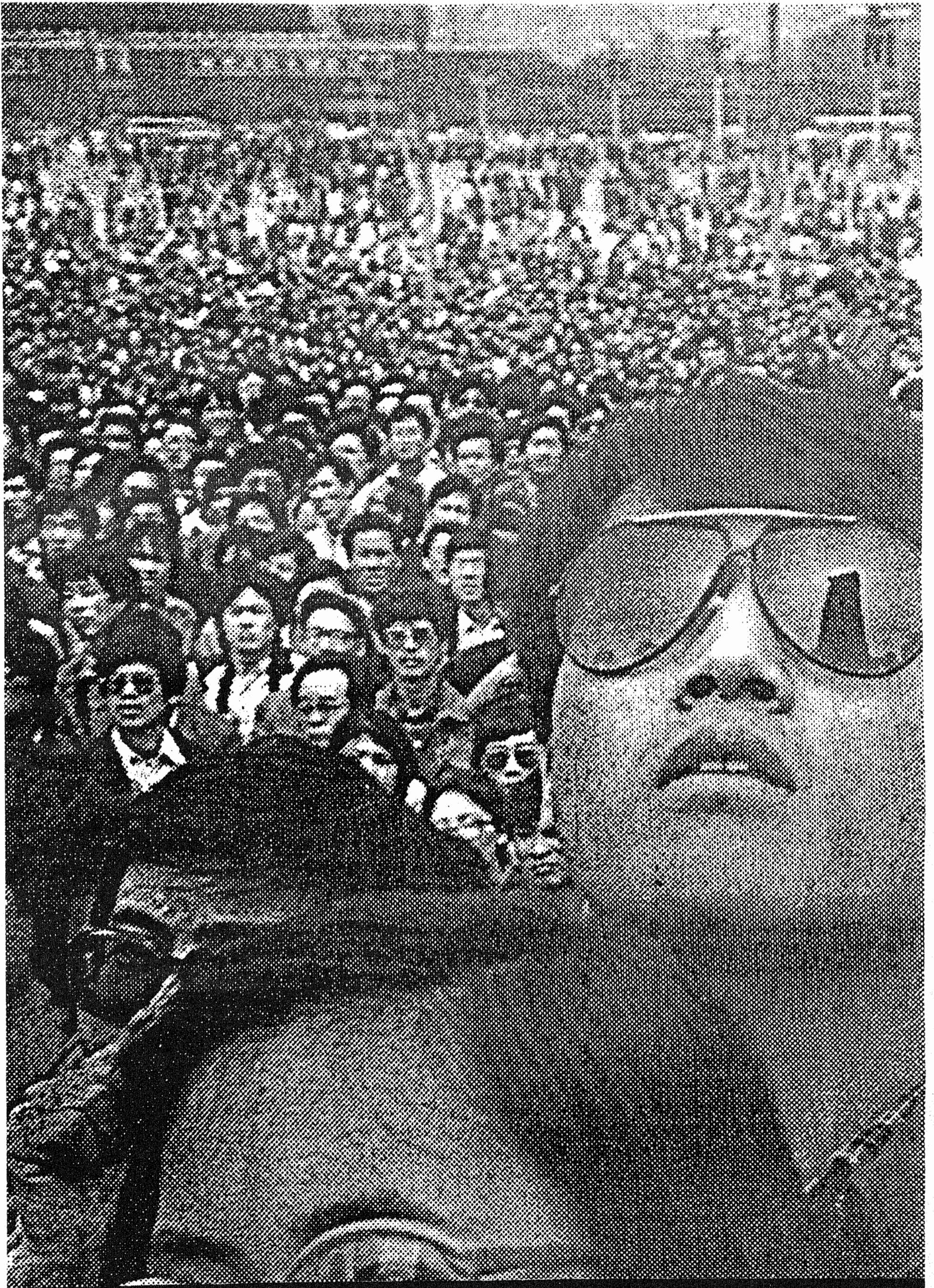
Last year's Labor Club AGM was marred with controversy after both the left and right accused each other of stacking the meeting and perverting the democratic process. By comparison, this year's AGM was a sedate affair.

The only real controversy occurred when the centre/right revealed that they intended to hold the vote for National Organisation of Labor Students (NOLS) Delegates at the AGM. Conventionally, the vote for NOLS delegates has been held at a later meeting.

The Returning Officer, Mr. John Hill, was questioned by Club members as to whether it would be more democratic to abide by convention and suspend the vote for NOLS delegates until a later date. Mr Hill said that since there was nothing in the constitution disallowing the vote, it would proceed.

The right ended up winning 9 of the 17 positions, the left 6 and the Independents 2.

David Penberthy



march in memory of tianenmen square

meet victoria square, sunday june 3, 2 pm

Flagons, Burgers and Editorial Integrity

Dear Editors,
We wish to express our disgust at the flagrant abuse of editorial discretion displayed in the article "A Night of Elegance: Flagon and Burger Frenzy". The decision to award the title of Best Goon to D'Arenberg Dry Red, which received five stars against our will, is an insult to our collective judgement and the practice of winemaking in general. We can but assume that this is indicative of the tragic and debilitating effects suffered by the editors from their repeated savouring of this foul and unholy liquor.

Yours in repulsion,
Andrew Joyner
David Sag
Andrew Champion
Paul Champion

Dear complainants,
The fact that D'Arenberg came in at number one has absolutely nothing to do with editorial manipulation, alcohol dependency or contra deals between On Dit and the (underrated) McLaren Vine wine makers. It was more a case of D'Arenberg being wine number ten in the selection of reds. By the time you four rather frail participants reached the Dazza, you were barely able to fill in the response sheets, and when asked if the last red was the best, slurred "Oh, Christ, yeah, bloody ripper etc.."

Perhaps next time you will approach the wines with a little more respect and remember to spit after tasting.

Yours,
Dave and Steve.

3 in a Row for Patrick White

Dear Patrick White,
You spineless, weak-willed slop of a person. If you are going to make your views public, then you should at least have the balls to stand by them, *especially* if hassled by a few non-collegian scum. I personally do not care who you are/who you try to be/where you live/what fuckng school you went to, but you shame those whom you believe associate with you. Your pathetic attempt to cover your tracks with "I was really joking all along, guys" excuse is embarrassing and pitiful. In your original letter, you claimed that On Dit writers should be objective, yet you call mine trite and me a hypocrite. Also, one cannot help being scatological when you are the subject - if someone kicked the shit out of you, they would end up with a plastic bag.

Yours wallowing in gratuitousness,
Binky Kosmina
6th Year Marine Sports Geology

P.S. On dit is bloody magic this year. Pulitzer Prize stuff. Could we please have a feature of the lifestyles of the editors - 'Day in the Life' type of thing. Love to the Family.

Those Bloody Patronising Christians

Dear Suzanne Kowald,
Concerning your letter - If God (so I assume the Church) still loves gay people as much as anyone else, why is it opposed to the "art of homosexuality"? Surely love is love between any persons, and it is their right to express this feeling however they wish. We see this everyday - handshakes, hugs, greetings, kisses - signs of endearment. People of the same sex who do this are not considered as 'Lemons' or 'Faggots', so why can't straight people ("within the confines of marriage") have sex and have it called "a wonderful expression of love", whereas gays participate in a "misuse of what God intended"? It is not as if you are not following an instruction manual to make babies, where if Tab A doesn't go into Slot B, you will break bits. From your letter it appears the Christian problem is with sex, and has nothing to do with love. On this level, I find it disturbing and arrogant of you to tell me who I can and cannot wave my willy at, solely on the basis of your personal beliefs.

Yours stigmatically,
James Sanchez

More on Gays and God

Dear Ms Kowald,
Your concern for my spiritual welfare is acknowledged, I, on my part, feel no need for your prayers of deliverance from, what you have called, "the deception I live in", nor do I feel the need to repent. I already know and experience God's love in my life.

Yes, Ms Kowald, I too am a Christian and a member of a mainstream protestant Church where I worship regularly with a community of accepting Christians who know of my sexual orientation.

Had you read my article more carefully, you would not have fallen into the trap that catches so many fundamentalist Christians when dealing with this issue. You have taken the view that the Bible is concerned only with procreative, heterosexual, monogamous relationships. This prescriptive approach appears to give you the right to determine that you are on the inside of the kingdom and that I, because of my sexual orientation, *must* be on the outside. As I said in my article, the Gospel is a gospel of love. Christ put no conditions on love. He never once mentioned sex. He never condemned the love that David had for Johnathon, Ruth for Naomi or his love for John.

Is not love the greatest commandment? Does not love supress any biblical ambiguities which may or may not deal with sexuality?

Ms Kowald, I suggest you read the texts I quoted in my article. Place them in the context in which they were written and then, if you wish to read more, I recommend you read John O'Neill's *The Church and the Homosexual* for a rational argument on an issue which has caused more divisiveness in the church than any other social issue. The church has used sexual-

ity as a means of social control and because homosexuality questions the church's control, the church has counteracted by condemnation and rejection.

I also suggest you read Malcolm Boyd's *Take Off the Masks* and Mary Borhek's *My Son Eric*. These two books deal with the struggle that individuals have had to face when coming to terms with homosexuality and the church. They are enlightening, compassionate and accepting; three qualities the church today is sadly lacking.

I do not need patronising nor do I need sympathy and pious prayers. I do not need to be 'freed' from my sexual orientation. I am affirmed by my God as a total person. I am accepted by my God for the person I am. I do know the love of God in my life and it gives me the strength to be gay and proud.

Malcolm Cowan
The Gay and Lesbian Association

Law School Blues

Dear Eds,
I would like to submit to your learned readers that the law degree had a change of name. Instead of LLB, call it BO, that is, Bachelor of Obfuscation. And if you don't know what I mean, that just proves my point.

Roger Jacobs
Law

Nepal

I can, though I shouldn't, forgive "roving reporter" James Danenberg for failing to get the spelling of King Birendra correct.

Unfortunately, it's symptomatic of his whole article ... a shallow, inaccurate "What I did in my holidays" approach to the situation in Nepal.

The fear and loathing referred to in the headline is *not* just directed at the Panchayat system. There's the little matter of the disgust and despair among a very large portion of the population at the actions of the Queen, who is seen as a mercenary manipulator. There's also the problem, common to most Asian countries, of rampant rip-offs by the bureaucracy. Meanwhile, I would have thought that, especially in a paper produced for a University, the Government's action last year in closing down the top tier of education in retaliation for student activities would have rated *some* mention!

I have travelled to Nepal frequently in the past decade, and my last few trips provided me with ample indications that the Himalayan Hindu kingdom was heading for imminent turmoil.

Despite this, I want to continue my visits, and therefore regretfully have to ask for anonymity. Not for reasons of personal safety, but merely to ensure that my visa applications are not imperilled.

And talking of travel ...

Mr Danenberg has the stupidity, in his last paragraph, to try to scare off tourists by warning them that their dollars will "support a fiendishly corrupt oligarchy".

As a tourist himself, surely Mr

Danenberg would be aware that, for better or worse, the tourist dollar has a very large impact on the *whole* of the Nepal economy.

To withdraw that support may well financially disadvantage Her Majesty and her clique who have a solid grip on the up-market sector of the tourist industry.

But I doubt if too many On Dit readers can afford the high prices of the "Sherpa", "Yak and Yeti" or "Annapurna". It's much more likely that they will make for the homely, down-market comforts of Thamel before heading out of the Kathmandu Valley.

It's these areas, the villages on the Fanta and Mirinda trails, where your tourist dollars as trekkers can go direct to the populace.

Namaste

Haute Cuisine

Dear Yupple-Eds,
Oh! So, we've moved from Fashion to Cuisine! Hamburgers even. And where do you go? North Adelaide and Norwood! Not enough petrol in the Volvo!

Next time you review Elvis Delights, why not check out the hamburger joint opposite the Challa Gardens Hotel, or what about the good old Ozone Fish Cafe at the Port, or that great F & C shop next to the Semaphore Hotel. Expand your horizons! Take your haircuts to the people!

A. Nuther-Bogan
(note hyphenated surname)

The Articulate World of Johnny Rockefeller

Dear J. Shitface Sanchez, whoever the hell you are,

If you don't like the way I write, well who the fuck asked you to read it in the first place, cocksucker. If "Rock'n'Roll" and "Black Dog" are the only Led Zeppelin songs you've heard, and you can say that those lyrics which you chose as being the only type of lyrics which Robert Plant ever wrote, well then, you've really got your head stuck right up your arse. And I don't think Dylan Thomas (who the fuck is he?) and W. Shakespeare (wasn't he that poofter who wore his jocks on the outside of his tights?), come even close to the brilliance of Robert Plant. I bet you're some dipshit who likes listening to crap like Jason Donovan and Kylie Minogue. Well I suppose that you and them have one thing in common, you both suck. You think you're so good putting me down for writing what I wanna write, well, why don't you just fuck off!

Love and kisses,
Johnny R.

Staff Club a rip-off

Dear Eds,
Kate Smithson's article "The White Elephant Club" raises the very critical point of allocation of moneys at the University of Adelaide. At a time when the "Phillistines unfortunately in the guise of a "labor" government] are at the gates", and the invariable

answer to student requests for increased student resources, goes along the lines: "we would like to, but government cutbacks won't allow"; it is sad to see that the University cannot get its financial priorities right.

No one is denying that academics need "their space", and a place of their own, where they can avoid the incessant clamoring of students for their individual attention, as well as partaking in the "occasional" downing of "dutch courage" prior to lectures and tutorials. However, such a requirement must of necessity be subordinated to the primary function of the university-teaching students. In these times of financial hardship for all, and the ever increasing encroachment of this "labor" government on education; the proposed absorption of the Staff Club debt and subsequent annual subsidies by the University amounts to a frivolous waste of the University funds, which could be put to better use in the area of education.

Yours sincerely,
Dominic Petraccaro
History

Krantz= Pus Bag

Dear Mr Krantz,
With reference to your 'cartoon' "Young Person" (back page, April 9 issue).

You scum!! You pig!! You plagiaristic, commie-loving bag of pus!! How dare you steal a Viz comic and make it your own? (For those interested, the original is called "Captain Muscle Rides Again" from the "Big Hard One" collection.) Come on, Dave, it's extremely stupid to assume that out of all the people that read this newspaper, you're the only one to have read Viz (compounding the blasphemy by appalling artwork doesn't help either). I will admit "Scum in Utopia" showed some promise but stunts like this bring to mind terms like "stylistic bankruptcy" and "complete wanker". Don't get me wrong, no one is challenging your right to draw cartoons, just don't submit them to On Dit ...

Yours in disgust,
Tony Nuttall,
(currently on remand,
SAIT School of Electronic Engineering)

Chloe - A Closet Liberal?

Dear Chloe umlaut Fox,
Why didn't you go to the Sudan Relief Committee Benefit Night instead of the Litsock piss-up and the Liberal wank? All the hipsters were there, nobody vomited, people were dancing and sixteen hundred dollars went to charity. YOU WROTE YOU FOUND THAT LIBERAL SOCIAL OCCASSIONS REVOLTED YOU. I put it to you Chloe that you *knew* you would really love to be seen at the credit-card ball previous to starting you environmentally shit-house car. Don't be a hypocrite. Next time go to the benefit. NEXT TIME RIDE A BIKE!

P.S. you act damn well old boy.
Spokesman for Reality

Before we get into the cynical editorial type stuff, let us say how sorry we are that On Dit hasn't appeared for a while. The computers in the office have been riddled with an horrific array of viruses, in fact, one of them was diagnosed as being the computing equivalent of HIV positive, and has died a slow and painful death. We couldn't afford to get typesetting done off campus, but the problem has now been solved, which will please you all no end, well some of you, well certainly our friends

and relatives...

You will notice in this week's news pages that the Labor and Liberal Clubs are beginning their traditional posturing in the run-up to the Student elections. While this is rather unsurprising news, it's certainly depressing news, as it seems that over the last God knows how many years both these clubs have been churning out the same predictable lines in every single election.

Sure, the "left" has got control of the Labor Club,

and the Liberal Club, with a new generation of young well-dressed activists at the helm, is actually trying to publicise its policies, but underneath all the gloss and polish, nothing has changed. The Libs are still celebrating the fact that they were born on the nicer side of town, and the Labor Club is pretending it's from Paramatta, talking in hushed tones about trade offs, stack outs, consensus tickets and knee capers.

Now, a lot of this may sound like so much

Trotskyist propaganda, but there's a pretty fundamental question involved.

Surely the whole point of university is to question dominant ideas and endeavour to create new ones, not jump on the band wagon like so many sheep and embrace ideologies which have provided Australia with one of the most boring political climates in the entire world.

It was George Orwell who said "I have a deep distrust of smelly little orthodoxies." The Labor

and Liberal Clubs are two little orthodoxies that are very much on the nose. What stinks even more is the fact that they support, however blatantly or tactically, the principles behind the two Federal parties, who we all know have done so much for our higher education system.

It's a long time until the student elections. You'll be hearing more from these two clubs. Perhaps it would be an idea to try and think with your nose.

Steve Jackson
David Penberthy

Tough Times for Student Radio Club Chaos

The future of Student Radio is in doubt. Recent developments at 5UV, Student Radio's host station, have forced the student's association to reassess and perhaps even justify its existence.

Around ten years ago Student Radio was in its heyday, it was a fertile source of talented presenters and creative shows, and enjoyed some of the highest ratings 5UV as a station has ever seen. Since then, the number of FM stations has multiplied and as a consequence student radio has lost a large part of its predominantly young audience to them.

It is the relationship with 5UV, however, that threatens Student Radio the most. In a letter circulated several weeks ago, Jeff Langdon, 5UV's general manager, stated that "Up until now the station has not wanted to impose control on the timeslot. However in light of our new programming philosophy this policy has been reviewed". This 'Control', it was suggested, would manifest itself in the form of a full time producer. This producer would be appointed, not elected by the student body as happens presently, and his/her term of office would be indefinite. The producer's wage would be paid by the Students' Association. Es-

entially Students would totally lose control of Student Radio.

Despite the statement that there was a "desire" to change the operation of Student Radio, the letter ended with the ultimatum "I want to reiterate that we are not interested in continuing with the current situation".

Currently Student Radio and the SAUA are investigating possibilities for the future of Student Radio. One of the most promising is a move to Triple-M. The advantages are numerous; firstly Triple-M already has a much larger audience than 5UV, and perhaps more importantly, a much larger potential audience, since FM reception is far superior to AM. Secondly, Triple-M's audience is predominantly a young one, and because of this, the programming incompatibility Student Radio experiences with 5UV would cease to exist. And thirdly, it appears through talks with Triple-M that Student Radio would receive a substantial discount in access fees.

It is the nature of Student Radio that it is run by students for students. Your opinion on the current situation is requested. Please write in to On Dit, and state whether you listen to Student Radio now, and whether you would listen to Student Radio if it was on an FM band.

Benjamin White



There's a new nightclub in Adelaide that's run by Adelaide Uni students with all proceeds returning to the University. Angeline Hope went to the opening night of Club Chaos for On Dit.

Tired of hyper expensive nightclubs? Got those Uni-bar pool player blues? Well get on down to the In-sounds that are out of bounds at Club Chaos.

I approached the nightclub with some trepidation as I knew that Club Chaos was held on the top floor of the Griffins' Head Hotel. Memories of debauched underage outings came flooding back. My date reassured me that Metro is held on the top floor of the Richmond Tavern.

But this was not the Griffins' Head of my youth! The interior was stark, save for the collection of Escher slides on the walls, the music was

eclectic and the people were beautiful. The cover charge was a mere two dollars for students and drink prices were equally reasonable, around the lounge bar prices at your local. The majority of the large number of people there I recognized from around University, which is not surprising as the cover charge is several dollars more for non-students.

