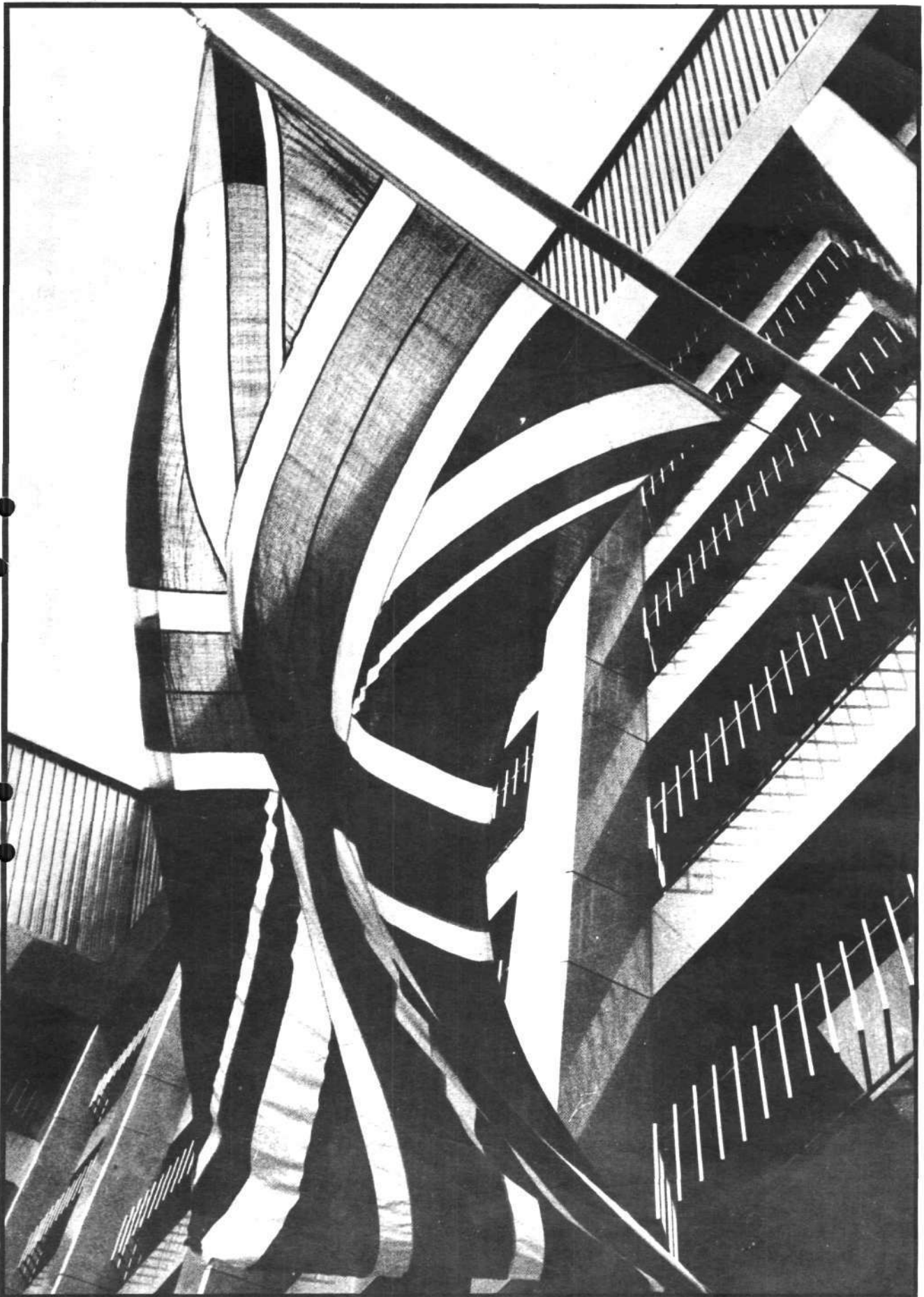


LOT'S WIFE

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CAPITALISM AND THE UNIVERSITY

feature by John Playford - Page 8

Looking Ahead in Education

by our education writer
- Helen Smith.

Looking Ahead in Education — an address by Lindsay Thompson, Minister for Education (from the book of the same name). The venue, a Liberal Party policy meeting in Burwood High School Hall. The audience, a receptive group of Bennettswood's Liberal citizens — marred only by a very few dissenters, who were the modicum of respectability, even when asking "unfair" questions (as the chairman put it). The docile nature of the audience made the presence of four policemen quite astonishing!

Mr. Thompson's speech commenced as a conventional success story... Education is expanding rapidly — more schools, more universities, more facilities, new emphasis on libraries, all financed by a larger slice of the budget all progress regrettably, just failing to keep pace with the growing school population (Mr. Thompson's comment, not mine). The increase in primary pupils since 1950 is 50%, in secondary pupils — 200%, and or matriculation students, an increase of 1000%. To meet (or "nearly" meet) this expansion there has been a growth in the number of schools. Following a period of inactivity between 1930 and 1953, when only two new high schools were built, from 1953 to 1969, 156 new high schools have sprouted up throughout Victoria. Correspondingly the percentage of the budget allocated to education has risen from 20% in 1940 to 43% today.

There ends the success story; increased injections of money have failed to cope with the problems that Victoria now faces in Education. The size of the Department alone is now formidable; the administrative machinery is drowning in a sea of paper work and archaic rules. Almost all matters concerning the running of the school must be referred to the central bureaucracy — from such matters as appointments, transfers and resignations of teachers, and the allocation of money, down to teacher absences of even one day. And such matters of policy and practice that are dealt with by the principals, and in the case of student teachers the various colleges, are subject to such a wide variety of interpretations that dissatisfaction is rife.

Mr. Thompson's answer to this problem is decentralisation. Not, as he emphasised, to the degree the Canadian system has undergone, where regional control of total finances has led to gross inequalities, but to the degree where the maximum of administrative freedom is given to the Headmasters and school committees and a minimum of correspondence is conducted between the schools and the central administration. Total financial grants, teaching and student conditions would remain a central policy. One possibility which Mr. Thompson outlined is the regional system of ad-

ministration as was first experimented with in the Riverina area of New South Wales in 1946, and has resulted in 11 administrative areas to date. In Victoria areas perhaps the size of Gippsland and the Western District would become almost autonomous areas (however if decentralisation is conducted strictly along the lines of the N.S.W. system, closer examination reveals that the system is far from adequate—see Thompson P.57). The largest single problem about decentralisation is that despite all the Minister's good intentions on this subject his chances of implementation are negligible in the face of the impossible bureaucratic entanglement and the political football match working against him.

A second problem aligned with that of unwieldy size, is the failure of recruitment to teaching to even keep pace with resignations and with the increase in school population. Mr. Thompson quoted an increase in teaching staff, including teachers in training, of 625%, but he did not cite the percentage of resignations. On current trends, one is led to believe that this figure would be astronomical.

Apart from dissatisfaction on the part of student teachers, there are academic failures which result in a longer training period (30%), abandonment of course, or transfer to T.S.T.C. — a further 30% of all recruitments. Mr. Thompson admitted that secondary teachers colleges were inadequate to cope with those not admitted to University, added to which the prestige value is low and the course limited to teaching in Victoria. Therefore students are often reluctant to embark on a T.S.T.C. course. The Minister stated that staff/student ratio has decreased from 1 to 44 to 1 to 35 in 2/3rds of all Victorian schools. It is, however, the other one third that are causing concern, but we know little about them other than what is in the occasional news article or letter by aggrieved students or teachers.

And what of the future? Very little was said other than there would be more increased size, larger (but inadequate) injections of money, more teachers if possible and decentralisation as mentioned previously. The Minister's attention seems sharply focussed on the need "to provide the students with a worthwhile set of social values to fight the battle of life," because "we must have first-class citizens."

To give Mr. Thompson just credit, not only is he an excellent speaker, but his sentiments are, I believe, sincere. However, to reiterate my previous point, he is only one man — he cannot possibly know all of the inadequacies, let alone cope with them. The faults lie mainly in the bureaucratic structure with all its accompanying frustrations and in the fact that education is a political issue.

"LET MY PEOPLE GO" - DEMONSTRATION

Nearly 53 years after the Russian Revolution, Victorian Jewish students staged a "Let My People Go" demonstration on campus and a 24-hour fasting vigil in the city square last Tuesday and Wednesday.

The forum at Monash was addressed by Dr. Shaw (Director of Hillel), Professor Taft (Professor of Social Psychology), the Chairman, David Mittleburg and later on, by Albert Langer and Elliot Gingold.

The main aim of the first three speakers was to impress upon the listeners (about 500) the degree of discrimination against Jews in the U.S.S.R. today.

Dr. Shaw said it was only right that Jewish students in the free world should protest about the plight of Jewish communities behind the Iron Curtain.

