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LOT'S WIFE

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CONTEMPORARY CULTURE



LOT'S WIFE

Monash University Students' Newspaper

One can regard a University as being a pressure group of sorts. This is evidenced by the conciliatory attitude of politicians who speak to student bodies. Universities have always been regarded as a breeding ground for future politicians, and influential members of the community, and rightly so. However, since an issue which is of direct consequence to young men in general, has become the focal point of political controversy, the institution of the University has developed a greater significance in politics. Our place as an influential element seems assured as long as the question of conscription is debated in the House of Parliament. The opinion of the student is all important, because the student represents the largest source of opposition to the government in this particular issue. Many activists would like to see Australian Universities attain the prominence in political matters that are enjoyed by South-East-Asian Universities. The desirability of this situation is, of course, another question. There is no doubt that the wooing of students by political parties is good policy; after all, such names as Menzies, Whitlam, Holt and Cairns once appeared on faculty roles.

Granted that we do constitute some form of pressure group, the attitude of the Prime Minister towards our recent conscription forum is incomprehensible.

Here was the opportunity for Mr. Holt to present his case to a large, sane and receptive body of students. If the Prime Minister could, in any way, impress his audience, the meeting would give his image a much needed boost. The entry of Mr. Holt into the enemy camp would not go unnoticed by the Australian public. One can only assume that he is unwilling to come to Monash because he shares the public's view of University students so harmfully fostered by militant anti-conscription demonstrators.

N.B. Had Mr. Holt consented to coming to speak, the forum would have been held at a time convenient for him.

—Tom Valenta

But although Mr. Holt is reluctant to recognise the University as "a pressure group of sorts", others are progressing to recognise it as some sort of insidious threat.

Notable amongst these is Mr. B. A. Santamaria who, in his "Point of View" telecast and in his editorial in News Weekly (June 29) (accuses "minorities from a few Australian universities" (both students and academics) of creating "basic conditions of anarchy in Australian life". He also implies that people like Robinson (editor of Farrago) Steedman, Valenta and myself are ultimately responsible for people like Kennedy's assassin, the people who committed the Moors murders and the crank who shot at Calwell.

This, presumably, is because we provide "a consistent diet of sadistic and pornographic reading" in Lot's Wife and Farrago. I feel confident that any regular reader of either or both these papers will be willing to refute these charges. Even those writers who appear regularly in our columns and whom we could reasonably expect to stand by or near Mr. Santamaria on other issues, must surely be embarrassed by this recent outburst.

This sort of attack is yet another instance of the way in which areas of Australian politics have degenerated into a battlefield for name-calling, muck-raking and arguments resting more on emotion than on fact and logic. One group will intimidate the other, and a reply will bring only further intimidation.

Unfortunately, Lot's Wife has been a war zone in this battle, but when it also becomes a missile, surely it is time to call a truce.

We apologise for yet another political editorial, but, in such circumstances, what choice is left?

John G. Sinclair

We wish to correct the prevalent impression that Lot's Wife and Farrago are to be combined permanently. This was for one issue only. However, it exhausted our editor to the point where he is now on a one-issue holiday, a common practice in university papers. This issue has been edited by John Sinclair and Tom Valenta.

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LETTERS

to the editor



Monumental Pomposity

Sir, Like Noel Turnbull in your last issue, I feel moved to make a few remarks about the article entitled "The Monash Soviet" in the latest issue of Partisan (was ever a magazine more aptly named?).

The trouble with Mr. Evans and his ilk is that they tend to impose their own questionable standards of behaviour and truncated view of human motives on those they wish to attack — a sort of moral pathetic fallacy. One's reaction, after the initial surprise and irritation is, without any exaggeration, pity. Imagination is an underestimated virtue but that is not surprising when it takes such a melodramatic turn as Mr. Evans'. The ludicrous inventions regarding Rex Mortimer have been shown to be what they are, but I would like to defend Dr. Matheson from his would-be friends. We read ("Partisan May-June '66, p.4) as follows:—

"The Vice-Chancellor at Monash, Prof. Matheson (sic), has already indicated a willingness to provide that University with its Clark Kerr. In a letter to a recent issue of Lot's Wife, Vice-Chancellor Matheson says of the Monash paper (which has run the gamut from obscene blasphemy through to the more unpleasant manifestations of ordinary student pornography), that 'as students' newspapers go, Lot's Wife is both lively and something to be proud of'."

"Dr. Matheson has a distinguished career as a civil engineer. His attachments to liberal values is unquestioned. But like Clark Kerr at Berkeley, neither his distinguished record, nor his devotion to liberal values will save him from the implacable scorn and unrelenting enmity of those whose position he now protects."

These remarks make incredible assumptions, the final monumental pomposity discloses the blindness for what it is. As I was responsible for the criticisms of an article by Dr. Matheson which gave rise to the letter which is noted here, I would say that my respect for Dr. Matheson is quite sincerely considerable. It seems a pity that declarations of this sort, embarrassing both to the person addressed and to the person who makes them, are at all necessary. Far from "implacable scorn and unrelenting enmity" both myself and the members of Lot's Wife Staff feel quite the opposite. Apart from normal conceit (which does not attempt to reach the regions of Mr. Evans' destructive self-righteousness and incredible priggishness), we merely see Vice-Chancellors, like others in similar positions, as fair game. Even so, the criticism is rarely gratuitous, and I can assure Mr. Evans, quite without self-satisfaction, The Vice-Chancellor (who I'm sure is rather bored by the whole proceedings) can expect far more real loyalty and respect from his critics than from people who in trying to protect him, display their paucity of intellect and moral instability in such articles as Mr. Evans'. To confuse fair criticism with "scorn" and "enmity" is little short of idiocy.

— PAUL MARRIOTT

An Argument

Dear Sir, For the moment I would want to argue that there is a sense in which certain socio-economic factors operating to produce anti-capitalism in Vietnamland form the construct of a typology not unlike the pre-revolution socialist syndrome. Therefore I would want to say that a pre-guerrilla-type sub-culture of this dimension possesses unproscribed escalation potential. Peculiar to this possibility is

the presence in certain class-struggleriven conurbations of considerable politico-religious controversy over management-control. The elite tend to be pressing demands for wage-cuts and price-rises and the maintenance of monopolies. Conversely, the proletarian masses tend to be agitating (at the instigation of infiltrated cadres it is assumed) for violent social revolution and elimination of capitalist greed. They claim that anti-civil-disturbance officers brought in regularly to put down spontaneous political demonstrations are being used as cannon-fodder by imperialist aggressors. It seems to me at this point in time that I would want to say that this controversial issue is fundamentally a question of semantics. Mutative factors may emerge at a future date to bring about peace ful settlement around the conference table. In conclusion, however, linguistic analysis by a field of experts must precede such an eventuality. That would be what I would want to say is my argument at the present time.

Peter Sutton, Arts 2.

Catering Subsidy

Dear Sir, I support the University Council in its efforts to retain its funds for educational purposes. Any subsidy given to the catering service from Council money would be spread unfairly among students, to the disadvantage of the many students who buy most of their food at retail prices outside the University, whether living in flats, private board or at home.

Geoff Cumming, Deakin Hall.

Farrago's Grip

Sir,—How desperate you must be for cartoons if you would stoop to publishing that sketch on page 11 of "Lot's Wife" dated June 14. It started me wondering about the purpose of cartoons, but whatever the purpose, be it to relieve a great mass of print, call attention to a particular article, satirise a current happening or simply amuse the reader with its piquancy, wit and humor, its aims must be defeated if readers find it, as I found it, offensive and in the worst of bad taste.

The cartoon itself was bad enough, but then you had the temerity to attempt a defence of it. You expected criticism and sought to thwart it by referring to those who criticised you for a cartoon last year apparently on similar lines, and by implication, the would-be critics of this cartoon as "sensitive."

The next statement you made, namely "... but the Editor of Farrago wanted to use it, claiming his University was far more reasonable and mature." I quote as an example of specious, woolly, namby-pamby reasoning. Am I to understand, Sir — and do correct me if I'm wrong — that by your including this cartoon in "Lot's Wife" we, too, may justifiably swell with pride and say "Now WE are as mature and reasonable as they?"

Pray tell me what hold the Editor of Farrago has over you, that you follow his whims? If he wishes to place such a cartoon in "Farrago," let him. It does not, or rather should not concern you.

And if, as I am quite prepared to concede, "Lot's Wife" is one of the best student newspapers in the country, why must you look to and try to attain the "standard" set by "Farrago," which, if the first edition of the year is any guide, leaves much to be desired, to say the least? Finally, Sir, I suggest that your "second thoughts" showed even less judgement, if that is conceivably possible, than your first.

John Doyle, Law I.

Noack and Calwell

Dear Sir,

Mr. David Johnson's letter in Lot's Wife/Farrago of June 28 concerning statements by Mr. Calwell on the death of Private Noack (a national serviceman) demands, but hardly deserves a reply.

He states first that in making a statement dissociating the Australian Labour Party from the unfortunate death of the soldier, Mr. Calwell "has committed a gross sin in the eyes of the Australian public." This may be so, although in view of widespread popular opposition to conscription for Vietnam (as expressed in Gallup polls, letters to newspapers, protest meetings, etc.) it would appear to be most unlikely. Had he restrained his argument to this form, a case (watery though it must be) could be presented. But in trying to justify this supposed public attitude, Mr. Johnson falls down badly.

Next he talks of the characteristic Australian mateship which carries us through adverse conditions. The adverse conditions, in this case, are of our own making. I am not suggesting that we should stand by and watch any slaughter which does not affect us directly. But in Vietnam our presence can do plenty of harm to our international position, and the comparative minuteness of our contribution can do little to bring peace to that country. I will not attempt to debate the moral issues of the war, mainly because I am unable to reach a final conclusion on these issues.

That mateship is commonly regarded as an Australian characteristic does not ensure its presence, which is regarded by many as doubtful. But even assuming that it does exist, is it always desirable? With regard to such an important issue of international scale as the Vietnam war, combined with its associate, conscription, I say that mateship with the Liberal Government and its policies can only cause (or result from) the views of one side being pushed under the carpet. These views, opposing conscription, I believe to be the desirable ones. I must be wish to make though, is that mateship must invariably involve the suppression of one side of an argument. If we are to support conscription and the Australian role in Vietnam, we must do so for reasons other than mateship. Mr. Johnson certainly presents no such reasons, and I do not believe that they exist.

He further says that Mr. Calwell's remark is a "bit of political expediency." Perhaps you are too hardened to believe, Mr. Johnson, that it is possible to genuinely feel and express a sense of horror at any killing of humans, especially when such deaths are unnecessary, and that it is a natural and laudable wish to dissociate oneself from the body responsible for these deaths.

He accuses the A.L.P. of justifying the "sacrifice" of one or two Australian lives if such a loss means electoral success for the A.L.P., and says that Mr. Calwell is using Private Noack's death to further personal and party aims. I am sure that party is not attempting such a justification. But surely, even if it were, it would be less in the wrong than the government's policy of using not deaths, but live people, to further its international political aims — mainly to defeat communism and win American friendship.

Throughout the letter he makes childish and intolerant attacks. (Mr. Johnson, does it really give you a giggle of satisfaction to write "men" ??) like Mr. Calwell, "By third year you should have left such petulant habits well behind. Mr. Calwell is guilty of a "gross sin" (namely using unfortunate and unnecessary deaths for political means, a charge Mr. Johnson does not sustain); he is by inference a warmonger (yet he opposes Australia's presence in Vietnam); and, sin of sins, he is not a good Australian-type mate.

I only hope, Mr. Johnson, that your letter is a very poor attempt at satire! Yours sincerely,

ROD GRANT (Arts II)

Knopfels and Nazis

Dear Sir,

At the forum last Wednesday, Dr. Knopfelmacher made much of the analogy between totalitarianism in Nazi Germany and totalitarianism in Communist countries today.

I would be interested to hear whether he would have advocated similar intervention.

Out of control

Dear Sir, You state, in the last issue of Lot's Wife, that due to the allocation of finance for the student newspaper being beyond your control, it is necessary to cram in an overcrowded contributions.

This is indeed unfortunate and admittedly you do acknowledge the unruly presentation of the issue in question — but was it essential to go ahead with such a rough presentation? One cannot adequately justify this weakness, so perhaps, instead of printing all contributions could you not have begun then and there with "stricter editing" regardless of the inevitable criticisms?

The issue almost becomes a justification of everything you do not want in a paper, unquestionable proof that it can reach such a haphazard standard.

Helen Coldham, Arts II.

- (1) In Italy which at this time was in the hands of a dictator who hadn't even gone through the pretence of being democratically elected, but had in fact been installed as Prime Minister in 1922, when his 200,000 Blackshirts marched on Rome, by a King who was too terrified of civil war to do otherwise. That this dictator was bent on expansionism is proved beyond doubt by his subsequent invasion of Abyssinia in October, 1935.
 - (2) In Japan; another dictatorial regime with expansionistic ideals.
 - (3) In Spain? where intervention at this time against the repressive right-wing government (who had sent 30,000 Socialists and Republicans to jail) could have possibly prevented the onset of the Spanish civil war.
- Would he advocate intervention today?
- (4) In South Africa? where intervention may prevent a disastrous civil war in five or ten years' time.

I suggest that if the answer to any of the above is yes, then it becomes exceedingly difficult even for the Dr. to know where to draw the line and still be sure that he is not advocating unjustifiable encroachment against the sovereignty of a free and independent state and that he is not leaving the door open for aggression by all and sundry in the style of the Middle Ages.

If however, the answer is no, then Dr. K. agrees that there was something fundamentally different about the Nazi regime in Germany.

This distinguishing feature was of course the fatalistic policy of racism which was certainly not present on anything like the same scale in Italy, etc. This was the real stigma of Nazism in 1935, and any body who can detect this same stigma in the policies of any of the Communist dictators of the world (not that they haven't got a horde of misguided policies), is suffering from paranoid delusions.

—Peter Viola

A Joke?

Dear Sir,

The appalling lack of humour in Lot's Wife compels me to complain. In order to help remedy this pathetic situation I offer a joke (with apologies to the D.L.P., communists and virgins).

"Overheard at a recent D.L.P. social: HE: What would you do if you found a Communist in bed with you?"

SHE: Well, being a maiden lady, I would be so embarrassed I would turn red.

Moral of the story: If you can't lick 'em, join 'em."

E. P. Fennessy, Law III.

A Gig

Rides Again

Dear Sir,

This is a public apology to all Monash students, an apology which is forced upon me by two eagle-eyed fellow-students, who obviously also have nothing better to do than run up and down escalators. I apologise for an error I made, when I inextricably misinterpreted the reading of a time-piece when determining the running speed of the longer escalators from the first floor to the ground floor of the Ming Wing. The temporal lapse should have been, in fact, 45 seconds (and not the previously stated). This means that the 18 escalators do not all take the same time to complete their circuit, but actually all progress at the same velocity (1.53 steps per second). I am sorry for any inconvenience caused to Ming Wingers and other creatures who may have traversed the electrical thresholds of said building purely to allay their fears that indeed my figures may have been wrong.