Things seemed to be going fairly smoothly when all of a sudden, a man came from nowhere with a chainsaw and cut through the cordon around the dance floor; the dance floor was declared open, and fifty people crowded onto it as the DJ, Dr Mandelbrot Sex, span a disk.

And that's the way it remained for most of the night, packed dance floor, brilliant music. My only complaint was that the records kept jumping. Probably because the dance floor had never had more than four people on it, the problem had never been noticed before. The fault was soon brought under control however, as I noticed the highly

practical Dr Mandelbrot Sex affixing two cent pieces to the turntable needles with Blu-Tac he'd borrowed off a nearby poster.

The night ended late for a Thursday, a good time being had by all.

Club Chaos is possibly the world's only non-profit nightclub. It is run by Student Radio and On Dit and in my opinion is a great alternative to the inflated ultra-house or post-punk offerings around town on a Thursday night.

Angeline Hope

This week at Club Chaos, Love Fever and Hot For Funk are playing. Free entry for those dressed in appropriate 70's get up.



**Wendy Wakefield
SAUA President**

This week is devoted to an update on the merger process so far. I have highlighted the issues of concern to us as students.

As you are probably aware by now, the University of Adelaide is in the process of amalgamating with Roseworthy Agricultural College. The 1st January, 1991, has been identified as the date the new institution will come into being. The amalgamation process involves negotiation between the institutions in all areas, including academic matters, student services, staffing and industrial matters, legal matters, finance and asset management and the integration of administrative and computer systems. Some areas of particular concern to students include academic matters such as the structure of new faculties, quality of teaching, assessment practices, library services and admissions policy; and student services such as language and study support, health services, accommodation, careers advice and access programs for groups traditionally underrepresented at tertiary institutions. In the process of negotiation, the SAUA is playing an active role to defend student rights. A clause of the Heads of Agreement which states that "Policies defining academic and student rights and grievance procedures will incorporate the best of existing policy and practice in the institutions". The SAUA is highlighting the clause and the "best of existing policy" clause in all areas to ensure that students will not be disadvantaged by policy, or lack of policy and procedures of different institutions. These clauses are used to the advantage of current University of Adelaide students in areas such as assessment policy, where the University has no policy (at present) and the SACAE has a comprehensive one. The requirements of current college policy must be fulfilled in order that the new University complies with the "best of the existing policy" clause. Decisions in these crucial areas such as assessment and student services have not yet been reached, so the SAUA will present further updates as they occur.

An important decision which has been taken relates to the academic structure of the new institution. This is of particular concern to Agricultural Science and Environment Science students. The Councils of both institutions have agreed that the academic components of Roseworthy Agricultural College and the Faculty of Agricultural Science at Adelaide University should be merged to form a new Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, to come into being on 1st January, 1991. In conjunction, there has been a commitment to the continuation of courses. Students currently enrolled in Agricultural Science at Adelaide or a course at Roseworthy are assured that they can complete the courses they began under the conditions of their enrolment and free from any detriment arising from the merger, as this guarantee is enshrined in the

Heads of Agreement and will be defended by student representatives in the merger process.

To complicate matters, the University is also going to amalgamate with the City Campus of the South Australian College of Advanced Education.

Formal negotiations have yet to begin, which places an extremely tight timeline on this merger, which is set to occur on 1st January, 1991. As well as the integration, the University and College, there is the added complication of co-ordination with the Roseworthy merger.

The Students' Association is also involved with negotiating with Roseworthy and SACAE student organisations. Negotiations with SACAE are at an early information swapping stage, but significant achievements have been made with Roseworthy negotiations. The SAUA and Roseworthy have agreed that the SAUA will continue to be the representative organ of the new institution, and that the Roseworthy Agricultural College Student Union should continue to provide other services at the Roseworthy site.

The SAUA is very involved in this merger process with the sole aim of protecting student concerns - which is, of course, the task the SAUA must perform.

We will keep you informed as further developments occur.

For information regarding some of the work the SAUA is currently undertaking, look out for the Education Bulletin which will hit your pigeon holes next week.

**Mel Yuan
Education Vice-President**

Education Bulletin

On Dit is the newspaper published by the Students Association, who also provide a page every week to publicise what the SAUA is doing. However sometimes it is necessary to give a more comprehensive round-up of what is happening on campus. To do this we publish an "Education Bulletin" once or twice a semester.

The first "Education Bulletin" for this year publicised the "Federal Election Debate" held in the Mayo refectory, and gave a brief run-down on some of the education issues involved.

The second "Education Bulletin" will cover a number of issues that have been written about in On Dit, such as student representation on faculty committees, the Review of Governance and the establishment of an Academic Grievance Committee and Mergers. However the Education Bulletin can provide a more comprehensive outlook on the work being done, rather than a bit-by-bit approach.

By doing this we can contact all students on campus via their pigeonholes, rather than hoping you can get your hands on a copy of On Dit, brilliant though it is.

The Students Association always tries to inform students, as much as possible, about what is going on

at the University so the Education Bulletin can help us do this. Look out for it in pigeonholes in the next two weeks.

**Overseas Students
Quek Ngee Meng**

National Conference for Overseas Students 1990

The National Conference for Overseas Students will be held in Adelaide between 14 and 16 July. This is a golden opportunity for all overseas students in Adelaide University to participate actively in the conference. All those with constructive input about the policies that affect overseas students and even those who are inexperienced about government policies but are still keen on improving the welfare of overseas students are welcome to attend.

The actual policies of the National Liaison Committee are formulated at this time. Various ideas and policies will be put forward and discussed. The NLC executive is also elected at the conference. So far, NLC executives have addressed various issues including the full-fee program, women's issues, Pacific students and Medicare/Medibank. One of the main issues the NLC has been involved with has been the Equity and Merit Scholarship Scheme (EMSS).

Equity and Merit Scholarship Scheme (EMSS)

The EMSS is a new scheme which has replaced the old subsidised scheme from 1990 onwards. The aim of this scheme is to help overseas students obtain knowledge and skills that will contribute to the economic and social progress of their countries.

There are two categories of these scholarships: equity scholarships and merit scholarships. Equity scholarships are aimed at students with academic ability who are economically disadvantaged. Merit scholarships are for students of exceptional academic ability regardless of their economic means.

There are two types of award. Each of the countries participating in EMSS is allocated a quota of country-specific scholarships. Students have their full course fees paid, and, except for students from Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore, will receive a return airfare to Australia and an annual stipend of \$A14,600. In 1990, 650 such scholarships were awarded.

The other type of award is for students from EMSS-participating countries who are completing Australian Year 12 courses. One third of their fees is paid by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). Approximately 330 students received these scholarships this year.

The Australian government has spent about \$A9.9 million on EMSS this year.

Merit scholars are relatively easy to select because selection is based solely on results. However, selection for the equity scheme is much

more selective and varies between countries. The Australian government has reached an understanding with each EMSS-participating government as to the specific equity criteria respective to that country. The move allows for home government involvement in the shortlisting of applicants. This is merely a simple overview of a complex scheme.

We realise that the EMSS is trying to be fair and just. However, the phasing out of the old subsidised scheme and the implementation of the full-fee program has caused hardship for overseas students, especially matriculation students from the Pacific Island. Moreover, there is room for EMSS to improve in achieving its aims. For example, creating more equity scholarships either by increasing government funding or cutting down on the stipend.

NLC executives have tried to lobby the government and the director of AIDAB in Canberra regarding our needs. We should realise that overseas students currently studying in their home countries have no opportunity to voice their opinions about Australian government policies. The NLC is the body with the opportunity to negotiate with the Australian government. Hence, your inputs are most welcome

Quek Ngee Meng

**Environment Officer
Ian Steel**

"BIKES FOR LIFE - CARS COST THE EARTH"

On Saturday morning the second "Bikes for Life" rally was held at Victoria Square. A vast improvement on the first (held back at the beginning of April when only about 25 people showed) about 150 people from all walks of life, both young and old turned out for the occasion. The majority were on bikes, including a few tandem and a number of uni-cycles, and the rest on foot. The group walked their bikes around the streets of the city on their way to Parliament House shouting for more bikeways, more public transport and less cars.

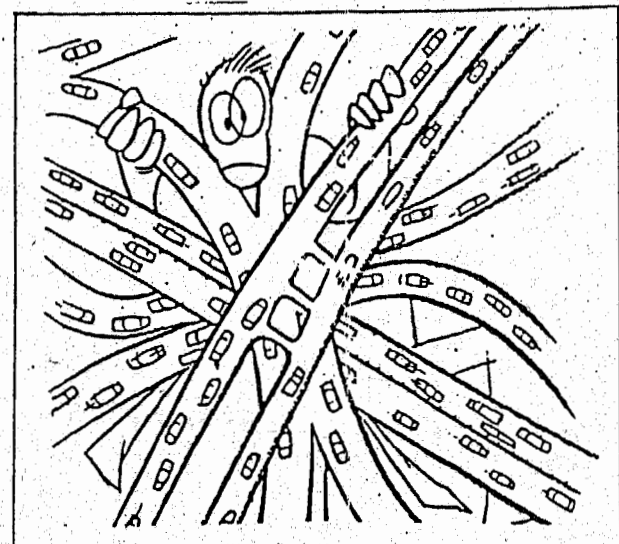
Once there a number of the participants had their say on a range of related issues including: **car pollution** (cars cause ground level air pollution by unburnt hydrocarbons, nitric oxide and ozone - a combination leading to photochemical smog and acid rain), **Greenhouse Effect** (cars contribute directly to the Greenhouse Effect by their exhaust emissions - 30% of Greenhouse gases come from cars), **road accidents** (civilian cars have killed more people this century than all the wars during the same period. Car accidents kill at least 3000 people a year and are estimated by the Federal Government to cost the Australian community \$6.2 Billion a year. The road toll could in fact be 2-3 times higher than the statistics suggest. This is because only those victims who die within 30 days of the accident are registered as road fatalities).

Bikers then proceeded to ride along North, West South Terraces and King William St. back to Parliament House where the rally then finished after a few eco-rocker songs were sung (like "Proud Biker" to the tune of "Proud Mary" and "Riding on a Bike" to the tune of "Blowing in the Wind").

"Bikes for Life" isn't an established club or organisation. Although it has the support of organisations like the Cyclist Protection Association, People for Public Transport and our own Students' Association, "Bikes for Life" is simply a concept to bring together those people who are concerned about our environment and way of life and want to do something about it. Another rally is planned for sometime in Spring. Anybody interested in being involved can contact either myself and Jo Dyer in the SAUA or Roberto Giorgio (Law). Alternatively, join one of the aforementioned groups.

PEOPLE FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT CYCLIST PROTECTION ASSOC.

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if you cheat...

This article by Student Association President Wendy Wakefield is the second of the two part series which examines the current University proposals for a policy on plagiarism. The first part (On Dit, April 30) looked at current policy and procedures, and the proposed definition of plagiarism. This article examines proposed penalties and procedures.

A proposal for penalties for cases of plagiarism was brought to the Academic (Educational) Matters Sub-Committee by the Executive Member, Ian Brice. It was discussed at some length, and a number of problems were identified. It was agreed that the Sub-Committee would postpone further discussion, pending the receipt of a proposal from students, which I undertook to present.

The proposal presented to the A(E)M sub-committee suggested a number of penalties and procedures, depending on the seriousness of the offence:

(1) Less serious cases will result in counselling of the student and/or resubmission of the piece of work. Examples of this situation include where sources are "paraphrased too closely" or where plagiarism occurred as a result of "misunderstanding rather than deliberate deception".

(2) In more serious cases, the student will receive zero for the piece of work, and "unless there are significant extenuating circumstances" will also fail the subject and no supplementary examination will be available. These more serious cases include deliberate copying of substantial extracts without using quotation marks; using very close paraphrasing; and

quoting directly without using quotation marks even if the source is identified.

(3) For second offences and cases of the other forms of cheating specified in the definition, the student "shall fail the subject and the matter shall be referred to the Board of Conduct." The Board of Conduct can impose various penalties, including imposition of fines, and in serious cases, suspension and expulsion from the University. It was suggested that the constitution of the Board and its powers should be reviewed. Currently the Board's membership includes three members of academic staff, three students and a Chairperson appointed by the Council.

(4) The procedures to impose penalties at the Departmental level are as follows:

- assessor refers the matter to the Head of the Department
- Head decides whether plagiarism occurred
- If Head decides that the plagiarism is marginal, the Head then counsels the student
- If Head decides that it is not marginal, then the student is notified and the matter is discussed with the assessor and the student
- following that discussion, the Head then decides whether to impose the penalties (outlined

above)

(5) Students can appeal on the ground (i) that the offence did not occur or (ii) that "extenuating circumstances" exist. Appeals are made to a sub-committee of the Departmental Committee, on which the original assessor is excluded from membership. The sub-committee can "alter or confirm the finding or penalty" previously imposed.

(6) A record of cases of plagiarism will be kept on student's academic records. A central record will also be kept for monitoring purposes, without naming the students concerned.

(7) A department's failure to publicise the definition of plagiarism and resulting penalties "will not constitute extenuating circumstances" for the purposes of appeal (in (4) above) and failing the subject (in (2) above).

A positive aspect of these penalties and procedures is the suggestion that less serious cases and cases of misunderstanding should be dealt with in an educative way. These sorts of mistakes are part of the learning process - which is after all what a University education is all about.

The other penalties and procedures have some problems.

Firstly, appeal for students only exists on limited grounds - if the student denies the offence, or if extenuating circumstances exist. There is no provision for appeal on questions of whether the proper

procedures were followed. It is also not clear (i) what is meant by "extenuating circumstances", and (ii) who decides whether extenuating circumstances exist (the Head of Department?)

Secondly, as the appeal body is a sub-committee of the Departmental Committee, there is no guarantee of student representation on this committee. And if there is, it would probably be only one student (at least this was the presumption at A(E)M).

Thirdly, if the department failed to notify students of the definition and penalties involved, the student could not rely on this as a ground for appeal or extenuating circumstances. This seems to place students in a no-win situation. It is also unclear how this relates to the examples of "misunderstandings", where students are not penalised so severely. Surely a misunderstanding includes the student not understanding what plagiarism is because the definition was not drawn to her or his attention.

There is also the question of whether the proposed penalties are too harsh. It could be argued that having all incidences of plagiarism recorded on students' academic records is too harsh, especially since there are not adequate appeal provisions. There is the further question of what purpose this would serve anyway - presumably the rationale is to deter students, as it would not look good on your record when applying for a job.

An Academic Grievance Committee

The Students' Association has proposed the establishment of an Academic Grievance Committee, which would have as one of its functions the hearing of appeals in cases where students are accused of plagiarism. Appeals would be heard on questions of procedure, so it presumes that an appropriate process exists at the Departmental level. Unlike the Board of Conduct and the Clause 4C Committee the focus of the Committee will be to hear grievances of students, rather than disciplinary complaints against students. A central appeal committee specifically to hear student grievances does not currently exist in the University. (NB - The Law Faculty does have a committee to hear student grievances.)

If you have any further comments you would like to make on the proposed policy, contact Wendy Wakefield in the SAUA Office, or write in to On Dit.

The upcoming Students' Association "Education Bulletin" will outline (among other work currently being undertaken in the SAUA) the brief and purposes of the proposed Academic Grievance Committee in more detail, so look out for it in your pigeon hole next week.

The May blues

What is it about May? Being merry in May is a bloody unlikely occurrence. Being maudlin and moany, yes. Whinging and weeping are biggies. Ringing up your friends and crying at them is very popular. This is the third May I have endured on campus, and it's JUST THE SAME EVERYTIME.

As the leaves fall gently on the security guards and the days grow shorter, angst at Adelaide University grows. All over campus, Summer Love Couples are discovering that the harsh test of Autumn is too much to handle. You stop caring if you have spots on your bot because no one is going to see them anyway. You stay at home on Sat-

urday nights staring morosely at the corn chips and watching "21 Jump Street."

GURLIES AND NON-GURLIES, don't think you're alone. There are thousands of you out there, tearfully cutting up your photos, throwing them into the bin and worrying about whether the dustman will find them, put the pieces together and laugh at your body. And have you noticed that the graffiti on the back of the toilet doors has exploded into a frenzy of hurt and resentment? Yep well those are all your comrades in lovesickness squeaking away... "I am a 2nd Year Psychology student and my boyfriend has just left me for another man and I don't do Law either, what should I do?" and everybody writes back saying, "yeah they are all bastards mate" which isn't enormously useful advice but what the hell, it helps to justify your resentment.

Guys, on the other hand, do not seem to indulge in these urinal literary outbursts. Guys buy drinks, try to get horribly drunk, absentmindedly rip up seats in the bar, and tell their uninterested friends that they didn't like her anyway; 90s women, yuckity. They go home and stare wistfully at the stains on their duvets. They go down to Rundle Street and wonder if they should take up scuba diving. ("My boyfriend left me for an aqualung") The gurlies cry, and get such stunning mascara lines running down their faces that it looks as if there's a new tribe on campus. They also ring their fellow gurlie friends a lot. There are probably parents out there who haven't received a phonecall since late April, because their daughters are having what amounts to a sit-in on the phone.

The worst thing about all this annual Autumnal heartache - and that's what it is - is not the amount

of money you spent on your ex-lover, no, but the way the snot lodges up in your nostrils when you cry. You find yourself telling people that you have a cold. Even though you don't. Crying is a very messy business. And it is just one of the many ways of coping with the death of what was probably a geriatric relationship anyway. Other ways of coping are: running off with the very next person your eyes fall upon, and making their life a misery; buying obscenely expensive clothing; joining Andrew Hamilton for a good cry over in the Med. School; getting new exotic Eastern European pen-friends; reading Polish pornography - and if the worst comes to the worst, well, you can always have a bash at getting back together again. That is strongly inadvisable though. That is just silly-billy. The odds are on that in the time you were apart his personality, looks and intelligence haven't miraculously improved, and that she still likes her best friend more than him.

No, my advice to you is to tell absolutely everyone how stinky and foul you feel without being too slanderous. When you've done that, lie a lot to your friends about how you've lost heaps of weight

since THE BREAK UP and make them all feel jealous. And if you're only considering a break-up, well that means you probably WANT- or NEED- to finish it, so do it quickly and do it clean. Soon it will be Winter and you'll have a cold anyway, so you don't want to aggravate your cold by lots of untimely bawling. Do it now. Autumn is a really bum vibe, as any hippy will tell you, and if you're in for a bout of teen-angst, well, SEIZE THE DAY. If you're feeling romantically unbalanced, whatever you do, don't for God's sake bore your friends shitless, or read Love in a Cold Climate by Nancy Mitford, (you'll feel left out) or watch any of those soppy videos about horses - National Velvet, Global Chiffon etc. Borrow Five Have a Wonderful Time by that fur-raising writer, Enid 'Blowfish' Blyton. Your small fat unwashed cousin will undoubtedly have a copy. Excellent therapy, I find.

Chloë Fox

injusticia salvadoreña

Since the right-wing ARENA Party won the elections in El Salvador last year, human rights abuses have continued unabated, and the poverty endemic to this small Central American country is still widespread.

There have been claims that the ARENA Party is a front for the notorious death squads. Kate Leeson reports.

Since the government of President Alfredo Cristiani took office in June 1998, there have been many reports of the detention, torture, "disappearance" and harassment of trade unionists and church workers in El Salvador. The government often accuses unions and churches of "subversive activity" or links with the FMLN (Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front), but the fairly indiscriminate detentions appear to be an attempt to intimidate those who criticise the government's policies and stand up for the rights of the poor in El Salvador. The information in this article is taken from reports by Amnesty International.