Professor Taft gave a historical account of anti-semitism in Russia and how it exists in Communist Russia today.

Albert Langer commented that although it was a well-known fact that government institutionalised anti-semitism existed in the U.S.S.R. and other Eastern European countries, he objected to any link implied between anti-

semitism and the left. He said that anti-semitism was not part of left-wing ideology and that it was an example of where the Russians had gone wrong.

Dr. Shaw answered by saying that 95% of what Mr. Langer said was correct but said it was a "red herring" to the cause in hand. He said that the madness of the Stalin era showed what did in fact happen to Soviet Jewry.

Professor Taft also commented that Jewish students should not blindly join the leftist movement and work against themselves as Jewish Communists in Poland had done who were now left out in the cold. He said that Jewish students should be the vanguard in the movement against racism.

Elliot Gingold answered Professor Taft by saying that Jewish students should be in the vanguard of the leftist movement to work against racial oppression. He pointed out that under the Lenin era the true socialist era of

Russia, the Jews were not discriminated against and that nothing after Lenin is the socialism he supports.

He said Cuba did not discriminate against Jews and, in fact gave aid to build Jewish cultural and religious institutions. He gave Spain as an example of a Right wing government where anti-semitism went on.

The chairman concluded by saying that all this was irrelevant, that, when talking about Vietnam, we don't talk about Biafra and that they weren't there to talk about the position of the Jewish student in Leftist politics. They were there to demonstrate against one particular injustice in the world today.

It was pointed out during the meeting that the demonstration was not against Communism or the U.S.S.R. but only "to see justice done to the Jews of the U.S.S.R."

The forum dispersed with many people going to the city square where a well attended, quiet demonstration went on with different people participating during the later afternoon and late night.

Wainer — a personal guerilla war

"I've been involved in Victorian politics in a personal guerilla warfare," said Dr. Bertrand Wainer.

Dr. Wainer attacked "good, clean, practising politicians who don't have the interests of people at heart" and included all sitting members of the major parties in this category.

"They're all self-seeking opportunists!" he said.

The meeting was called by the Glen Waverley branch of the Progressive Reform Party. About 150 people attended. Dr. Wainer was greeted with spontaneous applause as he entered the meeting.

CORRUPTION INQUIRY

Dr. Wainer briefly reviewed his efforts to have a commis-

sion of inquiry held to investigate allegations of police corruption in Victoria. Neither the Premier, Sir Henry Bolte, nor the leader of the State Opposition, Mr. Clyde Holding, would become involved, he said. He noted, however, Mr. Holding's recent attempts to identify his party with the calling of the inquiry now being held.

RYLAH 'INEFFICIENT'

The Progressive Reform Party (P.R.P.) will sponsor candidates in the May State elections. Dr. Wainer will contest the seat of Kew, currently held by the Chief Secretary, Sir Arthur Rylah. Sir Arthur dismissed initial requests for an inquiry in order "to cover up his own inefficiencies", Dr. Wainer said.

OMBUDSMAN

If the Party was not successful in gaining parliamentary representation in the May elections, said Dr. Wainer, it would continue to act as an Ombudsman.

"On my own files, there are enough grievances to keep a hundred people busy for a year," he said.

British Breast Battle

There is an advertisement that is arousing quite a lot of public interest in Britain. It shows a naked lady lying on her back. The caption reads: "The second most interesting surface in the world is Formica laminate".

The reputedly conservative British newspaper, The Sunday Times, said, in an article about the advertisement —

"The final accolade came

yesterday, when the Sun (English version) devoted half a page to the advertisement (thus baring their 17th nipple in nine consecutive days)".

The following week, The Sunday Times published this letter under the caption "Keeping abreast" —

"It was fascinating to learn that the new Sun had bared 17 nipples in nine days. We hadn't been counting.

"We had been counting those in The Sunday Times, however. Your score in nine issues: 22.

"Sun readers need not despair. It is clear that they are still fractionally underprivileged, but the situation is not irretrievable. — Larry Lamb, Editor, The Sun".

The Herald and Weekly Times should get moving. You have to be in it to win it.

Democrats- aim to take Lot's Wife

The D.L.P. Club committee said that they should aim for ultimate control of Lot's Wife.

In the past, the D.L.P. Club has not nominated members for positions on any of the M.A.S. committees. This year the Democrats see the two areas where they could have a major influence as being the Publications Committee where two members will stand and the Education Committee where they will nominate one member.

Paul D'Astoli said that although it should not be concealed that some of their members were standing, they must say they consider the offices as politically neutral. The suggestion was made that their platform should be on issues such as car parking etc.

Mr. D'Astoli said the D.L.P. club must do all they can against the M.A.S. system.

He said, "It is crucial that we initiate issues of our own". He said that there is a lot more

work involved in finding fault in the opposition than in focusing on issues of our own choice. Referring to the type of research done in supporting Langer's expulsion, Paul D'Astoli said: "Quite frankly, I can't keep it up".

The D.L.P. Club acknowledges that participation in forthcoming Vietnam activities is a matter of individual conscience and should not be restricted but as they respect the rights of those who do not wish to participate in, or have their activities interrupted by Moratorium activities, the D.L.P. Club will not support student strikes, picketing, cancellation or disruption of lectures.

A petition stating the D.L.P. Club's point of view has received 212 signatories. They will inform the press of this support and through it, they hope that the academic integrity of staff will be questioned.

Monash Builders support Moratorium

Builders' laborers were enthusiastic in their support for the Vietnam Moratorium when three members of the Moratorium Steering Committee addressed a group of them last week.

Mark Taft, Joe Petyanski and Len Hartnett spoke to builders' laborers working on the site of the new medicine buildings on the Vietnam situation and how it relates to the people of Australia.

The meeting was arranged through the Builder's Laborers' Union representative on the site.

Mark Taft spoke of how the Australian Government is spending about \$100,000,000 a year upon the Vietnam war whilst workers in Australia are underpaid and work in poor conditions. He emphasised the need for a worker-student alliance, that students and workers are after a better deal from administrators and employers respectively.

He said the Vietnamese people were suffering greatly as a result of foreign intervention through use of napalm, indiscriminate bombing and defoliation. He said that the government should do more for the worker with the money that is going to supporting the Vietnam war.

At one point, Mark Taft was interrupted by a worker who claimed that he was giving a political speech but other workers pointed out that you cannot discriminate between economic and political issues.

After Mark Taft's speech several workers put their point of view and discussion took place for over 15 minutes. An official from the Plumbers' Union spoke in support of the Moratorium. He said that other plumbers could not at-

tend the meeting as they were out on strike.

The general feeling amongst the builders' laborers was that the demonstration should be non-violent but that police provocation should be resisted peacefully.

Mark Taft told them of the plans for the Moratorium which will take place on May 8, 9 and 10.

- Friday there will be a large demonstration held in the Treasury Gardens, starting at about 2 p.m. where there will be various speakers. There will then be a march to the city where there will be a three-hour occupation of a city block. A sit down in Burke St. will last at least 15 minutes.

- Saturday has been allocated to local activities. There are over 60 area groupings and up to 300 people have been attending planning meetings. There will be widespread demonstrations at the major shopping areas. There will be an all night vigil held outside parliament house.

- Sunday there will be special church services and in the afternoon there will be a peace happening in the Treasury Gardens where there will be speakers, pop groups and plays performed by the La Mama Play Group.

At the end of the meeting, the workers unanimously decided that there should be more such meetings.

Vice Chancellor, Dr. Matheson, has said that staff are free to observe the moratorium if they wished but the university should go about its business as usual.

COOK CELEBRATIONS BAD NEWS - ABSCOL

This year the Australian Government is asking all Australians to celebrate the discovery of Australia by Captain James Cook, 200 years ago. The point they make is that 200 years ago the Australian nation first began. Comparison is made between the "early" days and the present. Words like "progress and development" are used to describe the activities which have grown as the nation has grown. Mention is also made about the pioneering role Australia has played in the field of social welfare.

All this must be granted. Australia has done many things of which it can justifiably be proud. This then is the reason why the nation is asked to celebrate the last 200 years. However, in the 200 year period since Cook landed at Botany Bay other events have occurred which should make Australians ashamed rather than proud.

The point is made that the Australian Aborigines will not be joining in the celebrations. They have nothing to celebrate and much to weep for. For them, Cook's landing was not the birth of a nation but the beginning of a long and seemingly unending period of personal and cultural decline.

Before the arrival of Cook and those who followed him, the Aborigines had established a perfectly valid way of life in a harsh and barren country. They had kept the race alive through unknown centuries of time, they threatened no-one, and coveted nothing except the barest minimum of food. They had the art of living for the day, they knew how to laugh and enjoy themselves.