Yours again,
Ian J. Messer, Arts II.

When I was young...

Dear Sir,

When I was 14 years old, I had an article printed in my school rag of which I was editor and publisher. When I had grown older in years and richer in experience, I looked back in shame at the piece of prose I had created at the ripe age of fourteen, as a budding young journalist.

It abounded in innuendoes, it was rather lengthy without saying much, it was incorrect in parts, abusive in others, and in general discourteous to all who held other views. The article was spiced with exclamation marks, brackets and hyphens, it had a liberal sprinkling of question marks, was adorned with pathos and embellished with the glaring colour of nationalism. In short, it stank.

The epistle signed by Mr. Davis S. Johnson, Arts III, in your publication of the 28th June, 1966, brought back memories of 43 years ago when I had written the above-mentioned article.

Arthur Grebler (Non Student).

Education and Humanities

Sir,

It would be churlish of me to take issue with Catherine Walker (Lot's Wife, May 13th) over points of detail while ignoring her central thesis: the dispensing of "facts" as knowledge and of "knowledge" as education even for some sixth-form pupils in State Secondary Schools. I meet their ex-pupils daily in the technical college where I teach and can testify that this bleak encapsulation does occur, and widely, among those who specialise in either science or arts — type subjects. Even worse, they come to us avowing that longest teaching is "best" teaching and regarding expanding knowledge as the miserable dictator of more hours in the classroom, fewer for writing or private reading and fewer still for active thought. I assume that Miss Walker is reading the literary disciplines rather than the symbolist ones. As all my own training has been in the humanities — English, History, Geography, Economics, Law — I wish to be taken as confirming my remarks to them and the ways they are expounded in the schools.

Now, Sir, your "facts" are not my "facts" and neither are they Miss Walker's. What we would each say on Germany for instance, the subject would be the product of our private reading and, if we were lucky, our own first-hand experience. But how little History can be taught in this way! I recall my own senior years: one text book equalled Modern History, one containing was the supreme virtue, we headed full-speed for the Public examination and we heathenly "got all this down". Result, I arrived in the university at 16, matriculated with no knowledge of any other History book and no conception of how to use a library purposefully. The first work I discovered for myself — Van Sickle and ancient times — I pawed and hoarded as greedily as Scrooge at his gold; read and re-read through the year thereby extending the hangover.

If Geography, History and English Literature are to be doled out in the schools as shapeless lumps of incontrovertible fact and nothing else then we who watch the process must ask whether the humanities can be formally taught at all. Why not turn intelligent, enquiring adolescents loose in a library, daily and at weekends, encourage them to discuss their reading, display the serious periodicals in a well-appointed senior common room, maintain decent eating places fit for civilised beings and retreat altogether to the fascinating, unintellectual haven of the staff-room. And be available there largely for consultation?

Here are some tentative answers. One, that public mind and public purse will not yet accept those amenities as essentials rather than luxuries. Teachers and pupils too will not be trusted by administration, to frame their own programme, discuss chosen topics, venture out of school. Children must not only be busy, they must appear to be busy. Parents and inspectors might not understand, otherwise.

A second is that scholarship examinations are uniformly imposed and their questions stereotyped "know this", come the ready edict "and you will get through", to the quota, the admissions, the nominated courses, the Gates of Glory. As pressures increase and the strongest matriculants are scooped off into university faculties other than Arts so the more timorous, less venturesome mediocrity is prepared by the only safe approach, to what he wants, as long as it produces results. This was my own background exactly but I would not seek to apply it to the more academically inclined.

A third is that not all teachers are truly involved with their subject. The department has never encouraged Honours courses among its recruits and has looked askance at anything higher than the basic qualifications. Allowances for extra studies, measured in time or rewards, have been minimal. Further, most people can teach only in the ways they were taught: round and round goes the giant's great wheel. It is so wonderful, then, that at 45, well-entrenched in the seniority scale with

B.A. Taken in the evenings or externally from a bush primary school appointment, untouched by refresher courses or serious reading and sadly out of depth in his subject the senior man should settle for repetitive syllabuses and notes from The Book? Regarded as fountainhead, confronted for the most part by deferential working-class or lower middle-class attitudes, unbrushed by the vigorous or articulate pen from homes with a serious intellectual tradition, he pursues his well-lit though solitary way. And so I have come up to Monash, even part-time, to re-aver that I am NOT God-in-the-classroom, to feel cut down to size, to try capturing other attitudes, even though the brightest students here are shy creatures. A fault, dear Brutus, lies not in our stars. . . . In Red Brick University, Bruce Truscott writes —

"I think at once of a man who . . . obtained an Ordinary degree and in three out of his four subjects was awarded the mark of distinction, yet who thought of all four as subjects to be 'swotted' merely for the sake of getting the maximum marks in an examination. Such a man, whatever the breadth of the university programme, would never have anything but what he was and the responsibility for him lies at the door of his home (which was a neat but humble one), of his school (a large one in a poor area), and of the forces which provided for his leisure. . . . The universities are responsible in providing the wherewithal for a broad education, but they are not responsible for the fact that so many boys and girls come up to them with no desire to gain one. And so, in schools the unstated premise remains untoppled: that it is possible and socially desirable for people to ingest, at third hand, the impressions, sensations and conceptions that their master derived at second hand mostly from unreliable books which students could better consult for themselves. This preconception must be demolished before prevailing methods of teaching humanities can be justified.

Yours sincerely,
Len Moore, Law 3.

Communist Elections

Dear Sir,

May I reply to Mrs. Griffiths' criticisms (Lot's Wife 14/6/66) of my article "Vietnam — The Election that was Not Held".

Mrs. Griffiths takes me to task for comparing the attitude of the Germans to Hitler in 1933 with that of the probable attitude of the Vietnamese to Ho Chi Minh in 1956 in terms of nationalist expectations. I contended that the Germans got more than they bargained for though they asked for a lot. Similarly the Vietnamese would have had the same experience if Ho had been elected to power in a unified Vietnam.

Mrs. Griffiths contends that Germany has always known what she was doing — Hitler was not a "hand" — If the Germans did know exactly what they were doing (having spawned all those great "scientists and technicians") why did they elect a man who could get "out of hand" — and so far "out of hand"? No doubt many German electors rued the day they gave their vote to Hitler or acquiesced in his elevation to power. Similarly in Vietnam in 1956, if Ho had been elected as President of a unified Vietnam he would have caused his electors much anguish by "getting out of hand" — to the extent of murdering thousands in the name of ideological and class purity. (In North Vietnam from 1953-56 the "land reforms" and "political struggle" cost, at a conservative estimate, half a million lives or 4% of the total population.)

Mrs. Griffiths then produces that tired old argument that because the "Christian" West (or the democratic, rationalist, humanitarian West — it is all those things besides being "Christian") did not live up to its ideals and produce shining examples of prosperous Western-style democracies in its former colonies then all we can do is admit defeat and hand over to the Communists as the only alternative.

It has yet to be proved that the Communists can produce a "worker's paradise" in the material sense (the recent stagnation and decline of production in the U.S.S.R. shows what debilitating effects the "party line" has on production). Material welfare aside — as far as cultural and spiritual values are concerned, Communism has produced the most retrogressive movement in the twentieth century. Without going into the details of Stalinist nihilism, one has only to look at the treatment of men like Sinyavsky and Daniel in the U.S.S.R. today, to observe the present purge of so-called "deviationist and revisionist" in China who dare to question the infallibility of Mao —

to realise that Communism (whatever Marx intended it to be!) has produced more unnecessary suffering and frustration in the name of "the Truth" than at any other time in man's history. It is sheer dishonesty or else ignorance to picture the U.S.S.R. moving from a "national stage" to an "individual stage" as we use the term "individual" in the West. All one is justified in saying is that there is less repression and less overt political control in the U.S.S.R. than existed under Stalin.

The above reasons explain why I, for one, am "so upset at the thought of Communism in Vietnam"; why I am "so sacred" for the South Vietnamese who may have to endure the fate of their northern brothers. . . . "Teaching boys of 20 to be murderers" — all I can say is that Mrs. Griffiths has a rather twisted idea of murder. I suggest she uses the term because of its emotional effect rather than because she believes the motivation of a soldier and of those people termed "murderers" are the same.

It is time Mrs. Griffiths and people like her overcame their guilt-complexes about the past misdeeds of colonial powers, recognised Communism for what it is and encourage the Western nations to live up to their ideals by giving till it hurts, to remove the conditions which Communists exploit (but which conditions, of themselves, do NOT produce Communism).

Sincerely,
Rosalie Keane, Arts III.

Eyes Left?

Dear Sir,

You defend the cover lumping Liberal politicians with extremists by saying that it "depicted dangers from the Right that influence Australia today". I have not yet seen a Lot's Wife cover or an article that depicts the dangers facing us from the Left. I suggest this would provide some balance and be more worthwhile than tilting at windmills on the Right.

I do not propose to pore over more past issues for instances of bias and imbalance but leave judgement on this to Lot's Wife's readers. When I say that Lot's Wife is far from satisfactory I mean it is not satisfactory from an objective point of view. The criteria on which this judgement is based were contained in the talk given by Mr. Patrick O'Brien at Monash on June 20, 1966. It is a pity that Tom Valenta has so badly misreported the talk in the last issue that we cannot find the criteria there. Mr. O'Brien said that the role of clubs and student newspapers is to present a broad spectrum of attitudes for students. Among their activities, rational debate and empirical analysis should take precedence over propaganda as defined as the use of slogans and the basing of arguments on unargued positions.

In mentioning that the Communist Press has praised you, I did not intend to convey the impression that you are a rabid Communist, but to indicate that as the Communist uses as criteria for judgement not "objective good", but "good for the cause", this praise of you is disturbing.

Your censoring of opposing views is of course difficult to document without access to all the matter contributed. However, I do know that two letters, both perfectly literary, contributed by Tony Grundy and John Meyer were not printed in your last issue. As Meyer's letter was concerned in answering some of the voluminous attacks on Bailey and myself, and your remarks on Meyer's letter in the June 14th issue, surely your refusal to print it is censorship. If you had any standards I would say they are double ones.

Finally Jean Bedford says Dr. Knopfmacher "allows his personal (political) I take it, views to intrude in his lectures". As Dr. Knopfmacher's lectures are on learning theory and experimental psychology, it is difficult to see how his lectures can have any relevance in promoting his political views. It can be added that Dr. Knopfmacher's private lectures on Marxism and Communism did draw the charge in the International News Review that he was a Marxist and Communist.

This did not protect him from Ted Hias, brother-in-law, who described him as a Goldwater McCarthyite, if I recall correctly. It seems to me that a man attacked simultaneously by the rabid of both Left and Right must be on the right track.

Paul D'Astoli, Arts II.

Mr. D'Astoli, you are not denied "access to all the matter contributed". You may inspect Grundy's and Meyer's letters in the Lot's Wife office and see that the former is no more than a rehash of Partisan's comment on Neustupny, and the latter a harping on changes already laid. But you apparently have seen them anyhow. — Eds.

THE SMEAR BIZ

It is highly fashionable to give people a political tag. In recent issues of "Lot's Wife", political tags have been given out wholesale to anyone standing within range. Some students argue that this sort of thing is good because it creates interest. Yet it seems that, now, to call someone a right-winger, or a left-winger is merely another way of saying, "I disagree with your views".

Any other meanings, these, and similar terms had, were lost long ago. Students who are politically conscious have a habit of dubbing others, who have no political interest, with names such as communist or fascist, merely to insult. Once-upon-a-time, to be a communist or a fascist, one had to believe in certain political philosophies. By writing a letter, or replying to one, in which you are accusing someone of having certain political beliefs, you are inviting a written shouting match in which nothing will be resolved apart from who can yell "fnk!" the loudest and the longest. Let me illustrate with two examples. Firstly, there was the case of a student, who knew nothing about politics, who was accused of being a right-winger, because he was studying American History. Rather extreme, you say? Possibly, but true, nonetheless.

Secondly there was the case of a "Lot's Wife" reporter who was called a "leftist" by an acquaintance for his report of a certain speaker. That same reporter was called a right-winger by someone else, for the same report. The "tags" were given to show that unfortunate reporter that his report was disapproved of for reasons best known to his tormentors.

There are also those who call each other mud-slingers. This is merely a more subtle way of declaring somebody's views inconsistent with his accuser's. All this leads to is a glorious mud fight in which the participants become so bespattered that they cannot see who is on their side and who is not.

Let us imagine, for a moment, that this controversy was on football, and the editor of "Lot's Wife" was accused of being a Collingwood supporter by an ardent Richmond fan. Suppose it was proven that the editor did, indeed, barrack for Collingwood. Where would we go from here? Can we sack him for this? Will this discovery mean that students should not read his paper, or should he be thrown out of the University altogether?

"There are two solutions available. Either the paper should be kept free of all political matter, or otherwise, those who disagree with its contents should write articles expressing their own views. The latter alternative seems the more attractive one. It would be desirable to see feature articles on various political philosophies appearing from time to time in this paper. So to those who have genuine political ideals, write for "Lot's Wife", but don't start another band-wagon rolling. With reviews, and letters to the editor, we have band-wagons a-plenty.

— TOM VALENTA

The Conscription Forum



FOR

DR. KNOPFELMACHER

The first speaker at the forum was the controversial Dr. Knopfelmacher. He spoke in favour of conscription and stressed that he considered the war in Vietnam "justified" — not "just".

Australia is in a civil war belt and it is in Australia's interest to participate in the war. Communism is no longer predictable and China is a most militant power. The war is a highly efficient guerrilla war centralized in Hanoi.

The conscription system is moral — the voluntary system is not rational.

Dr. Knopfelmacher is far more impressive on this topic than any Government speaker yet heard at Monash.



AGAINST

DR. TURNER

Dr. Turner argued that although he did not believe wars in all circumstances were wrong he nevertheless felt that conscription could only be justified in the case of the country's involvement in a just war. The Vietnam war, in his opinion, could not be classified as a just war.

Firstly, he felt that the limited commitment of only 4,500 soldiers to Vietnam illustrated that the Government did not seriously consider the war as an immediate threat to national security. The Government was not willing to take the political risk of further commitment and the population was not prepared to accept that this kind of threat does exist.

Secondly, if the Government was involved in the Vietnam war in order to provide some sort of assurance for the future, support of America right or wrong could, in no sense, justify our involvement in the war.

Dr. Turner felt the probable outcome of the Vietnam situation would be the victory of the Viet Cong in the South and the amalgamation of both the North and South under Hanoi. Although the evidence is clear for North Vietnamese intervention in South Vietnam it appears that the war is essentially based in South Vietnam itself. "It is a revolutionary war growing out of an intolerable situation."

Revolutionary-type wars are liable to develop in underdeveloped countries right around the globe. Such revolutions arise out of locally based situations. China and Russia like this sort of thing as it embarrasses the Americans but this does not indicate expansion of Russian and Chinese power. The likely outcome of a successful bid for Communist power would be polycentric rather than monolithic. A victory for the Viet Cong would merely strengthen Ho Chi Minh's position as a Vietnamese Tito. Vietnam does not constitute either an immediate or long range threat to this country. It is only natural that some of the underdeveloped countries would industrialise along capitalist lines and others along communist lines. We do not have the right to intervene. The introduction of conscription for the Vietnam war can, therefore, in no way be justified.—Reporter, Lyn Black.