Since June last year, hundreds of trade union members have been detained and union buildings have been raided or bombed by government security forces. Marches and demonstrations by trade union organisations protesting government policies and human rights abuses have ended in mass arrests and beatings.

In September last year, several trade unionists were detained in the early hours of one morning. The National Trade Union Federation of Salvadorean Workers (FENASTRAS) organised a protest later that day which was broken up by riot police. Those that took refuge in a local church were forced out with tear gas, many were beaten and a further 64 were arrested. Many of these were tortured while in detention and some were charged with "subversive association" after being forced to "confess" that they were members of the FMLN. One woman whose daughter and husband have already been assassinated by death squads was told that the rest of her family would be killed if she was seen on another union demonstration.

The FENASTRAS offices were bombed three times last year, one attack killing ten unionists and wounding at least thirty. One version of the official army story was that the union accidentally let off one of its own explosives. Other unions have had their offices raided and leaders arrested and tortured too. The Chief of the Armed Forces has met with the management of factories to identify union activists. Such activities are justified by government statements in the press accusing unionists of involvement with terrorism and "subversive activity".

For decades the church in El Salvador has defended the rights of workers and peasants to join organisations such as trade unions. For decades, too, the government and armed forces have accused the church of involvement with terrorists. Liberation theology is denounced as a "subversive doctrine". The many church workers and leaders killed by death squads in the early 1980s included Archbishop Oscar Romero, shot dead while celebrating the mass in the Hospital of Divine Providence in San Salvador on 24th March, 1980.

When the FMLN began its latest offensive in November last year human rights violations against church workers and leaders increased. The government reacted to the offensive by declaring a state of siege, bombing poor and densely populated neighbourhoods in San Salvador (killing thousands) and publically accusing the church of links with the FMLN. One such accusation was directed against Father Ignacio Ellacuria, Rector of the University of Central America, and fellow Jesuits. The University grounds were surrounded by security forces and, on November 16 at 1.00 am, six Jesuits including Father Ellacuria with their cook and her fifteen-year-old daughter were assassinated. The Authorities initially blamed the FMLN for the killings but pressure from within and without the country led them to admit military involvement. Eight soldiers have been arrested though almost certainly not the higher-ranking officials who ordered the killings. Witnesses have been threatened and forced to alter their stories and President Cristiani has announced that there will be no more arrests in connection with the murders.

Also in November, fifteen members of a social services programme of the Episcopal Church were detained after raids on their church and homes. Most were beaten or tortured and nine have been charged with aiding and abetting terrorist activity. Workers in refugee projects have been detained and some projects have been forced to close. Some foreign church workers have been detained then deported after evidence linking them with the FMLN has been fabricated.

There have been many death threats against church workers too. A letter sent by the Salvadorean Attorney-General to the Pope last November urging him to withdraw "progressive" Catholic bishops from El Salvador was seen by many as a thinly-disguised death threat. In one village, soldiers were seen distributing a pamphlet showing a priest with a rifle terrorising villagers.

The government has introduced new legislation to help its disruption of peaceful church and union activity. The legislation calls the occupation of churches and public squares by unionists an "act of terrorism", outlaws "propaganda that subverts the public order" and outlaws invitations to other states or organisations to interfere in the internal affairs of El Salvador.

Poor workers and peasants, and those who work to help them, continue to ask for basic rights and an improvement in the conditioning of their lives. Cristiani's government and US-funded army continue to thwart any attempts to bring about change for the better. It is little wonder that so many Salvadoreans have given up hope of peaceful change under the current government.



The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front is currently fighting against El Salvador's right wing ARENA government. In order to defeat the FMLN that the United States has given almost \$2 million daily to the ARENA government in military assistance.

Eduardo Gonzalez is a member of the FMLN working to build solidarity with El Salvador in Australasia and Japan. He is also the leader of the band Cutumay Camones. The following interview was conducted by the "Tuesday Affairs" programme on Radio MMM FM on Eduardo's tour of Adelaide in May 1990.

The FMLN launched a major military offensive against the government in late 1989, how productive was that?

It was, I think, very productive. In the first place it would be good for me to explain a little about why we launched the offensive. It was most of all to increase the pressure against the government and upon the American government which is very involved in the conflict in El Salvador, to create the conditions for political solutions. We had talks between the FMLN and the government in September and October of last year and the government came up with negative attitudes. It did not come up with the political will to accept the fact that a political solution for our country is necessary. So after that negative attitude we had to show that there is what we call a "dual power" in El Salvador and one of them is the FMLN and the popular movement.

The positive result of that offensive has been in showing the strength of the FMLN. Everyone now understands that a military solution for El Salvador is not possible and that ten years of North American military policy towards our country has not resulted in the defeat of the FMLN. It is the opposite, as the FMLN becomes stronger every day.

The United Nations is now involved in a mediation process between the FMLN and the ARENA government. The first one was held three weeks ago in which are signed an agreement committing us to a permanent dialogue that has to result in negotiations and that has to result in resolving the fundamental problems in our country and resolving the war.

The government retaliated to the offensive by using the airforce and bombing civilian areas. Did that have any negative affect on the offensive?

Yes of course. They used the airforce in an even more criminal way than we expected and indiscriminately bombed densely populated areas of the capital. Many people had to flee that part of the city.

On the other hand, we then went into the rich parts of the city to see if they were willing to bomb the rich areas. That was a big blow to the Salvadorean army because it was shown that they were not even able to protect their own areas where they all live and where the rich people live. We took the Sheraton Hotel and all the foreigners had to be evacuated, most of them North American. It had a negative impact but we gave it a positive answer.

Overall, what was the international reaction to the offensive and the government reply to the offensive?

We had an important impact. The international reaction was critical and it was only the North Americans, I think, who were willing to approve what the ARENA government

and the army did. When the army killed Jesuit priests there was nobody to say this was a good answer, even the North American Congress was shocked.

The army accused the priests of being collaborators of the FMLN which was completely false, but that is the way they think. That is why they introduced the famous anti-terrorist law in which they describe everyone against the government as being part of the FMLN.

The killing of the Jesuit priests had a very big impact and is one of the main reasons that there is now a big debate going on in the US about El Salvador and North American policy to El Salvador. There are many congressmen and senators who are willing to change policy.

What have been the financial and human costs of the war in El Salvador?

The human costs have been more than 70,000 people killed. Ten years of war has been very destructive on our economic situation and we calculate it will be 20 years before we start to recover. This means we will have to work very hard but first the basic problems of our country have to be resolved.

What sort of investment is the United States government putting into El Salvador?

They invest more than \$2 million a day to provide economic and military aid. The problem is that the economic aid is never used as economic aid because they need that money to try and stop the advance of the FMLN.

The United States used the elections in which the Christiani government was elected as a symbol of free elections in Latin America. How free were they?

Not at all. Firstly, not everybody, not every political power was allowed to participate in the elections. Secondly, you can't talk about "free" elections in a country at war the way we are. Thirdly, the army controlled the elections as they control everything in our country. The army was everywhere there was voting and the ballot boxes were made of a transparent material so everybody could see what each person voted for. The army was inside the ballot places and of course there is no electoral law that really permits every El Salvadorean to be a participant of the elections. In Nicaragua, where they recently held elections and one million nine thousand people were registered as voters in a country of three million people. In El Salvador, there are five million people and only one million six thousand voters registered. The government is not making any kind of effort to register people because the less voters there are the easier it is to control the elections.

For those who are registered it was dangerous to boycott the elections because at work

the next day everybody has to show their ID card with a stamp on it to prove they voted or risk losing their job. If the boss suspects that the person didn't vote because of sympathies for left forces, then they are in danger of torture or assassination.

There were not free elections. I am absolutely sure that no North American would accept this kind of democracy for themselves.

What links are there between the ARENA party and the Death Squads?

The Death Squads are very active and are linked with the right wing of the ARENA party and the army. It is not any secret that the army orders and authorises the existing activities of the Death Squads. To end the activity of the Death Squads, we have to end fascist elements in the army and the opportunity for right wing and fascist politicians to have the opportunity to operate freely.

What do the United States have to gain by their involvement in El Salvador?

It is not such a good investment. They are losing, not obtaining, any positive results. Firstly, they have lost four billion dollars, they are losing a lot of energy, they are losing the kind of stability in the region that they need for North American interests, and they are losing credibility because after ten years of war they have not shown any kind of capacity to win this war.

The final results for the North Americans are very negative, but of course, that is exactly the problem. They are looking for a



complete domination of Latin America because they still consider it as their backyard. So they do not want to promote a different relationship between Latin America and themselves. Once a country like El Salvador comes up the real capacity and the real strength to be able to change the situation in our country and establish a different relationship then they say again it is a threat to the national security of the US because of "communist expansionism".

They still say we follow orders from the Soviet Union through Cuba and before

through Nicaragua. Changes in Eastern Europe and Nicaragua's democratic model takes away much of the US's arguments. The can no longer say that it is Nicaragua financing and organising the war, and the war in El Salvador is still going on. More and more they have to recognise that there is a struggle in El Salvador because of internal problems, not because other countries order or obligate the Salvadorean people to struggle.

Is the US involved in the talks between the FMLN and the Government?

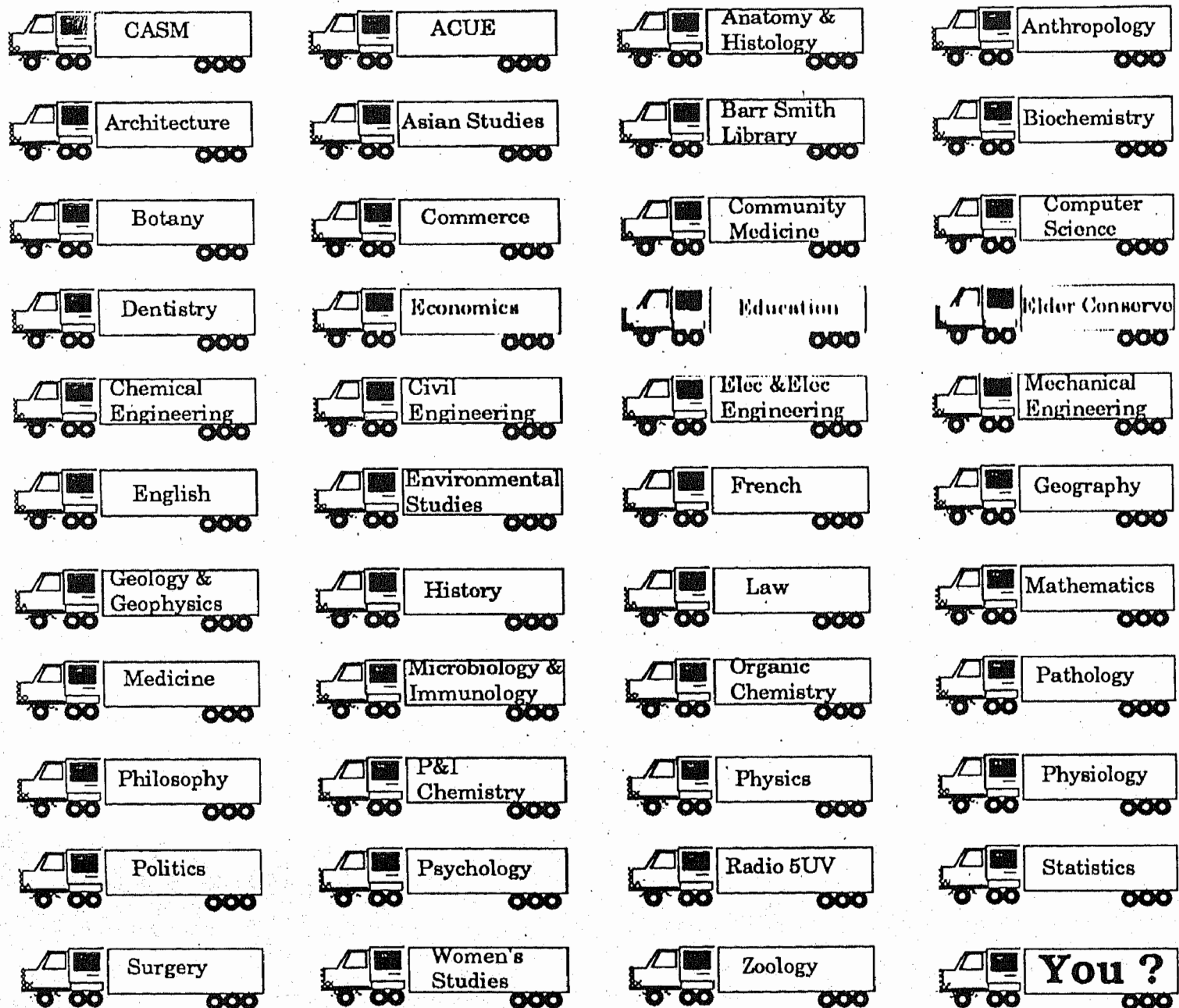
They are not directly involved in the negotiations and we are not willing to accept that they should be. They are not an official part of the problem, they involved themselves. They are involved because of the fact they dominate completely the Salvadorean government and the Salvadorean government will never come up with proposals that the North Americans don't agree with.

What is the political composition of the FMLN and what is your political platform?

It is not any secret that we are revolutionaries and Marxists. In the last period we have been thinking of getting rid of those labels because many things are changing in the world and we in El Salvador have to come up with an El Salvadorean solution that cannot be related so easily and mechanically with other models that have existed in this world. We are developing ourselves towards new ideas and new ways of thinking and you can see that very clearly in the proposals we have

made. We propose a multiparty system in which all political parties in a different political/economic system do have the opportunity and obligation to come up with the solutions. We believe very much in what we call national consensus to come up with solutions that can be supported by most of the Salvadorean people. We have also introduced an idea of mixed economy to make sure we will be as effective as possible economically.

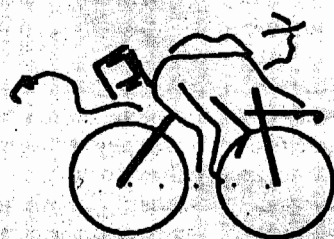
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WHEELS FOR THE MIND

"I may die but the Republic of 1916 will never die. Onward to the Republic and to the liberation of our people."

True to his word, Bobby Sands died nine years ago on the 5th of May, 1981, on the 66th day of a hunger strike. His, and his nation's struggle for freedom against the colonial might of Britain has not, however, passed away with Bobby's death, and new generations look to his example of courage and honesty as a source of inspiration for their fight for justice.

Bobby Sands, and his nine comrades who died with him, fought the British Empire armed only with their will, determination and an undying conviction in their right to defend their nation and people.

Bobby's fight took place in Long Kesh prison in Northern Ireland and was a result of the British Government's attempt to criminalise the political struggle of the Irish Republican Movement and its supporters. Sands was not a terrorist murderer engaging in mindless violence against innocent civilians as the censored British press portray member of the Republican Movement, but a normal youth alienated and oppressed by the police state of Northern Ireland. He was pushed by an unjust regime into political activity that resulted in nine years of incarceration and death at the age of twenty seven.

Sands in many ways could be regarded as a stereotypical Irish youth driven to violence by a sectarian state. This is highlighted by Sean Flood in the book *Ireland Unfree*: "Bobby Sands grew up in a part of Belfast where most of his neighbours were Protestant. But his family had to flee to a segregated Catholic community when their home was attacked by a Loyalist mob that fired shots and threw a dustbin through their front window. At the age of 15, he watched as the loyalist B Specials (paramilitary police), the Royal Ulster Constabulary and organised gangs of Orangemen stormed through his neighborhood evicting families, burning their homes, and shooting those who got in their way. The 'boys' of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), with a handful of guns, tried to stop this from happening."

In the words of Owen Carron giving the oration at Bobby Sands' graveside: "No longer could he accept second class citizenship in his own country." At the age of eighteen Sands joined the Irish Republican Movement and was sentenced to three years imprisonment in Long Kesh for possession of arms. Upon release he became active in the Republican Movement once more and in October 1976 was convicted again for his part in the fire bombing of the Balmoral Furniture Company.

The judicial system that sentenced Bobby Sands was one riddled with injustice and that abused human rights. In August 1971 internment without trial was introduced only to be replaced by indefinite detention in 1972. This was largely due to the failure of internment in capturing the high ranking members of the Irish Republican Movement, but also due to the massive civil outcry caused by the abuse of power (thousands of people were detained and while in custody were tortured, degraded and abused, such torture has been well documented and Britain has been found guilty of such conduct by the European Court in Strasbourg.)

The introduction of "Diplock Courts" (also in 1972), which refused suspected members of the IRA the right to trial by jury, allowed the prosecution to produce evidence from witnesses without having the witnesses appear in court. In cases concerning possession of arms the courts also removed the presumption of "innocence until proven guilty" from the defendant. Along with internment and detention this caused the British jails to quickly fill with more than 900 Republican prisoners in 1972.

In May of 1972 the Republican prisoners of

Crumlin Road Jail, led by Billy McKee, went on a hunger strike in order to attain political status and by June, Heath's Labor Government had conceded to their demands and Republican prisoners were given "special category status". This afforded the prisoners rights such as the ability to wear their own clothes, exemption from prison work, free organisation with other POWs and access to prison facilities. They also won the right to receive and send mail and the right to remission.

The British found this state of affairs totally unsatisfactory for two reasons. Firstly, they had an embarrassing number of political prisoners to account for internationally. Secondly, due to the compound type ac-

commodation in which the POW's were detained there was virtually a total loss of disciplinary control by the prison authorities. The authorities were thus unable to break the internal organisation of the Republican prisoners.

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comrades on the blanket and dirty protest. After spending roughly two years in these inhuman conditions, the Republican prisoners were left with no choice but to lay down their lives in order to force the British to back down from its cruelty and oppression. On 27 October, 1980, seven prisoners went on hunger strike. The strike was ended when the British Government promised concessions. The prisoners conditions did not improve as the British Government refused to honour their promised concessions.

On 1 March 1981, Bobby Sands initiated the second round of hunger strikes. At specific intervals he was joined in his hunger strike by Francis Hughes, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kevin Lynch, Raymond McCreech, Patsy O'Hara, Kieran Doherty, Tom McElwee and Micky Devine. All ten later died due to Thatcher's intransigence.

The hunger strikers had five simple and just demands:

1. The right to wear their own clothes;
2. The right not to do prison work;
3. Free association with fellow prisoners;
4. The restoration of remission of their sentences;

5. Normal visits, parcels, education and recreational facilities.

However, as Gerry Adams said, "... the Brits made it much more than the right to wear your own clothes or the right to free association. They made it a test of wills and the hunger strikers accepted the challenges on our behalf, so that a campaign for human and dignified prison conditions became an epic struggle between defenceless prisoners and the mightiest colonial power in Western Europe."

Bobby Sands' struggle caught the attention of the world, and millions watched the progress of the hunger strike with growing anger towards the Thatcher regime. This anger and the support for the hunger strikers was expressed on 9 April 1981, when Sands stood for the Westminster seat of Fermanagh - South Tyrone and was elected ahead of the loyalist candidate Harry West

by more than 1,000 votes in a 60,000 vote poll. Bobby Sands died a member of the British Parliament.