They had a cultural heritage and a religion which was as sophisticated as any known.

They were a people of great accomplishment, for they knew the art of happy living.

However, with the arrival of Cook and the subsequent invasion of Australia by the British, the life of the Aborigines changed. As the settlers moved inland the Aborigines were deprived of their lands, the lands upon which they were dependent for their livelihood.

European diseases spread rapidly amongst them and decimated their population. In Tasmania straight-out genocide was practised. Aborigines were hunted as one would hunt a lion in Africa today. The Christian missionaries had scant respect for their religions and so not only was the Aborigines physical livelihood stolen from him but his spiritual strength was also sapped and destroyed.

The Aborigine was treated as a non-person in a land which was his own.

If we compare the 200 year period for white and black, we can soon see why there is no reason for the Aborigines to be celebrating. While Australia made progress in the field of social welfare, the field of Aboriginal Affairs became worse.

While Australia gave women the vote, Aborigines were hunted and slaughtered. While Australia improved its health services and so decreased the death rate, Aboriginal infant and child mortality rates soared and diseases previously unknown to the Aborigines killed many thousand of their number. While white Australians struggled to develop a culture and life style of their own, Aborigines began to lose their cultural heritage, a process which was readily assisted by missionaries and Government officials.

Thus in the 200 year period since Cook arrived, white Australia has advanced and black Australia has gone backwards.

This situation has continued until the present day where we find that while White Australia is progressing rapidly, Aboriginal Australia remains a neglected and exploited sector of the population.

To take just a few facts to show this we can look at health, education and housing.

If an Aboriginal baby is born today:

1. It has a much better than average chance of being dead within two years.
2. If it does survive it had a much better than average chance of suffering from sub-standard diet to a degree likely permanently to handicap it
 - (a) in its physical and mental potential;
 - (b) in its resistance to disease.
3. If it reaches adult ages it is likely to be lethargic, irresponsible, and above all poverty-stricken — unable to break out of the iron cycle of poverty, ignorance, malnutrition, ill-health, social isolation, and antagonism: if it lives in the North, it has a good chance of being maimed by leprosy and, wherever, it searches for affection and companionship, this may well end only in the misery of V.D.
4. Compared with Europeans it has only one chance in 30 of reaching matriculation or higher.
5. It has four times the chance of not being educated at all.
6. It has only one chance in 10 of living in a house owned by its parents.
7. It has one chance in three of living in a dwelling with not enough beds.

These are just some of the facts which show how neglected and deprived Aboriginal Australians are. While White Australia is celebrating Cook's arrival and the "birth" of the nation, Aborigines and whites of good conscience will be weeping for the losses of the original Australians. WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING?

And the little lady approves

Brian Ferrari dinner suits

at the



UNION DRY- CLEANERS

LOT'S WIFE

Due to a special low cost arrangement with Waverley Offset Printers, Lot's Wife is now weekly. It is hoped this move will attract greater advertising and provide a bridge to greater communication amongst staff and students at Monash.

LOT'S WIFE EDITORIAL

Printed by Waverley Offset Printers, Railway Parade, Glen Waverley, 3150. Edited and published by Russell Skelton, 4 Rockmore Grove, Ivanhoe 3079, for the Monash Association of Students.

With the rapidly increasing profits of Australian television stations, there is no excuse for the poor standard of Australian TV productions.

It seems few people really care about the bastardization which is taking place or the false promises which are being made and continually broken to the Broadcasting Control Board. As long as the dollars keep rolling in for the "medium brokers" nobody worries about the most powerful influence on our culture. A case in point is the television license which Mr. Ansett holds.

CHANNEL 0 PROMISES DISHONORED

In awarding the A.T.V.0 licence to Ansett the Broadcasting Control Board said we "would not use profitability as the yardstick", that the content of the programmes would reflect an Australian environment, encourage awareness of the achievements of Australia and advance the arts and culture of the nation" and that his company would create "a strong Australian image in its programmes".

Not only has Ansett dishonoured these guarantees but he has been quick to realize the profit potential of low cost local shows (**New Talent Time** and **Good Morning Mr. Doubleday** to name unbelievably bad Channel 0 productions).

From the evidence of recent Channel 0 programming Ansett is completely out of his depth in this powerful mass medium; he may be successful in airlines and on the road but he has broken every Control Board promise that he made in 1963.

His promise of "58% Australian content in the first year, to be gradually increased" hardly measures up to the official Control Board figure for A.T.V.0 of 45% after three years of operation.

His current weekly average of 12 feature films is hardly "advancing the arts and culture of the nation." His weekly total of 38 hours of canned viewing from overseas hardly "encourages awareness of the achievements of Australia". Apart from the flood of feature films, we have had out-dated canned repeats like "Dragnet", and "Gunsmoke", which could hardly be said to reflect an Australian environment.

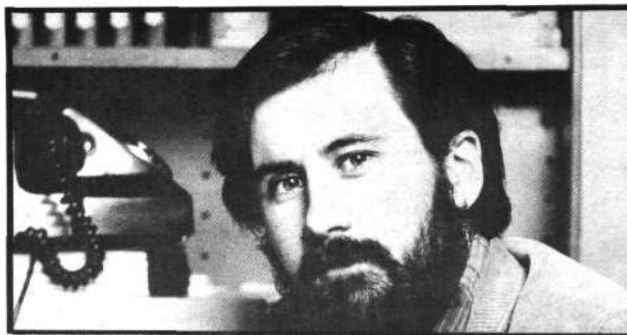
But when it comes to A.T.V.0 produced drama we reach an all-time low. Despite the 1962 Ansett promise to produce an Australian drama weekly with emphasis on the "use of Australian character and background" the Control Board waived its two-hour local drama quota for commercial stations in February, 1968, because of "financial problems" experienced by Channel 0.

It would seem that Ansett has been unable to fulfil the promise of "strength, vigor and venturesomeness" that gave him the much-sought-after station licence.

The irony is that Crawford, the independent television producer and unsuccessful licence applicant, has been able to achieve all that Ansett has proved incapable of doing. They use talented people to produce a class crime drama with **Homicide, Division 4** and **Hunter** as well as the variety feature **The Entertainers**, a well-received quiz show **Coles \$6,000 Question**, and is still able to import a world famous television controversialist, Malcolm Muggeridge. No doubt serious drama and other badly-needed features would be well within their range.

How did the Control Board in all sincerity to the public possibly renew the Channel 0 licence recently?

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BRIAN CANDLER New MAS Chairman

By David Uren

"I think that this will be a moderate year — I hope." Brave words from one who has been M.A.S. Chairman for nearly two weeks.

Brian Candler quoted the outgoing Chairman, Warrick Nelson, who said of the office:

"You could never recommend the job to anyone as enjoyable but it is a very enlightening experience. Someone has to do the hack work."

Amongst his plans for this year is to fix up the voting procedure at general meetings.

"I personally think that a chairman's ruling at a meeting should be absolute, which sounds very autocratic from me, but I think that if a chairman is worried, he isn't going to rule. This will be my own attitude. Where he doesn't rule, or where people want to contest his rule, there should be a petition of the same number required to call a quorum, so that it is reasonable and not just a few individuals who don't like the chairman or don't like the type of vote that was taken, to call a referendum. That referendum would be done by having student rolls at the M.A.S. office and some sort of recording device. The student would come along with his ID card, be marked off and record his vote."

Another thing that Brian Candler would like to see happen soon is students being better represented on administrative committees.

"Students should be given a reasonable say in what goes on, not just one token vote in a committee of 35. Giving a student a vote on a committee is a formal recognition of our right to participate, but the actual participation at present is entirely irrelevant."

"I do see severe limitations in having majority student control which is what some people are advocating. We are here to learn and obviously the things we want to learn will be affected by the knowledge of those who teach, the way in which they think it ought to be taught and the things they think we ought to learn. Obviously, the person who is teaching knows what things you need to know on a particular subject."

"Fifty-fifty staff-student control is more feasible although I can see drawbacks. The immediate problem is to give students a reasonable say in the things that affect him."

Where does he see universities heading?

"Deeper and deeper into the quagmire — mainly because no-one has bothered to officially state what the university is."

"If you listen to the ultra left, it is just a brain factory for the capitalist society; if you listen to the academic registrar, it is a community of scholars in the good old traditional sense. It is absolutely essential that the university work out where it is going."

Brian's personal opinion of the role of the university is that it should do more than turn out trained robots.

"The university must be a place for the free exchange of ideas. It should turn out someone who suits

society's needs as well as someone who is capable of thinking for himself and has more than just his professional training. This is why I am critical of specialisation. I admit that it is sometimes necessary but there should be more general training."

"A lot of on-campus direct action has been provoked by the authorities," he said. "I don't think it is justified but it can be explained. Student violence achieves little as it only serves to harden the arteries of those in authority."