FOR

MR. L. GRANT

Conscription is justified by the state if it is the best method of helping its allies or friends. If the state fails to implement the best method of helping its friends it is unjustified. The onus is on those who disagree with conscription, for they must prove that it isn't the best method. This onus must necessarily fall on the objectors since the State should be as free as possible to follow the advice of its military experts.

The word conscription itself, to some, means something intrinsically evil. However, for such people there should be a course of conscientious objection. If there is no such provision to exclude conscientious objectors, then such a form of conscription is against natural justice, since it is intrinsically immoral for a State to force a person to take part in an activity which can never concede to be legitimate. A conscientious objector doesn't include those that merely possess a disinclination to fight.

Some people advocate the use of only volunteer or regular servicemen rather than conscripts. Such people must prove that the use of volunteers is a better choice to conscription rather than just an alternative, since the State choice is to be taken as prima facie to be correct.

We must assume that the choice of the government in a democracy is just, because society as a whole prevails over the State. Thus, it would be against natural justice for the State to bow against sub-communities within the State however strong the dissenters. The State should only be subordinate to the majority. It is only natural and just that "the people's representatives should lay down who is called to serve".

The only other objection to conscription is if the conscripts are used to participate in an unjust war. The use of conscripts in an unjust war produces a totalitarian government. A war is justified in two circumstances — in resisting attacks of one's State or in assisting an attacked State. Modern war weapons have produced limitations on just wars — they must be conducted within bounds. For example it is unjust to bomb civilians. It stands to reason that a just army is more likely to fight in a just manner.

Mr. Grant was asked if it were possible for a democratic government to act in an honest and responsible manner when it has not referred the question of conscription back to the people. He replied that the mandate for this had been received at the last elections.

A later questioner asked Mr. Grant how he could conceive that Mr. Holt's decision, in respect to the Vietnam conflict being a just war, to be correct: — when we are using evil (Premier Ky) to defeat evil (Communism)? Mr. Grant quickly tried to justify his belief by enunciating the principle that it sometimes becomes necessary to use evil to defeat evil, and thus produce a just result.

— NEIL MACKENZIE

AGAINST

DR. CHARLESWORTH

Dr. Charlesworth began his talk by criticising the stand taken by James McAuley, in an article on conscription, in "The Bulletin".

"McAuley takes the view that conscription is justified in terms of mere expediency, and does not mention at all the moral aspects of the question". Dr. Charlesworth then continued. Conscription, he noted, raised some grave questions

for society as a whole — for a totalitarian society no such questions would arise, but, for us, they should, (since ours is a supposedly democratic community).

In a democratic society, every man should be permitted to follow his own conscience, unless it harmed society; however a conscripted individual is not permitted the liberty to decide as to whether or not he wants to bear arms. Thus if liberty carries no weight in the community, conscription is merely a morally-neutral resource in the government's hand.

We have taken a very light-hearted attitude to the issue and tend to regard it stripped from its moral overtones — we forget that conscription means that men may have to fight against their will, and that these men may not want to be killed, or to kill innocent men.

We should reject the anti-human realism of the elite, and the military and mob leaders, and should at all times strive to apply (in even the smallest degree) a set of moral criteria to all political issues.

Australia's act in introducing conscription, which will unfortunately be with us for some time yet, is against the present world trend for a spirit of peace. The so-called "threat" to Australia could not be so serious since we still sell wheat to the People's Republic of China, and above all it cannot be as serious as the real and actual threat of 1943 which forced Prime Minister Curtin to bring in conscription.

Dr. Charlesworth concluded his speech by noting that by our present action, we have put Australia as a whole into a cold-war position, with all the ignorance and fear which this entails. He reiterated his main point: THAT CONSCRIPTION RAISES MORAL ISSUES FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY — if no such issues are raised, there is something empirically wrong with the state of democracy in the society in question.

By Simon Ioannou



AGAINST

MR. D. MARTIN

Mr. David Martin, noted Melbourne journalist, novelist and dramatist, opposed conscription for moral, patriotic and practical reasons. "I am an advocate of armed neutrality. I am not opposed to conscription as such, therefore I am not a pacifist. In certain circumstances it may be necessary to go to war and use conscripts. But when there are contentious issues it should be obligatory to evaluate the views of the people by a referendum".

"Mr. Grant has said that the government is elected to rule. But I maintain that this right has limitations. The coming election will be based on issues other than conscription and therefore a general election is not a good test of the conscription issue. A referendum is the only answer".

Mr. Martin pointed out the vast differences between communism and fascism as these were often grouped together in the argument for the justification of the Vietnam war. "I do not see communism as an absolute evil, at least not in the form that is the enemy of South Vietnam". He referred to the higher standards of living in North Vietnam and the rising atmosphere of hope.

Before being caught by the timekeeper, Mr. Martin queried whether the question was honestly one of opposing Communists in Asia because Communism is a great danger. "The U.S. was in the war long before there could have been any outside aggression".

Asked what he would do if he were of conscriptable age and was conscripted Mr. Martin replied that he would refuse to serve on all the grounds he had mentioned.

— JOHN BELIMAINE



FOR

PROF. MacAULEY

Professor MacAuley based his argument on the premise that a defacto line had been drawn by America in Asia following a policy of graduated restrained containment. Although she did not intend reversing the situation already existing any challenges over this line would be met.

The challenges by China at present do not constitute the settling of border disputes. China herself has admitted an expansive program. Lin Piao in September last year, stated: "We have a policy of advance of communism which is global in scope ... we are especially interested in South East Asia." Lin Piao nominated South Vietnam as the first stage in this program. Later the Chinese foreign minister announced the setting up of similar operations in Thailand and said China hoped to bring it to the level of armed activity by the end of the year. That level has already been reached.

Although this does not constitute a sweep southward like that followed by Japan it is nevertheless potentially dangerous and should not be allowed.

MacAuley argued that despite his belief that consistent pacifists should have their views respected by the Government those who opposed the actual commitment of Australia in Vietnam consisted of two types:

1. Those who adopt such pacifist arguments because they do not want this war in particular. This is dishonest.
2. Christians who take a highly moralistic line of argument and say we should only introduce conscription as a last resort. How can we decide when it is the last resort? Must we wait until the threat is pressing on our shores or are we entitled to see dangers developing far off?

The notion should not be left for the individual to decide. It is the primary duty of any government to concern itself with the defence of the country and we entered into this policy when SEATO was born over ten years ago. The only criticism of the Government is that it did not present the logic of the involvement to the people. Reporter—Lyn Black.



AGAINST

MR. KEN RANDALL

Mr. Randall began by pointing out that conscription is essentially a political question for which a political answer must be found. He did not offer such an answer, but went on to say that many Australians were not convinced with the policy of their government in this case and that such a situation is a dangerous problem in any democracy. This unconvinced body cannot be classed as absolute opposition to Conscription at all times, but it is generally speaking, doubtful of the merits of Conscription at this time and in this case.

Mr. Randall described the prevalent belief that all the facts concerning Conscription and Vietnam have been made known by the Government to the Public. There is a growing tendency on the Government's behalf to avoid the question of the critics of it, and merely to brand all its critics as "Irresponsible".

In 1964 Mr. Menzies represented, as an argument of Conscription, that it was necessary to rectify a decline in our strategic position, (especially in New Guinea), but in fact Conscription is only used to support our forces in Vietnam and has not been used to strengthen our sagging strategic position in any other areas. Conscription was only introduced in Vietnam, and now not even Government speakers bother to try and hide this fact, thereby contradicting the statement of their leader in 1964!

The Government argues that if Australia does not assist U.S.A. in Vietnam she will not help us in possible future crises. However, our alliance with the U.S.A. would not be jeopardized by the absence of our forces in Vietnam and the U.S. Government has repeatedly denied that any pressure was put on Australia to maintain or increase forces in Vietnam. As well as this, why does not Australia assist G.B. and other NATO countries with the view of getting their assistance in crises?

The reason why the Government could not attract sufficient army volunteers is that it has never recognized that there exists any type of national emergency. Mr. Randall concluded by saying that it is essential that the government be aware of the depth of division in the country, and if the government is returned and does not recognize this, it will be a democratic tragedy.



FOR

MR. DON CHIPP

Representing the Prime Minister at the forum was Mr. Don Chipp, Liberal M.H.R. for Higgins. In defence of Australia's involvement in Vietnam and the Government's decision to introduce conscription Mr. Chipp reiterated his government's views. That is that Australia is involved in The Vietnam War because the government believes that our security is involved, and that a system of compulsory national service is the only practical method of implementing our policy.

Of greater interest, (and perhaps originality) was the period set aside for questions from the audience when Mr. Chipp employed traditional Liberal eloquence, particularly in reply to a rather "sick" query.

Asked for his advice to a potential conscript who was not a pacifist but found that he could not fight on conscientious grounds, Mr. Chipp replied that the National Service Act does contain provision for conscientious objectors. Also there are many non-combatant units he could serve in if he were sent to South Vietnam.

Commenting on a statement that had the Government put into operation a sane plan for obtaining volunteers for the Australian Army this issue would not have been necessary. Mr. Chipp said "No. I don't believe this. ... The present time has sharpened and focused attention on the danger in South Vietnam, and this focus has only been there in the past two or three years. We as a government have been pointing this out for the past ten years."

— JOHN BELLMAINE

AUSTRALIA THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ASIAN

Last issue we published a letter from one of Monash's many Asian students who wished to see more contributions from Asians in Lot's Wife. We replied that we would be glad to have them: so he did the most obvious thing ...

Australia, land of the free and home of both Royalists and Republicans, land that almost every one of her children love and yet unwilling to prove it. Still an infant daughter tied to her mother's (Britain) apron strings and yet telling the world she is matured and of age. Finding it unprofitable to leave her mother and wooing hard for the hand of the strong and glamorous United States of America. Will she ever grow up and seek her own identity? Maybe she wants to be a problem child to the "old country"—good old Merrie England.

She is an independent country you know, yet will totally collapse if mother and that glamor boy across the ocean stops sending her money.

Her number one citizen is no other than Elizabeth II and she is represented by no less than 8 people in the country, or is it 9, if we include Charles at Timbortop? What a relief this is to her royalists. For a moment they thought the Republicans would take over! At least a member of the Royal Family—the heir to the Throne—is here to reassure them that Britannia will rule forever. Will lovely Anne come over too, just as a double reassurance? Perhaps the Queen herself can come over to her most important daughter country in the summer months and reside in her "sun-burnt country" just to get away from the British winter. Oh, how lovely it will be! To prove what loyal subjects she has, she once called her new currency "Royal". But then, she must not forget that influential boy, U.S.A. "Dollars" it shall be then, after all, she does have plenty to remind her of mother. Her flag, her national anthem, and above all, her former Prime Minister; these are sufficient proofs to show her loyalty.

She does not need her own identity. Anyway her kangaroos and koalas should do the trick. Even Japan knows how to manufacture them. That proves something, doesn't it? The Crown and Throne, and the Stars and Stripes are all she needed for her identity.

She is only so young and is already confronted with a dilemma: Mother wants to leave her to the good strong hands of her future protector, U.S.A., so that mother can join the European Club. "No", said Australia's sons and daughters. "She is still far too young and pretty to be left alone in this dark (or should I say yellow) and troubled corner of the world". Can we blame them for saying that? She is afraid that some bad boy from the North will pick her up and shut her up behind that bamboo curtain in the dreaded "oriental harem". Her boyfriend U.S.A. is too far away to help her. "So please, mother, keep your bases and troops east of the Suez. Should U.S.A. fall in



Vietnam, at least you are still in Singapore to thwart bad boy and drive him back where he comes from". She is fighting in Vietnam too, showing how brave and strong(?) she could be to the world, and especially to show Darling U.S.A. how faithful she will be. But Britain is not fighting in the war. So when the time comes and when daughter is in danger, Britain has the troops to spare to save her from the hot breath of the Great Fiery Dragon.

Like a teenage girl she does not know what to do. She realises mother is growing old and has to join the European Club. Like a very understanding child, she reluctantly sees her mother's point of reason. Like an infatuated teenager, she eagerly and blindly falls for the great glamor boy's big "gifts" and "soft words". Give her the word (or is it money?) and she will send more troops to Vietnam. As she will have to say in the "wedding": "Till death do us part".

Why, she is very much like America now. Switch on the television set, listen to the radio and its good guys, take a look around you, and you will see how Americanised she is. Slowly but surely the republicans will displace her royalists and she will then have a President. And the remaining thing left for her to do is to become the 51st state of U.S.A.

She will not listen to the pleas of her Asian neighbors. She is too colour conscious to allow the yellow "hordes from Asia" to invade her shores. She is a whiter than white man's country because she uses "White Oppo". Probably she could be cursing Nature for placing her in this part of the world. Maybe one of these days a wave will carry her across the ocean blue to the side of America. Then her ministers will not have to travel so far to sell her to U.S.A.

Her people are treated exactly for what they are—little boys and girls. She has a great pool of moralists and guardian angels to look after the morals of her children. She goes to great pains to tell her children what and what not to read and what not to see in the theatres and television. Her population must be kept away and not be too corrupted from pornographic literature and they must not see any horror and violence of the war in Vietnam on television. Her people's mentality are judged and compared to some of her politicians' fictitious teenage daughters.

Australia, Australia, oh Fair Australia, why don't you advance and grow up? It is time you stop waltzing with that jolly Swagman down by the billabong and come out of the bush into the warm and wonderful arms of Dahlin' U.S.A.!!

Loh Chee Hong

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Quotation from the Times of London,
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Came drifting o'er the sweet night air,
This stream of curses from a pup,
Whose horseless carriage had packed up.

"Oh wreck and rust thee, faithless steed,
To conk out now when thee I need!
For yonder wench on moonlit hill,
Awaits me for her nightly thrill.

"Odd's bodkins but that battery I
Bought on the cheap has chose to die.
Oh callow youth that thou did heed,
Those bargain batteries—curse thy greed!!"

Thus did he rave and tear his hair,
And so I quickly hastened there
With words of wisdom which I knew
Would set him straight on what to do.

"Here—take this Lucas battery, lad,
A Lucas battery won't go bad.
In rain and cold and dry and hot,
Its locked-in power doth lead the lot."

So off into the night drove he,
Reformed as any man can be.
Ahh... still I hear his parting cry:
"For longest life I'll Lucas buy!"

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FARM WEEK!

INAUGURAL FARM WEEK
OR

HOW TO END YOUR APATHY WITHOUT REALLY TRYING.

Monash has been in existence for over 5 years. The S.R.C. believes it is about time that we commemorated its existence. Most Australian Universities have some form of Foundation Day, Commencement Day, Bush Week, etc., but because of the unusual rustic heritage of Monash it seemed fitting to title our inaugural week "Farm Week".

We have been particularly busy little boys during the past weeks trying to shape FARM WEEK and after much discussion, dissent at all we are now working on a concerted plan of action.