International pressure and overwhelming support for the hunger strikers from the people of Ireland, had no effect on Thatcher's arrogance and intransigence and on 5 May 1981, Bobby Sands died on the 66th day of his hunger strike. A procession of over 100,000 people followed Bobby Sands' coffin through Belfast to his final resting place in Milltown Cemetery, where Owen Carron, Sands' election campaign manager and spokesperson, gave the following oration:

"Bobby Sands has not died in vain. His hunger strike and the sacrifice of his life is a cameo of the entire resistance movement. He symbolises the true Irish nation which has never surrendered and never will. Let us picture him lying all alone in his cell, his body tortured and twisted in pain, surrounded by his enemies and isolated from his comrades and nothing to fight with but his will and determination.

"They tried to compromise him, they tried to compromise his supporters, but they failed. Around the world Bobby Sands has humiliated the British Government. In Bobby Sands' death they have sown the seeds of their own destruction. Bobby once wrote about Britain that 'her actions will eventually seal the fate of her rule in Ireland for they may hold our bodies, but while our minds are free, victory is assured'.

"Finally, I salute you, Bobby Sands, your sacrifice has not been in vain. We rededicate ourselves and our struggle and pledge ourselves not only to win the five demands but to drive England out of our country once and for all."

The life of Bobby Sands exemplified the words of Terence McSwiney (Mayor of Cork) who died on the 75th day of a hunger strike in 1920 - "It is not they who inflict the most but those who endure the most who have the victory."

You cannot put a rope around
The neck of an idea
You cannot put an idea against a
Barrack wall and riddle it with bullets
You cannot confine it in the
Strongest prison cell that your
Slaves could ever build
Bobby Sands MP

It is now almost ten years since Bobby Sands and his fellow hunger strikers gave their lives and there is still no solution to the 800 year old conflict in Ireland. It is to be hoped that the waste of human life can be ceased and a permanent settlement can be achieved through peaceful negotiations between all parties to the conflict.

Bobby

It is ten years since the Irish Republican Bobby Sands died whilst on a hunger strike.

Sean Carlin reflects on his life and struggle

comrades on the blanket and dirty protest. After spending roughly two years in these inhuman conditions, the Republican prisoners were left with no choice but to lay down their lives in order to force the British to back down from its cruelty and oppression. On 27 October, 1980, seven prisoners went on hunger strike. The strike was ended when the British Government promised concessions. The prisoners conditions did not improve as the British Government refused to honour their promised concessions.

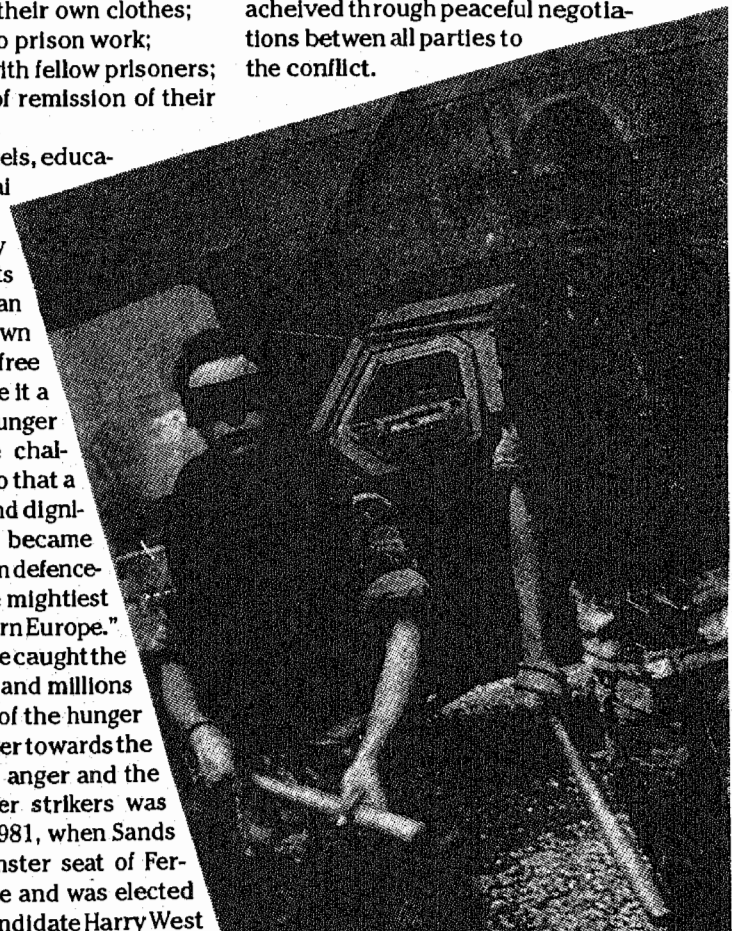
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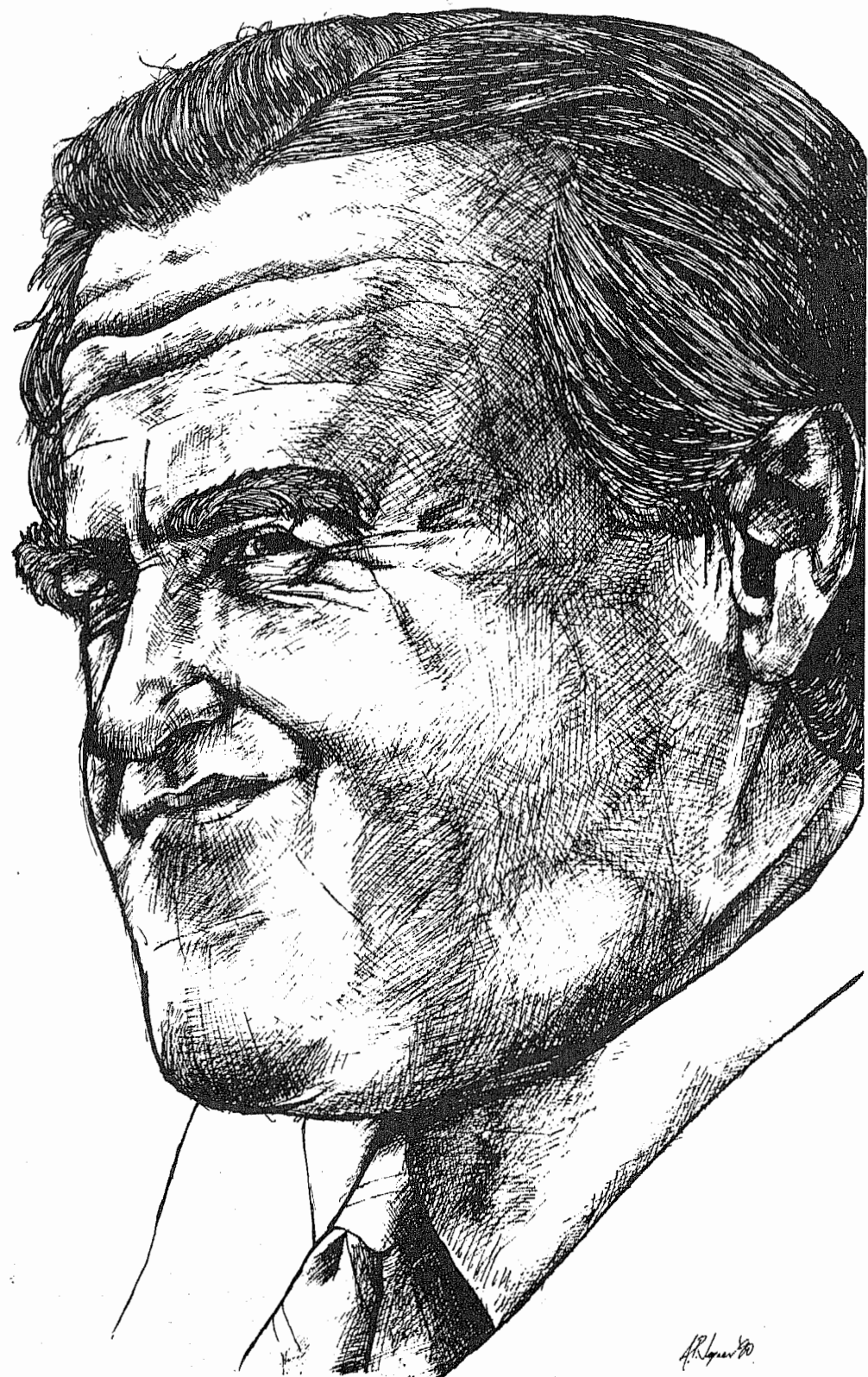
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Fred Nile and his god squad- "we are at war"



Fred Nile is at war.
The world is an ugly place, and Fred Nile and the Festival of Light are leading the spiritual crusade against, amongst other things, lust, marijuana, onanism, small "I" liberals, student activists, homosexuals, communism, abortion, land rights, the World Council of Churches, marriage counselling, feminism, blasphemy, trendy teachers, de facto relationships, gambling, heavy metal bands, paedophiles, Charles Darwin, men who wear jewellery.....

The Reverend is locked in a titanic struggle against "the permissive society". The lines are clearly drawn. The Christians versus the hedonists. In 1990, the hedonists are in the lead, but Fred Nile is not about to go down without a fight.

Most rational people, if asked to compile a list of Outstanding Australian Fascists, would think for a while and then suggest Ron Casey, Bruce Ruxton, and quite probably the Reverend Fred Nile.

However, after talking to the man for just under an hour, I'm not so sure.

Intolerance and hatred, Reverend Nile is surprisingly affable. He is honest. He is genuine. He is not trying to cause trouble, he is trying to solve it. He sincerely believes that the exponents of the permissive society are not evil, just confused, and that Christian love and charity will retrieve them from the moral abyss.

Unfortunately for the Reverend, it all gets a little mixed up along the way. One minute he is talking calmly about the decriminalisation of homosexuality, the next he starts ranting about leather clad boy-touching queers who get jobs as teachers with the sole intention of getting a class full of preps to play King Neptune in their bath tub. The transformation from articulate conservative intellectual to redneck evangelist is swift and absolute.

However, Fred Nile has not always been the frontman for Australian fundamentalism. Born into a working class family in Sydney's western suburbs, his parents gave him anything but a Christian upbringing. His father was a cabbie in Kings Cross, who smoked, drank and gambled. How does someone from this background end up leading the Festival of Light?

"I suppose that until I became a Christian I was simply following in Dad's tracks. I took up the same habit as he did of gambling and putting money on dogs, horses, anything that moved. I got quite good at it actually."

"I came from a non-Christian background. I saw a lot of smoking and drinking. I suppose that in the back of my mind it had an effect on me, because I saw the extreme effects of drinking, and thought that I wouldn't like to be in that position, when I saw people at social functions who were absolutely drunk and doing strange things. I had a revulsion away from it. My wife Ellen did too. I often say I'm the white sheep of the family. My brother races horses and is the director and treasurer of a big club here in Sydney."

The idea of Fred Nile rubbing shoulders

with the lads in a Leagues Club seemed improbable. Despite the morality gap between himself and the rest of the family, he still keeps in touch.

"Oh yes, he invites me to the club. Everybody turns their heads and almost falls off their chairs when they see Fred Nile walk into a club down past rows and rows of poker machines."

This attitude exemplifies his approach to Christianity. For Reverend Nile, the spiritual war cannot be won through prayer and bible study. It is a hands-on struggle in which the true Christian is prepared to stare evil in the face.

Reverend Nile became NSW Director of Festival of Light in 1974, and was elected to parliament in 1981 as a Christian Independent. The Call to Australia is the political wing of the operation and, although the vote it receives is small compared to other political parties, it generates more than its fair share of controversy. This surprises him.

"I often say how can you be controversial when you believe in family life, marriage, protecting children, and when you're opposed to child abuse, pornography, child and adult prostitution, drugs and so forth. I think it's because we live in a permissive society, one that has been going in the wrong direction. When somebody says "I believe in marriage" or "I'm opposed to the Family Law Act", it becomes controversial. But my views are not controversial. They're just normal, mainstream Christian-based views. When people think about it they often come around to agree with me."

It is not hard to think of occasions in which the Festival of Light has put itself in a position where confrontation is bound to occur, where they have disrupted events, such as the Gay Mardi Gras, in a way which can only be described as inflammatory. Reverend Nile argues that this approach is a reasonable response to so-called immoral behaviour.

"I see it as a crusade. That's why the

Festival of Light was formed in the UK in 1971. It was the first protest movement by the silent majority against the porn pushers and the gay liberationists. They were inflammatory, they were provocative, and finally the decent people in society said "We've had enough".

"We saw most problems occurring in society as if we were repeating the errors of history. In the days of the Old Testament there were three problems. They had weak political and religious leadership. There was the problem of false prophets, and we have a parallel today. We have weak politicians today. We have the feminists, the Gay Liberation Movement, groups like NORML that advocate the legalisation of marijuana. To me they are equivalent of the old false prophets. Thirdly in those days and today we have what's called the silent majority. A lot of good people have been silent and that gives you an imbalance in society because the vocal immoral minorities impose their will on the silent majority."

"Every year at the Mardi Gras there's about 20 homosexual men who dress up as nuns and stand outside the St. Mary's Cathedral. I've had a number of Catholic sisters complain to me about that. They are so hurt by what those men do that they won't lower themselves to even raise it publicly. The sisters are so embarrassed by the whole situation, they don't think it's right for them to get into a debate with a man dressed up as a nun."

"There was a lot of anti-Christian material in the Mardi-Gras. They had banners saying 'I'm Mother Theresa's love child', 'Dykes for Jesus', 'Poofters for Jesus', and so on."

"If they wanted to get me stirred up they certainly succeeded. That was the last straw. We knew it was obscene, we knew it was indecent, we knew it was offensive. They threw the gauntlet down to the Christians to see if we are wimps. Well the Christians in Sydney are not whimps and they've succeeded in mobilising a new organisation I'm working with called Men Fighting for the Family. One of

their objectives is to stop the Mardi Gras taking place in Sydney.

"The silent majority....." Considering the Call to Australia never receives more than 3% of the vote nationally, perhaps the silent majority should speak up a bit. The last person to claim that he had the silent majority behind him ended up in prison. However, it may be unfair to compare Reverend Nile to the beast with three backs. For starters, Nixon was a filthy little criminal. But there are similarities. The Reverend has the same tendency to slowly lose grip of his stream of thought, especially when discussing homosexuality. The simple question "Do you think if Jesus returned tomorrow he would look at HIV-positive gays and say 'Serves you right, sinners?'" produced the following response.

"There's no doubt that if Jesus came today he would say homosexuals are sinners. There's no question about that. There's no question either that the Bible says that those who engage in this activity will pay the penalty in their own bodies. You could say that AIDS is something that they have brought down upon their head. It's like a man who can't swim who jumps into the ocean and starts to drown. He's really drowning himself."

As with the majority of fundamentalists, Reverend Nile knows all about what is wrong with the world, but has very sketchy ideas on how to go about solving them. As a theologian he can solve moral dilemmas with theology.

Faith, truth, love, the strength to resist temptation, the ability to recognise evil and so forth.....but as a politician, he cannot solve moral dilemmas, because Fred Nile is just a theologian. When it comes down to questions of legislation, of creating a programme which will achieve his desired ends, he cannot do it. A proposal that at first appears to be reasonably lucid deteriorates into a born-again utopian diatribe. Take, for instance, his comments on law and homosexuality.

"Initially we could restore the law prohibiting sodomy. Our law in New South Wales used the old fashioned word, buggery. That was an offence, as is bestiality, and I see nothing wrong with those being criminal offences. Because the law was repealed the AIDS epidemic is so serious in Sydney. If my policies had been adopted by the Government many homosexuals would still be alive. As soon as the AIDS epidemic had broken out in San Francisco there should have been restrictions on travel between Sydney and San Francisco. When I raised it I was laughed at, way back in the early 80's, when the homosexuals went over there on special tour flights to the Gay Pride Week. That's how AIDS was brought to Australia. It didn't get here by pigeon or by a bird."

The gays are not just content to tamper with each others' bodies, he claims. Reverend Nile believes that, under the smokescreen of AIDS education, there is a sinister Government-sponsored plot to turn impressionable adolescents into flagrant little fags.

"The Government has made films promoting homosexuality. Brad is one of them which we are trying to get withdrawn, and another is based on a young girl who's supposedly a lesbian, called *Linda* or something like that. The actress who plays her has asked the Government to withdraw the film because she's now become heterosexual, she's no longer a lesbian. She apparently thought she was a lesbian. Many young people go through confus-

ing stages in mental, physical, and sexual development and if a homosexual can latch on to them at that point they can plant the idea in the person's mind. I think many homosexuals, if not the majority, really have stunted sexual development, that's all. They are stunted. They just couldn't develop."

One thing Reverend Nile denies vehemently is the allegation that the Festival of Light is

"It's a spiritual war and a moral war. It's a war between good and evil. In spiritual terms, it's a war between God and Satan. It is a battle between between light and darkness."

run by a bunch of ageing paranoid wowers who see sex as the work of the devil. In an interview with *New Idea*, the Reverend stunned readers with the comment "I'm a normal healthy male...I like sex too." I found it hard to imagine any supporter of the Festival of Light coming home from Church for a night of non-stop erotic pleasure. But Reverend Nile insists that there's nothing wrong with it, provided it occurs under the right circumstances.

"I think of sex as God's greatest gift that allows us through the sexual act to share in his creative activity to bring into being new life. I think that's the highest level of sexual

intercourse between a male and female in a loving, lasting lifelong relationship which we call marriage."

Fine, but surely there's nothing wrong with a bit of non-procreational pleasure?

"Well, I think you certainly share in that gift from God, because sex is enjoyable, its pleasurable. It's meant to be, it is. I really get going when people say we're the anti-sex group. We're the pro-sex group. We are against people who abuse and misuse sex. Sex is so precious it should be elevated, not put down in the gut-

ter, not in the dirt, not in the porn shops or the brothels, it should be seen as something which is very precious and beautiful."

The strength of the family unit is, apart from the Gay Mardi Gras, a high priority on Reverend Nile's list. Indeed, it is the insistence on the need for a secure family life that guarantees the continuing influence of the Festival of Light, not just in the minds of ordinary people

and other delinquency type problems. If those families had stayed together and if they had professional help they might have stayed together. I object to the Family Law Act. When people have gone to counsellors their marriage is in trouble they have simply been counselled on how to get a divorce."

As if the demise of the family unit isn't enough to lead the youth of Australia into all sorts of ethical chaos, there is also the problem of the education system. Reverend Nile sees state schools as the power house of secular small "I" liberal thought, where pliable young minds are seduced by feldish concepts-empiricism, debate and reason. He believes that this too should be changed.

"Well, without being dogmatic, I would make every state school a Christian school. A school system cannot operate in a vacuum. It's tried having no values, being "value-free" as they say, and now we have kids coming out of school who don't know what is right and wrong. Our schools should be built on a strong moral foundation, teaching the ten commandments and so on, to give them strong values so they can withstand the pressures of the permissive society."

"I'm not worried by knowledge, I'm worried by knowledge being used in a brain-washing way. If something has occurred, you can't pretend it didn't occur. You can't pretend that communism never existed, but you wouldn't teach it so that everybody becomes a communist. I don't believe in teaching creation science as such, but teaching that God is the creator. Now how he created the world we're still learning. I think science is still learning. All the knowledge we have know is just like looking through a little window. We fool ourselves if we think we know all the answers to all the questions."

This is where Fred Nile departs from so many other fundamentalists. He is not so pig-headed as to claim that he has all the answers. He *does* believe in open debate, he *does* believe in freedom of expression, he *does* believe in tolerance, in understanding, in love.

But believing in something and actually helping to achieve it are two completely different things. The answers that Fred Nile does have are in themselves problems.