"Repression by an administration never gets anyone anywhere. If a radical can prove repression, it is fairly easy for him to stir up even very moderate students. This is why I'm disappointed with our Vice Chancellor's attitude since he came back from U.S.A. His attitude has changed markedly. I wouldn't describe it as paranoia but it is certainly an obsession. It has been carried to the extreme when he puts up wrought iron cages around the finance and student records offices, blocks them off from the rest of the offices and puts a guard on the door. This is a clear recognition that those who try to disrupt you succeed."

"Personally, I think that the most effective way to deal with dissident elements is to ignore them and they'll go away. The point with the action of the administration is that they play right into the hands of those who scream repression. The more they let themselves be pushed up against the wall and the more they react by saying, 'We'll debate with you until you start winning, when we'll use the authority we've got,' the more they start to make the ultra left's claim of repression look feasible."

How often does the administration take notice of M.A.S. decisions?

"One could be cynical and say whenever it suits them," he said. "The weight of the argument depends upon whether they want to accept the argument. It can be more or less forcefully put by the individual himself."

Brian tends to dismiss claims of the right wing students that M.A.S. is out of touch with the students.

"No matter what sort of a body you have, it will be held in contempt by somebody," he said. "The S.R.C., as it turned out in the final flourish, was held in contempt by nearly everybody."

"If the ultra right could prove their allegation then something ought seriously be done. I have yet to be satisfied that this allegation is sound. I think it may well be that THEY are divorced from the student body. Their allegation is different from saying that students aren't involved. Their reason for not being involved may be that they are quite happy to go along with the present system which is different from saying that the mass of students are disenchanted with this system, which is the allegation that the ultra-right tend to keep making."

US and THEM

In my first year at University I attended several meetings of the Monash Labour Club. The atmosphere of those meetings bore a marked resemblance to that of a religious instruction class in a Catholic primary school. Discussion proceeded on the basis of certain dogmas which nobody thought it necessary to either justify or call into question. Just as Catholic schoolchildren have no difficulty in believing that they will rot in purgatory, so those present had no difficulty in believing that history is an inevitable process of class warfare, which we are not free to avoid. For Communism requires an act of faith, the same as every other superstition. The speeches reminded me less of reasoned discourses than of recitations of the Catechism, interspersed as they were with chapter and verse quotations from the Gospel according to St. Mao.

Accept on faith a few improbable dogmas, such as the inevitability of the Revolution, belief in "the primordial goodness of man", belief that man somehow fulfills himself by killing other men (particularly capitalists) etc. and it only requires one more intellectual leap to identify yourself with the workers and everyone you dislike with the capitalists, and you need never think again. Every political problem you will ever face can be instantly solved by reference to the Us/Them dichotomy now entrenched in your brain. If a University administration, say, does something of which you disapprove, you are justified in going to any lengths to inconvenience them because Professors are really only Capitalist-Imperialists in disguise. And if a University Administration hasn't done anything of which you disapprove, this is only a subtle Capitalist-Imperialist trick to confuse you, and you are still entitled to go to any lengths to inconvenience them.

Try to imagine Pavlov's dogs becoming evangelical and going out

into the world to make converts, and you will have formed an accurate impression of the programme of the Monash avant garde. Pavlov's dogs would presumably not be so silly as to imagine they could persuade people, on rational grounds, that they ought to salivate when they hear bells ringing. No more do the student militants imagine that rational persuasion will lead very many to accept a series of dogmas as unlikely as those which constitute Communism. The only hope they have of making revolutionaries of the masses is to carry to them the holy gospel of the Us/Them dichotomy.

Having received this doctrine by a process of Pavlovian classical conditioning, the average student is expected to go out into the world equipped with paranoid spectacles, bound to see every issue in terms of the oppressors and the oppressed, and when the Revolution comes (as it inevitably will), The People, or at least some of them, will be ready for it.

Among left-wing tacticians, this procedure is variously known as "politicising" or "revolutionising" the students, or as "developing the revolutionary consciousness". It worked perfectly last year. Then the first issue was car parking a paradigm Us/Them situation. They want us to pay, We don't want to pay, therefore We fight Them. A vote for your pocket is a vote against Them. By simply raising hands in favour of a motion beginning "We the Students condemn the Administration" we, the students, were being conditioned for much bigger things later on. Not only did those who voted against the Administration over car parking get that warm glow of self-satisfaction that comes from daring to be left wing, but suspicion of Them lingered on.

Having begun the process of "politicising" students by appealing to their pockets, the next step was to consolidate the process by appealing to their conscience. The Disci-

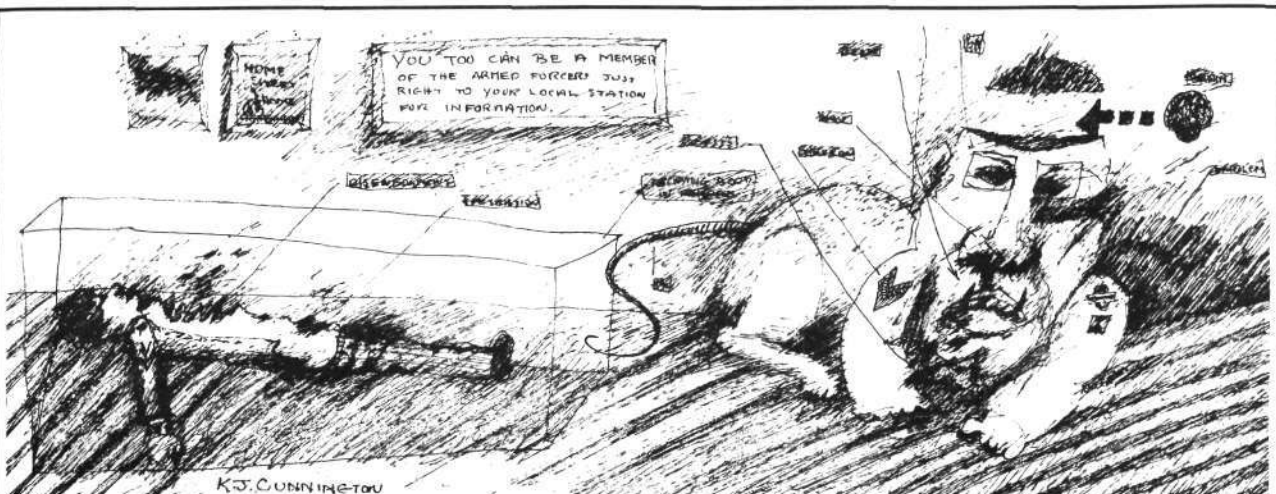
pline Statute was the ideal instrument. Because of its utilitarian insistence on maintaining an article of the Statute which reserved to the University the right to refuse admission to persons convicted of certain criminal offences, the Administration could be made out to be immoral, as it is thereby denied equality of opportunity in education. Most students were easily persuaded that it would be inconsistent for them to condemn the attitude of the Administration and then vote against the direct action motion, the distinction between disagreeing with someone and forcing him to do what you tell him being one which is difficult to draw at mass meetings, and the original issue was soon lost sight of in a haze of sit-ins, sieges and occupations. The issue soon became whether They were to be allowed to subject Us to disciplinary hearings for exercising Our right to free expression of opinion by breaking down the door of the Council Chamber during disciplinary hearings.

By this stage, the majority of students attending M.A.S. Meetings had been well and truly politicised, that is they had contracted the militants' persecution delusions in a sufficient degree to keep things exciting. Third term and exams intervened, but by this year's first student general meeting, suspicion of Them was still sufficiently general to lead 934 people to vote in favour of a motion alleging some very improbable and insubstantial charges of political discrimination against the Science Faculty Board. As the tacticians are fond of pointing out, these 934 were only so soundly outvoted because of the large number of not yet politicised first year students who voted. Presumably a student who had been politicised would, having seen the opportunity for discrimination, accept, on faith, that it must have happened, whereas a not yet politicised first year student would ask himself whether there was any evidence for thinking that it had.

It is my hope, gentle reader, that you will ask yourself just one question, namely "Have I been politicised?". Quite possibly you haven't, because surprisingly, the Us/Them mentality failed to permeate to a quite considerable minority of active students at Monash. There were three classes of students, who, somehow or other did not get politicised last year. The first and largest group included the D.L.P. Club, the now eclipsed Monash University Society, and all those others who were too fixed in their own delusions to wish to subscribe to the Labour Club's; the second group consisted of the perverse, who thought there was something suspicious about people who wanted them to get into a frenzy of righteous fury about something as trivial as car parking; and the third group comprised the sceptics, who regarded the whole business as rather funny, and considered that people who threw car park barricades into lily ponds by day and occupied Administration buildings by night, were not knaves, but fools. If you are one of the perverse, I admit that you have a point, but the sceptics are, of course, perfectly correct.