In conjunction with Community Aid Abroad and the Freedom From Hunger Campaign committee, we intend to arrange the greatest and maybe first week of celebration ever seen at Monash.

Starting with the Inter Faculty trike race to Chadstone and the Miss Monash Ball we end the week on Wednesday August 3rd with the Farm Week procession (gumboots optional) in which money will be raised for Freedom From Hunger and the wildest turn yet seen — "the Lot's Wife Casual Brawl".

Farm Week (Oink!) attempts to combine a number of events not the least of which are the Lot's Wife Appeal, Miss Monash Ball, S.R.C. Revue, C.A.A. Appeal, Freedom From Hunger Campaign and (glory be) the S.R.C. annual general elections.

All the above will be intertwined by a voluminous amount of stunts, pranks and other unscrupulous activity. The S.R.C. does hope however that stunts are not perpetrated by students with warped ideas of fun. Let's leave traffic in the city and Chadstone alone, the statues in the parks in their original condition and above all, leave the general public in one piece.

The intention is a week of celebration — that, any red blooded Monash student will realise but the more serious aspect of the week should not be forgotten.

All money raised, with the exception of the Ball and the Lot's Wife turn, will be donated to Freedom From Hunger and C.A.A. The tentative program is as such:

	Day	Evening
Tues. 28th	Trike race official opening	Miss Monash Ball
Wed.	Folk concert	S.R.C. Revue
Thurs.	Forum Revue (matinee)	S.R.C. Revue
Frid.		Dance, Late Revue
Sat.		Revue
Mon.	Film. Voting, S.R.C. elections begin	
Tues.	Farm Week Procession All animals accepted	
Wed.		Lot's Wife Casual Brawl

*Stunts not included for obvious reasons.

Activities proposed before and during the week by the Freedom From Hunger Campaign and C.A.A. include a lunchtime forum with big-name speakers, and a folk concert, and as publicity the building of an Indian village on the lawns outside the Union, and a tug-of-war between the occupants of the village — the Have-nots and some well-fed Australian Haves.

Staff will be approached for donations through circulars and departmental collectors; students through roving collectors at the scene of the stunts. A publicity campaign will be mounted before the 26th, with posters and articles in the student and up-town press.

The exercise is intended to be educational as well as profitable, and religious and political clubs might either hold meetings themselves on the general topic of underdeveloped countries, or use their contacts to provide speakers for the large forum.

So get with it Monash Students. Forget your higher education for 168 hours and be animals along with us for Farm Week. Remember, it's what you make it. Get with it, gyrate, fornicate, ball-tear, rip, snort or just wander quietly around looking and collecting.

P.S. Watch out for the special Farm Week edition of Lot's Wife (next edition) in which a full program will be included. P.P.S. Anyone with mad ideas for Farm Week contact Kent Lovell at the S.R.C. Office.



SRC ELECTIONS

S.R.C. ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTIONS

During August of every year the student body elects an S.R.C. to represent them for a year and to control over \$18,000 of their money.

The S.R.C. is concerned with leadership and with the aims, needs and desires of students; very often when valuable results are obtained, one doesn't lead, one crystallizes popular thoughts. It is sometimes true that what is done in the name of students is neither constructive nor useful nor dignified. The S.R.C. must be organized for purposes which are constructive. It must be accepted that student representatives are capable of acting responsibly, and that their attitudes and actions are constructive results of competent investigation and discussion. The S.R.C. must be prepared to be guided by the student body, though not led by it into irresponsible action. The S.R.C. must interest itself in the interests of the students. The S.R.C. must represent informed opinion; it provides a responsible and informed leadership. Its responsibility is to look at the facts and decide upon the basis of these facts what is best in the students' interests. A decision is only as worthwhile as the facts which have been brought out to support the decision. However, and at all times every attempt must be made to keep students informed.

"Why bother?" asked the author of the book 'You and University Student Government', the answer is quite simple — "Because in some areas the University is unwilling or unable to deal with the needs and desires of the students. In many areas the administration is unaware that problems even exist. In almost all of these cases, the desired action is accomplished more easily and with greater satisfaction through student action." And an organized student group is capable of dealing with these needs and desires 'because they are aware of the problems and willing to put forth the necessary amount of effort to solve them. Also, as an organized group, their opinions or suggestions carry more weight. The students not only contribute their time and effort, but more importantly their intimate desires.'

The truth and value of these comments is recognized by the University Statute which refer specifically to the S.R.C.

The possibilities of a strong S.R.C. are endless. It has the power to stand up to the administration where student liberties are concerned. It is the only powerful pressure group acting for students in the university. Thus the stronger the S.R.C. the more powerful is its influence and consequently students can be assured of more persistent and thorough representation.

Given that it is the function of the education process to develop individual personality to its fullest possible extent, the S.R.C. must be seen as an integral part of this process within the context of this University.

On the basis of this proposition it is clear, that the purpose of an S.R.C. is to ensure that all aspects of the education process develop along an even front.

To this end it shall:—
(i) Provide a reasonable, informed leadership to represent the student body and to ensure that action is taken where the need for action exists. This representation will be two fold.

(a) To represent students within the university via direct or indirect student representation, or in such cases where observer or representatives status is not given to ensure that liaison is maintained at the appropriate level and that the S.R.C. is informed of student needs and concerns on:—
(i) the University Council and its committees, particularly the Committees of Residence, Student Loan and Chaplaincy. The S.R.C. will maintain the present liaison with the Vice Chancellor.

(ii) the Union Board and its committees, particularly the Catering, Housing and Finance Committees.

(iii) the academic boards and committees of the University, particularly the Steering Committee of the Professorial Board, and the Library, Art, and Education Committees and to continue regular meetings with representatives of the Staff Association.

(b) to represent students outside the University to the community.

2. To create and establish the administrative machinery and communications system to deal with the specific problems of students which arise within the University by:—
(a) the present committee system, comprising nominated representatives from the Faculty Societies as well as co-opted members.

(b) the promotion of Inter-Faculty activities and liaison with Faculty Societies on matters of student welfare.

(c) endeavouring to invite executive members of clubs and societies to attend S.R.C. meetings, and to reciprocate by offering the attendance of S.R.C. members at their meeting to enable them to answer any queries.

3. Endeavour to promote an increasing social and education awareness by the creating of informed opinion and an attitude of tolerance towards problems that arise within the University and in the community as a whole.

A weak S.R.C., divided and incoherent is both a waste of time and money and a poor reflection on the student body.

It is up to every student to vote during the next elections and which is more important to encourage the best candidates to stand. Since the By-Elections in April, when 14 active new members were elected, the S.R.C. has been able to concentrate on the part of its job that most benefits students — all representative positions on University and Union Committees have been strengthened. Consequently, we have been able to assert a unified voice on issues such as catering, Scholarships, student welfare, Union Publications Regulations, and have been able to commence more ambitious issues such as the student insurance scheme. The purpose of this article is to encourage, entreat and implore students of calibre to stand for the S.R.C. for in the past years these students have been discouraged by the poor image of the S.R.C.

We would also strongly discourage faculties from block voting. In the past faculties such as Medicine have tried to vote as many of their faculty on the S.R.C. as possible with no real

maison detre. As a result, students who can not afford the time (in particular 4th year clinical students) have been, by force of circumstances an unwillingly inactive group on the S.R.C.

We would also discourage candidates from nominating when their only interest in the S.R.C. is in the privilege of being a member or using their position as a job reference. An S.R.C. can only function if it has 28 working members. There is nothing more discouraging for an S.R.C. than when one half is carrying the work load of the full S.R.C. The fate of the 7th S.R.C. lies in the hands of the student body.

Think before you nominate a candidate for the S.R.C.

Think before you vote. But above all, vote and make sure the S.R.C. continues to be the strongest pressure group on the campus.

Remember, if the student body does not take an interest in the elections, the elected S.R.C. can not be expected to feel responsible to them and are not stimulated to act in their best interests.

MICK JOB
President, Monash 6th S.R.C.

Catering Aftermath

After a vigorous and sustained campaign the SRC application for a subsidy from the University Council for catering has ended in a creditable failure. The SRC has resorted to every tactical procedure available to it from the preparation of a submission to the University Council to the calling of a public meeting of union members.

At the June 22 meeting of the Union Board the student representatives reported on the reaction of the public meeting of union members to the decision of the University Council not to provide a catering subsidy.

The Board's reaction to the decision of the public meeting of students was expressed in terms of distaste. It was suggested that such a meeting could never really come to any useful decisions, as its basis rested more upon emotionalism than fact. Opposition was expressed in terms of "You can't in fact ask a

public meeting to make this sort of a decision."

It was also suggested that the present representatives on the Union Board were more interested in representing the present students than considering the long-term consequences of their demands.

Already, this article appears to be an attack upon the Union Board. But the problem is that the University Council does not feel it needs to justify its decision not to provide a subsidy. Consequently, our information as to the attitudes of the Council are based upon a report briefly detailing the four decisions of that body regarding catering, a sympathetic letter to the President of the SRC by the Vice Chancellor, and the attitudes of Union Board members who are closely associated with the University Council.

The attitudes of the Board members to the provision of a catering subsidy would seem to accurately reflect the attitudes of the University Council. Now I believe that the SRC is probably in agreement with most Board members that it is an unpleasant prospect to subsidize catering from Union Funds, and is grateful that for 1966 the Board has in fact agreed to provide a subsidy (estimated at \$10,200).

One member of the Board felt it significant to mention the comment of a member of the University Council "That costs throughout the community are rising and the student sector should not seek to avoid this." Another member of the Board made the same statement in different words.

It was the same repetitious formulae of the Union Board Meeting of May 18 (reported in Lot's Wife Vol. 6 No. 8) emphasised and re-emphasised.

However, it is significant that the University Council has neither refused nor accepted the justice of the SRC claim for a subsidy. It has simply, and skilfully, avoided this question.

One could be cynically called upon to comment that either mental blockages or deliberate evasion has warped the minds of those persons called upon to consider the justice of our claim for a subsidy.

At no stage has the SRC sought permanent stabilising of catering prices. It has simply requested that a subsidy should be provided for catering this year.

It is hoped that the 7th SRC will continue to press for a catering subsidy from the University Council. At least, the Staff Association is officially supporting our request for an examination into student finances. And, indeed, sympathy of all kinds, is coming from all sources.

David Griffiths.

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Vietnam Dossier

An American G.I.'s letter to his sister in Detroit, Michigan.

A recon. platoon went out on a road-clearing mission this morning and while they were doing their mission they spotted five V.C. The platoon chased them to a village (which the V.C. ran right through). When they came upon the village they figured the five V.C. had held up there so they began to clear the area of all civilians (poor rubber plantation peasants). They did all this by making a lot of noise, shouting, shooting off their AR15's and crashing in doors. Of course, most of the adults understood (by the way there were only old men and women with babies and children). Now these people had dug bomb shelters but I can't see why, what with all the B52's dropping 1,000 pound bombs every night, so automatically this made these people V.C.'s.

A 173rd Paratrooper comes by a grass hut and yells down into one of those bomb shelters and says, "I'm gonna give you ten seconds till I blow this goddamn place up." Then he looks at his watch and in ten seconds throws a hand grenade in the hole, it blows up and then he sets the place afire. I and my captain are walking by the burning hut and he turns to me and says, "There's somebody still living, can't you hear the groans?" I hear them and so we stop and take a look. **Four dead children 3-4 years old.** We pulled one little girl out who had a hole in her head the size of a quarter and as I carried her away from the fire I could see the life in her fleeing and she was about three.

She died in about 15 minutes. Anyway we had 1 V.C., 8 wounded kids, two of which were still sucking their mother's tit, 3 old men, 43 old women (4 were wounded), 10 young women (2 were wounded, 18 kids, 8 were wounded, 3 wounded mothers and five dead children under 5 years old. And do you know what these so-and-so's reported? "Twenty suspected V.C.'s". I doubt if you will read this in the news, but don't let this letter get away from you. They might court-martial me for the truth.

From the British weekly "The New Statesman", Oct. 8th, 1965.

An American G.I.'s Letter to a woman of Women's Strike for Peace.

"I'm in Vietnam and every day I pray for two things — to be out of this hell and back home or to be killed before I might have to kill someone. A week ago our platoon leader brought in three prisoners. I was part of this group that brought them in. They set up a questioning station and someone from intelligence was doing the questioning. This was the first time I saw anything like this and found out that we used some dirty methods. This guy from Intelligence had all three lined up. One was a woman. He stripped her down to the waist and stripped the two men all the way. He had a little gadget I thought was a walkie-talkie or something. He stuck one end of this wire to the lady's chest and it was a kind of electric shock because she got a real bad burn. From what she was screaming my buddy and I gathered she didn't know anything. Then they took this same wire and tried it on the lady's husband and brother, but on their lower parts. I grabbed the damned thing and stuck it to the back of the guy from Intelligence. Ever since that day, I've been sick to my stomach and haven't been out on patrol or anything. My sergeant tells me I'm suffering from battle fatigue and might get sent home.

"No one from our group wants to bring any suspects in for questioning. We don't know what to do... We don't want anybody tortured or killed. One of the guys from another platoon said he saw this happen a few times before and one guy was killed by it.

"Anyhow tell your Women for Peace we are with them. We wish we could send you a couple of those electrical gadgets to use on the powers that sent us here." Published in WSP's Bulletin of November, 1965, and re-published in "Solidarity with Vietnam", Hanoi, Nov.-Dec., 1965.

The American missionary spirit is not exclusively peaceful. There is no evidence that we are peace-loving or ever have been. We have taken what we wanted by force if need be, sometimes muttering a proper prayer over the vanquished. We shoved the Indians off their lands without a how-do-you-do; drove out the Dutch, British, French and Spanish fought Mexico and seized California with a little ceremony as the Russians grabbing the Baltic states; engaged in a savage Civil War; fought in Cuba and the Philippines; staged our own "revolution" in Hawaii against the native Queen; kept gunboats and Marines in China, and invented and used the great horror weapon, the nuclear bomb, in World War II. Through it all we have maintained a righteous air, contending that we have committed mayhem and felony with the purest motives. This is a result of our Puritan inheritance, which requires proof that God is on our side in every expedition and sanguinary action.

Our violent spirit is evident to the tourist. Our parks are crammed with statues of men on horseback with upraised swords. Our newspapers are full of accounts of violence. Our television dramas, the popular culture of America, are filled with a fascinating ferocity. Our children play with toy soldiers, toy bombs, and toy guns which we present them on the birth of Christ. We are prouder of the Polaris submarine than TVA, which foreign visitors look on as one of the wonders of the world. We worship our war heroes and elect them to the Presidency. We have amassed 40,000 nuclear weapons, or enough to blow the earth to kingdom come several times over. We are producing two missiles a day, each of them capable of erasing a large city.