The kind of world he wants to create is one where the gays and lesbians are cured of their sickness by a combination of biblical and statutory coercion and where children are taught bible stories in Biology classes. It is a world where girls wear pink ribbons in their hair, where boys have crew cuts, where couples make love

twice a week in the missionary position, where all the lawns are neatly mowed, where nobody smokes or drinks, where good has triumphed over evil, where the pleasures of the flesh have been replaced with cups of hot tea after the church service.

What good is light without a little darkness?
David Penberthy



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THE PROPOSED MEETING DATES OF THE FINANCE AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE 1991 OPERATING
AND CAPITAL BUDGETS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

DATE (1990) TO CONSIDER

MON 16 JULY ACTIVITIES, CLUBS ASSOCIATION, PGSA
& CAPITAL

TUES 17 JULY GALLERY, STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION & CAPITAL

WED 18 JULY CRAFT STUDIO, SPORTS ASSOCIATION,
THEATRES & CAPITAL

THURS 19 JULY UNION, CHILDCARE, CATERING & CAPITAL

FRI 20 JULY WAITE POST GRADUATES, OVERSEAS STUDENTS
AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS

THE MEETINGS WILL START AT 4.00PM IN THE UNION BOARD
ROOM, FIRST FLOOR LADY SYMON BUILDING.

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J E S U S

versus fundamentalism

I'm very grateful to On Dit for printing a weekly quotation from the Bible. It's not that I expect anyone to find these verses particularly edifying - on the contrary, I'm sure most share my extreme distaste for the sentiments they appear to embody. What I appreciate about them is that they demonstrate a very important truth about the Bible - that it is not a book of maxims, and that taking a single verse out of context does not prove anything. I wish some of our more avid Bible-bashers would learn that lesson. It seems to me that the best way to approach the Bible - at least for a Christian - is to start with the Gospels, the accounts of the life and teaching of Jesus, and to attempt to see them within their cultural and historical contexts. And a lot of what emerges from such an investigation seems, at least to me, to contradict a lot of what fundamentalists have been telling us Christianity is about. (By "fundamentalists", I mean the lunatic fringe of evangelicalism - Fred Nile and his cohorts).

To demonstrate this, I'm afraid I'm going to have to quote a few Bible verses - rather unfortunate when I have just finished condemning the practice. But I hope you'll believe me when I say that this article comes out of a lot of thought about the overall significance of Jesus' words and life, not out of a glib acceptance of a few particular snippets. But don't take my word for it - read the Gospels yourself and you might see what I mean. I must also say that there is a danger that by cordoning off a particular section of Christianity and making it the root of all evil, one conveniently ignores the apathy, cowardice and hypocrisy that so often affect more liberal Christians. Fundamentalists are *not* the root of all evil, but their propaganda has been so effective that a bit of counter-propaganda is urgently needed.

Jesus Vs Individualism

You have doubtless been cornered enough times and had John 3:16 thrown at you (that's the one that begins "For God so love the world") to know that fundamentalists have something of a fixation upon the salvation of the *individual*. You know the formula: we are all miserable sinners, and Jesus by dying on the cross somehow prevented some of us from going to hell - namely, those of us who are prepared to jump on the bandwagon and become Christians. It thus becomes of paramount importance that individuals "give their lives to Christ" - the equivalent of buying a ticket to heaven (rather a selfish motive for doing things, one would have thought).

It may come as a surprise, then, to learn that one of the first things Jesus says about himself is the following quotation from Isaiah:

The spirit of the Lord
has been given to me,
for he has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news
to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour
(Luke 4.18-19).

This sounds to me more like a political

Angus Gordon, from
the Student Christian Movement, argues that fundamentalists
have misinterpreted the message of Jesus and should spend
more time participating in the struggle for social justice.

manifesto than an altar call. And in fact, what emerges from the Gospels is a Jesus who was interested in political problems - oppression, injustice and poverty - every bit as much as the alleged sinfulness of individuals. Some of the specific ways in which Jesus saw the "kingdom of heaven" as being brought about were in the liberation of women, the end of racial exploitation and the redistribution of wealth. Let's look at these more closely.

Jesus Vs Misogyny

The Church, both historically and in the present, is undoubtedly one of the most deeply misogynist institutions in our society. Many churches still do not ordain women; and even those that do make little effort to make them feel welcome or accepted. The Gospel is often presented in terms of a relationship between a male God and a "mankind" in which women are only reluctantly included (remember the medieval debates about whether women had

souls?). And the so-called "Christian", "biblical" policies of the fundamentalist Call to Australia Party are blatantly oppressive of women.

Against this background, and against the misogyny of Jesus' own culture, the gospels emerge as deeply feminist documents. In Jesus' day, it was not the done thing even to talk to women; he, however, not only talked to women, but formed some of his closest and most honest friendships with women (including prostitutes, who would have been seen by the hypocritical men of that day as bad even for women - things don't change much). I can almost hear the cries that "The twelve disciples were all men!", but in the story of Jesus' resurrection it is the *women* who are the first to see the risen Christ; the male disciples come out of the whole affair looking more than a little inept and irrelevant.

Jesus Vs Racism

Except in South Africa, racism no longer seems to be overtly approved of by

fundamentalists; however, there is still a deeply ingrained paternalism there which is really only racism in another guise. Consider the attitude of fundamentalists (indeed, most of Christianity) to Aborigines in this country. There has been little attempt to learn from their spirituality and attitudes to social life, which are in so many ways more in tune with Jesus' own and with ecological reality, than those of the Western church. Instead, Christianity is still presented as the *only* path to the truth... a religious supremacism which seems odd coming from a religion that itself started as a sect within Judaism.

Contrast this with the parable of the Good Samaritan, remembering that the Samaritans were a race utterly despised by Jesus' contemporaries. Here, Jesus presents the Samaritan as the true neighbour; as, in fact, the bearer of divine truth (to put it piously). This is a profound transformation of previous thought, and one which the church, and especially the fundamentalist camp, has often failed to come to terms with.

Jesus Vs Capitalism

Christianity and capitalism are thought of by many as virtuously synonymous, and it's not hard to see why. Not only is the church (or at least parts of it) enormously wealthy, but many fundamentalists are to be heard expounding "prosperity theology", the view that if God likes people, He (to use their pronoun) will give them lots of money. Socialism is seen by such Christians as the vanguard of the devil.

But what did Jesus tell the rich young man who came to ask his advice? "go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me" (Luke 18.22). This is partly a story about personal commitment, but it is also a story about the redistribution of wealth. There is every sign that Jesus' message was one of equality, of social transformation. And if I may be permitted a bit of personal propaganda at this point, I believe that this message has more affinity with the socialist ideal than the capitalist one, however, so-called socialist societies up to this point haven't worked in practice.

Jesus vs Homophobia and the Fear of Sexuality

You don't need me to tell you that most fundamentalist Christians believe homosexuality is a sin. The mainstream Church, too, has been very cowardly in failing to speak out against such homophobia. And no, I haven't come up with the scoop of the century - there isn't anywhere in the Gospels where Jesus actually, explicitly says homosexuality is OK. But then again, he never says it *isn't* OK either, and we have to ask if a person so vehemently against sexual, racial and class oppression would be in favour of oppression on the basis of sexual orientation. Christians should be very wary of circumscribing God's compassion and creativity.

In fact, I suspect that a lot of Christian homophobia comes from a more general



Continued page 27

Let's talk Turtle, fellow armchair media analysts, the Yankee has won the war for the minds of our children.

The TV we see now is just a part of the mopping up operations, with a few isolated pockets of resistance remaining, such as the ABC and SBS. These seem to be significant, (after all, they occupy two out of five channels) but they are not numerically significant, in terms of the total number of people-viewing years.

In fact, lamenting the invasion of American culture into our society has been a popular past-time for the critics since the beatnik blitzkrieg of the late 50's.

In a recent program on Australian Youth presented by Caroline Jones, a priggish pair of upper-middle class University twits called Robert Hughes and Clive James could be seen in a 1959 interview, reassuring the Australian public that there were no Australian 'beats', just pale imitations who had read a few Jack Kerouac novels.

They were quite wrong as the next interview showed. A Sydney beatnik couple (dressed surprisingly like their new wave counterparts twenty years later, in black mohair jumpers) told the viewers in detail about their lifestyle, shooting Hughes and James down in flames.

Since then, we have always had TV programs that are just like their American counterparts, but have also had some pommie-like ones that somehow 'balance' and still are. But in some key areas, the American influence has prevailed.

It is a question of Aesthetics, but equally a question of Anaesthetics. TV has always been weak on the former and strong on the latter. We love the glamor of Hollywood. We don't object to this aesthetic function, we just object to the form that it usually adopts. The Aesthetics makes us sick. We often turn to *Eastenders*, the Pommie soap on the Auntie at 6.30 each evening, for just this reason. We like the style of the Brits, as much as we like their attention to detail and realism.

For example, my father watches the ABC news avidly for the same pain-killing effect as the rest of us get from our favourite soap, yet denounces said soap as 'bloody tripe'.

Anyone who has an 'upwardly looking' parent has usually grown up with this kind of struggle, realising that David Attenborough is good for you, but we also need a malenky bit of trash, sex and violence, don't we, brothers?

For all the other people, though, the superior American Soap Technology just functions better. There is no struggle with form and function. The TV stays on commercial stations always. Now I know that I sound like the "starry pop in a doggy collar who said that ... it was the devil that was abroad and was like ferreting his way into like innocent young flesh". This kind of complaint seems to absolve the viewer from any kind of critical, discriminatory function so that "we innocent young malchicks could take no blame. Right. Right. Right." (as Alex so eloquently puts it) Are we helpless against this invasion?

Remember that even Hitler saw that he had no hope against the

Yankee dogs because they had large amounts of superior equipment. Just like the war machines of Macdonalds and Kentucky Fried, the Sherman tanks marched through Europe.

This parallel with fast food is hackneyed, but very appropriate. Frank Zappa was the first person that I remember calling American TV a 'pizza for the mind'. Others have noted the parallel ways that our two main consumptions, food

caslon, when an errant raygun has shot the cave full of holes, the villain remarks that the cave "looks like swiss cheese" to which Michelangelo replies, "I'd rather have mozzarella". Tune in to TMNT any day to hear the latest pizzism.

The essential truth about pizzas is that they seem to offer variety, choice and exotic cuisine, but they are actually a very uniform, structured dish with a pseudo-ethnic 'feel', just like American TV. How-

Cosby) who glorifies television, we have the sharp, cynical voice of Chuck D. telling his girlfriend to quit watching the shit on 'channel zero'. This is a marked contrast with the negro disco super-studs of the seventies, who were musically big, but not strong on political thought. Malcolm X lives! The Village People have passed away. The black man is to be feared again it seems.

Is this the real America, or just

awful and they seem to believe their own hype. A recent *Time* magazine contains an article titled 'Americans foul mouthed pop culture' which gives the reader an idea of the sort of culture we will soon be importing - X-rated take-out. It is no coincidence that the words 'take-out' mean both 'take-away food' and 'to kill'.

Lets speculate a bit, brothers, at how we can castrate this ultra-violent droog of a country. Lets keep the clean pop style, but remove the crass carcass that it is dragging around with it. Lets do some social engineering on all imported programs. Just like Japan, can we also have corruption with cleanliness?

Americans do have some degree of self-control, and their programs seem to improve slowly, but the Japanese, who also do a lot of their media 'American Style', do not have a good record with self control and ethics. Should the day come when our biggest trading partner also becomes a media influence, watch out! From P.O.W. camps, to massacring Dolphins, the Japanese do not seem to care what the rest of the world thinks. Could this attitude spread to the mass media? Is this likely to happen? Pizza style TV we like, but Sushi style?

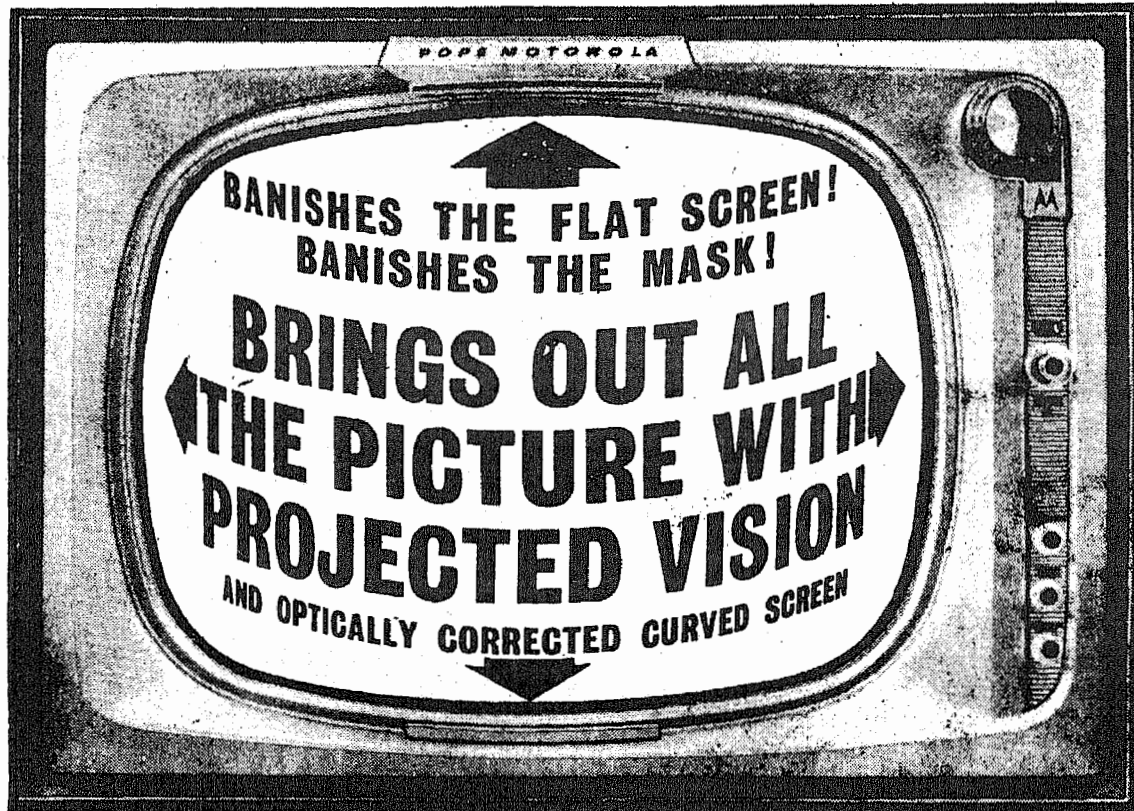
Sure, its happened to the Americans. Sushi bars are the fastest growing fast food outlet in the U.S. today, and "Karate-Kid" style TV programs are very popular. A central character of 'The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' is a Rat called 'Sensei'. (This means 'teacher' in Japanese, and specifically refers to a Karate teacher.)

If it can happen to such a one-eyed people such as the Americans, then what hope have we poor Aussies/ I suggest you follow my example, and get on down to your local Karate class, so that when the first Sushi-Pizza bar opens you will be totally conversant in Edosai (Grill Bar) slang. American style juke boxes will be replaced by mobile Karaoke ('Sing Along') mixing desks. Pinball machines will give way to Patchinko. Our Americanisms will no longer have the mean, street-wise feel that they presently have. We will no longer be able to say 'mother-fucker' and mean it. We will not only drive Japanese style cars, but drive Japanese-style words.

But by that time the Queensland rainforest would have become an extension to the Sanctuary Cove golf course, and all Holdens will be rebadged Toyotas anyway. OH WHAT A FEERING. (Have you noticed how Japanese Kylie Minogue looks with the sound turned down?)

All jokes aside, this type of speculation DOES sound racist and paranoid, but must be like the sort of things said during the 60's by media watchers as American shows began to take over the air waves. From MSG (Mono-sodium-Glutamate) to MFP (Multi-function Pills), the influence of Japan and other Asian countries may one day rival that of America. Already, some of my friends have stopped saying 'Yo' and started saying 'Hai'. The Halkis on the wall. In fact it seems to be painted over the Graffiti. I ask you, brothers, which Alex do you prefer, Before or After?

Clockwork Pizza



Pope Motorola TV, first in Australia to banish the picture-robbing mask ... first to banish the flat screen ... first, and only, with the optically corrected, scientifically designed curved screen — cuts out annoying reflections, subtly eliminates dazzle without affecting black and white values.

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and entertainment have evolved. It is in *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (SAS 7 at 4 pm weekdays) that this analogy is constantly repeated in the form of an endless series of 'sotto voce' pizza jokes.

For example, after a battle with some baddies, Michelangelo turtle laments ... "I need some cold pizza on my boo-boos," referring to his bruised buttocks. On another oc-

ever, eating a real pizza in Italy is totally different experience.

For example, the happy negro portrayed by TV is in reality a much more serious, worried person. The upsurge in rap music by such artists as Public Enemy, KRS-One and NWA shows us a more realistic view of the black situation and self-image, than TV does. In contrast to the witty joking negro (a la Bill

part of the TV programs and recorded music that we receive? Has there always been a sensitive side of America that we do not see? Some people may feel that we only receive a limited bandwidth of 'cultural frequencies' from across the Pacific, and that more subtlety exists in that country than gets to us, but the reality is that the Big City America really is crass and

SWIMMERS

It was with high expectations that I went along to *Swimmers* presented by the AIDS Council of South Australia on Opening Night. After the media attention (mostly ill-informed and homophobic) it was difficult to empty the mind of preconceptions. Nevertheless, I must confess to being disappointed despite the plays obvious power to initiate personal reflections on AIDS issues.

As a play about the transformation caused by AIDS of the lifestyles of promiscuous gays who worked the notorious beats around Adelaide in the 70's and 80's it was a satisfactory, if at times glib stage representation. As a play about the need for community understanding of gays in the AIDS era it did the job too, if not as well. I wonder however, how many members of that community who it seeks to educate will attend. As a play about AIDS in general, however, it fell well short of the mark.

This is surprising since the AIDS council publicity had been at pains to tell us that *Swimmers* was not about homosexuality but about AIDS issues that affect everyone. This simply wasn't true. In the programme notes Don Hopgood the S.A. Minister for Health wrote 'The play...will raise issues and concerns that affect each and everyone of us'.

AIDS certainly does concern all of us but this play's focus was not

for all of us. Save some general and out of place grandstanding pleas near the finale, the action was closely focused on gay men and a certain type of sexual behavior that they indulge in. The play's message that there is more to gay life than a quick in-out in-out in the bushes was certainly worthwhile but even this was muddled by the playwright Nick Gill's obvious concern to widen the message to include the 'villagers' (hetero's) as being affected by AIDS as well. Since they usually don't indulge in quick in-out in the bushes to nearly the same extent I found the ending disjointed. The leap from the evolution of gay behaviour caused by AIDS to a general plea for community understanding of gays in general and AIDS issues was not credible and it certainly alienated my female companion. She thought it was feeble. Much of the first half was made irrelevant. The first half could have been said in half the time, leaving more time to explore those issues that the hotchpotch ending rolled together.

Gays need understanding from a sexually repressive/repressed community who shamefully link the 'plague' with 'dirty' and 'immoral' social behaviour. But to place gays at the epicentre of the AIDS debate as this play does, is I believe to

cloud the wider and dare I say more pressing social concerns of the future. The play marginalised the affect of AIDS on women (they were never mentioned), IV drug users and sexual behaviour of 'straights'. As such this play was about reconciling the past for gays: a reclamation of history if you like. Fair enough.