But while the comic opera atmosphere of Monash has its attractions, and while it must seem almost philistine of me to oppose it, still, while we are tilting at car parks, Administration buildings, Windmills, etc., we are not tackling serious problems such as the Gorton government, poverty, world hunger, disarmament, study, etc. And moreover, once anyone contracts the militant's Windmill complex, he is rendered incapable of taking a rational approach to any of these problems, preferring coercion to persuasion, and tactics to reason. So while I hate to knock a good joke, the punch line of the one about the students and the Administration, really isn't very good.

DEANE WELLS



Vietnam death toll 401: 2496 wounded. Become a pig - join the armed forces

LETTERS

Left Reflections

—Albert Langer



The Administration and ring-wing students are no doubt still crowing about their success in excluding me from Monash. It must be rather sad for them to find that this has resulted in my becoming a regular contributor to Lot's Wife for the first time and in the Labor Club becoming even more active.

It should be clear from past experience that repressive action by University Administrations and the State cannot hold back the radical protest movement in the long term. Even in the short term, no sooner does the Right win one victory in one place than trouble breaks out somewhere else. Despite hysterical press accounts, Sydney Uni. students came out in support of a radical occupation of the Administration building there.

At Monash the M.A.S. general meeting was undoubtedly a defeat for the left. Despite the double voting and the large numbers of people who were brought out to vote without even listening to the debate, we should have been able to win easily on a question like that. However, the left's defeat was also a useful one. It taught us that we cannot just complacently rely on the idea that "Monash students are radical" and that we need to take left ideas much more deeply into the mass of students. It has resulted in far more people than ever before, taking an active role in the Labor Club (190 at one meeting) and in the formation of left organisations in Science, Engineering, History, Economics, Philosophy, English etc.

On the other hand, for the Right their victory was an expensive one.

To achieve it, the University authorities and the "Democrats" had to come out in an open alliance which will ultimately damage both. By telling the most blatant lies about simple matters of fact, this alliance gained certain temporary advantages — many students were confused and more importantly the left was diverted from going into the real issues at stake by having to refute a mass of lies about trivia. However, in the long run this policy of lying serves only to alienate those being lied to as well as those lied about. The Right relied on the block vote of "freshers" whose sole knowledge of Monash was from press reports last year and this gave them a short term majority.

It seems quite clear that the loss of a battle has not in anyway demoralized the left at Monash and there is

likely to be just as much student action this year as last. The Right clearly shares this estimate of the situation because they are still campaigning hysterically for the abolition of student general meetings (obviously they don't expect to get many more majorities) and complaining of the Labor Club dominating campus political life. Thus we find Pat Morgan from the D.L.P. group at Melbourne "discovering" that Monash students have never thought about Vietnam, Biafra, Czechoslovakia, etc. (The Labor Club has campaigned actively on all these questions and I for one was put in gaol briefly last year on one of them). Thus we find Paul D'Astoli complaining that the Labor Club speaks in the students' name instead of its own (D'Astoli who frequently makes public announcements as "President of the Monash Graduates' Association" instead of "Full Time Student Organiser for Santamaria" should know about this technique but the Labor Club simply doesn't do it).

The reason why the Left is so confident and the Right still feels shaky is quite simple.

There are real social causes which give rise to social rebellion. Students are concerned about such things as the Vietnam War and the way their Universities are run because these are real problems in a real (not plastic) world. Many students come to University for a degree and a ticket to suburbia and are quite happy about this. But many others are not happy being told about Truth and Free Enquiry in a world where most people are not free and their leaders are not truthful. They find such things as Vietnam abhorrent and they begin to look for the causes. They find that their courses are meaningless and irrelevant and they end up not really wanting a ticket to suburbia in a society that is rotten and falling apart.

These people end up clashing with University authorities and the State because they are unwilling to be used as instruments of the ruling class and soon they find that in their rebellion over specific discontents and general frustrations they are forced to join with other sections of society (the workers) to overthrow rather than reform the system.

Faculty Club

Dear Sir,

On Thursday, April 2, a group of about thirty undergraduates attempted to gain entry to the Faculty Club during lunchtime. It was immediately pointed out to them by members of the Faculty Club Committee that the Faculty Club is one area of this campus to which undergraduates do not have access. There is a requirement specifically imposed by the Victorian Liquor Control Commission that undergraduates do not enter the Club except with the special permission of the Club Secretary. On this particular occasion the students concerned left immediately when told that such permission could not be granted indiscriminately.

I am not writing to complain about the action of this group of students, but students in general should be made aware of the implications of unauthorised entry of undergraduates to the Faculty Club. Not only could such entry affect the Liquor Control Commission's attitude to the Faculty Club, but also to any future application by Monash University for the sale and consumption of liquor to undergraduates in the Union. As far back as 1966 Council advised the Chief Secretary that it hoped that further amendments to the Licensing Act would include provision whereby liquor could be sold in the University Union.

The membership of the Monash Faculty Club is the broadest of any such Faculty Club in Australia and includes not only academic and administrative staff but also graduate students and technical and clerical members of the University. As such it provides an important meeting place for a broad spectrum of people and it is to be hoped that the inconsiderate action of a few students will not jeopardise the function of the Club in this University.

Yours faithfully,

B. W. HOLLOWAY,
President,
Monash Faculty Club

Open letter to all first year students

As a first year student in this university, you have probably spent quite a few hectic weeks settling in and getting to know your way around the campus. In the past, we have found that after the initial confusion of the orientation activities, many first year students have experienced feelings of frustration and sometimes loneliness because they have found themselves more or less isolated to their own devices and may have difficulty in initiating new friendships, working out what their lecturers and tutors expect of them, and generally having to come to grips with a whole new environment and perhaps even a radically different approach to academic work than the one they have been used to during their school days.

In our work with first year students, we have found that many students feel that they do not know anyone well enough to go to them with any problems or difficulties they might be having with their work, social relationships, etc. They may think that the academic staff are too busy to see them, and are often unaware that there are many people around the university both on the academic and the non-academic staff who are only too happy to assist where they can, and that all one needs to do is approach them.

For some years now the Student Counselling Service, in conjunction with members of the academic staff, has been holding a Transition Conference for first year students, one of the basic aims of which is to provide an opportunity for students and staff to meet in an informal manner to discuss issues of mutual concern — the nature of university life, what a university is for, what the student expects from the teaching staff, and conversely what the teaching staff expects from the student, etc., etc. Students who have participated in previous conferences have said they found the experience a valuable one, because they felt freer to approach members of staff to discuss their work and other things; their circle of friends had widened and they gained the opportunity to compare their ideas with students from other faculties. The staff felt they got to know the students more as individuals and found it refreshing and stimulating to discuss teaching approaches, exchange points of view and talk about a wide range of things directly with students.

We wish to extend an invitation to you to participate in this year's conference. If you are interested in taking part, you would like further information call in Student Counselling, 1st Floor, East End, Union Building.

THE STUDENT COUNSELLING SERVICE

Burchett Interview

Dear Sir,

To quote Michael Hyde (LOT'S WIFE, 23/3/70) — "Willfred Burchett is a remarkable man. I'm not personally concerned about what happens to the U.S., but I'm concerned what happens to the Vietnamese people" — is a statement made by Burchett to me in 1968 — a statement that leaves little doubt in one's mind just who it is in this world that Burchett supports."

It may be valid, going on the above statement, to judge Burchett a short-sighted unintelligent stereotype-leftist with a one-track mind (and indeed, to judge Mr. Hyde similarly, only more so, for his tacit agreement with Burchett — but then again, Michael is still young) but, however true, it's just namecalling. Instead, I suggest that Burchett is afflicted by the same failing that afflicts most other leftists, rightists, centrists, gnoists, and almost everyone else who thinks about anything of importance — to wit, a predilection to concentrate on the symptoms rather than the disease itself.

I doubt whether there are any who would deny that the Vietnam war (and the Vietnamese people) is in its present lamentable state because of U.S. intervention. Burchett and the other anti-Vietniks have said "bad, very bad," and gone on to do all they can to halt the war. Their catch-cri might well be "Stop the Vietnam war now! People are being killed for a dirty/immoral/capitalist purpose!" One is reminded of the man who died from food poisoning because he took a Quick-eze for his "indigestion."

From his above statement, Burchett believes that his role is in Vietnam, not the U.S.A., when it is certain that the U.S.A. caused the Vietnamese situation. Burchett says "I must help the Vietnamese!" His assistance might or might not help the Vietnamese, but it certainly isn't helping the U.S.A., helping towards solving the internal rot of the U.S.A., which may well infect another place in the world to produce a second Vietnam.

Michael Hyde says "his books have shown Burchett to have sided with the oppressed peoples of the world." His energies would have been better spent in helping the oppressors towards a just and final cure.