Pacifism has never been popular in the United States, even among the clergy, and has been practiced sporadically by small numbers of college students, Quakers, and sweet-faced old ladies. When a peace organization of any talent arises, it is quickly hauled before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on the assumption — quite logical to a politico — that peace is just not our dish. We accept without question the post-World War II thesis that military service is a part of a boy's maturing process, like getting drunk and losing his virginity. Taxpayer groups and congressmen are suspicious of welfare payments, but no responsible citizen complains of turning over more than fifty billion dollars annually to the Military Establishment. And when we come to this establishment, we find that, whatever its virtues and indolences, it is the expression of the American temper. It represents in its stunning vastness and capacity for what one scientist calls "overkill" our belief that we live among a gang of ruffians who are tamed only by a great show of muscle. The military has become the chief agent of our mission, as it was of the Spain of Ferdinand and Isabella, the England of Queen Elizabeth, the Rome of Caesar.

Tristram Coffin "The Armed Society"

Bailey's Rope

You may wonder why the editor of "LOT'S WIFE" has invited me to write a regular contribution. He tells me he has done so because he expects me to hang myself by regularly expressing my opinions. Hence the name of the column.

That the orientation of editorial policy has not changed was shown by the last combined Farrago/Lot's Wife issue. Part of the reason for the imbalance was that at least two letters in opposition to editorial policy were not published. I note that Mr. Noel Turnbull's one reference to me was a lie; he says that I "Have consistently referred to Monash as the Monash Soviet!" This is not my phrase, and I have never used it. In this connection, though, you may be interested to know that the June/July issue of the Australian Left (nee Communist) Review has an article linking Spain and Vietnam, illustrated by Picasso's "Guernica", which also illustrated the "Lot's Wife" issue which pushed the same line. It is hard to believe that Messrs. Dixon and Aarons copied our editor, and harder still to believe that both papers chose the line and the illustration independently. Perhaps Mr. K. J. Walker will be able to find a document on the fourth floor of the Ming Wing which will prove that both papers had the word from "Master".

We know that Mr. Paddy O'Brien and Mr. Calwell are not in any way of the same stature and dignity. Nevertheless the contrast in Tom Valenta's reporting of these two guest speakers should be noted. There was no attempt to give any sort of account of the O'Brien talk before attacking it and him. I agree with Tom that the heckling of speakers is wrong, but he would have been fairer had he informed his readers of Mr. Steedman's display at the O'Brien meeting. If a policeman had been present our editor would have been run in for filthy language.

It is a pity that Tom Valenta couldn't follow the talk, for O'Brien had much to say that was very relevant to his university. He suggested that the role of clubs and students newspapers is to present a broad spectrum of views and attitudes for students to judge for themselves. Among

their activities, rational debate and empirical analysis should take precedence over propaganda, mud slinging and political bandwagoning. Mr. O'Brien spoke also of "pornopolitics", a term coined by Professor Feuer of Berkeley University in an article in the "New Leader" of 12/4/65. This article showed how the tremendous idealism of the student body was contaminated and misused at Berkeley during the famous revolt. Those who opposed the Free Speech Movement were viciously labelled and absurdly ridiculed. There was deliberate mis-quotation of opponents' views, and the flaunting of obscenities.

Mr. O'Brien related this syndrome to Australian universities. He showed how Professor May of Sydney University combined the championing of sexual promiscuity with pro-Communist views and activities. He wrote an obscene play of the theatre of the absurd type, which was published in the girlie magazine "Squire". This play was a nauseating thinly veiled attack on Dr. Knopfmacher and various persons who supported him in the Sydney controversy.

Mr. O'Brien considered Farrago and LOT'S WIFE, referring to various issues, which he criticised on grounds of dishonesty, misrepresentation and unfair editorial policy. It was at this stage that the lower side of our editor's nature was observed, and the meeting did lose some dignity.

Following on from Mr. O'Brien's talk, I am sure that there are so many who could contribute to LOT'S WIFE something better than much of its recent content. Perhaps you are one of these people.

JOHN BAILEY

Mr. Bailey also submitted a voluminous article in which he outlines his political and personal associations, and defends the position which he took in his letter "Imbalance and dishonesty" against subsequent attacks. However, because this article was largely a documented and detailed restatement of the case put in the initial letter and because of its considerable size, the editors have seen fit to withhold it. Our apologies to Mr. Bailey.

S.R.C. ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTIONS

Nominations are hereby called for the following positions:

- (i) **Faculty Representatives** (two from each faculty) — (twelve to be elected).
- Excepting the faculty of Education to be elected.
- (ii) **Faculty of Education Representative** (one to be elected).
- (iii) **Part-time Representatives** (two to be elected).
- (iv) **Post Graduate Representative** (one to be elected).
- (v) **General Representatives** (twelve to be elected).

* Further details and nomination forms available from the S.R.C. Office.

* Nominations open between 9 a.m., 12th July, till 3 p.m. 26th July.

MICK JOB
for S.R.C. RETURNING OFFICER.



Youth Concert

Youth Concert, 23rd June.
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ferdinand Leitner, with Alfredo Campoli, violin.

Alfredo Campoli gave a fairly satisfying performance of Bruch's Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26, in this year's third youth concert. He was matched well by the orchestra, which, under Ferdinand Leitner, was remarkably restrained.

Campoli also appeared restrained. Although he produced a really beautiful singing tone, there were moments when this very lyricism did not allow the development of the full tension and drama. There was one instance in the first movement when it seemed it was demanded of the soloist to be decisive and urgent. The orchestra had rushed up, pushing the violin on the crest of its wave. Then the violin, alone, broke the wave and came soaring down. Yet Campoli let the violin and wave gently wash away—he was relaxed instead of taut.

After the interval, the orchestra's playing of Schumann's Symphony No. 3 in E flat major, Op. 97, ("Rhenish") was assured and deliberate. Ferdinand Leitner again kept the orchestra well under control. It gave a very balanced, tonal performance, and my only criticism is that, because of Leitner's tight discipline, the orchestra appeared to be muffled slightly: nowhere did it play with all its power.

Because of this it seemed that Leitner let some of the inner forces be smoothed—glossed—over, resulting in a rendition to which it was very easy to listen if you just let the sound envelop you.

In fact the whole evening was a most enjoyable way to be relaxed and smoothed, not to be stimulated.

—ROBERT GERRAND

RECORDS

Tchaikowski: Violin Concerto in D, op. 35
KHACHATURIAN: Violin Concerto (1940)
Henryk Szeryng with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Antal Dorati. (Philips Gold Label Series, Stereo GLS161)

This latest release of Tchaikowski's violin concerto is justified on several grounds: Henryk Szeryng's brilliant playing makes this performance equal to the best I have heard; the quality of the recording does justice to the nimbleness and precision of the soloist and to Dorati's disciplined interpretation; and, also, Philips have placed Khachaturian's Concerto on the other side.

Listening to the latter, it was hard to realize that Khachaturian "showed no interest in music until he was 19 and did not seriously think of it as a career until he was 26, when he entered the Moscow Conservatory". His concerto lacks, perhaps, some of the brilliance and sensationalism of his Piano Concerto, but this is not a fault: it benefits by having a greater feeling of introspection and meaning.

Again, Szeryng and the London Symphony Orchestra give a masterly performance. Dorati (and the recording Engineer) maintain a good balance between orchestra and violin. Except for a slight indefiniteness in stereo demarcation, the recording quality is excellent, with no surface noise—and this is remarkable because there is well over an hour's music on the disc. The price is only \$3.95—what more could you want?

SEGOVIA & TURECK play BACH (Saga, XID 5248)
SEGOVIA plays Bach; Waldemar DOHLING, Italian Concerto in F Major (Bach) and Christopher WOOD, "The Harmonious Blacksmith" (Air and Variations from Suite No. 5 in E major; Handel). (Fidelity—A.R.C., FDY2085)

On both these ARC records Segovia plays Chaconne in D minor and Gavotte for Lute. On the record with Tureck on the reverse, he also plays the Prelude & Courante (Cello Suite No. 2) and Sarabande and Bourree (Lute suite No. 1). On the Fidelity record with Wood and Dohling he also plays Gavotte from Suite No. 6 for Cello and Fugue in G minor (originally for Lute).

Needless to say, Segovia plays with his usual genius, so the choice is yours whether you want Tureck with some Preludes and Fugues from the Well-Tempered Klavier, or Dohling with Bach's Concerto in the Italian Style and Wood with Handel's "Harmonious Blacksmith". If you are a guitar enthusiast you can get them both: the price is \$2.50 each. On both discs the recording quality is high.

Bela Bartok: String Quartets Nos. 1, 2 (Saga, Stereo XID 5203), Nos. 3, 4 (Stereo XID 5204 and Nos. 5, 6 (Stereo XID 5205) —The Fine Arts String Quartet.

After a first hearing of these records, I'm at a loss what to say. I found the music very interesting and compelling, and very indescribable, except that one got a feeling of great desolation and anguish—and beauty. I suppose if I could describe the quartets, Bartok would have been wasting his time composing the music.

The copious cover-notes say, at one point, that the quartets have often been compared with Beethoven's. I'm inclined to agree that there is a great degree of profundity in the works, but I will need several more hearings to see if they reach the immense heights of Beethoven.

The Fine Arts String Quartet is indeed a fine Quartet. Their playing, always first-class in other works I've heard, is well up to top quality. They play with great control and precision, giving a wholly pleasurable and satisfying performance. The stereo delineation is not noticeable at times but the reproduction is faithful—the sound is very good. The records are a bargain at \$2.50 each. I recommend, if you are not too familiar with Bartok, to sample the first record. The first quartet seems the easiest of the six to assimilate—it is perhaps the most "classical".

—Hamilton Roberts.

MUSIC

The Modern Jazz Quartet play music from Porgy & Bess, Philips Mono J14/Stereo JS14

This sensitive interpretation of Gershwin's Opera comes on a fine quality disc. The Modern Jazz Quartet present excerpts from Porgy & Bess in their unique style using the range and versatility of their four instruments. Their playing varies from a meditative tranquility to the emotional throbbing of the blues. Each time I play this record I find it has new appeal and enjoyment. Philips are to be congratulated on the cover which blends well with the record's mood.

Dancing Percussion.

Kurt Edelhagen and his orchestra give a lively rendition of first quality dance music. All the instruments are reproduced perfectly and this record has the purest sound I have ever heard. "Crystal-like clarity" is how it's put on the cover, and this high standard is what I've come to expect from Polydor Dance Band Music. (Polydor Stereo 238001)

The Beatles' Song Book, Volumes 1 & 2 (The Hollyridge Strings, arranged and conducted by Stu Phillips.)

Listening to these two records re-enforced my impression that the Beatles' songs are not only among the best pop music but are basically beautiful melodies. They are fully represented on both discs. (Capitol Vol. 1. Mono T2116/Stereo ST2116. Vol. 2. Mono T2202/Stereo ST2202)

Johnnie Cash—Bitter Tears (Ballads of the American Indian)

The back of the cover mentions that "one of the least discussed millstones of shame in the U.S.A. was the treatment of the Indians". Similarly I shan't discuss this record. (C.B.S. Mono BP233173/Stereo SBP233173)

Johnnie Cash—Mean As Hell (Ballads from the True West)

A more Johnnie Cash-type record, and much more interesting than Bitter Tears. However, there is still a degree of narration and this detracts from the record in most cases. (C.B.S. Stereo SBP233309/Mono BP233309)

West Side Story (the original sound track)

brings back several memories of the unique film. However, a certain amount of the glamour of the film is lacking; one cannot see the songs being sung, and the singers are on the whole actors only. The sound track has been accurately copied and well recorded. (C.B.S. Stereo K11S 1700).

West Side Story (Oscar Peterson Trio)

This is the jazz version of the score in the inimitable style of the trio. Of the two I prefer their interpretation to the original and I recommend it to all jazz enthusiasts. (Verve Gold Star Series V-8454)

All records reviewed are available at the Monash Book Shop.

—DONSKILLE

The Typists and the Tiger

Emerald Hill Theatre

DRAMA

Murray Schisgal is an experimenter who needs to make up his mind. He has used the forms of naturalism and expressionism to rephrase one of the most prevalent problems of our time, in the conflict between idealism and realism which in itself is dangerous to do because of its relative obviousness. Both plays, "The Typist" and "The Tiger," attempt to show this and both have failed for completely different reasons.

"The Tiger" was by far the more successful of the two plays. It dealt with this theme in a short compact play using the medium of expressionism. The play does move at a tremendous pace with the characters proclaiming their inner life directly to the audience. But although these elements of the expressionist theatre provide the relative success of this play they are also the cause of its basic failure. The play gives the impression that either Murray Schisgal's ideas were not adequately conceived, or else he has tried to compress them in too small a space, and in either way the result is one of superficiality. The characters appear too much as instruments for the expression of the theme showing particularly in a rather crude form the present conflict in our education

system between vocationalism and the great books. And the conclusion moves inevitably to the statement that no matter how erudite your thought is, you still have to put out the rubbish bin at night. The inability to escape entirely from reality is shown in unsuitably humorous incidents such as the pseudo idealist monarch, who is still in a state of social maturity. No matter how he rebels against convention he is still primarily occupied with his wet sox. Although ultimately unsatisfying the play does maintain our interest through the use of humor. But the comedy is not sufficiently integrated with the theme and gives the impression of being layered on the top, thus disguising the actual triumph of realism over idealism.

The greatest claim the play can make to success is based not on the script or on the production, but on the ability of Julia Blake and Brian Young, who, despite rather lax moments of accent become as immersed in their parts as was humanly possible. It is only due to the lack of depth in the script that they at times appeared unconvincing. "The Typists" basically deals with the same theme, but it is not so clear cut in its lines and the humor

is more of the maudlin type, which inevitably leads the audience into boredom. The fault of this play is that Murray Schisgal has carried the form of naturalism to disastrous extremes. The result is one of too ordinary people in a too ordinary situation and the only appeal the play has is to the sentimental. This is emphasised by the background music.

The thinness of the script would make it hard for the most prolific actors to develop any feeling for their parts, and I think Julia Blake must be given credit for the many moments she was able to achieve a convincing portrayal of the frustrated spinster. However, the script does not allow for much subtlety or flexibility, and this often resulted in a strain that came from the necessary quick responses.

From the relative failures of this use of naturalism Murray Schisgal would be well advised to keep developing his expressionist tendencies, but even this needs a great deal of work. Any enjoyment of the evening is due entirely to the ability of the two actors. It was only their brilliance that enabled the babbling, dithering script to hold together, and it was their vitality that carried the night.

JILL EVANS.

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This company is the head of the Altona Petrochemical complex and is seeking graduates in chemical and mechanical engineering for appointment to its technical department.

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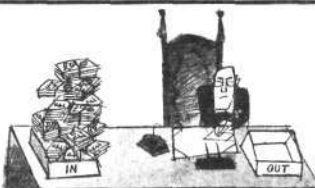
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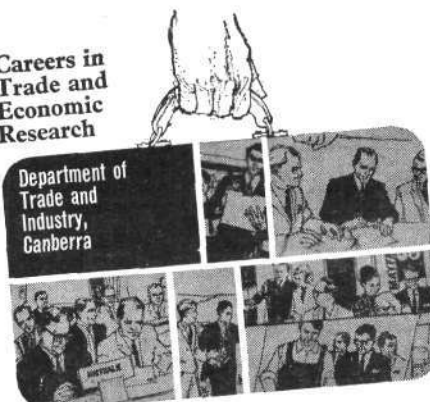
Graduates and students expecting to graduate this year are invited to apply for vacancies in our 1967 Management Training Scheme. This Scheme provides, in addition to a short formal induction program, the opportunity to undertake practical assignments towards development in the management field.