But AIDS education is also about the future and the urgency of changing behaviour now. The play was strangely ambivalent about this. This reinterpretation of the beat scene was nostalgic. There was a wistful sadness about the new platonic, monogamic age of AIDS. There was understanding and love certainly but sadness, even reluctance. I can't help but think about Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience* here. This only confirmed for this reviewer that this was a play about homosexuality in the AIDS era and not AIDS, and despite my attempts to clear preconceptions about the play from my mind the script didn't fit the brief.

The set was stunning, with two huge set paintings of a likely pair of lads. Some props were a bit superfluous (i.e. the motorbikes entrance merely broke up the rhythm of the dialogue-not good), but the costuming was stunning. The acting was patchy-a bit like the script

(because of?). David Paul Jobling as the aggro leather gay turned new age world weary understanding AIDS victim was excellent. Nic Hurcombe as the super queen Silver was very funny, while Mikhael East as Juvy the ex-Scotch pretty boy was very pretty indeed- yum yum. Graham Duckett as Senex the AIDS prophet and beat guardian was oh so Adelaide. Henry Collins as Lev had a nervous first half as the ex Army marginal head case but worked better once his character developed. Unfortunately, the dancing was embarrassingly amateur while the metaphor of post AIDS safe sex as 'skating on thin ice' was such a hackneyed cliché that I groaned.

These sort of productions need encouragement. AIDS education is vitally important and this reviewer whole-heartedly supports it and sympathises with the plight of gays in this era of AIDS. Unfortunately, this brave, worthy and thought-triggering attempt for me misses the target. I hope the next show does not. Time is of the essence.

Steve Jackson

The Elephant Man



The evening started off on an unimpressive note, but nonetheless was held together by Pomerance's script and flashes of acting brilliance that left me feeling simplistically moved, cynical of character benefactors' altruistic fronts, and impressed by the production as a whole.

Bernard Pomerance has written a script depicting the later years of John Merrick. Yes, he's the Elephant Man. From the point where he is dropped by as a circus beast and adopted by the physician Frederick Treves, we see how "John my boy" is ridden as a promotional train by his new found

friends, who are supposedly doing everything "for his own good". These people are the only ones who have ever been nice to him, so he is at first unable to see their ulterior motives. The way Pomerance has captured these power relationships and moral indiscrepancies is simplistic. Because of this, the audience gains a clear understanding of John's plight, but is not given any subtleties or intricacies for their brain to chew on. Perhaps such complex brain food is not necessary because the straightforward character analysis of John Merrick and his "friends" is interesting enough. The script builds upon itself, gradually becoming

more interesting and evocative right to its climax. But I thought the best touch in the script came just before the end (you'll know the one if you see the production, but I for now I won't spoil your fun). This scene is totally unexpected and breaks any monotony that has been created.

The Westenders company is a youth group that won all the most important of last year's AustArts awards, for its production of "Freedom of the City" by Brian Friel. "Elephant Man" is the company's fifth production. The company was inconsistent across the range of actors/actresses, from unconvincing to innovative and brilliant. I was unimpressed by both the actresses, who made it painfully obvious that they were acting, and gave few hints of actually being characters. One of the above, Rachel Cassidy, did seem to improve as the character of Mrs. Kendal, but I feel this strength lay in her script rather than her acting technique. The portrayal of minor characters (seven actors/actresses played a total of eighteen roles) was not paid enough attention nor enough care by the actors, and hence by the director. The portrayal was adequate, but the seemed to forget the point that minor characters are important in their function of maintaining the flow of main character interplay.

However all of these problems were probably due to the reviewed performance being the opening night. These are all problems of precision, in which nerves shift the

actors'/actresses' consciousness from their character expression to their lines. What gave me hope was that each personal performance and interaction went from being nervous and stiff at the start to being convincing and powerful by the end.

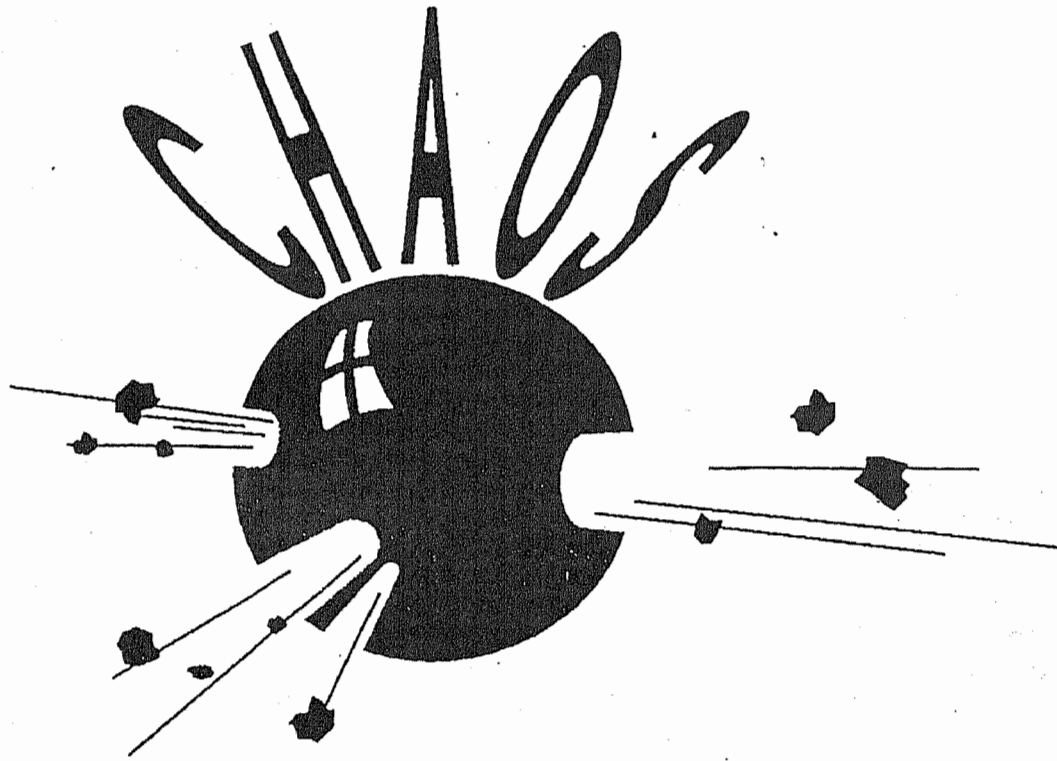
Moreover the performances of the major characters were excellent. Craig Lenaine, who played Carr Gomm, needs to relax and Andrew McLuckie, who played the physician, needs to stop SHOUTING (please). Otherwise these performances were faultless in their character portrayal and in particular the revealing of their ulterior motives. James Black (the Bishop and others) and Brant Eustice (John Merrick) were totally faultless, what's more they gave more than what was required for an excellent performance. John Merrick is an extremely difficult character to imitate physically on stage, but Eustice managed to maintain the illusion of this unfortunately grotesque human being without any elephant-like makeup or costume. He does this by contorting his face and limbs, limping and muffling his voice, each in what seems to be a very painful fashion.

The set stretches the definition of minimalism by being almost non-existent. But any extravagancies were ruled out by the production being funded almost entirely out of the company members' own pockets. Much of the play involves the set representing two separate rooms, with an imaginary door joining them. A problem arose when when, on at least a dozen occasions, the characters walked straight through the imaginary walls. Also there were various conversations taking place in one

of the rooms, that were meant to be held unobserved and unheard by John, who was in the other room. But, on each occasion, John was staring straight through the imaginary dividing wall, following the conversations tennis-spectator style. These minor faults are the responsibility of the director, Elizabeth Branford, and there were a few more technical problems which she needs to solve. For example in scene changes, John walks normally to his new position, having just been walking in his awkward elephant style. Walking normally in these cases is necessary, but the lights didn't go to a total black out, and hence allowed the audience to see it happen. What's more there was a really annoying buzz coming from either the lights or the sound system. But these are minor lapses in Branford's direction, which is overall a difficult task well executed.

Though I have picked out the faults here, I do not wish to discourage people attending. This production deserves good houses, it's a youth theatre group putting on a sound and impressive performance of an excellent play.

The Westenders present
The Elephant Man
by Bernard Pomerance
The Chapel, Theatre 62, 62
Burbridge Rd
Season Closed
Ben Mudge



thurs day club thurs day
every day night club
dance night every
dance club every thursday night
night club dance
thurs day night club
dance every thurs day

Love Fever
Hot For Funk
Dr Mandelbrot Sex

club chaos
thursday nights
top floor griffins head
cnr grenfell st & hindmarsh sq.

students \$2 non students \$5
free entry for those in suitable 70's attire

"But daarr-ling, I just lurve your dress!"

The Law Students' Society Annual ball pranced along in wobbly stilletos at the Old Lion Ballroom. How many ballrooms have you seen with graffiti-fitted walls? Not very many in our lifetime. The way the taffeta blended against the backdrop of "Bum Posse" street-tuff scrawlings was like a nose-ring on the Queen mother.

The Old Lion, well what can you say? The place is old.

Unperturbed by the the nanderthal bouncer at the door we flashed our passports into the gathering of the social elite-EIGHTEEN DOLLAR tickets (a pittance for today's future lawyers) The ballroom greeted us, bedecked with gender specific balloons (predictably pink and blue) attached to alternate chairs. The multitudes magically swelled in number as soon as the two hours of free drinks began.

Alcohol is an interesting substance. It can make some people rather violent, while others end up expressing their desires to Lambada the night away to the crass strains of Barry Manilow.

No one can escape the siren calls of this wicked menace, not even the upright students of our country's fine institutions, Law students. These fine specimens of purity and intelligence are the future of this country's moral fibre. But when in contact with the evils of bubbly yes, even they are susceptible to its vile influence, a strange happening occurs. Boundaries of class and education slip away with inhibitions and some active social interaction is actually produced. Much to our surprise the atmosphere was relaxed and (gulp!) dare we say it...friendly. Your two discriminating reviewers blended in wearing vintage seventies' formal attire, saw all, missed nothing and were confided in by all.

The ball was in full swing and the revelers were getting a bit peckish. What did the organisers provide the punters...the humble chicken supper. The chicken supper, saviour and liberator of Law Society funds or anyone in fact who wants to put on a show for the least amount of expenditure possible. We personally don't mind a chicken supper, but find it quite amusing seeing people dressed in their hired Karl Chehade suits and Tammy's Asian Fashion dresses, ripping barbarically into the loins of this feathered creature like The Family at a

I just lurve your dress...

All the fun of the Ball! At the top is a member of the ruling class having a suitable drink; in the middle are the authors having suitable drinks; and at the bottom is new Union President Andrew Lamb, and his companion.



teddy bear's picnic.

For some the food held little attraction. They remained untempted by stringy chicken and dehydrated rolls and were unmoved by the calls of the pumping grooves, but once they had become well oiled with alcohol their more venomous and sinister callings gained precedence. Yes, the calling of the gossip. His/her environment is in any apparently innocent conversation and the gossip's tongue is also given free rein in the toilets. You can recognise them by such distinctive lines as; "Did you hear that such and such..." or "I'm not supposed to tell you but...". The 1990 Law Ball was a veritable breeding ground for such creatures. Any unsuspecting person giving relief to nature's various callings could fall victim to such malicious tripe, being exposed to sordid tales of lust and loathing as they go about their business. It is a sorry state of affairs indeed when a person who does not fall to such levels can't go into a toilet to relieve their predictably bulging bladder and remain aurally unmolested by the tales of such social vultures. Many such self-declared social arbiters spent the whole evening discussing and destroying reputations with relish. They make soap operas and mini-series seem feeble and inadequate entitled indeed in comparison to their tabloid tales of campus life.

Things were running like the aftermath of a curry dinner up to this point. Music is the factor which can really make or break the night. The Grand Master Jam D.J. churned out a wicked sound stapling people to the dance floor with those classic House tracks with such thought provoking lyrics as "I've got the hots for you", "Pump up the jam" and the song they should use for advertising period pain tablets, "Ride On Time." The crowd was movin' and a grovin' and having a jolly wonderful time and then the band came on.

Fifi Blue (whose real name is Saaandra) sauntered on to the stage in a inconspicuous brilliant bronze lame number accompanied by her balding geriatric cohorts The Flames. The band wasn't all that bad, but if you have got a D.J. and you don't like the music you change the record. But with a band I'm afraid it's not that easy. All Fifi could do was change her dresses and it didn't work. The nostalgic in the crowd bopped away to covers of the Beatles, The Stones, and the all time classic "Summertime Blues". Needless to say people were longing for the return of the D.J.

During this superlative performance a few industrious members of the gathering had deviated from the norm of conversation, dancing, drinking and attacking the chicken carcasses provided and had positioned themselves on the ramps at the back of the ballroom for a quick recreational snog.

Closet exhibitionists also claimed the 1990 Law Ball as their natural habitat. We witnessed the transformation of many from mild-mannered study-beasts who lurk in the darkest alcoves of the Barr Smith. One particularly retiring and introverted Law student grabbed the spotlight on the dancefloor, gyrating wildly, a vision in blue velvet as she exposed (to the stupefied gasps of her audience of observers) legs encased in a pair of provocative suspenders and stockings. Others enjoyed making similar spectacles of themselves, their efforts being warmly received by their appreciative audience.

House style dancing was the general order of the evening but an excessively inebriated few performed personal versions of the raunchy lambada with a co-operative partner, but never once was this number enacted on the actual dancefloor, but accommodating substitutes for the dancefloor were to be found in dim corners and carparks. So let it be known that these law students are resourceful beings.

As the evening wore on many straggled off, back to their domestic nests with the realisation hitting that tomorrow this night of Bacchanalia would be nothing but an oft cherished memory and a nagging hangover with which to greet the following day's lectures. A privileged number journeyed to such bourgeois haunts as the Hilton to endeavour to preserve the incredibly classy feel of the Ball that they had just enjoyed, well into the night. Others, enduring hedonists, lingered on to savour the last moments of this memorable event as the Law Ball for 1990 cried its last bittersweet death throes to the strains of Peter Allen's "I Go To Rio", reluctant to leave. Somehow, the DJ's playing of the Barry Manilow classic "Copacabana" seemed to do the trick for even the toughest diehards and soon all that remained were some flaccid balloons and scattered piles of demolished chooks.

A Ball is a bourgeois euphemism for your homely piss-up. Why don't they save people some money on hired suits and taffeta and get everybody to meet down at Elder Park with a six-pack, bottle of Jim Beam and a packet of Twisties. But hey, it gives everybody an excuse to keep Mr. Chehade in business and flaunt themselves like Ciccolina's left breast.

Louise Barrett

Jason Bootle

The Tall Guy

Trak and Greater Union
a Mel Smith film

There's something about tall men (of the skinny variety) that attracts the sympathy of the average-stature person. In "The Tall Guy", Jeff Goldblum's forlorn, puppy-look creates an awkwardness that makes an audience find him so endearing. In his superman pyjamas, he just hangs for the entirety of the film. Goldblum's character, Dexter King (a name totally at odds with his status as a constant butt of sadistic jokes), is an American actor playing in one of the West End's revues. He is the support for the main attraction, Ron Anderson (played by the Black Adder himself, Rowan Atkinson). Six years of being assaulted with an iron bar by Ron and still being paid less than the coke machine in the dressing room has made Dexter look weary. He has lost the very necessary ability to be surprised and looks merely non-plussed by the parade of naked men in the flat he shares with an ever-bedded Carmen (Geraldine James).

Dexter's past romances do not form a repertoire of passionate memories but a succession of excuses for women refusing to sleep with him. The most memorable being: "My flatmate is feeling depressed, so I owe it to her not to."

Dexter's redeeming feature is his allergy to dust particles and feathers as this precipitates the resurrection of a decent romance.

While at the hospital for treatment, Dexter meets and falls in love instantly with Nurse Kate Lemon. Yes, there are the mandatory quips about her name: Dexter's reflection that "at least it isn't as bad as Kate Tampon" is the beginning of a beautiful relationship. Ecstasy among milk cartons and toast follows.

Dexter's life is transformed when he lands a part in a musical version of the "Elephant Man" called, triumphantly, "Elephant!" For me, the scenes revolving around this production were the funniest of the film. The director of the musical, Gavin (what else could he possibly be called?), has a grand vision of Morality wedded with Music. His next production is a musical version of "Richard III", subtly entitled "Dirty Dick".

The allusions to "Phantom of the Opera" are clear with a very Sarah Brightman-like, chipmunk figure becoming Dexter's new fantasy.

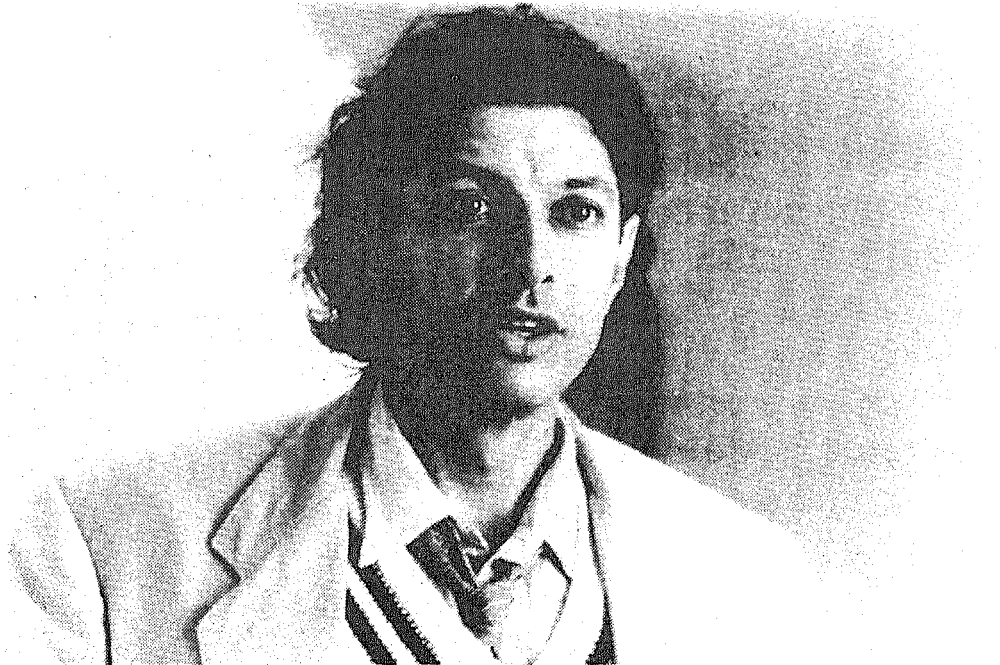
The rehearsals for the production and the eventual performance scenes are so hideously tasteless they almost subsume the whole film. In fact, I think I liked these few scenes better than the whole film. I wanted to watch the whole production of "Elephant!" because it seemed an important social phenomenon. "Elephant!" coupled with the rare but brilliant farcical scenes of Rowan Atkinson make "The Tall Guy" very funny. There is a devilish scene with two nuns dancing in front of the crucifix in red-sequined outfits

that allows Rowan Atkinson to steal the film. The fact that the rest of the film is, by contrast, mildly pathetic does not seem to matter. All of the characters seemed pathetic and so the remaining scenes still exuded genuine warmth and Monty Pythonesque exaggeration.

The ending is deliberately trite: set to the strains of that nice little song by "Madness" of a few years back, "It Must Be Love...". Director Mel Smith has balanced comic ex-

aggeration with witty dialogue so that the film appears both manic in character and essentially romantic in tone. There are some moments of insight but virtually no irony. For once, a film with no irony? It is a straightforward story but I liked its simplicity and I especially liked all of the actors' faces (no ski-jump noses or symmetrical jaw-lines here).