GARY WOODMAN

Poetry

The first appearance of poetry this year in Lot's Wife deserves some comment, especially as the poet, "S.T. Arts 1," can be assumed to be a fresher who should hope for some ideas about his (?) writing. The first piece, *Reactions to Adolescent Love Poems*, is typical of poems about poems, which are generally dull.

The poet assumes initially that the adolescent poems he is reacting to idealize the beauty of the beloved at the expense of physical consummation of the love. Then in 10 lines the poet claims his own preference for earthy consummated love, even with an ugly lover, pointing out (though not very originally) that such idealized beauty exists only as a work of art. This is the subject of the poem and has been in vogue since the revolt against the minstrel tradition of Odes to The Distant Beloved round about Chaucer and Villon's time. Shakespeare (Sonnet 130) was not the last poet to point out the discrepancy between the beauty of the love and the lack of beauty of the lover. Such sentiments also overlook the achievements of Dante in *Vita Nuova* and *Divina Comedia* which both depend strongly on Dante's distant idealization of Beatrice and his love for her.

The technique and form of the poem seem to have been a thoughtless Topsy-like growth. Alternately the rhythm is almost-blank and (lines 6-8) almost-free, with a "pattern" of 9, 10, 9, 10, 11; 9, 6, 8, 8, 11 syllables per line. The sense of the poem is unevenly spread over 4, 1, 2 and 3 lines, with a jerk in the flow of sense in the 5th line, "Provide her 4th dimension through bifocals." Similarly the final half-rhymes "heaven," "groomsmen" and "consummation" are mishandled in a poem that mainly lacks euphony.

Scarcity of thought also typifies the language. Why does the poet say "Bring me an ugly girl" unless he is a debauchee instructing his procurer? The 5th line is particularly obscure. It seems to suggest that the "ugly girl" is devoid of personality ("4th dimension") and the poet needs some kind of personality-scope ("bifocals") to see any emotional depth in her. Or else the girl's sight ("4th dimension," i.e. sense) is failing and she needs bifocals (old age)? The one touch of quality is the line "Could you love carrara?" which succinctly, if a trifle obscurely, evokes feelings

of marble and Michelangelo and coldness and hardness.

The title claims that the poem is a critique of adolescent love poems (why have they not appeared in Lot's Wife?), implying that the writer is no adolescent but worldlywise and adult. This seems to contradict with "Arts 1" of the author.

"S.T."s other poems, Ph.D. and Sick, seem to have nothing to communicate that is new, worthwhile or significant about Ph.D.'s or hospitals. They make fairly tedious light reading despite their attempts at cleverness — "Mosquito-viewing anatomy I, too, thrust proboscis-science empirically, writing treatises on life's findings." and "Does one crave the timeless isolation with a metal pan?" and so on.

Reviewed by John Gough

GENERAL NOTICES

CONFIRMATION OF ENROLMENT 1970 —

A Confirmation of Enrolment form showing all details as submitted by the student when re-enrolling or enrolling will shortly be posted to all students.

Students should check the form for accuracy in EVERY detail and return to Student Records by April 30, 1970 that portion of the form as detailed in the instructions. The remainder of the form is to be kept by the student as his/her copy.

ANY student who does not receive a Confirmation form by April 24 should call at Student Records and obtain a copy of the form for lodgement.

It should be noted that students who submit the Confirmation form after the closing date are liable to pay a late fee calculated at the rate of \$5 for up to one week late; \$10 for between one and two weeks late; \$15 for three weeks late and thereafter.

HELP HELP HELP

Lot's needs lackeys (also reporters and SPORTS EDITOR) but mainly people to type, distribute and wrap Lot's Wife.

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STUDENTS NEEDED —

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GENE CLARK

An American Music-Part 4



When Roger McQuinn decided to thrust the Byrds into the space age, he left Gene Clark behind.

Although this removed him from the public view, it made no difference to his music. By "Turn, Turn, Turn", the Byrds second L.P., Clark had developed a distinctive form of expression for which the other four Byrds were largely irrelevant.

Clark's form of expression was culturally estranged from that of the four Byrds. At the same time as McQuinn and Crosby were emerging as leaders of the West Coast Revolution, Clark unobtrusively recorded songs which epitomised the other side of the "revolution". With the recent erosion of the new culture Gene Clark's songs complement those of the Notorious Byrds which reveal increasing puzzlement and detachment from social organisation.

The West Coast movement was, above all, an assault on the value system inherited by white middle class American youth. The students and the hippies, and the myriad other rebel groups challenged and overthrew the attitudes and institutions of their parents. To replace the things they destroyed they erected a new cultural edifice. A part of this edifice consisted of music bands such as the Byrds, Jefferson Airplane and Grateful Dead. The role of the Byrds is an interesting one because as artists they eventually chose to desert the new culture, but not until they had become enshrined within it. Among the hundreds of thousands of West Coast youth who chose to reject the authorised version of the American dream, many accepted the new culture as the basis for realizing their own dreams.

The new patterns provided a security equivalent to those which they had abandoned. At the same time there was a large number who, having rejected one culture, were unable to assimilate the new culture which had arisen to replace it. Those were the true drop outs of the West Coast, and Gene Clark was one of them.

Clark turned his back, not only on the new culture, but also on the new music which was its expressive basis. His first solo L.P. was made with a backing group called the Goslin Brothers who played changeless country music. Country music was later to become the most popular refuge for those who deserted the crumbling city realities. But unlike later groups, Clark at no stage idealized country life. For him it was as barren as any other form of social existence. Nor did he attempt to "return to the roots" by the endless repetition of c and w clichés. He has remained uncompromisingly a rock musician, using country musicians only

because the restrained and lonely tones of banjo, mandolin and violin are far better suited to his songs than heavy electric guitar and bass.

Clark's use of music was innovative in American rock, but his use of language has been revolutionary. When still a Byrd he developed a distinctive writing style involving lengthy and grammatically dubious sentences:

"The first thing that I heard you say, when you were standing there, set in your way, was that you were not blind. You were sure to make a fool of me because there was nothing you could see to go beyond your mind. Now who is standing at the door, remembering the days before, and asking please be kind. This isn't how it was set up to be, but I'll set you free this time. I have never been so far out in front that I could ever ask for anything I want and have it anytime. Knowing this you found the thought for me that told you just where I should be and there I stood behind With all the ones that were before and memories that almost seem to tear me from my mind."

This isn't how it was set up to be but I'll set you free this time. I could never find the chance to choose between the way to win and the thing to lose because that was your stand. On top of all the love you took, there was always something you could look at, lying in your hand. Now who is wondering what has changed and why it cannot be arranged to have everything work fine. This isn't how it was set up to be, but I'll set you free this time".

Within this song are contained the major themes which pervade Clark's work. First, there is what Neil Young calls "the feeling of losing". This is the sense of having no control over one's environment. Second, there is the stripping of the environment of all its cultural and social connotations. This involves the reduction of all human interaction to the relationship between man and woman, and the reduction of the physical environment to its externals. Third there is separation of self from perception of self. Finally there is the uncertainty by which every step is engulfed.

If as semanticists claim, the use of complicated syntax, is evidence of confused thoughts, then Gene Clark has elevated confusion to art. Unlike Dylan and a host of his lesser followers, Clark is not unintelligible. That is to say he does not use obscure metaphor or unlikely image. With effort, most

of his writing can be completely untangled. However, in most cases it is unnecessary to take the trouble. The confusion is accepted as part of the music and supports the lyrics.

Clark writes as he would speak, and in this departs from a strong tendency in rock to write to be read, as does the poet. This is not to say that he does not compress his thoughts as the poet does, but rather that he uses language as it is used in conversation.

This enables him to reinforce the feeling of his songs in a manner which would be quite unacceptable to the poet. For example in a later and much simpler song:

Fifteen miles to Memphis, I think that was the sign. I'll be driving through tomorrow just to ease a weary mind. If I reach Colorado I won't look back where I've been. It seems so long since I've been with her where will I begin.

The song concerns the age old American theme of escape. Into this is woven an inescapable uncertainty. It thus becomes an escape without purpose and a reflection of his cultural situation, as well as of his personal anguish. A man whose whole life is patterned around a woman becomes completely aimless when she is gone. The use of the conversational "I think" establishes completely the uncertainty of his situation, in which towns have no more significance than their names.

Clark's other major innovation in use of language, has been his revival of the metaphysical conceit. This most formal of poetic devices might seem at first to be a curious partner to the use of conversational idiom. But, in fact, it follows logically from the manner in which he has shrunk his world. Denying culture any significance, and recognizing only basic relationships (as between man and woman) and the most external features of the universe, the one becomes identified in terms of the other.