Graduates and final year students from all faculties are cordially invited to contact the Appointments Board, who will arrange interviews with Company representatives on July 14 and 15. The Appointments Board will be able to supply further information should this be required, or contact may be made direct to:

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Training courses are conducted in Sydney and Melbourne. After training, positions are available in Melbourne with Departments of Civil Aviation, Supply, Repatriation, P.M.G. and the Bureau of Meteorology, and in Canberra with Navy, Army, Air, Defence, Health, Treasury, Census and Statistics, Social Services and the Superannuation Board.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION and application forms may be obtained from the Appointments Officer, Commonwealth Public Service Inspector's Office, Commonwealth Centre, Spring and Latrobe Streets, Melbourne. Telephone 32-4411.

APPLICATIONS should be received as soon as possible, by the Secretary,

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD — CANBERRA



THEATRE in the ROUND

THEATRE

Hedda Gabler

Ibsen of all people in the round? An audience for Hedda Gabler not on one side, but on four? Fashion, perversity, or a helpful approach? Surely the latter, and so all credit to Michael Schneider's forthcoming production (Union Hall, 12-16 July), to be staged in this way.

It's a strange paradox that a man as uncomfortable in his time and place as Ibsen was should sometimes be dismissed as a child of his age alone. He is not "All, all of a piece throughout"; at his best he speaks to and for far more than nineteenth century Norway. Hedda Gabler is a late work, and we should beware of pigeonholing it away; like Hamlet and Waiting for Godot, it is a play which is all things to all men. It is a rewarding play to watch whether you see it as a social study, a study of character, or drama for its own sake.

Hedda herself has been played in so many different ways, from the demonic to the ironic — a sign surely of the play's fascination — that it will be interesting to see which way Patricia O'Sullivan, member of a distinguished Queensland theatrical family, chooses. Playing Tes-

man, her husband, will be Saul Bastomsky, another newcomer, who has had the honour of being "banned" by the South African government. Dennis Davison will play Lovborg; Bruce Knox, Brack; Audrey Matheson, Aunt Juliana; Pauline Kirk, Mrs. Elvested; and Christine Thompson, Berthe.

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The Assistant Education and Training Superintendent, Mr. E. J. P. Clayfield, will be available to interview final year students on Tuesday, July 26, 1966.

If you would like to meet him you may arrange a suitable time by contacting Miss S. Farrelly at the Careers and Appointments Office, ext. 2119 (P.1096).

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Malaysia Debate

On the evening of Friday, 3rd July, a debate, entitled "that there is freedom of expression in Malaysia" was held between representatives of Melbourne and Monash Universities by the Malaysia-Singapore Students Association.

The meeting, chaired by attractive Helen Luke, took on a peculiarly informal atmosphere with a new precedent being set in debating procedure — the negative was to take the first stand.

Those supporting the negative point of view from Melbourne University were Inche Kamarul, Mr. Neoh and Inche Awang Monash University, on the other hand, was represented by Mr. Eddie Chuah, Mr. Ng Thow Leng and Mr. Low Chee Hong.

Mr. Kamarul pointed out that one could not advocate uncensored freedom of expression, as restriction of defamation and sedition were essential. He argued, however, that too many restrictions of free expression

did exist in Malaysia. The Malaysian Constitution although purporting to protect the fundamental liberties of the individual nevertheless qualified this outlook by imposing "such restrictions as it deemed necessary." These are vague words and can be easily manipulated. Further restriction exists in the Internal Security Act under which many people have been detained and deprived of judicial hearing. This is an arbitrary executive action and repression of whole political parties can occur on the excuse that they are indulging in subversive activities. An example of such arbitrariness was illustrated by the Khin Sze vs. Menteri Besar case where Khin Sze was refused legal representation after being detained.

Opposition to such restriction is limited due to the fact that the educated elite are indoctrinated in Malaysia. Control of the mass media ensures restriction of freedom of expression. The Malaysian Government owns and controls the one and only radio station and the press is only free so long as it concurs with Government opinion. Newspaper firms are required to register annually and therefore must continually remain aware of government interests in order to retain their registration.

Mr. Eddie Chuah, for Monash, argued alternatively that Malaysia retained a mid position between the extremely restrictive attitude of the Soviet Union and the comparatively free outlook of the United States of America. Curbs on freedom of expression exist in all countries in accordance with the governments in power.

Mr. Neoh extended the previous dis-

cussion of Mr. Kamarul by pointing out that journalist Mr. Alex Josey was expelled and asked not to return to Malaysia after printing his opinion that "Malays are no cultural comparison to Chinese." The Sydney Bulletin pointed out how farcical the situation in Malaysia was by urging that journalists wishing to succeed in Malaysia were well advised to forget about journalism and to engage instead in public relations with the government.

Mr. Ng Thow Leng speaking for the affirmative, argued that due to the low degree of literacy in Malaysia certain restrictions on freedom of expression were necessary. Mr. Ng stated "the Government has the right to protect the weak against the strong." Although restriction of radio and press does exist this occurs in different forms in all countries. Although communist literature is prohibited this is essential as due to the high illiteracy of the peasants it is possible that such a writer as Karl

AUSTRALIAN LEFT REVIEW

No. 1, June-July, 1966 30c.

The Communist Party of Australia is now passing through a period of intense re-appraisal — not only at the doctrinal level but also with regard to fundamental organisational questions.

The tough old battlers around former General Secretary L. L. Sharkey have either been pensioned off or death is slowly taking them. The new leaders have gone a long way towards building a more attractive image for the Party, although a surprising number of the younger (and particularly Melbourne-based) functionaries are anxious to see more drastic changes speedily implemented. Indeed, some of these "Italian-line" reformers appear to be pushing for a Marxist Study Group which would act as a ginger group or "ideas factory" within the wider Labor movement.

With Richard Dixon, President of the Communist Party, as Editor, and Eric Aarons, a member of the Political

Australian Left Review

Committee, as Assistant Editor, many Australians will conclude that **Australian Left Review** is simply the successor to the now defunct **Communist Review**. It would, I believe, be premature to jump to such an easy conclusion.

Nevertheless, in the light of recent developments within the Party, the new bi-monthly is a disappointment. The contemporary cover design is certainly not matched by what appears between the covers. Too much of the contents is

still written in the sectarian style of the past and has to be translated by the reader into the present-day idiom. All too few important issues for Australian Communists are raised by the contributors, although a partial exception should be made in the case of an article on "Democracy in the Communist Party" by John Sendy, President of the Victorian State Committee.

While it is clear, however, that the editors are anxious to launch discussions with as many non-Communists as they can attract, it remains to be seen whether non-Communist contributions on internal Party matters will be published.

Australian Left Review sees itself as a "Marxist journal of information, analysis and discussion... for the promotion of socialist ideas." The Melbourne quarterly *Arena* is certainly making strong efforts to live up to such a promise. On the evidence of the first issue, **Australian Left Review** still has a long way to go.

JOHN PLAYFORD



BOOKING OFFICE

Vice-Admiral Harold Hickling
One Minute of Time: the
Melbourne - Voyager
Collision — (Sun Books 95c.)

It took less than "one minute of time", according to Admiral Hickling R.N. (Ret.), to irreversibly commit the Destroyer H.M.A.S. Voyager to the course which brought her into collision with H.M.A.S. Melbourne at 8.56 p.m. on the 10th February, 1964.

But, he goes on, even after six months of investigation, the Royal Commission failed to produce a clear account of the accident and failed to fairly distribute responsibility for it. Instead, the unnecessarily protracted and mis-handled enquiry did undeserved damage to the Navy's reputation, obscured or ignored many salient points of evidence, and directly helped to destroy the career of Melbourne's Captain Robertson.

Had the usual course of appointing a professionally competent Naval Board of Enquiry been followed, that body would have found that Capt. Stevens of the Voyager (who had a triple brandy at 7.30 p.m.) was responsible and that Melbourne's officers were quite blameless. Robertson should never have been hounded from the service.

As it was, Robertson was badly let down by his superiors, the four admirals on the permanent Navy Board. They, with their deep, practical understanding of seamanship and their access to Cabinet, should have protested, even to the point of resigning over the Government's handling of the whole affair.

So, Hickling's story runs, the admirals stood by and let unprincipled politicians make a scapegoat of a responsible senior officer, more or less through the agency of an ill-informed, sometimes malicious, bunch of lawyers.

It seems, on the surface anyway, a plausible account of an important and shameful episode. That much is the essence of the book. Unfortunately the trappings are numerous, obtrusive and irritating.

There are too many digressions, many of them personal anecdotes. Hickling appears too often in Hickling's book. And one gets thoroughly sick of the marked pro-Navy bias throughout. It undermines the author's claim to be impartial. Besides it sticks in this landlubber's throat; are the simple virtues found only before the mast?

Since the author is so critical of politicians who intervene in naval matters, it is a shame he couldn't deny himself the following excursions into politics — "After all, the Russians have their spies everywhere"; and "no doubt, with hungry Communist hordes casting envious eyes southwards, Australia will be adding to the Navy". Shades of a D.L.P. premier!

I suppose the book is a useful one overall, though, of course, it leaves unanswered the most interesting questions (a) who, among the politicians, had the power to start the cumbersome Royal Commission rolling, but hadn't the power/gumption to stop it when it took the wrong turn? (b) If the public's sympathies eventually swung back to Robertson and the Navy, as Hickling suggests, why was any scapegoat needed? (c) Why should the scapegoat have been Robertson and not Stevens, who was (it seems) guilty, and dead and gone besides?

Like recent books on Australia's China policy and the pressure-group activities of the R.S.L., this one again reminds us that you can't write about what you can't find out about.

Perhaps the forthcoming Menzies Memoirs will throw light on all three issues?
BRIAN ABBEY.

"THE FLOCKMASTER" — by Olaf Ruhen Horwitz, 65 cents.

"The Flockmaster", Olaf Ruhen's latest novel in Horwitz paperbacks, does not equal the success of his earlier "Naked under Capricorn",

though it is by no means a failure.

The story deals with the forced move of the family of the Flockmaster to new lands in the Northern Territory. The move is begun by the old man and becomes a journey of recognition and discovery for the two brothers and their sister after his early death. The two outsiders who intervene help bring the conflict to its climax.

The coherence and power of the novel comes from the spiritual dominance of the father. The journey his descendants continue, is really his; the things they approve and do are only those that work out "the way the old would have wanted". And puppets of Joe Living, they each in turn argue against him, while still feeling it necessary to follow his lead. Crane, the eldest brother can only free himself temporarily. He says: "You're fighting shadows, Peter, fighting the wind. You helped me bury Dad. They're our lives now".

But later he returns to support the old man's beliefs: "There's a pattern in all our lives, but we can't see it. Maybe when we come to the end we can look back and see it. We make our own patterns, true; but not when we start. We don't start them off. Dad did it for us, you'll do it for that baby... and that pattern you'll be able to see — well a little. The Old Man could make mistakes. But he could see them too. He could see ours better than his, and if you want to know what I think, I think there wasn't a time he wasn't right!"

The novel has weakness in the over-description of the outback and in some of the pregnant Rosa's inner thoughts. The dramatic moves towards the end by the outsider, Fred, tend to mar the progression to self-assertion and self-realisation by the Livings. Unfortunately too, the outback acts too much as only the medium for the necessary isolation of the plot. However, the nature of the dilemma and the solving of it allows the book to achieve an interesting success, if not a great one.



did exist in Malaysia. The Malaysian Constitution although purporting to protect the fundamental liberties of the individual nevertheless qualified this outlook by imposing "such restrictions as it deemed necessary." These are vague words and can be easily manipulated. Further restriction exists in the Internal Security Act under which many people have been detained and deprived of judicial hearing. This is an arbitrary executive action and repression of whole political parties can occur on the excuse that they are indulging in subversive activities. An example of such arbitrariness was illustrated by the Khin Sze vs. Menteri Besar case where Khin Sze was refused legal representation after being detained.

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Mr. Inche Awang, for Melbourne University, pointed out that the quarrel over the definition of what constituted freedom of expression was merely a problem of semantics. He stated that he felt it necessary that the peoples' mental horizons should be extended. Social evils such as the building of mosques with government finance and the Islamic practice of having four wives should be criticised. People don't know the other side unless it is pointed out to them and as the Government controls communication opposing points of view should be expressed.

Finally, Mr. Loh of Monash University, pointed out that freedom of expression in Malaysia was illustrated by the freedom of arbitrary arrest, movement, speech, religion and education. Those people dissatisfied with the Internal Security Act were quite free to take it up to the High Court of Malaysia in order to test its validity.

During the period when the debate was thrown open to the floor it was argued that the use of Western examples for justification were not adequate as the point in question was freedom of expression in Malaysia. Another member of the audience pointed out that in America a person could be imprisoned for ninety days without benefit of trial whereas in Malaysia it is possible for persons to be imprisoned indefinitely.

Reporter — Lyn Black.

MONASH PARENTS GROUP

The Monash Parents' Group was formed in 1965 to hold functions to raise funds to buy equipment for use by the students.

Among the functions held so far this year, there has been a Dinner - Dance, and

Coffee Mornings with Guest Speakers. Functions to be held later this year include "Any Questions" and a Fashion Show by Canns of Melbourne. On July 27, there will be a Coffee Party at 10.30 a.m. to be held in the Union Hall. Guest Speaker will be Dr. Douglas Rankin of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria. Films will be shown. Donation 50c.

Parents interested in joining the Monash University Parents' Group should contact Mrs. S. E. Hammond, telephone: 53 9832, for further information.



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NEW GUINEA: 1967 SUMMER SCHEME

National Union's Volunteer Aid Scheme for January and February, 1967, needs the right kind of people to fill its allotted program. The kind of people needed (like you, man) will be interested, have some special skill in some abstract field (perhaps), and have applied by the end of this week at the SRC Office in the Union. More info, is available there too...

Booking Office Continued

THE GREAT EXTERMINATION

Edited by A. J. Marshall.
Heinemann. \$4.75.

A book of this nature deserves, in fact demands, a wide audience to sample its unsavoury indictments. For any immediate effects towards a greater understanding of conservation (and how, in many instances, not to apply it), the publishers must be held responsible for restricting the market by setting such an unreasonable price, thus thwarting the aim of the editor. There would seem to be no excuse in this instance for the price, no overseas printing or exceptional freight rates to raise the overall costs.