Emily Boase



Pretty Woman

Academy Cinemas
a Garry Marshall film

Once upon a time a spell was cast on a handsomely aging prince. He couldn't control his lawyer's Lotus, keep his girlfriend or even get angry with his dead father. Then one day a beautiful princess in disguise came walking along the street. She jumped into the car, into his hotel room and broke the spell with her magic kiss.

The title to this movie says it all- pretty woman, pretty man, pretty cars, pretty clothes, all in all, a pretty good film. If you ever dream of capital R Romance, Riches and Rodeo Drive shopping, this is a movie for you- escapism par excellence. After all,

it's okay to admit we all have our crutches. And for the discerning dreamers, I didn't find it particularly chauvanistic or offensively affluent.

Richard Gere is still one of the sexiest things on celluloid. He has a warming smile, a suitable air of helplessness and provides a generous background for Julia Roberts. It is Roberts, however, who brings the real magic to this movie. With her Suzanna Arquette coltish mobility and Audrey Hepburn style (it's all in the mouth folks), she is magnetic as the loser turned prostitute turned heroine, Vivien, who hits the b*****ig time when poor little rich boy Edward needs directions. In her climb from Hollywood Boulevard hooker to millionaire's escort she

is assisted by the most unlikely fairy god-mother. Hector Elizondo plays the suspicious looking, shifty eyed hotel manager who proves to have a heart of gold. The other stars of the show are the clothes. Julia Roberts goes from tie to dye nylon to black lace and red velvet with ease, of course with a body like hers, anything is going to hang well! Actually, apart from what the clothes reveal, which is quite a bit, we don't see much of her body. What a set-up - Richard Gere with a pro for a girlfriend, but where is the sex? Surprisingly absent apart from a few classy, tantalising teasers, one almost feels that the censors have had a wee snip here and there, but I think not. This is after all a fairy story, and we know that fairies (the

original ones anyway) never had anything to do with sex, the closest they got was baptisms. So too nothing as sordid as sweaty bodies are allowed to intrude on this fantasy, even the rape is cut abruptly short and we never see the murder victim.

It's a fun movie, with all the Pygmalion gags, and a few more, thrown together so neatly and effortlessly that the old cliches are funny again. It doesn't pretend to be anything but a dream, set in the city of dreams and as such, well, it's almost as good as the trailers promised.

Penelope Lucas Read





November Spawned a Monster

Morrissey
His Master's Voice
7"

Dear Morrissey,

You can't half bloody moan, can you?

Your last effort, as everybody who heard it knows, sucked shit through a straw, and seemed to suggest to a lot of us that you were a spent force. Are you up for membership of the club of irrelevant English eccentrics who spend their fading years searching for that elusive phrase which will land them in the Penguin Book of Quotations?

Having ditched Stephen Street (or was it the other way around? I shan't pry into your private life, you've already had too many unhappy affairs), you've had to go in search of another songwriter.

I'm delighted with your discovery of Clive Langer. "November Spawned a Monster" is a neat little groove which

The Wonder Stuff wouldn't be ashamed to own, and almost close to the brilliance of... ah, but I mustn't remind you of that, either.

I know that you won't agree with me on this, but must you insist on *singing* on your records? Your incessant drone used to be cute and unique, but it's 1990 now, and even Nick Cave has grown up. How about some singing lessons?

You must be sick of hearing people saying that you're repeating yourself lyrically, as you've been doing it for the last two years now. The stream of inspiration just seemed to narrow slowly until it was scarcely worth searching for the good stuff in the pretentious bile.

I'm sorry, Moz, but I shan't accept any J-Curve theories; "Ouija Board" was your absolute nadir, and "NSAM" is a good step up from that, but I shouldn't rush back to the typewriter if I were you. Have a long, slow, hard think... and then record a cover of "He's Gonna Step On You Again". Trust me.

Yours in angst,
Simon Healy

A Cast of Aspersions Louis Tillett Festival

Louis Tillett has been an important figure on the Sydney scene for over a decade.

He plays what could be termed "genuine blues", with the mood always downbeat, conjuring pictures of grey days and a miserable world. The tunes are fuelled by Tillett's whisky-ravaged voice in accompaniment with saxophonists who never wear anything but black and live in condemned buildings.

The highlight of the album is the brave single "Condemned To Live" which deals with racist violence in America's deep south, partially by Jello Biafra's tactic of using the song as a mouthpiece for the ultra-right viewpoint.

The only out-and-out stinker is the call-and-response duet of "Long Walk Home", with him pleading "I really love you baby", and her replying "Drop dead, creep". This sort of thing should be restricted to Rock Operas and Meatloaf albums.

If you're prepared to forgive that one blemish (and I am), *A Cast of Aspersions* succeeds in Tillett's attempt to "return to music with heart". A meaty album, is the truest sense of the word.

Simon Healy

Axeman's Jazz



•Camper Van Beethoven definitely have blown out their Australian tour, but it is not yet confirmed whether the group have split up.

•Public Enemy's new *Fear Of A Black Planet* album (review next ish) has gone Top 20 in Adelaide despite the refusal of the dinosaurs at SA.FM to acknowledge its existence by adding it to their playlist. Fairly obvious, when you think about it: PE's artistic integrity can be equated with Paula Abdul and Cher, and is obviously below the lofty heights of Michael Bolton. All together: "Straight out racist, the suckers are simple and plain..."

•Meanwhile, watch out for Bryant Gumbel's forthcoming LP, *Fear Of A Coffee-Coloured Planet*.

•Song title of the week goes to The Dead Milkmen, authors of "The Thing That Only Eats Hippies" and "Punk Rock Girl", whose new album (called *Metaphysical Graffiti*) features the track "If You Love Somebody, Set Them On Fire".

•Ex-Hüsker Dü lead singer Bob Mould is not dead, despite statements made on Student Radio to the contrary. In a recent interview, he promised the Axeman that he

would come down "to get the bastard who started the rumour."

•May 17 marked the 10th anniversary of Ian Curtis' suicide by hanging, putting an end to both Joy Division and the short lived Curtis and Tenille project "Love Will Keep Us Together". The lyrics were later altered to "I bet a lot of pseudo-hip JJJ listeners will vote this the greatest song of all time in 1990, even though they were only 9 when it was released."

Coming soon! "The Ian Curtis Motivational Tapes" - start your day the Ian Curtis way!

•Local heroes The Mark Of "Could we have some more foldback, please" Cain played their last gig ever (for 18 months) on May 12 at the Old Queen's Arms. It was one of their best, the smiling boys playing virtually everything from *Battlesick* and a good deal from their newie, *Young, Content and Well-Adjusted*, which should be out soon.

•Almost confirmed for Adelaide are The Fall and The Smithereens, both likely to be playing the Old Lion.

•Two international tours not to hold your breath for are Faith No More and Public Enemy, both tipped to tour the eastern states later in the year. The Axeman was informed that it was unlikely that PE could be lured to Adelaide, as, "They hate guys like us".

•Ricky May died this week in 1988 of a frightening blubber attack, three years to the day after Meatloaf played the Thebarton Theatre. Coincidence? We think not.



A Dream's A Dream Soul II Soul Virgin 12"

Jazzle B once again gives us a beautiful song: mellow, full voices, chimes in the background and a great beat. However, these, combined with the 'obligatory' Jazz voice over, are beginning to make Soul II Soul sound a bit staid. The club dub on side B is faster, and the beat, which is given essentially by the piano, is more prominent - definitely the best part of these mixes.

"A Dream's a Dream" fits perfectly into the Ambient House style which was popular about a month ago. However, it lacks the energy which is thankfully making its way back into the clubs at the moment. "Courtney Blows" on side B is a trumpet instrumental, nice, but definitely a "fill in".

Hopefully, Soul II Soul will resume their position as the innovators of each new style with their next offering, this one's good but not quite fresh enough.

Geneviève Marjoribanks and
Andrew Beveridge



Slam The Dan Reed Network Phonogram

One of the best new records I have heard this year. Like Van Halen, if they had been signed to Motown 25 years ago - full of wit, noise and groovy cool parts. *Slam* is a fresh blend of big guitars and intelligently used synthesizers that for the most part works brilliantly ("Make it Easy", "Doin' the Love Thing") but on some tracks completely fall apart. This is the record's only fault, two or three songs come off like Foreigner or Loverboy -

pouncy rock with annoying beep sounds, big choruses about bad boys and good girls, etc. Luckily, this only happens a few times. The influence of producer Nile Rodgers (Chic) is easily heard and gives potentially boring filler tracks real guts and heart ("Slam" and "Seven Sisters Road"). Also ballads, especially "Rainbow Child" and "Stronger than Steel", do not fall into the trap of being corny or the 'contrived follow up single'. This is everything that Bon Jovi tries to be. Midnight Oil are smart to have Dan Reed supporting overseas. They deserve the recognition they will get.

HENRY ROLLINS

The brilliant and very intense Henry Rollins band are coming back to Australia. Paul Champion reports

Henry Rollins is currently making his second tour of Australia and New Zealand in 15 months. He has come here after having taken two rest days at the conclusion of a European tour. At the conclusion of his Australian tour he is returning to the United States to perform a series of spoken word shows by himself. The Rollins Band averages around one hundred shows a year in about fifteen countries, separate from the sixty or so spoken word performances that Rollins will do himself. The fact that he finds himself performing almost every second night of his life does not diminish the intensity of his act. From his time in *Black Flag*, one of the premier L.A. punk bands of the 80s, to his current work with the Rollins Band, his shows have been known for his extreme and intense performances, which go beyond rock'n'roll posturing. "It's just the way I feel music", explains Rollins. "It's what feels right



uniquely for a rock musician, he reads all of his fan mail and attempts to answer most of his letters. "Sometimes they don't require an answer, but if I get a letter, someone wants to know something, I'll drop them a card. I just feel I should be responsible for what I'm putting out there. If I'm inspiring some thought in someone and they wanna say something, well, I don't wanna be some untouchable entity like Van Halen, you're never going to get to Van Halen, but you can write a letter to me and I'll definitely read it. Sometimes I don't answer - I get some letters from Australia every once in a while and I just don't have the money to always write back 'cause it's kind of expensive, postage-wise. I appreciate someone taking time out to get in contact. I respect that. So if they wanna know something, I'll answer it, no problem, I'm a person too.

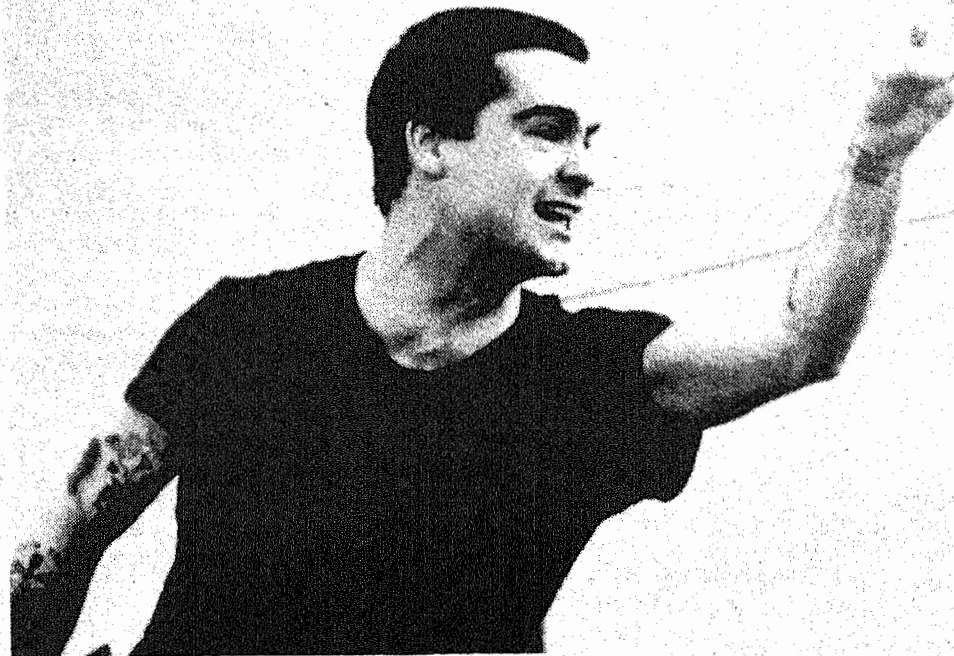
- the way I do it is what feels natural. It's not something I go put on - it's what feels real."

Rollins' brutal performance style naturally leads to vastly different reactions within his audience. At his last Adelaide show, opinions ranged from those who found the show inspirational to those who found it repellent, which does not bother Rollins in the least. "I found some of the audience in Adelaide repellent as well - drunk, ignorant pigs. I found it really disgusting, people after the show telling us not to play that 'nigger music'. That really repulsed me as well, so... I repulse you, you repulse me, whatever".

Despite having been at the forefront of hardcore music for a decade, the music of the Rollins Band is not simple thrash, but also incorporates elements of jazz and the blues. Rollins is pleased with his band's latest album *Hard Volume*, on which the power of the band's performance is matched by the hard honesty of Rollins' singing. The album closes with "Down and Away", a howling eight minute opus which Rollins describes as being about, "Distance - it's about not being able to get close to people, which is, uh..." He pauses in his consideration of the song's meaning. "I wrote it about me, not being able to get close to people". One of the other standout tracks is "I Feel Like This", a song dealing with, "that feeling that escapes description, but when you're there, you're there, you're it, it's you. I feel like this - 'Well, how?' - 'You know, like this'." He eschews any notion of political songwriting. "I got no politics. My politics are if you come into my house I will blow you away with a 9mm handgun. That's my politics."

Despite his seemingly uncaring attitude to his audience, Rollins feels responsibility for his music and performances. Almost

My politics are if you come into my house I will blow you away with a 9mm handgun.



"I'm very thankful that people come to our shows. I really hate those performers, well, I don't hate them, I just hate their attitude when they have so much contempt for their crowd. Not that I'm always in love with my audience when someone's just cracked me in the head with a bottle, but these people come to shows - they're taking time out of their lives to spend it with us in the evening and I really dig that. It's really wonderful."

Given the almost superhuman tour schedule he sets himself and the demands of his other ventures, such as his publishing company which has released twelve of his own books, what does Rollins do to relax? He pauses before answering.

"L i f e weights...fuck...listen to music [Fugazi, Public Enemy and John Coltrane being favourites]...get ready for the next tour, I guess. I don't have much time off."

By all indications, Rollins has no intention of changing that situation. He cites the example of John Lee Hooker. "The guy's seventysomething, he's still playing. You see that a lot, these old country and western guys. Why do you think they're doing it? 'Cause music is really addictive, to play is just so great, I think it would be really hard to not play after a while."

For the time being, though, Rollins has no complaints about the life he has devoted to his art, doing the "Rollins-thing", as he calls it. "I like it, I really do. I couldn't be doing it this hard if I didn't like it. I'm not rich, I don't get a lot of girls chasing me, I don't have a Lear jet. There's no fringe benefits other than getting to rock out, and do the music and perform and be there. So I like it".

Women Going Solo



A GUIDE FOR WOMEN TRAVELLING ALONE

"If you are going to Asia, Thailand, Southern Europe or Southern America particularly, the goddam read up about it, don't just go there and think 'Why are they all looking at me?'"

Used by Ms White in her guide for women travelling alone, "Going Solo" aptly sums up the basic theme of her book which is written for both the novice and experienced woman traveller.

Although parts of the book may seem elementary for the regular jetsetter, other chapters such as "Street smarts and self-defence", "Coping with down times", "Work/Study abroad" provide detailed information that covers every continent and is sure to add to any women's knowledge. To the beginner, every facet of the guide is essential. The "General Information" section includes a brief discussion about travelling alone which is inspiring enough to encourage one to undertake a solo journey, however, Ms White does also point out the obvious disad-

vantages of being alone overseas. From travelling on a budget to affording luxury hotels is discussed. Check lists, accommodation options, travelling within the destination area, travelling with children, and women's health is also included in this section.

The next section, titled "Destinations", is superb. Each heading is a different country or place, and listed below is detailed, useful and interesting information. More specified possible accommodation options for women are listed, including contact number and addresses. Important phone numbers are given for each country, for example, police, rape crisis centres, taxis, Australian/British/American embassies, and tourist information lines. Advice is given about the state of public transport, health and hygiene services for women, and possible work and study options.

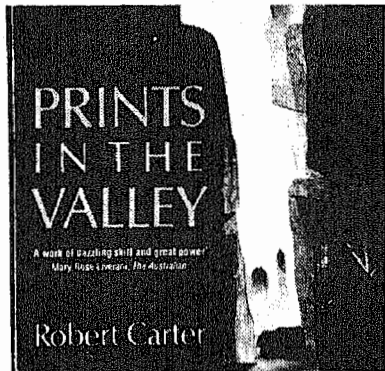
Other possible headings in this section include 'Safe and unsafe areas', 'Demographics', 'Entertain-

ment', 'Crime', 'Meeting people' and 'Socialising/Sightseeing/Nightlife'. Most crucial, however, is the information regarding attitudes to women. Due to existing cultural values and attitudes toward lone western women travellers, in some extreme cases, certain countries are best avoided. At the very least, women should be aware of which countries require behaviour modifications and how these should best be executed.

In summary, the guide is essential for any woman traveller, especially if she is alone, for as well as informing her of life-threatening dangers, and finding her a place to stay, it can enrich her journey with the handy information that it holds. It is also inspirational for women to discover the world alone, giving the support needed through prior knowledge of problems that may arise, as well as the reassurance that other women have, and can, travel successfully and happily, solo.

Chaddel Qhoecywn

Prints in the Valley



Prints in the Valley
Robert Carter
Picador - \$10.99

The blurb on the back cover summarises the book's purpose quite well, so rather than risk plagiarism (God forbid!), let me quote it in part: "Prints in the Valley explores the contrast in culture and consciousness between four different individuals: Alec, the ... school councillor; Anik, the ... French woman adrift in Australian suburbia; Jack, her vulnerable son; and Koam, the New Guinean girl who is considered *sanguma*, a sorcerer." Sounds quite simple, right?

Not exactly. Let me add that Alec counsels Jack, which leads him to Jack's mother Anik, but then Jack kills his own father's homosexual lover, Damien; so as Jack can stay out of the Detention Centre, his estranged parents reunite and return to France; the affair between Anik and Alec falls through, so Alec quits his job and gets a new position in New Guinea, and thus Koam enters the story. (The tale does not end here, but far be it for me to spoil the ending ... find out for yourself, okay?)

Out of this myriad of strangely connected characters and events, there emerges a story that is both challenging and comforting. Car-

ter has structured the book to give each chapter a definite sense of time and of place, both of which are crucial in illustrating the richness and depravity in the two separate cultures, i.e. New Guinea and Australia. It also forces us to consider the importance and underestimated power of the individual, particularly those individuals who are different, in self-perception or reality.

Initially, there seems to be two separate storylines dealing with two separate cultures. In Chapter One, we see Alec in Australia in 1963, at a typical stag party, while the next chapter takes us to New Guinea, in 1967, where Koam refuses to attend her initiation ceremony. This alternating between two places continues until gradually parallels appear, and eventually the stories travel along converging lines. This process has the effect of forcing us to reconsider any presumptions and bias about compartmentalising cultures and the people within them. What originally looked neat, easy and convenient to separate has become surprisingly similar, not least of all in the fact that both Alec and Koam swim against the tide, pay a high price and become heroic figures when it is too late to enjoy the fame.