His use of conceits also traces back to Byrds period, and varies from the obvious — "the world turns all around her" to the complex and unusual:

**"If you're here the night is rightly going to fall
If you're gone I'll see the sunlight dim that's all!"**

or **"I have fallen through black nights it seems
With the times that I have lied
And I have watched your thoughts stray into dreams
When you are not satisfied."**

or **"She walked into my life with her cold evil eyes"**

And with the length of her mind she darked the sun.

The denial of culture creates situations lacking in guidelines. A sense of non-identity, and of impotence in the force of circumstances is an obsessive theme in Gene Clark's songs. For example in "Train Leaves Here This Morning":

**"I lost 10 points just for being in the right place at exactly the wrong time
I looked right at the facts there but I may as well have been completely blind"**

There is estrangement not only from the cultural environment but also from the social — in the same song:

**"I watched as the smoker passed it on
And I laughed as the joker said lead on"**

The uncertainty of the present is contrasted with the security of childhood in "Something's Wrong":

**Hours of joy, when I was just a boy and never wrong I knew
Kites of red would fly above my head and birds would sing their song.**

**Now something's wrong; where the sure-wood used to be, me on brambles now I can see.
Fields of corn on early summer mornings or late afternoons.**

**Anytime there was a place to find where life seemed not so near.
Now, all too soon, is there where I used to be, still remembering what is me**

And I won't even try to find a reason why I must live here just to die.

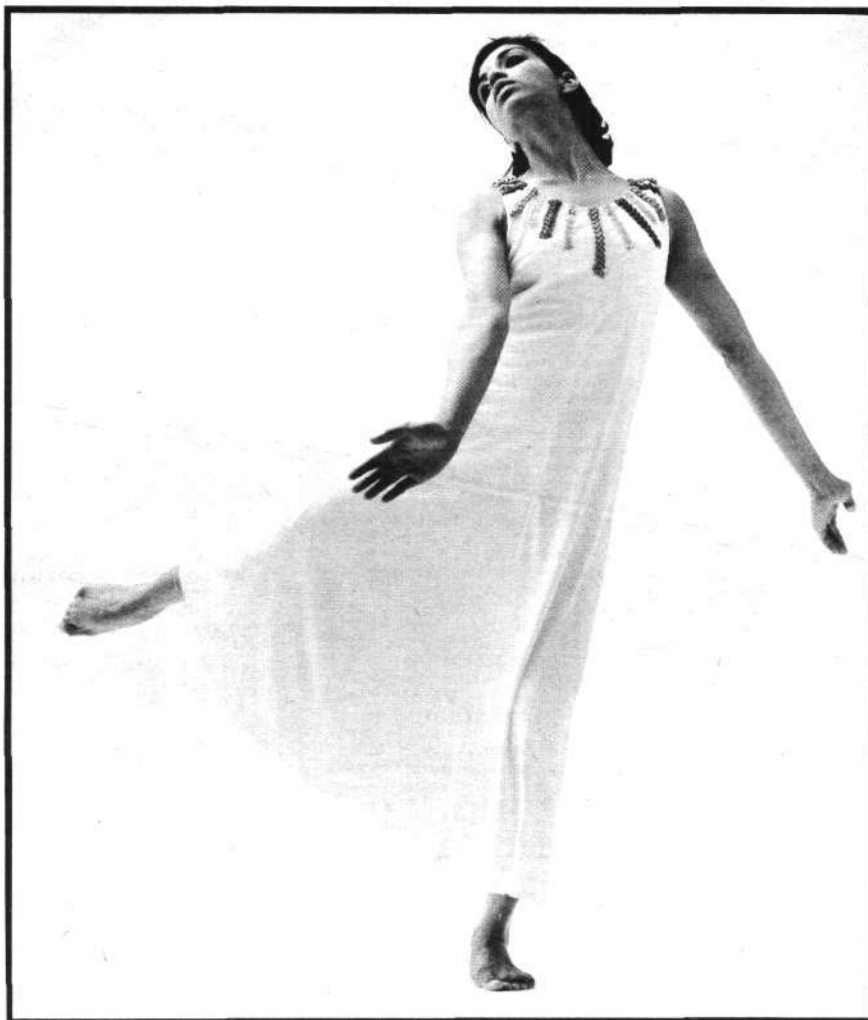
Clark's use of language requires a voice with the subtlety of expression of a speaking voice. Songs like this could easily be destroyed by clumsy execution and could be reduced to maudlin sentiment. But Gene Clark never rapes his lyrics. In fact, along with Neil Young and John Sebastian, he stands apart from the rest of America's rock vocalists.

It is perhaps unnecessary to say that Gene Clark is virtually unknown in Australia. Only the songs he recorded with the Byrds are locally available. By the same token he remains a somewhat submerged figure in America. In the country-rock renaissance which swept the West Coast, he has been overshadowed by brasher and more commercial groups.

It is fitting, but unfortunate, that the man who has expressed so clearly the isolation and anguish of the uncommitted and alienated should himself, be isolated by his withdrawal from the mass culture.

—ROBERT KING.

AUSTRALIAN CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE



Miss Shirley McKechnie not only directs the Australian Contemporary Dance Theatre, but gives lessons to the Modern Dance Club here at Monash, and somehow finds time to be an undergraduate as well. This is her second venture in the Alexander Theatre; her first in 1968 showed promise.

I am afraid that I do not find the promise to have been fulfilled. The dancers still use the floor effectively but are lost in the air; nor do they run like dancers should (think of Jose Limou taking a curtain call, or Ulanova running as Juliet); and sometimes the technical demands of the choreography are not met. Pelvic control is in general not good. I do not feel any further freedom of physical expression has developed in Miss McKechnie's choreography; it is, in some ways, even more restrictive than the classical dance. When one thinks of Limou, or Alvin Ailey, one sees that this restrictiveness is simply not necessary (all the time) in contemporary dance. Miss McKechnie's best work, to my mind, is still "Of spiralling Why" in which she has choreographed the form of the movement, but not the actual details. The electronic music, and the urgent expressiveness of the dancers, make this a very successful piece.

Mr. Moshe Kedem's "Ballade Eternel" on the passing of the seasons in the life of a woman who yearns for a child, was for me marred by the over-use of ultraviolet and harsh lighting, which became a physical barrier to the appreciation of some good moments. His "No-Man's Land" full of wounded male and female soldiers, was a reasonably effective piece, but lacks power, perhaps because of the sameness of the costumes and the want of a clever simplicity, such as exists in the first act of "Leningrad Symphony". Miss Lidell's "High Life" the only item on the program with any sustained joy and fun in it, owed too much to Hollywood-musical-type choreography to impress, though as a bright piece to send us home it had its success.

Miss McKechnie's "Landscape of Dream and Memory" was full of many moods and good ideas, but again I found the choreography overly restrictive. Monash dancer Andrew Macnicol showed considerable promise as the young man in this item, but must learn to act with his facial expressions as well. Orchids also to Gillian Davidson, Julian Schumacher and Glenda Lum in their various parts. The company is enthusiastic and works very hard. Costumes by Remona Kedem are excellent, as is the lighting by Alex Young. Am I being fair in judging a non-professional company by professional standards?

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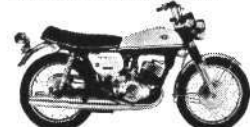
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BACKSTAGE

Unfortunately, your so-called Drama Editor suffers from (among diseases unmentionable in polite circles), occasional lapses in taste (ho, ho) and memory. After the last edition a mob of irate Monash Players threatened my life for omitting mention of the Monash Players Revue, which will occur this month. The name *SNAPDRAGONS* allotted to this revue seems to make it mandatory that all horticulturists interested in that common little flower will fill the house to capacity.

It is to the credit of the Players that for the first time since the disastrous 1966 Monash Revue that they have the temerity and the guts to attempt to put a Revue back into Monash's theatrical 'happenings', for this year. In '67 and '68 half-hearted attempts were made, by some parties to revive a Monash Revue, but due to the mediocrity of the actors, scripts, and the paltry sums offered by the defunct SRC, the producers committed suicide. One of those who took his life arose from the dead three days later, to

the amazement of the Evangelical Union, and now sits writing this blurb for the Players, in the hope that his frustrated efforts in the past will find at last fruition under the capable hands of Mr. Denzil Howson.

After, the artistically disturbing but financially rewarding *ANTONY & CLEOPATRA*, the Alexander Theatre Committee, with its coffers brim full of luvverly loot pirated from the unsuspecting; are mooted the idea of offering a production of *THE DUCHESS OF MALFI* by John Webster. Meanwhile that Puck of Melbourne's theatrical circles Harold Baigent is producing *THE TEMPEST* for the newly formed Victorian Shakespeare Company at Melbourne University, and George Whaley has an impressive season lined up for MUST.