It will not be popular with those, many of them mentioned by name or title — who have been responsible for much of the needless destruction which typifies the Australian scene. Whilst, to be fair, the early settlers were men with one aim — to provide a living for their family and themselves, and had little feel for the country, a later breed of merchants have no such excuse for the part played in extermination of fauna or destruction of flora. One can concede that the forest was alien. Man had to eat, and "home" was brought somewhat closer by the introduction of exotic plants and animals, mostly European. The depressing toughness of it all seemed a little less so with a willow or two, and possibly a cat chasing the songless birds around the newly planted hawthorns. Damage at this early stage was not directed at the species level, rather at local populations, though probably the destruction of habitats can be traced back to early clearing. As Hiscock (The Shores and Shallows) points out, the "hand of Man need not act directly to have profoundly detrimental effects." However, it was not before commercial practices began, reaching an ultimate in sophistication and destructive power at present, that the elimination of species of plants and animals really got under way, together with the total destruction of many habitats.

Prof. Marshall (The Disadvantages of Wearing Fur) gives a frightening example of the result brought about by less than two centuries of colonisation: an ever-growing list of mammals in danger or extinct (it would have been interesting to compare the situation with regard to birds from similar habitats). Would that Gould had toured Australia in 1939-40 (sic!), perhaps the portraits would be less numerous but far more condemning. Turner (The Decline of the Plants) considers that the wholehearted destruction of native vegetation is becoming "almost a national pastime"; when one flies over the north coast of Tasmania, which is suffering after an outbreak of "clearing fires," one can readily agree with him. The one-time enemy, the forest, has little defence, and even if its attack or progress could be renewed, erosion has acted as a fifth columnist, undermining its very existence. Webb (The Rape of the Forest) details the rise and fall of the cedarwood industry, the cutters opening up the way for extensive clearing by settlers. Cedar was first exported in 1795, yet only some 50 years later, according to Turner, it had ceased to be "an important article of commerce in the Illawarra district", this being achieved by those who "toiled mightily with axe and firestick." Many areas were cleared as a result of politics, a vote catching mechanism still in use today — what price conservation compared with the loss of votes? This desecration has not been limited to the flora and fauna; anyone who has looked for historical documents will know that where the rats and mice have left the job undone, the ever-ready stove has been fed with official blessing.

The invasion of habitats by pre-adapted animals, or the alteration of habitats to favor some animals, has been very marked in New Zealand, and seemingly Australia will follow suit. Clearing, removal of timber, together with marginal grazing, has led to the presence of cattle or sheep in

habitats previously unoccupied by herbivores. Where occupied, such damage as the endemic animals caused was in balance with vegetational regeneration. But in the path of stock, erosion becomes considerable and the chemical and physical properties of the soil degenerate. Such competition, by exotics, with the native fauna has led to reductions of the endemics; thus rabbits and sheep, eating Acacia seedlings and seeds, have led to a marked reduction in the number of Mallee Fowl. At the same time, man has cleared the habitat, further assisting the decline. Damage by direct destruction of habitats, deforestation and over-grazing increases run-off and removes topsoil which will never be replaced. It appears that there has been a complete loss of many natural communities of plants, to be replaced by aliens. Bracken, furze, St. Johns Wort and others have taken over vast stretches of land in much the same way as did the more spectacular Prickly Pear. This inevitably alters, if not eliminates, the composition of native fauna. The catalogue is endless, its implications appalling. What then for the future — will the warning presented be heeded?

Many laws have been passed to protect some section of the native environment. Worrell (The Unpopular Ones) makes the point that "by and large an economic case for the protection is required for an animal before it is thought to be deserving of protection." Surely Australians do not have to have the aesthetics of the matter rammed down their throats to realise that there is pleasure in seeing stands of plants or flocks of emus; pleasure that does not need to be backed by state laws. There are laws, though differing in detail and interpretation, all sharing one common feature in that they are not policed. Cited are cases of killing penguins, mutton-birds and even a complete colony of gannets, for use as cray-bait, all protected in theory, none in practice. A more controversial topic is that of the Cape Barren Goose, protected to varying degrees for several years. Though many have been, and still are, shot in the Furneaux Group, the basic principles of conservation were recently ignored by the Tasmanian Animals and Birds Protection Board, who were responsible for declaring an open season on the goose (recognised as the third rarest in the world). Some 140 birds were officially killed over the weekend, on the breeding islands, apparently with the intention of reducing the numbers grazing on properties miles from the shooting. This was "an experiment to afford relief to land owners having trouble with the geese." Such experiments are out of place, to say the least, when the biology of the species is little understood and its status in doubt.

Apparently less appealing, though more to the point, would be research programs directed at determining biology of plants or animals occasionally causing localised damage. Prof. Marshall and his co-authors, in a lucid discussion of the status quo and associated problems, advocate conservation as a principle (backed up with sufficient research) as a necessity to be implemented now, before more species are lost. Conservation laws and declared areas of conservation must be made and policed. Prof. Marshall and his unhap-

py band have shown the way to stem the decline; surely apathy will not prevent further additions to an extermination which is already great.

SHAW IN HIS TIME

Ivor Brown
Thomas Nelson Ltd.
\$5.15

As Shaw was primarily a socio-political dramatist, so Ivor Brown's new book *Shaw In His Time* is primarily a socio-political literary history. It is significant, for instance, that in the final chapter on Shaw's achievement, the only references to his dramatic success are to the adaptation of *Arms and the Man* into *The Chocolate Soldier*, and of *Pygmalion* into *My Fair Lady*.

This is in no way intended as an attack on the book. It is simply necessary to draw attention to the implications of the title. No critical index to the plays will be found here, they are seen strictly within their social, religious, or political context — Doctor's Dilemma in a chapter on Bill of Health, Major Barbara in The Shavian State, Androcles and the Lion in Things Believed and so on. With this understood, *Shaw In His Time* emerges as a fascinating background study of a man who did so much to mould his background around him.

Personalities as diverse as Beatrice Webb and G. K. Chesterton, Granville Barker and Havelock Ellis pop in and out influencing and influenced by the bearded giant. An excellent chapter rectifies misunderstandings about Shaw's opinion of Shakespeare: pointing out that Shaw was attacking not Shakespeare but the way in which the dramatists and producers of the late nineteenth century allowed the bard's gigantic shade to cripple all their theatrical attempts. Other chapters outline Shaw's affairs with women and his early struggle as an Irishman trying to break into English literary circles.

The book, in comparison to its predecessor by the same author *Shakespeare In His Time* suffers from the disadvantage of dealing with an age which was if anything decidedly anti-glamorous, using Oscar Wilde as its scapegoat dilettante, as Shaw realised. But again Ivor Brown's style of presentation is most appealing. He is one of a select group of diversionary tacticians and anecdotal historians. No one I think could find *Shaw In His Time* boring. With its generous supply of photographs it is a useful book, placing in his own period a dramatist who with his theatrical power and ability to entertain will survive for all ages.

Richard Murphet.

CLINICAL STUDENTS

YOU may want some tropical experience, or do a fifth-year elective on a tropical subject. If this is so, N.U.A.U.S. may answer your problems with its 1967 Volunteer Aid Projects Scheme, which will be going through January and into February this summer.

Application forms and information sheets at the hospital, or they can be posted if you ring up the SRC Office at Monash and ask for this. Closing this Friday at Monash...

There is something faintly ludicrous about the Melbourne Film Festival. Perhaps it is the collection of madly cultured, madly curious people who surge out at interval to clutch their cups of coffee and converse, perhaps it is the phenomenon of a cartoon being clapped as heartily as, for instance, Visconti's "Sandra", perhaps it is the frequent breakdowns in the projecting, or the squeals and hardy-gurdlsh type music that are wafted over to the theatre from Luna Park while Ichikawa contemplates cannibalism. Whatever it is, there is an air of the spectator sport about it all—the people there are interested in films but it is the interest that goes with a football match not with works of art.

DIAMONDS OF THE NIGHT

Czechoslovakia, 1964

This is a compelling and remarkable film. It is virtually without dialogue—every emotion, feeling and thought of two Jewish boys who have escaped from a Nazi transport and plunged into a forest, being conveyed visually. By mixing thought with reality and by having the camera cling obsessively to the fugitives, Nemec (Director) keeps the audience in a constant state of fear and apprehension because the audience itself is being hunted—we look for breath with the two boys, we squelch through the mud, we are hit in the faces by the branches, we are drenched in the rain, we wait for a bullet to sink into our flesh.

The boys are eventually hunted down and taken prisoner by a group of pathetically senile old Germans with Bavarian hats, walking sticks and hunting rifles. The old men jubilantly celebrate their "catch" with beer and dancing in a scene that leaves you with no doubt about the duplicity of doddering old age. The two prisoners are then released—or are they? As they stagger off, confused and exhausted, the old men raise their rifles, and the command of "fire" is given. Quick cut to the boys sprawled on the ground, cut to the boys walking again.

Altogether, a devastating effective study of physical oppression, loneliness and man's struggle to preserve human dignity and his existence.

RAVEN'S END

Sweden, 1963

Raven's End is yet another glimpse into the plight of the working classes. It is the story of an idealistic boy breaking free from the tremulous, trusting eyes of a kitten lives and setting forth into the big wide world with nothing more than disgust at the dreary drudgery of human existence, the experience of one abortive attempt at novel writing, and the firm conviction that he is deserting hearth, home and pregnant girl for something better.

Fortunately, the film does not have to rely on its story and the moral drawn from it but has artistry, tastefulness and excellent characterization to make a moving study of the misery of poverty in the uneasy atmosphere of the 1930s.

THE LOVES OF A BLONDE

Czechoslovakia, 1965

This is a delightfully engaging look at youthful romanticism disillusioned. Andula, an artless blonde who gazes out at the world with the tremulous, trusting eyes of a kitten lives and works in a town where the girls outnumber the boys sixteen to one. At a dance organized for the newly-arrived star-army contingent she succumbs to the charms of a young pianist and they spend the night together. For Andula this is the start of something precious and naively believes her love is reciprocated until she arrives one night on the boy's doorstep with a suitcase and sees how nonplussed he is.

Miles Forman's appreciation of the essential shyness and insecurity of human beings allows him to sustain a long scene at a constantly painfully funny level because he has you simultaneously squirming with embarrassment and roaring with laughter at the awkwardness of a situation or character.

THOMAS THE IMPOSTOR

France, 1965

"Thomas the Impostor" is the story of a princess, Emanuele Riva who, during the First World War, organises an ambulance service to the Front, because it is fashionable to be involved in the war. She is aided by sixteen year old Guillaume Thomas, played expressively by Fabrice Bouquay, who swaggers into her courtyard on the eve of the ambulances' first departure, states confidently that he is General de Fontenoy's nephew and could be of any assistance to her? His identity is never questioned—his name brings too many convenient favours, and so together they set off at the head



"Sandra"

of a pathetic convoy of improvised ambulances expecting to find a treasure of romance, heroism and adventure. Although they discover tragedy, death and mutilation, their dreams live on—Thomas' world of fantasy becoming one with the world of reality only when he finds himself lying in the mud with a bullet in his chest, and the princess, tired of her role of ministering angel, turning her grounds into a mock battlefield for a fete.

The spirit of Jean Cocteau hovers over this film like a guardian angel—in fact it is more his film than Franju's (Director). It emphasises the stupidity of war rather than the horror of it because Cocteau saw war and death from an aesthetic point of view. Cocteau's influence is particularly evident in the sequence with the soldier who is about to have his leg amputated without chloroform when a bomb kills the surgeon and his aides. We are told that the soldier is left alone until gangrene "grew over him like ivy over a statue", and Franju has the camera wander over to a window and rest for a moment on a statue overgrown with ivy.

In fact, neither writer nor director is sufficiently concerned with the brutality of war to separate themselves from the attitude of the princess and Thomas who persists in seeing it as an elaborate backdrop for their own dreams. This is why the film never comes to grip with reality despite its realistic background. It is too nostalgic, too fascinated by muted landscapes, too shrouded in a mournful dreamlike beauty to be a war film.



A CHAIN OF ISLANDS

Japan, 1965.

Superficially this film is just one ghastly mess of unsolved murder cases—unsolved because the U.S. Army had a habit of taking over from the Japanese authorities and stopping investigation. However, one Japanese investigator finds what would appear to be the answer to all these mysterious murders but gets himself added to the list, leaving the unfortunate audience even worse off than they were at the beginning. That, then, is the plot—untidy and unfinished as it is.

The dialogue is no better (although admittedly this could be the fault of the translator), the best line being when a group of reporters are speculating about who might have committed the latest murder—Question—"Did she have a man?" Answer—"Of course not! She was a Christian."

What saves this film from boring mediocrity is a few sudden flashes of inspiration and sensitivity in the acting and photography, and the skilful way the oppressive presence of the American army is evoked. However, one cannot help feeling that while portraying the depressing atmosphere of defeat and foreign dominance in post-war Japan the director might have chosen a better script and a more ruthless editor.

Visconti's "Sandra" is a variation of the Electra theme. The heroic passions have vanished. Gianni-Orestes has returned home to witness the unveiling of a monument to his dead father. In charge of the ceremony is his step-father who has almost certainly denounced the Jewish aristocrat to the Nazis. But no longer does Orestes dream of revenge on his father. The aristocracy has decayed. The town is decaying and will soon be indistinguishable from the Etruscan ruins which surround it. The cliffs surrounding the town are crumbling. The decay of Gianni is linked to the decay of the town. He has repeatedly returned to the family home and has never grown away from its influence. Sandra has sought her life away from the town and the narrow confines of her childhood in a decadent world. The Furies do not claim her as they have claimed her mother and her brother. The incestuous relationship which finally destroys Gianni is shown to be a direct result of their upbringing and is linked like all the facets of the film to the decay of a society that has refused to adjust to changing times. Cesari-Franck's music forms a magnificent contribution to the film and the elegance of the music and the photography form a constant contrast to the far from elegant behaviour of the victims and blends beautifully with the ornate interiors of the family mansion.

"Fists in the Pocket", another Italian film, is a first feature by Marco Bellocchio. The title is ironic. It is one of the most violent films I have seen. The subject is a once wealthy provincial family in the last stages of decay. The atmosphere in the crumbling house is realised with great intensity. The scenes of the family at dinner are brilliant and introduce the atmosphere with precision. The extreme violence of the film is sustained from the first shot to the last horrifying close up of the epileptic protagonist strangled by his tongue during a fit. Physical, moral and mental violence become intertwined, overlapping and flowing into one another they are inseparable from one another and from the family which exists only as a product of its own violence and degradation. If Faulkner had written "Sound and the Fury" as a piece of comedy noir the effect would have been that of "Fists". Both the murders (matricide and fratricide) and the subsequent funerals are grotesque and farcical. This is a film to demoralise all moralists. One moral problem confronts another (albeit in somewhat inverted form) and the solution to the problem must therefore be immoral—or rather amoral.

Another first film by an Italian is Bertolucci's "Before the Revolution". Again incest is the theme. Fabrizio wants passionately to be a revolutionary. He has the propensities to become a revolutionary but not the strength or ability. He is mediocre, both in love and in politics. He will always exist 'before the revolution' in the times when decisions are not needed and life is sweet. The director has permeated the film with the personality structure of the young man. The mood of the film reflects the mood of the protagonist, usually with reasonable success. Visual quotations (the bicycle from Jules and Jim, the girl moving about in front of a blank wall (Antonioni) and the Godardian conversations) are fitted into the film very successfully.