The time frame used is important in that it allows us to witness the natural progress made by the characters. The "best mates" relationship between Alec and Miles alters between the time of the stag party and the time of Alec's departure for New Guinea: the intervening events have allowed Alec to see the shallowness of it, and he realises that their friendship has become "a throwaway print". Koam,

too, faces the pressure of growing up and away from her friends; her experiences teach her that "children and fools are not innocent; they are unknowing. To be innocent, one must know of the trespasses possible." Undoubtedly, Jack is the most surprising character here: from a victimised, persecuted and (understandably) bitter child, he manages to develop into a calm adult, although I wonder whether his comment "I hardly ever cry anymore" is an indication that he has tipped the scales too far in the opposite direction. The time-span also gives us a certain amount of "reverse hindsight" ... having finished the story, the earlier hints become much clearer. For example, the stag party is set against a background of Elvis Presley's "Heartbreak Hotel", and from the outset it seems that Alec belongs "down the end of lonely street". Bridging the chapters, and thus the time and place, are small verses, which not only provide the title of the book but also illustrate subtly the growth and maturing (physical and spiritual) of Koam. The final verse brings the story full circle in a way: "Weep not for what seems lost, for the heart need not return to that which it never left."

To do justice to both Robert Carter and myself, I must say that this book is much easier to read than review! *Prints in the Valley* is quite unlike anything I've read before, and I suspect it is a book that people will re-read several times before they fully appreciate its complexities. One thing is certain: Robert Carter has a new fan ... why don't you join the ranks?

Stephanie Pribil

Literary society in cultural overdrive

The Adelaide University Literary Society is enjoying one of its most active and successful years in recent history. David Penberthy caught up with Marc Hudson, editor of *Litsoc's* excellent magazine, *The Timely Literary Suppository*.

Dave - So Marc, tell us about all the fab things *Litsoc* is up to.

Marc - Well, the more important one is called KULCHA, which is an art exhibition. We're aiming at works of art in any medium which are inspired by or connected to a work of literature ... a poem, a play, a short story. It could be a cubist portrait of Jane Eyre ...

Dave - A ruffia work toilet roll holder inspired by *The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*?

Marc - Yes, exactly ... it's open to all students, all members of the staff, and students not at Adelaide Uni. It will be running from Wednesday 15th of August to Friday the 24th, up in the Union Gallery.

Dave - So you're asking for contributions from now on?

Marc - Yeah, well not the actual work, but the idea. There will be registration forms in the Student's Association, the English Department, and the Gallery, and so forth.

Dave - So even Screenshot can submit stuff? Will there be performance art? People slicing up rats?

Marc - Well, we haven't worked

out any censorship, and I don't think there will be any. We don't like to censor other people's ideas.

Dave - What else are you doing?
Marc - The \$50 Bundy Poetry Prize is the only thing on campus. We decided that there needed to be more competition for writers. *Litsoc* is putting on a competition ... it's \$14 for the best sonnet (a dollar a line of course), the best poem of any other kind is \$15, best short story under 700 words is \$20, and the best one act play, which we would like to perform, is \$30. A lot of this material will be published in our magazine, *Esque*, which comes out each year. The deadline for that competition is the 1st of September.

Dave - Who's judging the stuff?
Marc - We might get some outside people ... but that will be finalised closer to the date.

Dave - Tell us about TLS
Marc - The *Timely Literary Suppository* ... aims to tell people what's happening around the place, on and off campus, things like readings, seminars, films, plays, and it also strives to entertain, so there's a fair slab of humour and satire in it. We also print new writing.

If you want to get involved in the Literary Society, leave a message in the Students Association.

David Penberthy.

classifieds

Activities Week beginning Monday, May 28th

Monday, May 28th
1.10 pm Activities Committee Meeting in Union Board Room.

Tuesday, May 29th
7.30 pm Cinematheque Film Programme in Union Cinema with *Film by Samuel Beckett* (Directed by Alan Schneider, USA, 1965, B/W, 22 mins) and *Pretty Poison* (Directed by Noel Black, USA, 1968, Col., 89 mins).

Thursday, May 31st
1 pm Classical concert in Gallery (Level 6) with "Welland String Quartet". Free.

Friday, May 18th
6 pm Pianist "Danielle Poulos" in Union Bldro.
9 - Midnight *Mixed Relations* (from Sydney) in Union Bar. Free to students, \$5 guests.

Saturday, June 2nd
9 pm - 2 am State Final of Campus Battle of the Bands in Adelaide Uni Bar with 4 bands from 4 campuses: *My Love Pumpkin* (Adelaide Uni); *Classifieds* (Flinders Uni); (SAIT), *Napoleon Goes Solo* (Underdale/City Campus, SACAE). All students free, guests \$4. Come and support our band *My Love Pumpkin*. Winner represents South Australia at National Final in Sydney, and wins a campus tour in Adelaide with at least 4 paid gigs.

Coming Entertainment
End of Semester Show with *Painters & Dockers* (from Melbourne), *Handsome Devils* and *Contrapunctus*. Saturday, June 9th, 9 pm - late. Games Room and Bar, Union Building. Students \$6, Guests \$9. Tickets on sale from Student Officer from Monday June 4th. Be quick.

Third Activities Programme
The third and final Activities Programme to cover the July - November period will be produced in June and distributed to every student for July 23rd. The deadline for items to be included is Friday, June 8th. Please send information to Barry Salter (The Minister for Fun) in Union Office.

Chance to win a Walkman
Fill out the entry slips in the Maxell/Uni Record Shop competition that are in the Activities Programme. Deliver your entries to the Uni Record Shop by Thursday, May 31st. Winner drawn on Friday, June 1st.

lessness, unemployment, drug addiction and broken homes. The list is endless.

The award is open to any individual or group in the age range from 14 to 21 years. Adult leadership is acceptable for a group entry. Entries will be judged by a panel of respected community leaders. Entries close Friday 31st August, 1990.

Entry forms available from:
The Suzanne Rowston Youth Award
The Flinders Street Baptist Church
65 Flinders Street
Adelaide, South Australia, 5000
Telephone Doug Rowston on 223 4550.

Amnesty International
Meeting for Amnesty International, Tuesday 29th May, in the Jerry Portus Room from 1 - 2 pm. There will be a letter writing meeting on Tuesday the 29th. May in the Jerry Portus Room from 1-2 pm. All Welcome!

AU Catholic Community
All are welcome to join us in the celebration of Mass on Wednesdays at 1.10 pm in the Chapel.

If you have any liturgical suggestions then please feel free to speak to our Liturgy Co-ordinator, John J. Monaghan, or drop a message in the AUCC pigeonhole, Clubs Association, Lady Symon Building.

We are not a cliquey group of Catholics all aspiring to be the next Pope.

So take the plunge into the realm of Catholicism and please feel free to come to Mass or visit the AUCC Room for a tea or coffee.

We are located in the Religious Rooms above the *On Dit* office.

Lost
One hessian bag, strap broken. Contains only folder and vital notes and one library book which I must get back by the due date (or I'll have to pay to replace it). Please return to Students' Association.
Robert Rijkelijkhulzen

Ski Gear for Sale
1 pair Dynafit 3F Comps 1989 season boots - \$250 ono. (rrp \$399)
1 pair Völkl weltcup 195 cm skis including stocks and bag \$125.
1 black pure wool ski jumper \$75.
1 pair Gortex ski pants \$100 ono.
1 Gortex ski jacket \$150 ono.
Telephone 298 3261.

Ski Trip '90 - Mount Hotham

Go skiing after the exams (June 30th - July 6th) - only 5 places left on the best value ski trip on campus.

\$650 includes:

- 6 days skiing with lift tickets, ski hire and ski lessons;
- Accommodation in the Arlberg (Hotham) with dinners and breakfasts (silver service);
- Five star coach trip.

If interested, phone Toby or Lauchlan on 79 9314.

Student Christian Movement

An open forum for everyone interested in issues of faith, justice and peace. Meetings every Thursday at 1.10 pm in the Chapel. Bring your lunch. Thursday May 17 - Marlon Maddox talks about theology and our experience of gender. All welcome.

Clubs Association Notice of Meeting

There will be a Clubs Association Council Meeting on Friday, 8th June, 1990 at 1 pm in the North/South Dining Room, Union Building.

Agenda

1. Open
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last meeting held 25th May, 1990.
4. President's Report
5. Affiliations
6. Any other business
7. Close

All club delegates *must* attend.

All budget submissions for 1991 must be handed to Vicki Ferguson (Clubs Association Administrative Secretary) by Tuesday, 29th May, 1990.

Young People: \$1500 award

The Flinders Street Baptist Church through the Suzanne Rowston Youth Award is offering an amount of \$1500 to young people with projects to help overcome social problems.

This biennial award commemorates the late Suzanne Rowston, a well known Lifeline and community worker. It aims at challenging young people to take initiative in addressing issues of concern in our community. For example, there are cultural tensions, youth home-

Dental Care

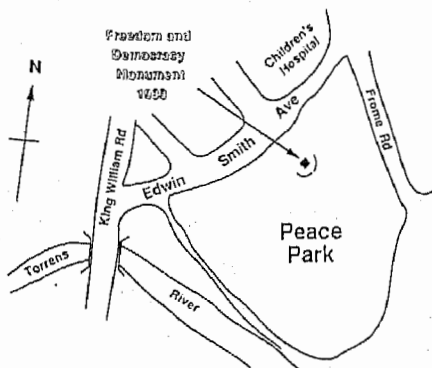
Do you have a health care card or are you covered by a pension card? Dental students under the supervision of experienced tutors are able to offer immediate care in a limited range of procedures to any university student who is eligible. Appointments are available for check-ups, simple fillings and cleaning on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday afternoons.

A brief initial examination and assessment for suitability can be arranged at any time in normal working hours.

Freedom and Democracy Monument 1989

Candle Light Unveiling Ceremony

Dear Friends,
We believe that you agree with us that 1989 is a year to be long remembered. When the young students started their hunger strike in Tiananmen Square, did you imagine what they would face was tanks and bullets? When thousands of East German fled to the West, did you imagine the Berlin Wall would fall within weeks?
All of them have become history now. Again, history has shown us how ruthless a totalitarian regime could be, and how valuable freedom and democracy mean to people.
In last June, Chinese Democracy Support Group (SA) Inc. proposed a memorial to be built in SA for those who died in the 4 June Beijing massacre. By the end of 1989, with the fall of the Communism in Eastern Europe, it was clear that the monument should be dedicated to the people of the world who gave their lives for freedom and democracy.
Despite the vigorous objection by the Chinese Embassy, this Freedom and Democracy Monument 1989 has been erected as the first of such kind in Australia, thanks to all of the supporters from around South Australia.
Please come and join us in the candle light ceremony at which the monument will be unveiled by the former premier of SA, Mr Don Dunstan, A.C., Q.C. The ceremony starts at 7:30 pm, Monday, 4 June 1990 in Peace Park, North Adelaide. Candles, with a wax shield will be available.



Chinese Democracy Support Group (SA) Inc.
PO Box 752, North Adelaide, SA 5006

PRODUCTION NOTES ON DIT 10 COMEBACK EDITION

ON DIT is the weekly newspaper of the Student's Association of the University of Adelaide. The editors have complete editorial control although opinions expressed in the paper are not necessarily their own.

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Fundamentalists from page 17

fear of sexuality. The Jesus we read about had no such fear; consider his reaction to a woman who had been haemorrhaging for twelve years, something which would have been seen by Jesus' milieu as the epitome of sexual uncleanness, and who touched him believing that he had the power to heal her. Although he was pressed all around by crowds, he sensed the presence of woman and said to her, "My daughter, your faith has

restored you to health; go in peace and be free from your complaint" (Mark 5.34). Thus Jesus not only empathised with one regarded by society as sexually degraded; he saw that she had within her a source of great power. Sexuality is not a thing to be despised; and as for the "sins of the flesh", well, Jesus is actually rather light on in condemning them, especially with respect to those traditionally regarded as their worst perpetrators.

Jesus vs Bullshit

Fundamentalists are often to be heard making "deep down in your heart" statements: "Deep down in your heart you

know that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way", "Deep down in your heart you know that homosexuality is evil", and so on. I often feel like replying "Deep down in your heart you know that's bullshit", but the trouble is, deep down in my heart I'm not absolutely sure they *do* know. I could go on and on about aspects of fundamentalism that are more or less flatly contradicted by the whole spirit of Jesus' life and teaching (legalism, dualism and anti-humanism spring to mind), but that would take forever, so I think I might as well just give you my general rule of thumb for these matters: "If it's bullshit, Jesus was against it".

That, of course, is a rather negative way of

defining a very affirmative person, but there is so much bullshit spread around that at times that it's necessary to try and cleanse the Augean stables, so to speak. (And yes, it is a Herculean task). I think what I, and those with views similar to mine, object to most strongly about fundamentalists is their constant pretence that they are speaking for *all* Christians - Fred Nile is a particularly major offender on this count. For many, if not most, Christians oppose the fundamentalist position more or less completely. Unfortunately, it tends to be the fundamentalists who shout the loudest. They have a right to be heard, but not at the expense of everybody else.

Bot Chat



with
Salmonella Harris



Hi!
from Evangeline

**"Some want to live within the sound
Of church or chapel bell
I want to run a rescue shop
Within a yard of hell!"**

C.T. Studd.

The sky is radiant blue and I am sitting here under a banana tree. In this picture of perfect bliss, one could hardly believe that death lurks on the edge of every corner, thrusting out its evil claws and latching itself on to young men and women and innocent children alike. Here in Uganda, we have one million reported cases of AIDS. People die around me every day. 78% of the people have no jobs and live below the basic necessities of life and 58% have no basic place of residence.

Here in this village of Masaka the percentage of AIDS is so high that in 10 years they say there will not be a person alive over 17 years. Move down the track with me a little...to my left. Here's where I live and work, looking after 1,000 orphans - building, digging, hoeing, teaching and loving. Have just finished thatching a temporary dwelling made out of grass, reeds and bamboo to hold the overflow. But there are still 380,000 orphans in Uganda waiting to be rescued.

Come with me. Let's move up the track... Hi, there's Musoke, he's my neighbour - a picture of death. Any day he dies of AIDS. His bones jut out and the welts and sores stare at me. I close my eyes and we pray. What a privilege to bring peace and hope to a nation that is under the shadow of death.

I recall a scripture memorised and which is now embedded in my very soul - "To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide their feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1.79)

Beside me now is my little friend, "Johnny" - only just rescued from the bush a couple of days ago. The father, after having killed the mother, left his

son in the wild to die so he could mourn and receive money from his friends. Fortunately, the monkeys looked after him and he survived. Alas this is the plight of just one among thousands who are rejected, homeless, diseased and without hope.



This is Johnny who was looked after by the monkeys for five months.

We go to the hospital and pray with AIDS patients. It's like a slum of death. Please pray for Uganda - people are dying left, right and centre. Words don't give the suffering justice - it is like being torn limb by limb inside you. I pray for a child - is it a child? I try to pray through uncontrollable sobs - it's past Ethiopian starving point...this may be its last breath...the bones and skin burst and separate from each other and flies land on the raw flesh.

After having travelled the world from India to Israel, from Egypt to London, from London to Africa, I realise there is so little practical Christianity. We hold

mass crusades while masses of orphans are neglected. We build cathedrals while people are homeless. We huddle together in the comfort and security of our "so called Christian religion" while people are crying for someone to bring them hope and understanding.

Let's go back to rock bottom, outliving, outworking Christianity! Any other religion than this is dead! As the song goes, "Give me that ol' time religion..." Pure and undefiled! The Bible puts it this way: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after the orphans and widows in their distress and keep oneself from being polluted by the world." (James 1.27 NIV).

The greatest man that ever lived poured out His life for others - can't we a bit? It was He who made the distant galaxies, powered life into an atom, hung on a cross and saved us. That's love! That's life! That's truth!

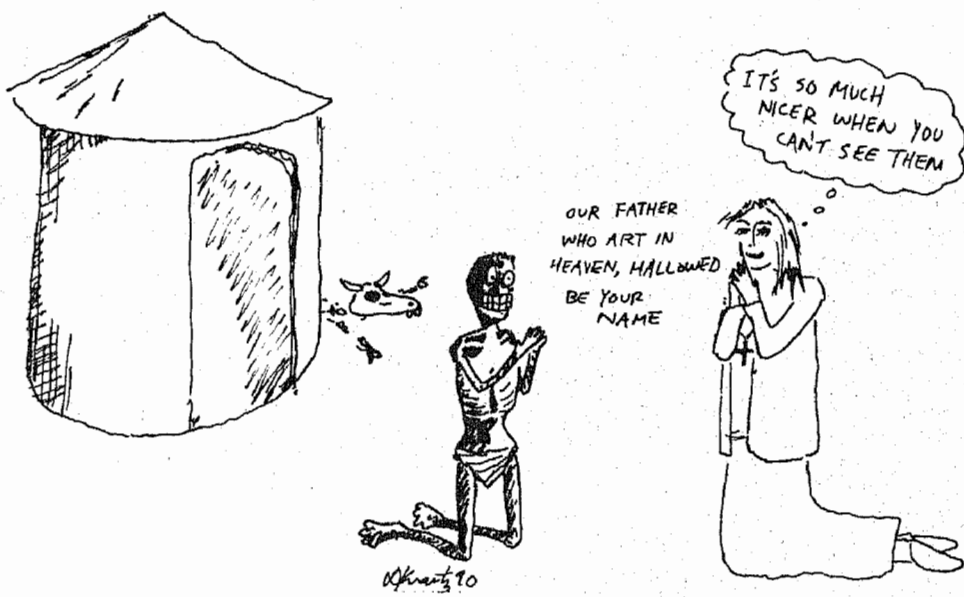
Here's my motto:

"Now let my soul arise
And tread the tempter down,
My Captain leads me forth
To conquest and crown.
March on, nor fear to win the day,
Though death and hell obstruct the way,
Should all the hosts of death
And powers of hell unknown,
Put their most dreadful form
Of rage and malice on,
I shall be safe for Christ displays
Superior power and guardian grace."

EVANGELINE FAITH CAMPBELL,
Masaka, Uganda.

P.S. The longer I live here the more I realise how enormous the need is and what a drop in the bucket we are. But you can add a drop from Australia and New Zealand and all together we can make a mighty splash. But make your drop like a drop of gelignite! Nansunbyga - my name in African which everyone calls me over here. (Refer to back cover page what you can do.)

"I close my eyes and we pray"



YOUR DAY BY THE STARS IN ETHIOPIA
presented by Miss Fat,
White and Ignorant
herself.....
EVANGELINE!

Capricorn- You will die of malnutrition at 12:30. Make the most of the morning.

Aquarius- The triumvirate of Mercury, Mars and Venus means that the five-year drought will not break today. Look out for a death in the family.

Aries- You will discover that all your sixteen children are brain damaged from being malnourished in the first six months of their lives. Your day will improve from then on. Possibly you may have more than one meal, and your tapeworm could die. Be assertive and stand up for your views in personal relationships to save trouble later on.

Simplex- Today you will meet a dark handsome stranger. He will repossess your farm.

Pisces- The stars indicate the building aspect for you. Look out for pieces of cardboard or galvanised iron for your shanty.

Libra- Today the village well will dry up. With the moon in Pluto, drinking your own urine may become an option.

Sagittarius- The influence of Saturn bodes well for financial matters. You will make a profitable deal with the landlord, possibly involving your youngest son.

Cancer- Rowena Wallace will visit your village today. She will pat you on the head, give you a bowl of millet, cry a bit, and then leave.

Leo- You will not wake up at all today because you will die in your sleep.

Virgo- Things look up financially today, due to the influence of the Southern pole star. Your family will

Taurus- You will receive a letter from the United States informing you that your application to manage a large fast food chain has been rejected.

Gemini- A few friends will pay you a surprise visit late in the afternoon.