The latest edition of *KOMOS* is now available, with the complete script of Alexander Buzo's *NORM AND AHMED* for the paltry sum of 80c at the Monash Bookshop.

AUDITION & THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

-two reviews-



THE AUDITION by Vincent and
THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND
by Tom Stoppard.

Melbourne Youth Theatre —
Alexander Theatre.

The M.Y.T. under the direction of Bill Walker presented an interesting double-bill. **The Audition** — was notable for its insignificance as a play, whilst **The Real Inspector Hound**, was a convincing expose of the comic genius of Stoppard, the acting strength of M.Y.T., the directorial heights that Mr. Walker can attain, and the "progressive" policy pursued by the M.Y.T.

The Audition — was ostensibly a revue rather than a play. We see the pathetic attempts of a group of ill-talented English theatrical compatriots, comprising a writer/librettist, composer and actress trying to convince a theatrical director seated in the auditorium that they have a musical comedy to end all musical comedies. What they offer is a potpourri of songs and situations, directly alluding to former successes like *The Pyjama Game*, *Carmen*, *West-Side Story* ad infinitum.

Despite the indifferent acting or intentional over-acting, the dialogue contained moments of lukewarm comic effect, and the direction of Mr. Walker squeezed every possible laugh from Vincent's stultifying play, and the intentional mediocrity of the songs and characters. The play itself was held together by the performance of Michael Harvey, essentially a revue actor, having previously excelled in this genre. Gillian

Mackinnas was unconvincing as the pushy, attractive actress, and the "voice," Simon Ioannou, was the voice of Theatrical Directors in the professional theatre everywhere.

The intentional mediocrity of the plot, could not be made dramatically or theatrically entertaining, for the problem lay in part with the actors and the director, but more with the play. Being conceived as a satire on theatrical mediocrity, its natural progression revealed its inherent insignificance.

(Real Interval)
Now let the worm turn on the critics, the theatrical "outsiders" on the "inside" of the Dramatic world. Usually their critical faculties trickle like molasses over the stage; but take the critics from their reserved seats in the audience and engineer them in the plot onto the stage, and through this reverse process reveal their loves, hates, desires, motivations and trite little souls. The critics who can kill a play are killed by the play itself.

So Henrie Ellis (the critic) alias Moon, Birdboot (God who am I?) sat and watched this... (Careful of what you say, you could offend friends!)... superb comic illustration (I like that!) of Tom Stoppard's dramatic genius. (Sounds good!)

The Real Inspector Hound — was delightfully acted, conceived and directed! (I'll make some friends with that!)

Sitting in the cardboard "audience" at the rear of the stage are Moon and Birdboot, critics "par excellence," they are watching an Agatha Christie-type murder mystery-cum-melodrama. Moon is there as a stand-in for Higgs, who is the stand-in for MacCafferty. Birdboot is there to watch his current paramour Miss Felicity

Cunningham act, but once he sees Lady Muldoon enter his sexual drive is immediately fixed on her! The stage lover of Felicity Cunningham is Simon Gascoyne, wanted for murder by Inspector Hound. Felicity spurns Simon as a cad; enter Lady Muldoon, whose husband has been missing for ten years, she is the real lover of Simon.

While this melodramatic, hilarious triteness takes place the critics reveal their hang-ups. For Moon it is Higgs, for Birdboot it is his wife; what to say and how to say it, and their preferences for chocolates! While the "real" play proceeds there is an "unnoticed" body behind the divan! Hound enters looking for Simon and suspects everybody, Lady Muldoon, Felicity and the chair-ridden, cripple old Magnus Muldoon, a relative of Lady Muldoon. Then Simon is shot! **Interval.** The play starts again!

The maid answers the phone, it is for Birdboot! He emerges from the "audience" to answer it, it is his wife! Felicity enters, spurns him as a cad, Lady Muldoon and he make love on the divan, while Moon screams from the "audience" for him to get off the stage! Then Birdboot is shot, after finding that the body behind the divan is none other than Higgs. (As you remember Moon is the stand-in for Higgs, I think so?) Moon jumps onto the stage to investigate this madness and the characters Simon Gascoyne and Inspector Hound sit in the "audience" to watch Moon, playing "Inspector Hound," tries to solve the mystery, by accusing the actors Lady Muldoon, Felicity and Magnus the cripple, of killing Higgs and Birdboot the critics. Then (My God am I still sane!) Magnus the cripple throws off his disguise, shoots Moon as the

killer of Higgs and Birdboot, for he is the **Real Inspector Hound**, alias Lady Muldoon's long-lost husband, alias MacCafferty. (As you remember Moon is the stand-in for Higgs who is the stand-in critic for MacCafferty). Moon's dying words are, "MacCafferty you cunning bastard!" (I have a suspicion my critical faculties are failing. I am being followed!) Peter Curtin and Lindsay Neilson gave superb comic performances as Moon and Birdboot, the critics. Nor never have I seen Judy Kuring, play Judy Kuring as well as Judy Kuring alias Lady Muldoon before. Her comic timing and stage presence could not be faulted. Pete Dodds, Wendi Earnshaw, Bill Barnett and Judith Perkal gave strong yet sometimes uneven comic support. A less competent cast might have destroyed Stoppard's savage, uncompromising comic attack on the critics' nebulous role. (There goes my job!).

Bill Walker's production and conception of the play; despite the technical problem of the microphones in the cardboard audience transmitting on a low level; beautifully married the action, setting and lighting into a superb integral whole. He sought out every possibility to use his comic and inventive talents, wasted in **The Audition**, to make this uproarious play, in terms of image and illusion ultimately rewarding theatrically. So as I slowly expire from nervous laughter and an injection of critical dribblings, all I can say is, "Stoppard, M.Y.T. and Walker, you cunning bastards!" P.S.: I thought the production was "revealingly frank" (private joke). Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are coming! Help! My preference is Cadbury's Dairy Box, Raspberry Cream.

HENRIE ELLIS



NORM AND AHMED

A comment by Margery M.
Morgan, Reader in English, at
Monash and Editor of
KOMOS

Norm and Ahmed, a short play by Alex Buzo, has been given notoriety by police prosecutions in Queensland and Victoria. The charge brought was one of uttering an obscenity in a public place. The offending word was "f-----g" in the phrase "f-----g boongs", with which the play ends. The text of **Norm and Ahmed** has now been published from Monash English Department and is available as a play-supplement to the journal, KOMOS, Vol. II, No. 2 (price 80c, except to regular subscribers); get it from the English Department Office, or through the Bookshop, if you miss it elsewhere. The price is high and the whole number much delayed because we had to employ two printers.

We failed to find one in Victoria who would risk association with so notorious a title, when the job was so small. No doubt there are printers who would have done so. But we had to go to N.S.W. and wait a long time for delivery. So now you can see for yourselves what all the fuss has been about and judge the law under which the defendants were found guilty.

The Dutton and Harris paperback, **Australia's Censorship Crisis** (Sun Books) prints the judgment of Mr. Justice Stable, in the Queensland Full Court, regarding this play.

This makes it clear that the whole play was felt to be offensive; the last line just happened to offer itself for prosecution under the Act on relatively easily determined technical grounds. (At Cairns, the police exacted a considerable number of changes in the text before allowing a performance of the play to go on.)

To use "f-----" as an expletive is apparently less vicious than to use it meaningfully "as a crude reference to sexual intercourse"; and the defence, legalistic as the prosecution, took refuge in this distinction. But the truth about the play is not so simple: both uses of the word are operative in the context. For Buzo's rough Australian type is viewed compassionately, not just satirically. He is sexually, emotionally, and culturally deprived, struggling to keep up his self-respect, uncertain what he wants from the young Pakistani he meets: a positive human response, or an object of contempt to bolster his

own ego. Norm is more unconscious than conscious, and all that he is repressing takes its own course through the play. The ambivalence reaches its climax in the last line and the actions it comments on. Mr. Justice Stable was much concerned with the defence of womanhood against obscene words.

He associated the use of the term "f-----" with pack rape, took into account the proportion of women to men in an audience, what was today "acceptable to ordinary decent-minded people — males and females", and again "decent females capable of thought".

It all amounts to recognition that even adults (no teenage daughters here) in "decent" sections of this community are living still under a double standard; but the polite thing is to ignore the fact, pretend it isn't there, by silencing the words that bring it to light. Surely this is a worse injury to both sexes than to bring differences of attitude into the open and try to reach understanding. It helps establish hypocrisy as one of the principles society lives by. And we see what that leads to on the political level.

IN BRIGHTEST DAY, IN BLACKEST NIGHT, NO
EVIL SHALL ESCAPE MY SIGHT!
LET THOSE WHO WORSHIP EVIL'S MIGHT,
BE WARE MY POWER - - - -
FUSE LANTERN'S LIGHT!



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