Leyte, 1945. The retreating Japanese army is short of munitions and food. Slowly starving they flee before the Americans. This is the setting for Kon Ichikawa's "Fires on the Plain". Ichikawa is obsessed with the reactions of human beings to extreme physical and mental stress. He has a sense of physical immediacy rivalled by few film makers. Rain, foliage, dust, concrete elements and not just backdrop for the actors. They determine human actions. Man and his environment are normally interdependent. In extremities the balance slips. Actions come to be determined more and more by the environment. Before the rains there is dust and sticky, moist air. Then the rain brings mud into which weary men fall and drown. Their comrades do not help them. They cannot use their own strength in futile attempts at rescue or they too will fall victim to the mud. Physicality determines everything when men are at the mercy of their environment. Gradually the men begin to talk of 'monkey meat'—a euphemism for human flesh.

In one brilliant sequence three men sit under a rough shelter outside which the rain pours down, mercilessly eroding the earth and the humanity of the soldiers with its insistent drumming. The men talk about different things but they keep slipping

back to the subject of 'monkey meat'. They are obsessed by it. Each pretends that it really is monkey meat. They are pretending not to their companions but to themselves. They must retain their self respect and their guilt feelings or be pushed over the edge into animalism. The conversation slips and slithers toward the brink then withdraws and slips again. Outside the rain beats down. Slowly, logically the film leads to its shocking conclusion. One of the men kills his companion and methodically outchers him in front of the third man. He has admitted his guilt. He turns suddenly. His face is no longer human; his jaws drip blood like a wolf disturbed at its meal. He is shot by his remaining companion who walks toward the only symbol of hope in the film—the fires on the plain. The nervous farmers guarding the fires shoot him. Strangely the effect of this terrifying, brutal film is uplifting rather than depressing. There remains a basic faith in man. The philosophy is harsh but the faith is real. The directors attention to physical detail enables us to share the existence of the men and to understand that they are not dehumanised—they are still men... but men pushed to the furthest limit of humanity. Ichikawa's achievement is outstanding. The film is very beautiful cinematically. Compositions are perfectly balanced to achieve their effects yet never become obvious for they are purely functional.

The short films were disappointing. I saw sixty of them. Perhaps twenty were worth the effort. Artiness was the order of the day. Many of the films were apparently made on the assumption that if the audience is bored and if the director is the film is Art. Those with nothing to say said it so slowly and confusedly as they could aided by jumpy hand held cameras and choppy editing. A true statement becomes profound when expressed with the correct degree of confusion.

Subtly it is transmuted into Art and shipped to Melbourne. Art may be long, as Proust claimed, but artiness is longer. After that load of culture Mark Twain would have been justified in reaching for his pistol. The Canadian Film Board came to the rescue with its usual high quality entries. Particularly notable was "Stravinsky" a study of the composer. Storck's "Histoire du soldat Inconnu" (1882) and Renaud's "Night and Day" (1955) dealt with the perils of forgetting the past and surrendering to power hungry maniacs. There was "The Hand", a Czech parable about the fate of the artist in the totalitarian state and "Howard" about the facts of man as man. Also "The Hoffnung Symphony Orchestra" and best of all Dizzy Gillespie's "The Hat" with an impromptu dialogue between Gillespie and Dudley Moore. This was beautifully animated by Johnny Hubley. One can only hope that next year there will be less Art and better art.

"Diamonds of the Night" led into the Resnais world of timelessness where the present is reality only in relationship to past and future. Two boys escape from a Nazi prison train and the film chronicles the mute desperation of the younger as they flee through the forest. The sound and half-recognized glimpses of the past become the obsessive statement of his desires. His hunger recalls the bread he ate in the train, his bare feet remember the shoes he traded for food. Repeated images of possible execution or escape capture the intense fear the boy's experiences when he and his companion are caught by a grotesque band of old men.

I found the naive simplicity and directness of the film both appealing and refreshing.

What has old age to offer? Madame Bertini of "The Undignified Old Lady" turns her back brightly on the acceptable concerns of the aged—dependence and death—and ventures into life. Her first movements are tentative. She wanders through department stores, gazing at wigs, experimenting with demonstration perfume, eating ice cream sundaes. Gradually she creates a new existence for herself and a young prostitute she befriends, spending her money and her last eighteen months in a generous response to life. An affectionate, light-hearted film. "Zero in the Universe" was a true film, impossible, incoherent but great fun if you like indecipherable chessword puzzles. Zero, the wealthiest man in the world whose express activities range from "breeding whales in the Baltic" to "funding a religion" breaks with his partner. Their attempt to arrive at a settlement form the outline of a surreal film laced with plot and counter-plot, big business intrigue and overlying chaos. After an unrevealed object. Conspirators die in bathroom, a ridiculous agony. Zero robed as Napoleon directs a hysterical battle with hysterical desperation, a shooting party slide into a man hunt... While notable for its powerful camerawork the film suffers badly from slack editing.

Marco Bellocchio's "Fists in the Pocket" present an epileptic adolescent in the act of tormented destruction. Possessed by an overwhelming desire for normalcy in a family beset by blindness, epilepsy and imbecility, he reasons as primitive man—destroy the weakness which retards the freedom of the group. The potential for brutality and sensationalism in the themes of murder and incest is overcome by the delicacy and sensitivity of the director and the virtuosity of Lou Castel as epileptic. The film emerges as tragic insight into an anguished mind.



"Fires on the Plain"

Ichikawa's colour film "Alone on the Pacific" recapitulates the actual voyage of a young Japanese from Osaka to San Francisco in a small yacht. The hero of this adventure is drawn with sympathy and humour as he potters around the yacht, ineffectively attempting to wash his clothes, meticulously listing his possessions, weeping with self-indulgent pleasure, swimming frantically after the drifting yacht. This good natured fun is occasionally interrupted by flash-backs to the dark satanic people mills of Japanese industrialism and with more effect, by breathtaking photography of the malevolence of the stormy Pacific.

Militarism in the form of Fuhrer worship was tried and convicted of insanity in "The Adventures of Werner Holt" from East Germany. Werner, a youthful patriot, seemingly confines Nazism with the Chivalric Code. His disillusionment parallels the declining fortunes of Germany as the fanatics ignore defeat and turn to bestiality in an effort to control their disheartened men. Unfortunately his final rebellion was poignantly protracted long after the audience recognised it as inevitable.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS—Monastic Sport

SURFING

The newly formed Monash Surfing Fraternity, on the first Wednesday of this term, held its first surfboard rally. The previous Tuesday a meeting of members decided to hold the contest at Phillip Island — deciding that the weather conditions would probably result in a good surf at one of the beaches on the island.

On Wednesday at 12 o'clock a small convoy of cars and the three judges departed. Towards the southern end of Westernport Bay we could see that the weather conditions were perfect; however, we were still uncertain of the swell, which could have a vital influence on the results.

Arriving at the first beach, Woolani, the surf was excellent. Waves of about six feet were breaking at many points along the beach. The committee who organised the contest had great difficulty in restraining the competitors from entering the water until the heats were organised.

The judges finally managed to pick distinguishing features between the riders that they did not know and then the competitors scrambled for the water. The surf was even bigger than it looked from the beach. The waves were excellent in every respect but the water was really cold. The contestants were rather tense, as many knew each other's ability and one can be lucky in getting a couple of extra good waves to ride.

Judging lasts for half an hour, in which time a person can catch up to about 10 waves. The three waves for which the highest points were scored are added up for each contestant on each judge's score sheet and then the three judges add their scores together. The highest total winning the contest. The judges base their point score on the length of the ride and the way in which a surfer handles a wave to make the most out of it.

The first two places were very close, Peter Boyle taking first place by half a point from John Jenkins. Peter had some excellent waves and was very consistent in his performance on each wave. A member of the Victorian Surfing Team in 1964

and '65, he showed good form in his bottom turns and nose riding, especially on the bigger waves. John Jenkins, a member of this year's State surfing team, had one excellent ride for which he scored the highest number of points for an individual ride. However, he did not ride as consistently as Peter Boyle, and was placed second.

John Rowney filled third place fairly easily. His consistent riding placed him well clear of fourth and fifth place. Fourth place was taken by Andrew King, who was one point in front of David Cross. Both surfed very functionally and possibly deserved to do better.

The sixth place was taken by Mike Wilson, who is also Victorian Champion Surfboard Paddler.

The first rally was a great success. The first six places will be competing in a rally between the Monash Surfing Fraternity and a team from Swinburne Technical College on July 6. We hope to see more contestants at the rally against Swinburne and members unable to compete last time will have a chance to make the team which will compete in the Victorian Inter-Club Rally.

Bushwalking

BUSHWALKING?

The deafening cries of 360 of its members have finally caused the Monash Bushwalking Club to assert its existence in Lot's Wife. For six months we have shyly hidden our light. Extreme modesty prevented us from publicising the fact that we are the most continually active club in the University. Or that we also operate a 13-hour per day, five day per week Caf. Duty service — free to the University. Or that . . . But let us be more specific:

THE BUSHWALKING CLUB IS ACTIVE

In one single term we have taken 550 people on 23 trips. We have plodded along stony creek-beds, over fearsome railway bridges, through impenetrable promontory jungle, and up icy snow slopes. We have climbed small difficult boulders and long spectacular cliffs and waved to koalas and slid dutifully down again. Several times we have driven all night, almost 800 miles in fact, to give our members the very best walking and climbing available.

We have permitted our members to get enthusiastic about canoeing, and have already arranged trips for them. We have coated ourselves in mud and glory showing our members how to have fun finding your way out of a cave. We distinguished ourselves in all sorts of ways, by competing in the unofficial Intervarsity 24-hour Walk.

Several weekends we even trudged willingly up to the MUMC aluminium igloo to offer our services and eat free food.

THE BUSHWALKING CLUB CARES ABOUT NEW MEMBERS.

It wants them to be happy. It wants them to come on trips, now they've joined. It was surprised and hurt to find that there are actually a few people who paid their dollar and have not even gone on a trip with the club!

We have had beginners' climbing trips — teaching them how to tie and untie knots, how to fall and how not to fall and what to say and sing. We have led freshers down special small caves and quickly up to the sun again. We have even had a beginners' walk — with possibilities of meeting 150 people.

It has been suggested that the walk may have been a little overwhelmingly scenic for some people. If this was so in your case, PLEASE READ ON QUICKLY. The club is so genuinely anxious to please you that it promises to organise a walk to your own specifications — as unspectacular as you wish, and as comfortable as you wish. We like you.

THE BUSHWALKING CLUB COULD GO ON AND ON . . . just simply stating its achievements and benefits. But we are modest. And besides, we don't need to. Everybody knows we are the activist, friendliest club. And what other club needs two notice boards?

Volleyball

The Monash University Volleyball Club was formed in 1965 and this year entered a men's and women's team in the Victorian "B" grade competition. Training was held twice a week and competition matches were played on Sundays. The women's team played off in the Grand Final against a Finnish team. Here they won the first two games comfortably and were eventual winners of the women's "B" grade pennant. The men's team was defeated twice

early in the season by the eventual first and second placegetters, but then had an undefeated run to end up third on the ladder. They won their way to the grand final but were defeated by the Physical Education team, which was composed of very experienced players.

The club is extremely grateful to their coach, Mr. Laslo Leber, who trained both Monash teams in addition to his duties as Victorian State Coach.

Athletics

The following members acquitted themselves well in the recent I.V. Athletics Competition held in Perth—

Sprint Events

Women's 200m: M. Jones 1st (26.1); M. McGregor 5th.
Women's 800m: H. Jones 2nd (2m 28.5); M. McGregor 3rd (2m 32.3).
Women's 80m hurdles: M. McGregor 4th; H. Jones 5th.
Women's 400m: H. Jones 2nd (60.1); M. McGregor 5th.
Women's 100m: M. McGregor 5th.
Women's 4 x 100m: Monash 5th.
Men's 800m: T. Danos 3rd (1m 54.1); P. Re 8th.
Men's 1500m walk: J. Sheard 2nd (2m 10.1).
Men's 110m hurdles: Lane 6th; Needham 7th.
Men's 1500m medley relay: Monash 4th.
Men's 4 x 400m medley relay: Monash 7th.
Men's 4 x 100m relay: Monash 4th.

Field Events —

Women's long jump: M. McGregor 3rd (16ft. 1in.).
Women's discus: C. Walton 5th (87ft. 2in.).
Women's shot put: J. Stoll 5th (29ft. 7in.).
Women's javelin: C. Warren 2nd (119ft. 8in.).
Women's high jump: S. Hansen 4th (4ft. 7in.).
Men's triple jump: R. Needham.

9th (42ft. 5 1/2 in.); J. Lane 12th (40ft. 3in.).
Men's hammer throw: C. Peters-Snow 4th (99ft.).
Men's high jump: I. McKinnon 10th (5ft. 8in.).
Men's pole vault: C. Peters-Snow 5th (10ft.).
Men's javelin: I. McKinnon 6th (170ft. 10in.).

COMING ATTRACTIONS

★ Berlin Olympics. This spectacular film of the 1936 Olympiad is finally coming to Monash. Don't miss out on seeing it.

★ Annual Cross Country Championships. All males interested in competing over a distance of 10,000 metres on a course near Monash are invited to enter. The competition will be held on an Inter-Faculty basis, with the successful faculty winning the D. G. Ellis Perpetual Trophy for 1966. Winners will also be presented with trophies. Enter now by placing your name and faculty in the Athletics letter box or through your faculty society. "Get fit quick" pack runs, sand and hill running are planned each Wednesday prior to the championships.

★ Also planned for Term II is the possibility of holding an Inter-Faculty Road Race, 6 x 1 mile, to be run within the University during the last week of term. Faculties, start your preparation NOW!

Rugby

This year's inter-faculty competition will take the form of a seven-a-side competition with two 10-minute halves. This is to be played on Wednesday, July 29. Anyone interested in playing should see their faculty representatives or leave a note on the Rugby Club Notice Board. At the moment the following draw has been agreed on.

Game 1 Science v. Engineering A.
Game 2 Med. v. Arts/Law B.
Game 3 Ecops v. Bestloser of 1 or 2 C.

Then the winner of A is to play the winner of B and the loser is

then to play the winner of C. The final playoff is between the winners of these two games.

Meanwhile in the VRU competition recent performances would seem to indicate Monash will be in the final four of second grade during our first year in this grade.

On Saturday, June 18, Monash lost to top team Melbourne 12-9 at Olympic Park. Up till half time Monash looked certain winners, with the back-line functioning beautifully. Forward play also looked promising when John Oscar scored his second try, followed by Trevor Finlayson across

the line to lead 9-3. During the second half, Melbourne tightened the play and Monash went to pieces under pressure. The final score was 12-9.

On the following Saturday Monash returned to the four by displacing Old Scotch in a magnificent display which left the crowds gasping. Everyone played in true winning spirit with a crushing victory, 20-5. Unfortunately the third grade seems to be in trouble again with three consecutive losses — to Harlequins, Melbourne and University. At this stage prospects for the future look dim.

lot's wife casual ball

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